



CONGREGATION  
BETH TORAH

Monday, January 1st

- Building Closed

Saturday, January 6th

- Contemplation Night

Thursday, January 11th

- Lunch 'n' Learn with the Rabbi
- Melton Returns to CBT

Saturday, January 20th

- New Moon Lab

Sunday, January 21st

- First Birthdays:  
A Party for Resettled Refugees

Friday, January 26th

- Shabbat Shirah

Monday, January 29th

- Israel Trip Information Meeting

Visit  
[our website](#)  
for the complete  
Beth Torah  
January calendar

# Tekiah

ISSUE 320  
JANUARY 2018  
TEVET/SHEVAT 5778



## A Note from Rabbi Javier Cattapan

### January is for Social Action

January is social action month at our congregation! Under the leadership of board member Scott Franklin and our Director of Lifelong Learning, Rabbi Kleinman, many of our families are able to lend a hand at reStart. For several decades, it has been a mitzvah and an honor to feed the hungry and help those served by reStart. The spots fill up quickly and there are never enough for everyone.

This January we are adding another opportunity for our members to give back to the community. For the very first time, we are partnering with The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah and Jewish Vocational Services to bring a message of hope to new immigrants. It is a "Birthday Party" for our newly arrived neighbors, including balloons, games, cake, and gifts! Our dedicated volunteers, Denise Ellenberg and Denise Pakula, have been working hard with our partners so that this event is a success.

You may wonder, why a birthday party? First, why not? Who doesn't like birthday parties? Secondly, many children who come to our country under refugee status, do so because the conditions in their home countries were such that no "normal" life was possible for them there. Birthday celebrations were not a priority.

But in earnest, the party is really a vehicle for us to perform the *mitzvah* of *hachnasat orchim*, "welcoming guests." Yes, "welcoming guests," and not "strangers." These newly arrived Americans are the guests of the Jewish community and of our city. We choose to see them as real people,

with real needs and feelings; they are not "the other," the stranger who deserves our kindness but not our friendship.

On January 21st, we will have an opportunity to be hosts for an exciting group of children and adults. We can volunteer at the event itself (we are not "invited guests") and we can also help out by donating a gift (valued at \$15 maximum) to be distributed at the party, which will take place at Della Lamb Community Center in KCMO. See more information on page 2.

I was once a "guest" in our country too, and found welcoming friends, classmates and teachers; all of us, indeed, have an immigration family story that links us to what many of these families are experiencing. We must remember that we all have come from somewhere else and acknowledge how vital it is to find a welcoming community. We can help create such a community as we support this new event. Please, join us in paying it forward!



## 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..... Mike Ginsberg

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Miccole Bowen	Howard Pitler
June Crane	Stephen Steigman
Todd Davison	Nick Toniazzo
Scott Franklin	Zach Zwibelman
Amy Kane	

BTTY President..... Tess Gerson  
 Immediate Past President..... Linda Zappulla

### STAFF

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 ..... Robin O'Bryan  
 Administrative Assistant ..... Sharon Altman  
 Administrative Assistant ..... Alyssa Schildhorn  
 Bookkeeper..... Barbara Kitt  
 Choir Director ..... Carmen Dieker  
 Tekiah Editor ..... Laura Bolter

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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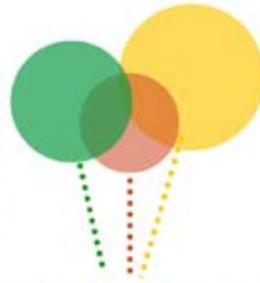
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Website: [beth-torah.org](http://beth-torah.org)

Facebook:

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



# FIRST BIRTHDAYS

## A PARTY FOR RESETTLED REFUGEES

SUNDAY, JAN. 21ST, 2:00–4:00 P.M.  
 DELLA LAMB COMMUNITY CENTER  
 500 WOODLAND AVE., KCMO

Learn how to donate gifts and volunteer at  
[tinyurl.com/RefugeeParty](http://tinyurl.com/RefugeeParty).



### *Mazel Tov to:*

our member Jonathan Steiner  
 for passing his CPA exam.

the Haun Family.

They ask you to join them for  
 Erev Shabbat worship on  
 January 5th for the  
 Hebrew Naming Ceremony  
 of Kallie Haun.

Barbara and Mike Pittel  
 on the birth of their granddaughter,  
 Elena Hanna Bettoni.  
 Elena was born to Barbara and Mike's  
 daughter, Jessica and her husband  
 Julian Bettoni, on December 20th.

