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# Tekiah



The Monthly Newsletter of



CONGREGATION  
BETH TORAH

January 2024 • Issue 359 • Tevet/Shevat, 5784



## Shabbat Shirah

We Sing With Joy

Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup>



## President's Message

Larry, Myer, President, Board of Trustees

### Happy New Year Everyone,

Over the last month we got to meet Damien Timms and his husband Patrick and then we welcomed Damien as our new Executive Director. They will be here in a few short weeks and so begins the first pages of our next chapter.

A few weeks ago, many of you got to meet our prospective Rabbi candidate and his family. Beth Torah put its best foot forward and made Rabbi and his family feel welcome and a part of our community. Thanks to so many that made the weekend a success. In the next few weeks a few of us will travel to California to visit Rabbi and his family at their congregation.

A few announcements made last month are worth repeating:

We are back on track with many projects in the works — joint choir and music programs, urban gardens, Rock the Block clean up parties, food and clothing drives and so much more.

Our Beth Torah Women's group has a new chairperson. Susie Klinock has taken over the reigns of this group and is already hard at work organizing group meetings and ideas for new and exciting programming.

A rejuvenated social action initiative is in the planning stages with Calvary Temple Baptist Church. Our initial momentum was thwarted by Covid and the health of their Rev Williams.

Rabbi Scott White will continue his series "A fresh look at the Middle East" on the fourth Tuesday evening for the next several months. These are fascinating programs filled with timely information. We have had three so far and I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute. A huge shout-out and "Thank you" to Jill Maidhoff for coordinating this wonderful program.

Before you know it the Purim Carnival will be here, with the Chili Cookoff and Passover right around the corner.

Of course, we cannot forget our creative services with wonderful music every week.

I want to invite everyone to join in the excitement of what we are building. I am not exaggerating when I say there is something for every interest and every need. We will have openings on the Board of Trustees for the next term. Join a committee. Help plan a program. Get involved.

I firmly believe 2024 is going to be a wonderful year at Beth Torah.

Larry Myer

President, Board of Trustees



Rabbi Cattapan  
is currently on a  
well-deserved  
Sabbatical.

# Music & More



*Happy 2024!*

When we move into the next Gregorian year, I am always drawn to look back over the last year and look forward to the new.

First, thank you to everyone who has participated in CBT's musical life over the past year: singers, instrumentalists, narrators, composers... YOU make this program what it is and I am forever grateful for your participation and showing-up-ness. I am consistently humbled by the warmth you share, the work you put in, and your willingness to follow me through creative liturgy and programs.

I also want offer an invitation to those of you who have thought about participating but aren't quite there yet. Maybe this is the year you join our volunteer choir or band. Maybe this is the year you join us for Song Session and share some of your original compositions. Or maybe your favorite way to participate is to sing and pray as a Jew in the Pew. This is where I remind you that this form of participation is just as important. Lips that sing long for ears to hear.

And as always, I want to hear what prayer melodies move you. Are there melodies you miss? Which songs do you wish we sang from time to time? Your input is important as we continue to nurture and grow the music here at Beth Torah. Email me any time with your musical thoughts: [lzucker@beth-torah.org](mailto:lzucker@beth-torah.org)

Shalom,  
Lezlie

**And now... Look what we have for you in January!**

- ✧ **Shabbat Shirah Choir Rehearsals Begin (January 3)**
- ✧ **Friday Night Torah Service & Mystery Mensch of the Month (January 5)**
- ✧ **Justice Shabbat / L'dor Vador Shabbat (Pre-K through 3rd Grade) (January 12)**
- ✧ **Song Session (January 16)**
- ✧ **Shabbat Shirah (January 26)**

*Save the Date!*

**L'dor Vador Service - TAG  
(February 2)**

**Welcome our  
New Members and  
Executive Director!  
(February 23)**

## Board of Trustees

Much of the discussion by our members these past months have been focused on the hiring of a new Executive Director and the search process for a new rabbi. Both these positions are critical to Beth Torah's leadership, but let's not forget the importance of our Board of Trustees, often referred to as "Directors."

Increasingly, members are inquiring about how to serve on the Board and how policy at our synagogue is made. We're pleased about the interest, so here's a very quick summary of how the Board operates.

Beth Torah's by-laws requires that the Board consist of no fewer than twelve members. There is no maximum. The selection of Trustees begins with a recommendation from the Nominating Committee to the Board, then approval by the Board and, finally election by the congregation at our Annual Meeting. Trustees are elected to a three-year term and are eligible to be re-elected to a second three-year term.

