

# B'NAI TORAH

## THE STAR

Monthly  
Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 2

February 2010 / 17 Shvat—14 Adar 5770

### COMMUNITY EVENT PREPARATION

Just before Christmas, I attended a display of over 400 crèches at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on Clayton Road. At this interfaith event, the church extended invitations to all members of the community. The environment was warm; the hors d'oeuvres delicious, and the background piano music was lovely.

For those not familiar with the word "crèche", it is a display of the birth of Jesus showing figurines of the baby, his parents, the three wise men, and usually some small animals. The display at the church had crèches made from every conceivable material, and they ranged from miniature, to one that depicted the entire city of Bethlehem. There also were crèches from many different countries.

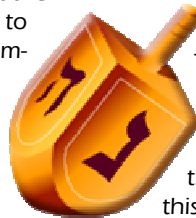


The reason for describing this is that during my visit it came to mind that our B'nai Torah members probably have many interesting Menorahs and Dreidles. All 400 crèches on display at the church were loaned to the church by its members and non-members.

Much progress has been made over the past twenty-five years toward establishing B'nai Torah as a respected member of the Jewish and non-Jewish communities. Inroads were made recently with our Holocaust Torah restoration project. It came to mind during the visit to the church that B'nai Torah could hold an annual event to display the Menorahs and Dreidles that belong to our members and friends.

We would invite the community, including visitors

from the non-Jewish community; and hopefully it will inspire new B'nai Torah members. Perhaps we could have some Chanukah songs by our students, and perhaps we could serve potato latkes?



The B'nai Torah board can decide on this; but it would help us make a decision if we knew that you would support this event, and how many Menorahs and Dreidles you would loan us for this display. So far, 10 of our members have offered artifacts and support for this event. Though encouraging, more support is needed. If you have not yet responded, and wish to participate or will support this event, please let me know.

- Jack

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(636) 397-0309

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#### Special points of interest:

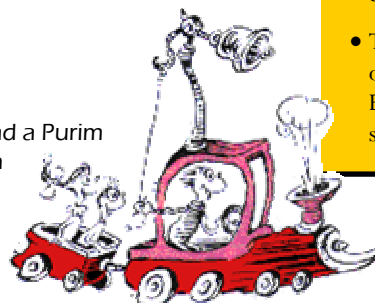
- Find The Star at its official home - B'Nai Torah's web site.
- More photos within.
- A refrigerator-worthy calendar.
- Tzedekah and Chesed opportunities await. Email the editor for specifics.

### DON'T BE A SILLY GOOSE!

Don't be a Silly Goose, This Year's Theme is Doctor Suess!!

On Saturday, February 27, come participate in Purim as the children lead a Purim Spiel (play) with the rhyme and rhythm of Doctor Sues. Join in the fun by showing off your silliest costume.

Beginning at 5:30pm ... Purim Spiel, Pot-Luck Dinner, Megillah Reading



# YOUTH EDUCATION

It is hard to believe, but the Sunday School is already into the second half of its school year!

I am really pleased with the progress we made at B'nai Torah this year. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our all-volunteer staff of teachers and tutors, we exceeded my original goals for this mid-point in the school year.



We recombined all grade levels for the Sunday morning "Components of a Service." The students learned Modeh Ani, Ma Tovu, the Barchu, the first half of the Sh'ma, Aleinu, and Yihyu. The students learned why we do certain prayers and how to do any choreography for the prayers. We also learned



what each of the prayers mean in English, enabling the students to understand what they are praying.

The Sunday School is now working on our first Purim Spiel (Purim Play), "Do Not Be a Silly Goose." This Year's theme is "Doctor Seuss." We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Among the student body, five children

were recognized for meeting or exceeding 90% attendance. The teaching staff truly appreciates parents schlepping the kids to Sunday School regularly. This ensures the subject matter is taught with continuity.



- Shelby Cooke

## PARSHOT: 15 TEVET — 16 SHVAT 5770 (FEBRUARY 2010)

Dates	Parsha	Torah	Haftarah
<b>31 JAN — 06 FEB</b>	Yitro	Exodus 18:1—20:23	Isaiah 6:1—7:6; 9:5—9:6
<b>07 FEB — 13 FEB</b> Shabbat Shekalim	Mishpatim Special Maftir	Exodus 21:1 — 24:18 Exodus 30:11 — 16	Jeremiah 34:8 — 34:22; 33:25 — 33:26 II Kings 12:1 — 12:17
<b>14 FEB — 20 FEB</b>	Terumah	Exodus 25:1 — 27:19	I Kings 5:26 — 6:13
<b>21 FEB — 27 FEB</b> Shabbat Zachor	Tetzaveh Special Maftir	Exodus 27:20 — 30:10 Deut. 25:17 — 25:19	Ezekiel 43:10 — 43:27 I Samuel 15:2 — 15:34
<b>28 FEB — 06 MAR</b> Shabbat Parah	KiTisa Special Maftir	Exodus 30:11 — 34:35 Num. 19:1 — 19:22	I Kings 18:1 — 18:39 Ezekiel 36:16 — 36:38



