



CONGREGATION  
BETH TORAH

Sunday, January 6th

- Jewish Jumpers

Thursday, January 10th

- Rabbi Lunch and Learn

Sunday, January 13th

- Gift-wrapping for  
Refugee Birthday Party
- Jewish Jumpers

Friday, January 18th

- Shabbat Shirah

Sunday, January 20th

- Refugee Birthday Party
- Ethical Food Program at  
Religious School
- Jewish Jumpers

Sunday, January 27th

- Contemplation Night

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

#### 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 332  
JANUARY 2019  
TEVET / SHEVAT 5779

## A Note from Rabbi Javier Cattapan



## Join us for Consultation on Conscience 2019

January is social action month at Beth Torah! Not in name, perhaps, but certainly because of our direct service mitzvah-centered programs: Cooking and serving meals at reStart and helping new refugees feel welcome to our country with a “Birthday Party.” (See [pages 6 and 8](#) for more details).

Many of us feel that our Jewish values compel us to stand up for social change in our communities, and we do it in at least two ways: By directly helping others by volunteering time, money and work to improve their situation (social action), and also by developing connections with other groups in town and around our country so that we could influence decision makers to act and make changes that will benefit those whom we are trying to help with our volunteer work (social justice).

“Consultation on Conscience” prepares for the latter. “Consultation” is the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism’s biennial social justice leadership conference. Held over three days in Washington, D.C. It is dedicated to training and empowering Jewish leaders like us to make real, lasting change at the national, state, and local levels.

As a Brickner Fellow of the RAC, I am committed to social action and social justice and would be thrilled to bring a delegation of Beth Torah members to the conference (May 19-21, 2019) with me. Four to seven people constitute a delegation and I think we can do

it! At the Consultation on Conscience, our delegation will work together to build meaningful connections (it is all about relationships!), learn and expand the skills needed to advocate for social change, deepen our knowledge on the critical issues facing our community, and lobby Congress together as a powerful collective force for change. Here are some of the highlights of the conference:

- Plenary sessions offer in-depth, Jewish conversations about pressing contemporary issues from subject matter experts.
- Workshop options are designed to meet the specific needs of congregational social justice teams. We can strategize workshop participation according to our delegation’s needs and interests.
- Time is specifically set aside for us to develop a social justice strategy that fits the needs of our congregation or community.
- We will spend time sharing, reflecting, and deepening relationships within our delegation and with members of other communities, allowing for a stronger and better future collaboration.
- Deepen relationships with other social justice leaders in your congregation, state, and movement.

I will be happy to meet you in person, for coffee or tea, and tell you more about this exciting

*Continued on page 2*

## Our Pillars

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

### Congregation Beth Torah:

<b>Embraces</b>	<b>Energizes</b>
<b>Illuminates</b>	<b>Inspires</b>
<b>Responds</b>	<b>Connects</b>

#### OFFICERS

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

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jeff Antoniewicz	Jo-Ann Harris
Miccole Bowen	Amy Kane
June Crane	Stan Osman
Todd Davison	Stephen Steigman
Scott Franklin	Nick Toniazio
Mike Ginsberg	Zach Zwibelman
BTY Co-Presidents.....	Sam Fine & Max Gates
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 .....	Alyssa Schildhorn
Administrative Assistant .....	Sharon Altman
Bookkeeper.....	Barbara Kitt
Administrative Assistant .....	Rachel Bolter
Choir Director.....	Carmen Dieker
Tekiah Editor .....	Laura Bolter

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Phone: 913-498-2212  
Fax: 913-498-1071

6100 West 127th Street  
Overland Park, KS 66209

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

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

Facebook:

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

*Continued from page 1*

opportunity. If you are interested, please, talk to me before you register, we have some discount codes you will need.

While we are in D.C. we will have the opportunity to learn from other delegations, building an important network that will strengthen our congregation's—and the Reform Movement's—capacity to

make change. Having done it once before, I can assure you that it can be a life-changing experience as it helps us refocus and strengthen what we already have going for our congregation. I am confident that our delegation will return home better prepared and positioned to lead our community—together—in meaningful social justice work. Will you join me?

Religious  
Action  
Center  
of Reform Judaism

Join our Delegation at the  
**Consultation on  
CONSCIENCE**  
MAY 19-21, 2019 • WASHINGTON, DC

*Learn. Act. Repair the World.*

### *In Memoriam:*

**Helen F. Kanion**

Grandmother of Tiffany Simpson

**David Feldman**

Brother of Ellie Penner and  
uncle of Miki Herman

**Marci Brookstein-Mainus**

Cousin of Marlene Kahn

**Elizabeth Ann Gray**

Aunt of Kris Gray

**Barbara "Bobbie" Elaine Levy**

Wife of Joseph Levy and sister-in-law  
of Howard Stark

### *Mazel tov to:*

Betsy Wanger on the birth of her grandson,  
Benjamin Thomas Hobbs, born to  
Jessica Wanger Hobbs & Christopher Hobbs  
on December 5, 2018.  
Congratulations to all.