Board and executive committee meetings are open to all members except when in Executive Session. At that time personnel issues are discussed. Meeting agendas and minutes (except for those relating to Executive Sessions) are open for all members to review.

If you have any interest, or additional questions about joining the Board, please contact Scott at 913-645-1036.

Scott Franklin,  
Immediate Past President





# CONGREGATION BETH TORAH

## Adult Education

### Lunch With the Rabbi

Resumes in February, 2024  
Second Thursday of the month | 12:30pm

Bring your own lunch, schmooze with Rabbi Cattapan and enjoy a relaxing learning experience.

#### February – May 2024:

Selection of themes from  
*Modern Jews Engage the New Testament*  
by Rabbi Michael J. Cook, PhD.

### Sichat Shabbat/Shabbat Conversation

Sat. morning when services are held | 9:00-10:15am

Lively discussions led by a member of the congregation—all opinions are welcome! The January 2024 schedule is as follows:

#### January 6

Led by Rabbi Cattapan  
Topic: TBD

#### January 13

Led by Callie Maidhof, PhD.  
Professor of Anthropology and Associate Director of  
Global Studies Program, University of Chicago  
Topic: The War in Gaza: A View from the Left

#### January 20

Led by Rabbi Cattapan  
Topic: TBD

#### January 27

Led by Rabbi Cattapan  
Topic: TBD

### Investigating Modern Conspiracy Theories: Anti-Zionism and Academic Integrity

Coming in February: Watch for details.

5-part course: Webinar & discussion, facilitated by Elaine Tobias. Meets every 2 weeks for 10 weeks.



### Interfaith Conversations

January 7, 2024 | Every 1st Sunday of the Month  
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Open to the public!



Whether you're a new Jew, Jewish Adjacent or in an interfaith family, this casual conversation group is an opportunity to ask questions, share ideas, compare notes and find community.

### A Fresh Look at Israel & the Mideast

ONGOING CLASS WITH RABBI SCOTT WHITE

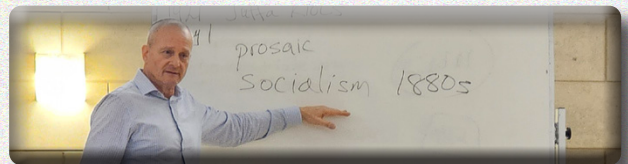
Every 4th Tuesday of the Month in the Ulam

Free | Registration Required - [CLICK HERE!](#)

5:30 - 6:00 Bring your own dinner and we'll schmooze about current events

7:00 - 8:00 We'll immerse ourselves in the history of the conflict

At 75, Israel is strong enough and secure enough for an objective assessment of its handling of ongoing conflict with Arabs, inside its borders and out. Gain a historical perspective of the struggle for peace and security in one of the most contested regions in the world.





# Announcing... A CBT *Mystery!*

Who will be the January Mensch of the Month???

A few clues will be scattered on the path to January 5, when the Mensch will be honored at Friday night services.  
But you will need to be in the sanctuary for the big reveal.



**CLUE #1: This person goes above and beyond to help solve problems.**

# Save the Date!!!

Winter Blood Drive  
**FEBRUARY 25**



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
31 No Religious School - Winter Break New Year's Eve	Jan 1 Offices Closed Mondays New Year's Day	2 First Day of Soup-er Bowl Soup Drive	3 No TAG - Winter Break 7pm Shabbat Shirah Choir Rehearsal
7 9:30am Weiner Religious School with Consecration 10am Interfaith Conversations	8 Offices Closed Mondays	9	10 6:30pm TAG 7pm Shabbat Shirah Choir Rehearsal 7pm Finance Committee Meeting
14 12:15pm Talmud Torah Committee	15 Offices Closed Mondays Martin Luther King Jr. Day	16 7pm Song Session	17 6:30pm TAG 7pm Shabbat Shirah Choir Rehearsal
21 9:30am Weiner Religious School	22 Offices Closed Mondays	23 5:30pm A Fresh Look at Israel and the Mideast led by	24 6:30pm TAG 7pm Shabbat Shirah Choir Rehearsal
28 9:30am Weiner Religious School	29 Offices Closed Mondays	30	31 6:30pm TAG

Help CBT and JFS tackle food insecurity!