## ETHICS OF OUR FATHERS

In addition to the Torah and Talmud, the best-known and most quoted Jewish Text is "Ethics of Our Fathers" written in the 2nd century. Many rabbis recommend studying this text before one begins a study program of the Torah or Talmud. The ethics lessons taught by this text will be especially useful to parents and teachers.

Rabbi Yehuda Kamenetzky from the St. Louis Kollel will present a class on "Ethics of Our Fathers" at B'nai Torah at 7PM on Sunday 1/31, 2/21, 3/21, 4/25, 5/23, and 6/20.

It is okay if you cannot attend each class.

In addition to a one-hour discussion about "Ethics of Our Fathers", Rabbi Kamenetzky will discuss how the weekly Torah portion gives us an insight to our Jewish heritage, traditions, and religion.



Please schedule this 1 and 1/2 hours once a month. It will be time well spent that will be good for your mind, your soul, and your family life. I hope to see many of our members at the 1/31 class.

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

HELLO GORGEOUS!!

I believe that Barbra Streisand said "Hello Gorgeous" to Omar Sharif when she first saw him in Funny Girl. And, she said it again to the Oscar statuette when she received it for Best Actress.

I would like to say "HELLO GORGEOUS" to our following B'nai Torah members and friends:

Those who join us for our Shabbos Celebrations

Those who host Oneg Shabbats

Those who bring food for the hungry and homeless

Those who teach and tutor our students and our adults

Those who borrow books from our Judaica Library

Those who attend our adult education classes

Those who pay their dues on time

Those who provide financial support

Those who attend our Religion and Hebrew classes

Those who respond to our calls for help when we beautify or clean

Those who volunteer to provide management and attend Board meetings

Those who maintain our books and inform us of our financial condition

*Hello Gorgeous!*

Those who dance on the Bima during Shabbos

Those who prepare and distribute our monthly newsletter

Those who mow and water our lawns

Those who pull weeds

Those who stop and pick up debris from our driveway

Those who travel long distances to get to B'nai Torah

Those who help clean-up after events

Those who volunteer to direct traffic in our parking lot

Those who participate in group activities such as the Sukkoth Hop

Those who maintain our website

Those who plow and shovel when we need to remove snow

Those who carry a bag of garbage home

Those who present "sermons" and "talks" to our congregation

Those who donate books and artifacts

Those who do things to help our synagogue of which I am unaware

To all of you I say, HELLO GORGEOUS!!

— Jack Cohen,  
President

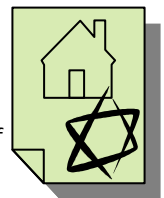


## NEW HOME FOR THE STAR

Your monthly newsletter now has a new web home — a proper home: [BnaiTorahStChas.net](http://BnaiTorahStChas.net)

Simply select the "News" tab, and you can view this and former issues.

You may ask, "Hasn't it always been there?" Answer: No. Previous volumes were not archived, and the first issue of this volume was posted on the web in a temporary location.



## TZEDEKAH OPPORTUNITIES

*Charity, Giving Justice; Treating your neighbor as you would like to be treated.*

Use "Good Search" ([www.goodsearch.com/?charityid=893529](http://www.goodsearch.com/?charityid=893529)) as your web search engine. For every search, a penny is donated to Bnai Torah.

Use your "E-Scrip" card at Schnucks, and the grocer will donate a portion of your purchase to your synagogue.

Bring in non-perishable foods and toiletries. Regular deliveries are made to a food pantry.

Provide someone a ride to Bnai Torah. If Wentzville is on or near your path, perhaps you can pick up someone. You may even gain a friend. To get specifics, please contact the editor ([TheStarEditor@charter.net](mailto:TheStarEditor@charter.net)).



## GETTIN' SOCIAL

Interest has been expressed in getting together for new events. Ideas presented thus far include:

- Book Club
- Havdalah
- Schmooze
- Pot Luck
- Movies
- Mah Jong
- Israeli Dancing



If you too are interested, have ideas, or would like to facilitate an event, please contact the Editor or Board Member.

# A SPECIAL THANK YOU

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

Thank you, Betty and Harvey Levy, for your donation and especially for the nice note you included. Harvey, you are on our MiSheBerach List, and we pray that Hashem continues to perform His miracles.

