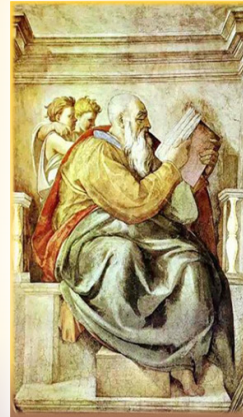


Visit our website at  
www.beth-torah.org



The Monthly Newsletter of  CONGREGATION  
BETH TORAH  
April 2023 • Issue 350 • Nisan/Iyar

## The Michelangelo Code: Jewish Symbols & Hidden Messages in the Sistine Chapel



**PRESENTED BY HILLARY SMITH**  
Graduate of the Kansas City Art Institute  
with an emphasis in  
Medieval and Renaissance art

**SUNDAY, APRIL 16**  
10:30 – 12:00 in the Sanctuary  
Free and open to all | Walk-ins welcome



## President's Message

Larry, Myer, President, Board of Trustees

### Happy April and Chag Sameach!

April brings us springtime, seasonal allergies, baseball and of course Passover.

Passover is one of my favorite holidays. I remember the big Myer family seders when I was little. At Uncle Max's house, the loooong service, unbelievable food and the best part... after dinner sitting with my dad and all the uncles as they smoked cigars and talked baseball. Not sure how life could get any better.

The story of Passover is just as relevant today as it has been for the last several thousand years. Persecution and triumph. Standing up to the bullies. Suffering and redemption. For thousands of ancient years, it seemed anyone and everyone wanted to wipe the Jews off the face of the earth. And in modern times the Nazis, KKK and just about everyone else felt we were the cause and main reason their life was so miserable. Not too long ago the city of Leawood had it in their city charter that "no Jews or colored people" were allowed to buy a home or live in their city.

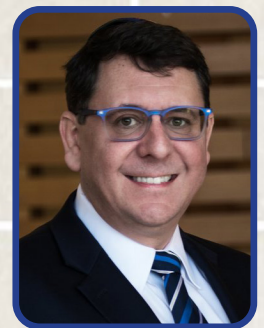
Sitting here today can I say we have triumphantly crossed over to freedom like our ancestors leaving Egypt? Yes and No. Because of our core values of education, family, and a passion to succeed, we now populate much of Leawood and are prominently placed in every sector of science, medicine, business, education, and theater. For most we have thrived. Sadly, even today at CBT we must have security at every function and service because there are those who still think we are the cause of all their problems. It's built into our budget, and to not have security is a cause for concern. The more things change the more they stay the same.

Freedom. It's what we are about. It's what we continually fight for and what we have died for. We have proven over thousands of years that you can try to wipe us out. You can try to stop us from practicing our beliefs. It will not work. It never did and it never will.

So when we sit through that long seder waiting patiently for Aunt Lilly's brisket, let's remember why we do this and how many have perished so we can all wonder "when are we going to eat?"

I miss the Passovers of my youth. I really miss my dad and my uncle Max. I miss being 12 and inhaling all that cigar smoke and arguing about who is the best shortstop or who has the best curve ball. Fortunately, I have that cigar and those arguments with my son now. Yes, the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Chag Sameach!



Rabbi Cattapan  
is currently on a  
well-deserved  
Sabbatical.

# Music & More



Lezlie Zucker

Israel turns 75 this year. However we feel about Israel as a political entity, it is part of our heritage, part of our story, part of our identity. Rarely do we think about this connection more than during the series of holidays I like to call “the yoms”. We begin mid-April (18/19) with *Yom HaShoah*. Just one week earlier, we will have celebrated our exodus from Egypt. And just one week later, we find the second and third *yoms* back-to-back: *Yom HaZikaron* on April 24/25 and *Yom HaAtzmaut* on April 25/26.

For some reason this year I can really see that full picture. The emotional roller coaster of the Jewish narrative: At *Pesach* (Passover), we re-tell one of our most important ancient stories. We remember and celebrate moving from captivity to liberation. Seven days after the last day of *Pesach*, on *Yom HaShoah* (Holocaust Remembrance Day), we remember being forced back into captivity and the accompanying genocide, commemorating our losses and crying out, Never again! Then eight days later from that, on *Yom HaZikaron* (Israeli Memorial Day) we remember Israel’s fallen soldiers, turning immediately at sunset to *Yom HaAtzmaut* (Israeli Independence Day), when we celebrate the creation of the State of Israel. It is no accident that these weeks begin and end with celebration and liberation. That is the story of the Jewish people, always getting up one more time than we fall. We invite you to remember, to commemorate, and to celebrate with us at Israel Shabbat on April 28.

