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Run Hide Fight Presentation Blood Drive Thank You Instrument Donation Drive High Holy Days Schedule Free Hot Soup and much more

The Monthly Newsletter of

August 2023 • Issue 354 • Av/Elul



## Remarks

Rabbi Javier Cattapan, Senior Rabbi

#### **Choosing our Jewish Journeys**

Welcoming the stranger is a value that we hold dear at Beth Torah. In his book, The Spirituality of Welcoming, Dr. Ron Wolfson writes: "We need a new aliyah, an aliyah to Judaism-a call to born Jews, to Jews by choice,

to non-Jews, to members, and to not-yet members of our synagogues to affirm their desire to be within the Jewish community. Aliyah literally means going up, ascending to a higher place, a place of meaning and purpose."

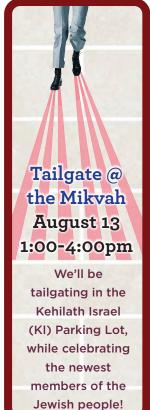
Being part of a community is being in a place of meaning, a place where everyone finds purpose. Creating such an aliyah requires us to intentionally share our journey with others and invite them to be part of it. True, we do not seek converts, but neither should we chase people away, thinking that what we have to offer is not worth considering.

We welcome everyone, period. We do honor and celebrate the level of participation and commitment some show. For instance, we have requirements for children wanting to celebrate a Bat/Bar mitzvah ceremony in our sanctuary. Is the child who spends countless hours preparing for her Bat Mitzvah "better" than the one who does not want to invest that time? No, of course not, but we make a distinction. Study and dedication make a difference, and we celebrate it. We celebrate their family's choosing Judaism.

Studying and dedication to learning and practicing Judaism are worthy, and we want to celebrate those choices too. Being a part of the conversion process is one of the most rewarding aspects of being a rabbi. The conversion process includes a year of study, meetings with a rabbi, and a beit din (rabbinic tribunal) at the end. The beit din is held at our community mikvah (more details on tailgating are next to this article!).

Throughout my 25 years as a congregational rabbi, I have been blessed to witness many journeys towards Judaism and have learned that each path is unique, yet there was someone in their journey who opened their minds to the possibility of becoming Jewish. I am not sure that we can always tell when we are the person opening those doors, but keeping a welcoming attitude is essential. Think for a moment: How could you open those doors for others? In order to open the door for others, we also need to feel proud and comfortable in our Jewish identity.

It's been said before: We are all Jews-by-Choice. More than ever in Jewish history, being Jewish today is a choice. Many of us make that choice daily when we decide to join a synagogue, when we volunteer at our shul, when we decide to be a part of the larger Jewish community, when we stand up for Israel or support Jewish causes, when we choose to study Torah and Jewish topics. We ought to celebrate each and every Jewish choice we make, because that is what sustains and enriches our congregation.



The Celebration Continues at **Beth Torah!** 

Please join us during Erev Shabbat Service on

August 18

@ 6:30pm to welcome and celebrate our newest Jews-by-Choice!

## President's Corner

Greetings everyone,

"Congregation Beth Torah was constructed as a family home, a place to play and pray, a place to rejoice and rejuvenate, and a place to love and learn. Here is where we build for the future, a place where children yet to be conceived will romp; where young people will learn together and intertwine their lives; where the old will come for solace and the peace of knowing that we are an eternal people. We welcome you to our home. We extend the warmest of friendships and offer you a place to laugh, grow, and study."

This was taken from our website next to a picture of four founding members, each with a ceremonial shovel in hand, turning ground to commemorate the beginning of construction of our beautiful building.



While we do celebrate our past we are constantly looking toward the future. A few short weeks ago Jes Lindsay advised the Board of Trustees that she had formed a consulting business and would be leaving Beth Torah at the end of July. We wish her nothing but success and good fortune in her new venture. The search for a new Executive Director has already started. We hope to have someone on board very quickly.

Our Rabbi search committee is also hard at work completing our application to submit to the URJ so we can have access to the pool of prospective applicants. We plan to have that completed and submitted this month.