Dr. John Lantos, director of the Bioethics Center  
at Children's Mercy Hospital and professor of  
pediatrics at the University of Missouri-Kansas  
City School of Medicine, who was honored with  
the William G. Bartholome Award for Ethical  
Excellence at the recent  
National Conference of the  
American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)  
in Orlando, Florida

Sanam Millerlile & Eric Baum  
on their marriage

### *Torah Portion*

January 4/5 | 28 Tevet  
Va'era

January 11/12 | 6 Shevat  
Bo

January 18/19 | 13 Shevat  
Beshalach

January 25/26 | 20 Shevat  
Yitro

**Save the date! Participate!  
Celebrating Scouting  
on Shabbat,  
Friday night, February 8th**

Thank you to Matthew Elyachar  
for organizing participants.

If you are a scout, or were one in  
the past, you can email Matthew  
at [mrefloorsyou@gmail.com](mailto:mrefloorsyou@gmail.com)





## President's Corner

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

"Easier said than done." That's a cliché most of us have said and heard countless times throughout

our lives. It crossed my mind several times during the recent visit from Dr. Ron Wolfson, who spoke to us about "Relational Judaism." Ron, as he insisted we call him, emphasized the importance of welcoming everyone who enters our building, starting conversations and telling stories. That's how we build relationships and strengthen our community. Easy enough to say, much harder, at least for some of us, to do.

I'm one for whom it's harder. During Ron's talk at Friday night services, he

assigned us each to find someone we didn't know to share some conversation for three minutes. That I managed to do quite easily, because I'm very good at following orders. But, the idea of doing that spontaneously and randomly is intimidating and I'll need to overcome that in order to pull my weight on this relational thing. It might help if you were the one who started the conversation.

On the other hand there is my wife, Linda. She is naturally outgoing and can talk to anybody about anything. But, after listening to Ron, she realized that it was not top of mind for her to start conversations with people she doesn't know well. So, now she has resolved to be more proactive about this. She just needed a little nudge.

And then there's Carol Ducak. During

Ron's talk she declared from the front row that she had to go clear to the back row to find someone she didn't know. Carol is the embodiment of being relational. Start a conversation with her about how she does it.

Wherever you are on the Barry, Linda, Carol spectrum, you can adjust your mindset to be more relational. Make that part of your commitment to Beth Torah. In the words of Ron Wolfson:

*"What really matters is that we care about the people we seek to engage. When we genuinely care about people, we will not only welcome them; we will listen to their stories, we will share ours, and we will join together to build a Jewish community that enriches our lives."*

Don't just say it—do it.

And, wear your name tag.

# 30 YEARS CONGREGATION BETH TORAH

FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

## SAVE THE DATE: April 13, 2019!

**Our 30th Anniversary celebration  
will be coming to a close,  
but not without one last party.**

How better to conclude this 30th year of  
celebration than with an **ADULT ONLY**  
evening of **FUN! FUN! FUN!**

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR:**

**Havdalah**

**Great Appetizers & Adult Beverages  
A Silent Auction**

**Entertainment and Dance Music  
by the Jewbie Brothers,**

**with both a Special Guest  
and a Surprise Guest,  
(Don't miss seeing and hearing this  
World Class Entertainment)**

**And, a parody written by  
our very own, Estelle Edelbaum**

*You won't want to miss this evening of  
celebration and we don't want to miss you!*

**Mark your calendars now and join us at CBT on April 13, 2019 for this celebration!**

# 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?

- January 15th is National Bagel Day.
- February 4th is National Homemade Soup 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
- 4 **Nancy Solomon:** Remembering my mother, Sadie Sobol on her birthday
- 6 **Board of Trustees:** In honor of CBT's Scholar-in-Residence, Dr. Ron Wolfson
- 7 **Alisa Kartch:** In honor of my birthday
- 8 **Rabbi Javier Cattapan & Kris Gray:** In celebration of Fado's 2nd birthday
- 11 **Andrea & Jay Zwibelman:** In honor of Hannah's 32nd 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!
- 25 **Valery Tokar:** In memory of his mother on her birthday
- 26 **Shanny & Eric Morgenstern:** In honor of Eric's 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. Rabbi Kleinman loves her January 1st birthday, and is even more excited to share it with Refugee Families at the 4th annual Refugee Birthday party on January 20th. Those who do not know their date of birth at immigration are assigned January 1st, and Rabbi Kleinman feels honored to be in great company! Learn how you can help make a young person's "First Birthday" fun and meaningful by visiting <http://tiny.cc/Bday2019> and signing up to help!

- 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
- 12 **Stan Osman:** In honor of Mark's birthday
- 13 **Carol Ducak:** In honor of my birthday
- 14 **Ron Wolfson:** In honor of grandson Gabe Hall's 6th birthday!
- 18 **Aaron Tarjan:** Thank you for saying "I do" 15 years ago today! You're the love of my life.
- 19 **Tarjans of Kansas:** In honor of Grandma Froma on becoming a Bat Mitzvah. It's never too late!
- 20 **Pitler Family:** In honor of Tu B'Shvat, 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
- 27 **Betsy Wanger:** In honor of my mother-in-law, Laka Slavsky

### February

- 11 **Steve Cooper:** In honor of my birthday tomorrow!
- 12 **Sandy & Steve Geduldig:** In honor of our wedding anniversary
- 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
- 17 **Jennifer Levinson:** Today is Random Act of Kindness Day!
- 18 **Bobby & Mary Young:** In honor of Isaac's birthday
- 20 **Steve Cooper:** In honor of Charles Cooper's birthday
- 28 **Stephanie Fleetwood:** In honor of my 17th birthday

### March

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



“When two human beings engage each other in a face-to-face encounter, relationship exists in the between. It is in that space that relationship can turn into ‘engagement’. The goal of Relational Judaism is to foster the relationships that will bring people into deep, lasting engagement with the Jewish experience.” *From Relational Judaism, Using the Power of Relationships to Transform the Jewish Community* by Dr. Ron Wolfson.