Here’s what’s coming up in April:

- ✧ **Congregational Seder** (April 5)
- ✧ **Friday Night Torah Service** (April 7)
- ✧ **Pesach Yom Tov Service with Yizkor** (April 12)
- ✧ **Family Service & Memorial Plaque Dedication** (April 14)
- ✧ **Song Session** (April 18)
- ✧ **Beit: Carbon Footprint Eating – Building a better world, one kitchen at a time** (April 21)  
We hear a lot in modern Judaism about new concepts in kosher practices: worker rights, ethical consumerism, environmental consciousness... But how do we put these things into practice? David Hakan shares the results of his research in finding where the needs of the human body and low carbon footprint eating meet. [Please register for dinner by April 19.](#)
- ✧ **Israel Shabbat** (April 28)

Shalom, Lezlie



**Building a better world, one kitchen at a time.**

*Shabbat Dinner & Beit - April 21*

[RSVP by April 19](#)

**PLANETARIAN | FLEXITARIAN | VEGETARIAN | VEGAN**

Find out about the “Meat-Less Month for Mother Earth Challenge”

[sites.google.com/view/carbon-footprint-eating](https://sites.google.com/view/carbon-footprint-eating)

# Weiner Religious School



Morgan Fasbinder

March was a blast! The Purim carnival was a huge success! I was kvelling watching our community come together to celebrate, laugh, participate in games, activities, dance, and take silly pictures that will last a lifetime. Next year will be even bigger and better! Passover is coming up very soon. I hope everyone has started stocking their pantries with matzah, grape juice, and for the adults... Manischewitz. TAG, Confirmation, Sunday school students, and parents please join us on Sunday April 2nd at 9:00 for a healthy breakfast before morning worship services at 9:30. After services we will have our very own Family Chocolate Passover Seder. Parents are encouraged to stay. Let the sugar rush begin!



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Congregation Beth Torah families

celebrating **120** years

**jfs**  **KC**

**BIRTHDAY BASH**

Sunday, April 23, 2023 • 10:30 am-12:30 pm  
Jewish Community Campus (The J)  
5801 W. 115th Street, Overland Park, KS

Join our Kehilla in celebrating 120 years of Tikkun Olam with Jewish Family Services at the family-friendly event with:

- Hands-on Mitzvah Projects
- Tzedakah opportunities including a Birthday themed food drive for the JFS Food Pantry
  - Kosher lunch & treats
- Interactive performance with Grammy Award Winner, Lisa Loeb



Presenting Sponsors and Events Chairs: "Sunday Night Dinner Family" - Barnett, Epstein, Isenberg, Babs & Bill Lowenstein, House, & Poskin Families

Registration is required. Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult.  
**Register Now! [www.jfskc.org/120](http://www.jfskc.org/120)**

## Upcoming Religious School Events:

**Sunday, April 2, 2023 is our Family Chocolate Passover Seder at CBT**

We invite TAG, Confirmation, Sunday school students, and parents to attend!

**Wednesday, April 5, 2023 NO TAG or Confirmation due to Passover**

**Sunday, April 9, 2023 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL due to Passover**

**Wednesday, April 12, 2023 NO TAG or Confirmation due to Passover**

**Friday, April 14, 2023 is our combined 1st/2nd, 3rd/4th grade family worship service**

**Sunday, April 23, 2023 FIELD TRIP DAY!** We will have Sunday School at the JCC to celebrate 120 years of Tikkun Olam with Jewish Family Services. **We will meet at the JCC at 10:30 a.m.** for Mitzvah projects, tzedakah opportunities, lunch, and a performance by Grammy Award Winner Lisa Loeb! It will be a wonderful day to learn and grow with our Jewish Community.