### *In Memoriam:*

*Jerry Barash*  
 Cousin of Gloria Elyachar and  
 Andie Neuman

### TORAH PORTION AND HAFTARAH

January 5/6 | 19 Tevet  
 Shemot

January 12/13 | 26 Tevet  
 Va'era

January 19/20 | 4 Shevat  
 Bo

January 26/27 | 11 Shevat  
 Beshalach



## My Weekend at Beth Torah

Whenever I need material for this monthly article, I find that all I need to do is just show up at Beth Torah and the ideas come flowing from

the warmth of our congregation. That was the case during the recent Hanukkah weekend.

At Friday night services, the crowd was small, but our worship leaders were no less inspired or inspiring. As they always do, they created an atmosphere that allowed each individual to get what they needed from the service. The highlight for me was to receive the Rabbi's blessing in honor of my birthday. This simple ritual really helps to cement my bond with the Beth Torah community—which continued with birthday greetings galore during the oneg in the ulam.

On Sunday morning, I was at Beth Torah to attend the Weiner Religious School Consecration Ceremony. I watched as 14 of our children, dressed in white robes, symbolically began their Jewish educational journey. A Torah scroll was unrolled and, with the assistance of our confirmation class, the consecration students were literally wrapped in Torah on the bima. Together our oldest and youngest students exemplified the concept

of "Educating our Future". During the service, Samantha Hammontree, Co-chair of our Fund Development Committee, thanked and recognized the contributors to the Educating our Future Fund. This is the fund that provides the financial support to our school now that tuition is free to our members. We are about two-thirds of the way to our goal for this fiscal year. So please consider a year-end contribution to help maintain the school that is so important to our children and our future.

The culmination of the weekend was the Hanukkah Program on Sunday afternoon. Produced and directed (and nurtured) by Emily Tummons, the program brought together over 60 singers and musicians to present songs of the Hanukkah season—tied together by the moving narration of Chuck Cantor and Rabbi Kleinman. From the sweet sounds of the Kids Choir to the booming voices of the Men's Group, with some wonderful individual performances mixed in, the appreciative audience was treated to an experience that was both meaningful and entertaining. There were lots of moving parts that seamlessly came together thanks to Emily's hard work and creativity.

So, just another weekend at Beth Torah that makes me glad I belong.

## From Generation to Generation: Jewish Legacy Gifts support the future of Beth Torah

Making a planned gift to Congregation Beth Torah creates a sacred link to our future. Planned gifts, or Legacy Gifts, are charitable donations made to Beth Torah such as a bequest in your will or trust, naming the congregation as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or a qualified retirement plan, or simply an outright gift to the congregation of cash, marketable securities, real estate or personal property.

"This is an opportunity to memorialize your commitment to Beth Torah and help Beth Torah as an institution thrive," explains Barry Katz, president of the Beth Torah Board of Trustees.

As he further explains, these gifts contribute to the congregation's financial stability and fosters a connection between the donor and the congregation.

"Depending on how much the gift is, it contributes to our financial stability either by helping us balance the budget or by helping us make improvements to the building or do special programs that just aren't possible within our normal operating budget," he says.

It's easy to make a Legacy Gift to Beth Torah. Legal advice is not necessary if you wish to make Beth Torah a beneficiary to either a life insurance policy or some sort of retirement account. You can put Beth Torah in your will as well, however an attorney will most likely need to be involved with that type of gift.

Any time is the right time to make a Jewish Legacy Gift to the congregation. And it's important to know that even though you make the commitment now, there



is no commitment until the time comes when you have directed the benefit to pay out, typically after the donor passes away.

Henri Goettel is a member who has already made a Legacy Gift.

"Beth Torah has given me plentiful opportunities to deepen my Jewish learning and practice. I want others to be able to benefit from this community as they undertake their own spiritual journeys," she says.

# We are going to Israel

Rabbi Cattapan will be leading a congregational trip to Israel in the Spring of 2019 and YOU can help plan the trip!

Join us at Beth Torah on Monday night, January 29th from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m. and help plan destinations, dates, sites, sounds and tastes.





As a member of Congregation Beth Torah, you have a right to have available to you information regarding our community. You are asked to “bring a friend” to events and to

encourage your unaffiliated friends to join. But it is hard for you to answer questions when you may not know the answers.

So, in 5778, my goal is to pick topics regarding Beth Torah and to offer comments and information on specific areas. Here is a quick list of what to expect from this part of our newsletter in the coming months:

February.....	Budget	May.....	Staff and Job descriptions
March.....	Camp Scholarships	June.....	Adjustments
April.....	Board of Trustees		

Last month I wrote about donations and how we process them. Our income is diverse, coming from dues, donations, grants, bequests, and we appreciate every dollar. But one question I get often is, “Once money comes into Beth Torah, who decides how it is spent?” So this month I want to share how our lay leaders and staff work together to be good fiscal stewards of your money. And how we keep Beth Torah as meaningful to our community as our congregants have come to expect.

