



# B'NAI TORAH

## THE STAR

Monthly  
Newsletter

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### MAKE ALIYAH TO YOUR THEATRE

As recently appointed Chair of Fund Raising, I requested and have been given permission by the Board to create and develop a small theater under the sponsorship of B'nai Torah. I believe that the theater will produce a reliable, significant income for our synagogue. It will also increase the visibility of B'nai Torah within the Jewish community of St. Charles County, which could lead to increased membership. Finally, the theater will present B'nai Torah with a powerful vehicle for teaching our members and their children about things Jewish.

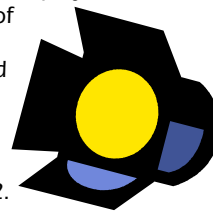


The theater will be known as the "Aliyah Theatre". Aliyah (AL-i-yah) is Hebrew for ascent, movement to a higher plane. Think of an Aliyah to the Torah on Shabbos, an Aliyah to the land of Israel. The "house" of the Aliyah Theatre will be the sanctuary of B'nai Torah. It will seat 80 people. The stage will

be the Bimah. During all rehearsals and performances, the Ark and the Eternal Light will remain in place and will be covered, protected and respected. Other religious items, on the Bimah and in the sanctuary, will be removed and kept safe, as required. The parking area will, of course, be the B'nai Torah parking lot, and will hold 45-50 cars. Rehearsals and performances will not be held on Friday evening or Saturday afternoon. Typically, a selected play will be performed six times...three times per week (Thurs. and Sat., 8 pm, and Sun., 2 pm) for two successive weeks. Ticket prices have not yet been set, but will probably be around \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors, students and children under 12.

As alluded to earlier, the primary function of the Aliyah Theatre will be to present plays with Jewish themes. However, plays of more general interest, with unmistakable ethnic style and flavoring and solid entertainment value will also be presented. This in fact, is the

continued on page 2.



#### Inside this issue:

Thank You!	2
Letter from President	3
Yom HaShoah	4
Kaddish, Tributes	4 & 5
Events	6
2010 Calendar	7

#### Special points of interest:

- Join the Club
- Tips for Original Prayer Project
- Attend Board meeting April 7

### MEN'S CLUB

It is time for B'nai Torah to have a Men's Group. All interested should let me know so we can get things rolling. Send me a simple email with your contact information and I will keep you in the loop.



- Helping out with building and grounds
- Playing cards
- Supporting rituals and events
- Performing mitzvot
- Drinking beer
- Organizing fundraisers
- Giving Tzedekah
- Going to Cardinals games
- Supporting the educational program
- Building connections and friendships

Mark Schatz

schatzm@centurytel.net

# A SPECIAL THANK YOU

"It doesn't cost anything to say thank you." — Fannie Cohen

Thank you, **Shelby Cohen** for the three Hebrew songs you performed at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Celebration of Faith. You represented B'nai Torah and the Jewish population of St. Charles and nearby counties in an outstanding manner. The applause you received was well deserved.

Thank you, **Steven Marton, David Plotky, Rory Crigger, Arthur Kaplun, and Jeremy Karp** for cutting the bushes on the side of our building to allow us to paint the building in the near future. It was nice to see the camaraderie, the laughter, and the happy manner in which you all worked together.

Thank you, **Steve Marton** for power washing B'nai Torah. You were tired, and soaked when you left; but when you asked, "what was next?" I knew that you were proud to be a member of B'nai Torah, and that your help came from the heart.

Thank you, **Laurie Seale**, for your donation to our Judaica Library. More members are borrowing books, CD's, and Videos, as they find that our Library has grown, and has something of interest for any curious mind. To borrow anything from our Judaica Library, just sign out your choice and keep it as long as you wish. There is no charge to members or financial supporters.



...continud from front page

case with the play chosen to inaugurate the first season of the Aliyah Theatre. The play is "The Sunshine Boys", by Neil Simon. It will be directed by GP Hunsaker, an experienced actor and director in the greater St. Louis area. Mr. Hunsaker is also the Artistic Director of the Citilites Theatre in St. Louis City. Performance dates for The Sunshine Boys are Sept. 23, 25, 30 and Oct. 2 at 8 pm, and Sept. 26 and Oct. 3 at 2 pm. The cast comprises seven characters. The three major characters will be played by Gil Nussbaum (Willie Clark), Sam Hack (Al Lewis) and Paul James (Ben Silverman).