Donate to our **SOUP-er Bowl Soup Drive!**

Bring your soup to CBT between January 2 and February 11 or order from the internet and have it delivered to CBT.



## Movers and Schmoozers Small Group

Led by Amy Franklin and Julie Myer

Photo taken during the group's walk on December 10 at the Kauffman Legacy Park and Anita Gorman Conservation Center.



Small Groups

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 ● 11am Mussar/Jewish Ethics Small Group Discussion	5 ● 6:30pm Erev Shabbat Worship with Torah Service & M	6 ● 9am Sichat Shabbat ● 10:30am Shabbat Morning Worship
11	12 ● 6:30pm E'dor Vador Erev Shabbat Worship (Pre-K/Kinc	13 ● 9am Sichat Shabbat ● 10:30am Shabbat Morning Worship
18	19 ● 6:30pm Erev Shabbat Worship	20 ● 9am Sichat Shabbat ● 10:30am Shabbat Morning Worship
25 Tu Bishvat Tu Bishvat	26 ● 6:30pm Shabbat Shirah	27 ● 9am Sichat Shabbat ● 10:30am Shabbat Morning Worship
Feb 1 First Day of Black History Month ● 11am Mussar/Jewish Ethics Small Group Discussion	2 ● 6:30pm E'dor Vador Erev Shabbat Worship (TAG) with	3 ● 9am Sichat Shabbat ● 10:30am Shabbat Morning Worship

# Weiner Religious School

December was a busy month! The PJ Library Hanukkah Glow Party was a blast and everyone loved our Hanukkah Bears. It was beautiful watching friends, families, loved ones, and our community come together. Beth Torah was filled with the smell of latkes and sufganiyot. Children and adults were singing Hanukkah songs and playing dreidel. The WRS TAG teens and Sunday School students participated in our Hanukkah Shabbat Service. We had so many special friends from our community light the menorah. In December, our community was the light shining through this dark time. I hope everyone had a wonderful Hanukkah and will have a happy, healthy New Year. Am Yisrael Chai!

*Shalom! Morgan*



**Return to Sunday School: Jan. 7, 2024**

**Return to TAG: Jan. 10, 2024**

**Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2024 NO TAG**

**Sunday, Jan. 14, 2024, NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**



## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, January 7, 2024 Consecration** during morning family worship in the sanctuary starting at 9:30 a.m.

**Friday, January 12, 2024, is our Combined Preschool, Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Grade Family Shabbat Service** at CBT starting at 6:30 p.m. with oneg to follow.

**Wednesdays January 17th and January 21st at the JCC CDC 7-8:30 p.m. Nurturing Parenting Classes.** Adults of any age children are welcome to come, as this information can be applied to various ages. Register Here: [Nurturing Parenting \(jotform.com\)](https://www.jotform.com)

**Sunday, January 21, 2024, is our WRS Family Tu B'Shevat Celebration.**

Join us for breakfast from 9-9:25 a.m. Starting at 9:30 a.m. we will have family worship in the meshulash! Following will be a day full of family activities!

**Joint Shul in with B'nai Jehudah for 7th and 8th graders at B'nai Jehudah**

**Jan 27-28: 7th and 8th Graders**

Register Here: <https://bnaijehudah.shulcloud.com/event/7th%20and%208th%20Grade%20Shul%20In>

**Friday, February 2, 2024, is our TAG Family Shabbat Service** at CBT starting at 6:30 p.m. with oneg to follow.

**Joint Shul in with B'nai Jehudah for 4th-6th graders at B'nai Jehudah**

**Feb 3-4: 4th-6th Graders**

Register Here: [4th-6th Grade Spring Shul In - Event - B'nai Jehudah \(shulcloud.com\)](https://bnaijehudah.shulcloud.com/event/4th-6th%20Grade%20Spring%20Shul%20In)

**Sunday, February 4, 2024, is our WRS Bake Sale at CBT from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

The bake sale is back! Join us for some yummy baked goods and support the Weiner Religious School!!!