Our fiscal year runs from July 1st through June 30th. So right now we are smack in the middle of our 2017/2018 fiscal year. Our expenses are broken down into: Personnel Expenses (staff, faculty, professional fees, insurance, pension plans, payroll taxes, and professional development), Facilities (water, electric, building repair, snow removal), Program Expenses (High Holy Days, food, paper goods, youth programming, fundraisers, advertising) and Scholarships & Special Assistance (member assistance, community, youth programming help). The total expense line for the 17/18 budget is approximately 1.2 million dollars.

When we talk informally about expenses, we usually discuss the fact that most of our expenses go towards salaries and our building. In examining our expense categories, it is interesting to note every single category has some salary application and some building application. For instance, program expenses such as youth and education costs could include advisor salaries, paper copying, any staff that is used for building access or publicity. A professional fee for our programming may be something like tuning the piano or custodial coverage and a building cost would be heat or air, lights and so on.

The largest single expense category in our budget is Personnel. We do our best to keep salaries competitive, as we want to ensure we keep talented people on our staff to serve our community. However, due to skyrocketing insurance costs, and our recent senior staff searches and changes, increases have been kept to a minimum as we have all worked together to minimize expenses as much as possible.

At the end of November 2018, we will owe \$422,805.00 on our building and land. Appraised property value is at \$7,156,400.00. Our members Tom Cohen and Frank Sterneck guided us through a refinancing last year that saved us thousands of dollars and brought our mortgage rate to 3.75%. Another expense that we look at is our \$24,000.00 a year dues to the Union for Reform Judaism. We relied heavily on guidance from the URJ over the past two years during our rabbi and educator searches. Our commitment to the URJ is re-evaluated every year and is based on a complicated and intricate formula that our treasurer, Mike Ginsberg, and Director of Finance, Tara Hyder, steer us through.

Looking through our budget more, we see expenses for everything from Lifelong Jewish Learning to Office Equipment Maintenance to music and worship to High Holy Day security. Ideally, a temple’s budgeted expenses will reflect the nature and character and vision of the organization. In reviewing our budget, it is clear that our leaders consider education to be a top priority. The Educating Our Future fundraising campaign is built to help cover our Weiner Religious School expenses now that we consider a Jewish education for our children a benefit of membership.

Our lay leaders act in the best interests of the congregants and the employees. They want to maintain our sacred building for the generations to come, and they want to maintain a synagogue that is vibrant with activities, programming and education for learners of all ages and all stages.

As the calendar turns to 2018 and we start to review expenses in preparation for beginning the work on our 2018-2019 budget, it may be helpful to realize that, in a way, our budget numbers are like the period at the end of a sentence. They represent the end of a conversation, a very lengthy conversation that happens throughout the year between clergy, staff and lay leadership. We ask ourselves difficult questions, we have difficult conversations, and together we have to sometimes make difficult decisions.

However, everything that is done is absolutely done in the best interest of Beth Torah. You may review this information and think some numbers are too large, some are too small, or something just does not look right. You may just not agree with what is done or how it is done. That is OK, and we are always available to answer any questions you may have, and we always welcome your feedback.

As a community, we vote on our budget every year at our annual meeting. We will be voting on the 2018-2019 budget on Sunday, May 6th at 10:15 in the morning in our sanctuary. Detailed copies of the budget will be available. This is your time to ask a question and learn where the money goes. Until then, you are welcome to our Quarterly Forums for financial updates. The next one is scheduled for Sunday, March 25th. I hope to see you there.



Happy New Year, Beth Torah families!

I hope everyone had a wonderful

winter break and is ready to start getting back to work, school, and life!

Last month we began our discussions of צדק (tzedeq, doing the right thing) but didn't get to delve as deeply into it as we would like. As we continue with this *middah* during the month of January, I'd like to share a visual with you that has helped shape my concept of what is "equal" and what is "fair."

