



CONGREGATION B'NAI TORAH

Nov - Dec 2017

2017-2018 Board of Trustees

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A message from the President ... an introduction

Between July 2014 and July 2017 Congregation B'nai Torah was led by its Board of Trustees. The Board has managed the operations side of CBT ensuring decisions were being made in the congregation's best interest and that we continued to keep the doors open. This small group of volunteers is a hidden gem for CBT, ensuring the rent and bills are paid, the calendar was kept full of events, the religious school ran properly and so much more. If you haven't attended a Board meeting, I highly encourage you to do so and see what gets done behind the scenes.

In May, I was elected as the interim-President for CBT and I thought it would be nice to introduce myself and give you some background about me. For a staunch introvert, this is no small task but here goes ...

My Jewish identity begins back in New York where I grew up and attended a medium-sized, Reform congregation. Like most kids after my bar mitzvah, I saw my Jewish obligations fulfilled and only went to services when coerced. Despite my sparkling personality, my parents preferred to send me away to sleepaway camp rather than have me entertain them for the summer break. For the next 4 years I spent 8 weeks each year at a Reform Jewish camp in western Massachusetts where I gained a better understanding and appreciation for my Jewish heritage. In addition to developing a love for the Jewish sleepaway camp experience, I met the woman who would eventually become my better half.

Ilene and I joined Congregation B'nai Torah in 2004. For the first 8 years we were quiet members who rarely took advantage of B'nai Torah's wonderful community. Like many of you we joined to provide our 6 year-old son, Chance, a sense of his Jewish heritage and start him on a path towards his bar mitzvah. In April 2012, I was invited to attend a Board meeting; something I had never been exposed to beforehand. Joining the Board, let alone becoming President, was the furthest thing from my mind but that night I realized how small a group really kept the congregation going. I joined the Board in July 2012 and started gathering and compiling documentation to help me better understand the hidden side of the congregation. Shortly after, I began managing the CBT website (learning as I went) and have continued to serve on the Board.

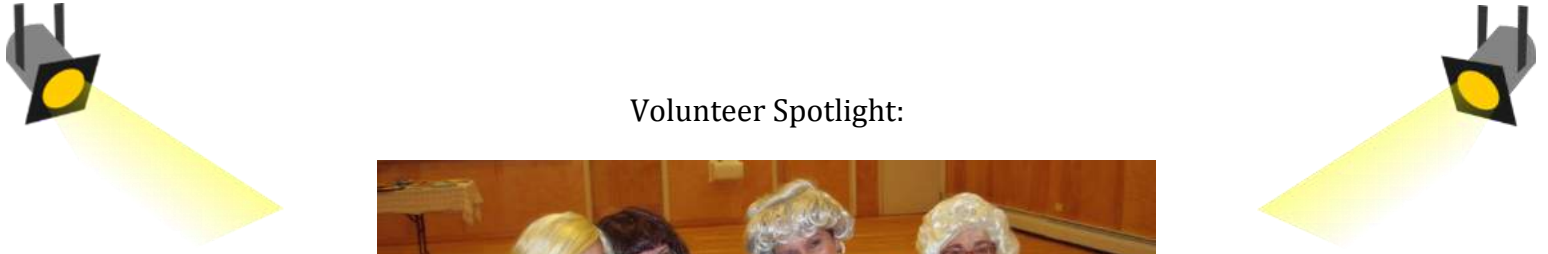
During my days, I support a branch of the Department of Energy doing records and information management. In short, I play with paper and electronic data all day. I have never met a spreadsheet I didn't like. I'm a Certified Records Manager (CRM) and Information Governance Professional (IGP). If you know what that means, please let me know. To continue to challenge myself, in January I'll be pursuing a master's degree in the same field.

In my spare time, ... oh who am I kidding? I work full time, have a family, serve as the webmaster and President of my congregation and I'm going back to school. I have no spare time! But I do find time to exercise occasionally and recently found a love for yoga. My inner yogi beckons and I'm sure that inner peace is right around the corner.

During my presidency, I have several ideas and goals for CBT including reviewing and updating the bylaws, and improving our library. Yes, we have a library. If you have ideas, I'm always happy to hear them. If you have complaints, I'm happy to hear those too. If you have complaints and want to get involved in addressing the issues, I'm REALLY happy to hear from you. We're always eager to have our members become actively engaged in our congregation.

So there it is. Thank you for your confidence in me, and for allowing me to serve as your President. I promise to do everything I can to continue to grow our congregation, while preserving the sense of community that makes CBT what it is today.

