

Visit our website at
www.beth-torah.org



The goal of *Small Groups* is to foster friendships and connections within our congregation. This year we are excited to offer a wide variety of groups that will meet on different days and times, in person and on Zoom.

- ☆ There are activity groups for bakers, walkers, hikers, mah jongg players and board game lovers.
- ☆ We also have groups for people who enjoy food and drink, with groups for coffee lovers, BBQ aficionados, and adventurous eaters who want to sample foods from different countries.
- ☆ And we have discussion groups for readers, movie-lovers, for those interested learning about the history of Jews in the US, and for people who want to learn more about celebrating Jewish holidays.

Learn More & Register: <https://beth-torah.org/small-groups/>

Tekiah

The Monthly Newsletter of

CONGREGATION
BETH TORAH

October 2023 • Issue 356 • Tishrei/Cheshvan, 5784



Remarks

Rabbi Javier Cattapan

On *Teshuvah* and Hope

These last few years have been challenging for many of us. The pandemic upended many of our plans and affected the world's economy — COVID is here to stay. In addition to the global pandemic, the fabric of our society seems to be crumbling in front of our eyes: the political discourse in America and Israel has gone to pieces. Add to all that the effects of global warming that have made natural events much more destructive. As we begin a new year, the prospect is more of the same. It is a fact: we are in desperate need of hope.

I consider myself hopeful, but even hopeful people need help sometimes navigating the pressing issues of our time. Recently, a book about hope crossed my desk. It was written by a psychologist, Chan Hellman, a professor at the University of Oklahoma, alongside a lawyer, Casey Gwinn, who runs a summer camp in California called Camp Hope America. They both work with children who have suffered abuse. Their respective work with children taught them valuable lessons that we can all use. The book is called *Hope Rising: How the Science of HOPE Can Change Your Life*.

Listen to their definition of hope.

“Hope is the belief that your future can be brighter and better than your past and that you actually have a role to play in making it better. Hopeful people embrace this truth with all of their being. [...] Hopeful people are willing to work for their better future.”

This definition made me think that the central teaching of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, *teshuvah*, repentance/return, rests on the assumption that we must possess a certain level of hope. How else could we do *teshuvah*? So much of what rabbis have taught us about *teshuvah* is this belief that our future can be brighter and better, that we can change for the better, and that we play a central role in our future. There is NO *teshuvah* without hope.

In this book, I learned that the psychologist who did much of the basic research on hope worked at the University of Kansas. His name was Dr. Rick Snyder and he loved saying that hope means “You can get there from here.”

So, **here** we are, at the cusp of a year that seems to have vanished and a brand new year about to unfold. How do we get from here to **there**? How do we get from doing *chesbon hanefesh*, recounting our past year, and moving toward having an active role in shaping a better future for each one of us and our community?

Chesbon hanefesh, looking at our actions during the past year is not a mere memory exercise, rather it is an exercise in telling our story. Think for a moment: What story do you tell about yourself? What are your highs and lows, and how do we use that story to propel us into a more hopeful future? Is your story about illness, loss, anger, or despair? Or are you telling a story of hope? What's in the past is done, and we cannot change it. With its rituals and prayers, the High Holy Days are an invitation to find a way so that your story in 5784 is about hope.

The main idea of *Hope Rising* is not that we are all hopeful, happy people **all** the time. No one can do that; life is too complex and challenging. No, instead, we must be aware of what researchers call your “hope score.” If it's high, we must keep working to keep it there. If it is low, we consciously must do something to make go up, thus the name of the book, *Hope Rising*.



[beth-torah.org/
hope-5784](https://beth-torah.org/hope-5784)

From Our Founding Rabbi

COMMUNITY FIRST

When aspen trees grow they look like independent trees above ground, but they are not. Below ground aspens in a single grove are all connected at their roots. They are effectively a single tree. If one gets sick, they all get sick. Individualism may be deceiving.

Humans grow like aspens. We appear to be independent beings, making our own decisions, relying upon our separate knowledge and wisdom. We tell ourselves we are individuals. But we are not. Aspens grow in groves. Humans grow in communities.

An anthropologist wrote, "What instinct is to animals, culture is to humans." In other words, while we do direct our own lives, we act out of culture: language, values, calendar, ideals, morals, ideas of time and other aspects of culture direct us. Culture subtly lays out our choices. Without culture directing our options, every decision every day would be new, and we'd become quickly overwhelmed.

I know, you likely don't think this way. You have determined your own life course, made your own decisions, chosen your own values, gone your own way. But the truth is not so clear: what are our responsibilities to our families? How does language shape our values? How does calendar direct our choices? Why are Jews so devoted to education? Answer: Talmudic culture, even without the Talmud. If you're not convinced: think about how different it is to live in Russia, China, France and the U.S. People are the same. Cultures differ. Different concepts of time, freedom, family, friendships, vacation. Culture shapes who we are. We operate within its parameters.