While it is impossible at this time to give a truly accurate indication of the expenses incurred in the preparation and presentation of six performances of "The Sunshine Boys", I estimate that the cost of this endeavor will be around \$4,000. At an average of \$13.50 per ticket, 296 tickets will need to be sold to break even. A full house for all six performances (480 seats) will bring in about \$6500. In this case the profit will be around \$2,500. Taking a more realistic view that, with satisfactory marketing and publicity, we can expect to fill 375 seats, the minimum profit will be just over \$1,000. In fact, the profit is likely to be significantly higher when income from food and beverage sales, and also, from advertising in the program are factored in.

I am confident that this project will fly and that The Aliyah Theatre will generate income and respect for B'nai Torah. As I told the Board, I will

"put my money where my mouth is", and will cover any losses from this enterprise. B'nai Torah will get the profits and I will take the losses.

While no money is being requested from the operating funds for this project, contributions of time and effort from B'nai Torah and from its members will be solicited and gratefully accepted. To make this a truly profitable enterprise, we will need help from members and their children in set construction, lighting and sound, costumes and props and publicity, to name but a few categories. More on this later. For now, please focus on the first play of the Aliyah Theatre, "The Sunshine Boys", which opens on Sept. 23.

Shalom. Hope to see you there.

GH Nussbaum  
Chair, Fund Raising  
Artistic Director  
Aliyah Theatre



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Some wonderful things are happening to B'nai Torah. Specifically: we have a new Director of Sunday School who has significantly improved our teaching of Hebrew, given us a structured curriculum, and provided us with new textbooks to make our classes equal to all the other synagogues in St. Louis. Thank you Shelby Cooke. We have a new Newsletter Editor, Rolf Cooke, who has built on the innovations introduced by our former editors, Robin and A. J. Moll. The Director of Education position and Newsletter Editor were positions I previously held. I am the first to agree that the changes we have made have been for the better.

Dayanu! The above two changes would be newsworthy if nothing else had happened. However, a great deal has happened. For the first time in many years, we have a Fundraising

*"wonderful things are happening"*

Chairperson. Gil Nussbaum has some great ideas and he is laying the foundation for continuous fund raising, year after year. His exciting ideas are presented elsewhere in this newsletter. Madi Brown is our Membership Chairperson. Carol Derfeld is on the Loving Kindness Committee, and Mark Schatz is trying to form a Men's Group.

Dayanu — the above would be plenty to kvell about, even if nothing else were happening. Past Treasurers can testify that the Treasurer's job is a time consuming one. We were fortunate to get Myra and Lenny Baer to take over this responsibility. Building on the groundwork put in place by their predecessor, Teri Steinberg, Lenny and Myra have given us an automated system using Quicken Software that is providing timely information to our Board to help them with



their management responsibilities. For the first time, we can see how our actual expenditures and income compare to the budgeted amounts. In addition, our members have been receiving informative Quarterly Statements, and this

has helped our cash flow.

I am proud of our volunteer teachers, our students, and our Board Members. It almost sounds like everyone at B'nai Torah is doing something to help. This is true. I firmly believe that not only are we helping ourselves, we are assuring that there will be a B'nai Torah for future generations of Jews in St. Charles and nearby counties. For this, we can all be proud!

— Jack Cohen, President



## ORIGINAL PRAYER — TIPS

1. Do you wish to include global issues such as war and peace, man's inhumanity to man, and those who are homeless and hungry? If so, decide whether you wish your prayer to be limited to these issues, or if your answers to the following questions lead you to a more personal prayer.

2. Do you have enough time to do all the things you would like to do? Think about your marriage – do you still love, honor, and respect one another? Is your home warm and inviting? There is a Jewish word, "tam" which means "flavor." Does your home have the "tam" that you wish it had? Do your children see you living according to the standards you expect from them? Are there misunderstandings that result from not listening, or from not stating things correctly? Do you have Peace of Mind, or is your mind in turmoil? Do you have patience when it would best serve your relationship with your family? Are you satisfied with your life? Do you think you have used your time wisely? Do you feel that you should have done more for others? Are you making demands that cause alienation and resentment? Think about your priorities – do you

want to change? Your answers to any/all of the above easily lead to a prayer for resolution.