The Board of Trustees met in July at the home of Dave & Lezlie Zucker to discuss, among other things, our new, three-year strategic plan. Also, Ron Fredman presented his fundraising vision for the next fiscal year.

Our strategic plan centers around three pillars:

Religious Worship: Spiritual and Musical.

Social Justice / Social Action: The umbrella for all Tikkun Olam activities we promote and support.

**Education and Synagogue Life:** Education for young and old, holiday-related and just-for-fun

social events, and community-wide programming.

Our strategic plan also includes three internal components:

Fundraising: Led by our new fundraising chairman, Ron Fredman.

Membership: Looking for new members while doing everything we can to retain and engage the

members we have.

Operations: Keeping the lights on and the building functioning.

Each of these six categories is greatly expanded, listing the responsible party, and includes directional arms that show how each category intertwines with the others. This is a living document and will be adjusted as needed. It is our road map and compass to keep us grounded and moving in the right direction.

Beth Torah is going through many changes and many challenges. Your Board of Trustees and other members continue to embrace these challenges and keep us relevant, financially stable and a prominent member of the community for years to come. The Board is very excited about the "New Beth Torah" we are creating and the strategic vision we have embraced. Join us in that vision.

In closing let me borrow another paragraph from our website:

"Today, Beth Torah celebrates over 30 years of community. While the hopes expressed during that Erev Shabbat worship in 1988 have been realized, the creative process continues. We are continuously honoring our past while building for the future. We are an eternal people, and Beth Torah is our home."

Larry Myer

President, Board of Trustees

The 5783 confirmands are thrilled to share their class project with you. They spent the past several months interviewing congregants who have been members of Congregation Beth Torah for 18 years or longer. They can't wait to share with you what they learned!

https://beth-torah.org/chai-member-interviews



## Music & More



This year Elul begins mid-August, and already I am turning my thoughts toward High Holy Day preparation. Yes, I am busy with cue sheets and choir rehearsals, but it's not just that. I recently participated in a memorial service for a friend. His family is part of my chosen family, and we all gathered with dozens of others on a bright, hot July day to remember him. I want to share with you two things I came away with from that experience.

First, is the notion of accounting. We are called as Jews to take an ongoing accounting of our lives. But especially during Elul and the High Holy Days, we are asked to look at ourselves through the lens of the past year—perhaps years if we still haven't managed some course correction. Where have we repeated the same mistakes? Missed the same marks? At this

memorial I was surrounded by my past—people I was once close with, but most of whom I hadn't seen for a decade or more. I came face-to-face with not only heart-aching nostalgia, but also with heart-bending regret. I was reminded of poor choices and disappointments; failures of judgment and will; and insufficient efforts to stay connected or release unhealthy connections. I know we recite *vidui*—prayers of confession—every year, both long and short, but this brush with mortality and with my past brought everything into sharper focus. I could see how some things haven't changed.

Second, is the gift of a hope and a goal. We spend much time fretting about who we should be or who we want to be. How do we turn the introspection and contemplation of the High Holy Days into growth and change? My friend gave me a path. My hope, my goal, my prayer this High Holy Day season is to live such a life that despite my shortfalls and failings, I am—as was my friend—well enough loved to inspire a group of people from vastly different walks of life, holding vastly different beliefs and narratives, to come together to celebrate that life and mourn my passing. May we all love so well and be so well loved.

#### Here's what's coming up in August:

- ☆ Friday Night Torah Service (Aug 4)
  - o Building Closed for Summer Break (Aug 12-13)
- **☼** Tailgate @ the Mikvah (Aug 13)
- Welcoming our Newest Jews-by-Choice during Erev Shabbat Worship (Aug 18)
  - o Building Closed for Summer Break (Aug 26-27)
- ☆ Service of Spiritual Renewal for the High Holy Days (Aug 27)

Here are a few of my favorite prayers and melodies of the High Holy Day season. May they help you in your preparations.