**SAVE THE DATE:**

May 25, 2023

Erev Shavuot  
Worship &  
Confirmation

**Sunday Morning Mussar April Character Trait:**

**Impatience**

FREE and open to all congregants. Walk-ins welcome!  
April 30, 2023  
10:30 – 11:30 am in Classroom 7



Mussar is a tradition, a movement and a set of practices related to Jewish ethics. We're exploring one middah/character trait each month in an informal small group setting. No Jewish knowledge or observance is assumed!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Weiner Religious School</li> <li>10:30am Sunday Morning Mussar</li> <li>2pm Book Club: That Book I Meant to Read - 5783</li> </ul>	27	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Jewish Living</li> </ul>	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm TAG</li> <li>7pm Israel Shabbat Choir</li> </ul>
2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Weiner Religious School &amp; Chocolate Sed</li> </ul>	3	4	5 <b>Erev Pesach (Passover)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Congregational Seder</li> <li>6:30pm Jewish Living</li> </ul>
9 <b>Pesach (Passover)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1pm Movers + Schmoozers - 5783 Small Group</li> </ul>	10	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Jewish Living</li> </ul>	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30am Pesach Worship w/Yizkor - w/B'nai Jehu</li> <li>7pm Israel Shabbat Choir</li> </ul>
16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Weiner Religious School</li> <li>10am Soul Stirring - 5783 Small Group</li> <li>10:30am The Michelangelo Code: Jewish Symbol</li> <li>12pm Genizah Field Trip (includes lunch w/RSVP)</li> </ul>	17	18 <b>Yom Hashoah</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:30pm Game Night - 5783 Small Group</li> <li>6:30pm Jewish Living</li> <li>7pm Song Session</li> </ul>	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm TAG</li> <li>7pm Israel Shabbat Choir</li> </ul>
23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Weiner Religious School Field Trip</li> <li>2pm Book Club: That Book I Meant to Read - 5783</li> </ul>	24	25 <b>Yom HaZikaron</b>	26 <b>Yom HaAtzmaut</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:30pm Smiles with Tiles - 5783 Mahjong Small G</li> <li>6:30pm TAG</li> <li>7pm Israel Shabbat Choir</li> </ul>
30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Weiner Religious School</li> <li>10:30am Sunday Morning Mussar</li> </ul>	May 1	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:45pm Good Faith Network Nehemiah Assembly</li> <li>6:30pm Jewish Living</li> </ul>	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm TAG</li> </ul>

# SICCHAT SHABBAT: SHABBAT CONVERSATIONS

9:00 – 10:15am every Saturday in the library OR ONLINE: [Call the office for a zoom link!](#)

While Rabbi Cattapan is on sabbatical, we're exploring The Act of Being Jewish Today. Our peer-led discussions will be based on an article of the week addressing critical issues confronting our ethics, our identity, and our faith.



April 1 | Jew vs Jew: Racism in Israel  
 April 8 | Rabbi Cattapan returns

*Thanks to all those who stepped up to lead sichot during Rabbi Cattapan's absence: Jim Appelbaum, Jill Maidhof, Michele Pavin, Peter Pizer and Elaine Tobias!*

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	Apr 1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12:30pm Yiddish Group</li> <li>6:30pm Erev Shabbat Worship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Sichat Shabbat</li> <li>10:30am Shabbat Morning Worship</li> <li>7pm A Chocolate Evening: Pick-a-Party!</li> </ul>
6	7	8
<b>Pesach (Passover)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm The 10 Commandments: A Deep, Deep Dive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12:30pm Yiddish Group</li> <li>6:30pm Erev Shabbat Worship w/Torah Service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Sichat Shabbat</li> <li>10:30am Shabbat Morning Worship</li> </ul>
13	14	15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12pm Rabbi Lunch N' Learn (in person)</li> <li>7:30pm The Movie Group - 5783 Small Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12:30pm Yiddish Group</li> <li>1pm Beth Torah Bakers - 5783 Small Group</li> <li>6:30pm Family Service Erev Shabbat Worship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Sichat Shabbat</li> <li>10:30am Shabbat Morning Worship</li> </ul>
20	21	22
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12pm Exploring and Sharing Good Eats - 5783 Sr</li> <li>7pm Celebrate the New Moon! (@CBT in the Libra</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12:30pm Yiddish Group</li> <li>6:30pm Erev Shabbat Worship w/Beit Midrash: Re</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Sichat Shabbat</li> <li>9am Coffee Across KC - 5783 Small Group</li> <li>10:30am Shabbat Morning Worship</li> </ul>
27	28	29
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm KC BBQ - 5783 Small Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12:30pm Yiddish Group</li> <li>6:30pm Israel Shabbat Erev Shabbat Worship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Sichat Shabbat</li> <li>10:30am Shabbat Morning Worship</li> </ul>
4	5	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm The 10 Commandments: A Deep, Deep Dive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12:30pm Yiddish Group</li> <li>6:30pm Erev Shabbat Worship w/Torah Service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Sichat Shabbat</li> <li>10:30am Shabbat Morning Worship</li> </ul>