Many friends, both young and not-so-young, are focused on fairness and equality in schools, in the work force, in our extra-curricular activities, etc., that a perceived inequality can derail an entire endeavor. Many of us perceive of equality and fairness in similar terms- everyone gets equal help. The concept does not seem so far-reaching—if the teacher helps me with one question on the quiz, the teacher should help EVERYONE with one question to give them all equal footing. While it sounds great in theory, here is what that could look like in practice:



Now it doesn't seem so fair! What would be fair? See below:



Fairness and equality here are not the same thing, as we see here! Having help with one question on the quiz may be enough to put someone over the top, but it may barely scratch the surface for someone else. If a friend struggles to read the font on the page but can understand the question orally, they can show mastery of the material by having the question read aloud. If someone at work succeeds better by taking notes on their phone during a meeting as opposed to by hand, is that not fair? Is this any different than a ramp for someone in a wheelchair or a bathroom space in which someone is comfortable? Now, based on our new understanding of capability, success, and fairness, how can we promote in our school, synagogue, and community? How can we ensure that everyone gets the chance to see the baseball game, no matter how tall (or short) they may be or how mushy the ground is below them?

These are the questions we will explore both on Sunday mornings as well as on Wednesday evenings in TAG. Our sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth graders will embark on their own Tikkun Olam projects to help ensure justice in our world. Stay tuned for what they come up with—it's sure to be amazing!

## BTTY: Beth Torah Temple Youth



In November, BTTY and the JYGers had a fantastic joint program. We learned about the history of Kansas City and how it has grown over the years. I really enjoyed getting to know some of the people who plan on being a part of BTTY in coming years.

Then, in December, BTTY had a program just to de-stress from finals. We had so much fun doing everything from playing this game called Headz Up, making dog toys for Wayside Waifs, and making s'mores by the campfire. In order to make the dog toys, we cut up old t-shirts and tied them together. We made sure to make toys for both the big and small dogs. Overall, the event was so much fun and I am glad that the people who attended got to take a break from finals.

The BTTY Board has not planned anything for the month of January yet since we still need to meet to plan the entire next semester. And on that note, if you or your teen, who is in high school, would like to help plan some of our upcoming programs they are welcome too!

Email me at [tessgerson2000@gmail.com](mailto:tessgerson2000@gmail.com). Also, if they do not want to help plan but just want to know what we are up to then they are free to join us for our board meetings as well!

Tess Gerson, BTTY President

# Melton KC Returns to Beth Torah

Jews and Muslims have co-existed, at times peacefully and at other times contentiously, for more than a millennium.

Melton KC is happy to announce **The Star and the Crescent: The Long Relationship of Judaism and Islam** on **Thursday nights, beginning on January 11th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.** here at Congregation Beth Torah.

For additional information about course content, the cost of the class, and to register, [visit the website](#) or contact Megan Pener, MeltonKC Director, at [mpener@hbha.edu](mailto:mpener@hbha.edu) or 913-327-8161.

This class will be co-taught by our own Rabbi Cattapan and Rabbi Kirzane of The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah.



## Giving to Beth Torah couldn't be more simple than this!

Raise your hand if you shop frequently on Amazon....

Did you know that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice? If you haven't done this before, visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). You will use your existing Amazon.com account, and on your first visit to AmazonSmile, before you begin shopping, you'll select the charitable organization that you would like to receive donations from your purchases. Amazon remembers your organization selection, and then every eligible purchase you make when you start your shopping at AmazonSmile will result in a donation. Select Congregation Beth Torah so that every time you shop, CBT will reap the benefits. Bookmark AmazonSmile to begin your shopping there every time. **It's a no brainer!**



## Stories from our Graduates

### From Sarah Shaw, 18 years old, Oct. 2017:

Growing up at Beth Torah has given me so many great experiences. From consecration to confirmation, until now, I still feel totally at home and with family when I'm there. Two years ago, during my confirmation, I realized how much I love being at temple and the people there. I especially know now how much I appreciate growing up there because I have been to many synagogues all over America and even the world, and none of them feels as instantly comforting and familial for me.

### From Jacob Shaw, 15 years old, Oct. 2017:

I don't believe I would be nearly as connected to my religion if it wasn't for my teachers here at Beth Torah. In my everyday world, I am amazed how often I am asked questions about Judaism and thanks to what I have learned during my years in religious school I am not hesitant to engage with others on these topics. I now realize how lucky I am because I was given an opportunity to discuss a lot of real world life issues in my classes here, and I already have a sense of what matters to me. I was so inspired by what I have learned that I have gone on to attend OSRUI's *Chalutzim* (Hebrew immersion) and now am planning to attend a semester at Heller High in Israel.