Sincerely,
Scott Raynes



Volunteer Spotlight:



The Golden Girls: (l to r) Jill Emeson, Jessie Chambers, Arlene Chambers, Paula Emeson

She's an institution at CBT and knows every aspect of the congregation. She's strong-willed and opinionated, and isn't afraid to tell me when I'm missing something important. When she's at services, which is almost always, you can't miss her, and yet, she only stands at about 4' 10". But this golden girl is not your typical "little old lady." Paula Emeson is a fire plug and has the congregation's best interests in mind at all times. We're truly blessed to have her.

Paula was a pioneer with CBT, not only organizing places to meet early on, but was also involved in crafting the congregation's bylaws. She's a former president, a former Oneg Coordinator, and a former Board member. Until recently, she was also a one-woman fundraising committee and currently serves as our publicity chair person. In addition to her time, Paula also generously donates advertising costs, making sure people can find us during our key events including the High Holy Days.

Having recently retired from Denver Developmental Resource Center where she worked 30 years with individuals with intellectual disabilities, she fills her time with her three grandchildren, traveling and volunteering at the Arvada Center. She also stays involved at her old place of work (DDRC) where she serves on a committee, and still finds time to go on a cruise through the Mediterranean.

Did you know that one of her daughters was the first bat mitzvah at CBT, and the other served as a religious school teacher? It's true. And yet, despite her high level of involvement and investment in the community, she's humble and prefers to avoid the spotlight. Well Paula, too bad! We're happy to acknowledge all of your contributions and thank you sincerely.

"I met Paula in 2000 when my son David and I joined CBT. Our relationship really took off when we were both part of the adult b'nai mitzvah class. There were 9 women in the class. It was a very memorable time. At first, I found Paula to be bossy and difficult to get along with. I didn't understand her. Over time, I came to understand Paula very well. We developed a wonderful bond. Paula cares deeply for CBT and all the members. I will never forget the first service I attended after my father died. When we got to the Mourner's Kaddish, I teared up. Paula was at my side in a heartbeat. She put her arm around my waist and stood with me through the entire prayer. I love you Paula." - Diane Firestone





If you weren't able to attend High Holy Days services this year, here's what you missed.

- **Volunteer of the Year:** It's always important to acknowledge our volunteers and the HHD are a special opportunity to do it on a grander stage. While there are so many deserving members, Diane Firestone, our cantorial soloist, was selected as this year's volunteer of the year. In recent years, Diane was the one selecting the VoY, so it was especially nice to honor her. Diane was all too quick to offer suggestions, which I acknowledged enthusiastically, but in a noncommittal way.

The Rabbi went above and beyond, coordinating a photo shoot of her granddaughters and we were able to catch her off guard. With her family on hand to help in the presentation, she was handed a framed set of professional photos of Talia and Haedan. While some of Diane's duties are compensated, she goes so far above and beyond our expectations that not recognizing her would've been an oversight. Thank you, Diane for all your hard work and contributions. We love you.

- Once again, we had officers from the Westminster Police present at the four major services. While there have been no specific threats to CBT, we take our responsibilities for keeping our members and guests safe very seriously. In today's world you can never be too careful and we thank the Westminster Police department for their presence and vigilance.
- Honored Committees — As previously stated, the High Holy Days are a great time to acknowledge the contributions of our members. This year we recognized several groups including:

- *Ritual Committee*

- Chairperson: Neil Gallensky
- Rabbi Moskowitz
- Diane Firestone
- Alison Gallensky
- Stef Schroeder
- Paula Emeson
- Joann Freedman

- *Oneg Hosts*

- Oneg Coordinator: Deborah Doleshal
- Joann Freedman
- Paula Emeson
- Erin Barclay
- Jo Shander
- Fran Kaufman

- *Fundraising Committee*

- Chairperson: Paula Emeson
- Emily Brandsdorfer
- Jill Kingen
- Cat Palmer

- Annual Honey Cake contest: Congratulations to Joann Freedman for winning this year's honey cake contest.
- For me, the highlight of the HHD was Jon Fisher playing 'Over the Rainbow' on his ukulele. This year, it was a special treat, as the Rabbi, Diane Firestone and Mike Metlay sat on the bimah steps while Jon played. It made me think of little kids sitting at his feet and yes, I got a little teary. If you haven't heard it, here's a link to his YouTube video. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ilrmVrF6_28
- Finally, a quick note to express my sincere appreciation for everyone who helped make the High Holy Days so successful. These events take a tremendous amount of effort and are typically a thankless job. If I try to name each individual involved, I'll no doubt forget someone, so I will only name a few.