Which brings me to: The obligation of community: the reason you need to pay for and to attend synagogue.

In the middle of my 8th decade, I can look back upon a changed world, and see clearly how cultural changes have altered the values I held dear.

I grew up, and became a rabbi, in a Reform Judaism based upon ethics: for racial integration, against racism, supportive of the Jewish people particularly when they were embattled in Israel or the Soviet Union, embracing Jewish community and education. These values we felt and thought were eternal components of Judaism.

But the Judaism of social justice and ethics in the late 60s and 70s transformed into a religion of meaning today: *"If I find it meaningful, I'll do it. If it's not personally meaningful to me, why would I do it? What's the reason?"* Community is no longer determinative, at least not for most.

Decades ago, when I asked some of the founders of our Jewish community campus why they donated the land and money, they said, *"We grew up at the old Center on Linwood. It was important in our lives. What someone did for us we want to ensure for future generations."*

There's a talmudic story of Honi the Circle Maker. Honi was walking a path, and a man was planting a carob tree. Honi stopped and asked the man, *"How long will it take for the tree to bear fruit?"* The man answered, *"Seventy years."* *"Why do you do it then,"* asked Honi, *"you won't live another 70 years."* The man answered, *"What my ancestors planted for me, I plant for my grandchildren."*

A woman member of Beth Torah years ago attended her sister's shiva in another state. She returned having experienced exuberant wonder. She told me, *"I never believed in shiva. I never attended. Why should I go if I didn't know the person? Who would care? Well, people showed up for my sister from her synagogue. They made meals for us. They attended our worship and said kaddish. Those who knew her spoke with me and told me stories of her life. It was so wonderful! It made my loss so much more bearable! I never imagined!"*

I wish I could tell you when you'll need your religious community, when it will really matter, when, like for this woman, it will "pay off for you." But I can't. Community is sustaining friendships through life's irreconcilable tragedies. Community is continuity. Community is rituals from the past that surprise us, and sometimes make us cry, when we never expected it. Community is the basis for a support when we need it, both giving support and receiving support. Family alone can't do it.

It's a funny thing about synagogue life: I go because you're there and might need me or miss me. If you're not there, why go?

A man says to his aging father, *"Dad, I don't get it. You never went to shul. You don't believe in God. Now you go all the time. What the hell's going on?"* The father replies, *"Well, son, I'll tell you. You know, Shapiro's my best friend."* *"Yeah, I know, so what?"* *"Well, Shapiro believes in God, and I believe in Shapiro."*

You want a Judaism for your children, for your grandchildren, for people you don't know and will never know? You want there to be Jewish values of social justice, of decency, of tzedakah in the community? You want someone to say *L'shanah tovah* and *Shabbat shalom*? You want there to be Torah study, and Jewish love of learning, and inquiry, and debate and caring for the stranger? You want the flowers of Jewish culture? Then you need to plant the roots, because flowers don't grow without roots and stalks and leaves. You need to belong to a synagogue. You need to attend a synagogue and take a friend with you. Because you know what, you're the only one who can plant the seeds. Without you, there's no one else.

L'shanah tovah,
Rabbi Mark H. Levin



continued from Page 1

Our hope score is a baseline, a starting point from which hope can rise. *Hope Rising* is about sustainable hope — how we can choose moral, healthy goals and pathways and sustain them through life's trials and challenges. Hope is a verb, and *teshuvah* is an exercise in hope rising.

As we look back at the year that elapsed and gaze into the new year with anticipation, I pray that we try to find desired goals and choose pathways to hope more. Feeling anxious, uncertain, and fearful about the future is okay. Life changes in an instant; that's yet another good reason why we must constantly work on upping our hope score.

After we experience a loss in our lives, we have many reasons not to get out of bed, but once we find a reason, that goal leads us to another and another. As we accomplished a goal, we began to experience hope. Each one of us needs to find what keeps us from hoping more and decide to set a goal toward a more hopeful future. Goals and pathways are one thing we can do to bring more hope into our lives. The High Holy Days invite us to set new goals and find pathways to get **from here to there**, and doing so will help us increase hope-oriented feelings.

L'shanah tovah, may we be blessed with a hopeful New Year. Shabbat Shalom!

[Excerpts from *Erev Rosh Hashanah* Sermon]



beth-torah.org/hope-5784

[Click here to find your hope score!](#)

President's Corner

The following message was delivered on Rosh Hashanah

Shana Tovah everyone,

I think we can all agree that Beth Torah has fallen into a bit of a rough patch over the last few years. Some have said we have fallen into something much worse. Can't say that I blame them. Bubbe Myer used to say to her friend... "Oy Zelda, I don't want to be a kvetch, but I've got tsuris up to here..." I think that just about sums it up.