**Men’s Group Visits  
Village Shalom**

A cohort from the Men’s Group paid a visit to Village Shalom last month, leading Hanukkah sing-along sessions

in the memory care units (“Shalom Suites.”) Residents sang along with songs like “Maoz Tzur,” “I Have a Little Dreidel,” “Chanukah, O Chanukah,” “S’vivon,” and other old favorites. The photo below shows all the folks who participated, standing outside the building afterward, left to right: Doug Greenwald, Mike Fine, Nick Toniazzo with children Emmett, Ellianna, and Eli, Jim Decker, Tim Intfen, Stan Osman, Barry Katz, Fred Gustin, Emily Tummons, Larry Myer, Jim Kaplan, Ron Altman, Scott Franklin, and Jim Appelbaum.

When writing up an article about this for a recent issue of the Kansas City Jewish Chronicle, we asked Barry Katz to give his perspective on that event, and how it demonstrated our values here at CBT. He said, “When I looked out at our Village Shalom audience, I was deeply moved by the connections we were making. So many residents were singing along, clapping, and smiling. And one woman was moved to tears in the middle of ‘Light One Candle.’ Beth Torah is about community and acts of loving kindness. I feel like our mission was accomplished on that day.”

Men’s Group, you are our heroes! Thank you for giving of your time and talents all throughout the year, to bring light to everyone around you.

**Friday Evening Music Teams**

Here are the musicians who will be joining the rabbis and service leaders for each of the Friday night Shabbat services in the month of January:

**January 5:** Carmen Dieker, Tim Intfen, Emily Tummons

**January 12:** Carmen Dieker, Judith Evnen, Tim Intfen, Emily Tummons

**January 19:** Randy Deutch, Weber Ingersoll, Emily Tummons

**January 26:** Randy Deutch, Carmen Dieker, Tim Intfen, Nanette Kraus, Emily Tummons, Lezlie Zucker

**Call For Singers—Shabbat Shirah**

Would you like to sing with either the Adult Choir or the Women’s Group for Shabbat Shirah? We would love to have you. There’s still time to jump in. The community will come together on Friday, January 26th, 2018, for the chanting of the “Song of the Sea,” and some raucously joyful music.

Here is the rehearsal schedule for both ensembles:

**Women’s Group:**

Sunday mornings, 10:10–11 a.m.

January 7th, 14th, 21st

**Adult Choir:**

Wednesday evenings, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

January 10th, 17th, 24th

[Email me](#) to get signed up!

**Hanukkah Program**

To the more than 60 participants who helped make this year’s Hanukkah Program so warm and meaningful: Thank You. Singers from the Adult Choir, Men’s Group, and Kids Choir joined forces with our instrumentalists and narrators to weave together a rich program, with diverse songs and voices. Special thanks to our featured vocal soloists (Alice Capson, Rabbi Javier Cattapan, Randy Deutch, Harriet Jacobson, Bella Stowe, and Drew Stowe), in-house composers Carmen Dieker and Tim Intfen, violinist Ziva Patt-Rappaport, and narrators Chuck Cantor and Rabbi Monica Kleinman.

On the next page, please enjoy some photos from this wonderful day!





# Hanukkah!



## Upcoming Bat Mitzvah



Anna Latman, daughter of Scott and Emily Latman, will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah at Shabbat services on Saturday, January 13th, at 10:30 a.m.

Anna is an honors student at Pleasant Lea Middle School in Lee's Summit. She plays the French Horn and enjoys taking dance classes—she is especially excited about learning to dance on pointe this year.

The family looks forward to seeing the Beth Torah community at worship, and invites them to a Kiddush luncheon following services.



## CBT Gift Shop: Where Shopping Turns into a Mitzvah!

As the glow of the Hanukkah lights remains in your heart, the Gift Shop wishes to thank all of our patrons for shopping with us! A special Mazel Tov to all who participated in the “Hanukkah Musical Program” and the “Latke and Dreidel Party” on December 17th. It is always fun to see old and new friends come together for a special celebration.

January is another opportunity for us to come together for community service. The Gift Shop offers two opportunities to participate in social justice projects both in Israel and in our Beth Torah community.

First, Tu B'Shevat or the “New Year of the Trees” is Jewish Arbor Day. The holiday is observed on the fifteenth (*tu*) of Sh'vat (which is January 25th this year). Scholars believe that Tu B'Shevat was originally an agricultural festival, marking the emergence of spring. Today, Tu B'Shevat has also become a tree planting festival in Israel, in which both Israelis and Jews around the world plant trees in honor of or in memory of a loved one, friend or special occasion. The Gift Shop at Congregation Beth Torah will be selling “Plant a Tree in Israel.” If you wish to plant a tree, come into the shop or call us. You will

need to have the name of the person or special occasion and the address of the person to be notified of your donation.