- <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NI3EwtsxzSs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NI3EwtsxzSs</a>
- <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fMNkR30nel">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fMNkR30nel</a>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42U-4yt1XMk

Shalom, Lezlie

This Rosh Hashanah, wish your fellow Beth Torah members a Shanah Tovah (Good Year) by adding your name(s) to our third annual congregational Rosh Hashanah Card!

This printed card will be included in our Rosh Hashanah Gift, delivered to current Beth Torah households in August.

The deadline to add names to our
Rosh Hashanah Card is Monday, August 7.
Proceeds from this Rosh Hashanah Card will
fund our Rosh Hashanah Gift.



## Weiner Religious School

We were having so much fun in July that time just flew by! We saw Space Jam at the movies, ate ice cream at Golden Scoop, and went roller skating. I loved seeing all of the adorable puppies at our Muzzle Tov Havdalah. We even had the pleasure of watching Nathan Weiner become a Bar Mitzvah! Don't miss our Parent's Night Out on Saturday, August 5th. Drop your kids off for pizza, games, dessert, and a movie. Enjoy your evening kid free!

#### **Events**

Saturday, August 5, 2023 is our Parents Night Out from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Parents drop your kids off at CBT for pizza, games, dessert, and a movie. Enjoy a night out on the town. \$4 per person for dinner and dessert.

Saturday, August 12, 2023 is our Poolside Havdalah from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the JCC outdoor pool. Wear your swimsuit, sunscreen, and bring a towel.

Please make sure you have your registration forms filled out for the 2023-2024 school year.

If you need registration forms or have questions please contact Morgan Fasbinder at mfasbinder@beth-torah.org or 913-574-8854.

#### **Friendly Reminder:**

The first day of Sunday School is September 10, 2023.

The first day of TAG is Wednesday, September 27, 2023.





Photos from the Summer Skate Party and the Ice Cream Social!









JCC Pool 5801 w. 115th St. Overland Park, KS 66211





## מזל טוב ! Wazel Tov!

Do you have a simcha you'd like to share with us? Email the office by the 13th of the month!





Good Faith Network End-of-Year Celebration, July 9 at the Islamic Center of Johnson County



Jennifer Savner Levinson was honored for her leadership as the Good Faith Network Treasurer, a co-chair of our Mental Health Research & Action Team, and she received the "School Spirit!" award.





The Good Faith Network also recognized **Marcia Rittmaster** and **Marilyn Lewandowski** for participating in all four Good Faith Network Events this year!

The School Spirit Award goes to the Team Leader who attended the most DART training events this year. These are opportunities to hone faith-based community organizing principles alongside other leaders and our sister organizations in our region and across the country.

For more information and additional photos, please visit our website!

beth-torah.org/goodfaithnetwork





## The Yiddish Club @ Congregation Beth Torah invites you...

Enjoy an hour of Yiddish music and English conversation with the stars of the Yiddish

Production of

Contact Jill Maidhof 913.832.4477







### 7 pm | August 3 | CBT Library | Free and open to the public

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
30 Building Closed (Summer Schedule)	31	Aug 1	2  ▼ Tu B'Av  • 7pm HHD Choir Rehearsals
6  10:30am Women of Beth Torah Active Shooter Trainin	7	8	9 • 7pm HHD Choir Rehearsals
13 Building Closed (Summer Schedule)  1pm Tailgate @ the Mikvah	14	15	16 • 7pm HHD Choir Rehearsals
Day of Discovery	21	22 • 7pm Jewbie Brothers Preview Show	23 • 7pm HHD Choir Rehearsals
27 Building Closed (Summer Schedule)  2pm Service of Spiritual Renewal for the High Holy Da	28	29	30 • 7pm HHD Choir Rehearsals

## **Community Events:**

Aug. 20 - Day of Discovery

Watch the Rabbinical Association website for details: kcrabbi.org

Aug. 27 - Service of Spiritual Renewal for the High Holy Days 2:00-3:00pm @ Village Shalom - Social Hall

#### Save the Date!!!

- ⇔ High Holy Days
- \$\primeq\$ Shabbat Shuva & Memorial Plague Dedication (Sept. 22)
- ⇔ Help Build the Sukkah! (Sept. 27)

AA group meetings
will be held
once a week on
Wednesdays at
the JCC from 12-1.
Starts Aug 16.