But let me be perfectly clear. We are OK. There is no discussion of merging, selling out or acquiring any other congregation. We are not going out of business, and we are not broke. We have personnel and cashflow issues that we are going to fix. Over the next few moments, I'm going to share with you how we will accomplish this.

The board started this process with a new three-year strategic plan that will give us a road map and keep us guided as we move forward. In short, it follows our three pillars of Religion, Education and Social Justice.

Religion is our first pillar. Rabbi Cattapan has been our spiritual leader and has been our guiding light for the last 7 plus years. I would like to take a moment to thank him right now. However, he will be leaving Beth Torah in June. Twenty-five members of our congregation serve on our rabbi search committee. The group was divided into three subgroups. Each had a series of tasks that had been completed. Once all three groups have been compiled and we have a complete package our presentation will be reviewed by the board and CBT staff. It will then be sent back to the search committee for final review and then submitted to the URJ and our application will be placed on their listing site. The search process will officially begin in October. The congregation will be kept apprised as we move through this process. I will always be available for comments and feedback from everyone as the process plays out.

Our services are fresh and creative, and our music program is second to none. I want to give a special shout-out to Lezlie, Warren, the choir, and house band. They are the best. We have excellent programming, and we pride ourselves on offering something for everyone. I have full confidence that every person who walks through that door will have a rich and rewarding spiritual experience they can take comfort in.

Our second pillar is education. Morgan Fasbinder joined the WRS as Director of Youth & Young Adult Education. Morgan brings fresh energy and expertise as we rebuild our religious school. Recent success stories are a rejuvenated Purim carnival that drew over 150 people, well-attended ice cream socials, new programming over the summer, teacher training and so much more. To grow the school, we will be expanding enrollment from the bottom up with a heavy emphasis on recruiting the younger grades starting at Pre K and Kindergarten so we have them through the long road to confirmation. This will also help bring in much-needed younger families into the congregation, raising membership at the same time. The Talmud/ Torah committee was formed under the direction of Howard Pitler and comprised of educators from the congregation bringing a wealth of experience all working together on curriculum, teaching best practices, guidance, and oversight.

Jill Maidoff has taken over our adult education program and is doing amazing things with wonderful, interesting, and insightful programming. Thank you, Jill.

Social Justice is the third pillar. Truth be told, it used to be one of our strong suits. It's not anymore. We need to reestablish our place as the Social Justice model for the entire Jewish community. We need a new chairperson to head up this



committee. There are lots of ideas. For one, with all of my years working in the urban core I have several large church contacts and I would love to connect and partner with one of them for joint music & choir programs, community building, Social Justice and Social Action projects. We could be building community gardens and having rock the block clean up parties. There are workdays available with our favorite affordable housing Nonprofit Tikkun-KC who is still “repairing the world one house at a time”.

There is no end to the many worthwhile projects we could be doing that would involve the entire congregation from planning to implementation. If you have a passion for social justice and community building, please let me know. This committee will be the crown jewel of Beth Torah.

The Board of Trustees Executive Committee made the decision that we will be looking for a combination Executive Director/Membership Director in one position. The search committee comprised of myself, Jeff Ross, Joel Krirchiver and Miccole Bowen have compiled the job description and, after board review will be submitting it to National Association of Temple Administrators so we can begin that search. We are hoping to have this position filled in the next few months. We are looking for a person with strong organizational skills and with membership management and marketing experience. They will also have strong financial management and people skills. The Executive Director will also provide guidance in the process of hiring our new Rabbi and help facilitate the transition.

We formed the Council of Past Presidents last summer. I contacted every past president with the exception of one that had passed and two with very poor health. Out of the remaining group, all but three responded with a resounding yes. Some were no longer members and no longer lived here and they were the first to accept the offer. I was amazed to see their continued passion for CBT. They are our history and will provide another resource for us to draw from as we move forward.

Beth Torah member Ron Fredman has volunteered to chair our fundraising committee. He brings over 30 years of professional fundraising experience with the KC symphony, ballet and other similar organizations in Houston, Phoenix and Sacramento. He has also served as a fundraising consultant nationwide for over a decade. A new major donor program is underway as well as a legacy gifting program. He will also be coordinating efforts with the CBT women’s group with projects such as a Las Vegas night, a farmers’ market in the CBT parking lot, a frisbee golf tournament and other surprises still on the drawing board. We are so fortunate to have Ron leading this committee and we welcome his expertise. In addition, board members Debbie Bass & Lauren Aaronson will be working with Ron on this very important committee.