Second, the Gift Shop would like to honor our patrons' favorite social justice projects. During the month of January, anyone who makes a purchase of \$18 or more can register their favorite social justice project in our drawing. On Feb. 5, 2018, one lucky patron's social justice project will be drawn. A donation will be made to that social justice project in honor of the Beth Torah Community and the patron who suggested them.

Finally, The Gift Shop would value any suggestions or ideas to help improve the shop. Our customers are the reason we can make donations. Our motto is “where shopping turns into a mitzvah!”

### The Gift Shop Hours are:

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (during religious school);

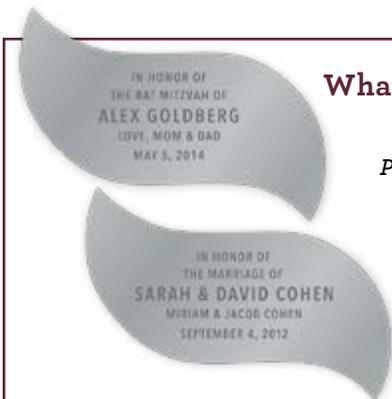
Monday: 4:00 p.m. to 6 p.m.;

Wednesday and Friday: 10:00 a.m. to noon;

or by appointment: call Kelly at 913-498-1474

We look forward to seeing you in the Gift Shop.

Shalom, Kelly Kaplan



### What Celebrations Do You Have Coming Up at Beth Torah? Spread Your Joy!

*Sponsor a breakfast or some fancy, shmancy creamers for our Sunday morning breakfasts.*

*Purchase a leaf on our Tree of Life in the ulam. Sponsor a nosh for an Erev Shabbat Friday night worship.*

### January Shabbat Sponsorship:

#### January 13th:

Kiddush luncheon is sponsored by Scott and Emily Latman in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Anna Latman.

# Congressional Candidate Forum

Congregation Beth Torah will host a Candidate Forum for all declared candidates for the KS 3rd Congressional District.

The event will be in the sanctuary at Beth Torah from **2:00 to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 11th.**

Nick Haines, Executive Producer/Public Affairs for KCPT Public Television, will moderate the event.

Our goal is to have a civil discussion of key issues that Congress will face in the next two years.

To ensure civility, we will use rules devised by American Public Square (APS).

Specifically:

- There will be no applause during the Forum.
- Members of the audience will be given “incivility bells” to ring if the conversation is getting uncivil.
- We will have librarians as fact checkers. Audience members may request a fact check on any claim made by candidates.
- We will take questions from the audience, but they will be written down and read by the moderator.

Using these rules, we will allow the candidates to clearly state their positions and views.



Congregation Beth Torah members can register for this free event on the Beth Torah website or by [visiting this site](#).

Promotion to the broader Jewish and general communities will begin in January.

## A New Website is Coming!

You’ve probably noticed that a new Beth Torah logo has been showing up in new places, in addition to the *Tekiah*, in which it first appeared at the time of its redesign. You’ll start to see it even more, along with other changes in visual identity. If you weren’t able to attend the December Congregational Forum, you missed the opportunity to see the exciting work that has been started by the new Communications Committee. This committee was formed to work on and guide the direction of these and other changes in communication, and is comprised of the following: Laura Bolter, chairperson; Boyd Bolter and Howard Pitler, board liaisons; Tara Hyder and Laura Intfen, staff liaisons.

At the first meeting in early November the members agreed on a Statement of Purpose: the work of the committee will be to streamline and modernize our current communications while assuring that our methods of communication are usable by our congregants and relevant. This goal will be accomplished by developing an overall communications policy, visual identity, as well as style and usage guidelines for Beth Torah.

A set of short and longer term goals of the committee include:

- Move the web site platform to a new one that meets the goals set up by the committee in the purpose statement listed above.
- Evaluate how we are represented in the community and look at the value of the platforms we have chosen to use, and the ones we do not use. Then look at making sure all of our messages are coordinated and visually consistent.
- Develop a branding and marketing overview to include internal and external communications.
- Develop a communication policy and procedure document.

Work has already begun on a new website, and currently the goal is to have it launched at the Annual Meeting on May 6th!