# CONGREGATION BETH TORAH

## November 17 - December 15 2023 Tributes

### Beth Torah General Fund

Claudia Alexander  
Carol Ducak  
Henri & David Goettel  
Warren and Diane SICKEL  
Edwin & Yessica Vides

*In Appreciation of the CBT Staff*  
Howard & Gloria Pitler

*Yahrzeits of Chaim and Masha Cooper and Faye Cooper*  
Steve & Margie Cooper

*Yahrzeits of David Kaufman and Fannie Weingarten*  
Judith Weingarten

*In Appreciation of Weiner Religious School Teachers & Madrichim*

Andrew & Emily Kerstein  
Jill & Jim Maidhof  
Sasha & Edward Raab  
Larry & Marcia Rittmaster

*In Honor of the CBT Staff for Hanukkah*  
Gloria & Howard Pitler

*In Memory of Phyllis Goldberg*  
Elaine Tobias

*In Memory of Ron Ginson & Michele Pavin*  
Elaine Tobias

*In Memory of Ronald Ginson*  
Marilyn Ronnebaum

*In Memory of Ronald Ginson, our friend and brother-in-law*  
Doris & David Childers

### CBT Fund For Families In Need

*In Memory of Joyce Goodman & Theodore Crawford Willoughby*  
Elaine Tobias

### Religious School Fund

*In Memory of Elayne Franklin*  
Elaine Tobias

### Building Fund

Elaine Tobias

### Library Fund

*In Memory of Catherine Ward*  
Bob & Cathy Wylan

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



Congratulations to **Teresa Hellman**  
December 2023 Mensch of the Month.

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>



Chai Member Interviews

**Keep checking back, new interviews will be uploaded every few weeks!**



# CONGREGATION BETH TORAH

## January, 2024 Yahrzeits

### January 1, 2024      Tevet 20, 5784

Mike Beckerman (father of Mal Shafran) Dora Freed (mother of Lynne Faiman) Jacob Klieger (grandfather of Judith Weingarten) Doris Rudman (sister of Marjorie Cooper) Max Silverstein (great grandfather of Jeffrey Razafsky) Herman Supofsky (grandfather of Janet Razafsky) Naomi M. Wollmann (mother of Joyce Goldstein)

### January 2, 2024      Tevet 21, 5784

Adolf Bobrecker (grandfather of William Lowenstein) Benjamin "Bert" Garry (father-in-law of Eileen Garry) Theodore L. Gershun (Beth Torah) Henry Hakan (grandfather of Joseph Levin) Audrey Kessler (mother of Richard Kessler)

### January 3, 2024      Tevet 22, 5784

Julio A. Cattapan (father of Rabbi Javier Cattapan) Sherry Kaplan (daughter-in-law of Alice Kaplan) Carolyn Polinsky (mother of Gail Appelbaum)

### January 4, 2024      Tevet 23, 5784

William H. Crouch (grandfather of Mary Crouch Young) Maurice Daniels (Beth Torah) Grace A. Littell (aunt of Alice Capson) Arlene Moidel (cousin of Floyd Frankel) Betty L. Wolf (grandmother of Larry Weinstein) Don Wylan (father of Robert Wylan)

### January 5, 2024      Tevet 24, 5784

Esther Aaronson (mother of Lauren Aaronson) Hilda Adler (grandmother of Margarita Adler) Reuben Berman (father of Elizabeth Appelbaum and grandfather of James Appelbaum and Sharon Hoffmann) Joseph Riseman (father of Donna Gould)

### January 6, 2024      Tevet 25, 5784

Stewart Gilinsky (grandfather of Lisa Theiss) Abraham (AJ) Jacobs (grandfather of Cynthia Garfinkle) Mary Jonasec (mother of June Crane) Phyllis Livingstone (friend of Nini Rosenstock) Susan Rudman (sister-in-law of Marjorie Cooper and aunt of Suzanne Rein)

### January 9, 2024      Tevet 28, 5784

David Finkelstein (father of Victor Finkelstein) Sara Rocklin (aunt of Rabbi Mark Levin)

### January 10, 2024      Tevet 29, 5784

Hennie Bergh (grandmother of Jackie Hermanson) Sylvia Gaynor (mother of Rachel Temple) Charlotte Belle Mustard (aunt of Kris Gray) Wyman Wickersham (father of Ariana Weindling)

### January 11, 2024      Shevat 1, 5784

Ida R. Jaben (mother of Etta Brenner) Charlotte Kapel (mother-in-law of Paul Chapman) A. B. Konantz (grandfather of Rebecca Sandhaus) Sophia Barash Matzdorff (Beth Torah) John Patrick Riley (son of Edna Riley) Edith Ruben (grandmother Jeffrey Altman and mother of Marion Altman & grandmother of Ronald Altman) Norman Weiner (father of Cynthia Garfinkle) Sandra Williams (mother of Denton Williams)