Dr. Ron Wolfson came to share stories, ideas and community with us in December. In a session with Beth Torah’s lay leadership he shared the nine levels of relationships. He explained that relationships are formed by what happens **between**, or **in the connection**. The Hebrew term for this space is *bayn*. As there are now nine months until High Holy Days, and nine levels of relationships, I would like to share with you all, over the next nine months, the *bayns* of our existence. Look for more information about Relational Judaism at Beth Torah during the High Holy Days of 2019, but in the meantime, you can look to this space to help put Dr. Wolfson’s teachings into your Beth Torah life.

## The first level: *Bayn Adam l’Atzmo-Self*

Dr. Wolfson explains in his book that the root for the Hebrew term for prayer, *t’filah*, is *l’hitpalel*, a verb meaning to examine oneself. “The goal of Jewish prayer is not simply to praise God and ask for God’s blessings. The goal of Jewish prayer is to be moved, to change one’s self.”

With this in mind, how do you pray when you come to services? Do you leave yourself open to the possibility that you may strengthen your relationship with yourself? No matter what age category you are in, what stage in life, or your state of mind and/or heart as you enter the synagogue doors, there is prayer, just waiting for you. At whatever level you need it to be.

# 30th ANNIVERSARY SILENT AUCTION

The Silent Auction will be here in less than 90 days and we need your skills. Thus far, CBT members have offered the following: dinner for four in their home, home-baked decorated Torah cookies, a framed 8” x 10” paper cut, math tutoring and a noodle kugel. Do you have any abilities or services that you could use to create something special for the auction? Would your place of employment be willing to donate an item or two? We can use any new items. If so, please let us know as soon as possible. Your help would be much appreciated. This is going to be a great auction!

Susie & Jerry Klinock  
 Silent Auction Chairmen

913-663-5446  
[Susie.Klinock@gmail.com](mailto:Susie.Klinock@gmail.com)

Dr. Wolfson shares a nationwide study of congregational life called the FACT survey sponsored by the Harford Theological Seminary. It asked two questions of Reform and Conservative Jews: “Are your worship services joyful?” and “Is your worship inspirational?” Seventy-four percent of Reform Jews agree that their worship is joyful, the number drops considerably (58%) when Reform Jews are asked if they find worship inspirational. Getting back to the goal of prayer, when was the last time that prayer moved you?

In January, why not come to a worship service, and allow yourself to feel? Get to know more about yourself. What if you wept, laughed, swayed, or maybe even moved to dance? It would seem that the safe place of our synagogue and the safe time of *t’filah* is a wonderful time for you to explore this first level of relationships; engaging the self. I hope you will take this first step.

## Save the Date

Shabbat with Rabbi Sam Joseph, Ph.D.

*Beit T’filah*

Friday,  
 February 15th

*Sichat Shabbat*

Saturday,  
 February 16th



Rabbi Joseph will help us continue the great work we began with Dr. Ron Wolfson in December as we strive to make Beth Torah a community that welcomes and values every person who walks through our doors.

Rabbi Samuel K. Joseph, Ph.D. is Eleanor Sinsheimer Distinguished Service Professor of Jewish Education and Leadership Development at HUC-JIR/Cincinnati, where he teaches in the rabbinical school. His special interest is how Jewish institutions and organizations, from schools to synagogues to national groups, can be most excellent as they seek to fulfill their mission and vision.





## Refugee Birthday Party 2019

January 20th will be here before we know it! On Sunday morning at Religious School we are delighted to welcome our Ethical Food team for a session on environmentalism and Tu BiShvat for our young friends, and then later we are co-hosting the fourth annual Refugee Birthday Party at Della Lamb Community Center.

This year we are taking the lead on the project, which we've shared with B'nai Jehudah in the past. We are delighted to partner with Congregation Beth Shalom, Congregation Ohev Shalom, Jewish Vocational Services, and Della Lamb to make this experience possible.

Our party guests are children and their

families who have recently settled in the Kansas City area after fleeing their home countries in search of a better life. Many do not know their own dates of birth, so immigration agents assign them January 1st by default. This means that January is a great month for birthdays!

The party will feature food, music, games, and fun, all designed to give these families a delightful afternoon and allow their children to just be kids! The committee is grateful for donations from face painters, balloon artists, bouncy-house vendors, and more to make this event happen.

Thank you to Adrienne Metcalf for representing Beth Torah around the table!