Jeff Ross, building & grounds chair, and his committee continue to address years of deferred maintenance throughout the campus. Necessary repairs were completed to the building facade and monument sign caused by birds and weather. Thanks to a generous gift from the Zweibleman family, the parking lot was resurfaced and restriped. In addition, the dumpster area got a new cement pad to better carry the weight of the trash trucks. Over the summer we removed numerous dead trees and lifted others. Our flower gardens at the front entryway and memorial garden are thriving thanks to our gardener supreme Susan Cohen and the relentless watering talents of Scott Franklin.

Nina Shik has taken over the small group program. We have 12 amazing groups. Information and signups are available in the Ulam and on our website.

We had our second annual BBQ Bash which was even more fun than the first one. The Chili cookoff is back and I already mentioned the Purim carnival. All were huge successes, and all will continue next year.

Communication is paramount and Tekiah’s return is a resounding success. Thank you, Scott Latman, for a well-constructed, chock full of information, newsletter.

This was just the first year of our three-year plan. Next year we will continue to build and grow. We will fill our open positions, recruit new students and members, implement community building social events, and help repair the world. And with everyone’s help we will turn our deficit into a gain and become financially stable. One of my favorite lines that I have used before is...*“If you want to dance, you gotta pay the band.”* So many have stepped up with their time and treasure. I’ve only named a few.

Our High Holy Day Appeal this year is in the form of a challenge. We are working with several individuals to create a \$50,000 challenge. We are well on our way to meeting that challenge amount. The Board is also fully invested in this challenge. I’m asking all of you to match that challenge as we rise together to invest in our future.

With your help, here’s what our new Beth Torah will be. An enriching, meaningful Jewish experience through:

- Strong relationships that build community, hospitality, sincere appreciation and honest communication.
- Walking the walk on social-justice issues -Tikkun Olam
- Outstanding youth, young adult & adult education & programming

In doing so, we will ensure:

- Sustainable membership, growth and retention.
- Inspiring music, mentoring and worship – deeply personal. Fiscal responsibility and stability.
- A powerful reputation.
- A bright future.

Our strategic plan takes these aspirations and defines a clear path to success. We invite you to join us on this journey of renewal, as we support one another and build our spiritual home.

In closing I want to wish everyone a healthy and happy new year and welcome everyone to the “NEW Beth Torah”.

Larry Myer

President, Board of Trustees

Music & More



Here's what's coming up in October

Erev Simchat Torah (10/6)

Simchat Torah/Sh'mini Atzeret with Yizkor (10/7)

Take down the Sukkah (10/8)

Erev Shabbat Worship with Visiting Worship Leader Joe Buchanan (10/13)

Bar Mitzvah of Shia Kolb (10/14)

Jewish Culture Fest (10/15)

Song Session Returns! (10/17)

First Day of Spice Drive (10/18)

Looks like we made it.... (If you are singing Barry Manilow right now, I love you just a little bit more.) By the time you read this, we will have made it through Elul, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and the beginning of Sukkot. Only two more Big Holiday Services to go.

It's funny. When we talk about the High Holy Days, most people—even those who have been actively participating in Jewish religious life most of their lives—think about Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and stop there. Unless we are In The Biz, we often forget that we still have almost two weeks left to go before we close out the season. But in five days, we'll celebrate one of my absolute favorites: Simchat Torah. On Simchat Torah we read the end of the Torah and the beginning, barely taking a breath between the two. We dance with the Torah, filling our sanctuary with music and joy. For me, Simchat Torah is a reminder that after the work, celebration. It's so important to find, allow, and take time for that joy. And also—after the work, more work. Things don't end. We circle back around and start again, the same but new.

I am so grateful for my ever-changing, never-changing, same-but-new, cyclical Jewish life. I am grateful for our choir and band who keep showing up and working hard, adding poignancy and joy to our worship services. I am grateful for those of you who show up and sing with me on Shabbat. I'm grateful for those of you who watch from home and let me know that what we do matters, even when we can't see it.

May 5784 bring you meaningful work, supportive community, and always, always joy.

Shalom, l'shana tovah tikatevu, and g'mar chatima tovah, Leslie

2023 HIGH HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

September 15 - October 8



We depend on your donations.

With your generosity and support, Congregation Beth Torah can once again make a sizable donation to help needy families in our community.

Grocery bags were included in the Rosh Hashanah gift bags and everyone is encouraged to donate even more than what fits in those bags.