### January 12, 2024      Shevat 2, 5784

Nathan Appelbaum (father-in-law of Elizabeth Appelbaum and grandfather of James Appelbaum and grandfather of Sharon Hoffmann) George Bellotti (father of Richard Bellotti) Reva Bogomolnaya (mother of Valery and Susan Tokar) Robert Micco (step-father of Robert Hennecke)

### January 13, 2024      Shevat 3, 5784

Nathan Haith (grandfather of Linda Turner)

### January 14, 2024      Shevat 4, 5784

Naum Khalemsky (grandfather of Emiliya Kheyfets) Betty Jean Moses (mother of Julie Altman, Janet Bloom and Judith Dubrov) Barbara Myer (grandmother of Jordan Myer and mother of Julie Myer and Lawrence Myer) Rowena Robinow (mother of Amy Franklin) Isaak Rudnick (father of Evelyn Kucherovsky) Abe Steinberg (Beth Torah)

### January 15, 2024      Shevat 5, 5784

Jose Adler (grandfather of Margarita Adler) Bernard Kaufman (uncle of Judith Weingarten) Sally Nassau Lehrman (grandmother of Andrew Kerstein)



**January 16, 2024      Shevat 6, 5784**

Jeanne Flam (mother of Nina Shik) Habibolah Lavi (brother-in-law of Parvin Rahbarrad) Myron LeVine (grandfather of Nicholas LeVine) Sylvia Levin (mother of Rabbi Mark Levin) Mel Pitler (father of Howard Pitler) Karen Towerman (loved one of Scott and Sara Goldstein Jay Willer (uncle of Alisa Kartch)

**January 17, 2024      Shevat 7, 5784**

Irving Geduldig (father of Steven Geduldig) Marshall Weingarten (husband of Judith Weingarten)

**January 19, 2024      Shevat 9, 5784**

David Goldstein (father of Debi Boyd) Helen J. Miller (mother of Robert Miller Louis Moses (father of Julie Altman, Janet Bloom and Judith Dubrov) Ilya Zaslavskiy (father-in-law of Florida Zaslavskaya)

**January 20, 2024      Shevat 10, 5784**

Albert Baumgarten (father of Richard Baumgarten) Gerald Cohen (father of Kenneth Cohen and husband of Zelda Cohen) Evelyn Dribin (mother of Barbara Warady) Sam Zavelo, Sr. (father-in-law of Donna Zavelo) Jack Zurovsky (uncle of Ronald Sandhaus)

**January 21, 2024      Shevat 11, 5784**

Dorothy M. Chapman (mother of Paul Chapman) Millie Reisbord (grandmother of Janice Katz Michael Brian Zipper (son of Ronald Zipper)

**January 22, 2024      Shevat 12, 5784**

Sam Epstein (uncle of Ronald Sandhaus) Joyce Fox (sister of Ronald Dubrov) Rose Kaufman (mother of Judith Weingarten) Miriam "Fern" Northrup (great aunt of Elizabeth Lenz) Morton Pepper (father of Sharon Jerwick) Mary Rosenberg (grandmother of Jennifer Levinson)

**January 23, 2024      Shevat 13, 5784**

Edward Goldstein (husband of Gail Goldstein and father of Mindy Hayungs-Goldstein) Elena Kopyta (mother of Lidia Foundas) Israel Ralph Kopyta (father of Lidia Foundas) Earl Miller (Beth Torah) Sue Miller (sister of Linda Gepford) Hymen Herbert Spector (Beth Torah)

**January 24, 2024      Shevat 14, 5784**

Harold Sandhaus (father of Ronald Sandhaus) Charlotte Silverman (aunt of Ronald Sandhaus) R. Michael Wrenn (father of Christopher Wrenn)

**January 25, 2024      Shevat 15, 5784**

Gary Alan Daneman (Beth Torah) Paul Eisenberg (father of Diana Hurst) Helen Kanter (Beth Torah)

**January 27, 2024      Shevat 17, 5784**

Nadeline Eiler (mother of Joan Levinson) Marjorie Franklin (mother of Scott Franklin) Dorothy Hyken (mother of Bonnie Swade) Luzia Lewandowski (mother-in-law of Marilyn Lewandowski)

**January 28, 2024      Shevat 18, 5784**

Mordko Friedman (father of Boris Friedman) Stephen Smith (brother of Carol Smith) Zibbie Willoughby (grandmother of Elaine Tobias)