3. Think about some of your favorite stories that have messages. They may give you some ideas for your Prayer. One of my favorite stories with a message about life is, "The great conductor, Sir Michael Costa, was leading a rehearsal, with a vast array of musicians and hundreds of voices. As the mighty chorus rang out with the thunder of the organ, the roll of the drums, the horns ringing and the cymbals clashing, the piccolo player stopped playing. Sitting in the corner of the orchestra, he said to himself: "In all this din it matters not what I do." Suddenly the great conductor stopped, flung up his hands and all was still. He then cried out aloud: "where is the piccolo?" All was spoiled because the piccolo failed to take its part."

I am sending the above message to my wife, daughters, son-in-laws, and grandchild. You may also wish to do so to help with your family prayer.

# HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY (Yom HaShoah)

Resistance. Defiance. Courage. These are the themes marking the 2010 community-wide Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah) at 4 p.m., Sunday, April 11, at Brith Sholom Kneseth Israel, 1107 E. Linden in Richmond Heights. The annual event, sponsored by the St. Louis Holocaust Museum & Learning Center, commemorates one of the most tragic events in our history.

Hundreds of St. Louisans will fill the sanctuary to honor the many forms of resistance sustained against Nazi oppression - from armed revolt to maintaining humanity and faith. St. Louis Survivors will share their personal testimonies. Other testimonies will be drawn from the St. Louis Holocaust Museum's "Oral History Project" and read by volunteers. These stories all illustrate the triumph of the human spirit in the face of adversity.

Beginning at 3 p.m. – and continuing after the program,

B'nai B'rith St. Louis will coordinate, "Unto Every Person There is a Name," an international program in which the names of Holocaust victims will be read by members of the St. Louis Jewish community.

This year, music for the Yom HaShoah observance will be provided by members of Szyfra and Gregor Braitberg's family. Survivor and violinist, Gregor Braitberg, who passed away last year, recounted that on several occasions his life was saved by his musical ability. The commemoration will also include liturgical readings and memorial prayers.

"Each year, Yom HaShoah takes on more urgency because our St. Louis survivors are – for the most part - in their 80s and 90s," said Kent Hirschfelder, chair of the Yom HaShoah Commemoration Committee. "After World War II, about 300 survivors came to St. Louis. Today fewer than 150 survivors remain in St. Louis and they are eyewitnesses to one of, if not the... worst, atrocities in history."

## 2ND ANNUAL SHABBAT ST. LOUIS

The 2nd Annual Shabbat St. Louis community-wide Shabbat service will take place at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 3, at Congregation Kol Am, 1023 Chesterfield Parkway East, Chesterfield, MO 63017.

Participating congregations to date include B'nai El Congregation, Congregation B'nai Torah, Congregation Kol Am, Congregation Shaare Emeth, Shir Hadash Reconstructionist Community, Temple Emanuel, Temple Israel of Alton, IL, Congregation Temple Israel of St. Louis, and United Hebrew Congregation.

A Kosher-for-Passover Kiddush reception will follow the service. For more information, visit the Shabbat St. Louis website, [www.shabbatstlouis.org](http://www.shabbatstlouis.org).

Directions:

### From Eastbound I-64/US-40/US-61

Get off freeway at Exit 19A - Clarkson/Olive MO Rte 340. Turn left at the bottom of the exit ramp onto Olive Blvd (eastbound Rte 340). Continue under the bridge and go to Chesterfield Pkwy East (Shell/Circle K and BP gas stations are on the corner). Go one block south. Kol Am is at the corner of Swingley Ridge and Chesterfield Pkwy E. Turn right onto Swingley Ridge then left into Kol Am's parking lot.