Top 5 most-needed items: canned tomato products, soup, canned protein, paper towels, and toothpaste

With your help, JFS is helping feed 500 families every month with dignity and care.

jfs  **KC**





Bar Mitzvah of Shia Isaac Kolb

son of Stephanie Kolb and Alex Kolb
 grandson of Milton and Sharon Katz and Shura and Natan Kolb
 brothers Asa and Eli Maker

October 14, 2023

Shia is a seventh grader at Lakewood Middle School. He enjoys spending time with his family and friends. He loves playing sports, watching sports, and cheering on his KC and KU teams. Shia has a passion for animals and loves playing video games especially NBA2K. Shia's Torah portion is *B'reishit*, the story of creation, and for Shia's Mitzvah project he chose to take care of animals at Deanna Rose Farmstead.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Oct 1	2	3	4
Sukkot			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Weiner Religious School 	Offices Closed Mondays		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm TAG
8	9	10	11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help Us Take Down the Sukkah! Last Day of HHD Food Drive 9:30am Weiner Religious School 11am Take Down Sukkah 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offices Closed Mondays Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples' Day 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm TAG 7pm GFN Listening Session - time on internal cal incl 7pm Finance Committee Meeting
15	16	17	18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kansas City Jewish Culture Fest 9:30am Weiner Religious School 	Offices Closed Mondays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Song Session 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Day of Spice Drive 2pm CBT Fall Blood Drive 6:30pm TAG
22	23	24	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Weiner Religious School 10am CBT Day at the Mitzvah Garden 3pm Daffodil Project Garden Supply Dropoff @ CBT 	Offices Closed Mondays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm A Fresh Look at Israel and the Mideast led by 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm TAG 7pm Community Wide Important College Conversation 7pm GFN Listening Session - time on internal cal incl
29	30	31	Nov 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Weiner Religious School 10:15am GFN Listening Session 11am Daffodil Project Garden Bed Preparation 	Offices Closed Mondays	Halloween	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Day of American Indian Heritage Month 6:30pm TAG 7pm Hanukkah Choir Rehearsal

We often think of hope as an emotion. But with the help of authors Casey Gwinn and Chan Hellman, Rabbi Cattapan is teaching us that there is a science to it. Hope is a verb; a radical act. We can learn what robs us of hope, how to find hope in our own lives, and how to bring hope to the world.

[Watch Rabbi Cattapan's Erev Rosh Hashanah message here.](#)

[Find your Hope Score and Take the ACE Quiz here.](#)

Save the Date!!!

- ☆ Erev Simchat Torah 10/6
- ☆ Take down the Sukkah 10/8
- ☆ Friday Night Services with Special Guest Joe Buchanan (10/13)
- ☆ Shia Kolb Bar Mitzvah (10/14)
- ☆ Kansas City Culture Fest (10/15)
- ☆ Fall Blood Drive (10/18)
- ☆ Mensch of the Month – Teresa Hellman (10/20)

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5	6	7
	Erev Simchat Torah	Shemini Atzeret / Simchat Torah
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1pm Yiddish Group ● 6:30pm Erev Simchat Torah & Erev Shabbat Worship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Sichat Shabbat ● 10:30am Sukkot Yom Tov & Shabbat Morning Worship
12	13	14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12pm Rabbi Lunch N' Learn (in person) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1pm Yiddish Group ● 6:30pm Erev Shabbat Worship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Sichat Shabbat ● 10:30am Bar Mitzvah of Shia Kolb
19	20	21
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 7pm Celebrate the New Moon! (@CBJ) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1pm Yiddish Group ● 6:30pm Erev Shabbat Worship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Sichat Shabbat ● 10:30am Shabbat Morning Worship ● 7:15pm Kiddush Cup Havdalah (Adult Ed)
26	27	28
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1pm Yiddish Group ● 6:30pm Erev Shabbat Worship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Sichat Shabbat ● 10:30am Shabbat Morning Worship
2	3	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1pm Yiddish Group ● 6:30pm Erev Shabbat Worship w/Torah Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Sichat Shabbat ● 10:30am Shabbat Morning Worship

Weiner Religious School

September was a super busy month. We had the first day of religious school, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and the first day of TAG! I hope that the year 5784 will bring you lots of love, health, happiness, and success! I was so proud of our Madrichim for standing on the bima and participating in the Rosh Hashanah service. We had a wonderful time eating pizza and building the Sukkah together for the first night of TAG. Don't miss our WRS booth at the Jewish Culture Fest!



Rosh Hashanah Family T'filah & Activities



Rosh Hashanah Apple Hunt

Events

Sunday, October 1, 2023, is our WRS Family Sukkot Day!

Join us for breakfast from 9 -9:20 a.m. Starting at 9:30 a.m. we will have family worship in the Sukkah! There will be a day full of family Sukkot activities! (wear outdoor clothing and shoes)

Saturday, October 14, 2023, is Shia Kolb's Bar Mitzvah at CBT starting at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, October 15, 2023, is the Jewish Culture Fest at the JCC from 11:00 a.m.- 6:30 p.m.