**January 29, 2024      Shevat 19, 5784**

Ethyl Portman (mother of Gail Goldstein) Audre Schiff (grandmother of Randi Lefko)

**January 30, 2024      Shevat 20, 5784**

Natalie J. Razafsky (mother of Jeffrey Razafsky)

**January 31, 2024      Shevat 21, 5784**

Stanley Martin Altman (father of Jeffrey Altman and Ronald Altman, husband of Marion Altman) Leslee Crowell (sister of Barbara Pittel) Elizabeth Kort (mother of Robert Kort) Irv Krasnopoler (father of Mitchell Krasnopoler) Sam "Archie" Penner (uncle of Stanley Goldman) Mitchell Rudman (father of Marjorie Cooper) Estelle Shames (mother of Cynthia Shames)

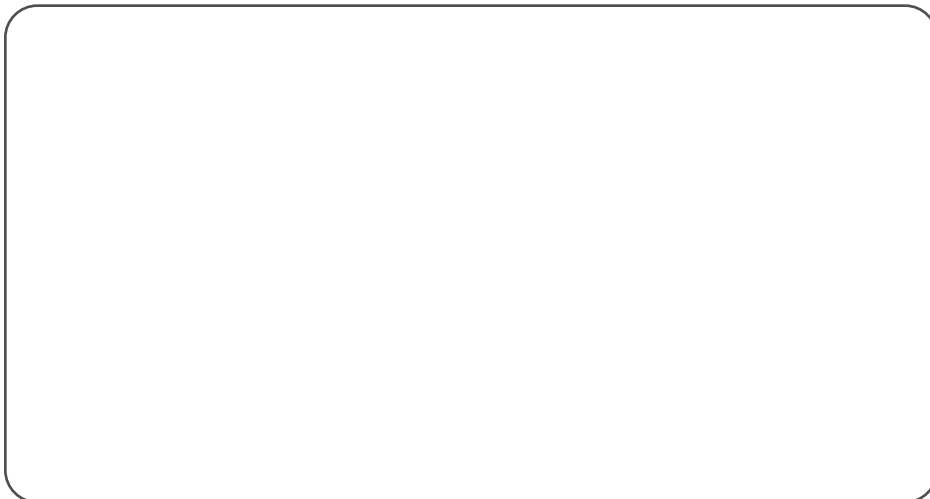




# CONGREGATION BETH TORAH

6100 W. 127<sup>th</sup> Street  
Overland Park, Kansas 66209  
[www.beth-torah.org](http://www.beth-torah.org)

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



## OFFICERS

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Vice President ..... Miccole Bowen  
Vice President ..... Howard Pitler  
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[facebook.com/CongregationBethTorah](https://facebook.com/CongregationBethTorah)



I hope you were one of the more than 150 people who spent time at Beth Torah on December 22-24, 2023. If you weren't able to attend, you missed an incredible opportunity to see our community come together to worship, celebrate, meet our rabbinic candidate and his family, and EAT.

So many members contributed to the *Oneg Shabbat*, *Board Lunch*, *Saturday Night Havdalah* and *Teaching Session* and *Sunday Brunch* and *Q & A*. They all deserve a huge vote of appreciation. It's always risky to put a list of names in print, but I feel like I kept pretty good notes. If you were missed, my sincere apologies.

First of all, I want to thank **Sharon Altman**, my cousin and partner, for helping coordinate all of the events, for shopping (along with **Morgan Fasbinder**) and being there to do whatever needed to be done.

The delicious food was due to:  
**Maggie Adler, Emily Albano, Diane Balanoff, Carol Ducak, Cindy & Jack Garfinkle, Linda Gepford, Sheila Goldberg, Ashley Katz, Susie Klinock, Elizabeth Lenz, Gail & Jeff Ross, Judy Weingarten, Andrea & Jay Zwibelman.**

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the folks who helped set up and clean up - **Susie & Jerry Klinock, Gloria & Howard Pitler, Alex Mead, Larry Myer, Barb Mendelsohn, Larry Rittmaster, Dave Zucker.** There were many more who I'm afraid I can't thank by name - they just pitched in (in true CBT fashion).

From my perspective, this weekend was a glimpse of what our future can become when we come together in person. Hope to see you again in the very near future.

Just a plug - your CBT Bakers will be providing Oneg treats on January 19, February 16, March 15 (*want to come help us make hamantashen??*), April 19 and May 17.

*With love and appreciation,*  
Marcia Rittmaster