### From Westbound I-64/US-40/US-61

Get off freeway at Exit 20 - Chesterfield Pkwy East. Turn right at the top of the exit ramp onto Chesterfield Pkwy East. Continue through the first set of traffic lights (Conway Rd.). Kol Am is at the second set of traffic signals which is the corner of Swingley Ridge and Chesterfield Pkwy East. Turn left onto Swingley Ridge then left into Kol Am's parking lot.

### From Westbound Olive Blvd (MO Rte 340)

Turn left onto Chesterfield Pkwy E (Shell/Circle K and BP gas stations are on the corner). Go one block south. Kol Am is at the corner of Swingley Ridge and Chesterfield Pkwy East. Turn right onto Swingley Ridge then left into Kol Am's parking lot.

### From Eastbound Olive Blvd (MO Rte 340)

Turn right on to Chesterfield Pkwy East (Shell/Circle K and BP gas stations are on the corner). Go one block south. Kol Am is at the corner of Swingley Ridge and Chesterfield Pkwy East. Turn right onto Swingley Ridge then left into Kol Am's parking lot.



# KADDISH...OF BLESSED MEMORY

We recall with affection those who no longer walk this earth, grateful to G-d for the gift of their lives.

<b>The Kaddish Prayer will be said for your following loved ones at our 4/30/10 Service</b>			
Name	Memorial	Jewish Yahrzeit Date	Remembered By:
Sonia B. Pressberg		Nissan 14: 03/29/10	Mark Schatz and family
Fannie Muller	4/5/1947	Nissan 15: 03/30/10	Rina Kenkel and family
Dorothy Hilb	4/6/1993	Nissan 15: 03/30/10	Mark Karp and family
Rebecca Karp	4/28/1955	Nissan 16: 03/31/10	Mark Karp and family
Fannie Cohen	4/6/1980	Nissan 20: 04/04/10	Jack Cohen and family
Sam Mitchell	4/12/1996	Nissan 23: 04/07/10	Ken Cohen and family
Yom HaShoah		Nissan 27: 04/11/10	Holocaust Remembrance
George Thomas	5/6/2005	Nissan 27: 04/11/10	Teri Steinberg
Don Moll	4/28/2009	Iyyar 4: 04/18/10	Beverly and A. J. Moll and families
Emanuel Tenenbaum	4/27/2004	Iyyar 7: 04/21/10	Toby Braverman and family
Louise Trommler	4/22/1975	Iyyar 11: 04/25/10	Rina Kenkel and family
Cheryl Ault	5/3/2004	Iyyar 12: 04/26/10	Wayne Ault and family
Alfred Newman	5/23/1978	Iyyar 16: 04/30/10	Stephen Newman
Dorothy Nussbaum	5/22/2000	Iyyar 17: 05/01/10	Gil Nussbaum
Ida Shear	5/27/1959	Iyyar 19: 05/03/10	Rina Kenkel and family
Samuel Shear	5/12/2026	Iyyar 28: 0512/10	Rina Kenkel and family
Yom Yerushalayim		Iyyar 28: 0512/10	Freedom of Jerusalem (1967)
Stanley Whitman	5/30/1995	Sivan 1: 05/14/10	Hat Taylorson family
Michael Gray	6/3/1954	Sivan 2: 05/15/10	Madi Brown and family
Earnest Azorsky	5/23/1985	Sivan 3: 05/16/10	Hat Taylorson family
Jack Hirsch	6/10/2003	Sivan 6: 05/19/10	Marcus Spiegel and family
<b>B'nai Torah invites you to honor your loved ones by sharing your memories during the 4/30 service</b>			

## TRIBUTES

Donations were made to B'nai Torah for the following tributes:

To: Fran, Mark, and Jeremy Karp. "In gratitude for the recovery of our son, Mark Karp, and in celebration of his 50th birthday." From Marjorie and Milton Karp.

Honor your loved ones and friends with a tribute. Simply send your messages to the address below with a donation made out to B'nai Torah. Please include the recipients mailing address.

Your message will be printed in this newsletter and sent to the individual/family. B'nai Torah will provide the recipient your name and address.

Tributes may be sent for remembrances, memorials, and for happy occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries, Jewish Holidays, or just to say, "thank you".