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3	4 • 1pm Yiddish Group • 6:30pm Erev Shabbat Worship with Torah Service	5 • 9am Sichat Shabbat • 10:30am Shabbat Morning Worship
10 • 12pm Rabbi Lunch N' Learn (in person)	11 • 1pm Yiddish Group	12 Building Closed (Summer Schedule)
	6:30pm Erev Shabbat Worship	5:30pm Poolside Havdalah
17	18	19
<ul> <li>12pm Exploring and Sharing Good Eats - 5783 Small (</li> </ul>	1pm Yiddish Group	<ul> <li>9am Sichat Shabbat</li> </ul>
7pm Celebrate the New Moon! (@CBJ)	6:30pm Erev Shabbat Worship Welcoming Our New Je	• 10:30am Shabbat Morning Worship
24	25	26
	1pm Yiddish Group	Building Closed (Summer Schedule)
	● 6:30pm Erev Shabbat Worship	
31	Sep 1	2
	1pm Yiddish Group	9am Sichat Shabbat
	6:30pm Erev Shabbat Worship with Torah Service	10:30am Shabbat Morning Worship

## THE WOMEN'S COUNCIL OF BETH TORAH

presents

"WHAT TO DO WHEN THERE'S AN ACTIVE SHOOTER: RUN. HIDE. FIGHT."

Presented by the Overland Park Police Department

SUNDAY, 10:30 a.m., Aug. 6 at CBT.





Box Lunch from Yafa Mediterranean Food. (Falafel and Hummus sandwich or Chicken Shawarma sandwich)

Event and lunch are FREE. Participation is limited to 50 people. Click Here to RSVP and meal selection or call Alex, 913. 498.2212. Sponsored by The . Women's Council and anonymous donors.



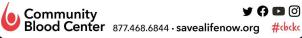
#### Thank you to everyone who came out July 11 for our Summer Blood Drive!

We hit 60% of our collection goal on July 11 and had 5 first-time donors! Not bad for summer vacation season!

We look forward to blowing our goals out of the water at our Fall Blood Drive on October 18!

If anyone was unable to make it to the last blood drive and is able to donate another time, please visit one of CBC's 7 Community Blood Center locations. If you give the code: 7B when you arrive at the registration desk, your donation will count towards the Beth Torah.

https://donate.savealifenow.org/donor/schedules/centers



Y () D ()

Is there a musical instrument (or two) lying around your house that's not being used? You can make a difference in a foster child's life by donating those old instruments. Music gives kids an outlet for self-expression and can help them maintain some stability in unstable times.

BVN TRI-M

What can you donate? Musical instruments in used or brand new condition Sheet music Electronic keyboards

Instruments strings, tuners, neck straps, or other accessories

This donation drive is organized by Gabriel Decker, a member of Beth Torah and occasional CBT Band bassist. This drive is partially inspired by his work in the Religious Action Committee's Teen Justice Fellowship.

> Contact Gabriel Decker music4allKC@gmail.com



## **CONGREGATION BETH TORAH**

# High Holy Days Schedule 2023 • 5784

#### Selichot - Saturday, September 9

Community Program held at The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah

8:00 p.m. Dessert Reception / Program / Service

Rosh Hashanah (September 15-16)

Friday, September 15 6:30 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

Saturday, September 16

10:00 a.m. Family T'filah & Activities

10:30 a.m. Rosh Hashanah Morning Service

Luncheon

1:15 p.m. Tashlich 2:30 p.m. Sweet Field Trip to Apple Orchard Yom Kippur (September 24-25)