[Congregation Beth Torah](#)

[caringconnectionteam@beth-torah.org](mailto:caringconnectionteam@beth-torah.org)

Beth Torah members supporting one another through life’s health care challenges

To make a referral or to volunteer, contact Beth Torah at 913-498-2212 or email [caringconnectionteam@beth-torah.org](mailto:caringconnectionteam@beth-torah.org)

## CONTEMPLATION NIGHT

Saturday, January 6th

5:30–6:30pm

an evening of meditation at CBT with communal singing, readings, moments of silence, violin, piano, and a focus on inner prayer

CONGREGATION BETH TORAH

# • TRIBUTES •

## Beth Torah General Fund

### *In Memory Of:*

Faye Cooper	Steven Cooper
Chaim Cooper	Steven Cooper
Masha Cooper	Steven Cooper
Leopold Levy	Joe Levy
Burton Goldstein	Martin & Irene Goldstein
Stu Hyatt	Henri & David Goettel
Fannie Weingarten	Marshall & Judith Weingarten
David Kaufman	Marshall & Judith Weingarten
Gary Charles Davisson	Lolly Davisson

### *In Honor Of:*

Marlene Kahn's Birthday	Michael & Bonnie Swade
Geordie Waldman's Bar Mitzvah	Michelle & Keith Usiskin
Barry Katz's 70th Birthday	Tim & Laura Intfen

## Rabbi Cattapan Discretionary Fund

### *In Memory Of:*

David A. Childers	Ron & Jo Ann Ginson
Lillian Elfanbaum	Rita Stark

### *In Honor Of:*

Speedy Recovery of Rod Minkin	Bill & Charlotte Kessler
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## Rabbi Mark Levin Discretionary Fund

### *In Memory Of:*

Joseph Optican	Richard Optican
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### *In Honor Of:*

Skip Rein's 80th Birthday	Harold & Rita Olsen
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## Hunger Fund

Debbie Chase  
Jackie Hermanson

### *In Memory Of:*

Morris Feinberg, father	Susan Feinberg
Julius Stern	Judith & Marshall Weingarten
Sarah Ozar	Lesly & Issy Ozar
Frances Klein	Lesly & Issy Ozar
Ruth Litvien, mother	Sheila Goldberg
Morris O'Brien	Maureen & Sandy Salz
Jeanette Salz	Maureen & Sandy Salz
Clara Jacobson	Harriet & Ron Jacobson
Victor G. Jacobson	Harriet & Ron Jacobson
Eleanor Jacobson	Harriet & Ron Jacobson
Jack Bernat	Harriet & Ron Jacobson

### *In Honor Of:*

Ellen and Jim Merrill	Maureen & Sandy Salz
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## CBT Fund For Families In Need

L'Chaim Havurah

### *In Memory Of:*

Irvine Klinock	Jerry & Susie Klinock
Sarah Ozar	Stephanie & Adam Elyachar

Frances Klein  
Shirley Weneck  
Nancy Weneck

Stephanie & Adam Elyachar  
Rhonda & Mark Brown  
Rhonda & Mark Brown

### *In Honor Of:*

Hedy Goldman's Birthday	Maureen & Sandy Salz
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## Music and Choir Fund

### *In Memory Of:*

Dorothy Lammers	Glenn Esser & Estelle Edelbaum
Walter Lammers	Glenn Esser & Estelle Edelbaum
Sally Osman	Stan Osman
Bernard M. Capper	Gail & Larry Altman
Brett Swade	Mickey & Bonnie Swade

### *In Appreciation Of:*

Emily Tummons & Carmen Dieker	Glenn Esser & Estelle Edelbaum
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## Joel H. Winston Social Justice Fund

### *In Honor Of:*

Skip Rein's 80th Birthday	Margie & Steve Cooper
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## Youth Activities Fund

### *In Memory Of:*

Kasil Jabon	Etta Brenner
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## Giving Monday/Tuesday donations support Educating our Future.

Thank you for participating in this international day of generosity and philanthropy.

Sharon & Jeff Altman	Ronnie & Larry Lerner
Mithra Amaran	Ellen Merrill
The Antoniewicz-Saul Family	Jim Moseman
Adrienne & Vic Applebaum	Aaron Nienshultz
Carol Balagur	Denise & Jerry Pakula
Debbie Beznovsky	Marcia & Larry Rittmaster
Boyd & Laura Bolter	Kara Rosenberg
Rabbi Javier Cattapan & Kris Gray	Gail & Jeff Ross
Margie Cooper & Steve Cooper	Becky Sandhaus
Sue & Herb Crane	Ann Shepherd
Carol Ducak	Nancy Solomon
Denise & Steve Ellenberg	Jerry Stolov & Judy Elliott
Lori Gilgus Fehr	Mickey & Bonnie Swade
Vic & Laurie Finkelstein	Valery & Susan Tokar
Brandi Fisher	Linda & Marc Turner
Martha Gershun	Betsy Wanger
Michael & Barb Ginsberg & Family	Joel & Susan Waxman
Henri Goettel	Marshall & Judith Weingarten
Miki & Gregg Herman	Shari Womack
Mark & Vicki Herman	Linda Zappulla
Laura & Tim Intfen	Zach Zwibelman

## • COMMUNITY NEWS •

### **New Assistance Line Available to Meet Emergency Needs**

The JFS Food and Shelter program helps people who are in greatest financial need, whether because of a job loss, medical issues or some other financial problem. The goal is to get people the assistance they need to overcome an immediate crisis and improve their financial lives in the long-term. To more directly access support, JFS has established a new Assistance Helpline at 913-730-1747.