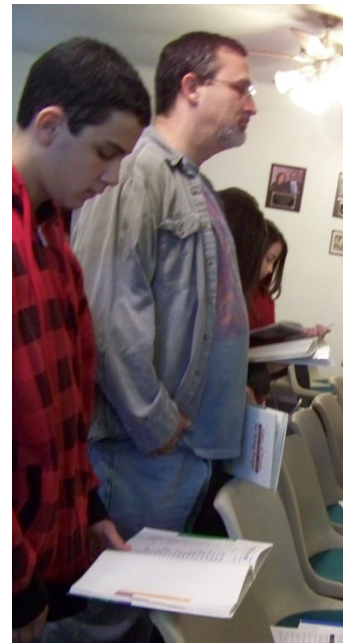
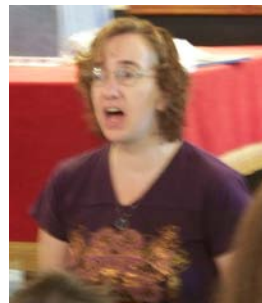
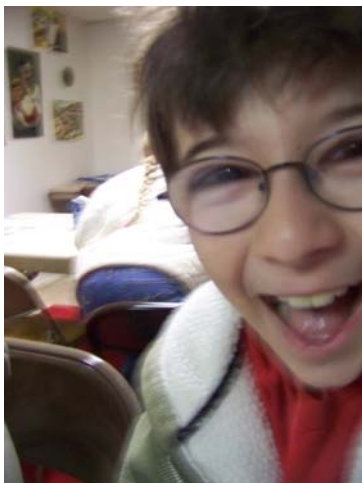
Laura Cohen  
202 Goldeneye Court  
St. Peters, MO 63376

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

Date	Activity
<b>April 3</b> <b>@ 10am</b>	<b>2nd Annual Shabbat St. Louis Service</b> Place: Congregation Kol Am, 1023 Chesterfield Parkway East, Chesterfield, MO 63017 This community-wide Shabbat service will be attended by members of B'nai El Congregation, Congregation B'nai Torah, Congregation Kol Am, Congregation Shaare Emeth, Shir Hadash Reconstructionist Community, Temple Emanuel, Temple Israel of Alton, IL, Congregation Temple Israel of St. Louis, and United Hebrew Congregation. A kosher-for-Passover reception will follow. For more information, visit the Shabbat St. Louis website: <a href="http://www.ShabbatStLouis.org">www.ShabbatStLouis.org</a>
<b>April 11</b> <b>@ 4pm</b>	<b>Holocaust Remembrance Event</b> Place: BSKI, 1107 E. Linden, Richmond Heights, MO 63117 This is a touching ceremony each member and friend of B'nai Torah should attend. There is a procession of the Holocaust Torahs that have found a home in our local synagogues. During previous years, Jewish and Hebrew music was played by members of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and talks were presented by Holocaust survivors. Next year, B'nai Torah will join the many synagogues bringing their Holocaust Torahs, and our Torah will join the procession.

# MORE EVENTS AT B'NAI TORAH

Date	Activity
<b>Sunday</b> <b>@ 7pm</b>	<b>Rabbinical teaching of <u>Ethics of our Fathers</u> and <u>Parsha Insights</u></b> Dates: March 21, April 25, May 23, June 20 (attend one or all) In addition to Torah and Talmud, the best-known and most quoted Jewish text is "Ethics of Our Fathers" written in 2nd century. Many rabbis recommend studying this text before one begins a study in Torah or Talmud. The ethical lessons taught by this text will be especially useful to parents and teachers. Rabbi Kamenetzky concludes by discussing how the weekly Torah portion gives us insight into our Jewish heritage, tradition, and religion. This is time well spent for your mind, soul, and family. Eager to see you there.
<b>April 18</b> <b>10am</b> <b>thru 2pm</b>	<b>Israeli Independence Day (Yom HaAtzma'ut)</b> Join the Sunday School in celebrating Israeli Independence Day. Armed with passports, students will visit stations within and without the facility. Come learn and share your experiences with furthering Israel's independence.



# 2010 B'NAI TORAH CALENDAR

We are eager to see you at each celebration. This calendar can be conveniently posted as reminder of forthcoming events.