We do need more help, though! In addition

to bringing gifts to donate, we need people to help wrap gifts at the J on Sunday, January 13th. Head over after *t'filah* and spend an hour doing a mitzvah. If you have more time to spare the next week, sign up for a slot to help set up, run games, or clean up the event itself. This is a great opportunity for families to work together to bring joy to others. There is no minimum age to participate, but families are responsible for their children. You can help pass out gifts, play basketball with others, serve food, and make new friends! If you have some time to spare that day, please sign up for a slot at:

<http://tiny.cc/Bday2019>.



Hello,

Our December program was a resounding success! We went to Crown Center, did

some ice skating, and got hot chocolate. But, most importantly, nobody got hurt and everybody had fun!

The next event will be BTTY's Board Retreat. This is just a time for our board to get together with our advisers and Rabbi Kleinman to plan the upcoming semester's events. It's always fun to hang out with your friends at these retreats, but it will be a bit of a different dynamic since it's just Max and me on board this year. It'll still be really fun though!

After that, on Sunday, January 27th, we will be going down to reStart to cook and serve dinner. reStart is a shelter whose mission "is to provide housing and

supportive services for homeless youth, families, women and men to end homelessness in our community." This is a fantastic volunteering opportunity and we have made it an annual event; reStart is really counting on us so we don't want to let them down. Even if you haven't gone to any other event or aren't really active in JYG or BTTY, please consider coming to this event as we need all the hands we can get. Anyone above the 5th grade is welcome, adults included.

Finally, NFTY Missouri Valley will be having its JYG chavurah on March 8th-10th. This is a great time for JYGers in 7th or 8th grades to get started early in NFTY. This is a super fun experience and a great way to meet Jewish teens your age from across the Midwest. It's your chance to experience all the fun stuff that you hear about us high schoolers doing during our chavurot. Max and I both

went on JYG chavurot before we were officially in NFTY, and it was a blast. Trust me, you'll want to go if you can.

BTTY has a busy few months coming up! In order to RSVP for any of the above events, or if you just want to find out more information, please don't hesitate to reach out to Rabbi Kleinman at [mkleinman@beth-torah.org](mailto:mkleinman@beth-torah.org), the Beth Torah office at 913-498-2212, or myself at [swfine42@gmail.com](mailto:swfine42@gmail.com). You should also join the Facebook group if you haven't already so that you can keep up to date with everything that's happening in BTTY's world. In addition, you can text "@btt5779" to 81010 to join our Remind group, which will periodically send out texts reminding you about events. Make sure to watch out for future *Tekiah* articles and have a happy New Year!

Until next time,  
 Sam

## Youth Groups

## Faculty Support and Appreciation Committee

The *chevrei ha tzevet* (loosely translated “a team of friends”) or faculty support group was busy in December. Eva Steiner and Marcia Rittmaster visited all of the pre-K through 5th grade classrooms on a Sunday morning and helped them create a surprise piece of art for their teachers. Students personalized and decorated a *hanukkiyah* picture created by Ellen Taylor. Gloria and Howard Pitler and Betsy Wanger made sure the artwork was framed and presented to the teachers for Hanukkah. Madrichim and support staff received a warm and sweet goody bag, too.

We hope that you are enjoying meeting our teachers. Now that you know some details about these wonderful individuals, please introduce yourself to them and start a conversation.

This month we are featuring Becky Toniazzo and Denise Ellenberg.

### Becky Toniazzo



**Grade(s) you teach/what is your role at the WRS?** Pre-kindergarten rock stars

**Where are you/your family from?** Milwaukee, Wisconsin

### Family info:

Nick: husband of 11 years  
Eli (7) goes to HBHA and is in 1st grade  
Ellianna (5) will be entering kindergarten at HBHA next year  
Emmet (2)  
Baby Ethan (8 months)

**How many years have you been teaching at CBT?** 3 Great years!

**What do you like to do when you are not lesson planning or in the classroom with our students?** I love being with my family in nature and exploring. Also, I spend a lot of time consuming coffee to keep up with 4 small kids!

**Favorite teaching moment in the Weiner Religious School:** I love when a learner is learning something they like about being Jewish and they blurt out, “I love being Jewish!” It’s the best.

### Denise Ellenberg



**Grade(s) you teach/your role at the WRS:** I presently teach 5th grade. In the past, I have taught a combination class of 4th and 5th graders and also taught 6th grade on Sundays for two years. I also teach TAG on Wednesday evenings for the middle and high school students.

### Where are you/your family from?

I grew up in KC, MO and completed my undergraduate degree at the University of Missouri at Columbia and Avila University. I also received a master’s degree. After I got married, we moved to Overland Park, KS. I went from being a Mizzou Tiger to being a lifelong Jayhawk.

**Family info:** I live with my husband, Steve, in Overland Park, just a few minutes from Beth Torah. Our son Grant, 25, lives in Fayetteville, Arkansas. After graduating from the University of Arkansas, he works as a sales analyst for Nestle. Our daughter, Blaire, is almost 20 and is attending Stern College in New York, pursuing a degree in marketing/advertising. Both children grew up at CBT, celebrated their bar/bat mitzvah and confirmation class. I also have a 14-year-old shih tzu.