Social workers will work with callers to help address urgent or basic needs, whether it's meeting the rent or mortgage, utilities, food, or transportation. As the crisis is addressed, longer-term goals such as stable employment, improving family income, or building net worth are integrated into the coaching process.

If you or a Jewish family member or friend are experiencing a financial crisis or are in need of immediate assistance, please call the new Assistance Helpline at 913-730-1747.

### **NAMI Family-To-Family Course Offered In January**

Jewish Family Services and NAMI (the National Alliance on Mental Illness) are working together to offer NAMI's Family-to-Family Education Course to help families dealing with a loved one who has a mental illness.

This free, 11-week series of classes is held on consecutive Monday evenings beginning Jan. 15, 2018, 6:30–9:00 p.m. in Conference Room C at the Jewish Community Campus, 5801 W. 115th St., Overland Park, KS. Participants must commit to the entire 11 weeks. This course is for the caregiver and not the loved one with mental illness. NAMI, Jewish Family Services, and the Greater Kansas City Mental Health Coalition sponsor the course.

Space is limited for the free course; those interested are asked to register in advance by contacting [Emily Krier](mailto:Emily.Krier@jfs.org) or call her at 913-744-1672.

### **New Grief Support Group Forming January 3rd**

Jewish Family Services hosts a new Grief and Loss Support Group to start January 3rd, continuing for 10 sessions. The group meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. in Conference Room A at the JCC. The support group is for individuals grieving from the death of a spousal partner, significant other or close family member. The group, which is free, provides the opportunity to address issues of loss and grief within a Jewish spiritual context in a warm and confidential environment.

The group is co-facilitated by Rabbi Mark Levin and Laurie Schulte, MSW, JFS social worker.

To register or for more information, please [email Schulte](mailto:Laurie.Schulte@jfs.org) at 913-730-1457.

### **Have I Got A Story For You: Henry Bloch January 18th**

Learn a thing or two about Henry Bloch and his gift of art to Kansas City on Thursday, Jan. 18th, 1:00-2:00 p.m. as part of the Learn, Laugh and Love program series. "Have I Got a Story for You: Henry Bloch—The man and his gift to the people of Kansas City" is sponsored by Jewish Family Services and the Heritage Center of the Jewish Community Center.

Local H & R Block founder Henry Bloch recently donated a curated collection of art collected over his lifetime to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. Jenny Stempleman, respected glass artist and local art teacher with expertise in French Impressionism and Midwest Regional art, will share the story of Mr. Bloch and the significance of his gift to the new Bloch Galleries and the Nelson-Atkins. She will discuss the new exhibit with an audio-visual presentation of featured works.

This program is free, but reservations are requested by calling the Heritage Center at 913-327-8044.

### **Driving Risk Awareness Course Offered Feb. 4th**

Do you have a teenage driver in your house or are about to have one? Start the New Year off right by attending the "Driving Risk Awareness for Teens and Parents" program, put on by the C.H.A.I. program of Jewish Family Services. This free workshop, which is open to ninth and tenth grade students and their parents, takes place Sunday, Feb. 4, 2018, from 10:00–11:30 a.m. at the Jewish Community Campus, Conference Room C, 5801 W. 115th St., Overland Park, KS.

The workshop will be facilitated by Susie Hurst, Adolescent Specialist at Jewish Family Services, and Lieutenant Mark Terman. The goals of the Driving Risk Awareness program are:

- to provide a realistic picture of the risks of teen driving;
- to provide practical advice on ways families can reduce teen driving risks;
- and to promote parent-teen involvement and cooperation in teen driving, including the creation of a parent-teen driving agreement.

While the Driving Risk Awareness workshop is free, reservations are required. To make a reservation, please [email Hurst](mailto:Susie.Hurst@jfs.org) at 913-327-8259.

### **Skate To Battle Hunger This Winter**

With the arrival of the colder weather comes the fun of ice skating. Now you can skate AND help others who face food insecurity. The Ice at Park Place has teamed up with Jewish Family Services Food Pantry; from Nov. 17th until Feb. 19th, skaters can receive \$1 off admission if they bring a non-perishable or canned item to donate to the pantry. Look for the Food Pantry barrel at The Ice where donations can be dropped off.