Thank you, **Dan Bain**, for your donation of a large number of books to our Judaica Library. Our members and friends are using our library more than ever, and the addition of your books will provide them with a greater selection. Note: we recently added a VHS of Simon Wiesenthal's, "The Murderer's Among Us." Ben Kingseley portrays Wiesenthal, and I highly recommend this video.

Thank you, Wayne Ault, for plowing our parking lot before Services on January 8th. B'nai Torah wouldn't be here if not for you.

Thank you, A. J. Moll, for your support of B'nai Torah while you were a Board Member. You have helped shape the future of B'nai Torah into a religious organization that will benefit the Jews of St. Charles today, and in the future. Your creativity gave us a highly innovative and informative monthly newsletter. Your willingness to prepare delicious meals for the entire con-



gregation on numerous occasions was an act of loving kindness that we will always appreciate.

Thank you, Lenny and Myra Baer, for your generous donation of original art done by Jerry Baer. We have transformed one of our classrooms into the Jerry Baer Art Gallery. This display of art depicting Jewish life in Europe prior to the Nazis will be a major attraction during Open House events, and it will attract new members to B'nai Torah.



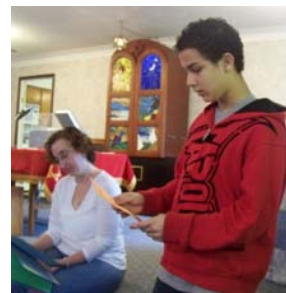
## STUDIOUS



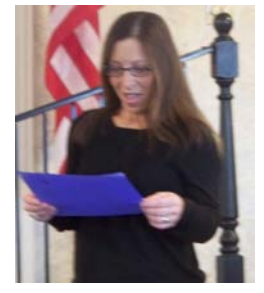
Joseph, Michelle, Gabi, Josh in Hebrew as Director checks in.



Lily, Sophie, Nathan, Joseph awarded for 90% Sunday School attendance.



Josh shares his prayers.



Jenni shares too.



1st Purim Spiel Reading



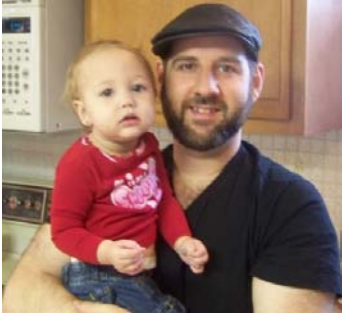
Sunday Morning Service



Siri & Rachyl laugh it up.



Rebecca & Dylan



AJ & Alia relax after hard



Nathan & Dylan handling the important stuff.



Jack & Joseph working together



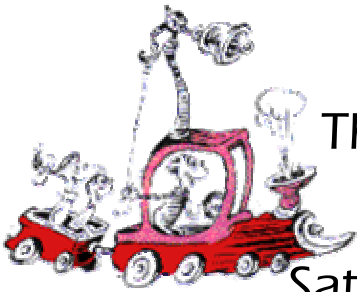
Congregational Breakfast



Adult Education



This is where the real business gets done.



Don't Be a Silly Goose,  
This Year's Theme is Doctor Seuss!!

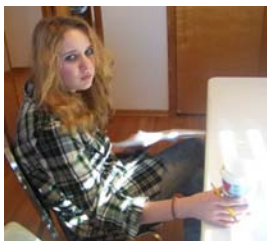


Sat, Feb 27 @ B'nai Torah Synagogue



Festivities start at 5:30pm

Purim Spiel, Pot-Luck Dinner & Megillah Madness



Katlyne gives 'the look'.



Anya & Jacob



Kaelen inspired.



Naomi & Alia



Dad & Jeremy jive.

## TRIBUTES

To: **Lori Kenkel**, "Our thoughts and prayers are with you for a quick recovery. Love from Aunt Rina, & Paul Kenkel and Grandma Do."

To: Greg and Megan Kenkel, **Jordan**, our thoughts and prayers are with you for a quick recovery. Love from your grandma and grandpa, Rina and Paul Kenkel and your great grandma, Do Kenkel."

To: **Larry Comensky**, "Our best wishes for a full recovery". Carol and Harvey Derfeld.

B'nai Torah expressed wishes for a complete and speedy recovery to **Myra Baer** after her recent surgery.

B'nai Torah expressed wishes for a complete and speedy recovery to **Bev Moll** after her recent surgery.