## Genizah Field Trip

Includes lunch w/RSVP

Sunday, April 16

12:00 pm lunch

1:00pm head to Genizah

Bring your timeworn sacred manuscripts (prayer books, pamphlets, and other holy books that contain the name of God) for burial at the Genizah.

### Genizah

/geˈniːzə/; Hebrew: גניזה

A storage area in a Jewish synagogue or cemetery designated for the temporary storage of worn-out Hebrew-language books and papers on religious topics prior to proper cemetery burial. It is forbidden to throw away writings containing the name of God.



AN INTERFAITH JUSTICE ORGANIZATION

## Nehemiah Assembly

Tuesday, May 2

6:00 p.m

@ COR (United Methodist Church of the Resurrection)

Click the following link to learn more!

[www.thegoodfaithnetwork.org/our-annual-cycle](http://www.thegoodfaithnetwork.org/our-annual-cycle)



CONGREGATION  
BETH TORAH

## ISRAEL SHABBAT

April 28



The CBT Choir and Band will be performing and there will be an Enhanced Oneg.

## Calling Volunteer Drivers!

The ability to care for and love one another is an important Jewish virtue.

We are looking for volunteers to drive fellow congregants to services and special events if they are unable to drive themselves.



If you are willing, please call the CBT office to let us know your typical availability and area you are willing to cover. Office staff will happily match you up when folks need assistance.





# CONGREGATION BETH TORAH

## February 10 - March 9 2023 Tributes

### **Beth Torah General Fund**

Rachel Goldstein B'nai tzedek  
Fund of JCF GKC  
Claudia Alexander  
Anonymous  
Carol Ducak  
Joseph Dixon

*Yahrzeit of Mitchell Rudman*  
Margie Cooper

*Yahrzeit of Florence Sherberg and Leo Schmidt*  
Mary Ann Goldstein

*Yahrzeit of Sophie Stern and Sam Weingarten*  
Judy Weingarten

*In Appreciation of CBT's Adult Education*  
Paul & Doris Flam Donor  
Advised Fund of JCF of KC

*In Appreciation of all CBT volunteers*  
Anonymous

*In Honor of Jonathan Kerstein Becoming a Bar Mitzvah*  
Lori and Robert Pitkofsky

*In Memory of Joseph Kheyfets*  
Oleg Kheyfet

### **Rabbi Cattapan's Discretionary Fund**

Ron & Jo Ann Ginson

*In Memory of Carol Childers*  
Ron & Jo Ann Ginson

*In Memory of Charles Wasserman*  
Rita Stark

### **Music & Choir Fund**

*In Appreciation of Denton Williams*  
Larry & Marcia Rittmaster

### **CBT Fund For Families In Need**

*Speedy recovery of Denise Ellenberg*

Jim & Kelly Kaplan

*Yahrzeit of Bernard Eichler*

Jim & Kelly Kaplan

*In Memory of Harold Bram*

Alan Bram

*In Memory of Jack M. Weinstein, Frances Weinstein,  
Raymond & Betty Wolf & Patri Traxson*

Larry & Weinstein Family

*In Memory of Sidney Kleg*

Jerry & Susie Klinock

### **CBT Building Fund**

*In Memory of John Erney Esser*  
Glenn Esser

### **Youth Activities Fund**

*Yahrzeit of Arthur S. Chapman*  
Paul Chapman

### **THANK YOU BEIT DINNER SPONSOR**

Nina & David Shik

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



# CONGREGATION BETH TORAH

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



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