Sunday, September 24 7:30 p.m. Kol Nidre Service

Monday, September 25

10:00 a.m. Family T'filah & Activities

10:30 a.m. Yom Kippur Morning Service

12:30 p.m. Adult Ed Sessions

1:30 p.m. Tikkun Service

2:00 p.m. Yizkor Service

2:00 p.m Adult Ed Sessions 3:15 p.m. Adult Ed Sessions

4:30 p.m. Mincha Service

6:00 p.m. N'ilah Service

#### Shabbat Shuvah - Friday, September 22

**6:30 p.m.** Erev Shabbat Service / Memorial Plague Dedication / Beit Midrash

**Sukkot (September 29-October 7)** 

Friday, September 29

5:30 p.m. Erev Sukkot Picnic **6:30 p.m. Erev Sukkot Service** 

Friday, October 6

6:30 p.m. Erev Simchat Torah Service

Saturday, October 7

10:30 a.m. Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah – Sukkot Yom Tov & Shabbat Service with Yizkor



## August, 2023 Yahrzeits

August 1, 2023 Av 14, 5783

Gertrude Levy (aunt of Marjorie Cooper), Thomas Graham Patterson (Beth Torah), Sarah Zubatsky (loved one Steve & Margie Cooper), Craig Zucker (brother of Dave Zucker)

August 2, 2023 Av 15, 5783

Sam Samberg (grandfather of Mrs. Linda Rubin)

August 3, 2023 Av 16, 5783

Donald E. Boyer (father of Cathy Boyer-Shesol), Fanneye Lampert (mother of Eileen Garry), Patricia Schlesinger (aunt of Susan Berkowitz), Dixon Timmerman (grandmother of Adam Poslosky)

August 4, 2023 Av 17, 5783

Michael Aronson (father of Audrey Myers), Lynn Grossman (sister-in-law of Roger Fogel), Seymour Kaplan (father of Julie Kaplan), Jerome F. Spiegel (loved one of Jo-Ann Harris)

August 5, 2023 Av 18, 5783

Peedee Brown (wife of Phillip Brown), George Allen Mason (uncle of Kris Gray)

August 6, 2023 Av 19, 5783

Joannie Geifman (friend of Steve & Margie Cooper), George King (father of Norman King), Irvin E. Wade (father of Louis Wade)

August 8, 2023 Av 21, 5783

Edward Dubinsky (father of Richard Dubinsky), Jerome Grossman (grandfather of Michael Golden), Irving Shames (uncle of Cynthia Shames), Bernard Sherman (father of Janice Katz), Alexandr Vaysfligel (father of Sergey Vaysfligel)

August 9, 2023 Av 22, 5783

Lori Renee Ginson (daughter of Ronald & Jo Ann Ginson), Ruth "Rivie" Ziffren Learner (aunt of Steven Cooper)

August 10, 2023 Av 23, 5783

Morton Golder (father of Robert Golder), Leon Kupper (father of Nancy Sickle)

August 11, 2023 Av 24, 5783

Allan D. Simmons (friend of Edna Riley), Don Tranin (father of Ed Tranin)

August 12, 2023 Av 25, 5783

Elayne Franklin (loved one Elaine Tobias), Ruth Greenberg Kerstein (grandmother of Andrew Kerstein), Jae Rosenstock (mother of Skip Rosenstock)

August 13, 2023 Av 26, 5783

Herb Adler (loved one of Eileen Garry), Florine F. Capper (mother of Gail Altman), Joyce Goodman (aunt of Elaine Tobias), Rose Hellman (mother of Richard Hellman), Jacob Osman (son of Stan Osman), Florine Frankel Peck (cousin of Floyd Frankel)

August 14, 2023 Av 27, 5783

Consiglia D'Angelo (grandmother of Nicholas LeVine), Sam Hipsh (father of Louise Hipsh), Ida Kaplan (mother-in-law of Alice Kaplan), Elaine Pfefer (aunt of Judith Hellman and Marcia Rittmaster)

August 15, 2023 Av 28, 5783

Morris Leo Balanoff (father-in-law of Diane Balanoff, grandfather of Brian Balanoff and Deborah Chase), Lillian Gelfund (Beth Torah), Rosalie Goldstein (mother of Debi Boyd), Lilly Hirsch Jacobson (Beth Torah)

August 16, 2023 Av 29, 5783

Laura Bram (wife of Alan Bram), Helen Lesky (aunt of Estelle Edelbaum), Wilberene J. Marcum (grandmother of Rebecca Parker)