The Weiner Religious School will have a booth with a Henna tattoo artist! Come check us out.

Wednesday, October 25, 2023, is the Important College Conversations Event

at B'nai Jehudah from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (10th-12th graders)

*Shalom!
Morgan*

WEINER RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

5784



Holiday Youth and Family Events

Community-wide Programs

Poolside Havdalah

Culture Fest

PJ Library Hanukkah Glow Party

JNF Israeli Teen Kick-off Program

CBT Purim Carnival

CBT Hanukkah Party

Grade Level Shabbat Services

Consecration

Family Sukkot Activities

Family Tu B'shevat Program

Field Trips

Mitzvah Projects

Ice Cream Socials

Movie Nights

TAG &

Youth Group Activities... Just to name a few!



For more information contact Morgan Fasbinder
Director of Youth and Young Adult Education
mfasbinder@beth-torah.org or (943)-498-2212





CONGREGATION BETH TORAH

Adult Education

Lunch With the Rabbi

Second Thursday of the month | 12:30pm

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

June - October 2023:
The Righteous Among the Nations: Stories of Compassion and Heroism during the Holocaust

January - 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 Rabbi Cattapan or a special guest facilitator on a variety of topics — all opinions are welcome! The October 2023 schedule is as follows:

October 7
Led by Rabbi Cattapan
Topic: Modern Jewish Thinkers

October 14
Led by Jill Maidhof
Topic: How Judaism Became a Religion

October 21
Led by Rabbi Cattapan
Topic: Modern Jewish Thinkers

October 28
Led by Jill Maidhof
Topic: How the Yom Kippur War Transformed Israeli Society



Kiddish Cup Havdalah

Saturday, October 21 | Time TBA

- Havdalah with Lezlie Zucker
- ♦ Kiddush Cup Trivia Contest
- ♦ Cup painting | Ceramic Café will glaze and fire
- ♦ Snacks will be served!

Cups will be on display in the ulam until you collect yours during our Chanukah Shabbat Dec. 15. (You're invited to say *Kiddush that night!*)



ADULTS ONLY | \$15/CUP
[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)
REGISTRATION IS LIMITED TO 36 LUCKY PEOPLE; ONLINE RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY OCTOBER 13

A Fresh Look at Israel & the Mideast

October 24, 2023 - May 28, 2024

10-month experience facilitated by Rabbi Scott White 4th Tuesday of the month

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.



Sunday Adult Education

October 29, 2023

When religious school is in session | 10:30-11:30am

Topic: *What is Modern Day Idolatry?*
(Lies About Power)

WATCH FOR DETAILS:

Two Jews, Three Opinions
Monthly schedule to be announced. Add your voice to round table discussions inspired by headlines and breaking news.

Hands on Workshop: November
A little Jewish learning, a little Jewish making



[Click here to register to volunteer at the festival!](#)

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

BLOOD DRIVE

Beth Torah

Wednesday, October 18th

2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Foyer

6100 W. 127 St.

Overland Park, KS 66209



Book your appointment today at savealifenow.org/group, enter **Group Code: 7B**. For additional details contact Jennifer Savner Levinson at (913) 498-2212 or jenlevinson0203@gmail.com.

Medical eligibility questions? Call 1.800.688.0900



877.468.6844 • savealifenow.org



On September 8th

Barb Mendelsohn

was celebrated during services as

“**Mensch of the Month.**”

followed by an Oneg Shabbat

hosted by her family and friends.

JEWISH CULTURE FEST

will be open 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 15 at the Jewish Community Center Parking Lot

Adults - \$8 in advance, \$10 at entrance on event day

Kids (4-12) - \$3 in advance, \$5 at entrance on event day

Kids 3 and under are free

Performing artists include Jewish Americana artist Joe Buchanan, a cappella phenomenon the Maccabeats, and family-favorite kiddie rock artist ShirLaLa.



CONGREGATION BETH TORAH

August 17 - September 19 2023 Tributes

Beth Torah General Fund

Claudia Alexander
Joy Bowen
Warren and Diane Sichel

Sponsor of the Active Shooter Training class
Anonymous

*Outdoor flower pots donated in memory of their parents,
Ben & Faye Cooper and Mitchell & Rose Rudman*
Margie & Steve Cooper

Yahrzeit of Henry Osman
Stan Osman

Yahrzeit of Richard Rosenfeld
Les & Amy Rosenfeld

In Honor of Andrea Baran
Alice Capson

Rabbi Cattapan's Discretionary Fund

Martin & Dianne Lustig
Gary Smith

Yahrzeit of Naomi Levy
Joe Levy

In Honor of Rabbi Javier Cattapan
Richard & Julie Hellman

Music & Choir Fund

Yahrzeit of Florine F Capper
Gail & Larry Altman

Hunger Fund

In Memory of Nathan Salz
Sanford & Maureen Salz

Joel Winston Social Justice Fund

In Memory of Ross Zucker Yahrzeit
Marge and Barry Skikne
In Memory of Martin Chaitman
Gail & Larry Altman