**How many years have you been teaching at CBT?** I have happily taught for 19 years. I started when Blaire was a baby and Grant was in kindergarten. I have enjoyed working with all of the staff, faculty and students and I look forward to many more years at the Weiner Religious School.

**What do you like to do when you are not lesson planning or in the classroom with our students?** I teach a split classroom schedule at Gan Chabad Preschool, working with 2- and 3-year-olds part of the week and pre-K students for the rest of the week. I also tutor a few religious school students in my home. I love to read biographies and have just started reading fiction about the Holocaust, based on historical facts. I also do yoga and work on social justice activities helping with the elderly and refugee families.

**Favorite teaching moment in the Weiner Religious School:** It’s difficult to decide my favorite moment! I always enjoy working with the students to learn about the JFS Food Pantry. We go on a shopping field trip before assembling the bags which include recipe cards and personal care items. Another highlight is when the students present their Jewish hero projects. I am so proud of them and I know I personally learn from them. This year the 5th graders will research the prophet associated with their bar or bat mitzvah haftarah portion.

# Genetic Testing Fund

JScreen is a non-profit community-based public health initiative dedicated to preventing Jewish genetic diseases.

Thanks to the generosity of the Romotsky-Price-Cortes Genetic Testing Fund, we are able to offer genetic screening for \$49 for the Kansas City community. There are 30 JScreen coupon codes remaining, hurry to take advantage of this amazing opportunity for anyone

18-45 who is planning on starting or growing their family in the future.

Together, we can save lives.

1. Visit [JScreen.org](http://JScreen.org) to register for your test kit.
2. Select "Kansas City" from the "how did you hear about us" drop-down.
3. Enter your insurance information on step 2.
4. On step 4, enter coupon code "RPC2018" and click "apply."
5. Your kit will be mailed to the address provided on your registration.

**\*\*You must be 18-45 years old and live in the Kansas City metropolitan area to use this coupon.**

**\*\*\$49 with insurance**



## First Birthdays: A Party for Resettled Refugees

Learn how to donate gifts  
and volunteer at:

<http://tiny.cc/Bday2019>

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

Della Lamb Community Center  
500 Woodland Ave, KCMO



## THANK YOU...

...for bringing a bag of food  
and/or paper products to  
donate **EVERY** time  
you enter the building.



## 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

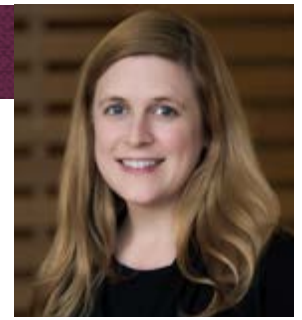
Honeydukes Barwitch  
Defense Against the  
Dark Arts  
The position of Potions  
Master is Filled.

Applicants should send an owl (or email)  
to the Headmaster, Emily Kerstein at  
[kersteins@hotmail.com](mailto: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 available 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](http://CBT website). Recommended ages for  
students is 6-10 years old but we will accept  
talented witches and wizards of any age.





## Thank You Hanukkah Chorus!

If you see one of our Hanukkah singers around the building, be sure to give them a big hug and an even bigger “thank you”! This year the Hanukkah Chorus served alongside the music team to fully lead our Shabbat liturgy on Friday, December 7th, the sixth night of Hanukkah. Each week in rehearsals leading up to Hanukkah, the Chorus singers reflected on the meanings of our Shabbat liturgical texts, and considered how the delivery of their singing could help elevate the prayers of the entire congregation, and help everyone feel connected, vibrant, comforted, and inspired.

As for the liturgical settings, the Chorus focused their work mainly on these four songs: Abie Rotenberg’s “L’cha Dodi,” Dan Nichols’ “Hashkiveinu,” Dan Nichols’ “V’shamru,” and Jeff Klepper’s “Oseh Shalom.”

Carmen Dieker donated time the last couple of months writing obbligatos for the “string section” that enriched our music that evening: Carmen on violin and her sister Leah on cello. Randy Deutch and Nanette Kraus donated time to offer their own shaping of the instrumental accompaniments. This amazing team of instrumentalists joined forces with all our volunteer singers in creating prayerful and connective music on this special evening—special not just because we were celebrating Hanukkah, but extra special because we were welcoming into our midst our scholar-in-residence Dr. Ron Wolfson.

Here are the names of all the musicians in the photo, left to right, bottom row to top row:

Nanette Kraus, Louise Hipsh, Nina Shik, Henri Goettel, Jill Fine, Emily Tummons, Carol Ducak, Larry Myer, Mike Fine, Doug Greenwald, Rabbi Javier Cattapan, Randy Deutch, Leah Dieker, Carmen Dieker, Susan Berkowitz, Estelle Edelbaum, Andrea Zwibelman, Liz Willen, Rachel Black, Scott Franklin, Stan Osman, Ron Altman, Kris Gray, Vic Finkelstein, Jim Appelbaum, Boyd Bolter, Tim Intfen, SueAnn Strom



## Men’s Group Show at Town Village of Leawood

A cohort from the Men’s Group put on a Hanukkah-themed show at Town Village of Leawood (an area assisted living facility last month, to mark the last night of Hanukkah). Residents sang along with songs like “Maoz Tzur,” “I Have a Little Dreidel,” “Chanukah, O Chanukah,” “S’vivon,” and “Light One Candle.” This photo shows all the folks who participated: Mike Fine, Larry Myer, Doug Greenwald, Ron Altman, Warren Sickel, Stan Osman, Jim Appelbaum, Tim Intfen, Scott Franklin, Emily Tummons.