#### August 17, 2023 Av 30, 5783

Alex Crane (nephew of Michael Crane), Morrie Firestone (uncle of Judith Hellman and Marcia Rittmaster), Hyman Golden (grandfather of Michael Golden), Jacob Lowenstein (loved one of William Lowenstein), David Pener (father of Brian Pener), Ceil Leifer Prager (mother of Ronnie Lerner), Jerry Rotenberg (father-in-law of Margarita Adler), Christel Selcer (grandmother of Brandi Fisher)

#### August 18, 2023 Elul 1, 5783

Victoria Bellotti (grandmother of Richard Bellotti), Sylvia Bromberg (mother of Hedy Goldman), Minnie Moses (grandmother of Julie Altman, Janet Bloom and Judith Dubrov), Sharon Haith Weinstein (mother of Linda Turner)

#### August 19, 2023 Elul 2, 5783

Yocheved Flekier (mother of Karen Butler), Jack Gersh (father of Myron Gersh), Louis Lowenstein (grandfather of Lon Lowenstein and father of William Lowenstein)

#### August 20, 2023 Elul 3, 5783

Ila "Tootie" Brown (mother-in-law of Lon Lowenstein) Ira Kersh (father of Rabbi Linda Steigman and grandfather of Stephen Steigman), Rae Lewis (mother of Stuart Lewis), Edis Parkans (loved one Kelly Kaplan), Salvatore Zappulla (Beth Torah)

#### August 21, 2023 Elul 4, 5783

Jack Belmont (father of Nini Rosenstock), Maurene Kupperman (aunt of Louise Hipsh)

#### August 22, 2023 Elul 5, 5783

Meyer Rosentretor (grandfather of Richard Dubinsky)

#### August 23, 2023 Elul 6, 5783

Nathan Salz (father of Sanford Salz)

#### August 24, 2023 Elul 7, 5783

Ruth Katz (mother of Sheila Fasbinder and Paul Katz), Chester Lampert (brother of Eileen Garry), Audree Milgram Klein Baer (mother of James Klein)

#### August 25, 2023 Elul 8, 5783

Faye Ginson (mother of Ronald Ginson), Minda Naomi Levy (sister-in-law of Joseph Levy), Ralph Matzdorff (Beth Torah), Stacy F. Yedlin (brother of Jay Yedlin)

#### August 26, 2023 Elul 9, 5783

Jeanne Bellotti (mother of Richard Bellotti), Gilbert Greenwald (father of Douglas Greenwald and Susan Waxman), David Kupperman (uncle of Louise Hipsh), Jack M. Razafsky (father of Jeffrey Razafsky), Raymond Rittmaster (father of Larry Rittmaster), Jason (Kip) Weiner (brother of Cynthia Garfinkle), Edith White (aunt of Michael Blum)

#### August 28, 2023 Elul 11, 5783

Phillip Lustig (father of Martin Lustig), John Pavlove (father of Diane Balanoff and grandfather of Brian Balanoff and Deborah Chase), Bertha Spector (grandmother of Jeffrey Razafsky)

#### August 29, 2023 Elul 12, 5783

Ron Greenbaum (son-in-law of Robert Wolff) Mickey Kleg (grandmother of Brad Klinock and mother of Susan Klinock) Richard Rosenfeld (loved one of Leslie Rosenfeld) Mark Weingarten (brother-in-law of Judith Weingarten)

#### August 30, 2023 Elul 13, 5783

Mary "Stitch" Lilly (loved one of Henri Goettel) Harold Myer (father of Julie Myer and Lawrence Myer) Lois Kram Turner (mother of Marc Turner)

#### August 31, 2023 Elul 14, 5783

Ann Dubrov (mother of Ronald Dubrov) Joseph Hamovitz (grandfather of Howard Pitler) Semen Kucherovsky (father of Gene Kucherovsky)

#### **2023 Tributes**

The next issue of Tekiah will include tributes received after June 16.

Thank you to all who have donated and contributed to Congregation Beth Torah!



# CONGREGATION BETH TORAH

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