CBT Fund For Families In Need

Jerry & Susie Klinock

Yahrzeit of Jerry Rotenberg
Maggie Adler

Yahrzeit of Mark Weingarten
Judy Weingarten

In Memory of Betty Bram
In Memory of Laura Bram
Alan Bram

Youth Activities Fund

In celebration of Tiffany Simpson's Conversion
Judy Weingarten

In Honor of Barbara Mendelsohn, Mensch of the Month

Lauren Aaronson & Phil Meltzer, Sharon and Jeff Altman, Carol Ducak, Amy & Scott Franklin, Cindy & Jack Garfinkle, Linda Zappulla-Gensler & Chuck Gensler, Jr., Sheila Goldberg, Jo-Ann Harris, Louise Hipsh & Neil Breslow, Barbara & Jeffrey Kitt, Julie Myer, Becky & Ron Sandhaus, David & Nina Shik, Betsy Wanger, Judy Weingarten

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

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!



October, 2023 Yahrzeits

October 1, 2023 Tishri 16, 5784

June Alpert (sister of Eileen Garry) Helen (Frankel) Bankalter (aunt of Floyd Frankel) Evelyn Behrman (aunt of Louise Hipsh) Jeanne Kartch (great aunt of Alisa Kartch) Estelle Roodman (mother of Allison Roodman)

October 2, 2023 Tishri 17, 5784

Spencer Brown (father-in-law of Lon Lowenstein) Morris Litvien (father of Sheila Goldberg) Marcus Sickel (father of Warren Sickel) Bertha Silberg (grandmother of Melisa Love) Hilda Zavalo (mother-in-law of Donna Zavalo)

October 3, 2023 Tishri 18, 5784

Ruth Breslow (mother of Neil Breslow) Louis Farkas (Beth Torah) Frieda Pullman (grandmother of Anna Garcia) James Reedy (father of Alicia Poslosky)

October 4, 2023 Tishri 19, 5784

Katie Berger (mother of Susan Gersh) Rachel Levinson Bigus (great-grandmother of Joseph Levin)

October 5, 2023 Tishri 20, 5784

Esther Bergh (mother of Jackie Hermanson) Ana Maria Cattapan de Amato (aunt of Rabbi Javier Cattapan) Everett Evnen (grandfather of Adrienne Metcalf) Irv Gewertz (father of Henri Goettel) Anne Levy (aunt of Marjorie Cooper)

October 6, 2023 Tishri 21, 5784

Frank Ginson (father-in-law of Jo Ann Ginson)

October 8, 2023 Tishri 23, 5784

Marian Hermanson (mother of Philip Hermanson) Sheldon Katz (father of Milton Katz and grandfather of Stephanie Kolb) Marvin Schlezinger (uncle of Chuck Cantor and Lauren Fasbinder)

October 9, 2023 Tishri 24, 5784

Louis Goldfarb (grandfather of Sheila Wikas) Richard Gerald Greenberg (father of Lisa Klein) Ruth Shultz (mother of Harriet Barrish)

October 10, 2023 Tishri 25, 5784

Ronald H. Chapman (brother of Paul Chapman) Minnie Goldman (mother of Stanley Goldman) Riva Ryabtseva (mother-in-law of Boris Friedman) Aron Ryabtstev (father-in-law of Boris Friedman) Harriette Tivin (mother of George Gourse)

October 11, 2023 Tishri 26, 5784

Carla Schafer (aunt of Dave Zucker) Marilyn Wacknov (wife of Paul Wacknov)

October 12, 2023 Tishri 27, 5784

Johnny Guy (dear friend of Barbara & Jesus Gutierrez) Frank Karasik (stepfather of Martin Lustig) Gaetano Loggia (father of Thomas Loggia) Dorathea Polsky (mother of Douglas Polsky)

October 13, 2023 Tishri 28, 5784

Alan Elfanbaum (brother of Rita Stark) Barbara "Bobbie" Hamburg (sister of Donna Gould)

October 14, 2023 Tishri 29, 5784

Louis Alvin Fehr (father of Jerald Fehr) Helen Supofsky (grandmother of Lori Fehr and Janet Razafsky)

October 15, 2023 Tishri 30, 5784

Shirley Deutsch (mother of Laurie Finkelstein and Lydia Sickel) Gitlya Friedman (mother of Boris Friedman) Miriam "Mickey" Hamovitz (aunt of Howard Pitler) Sadie Sobol (mother of Nancy Solomon) Clayton L. Wood (husband of Jo-Ann Harris)