Our member, Ron Altman, organized all the logistics for this event. When putting together information for this *Tekiah*, we asked Ron to share a few words. Here is what he said: “The Men’s Group really enjoyed singing a mix of Hanukkah songs and patriotic songs for the residents of Town Village,” he said. “It was so fun to see them smiling and singing right along with us.”

Mike Fine agreed, and said, “The best part of the day was seeing the residents’ faces light up when they recognized a song and they started to sing along! If we were able to bring a little light and joy into their lives, even if only for a brief moment, then we accomplished our goal.”

*Continued on page 10*

### Friday Nights at CBT

Here are the music teams who will join the Rabbi on the bimah for each of the Erev Shabbat services throughout the month of January:

#### January 4

Tim Intfen, Nanette Kraus, Emily Tummons

#### January 11

Carmen Dieker, Tim Intfen, Ziva Patt-Rappaport, Emily Tummons

#### January 18 (Shabbat Shirah)

Randy Deutch, Carmen Dieker, Emily Tummons

#### January 25

Randy Deutch, Carmen Dieker, Emily Tummons, Liz Willen

## 30th Anniversary PANIM EL PANIM Sunday, February 10, 2019

Since our inception, Social Justice/Social Action have long been a priority at Congregation Beth Torah.

#### Did you know??

- The Youth Program won a 1,000 Points of Light Award for their active volunteer program?
- CBT was the first synagogue to outreach into the Gay and Lesbian community? Before our interest, many Jewish members of the LGBTQ Community felt more comfortable attending local churches than their own synagogue?
- When we moved to our building, we fed ALL of the hungry in Jackson, Johnson and Wyandotte counties for one day to the tune of \$22,000!
- Volunteers made repairs to a congregant's house to make it inhabitable when she faced a serious illness. In addition to painting, we installed bannisters and fixed the front steps so she could remain in her home.

Want to learn even more about our accomplishments? Join the 30th Anniversary Committee and the Social Action Committee for a complimentary lunch on Sunday, February 10th. In addition to learning more about our history, you will have the opportunity to sign up for some NEW projects that will not only help our community, but will give you an opportunity for relationships with fellow congregants. You don't want to miss this event!



### To my Beth Torah family,

I was so touched by the honor and thanks bestowed on me during Erev Shabbat services (when we commemorated World AIDS Day) for our collective work bringing dinners to SAVE Home on Sunday nights over the past 25 years. And I am especially humbled by the “leaf” in our ulam that is a permanent reminder of this honor. Thank you just doesn't seem enough and I wish I was more articulate in expressing my appreciation of all of you. It was truly a pleasure coordinating that long-standing social justice project because of all of you who gladly and willingly agreed to “pick a night” and bring dinner to the SAVE Home residents when barraged by my many emails. We heard from Blaine Proctor, CEO of SAVE, Inc. what a difference it made for them and for the residents of SAVE Home. And we heard a bit about new plans for the SAVE Home facility now that its time as a 24 hour staffed residence, and their need for our Sunday Night Dinners, has ended. Last, but certainly not least, a special thanks to all the SAVE Home volunteers who made and brought food for Nosh and Oneg, and just for coming. I was overwhelmed by the turn-out. Memorable nights like this remind me what a warm and loving community we are: a true Beth Torah Family!

Toda Raba,  
Lauren  
Aaronson





## Upcoming Bar Mitzvah



**Noah Jerome Tarjan** will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, January 19th at 10:30 a.m. Noah is the son of Aaron Tarjan and Elizabeth Willen Tarjan, and big brother to his beloved, Miles Tarjan. He is the grandson of Susanna and Peter Tarjan of Miami, FL, and Froma and Jules Willen of Baltimore, MD.

Noah is in the 7th grade at Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy. He enjoys theater and music and plays the piano and clarinet. For the past 4 years he has performed in Summer Stock shows at the JCC JCcamp program. Noah started his own a capella group in 5th grade and they now have a repertoire of three entire songs they can sing in tune. Mostly. 😊 Noah is also involved in scouting and enjoys camping, hiking and going to Camp Bartle in the summer.

For Noah's Mitzvah project, he chose to lead Shabbat services at Village Shalom every Friday afternoon for the past several months. He has really enjoyed this experience and has invited all his new friends to his Bar Mitzvah. Noah is very excited that so many family members and friends from all over the U.S. and from as far away as Paris, France are coming to Kansas to celebrate with him.

The congregation, family, and friends are invited to join us for a kiddush luncheon immediately following the service.

## Volunteer at reStart this January



We still need members to volunteer for January at reStart during weekends this month. Both lunch and dinner shifts are available. Make new friends from Beth Torah as we prepare and serve food to residents at this facility. All food this month is purchased by Beth Torah. This is a great event for families; children 10 years of age and older are welcome to help out. The lunch shift runs from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. If you prefer a later time slot, the dinner shift starts at 2:00 p.m. and continues until 6:30 p.m.