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

## 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.

Name	Memorial	Yahrtzeit	Remembered By	
<b>Esther Drogin</b>	1/27/1984	Shevat 23	02/07/10	Faye Drogin, Sonia Heller and family
<b>Gerda Spiegel</b>		Shevat 23	02/07/10	Marcus Spiegel and family
<b>Piri Hacker</b>	1/28/2003	Shevat 25	02/09/10	Erika Goldberg and family
<b>Bertha Kenkel</b>	2/19/1963	Shevat 25	02/09/10	Paul Kenkel and family
<b>Jeanette Schupbach</b>	2/25/2009	Adar 1	02/15/10	Sara Goldberg and family
<b>Melvin Hilb</b>	3/19/1986	Adar 8	02/22/10	Mark Karp and family
<b>Frances Silverman</b>	2/27/2002	Adar 15	03/01/10	Dotti Elgart and family
<b>Joseph Kenkel</b>	2/24/1970	Adar 18	03/04/10	Paul Kenkel and family

## TORAH RESTORATION

When the remainder of those who have been filling their Tzedakah boxes bring them to B'nai Torah, we will have 100% participation by our members for our Holocaust Torah Restoration.

I know that every member felt the same joy in giving as expressed by the ear-to-ear smiles I witnessed on the children as they emptied their Tzedakah boxes into our collection bottle. Therefore, I love you all, and thank you.

The Torah was shipped to the Scribe on January 25, 2010.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Have you got something to say? Is there something important you want the congregation to know? Write or e-mail your "letter to the editor" in under 200 words to have your voice heard. Examples:

- In what unique way do you celebrate Shabbos and annual holidays?
- Do you have a funny or serious story to tell?
- What fond memories do you have from your life experience?

# 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

Note: Dates recently adjusted.

- Purim Celebration at B'nai Torah: moved to February 27
- Chanukah Celebration: moved to December 10

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	
	31-MAR	Wednesday	6:00 PM	Congregational Seder	
	30-APR	Friday	7:30 PM	Shabbat Celebration	Larry Whelan
	21-MAY	Friday	7:30 PM	Student Celebration	???
	11-JUN	Friday	7:30 PM	Shabbat Celebration	Shelby & Rolf Cooke
	9-JUL	Friday	7:30 PM	Shabbat Celebration	Steve & Shelby Cohen & Robin
	13-AUG	Friday	7:30 PM	Shabbat Celebration	???
	Rosh Hashanah	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	
12-SEP		Sunday	9:00 AM	Children's Service	
17-SEP		Friday	7:30 PM	Kol Nidre	
Yom Kippur		Saturday	10:00 AM	Yom Kippur	
	18-SEP	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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Phone: 636-542-8539  
 E-mail: TheStarEditor@charter.net

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**

**FUN PAGE**

Within this newsletter, can you find: VHS

How many places do you find a plate of hamantaschen like this one?



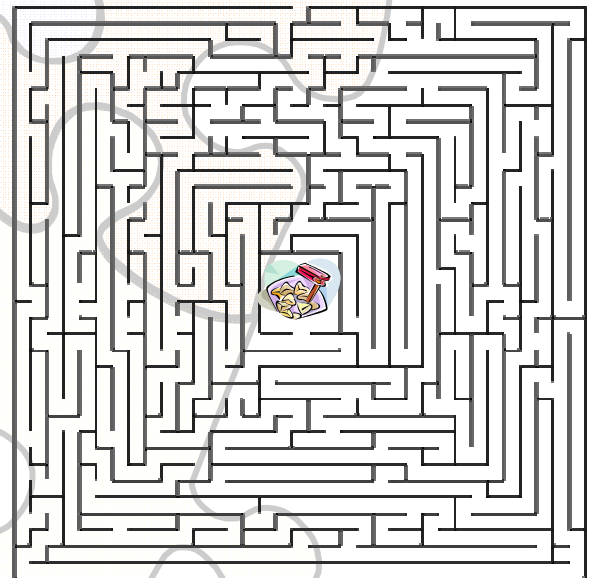
Answer the question first, and your name will appear in next issue as the winner.

Please enjoy the entertainment section. If you have suggestions for this section, please inform the editor.

Find the Hamantaschen cookies.

N	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	T	Y	X	H	A	N	N
L	O	Y	S	L	S	W	C	M	D	C	T	W	O	D
K	A	I	A	Y	F	P	E	J	A	I	T	T	I	S
C	I	F	T	H	N	G	P	R	D	G	B	C	T	M
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- CHESED
- COMMUNITY
- CONGREGATION
- DREIDEL
- LATKES
- MEGILLAH
- MISHEBERACH
- MITZVAH
- PURIM
- RESTORATION
- SHABBAT
- SYNAGOGUE
- TALMUD
- TORAH
- TZADDIK



**YOUR ELECTED BOARD**



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