Share your enthusiasm by **hosting an Oneg** for any remaining Friday night Shabbat celebrations. Call

## Next Shabbat celebration — April 30

Make a **mitzvah** during each celebration by bringing non-perishable food, paper products, or personal grooming items for the homeless and hungry.



now to schedule your opportunity, and either bring food and beverage or arrange for catering. Consider sharing the opportunity with another member. As always, B'nai Torah will provide Shabbos wine.

	Date	Day	Time	Event	Oneg Host
	8-JAN	Friday	7:30 PM	Shabbat Celebration	
	17-JAN	Sunday	10:00 PM	Annual Congregational Mtg	
	12-FEB	Friday	7:30 PM	Shabbat Celebration	Julie & Paul Dorn
Purim	27-FEB	Saturday	5:30 PM	Purim Spiel	
		Saturday	6:00 PM	Pot Luck	
	28-FEB	Sunday	10:00 AM	Purim Carnival at B'Nai El	
	12-MAR	Friday	7:30 PM	Shabbat Celebration	Laura & Jack Cohen
	26-MAR	Friday	7:30 PM	Shabbat Celebration	Cori & Dan Helman
	27-MAR	Saturday	10:00 PM	Josh Helman Bar Mitzvah	
	30-MAR	Tuesday	6:00 PM	Congregational Seder	
	30-APR	Friday	7:30 PM	Shabbat Celebration	Larry Whelan
	21-MAY	Friday	7:30 PM	Student Celebration	Robin & A.J. Moll
	11-JUN	Friday	7:30 PM	Shabbat Celebration	Shelby & Rolf Cooke
Rosh Hashanah	9-JUL	Friday	7:30 PM	Shabbat Celebration	Steve & Shelby Cohen & Robin
	13-AUG	Friday	7:30 PM	Shabbat Celebration	YOU
	4-SEP	Saturday	6:00 PM	Selichot Service	
	8-SEP	Wednesday	7:30 PM	Erev Rosh Hashanah	Myra & Lenny Baer
	9-SEP	Thursday	10:00 AM	Rosh Hashanah	
Yom Kippur	12-SEP	Sunday	9:00 AM	Children's Service	
	17-SEP	Friday	7:30 PM	Kol Nidre	
		Saturday	10:00 AM	Yom Kippur	
		Saturday	5:30 PM	Yizkor Service	
		Saturday	6:30 PM	Neila Service	
	Saturday	7:00 PM	Break-the-Fast		
	26-SEP	Sunday	9:00 AM	Sukkoth Celebration	
	8-OCT	Friday	7:30 PM	Simchat Torah Celebration	Carol & Mark Shatz
	12-NOV	Friday	7:30 PM	Veteran's Celebration	Rina & Paul Kenkel
	10-DEC	Friday	7:30 PM	Chanukah Celebration	Laura & Drew Vermeire

**B'NAI TORAH**

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Editor: Rolf Cooke

*Voted the BEST synagogue in Saint Charles.*

*B'nai Torah was founded in 1984 with seven families. Boasting 35+ families, it is now a hub for life-cycle events, holidays, and education for all ages. The facility is adorned with art, stain-glass windows, and a beautiful Aron Kodesh.*

**On the web @  
 BnaiTorahStChas.net**

HAILAY  
 RETTEHA  
 LUBC  
 PAERYR  
 YMO SOHAAHH  
 TABHBAS  
 VEESTN  
 BAORD  
 NIASNS  
 YARYI

Unscramble each of the clue words.  
 Take the letters that appear in boxes and unscramble them for the final message.

**Board Officers**

Jack Cohen	President
Paul Dorn	Vice Pres.
Lenny & Myra Baer	Treasurer
Rolf Cooke	Secretary / Editor

**Committee Chairs**

Shelby Cooke	Education Director
Lenny Baer	Telephone Committee
Dan Troxell	Open House Committee
Rick Raible & Shelby Cohen	Seder & Break-The-Fast

**Board Members**

Beverly Moll	Robin Moll
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The board meets monthly at 6:30pm on the first Wednesday of each month. Attendance by our members is greatly appreciated to ensure the community is well represented.