January at reStart begins its 30th year and is the best attended social action program at Beth Torah. Sign up at the [Beth Torah website](http://www.bethtorah.org) or contact Scott Franklin at 913-645-1036.

## Happy Tu BiShvat from CBT's Ethical Food Team!

Our committee is excited to join our Sunday school students on January 20th to celebrate the "New Year of Trees." The students will hear stories about and discuss the Jewish people's connection to the natural world and our obligation to preserve it, focusing on how what we eat and what utensils we use affects the environment. The students will play fun games and make cool art projects (using recycled material) to emphasize how we can care for our trees and the fruits they produce.

We will also offer adult education about the ethics of what we eat, covering the environment, waste and sustainability and animal welfare.

**Please join us on Sunday morning, January 20th!**

**Did you know that Tu BiShvat is a holiday  
that is celebrated with a Seder meal?**

Join the Bolter family at a Pick-a-Party Tu BiShvat Seder on Sunday afternoon, January 20th. Sign up here for a fun afternoon of fruit, wine and a light lunch:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0a4aafaa2ca1f49-tubshevat>

### Each ton of recycled paper can save:

17 trees

380 gallons of oil

3 cubic yards of landfill space

4000 kilowatts of energy

7000 gallons of water

64% energy savings

58% water savings

60 lbs less air pollution

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)







# ISRAELI LITERATURE AS A WINDOW TO ISRAELI SOCIETY

RECEIVE \$25 OFF\* TUITION IF ONE OF THE FIRST 15 STUDENTS!  
USE CODE "BT25" WHEN REGISTERING

To register, go to [hbha.edu/page/melton](http://hbha.edu/page/melton)



Participants encounter an Israeli society that is original, contemporary, honest and proud. Reflections of the mythic Israel are matched by poetry and prose that is challenging and self-critical, and both offer profound insight into the Israeli national psyche.

Course Dates: January 24, 31, February 7, 21, 28, March 7, 14, 28, April 4, 11

Day & Time: Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Location: Congregation Beth Torah

Faculty: Rabbi Javier Cattapan and Rabbi Monica Kleinman

\*Tuition Without Discount: \$250 + materials: Limited scholarships available

Questions? Contact Megan Pener, MeltonKC Director, [mpener@hbha.edu](mailto:mpener@hbha.edu) or 913-327-8161



## • TRIBUTES •

---

### Beth Torah General Fund

Amy & Scott Franklin

#### *In Memory Of:*

##### **Rowena Marcella Jacobs**

Larry & Ronnie Lerner  
Jim & Kelly Kaplan

##### **Dorothy Kaufman**

Jim & Kelly Kaplan

##### **Olga Mintskovsky**

Felix Mintskovsky

##### **Chaim Cooper**

##### **Faye Cooper**

##### **Masha Cooper**

Steven Cooper

##### **Bernard Rosenberg**

Gail Goldstein & Family

##### **Mary Patricia Sylvia**

Edith Bratt  
Melissa & Stephen Rock

##### **Dorothy Walter Lammers**

Glenn Esser & Estelle Edelbaum

#### *In Honor Of:*

##### **Eric Baum & Sanam Millerlile's Wedding**

Mark & Mahta Millerlile

---

### Rabbi Cattapan Discretionary Fund

Jim & Kelly Kaplan

#### *In Memory Of:*

##### **Beloved father, Howard Agron**

Karen Agron Flattery

##### **Irving Klinock**

Jerry & Susie Klinock

##### **Celia Lieberman**

Dianne & Martin Lustig

##### **David A. Childers**

Ron & Jo Ann Ginson

##### **Sam Zavelo**

The Zavelo Family

#### *In Honor Of:*

##### **Baby naming of**

##### **Franklin Isabelle Goldstein**

Sara & Scott Goldstein

##### **Rabbi Cattapan's excellent**

##### **presentation at the Atriums for the Congregation Ohev Sholom Sisterhood**

Sisterhood of Congregation  
Ohev Sholom

##### **Eli Maker's Bar Mitzvah**

Sharon & Milton Katz  
Stephanie & Alex Kolb

---

### Rabbi Levin Discretionary Fund

#### *In Appreciation Of:*

##### **Rabbi Mark Levin**

Radine Shaw

---

### Rabbi Kleinman Discretionary Fund

#### *In Honor Of:*

##### **Eli Maker's Bar Mitzvah**

Sharon & Milton Katz  
Stephanie & Alex Kolb

#### *In Appreciation Of:*

##### **Rabbi Monica Kleinman**

##### **performing Shiva**

Elyachar & Elyacharshuster Families

---

### CBT Fund for Families in Need

##### **L'Chaim Havurah**

Martin & Irene Goldstein  
Lauren Aaronson & Phil Meltzer  
Michael & Karyl Katzman  
Mickey & Bonnie Swade  
Gil & Marcia Charney