October 16, 2023 Heshvan 1, 5784

Emery Taylor (father of Linda Katz)

October 18, 2023 Heshvan 3, 5784

Johanna Bobrecker (grandmother of William Lowenstein) Edgar Broughton (father of Betsy Wanger) David Cantor (brother of Chuck Cantor and Lauren Fasbinder) Lorie Philips (loved one of Marcia Rittmaster) Debra Marlene Slade Zack (mother of Jason Zack)

October 19, 2023 Heshvan 4, 5784

Bertha Hellman (mother-in-law of Judith Hellman)

October 20, 2023 Heshvan 5, 5784

Mary Patricia "Pat" Sylvia (mother of Adam Elyachar and Ann Elyachar)

October 21, 2023 Heshvan 6, 5784

Irwin Block (father of Steve Block) Irving Bloom (father of Robert Bloom) Betty Barbara Decker (mother of James Decker) Anne Jacobs (Beth Torah) Mary Lerner (mother of Lawrence Lerner)

October 22, 2023 Heshvan 7, 5784

Jessie Cohn (grandmother of Judith Hellman and Marcia Rittmaster) Betty Horton (sister of Jo Ann Ginson)

October 23, 2023 Heshvan 8, 5784

Gary Agron (uncle of Lon Lowenstein) Bess Tranin (great aunt of Louise Hipsh) Joan Wenz (grandmother of Robert Young)

October 24, 2023 Heshvan 9, 5784

Norton Baran (father of Robert Baran) Clara Kornblum (grandmother of Steven Shapiro) Bernard M. Krichiver (father of Joel Krichiver) Elaine Waxman (mother of Joel Waxman)

October 25, 2023 Heshvan 10, 5784

Fannie Rittmaster (grandmother of Larry Rittmaster) Sandra Shaffer (wife of Norman Shaffer and mother of Randi Lefko)

October 26, 2023 Heshvan 11, 5784

Maurice J. Gould (father-in-law of Donna Gould) Anita Novack (Beth Torah) Rachel Pittel (mother of Mike Pittel)

October 27, 2023 Heshvan 12, 5784

Neil Meltzer (father of Philip Meltzer) Joseph Optican (father of Richard Optican) Valerie Sickle (mother of Peter Sickle) Adam Zack (brother of Jason Zack)

October 28, 2023 Heshvan 13, 5784

Sonia Gandal (aunt of Susan Berkowitz) Harry Hamovitz (uncle of Howard Pitler) Irving Myer (uncle of Julie Myer and Lawrence Myer)

October 29, 2023 Heshvan 14, 5784

Lucille Ellis (mother of Howard Ellis) Abe Flekier (father of Karen Butler)

October 30, 2023 Heshvan 15, 5784

Estelle Bloom (mother of Stephen Bloom) Arthur Rovick (husband of Rose Rovick) Edith Zucker (mother of Marjorie Skikne)

October 31, 2023 Heshvan 16, 5784

Ben Edelbaum (father of Estelle Edelbaum)

In Memoriam

Phyllis Goldberg (past president of Congregation Beth Torah)

Ron Ginson (husband of Jo Ann Ginson)





CONGREGATION BETH TORAH

6100 W. 127th Street
Overland Park, Kansas 66209
www.beth-torah.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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First Vice President Jeff Ross
Vice President Miccole Bowen
Vice President Howard Pitler
Treasurer Doug Polsky
Secretary Bobby Young
Immediate Past President Scott Franklin

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Founding Rabbi Mark H. Levin, D.H.L., D.D.
Music Coordinator Lezlie Zucker
Director of Youth &
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facebook.com/CongregationBethTorah

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, October 22, 8:00 a.m. – Noon
CBT Day at The Mitzvah Garden



The **Mitzvah Garden**, located west of B'nai Jehudah, is a community-wide organization that feeds thousands of residents every year in both Kansas and Missouri. Various food pantries distribute the 10,000 pounds of vegetables that are grown annually.

Visiting the Garden is an annual social action project at Beth Torah. This year, activities at the Mitzvah Garden will provide a potpourri of activities ranging from harvesting the fall garden to preparing the vegetable beds. The cooler weather should be a welcome change from some of our past years when we sweltered under the sun and dodged insects.

The Staff will provide a quick review of how the garden has expanded and explain their environmental emphasis. This includes solar technology and the capture of rainwater. Younger kids are welcome when accompanied by adults.

As the date nears and we have a better sense of the weather, we can be more specific about the activities of the day. Check the weekly "5 Things to Know" for more information or visit the CBT website. We want to give the Garden staff an estimate of how many members will attend this event. Please contact Scott Franklin at 913-645-1036 or sfranklin8@att.net if you have any questions or plan to attend.