#### *In Memory Of:*

##### **Frances Klein**

Lesly & Issy Ozar  
Stephanie Elyachar & Family

##### **Bertha Goldstein**

##### **Myron Portman**

Gail Goldstein

##### **Shirley Weneck**

Rhonda Brown & Family

---

### Hunger Fund:

#### *In Memory Of:*

##### **David Kaufman**

##### **Fannie Weingarten**

Judy & Marshall Weingarten

##### **Mary Patricia Sylvia**

Steven & Rochelle Kohn

---

### Educating Our Future Fund

Mark & Janice Schonwetter

Peter Pizor

Stephen Steigman & Tamara Falicov

#### *In Memory Of:*

##### **Dorothy Kaufman**

Allison Roodman & Stella Roodman

##### **Werner & Selma Rosenthal**

Roman Beznovsky

---

### Music & Choir Fund:

#### *In Honor Of:*

##### **Emily Tummons**

Jim & Kelly Kaplan

##### **Eli Maker's Bar Mitzvah**

Sharon & Milton Katz  
Stephanie & Alex Kolb

---

### Gordon Waller Youth Activities Fund

#### *In Memory Of:*

##### **Otto J. Carter**

Barbara Gutierrez

## • COMMUNITY NEWS •

### Park Place & JFS Team Up To Fill The Food Pantry

The Ice at Park Place is now open and you can have fun while helping those in our community who struggle with hunger. The Ice at Park Place and Jewish Family Services Food Pantry have teamed up to collect canned goods for the two JFS Food Pantry locations! Now until the rink closes in mid-February, skaters who bring canned goods, personal care items or non-perishable items receive \$1 off their admission. (Skate rental is separate.)

Items can be dropped off in the big JFS Food Pantry barrel at The Ice. For hours of operation, please check [www.park-placeleawood.com/special-offers/ice](http://www.park-placeleawood.com/special-offers/ice).

Please ask The Ice attendant for your discount—then you can skate your cares away.



### Driving Risk Awareness Program For Parents & Teens Offered Feb. 3rd

Do you have a teen-age driver in your house or are about to have one?

Did you know that each year, 6.5 million accidents take place involving teen drivers? Statistics indicate that a teen's risk of being in a car accident is at its highest within the first 12 to 24 months of driving.

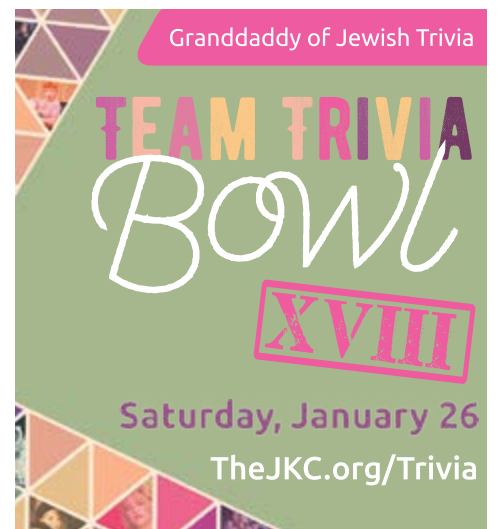
You can take action by attending the "Driving Risk Awareness for Teens and Parents" program, put on by the C.H.A.I. program of Jewish Family Services. This free workshop, which is open to ninth and 10th grade students and their parents, takes place Sunday, February 3, 2019, from 10 a.m.–11:30 a.m. at 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 police officer Captain Mark Terman (retired).

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

### Career Skills & Connections Offers Free Coffee Club Every Monday

Join Career Skills & Connections (CSC) every Monday at 9:00 a.m. in the Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City Board Room for Coffee Club. The first hour, led by a Career Coach, includes an educational component on a job search related topic; the remaining time provides an opportunity for networking. The fourth Monday of the month is led by the Midwest Alliance for Mindfulness. Speakers will present topics relevant to job seekers and the emotional side of the job search. Monday morning Coffee Club is FREE and you need not be a client of CSC to attend. Light refreshments are served. For more information contact [CSCinfo@jfskc.org](mailto:CSCinfo@jfskc.org).



## 2018 | 19 Season at the White Theatre

### Entertainment Your Way

*Tickets  
On Sale  
Now*

<p><b>CABARET</b></p> <p><b>February 2 - 17, 2019</b></p> <p>Kander and Ebb's musical takes us back to pre-WWII Berlin, where "Life is Beautiful" ... but only inside the decadent Kit Kat Club, and often not even there.</p>	<p><b>Inherit the Wind</b></p> <p><b>March 16 - 24, 2019</b></p> <p>Set in a small rural Tennessee town, this play, based on the famous Scopes Monkey trial of 1925, follows a teacher who is arrested for teaching Darwin's theory of evolution.</p>	<p><b>Heartland &amp; MEN'S CHORUS</b></p> <p><b>March 31, 2019</b></p> <p>The Heartland Men's Chorus performs one of their signature "musical documentaries" to enlighten, inspire, and heal as only they can.</p>	<p><b>Fire in the Heart</b></p> <p><b>April 6 &amp; 7, 2019</b></p> <p>A celebratory evening of Gospel, Hip Hop, Classical Music, Poetry, Film, and Spoken Word showing how the arts help us process, heal, and transcend traumatic events.</p>
--	---	---	---

**TheWhiteTheatre.org • {913} 327.8054**