- Rabbi - Thank you so much for leading services and your thought-provoking sermons
- Diane - Thank you for your tireless effort to pull everything together and your beautiful voice
- Jon Fisher - Thank you for lending us your magical voice
- Erin - Thank you for always ensuring that we have such wonderful honey cake contests and break fasts
- Paula Farkas - Remembrance Books



- Mike Metlay - Gabbai
- Suzanne Metlay - HHD Volunteers coordinator
- Paula Emeson - Publicity
- Alison Gallensky - Programs

I could list dozens of others and run the risk of missing one or two, but want to acknowledge all of those involved in putting together the remembrance books, coordinating volunteers, reading Torah and prayers, setting up, cleaning up, bringing food, washing dishes, lighting candles, bimah sitting, troubleshooting, moving tables, making our guests feel welcome, etc. You know who you are, and please know that I do as well. You're all very much appreciated.

L'shana Tovah, and may you all be inscribed in the book of life for another year.



2017-18 Religious School Curriculum

September: Tishrei: Be a Mensch: Modern Day Super-Heroes - firefighters, police, first responders, rescue teams, everyday heroes, neighbours, etc.

- Jewish Texts: Mussar, Torah
- Action Item: create packages to deliver to Fire-station (mini-fieldtrip walk)
- Friday Night services: invite Police, Fire-fighter, and First Responder to services to share, present them with a gift from the students (Thank you cards etc.)

October-November: Cheshvan-Kislev-Tevet: Squash-a-thon Sukkot, harvest, gift of the Earth, feeding the homeless, temporary shelters vs permanent.

- Jewish Texts: Torah, Mussar, Rabbinic Texts, MaTovu
- Action Item: Food collection and delivery to Jewish Family Service and Fish Bank at Church, Harvesting of Squash and baking/cooking, Hazon Organization
- **I Have a Dream Foundation, Adopt-a-Family Program**
- Sukkot event Sunday and Friday night services collection of food items etc.

December-January: Tevet-Sh'vat: Our connection and responsibility to the Earth

- Jewish Texts: Torah, Various rabbinic texts
- Action Items:
 - **Greenwood Wildlife Sanctuary**
 - **Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado**
 - **Boulder County Farmer's Market**
 - **JNF**
- Friday Night services: Education piece, presentation

February-March: Adar-Nissan: Religious freedom, interfaith, Purim and Passover, God hidden in the text and in our actions, refugees in Colorado, Anti-Defamation League (ADL)

- Jewish Texts: Book of Esther, Torah, Haggadah
- Action Items: Collection of items for a Refugee family in Colorado (connecting with church to do this), Collection and delivery of Passover Food for need Jewish family in Colorado, Guest speaker from ADL about protecting various religious groups and safety in the community, antisemitism, etc.
- Friday night services Purim and Community Seder: collection of items, teaching and presenting of projects, inviting non-Jewish guests to learn about us while we learn about them

April-May: Iyar: Israel (70 years), American Jews or Jewish Americans, Israeli historical figures (Ben Gurion, Golda Meir, etc.), history and modernity, Jerusalem - facing East and prayers in the wall, modern Israeli discoveries (learn what was invented in Israel), Arava Institute in the Negev

- Action Items: Pick a charity in Israel as a class to donate to, Plan a Yom-Ha'atzmaut celebration for our synagogue with Israeli food, dancing, etc.



Ways to get involved and support CBT:

- Host an Oneg — Hosting an Oneg is an easy way to get involved in the community. Signing up to bring food after services allows you to engage with members at a deeper level and support the congregation in a fun way. To learn more, [contact Deborah Doleshal](#), our Oneg Coordinator.
- Attend Board meetings — We encourage members to attend a board meeting once a year. Come and spend 2 hours with us one Sunday and gain an understanding of how the Board serves the congregation, and the decisions we make on its behalf. Meetings are usually held on the 4th Sunday of each month.
- Volunteering — There are numerous opportunities to get connected with the CBT community:
 - Help with a fundraiser like our Purim baskets
 - Man our booth at the Boulder Jewish Festival
 - Participate in the Purim Shpiel
 - Coordinate an event like the 'Lunch and Learns' or community dinners

Interested in helping to make our congregation stronger? Have other ideas on ways to volunteer? Contact a board member or email us at bnaitorahpres@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you.



Did you know Amazon.com will donate a portion of your purchases to the non-profit organization of your choice? They will if you go to www.smile.amazon.com when you shop. In short, CBT can benefit from the purchases you're already making. Please consider signing up for the program, and selecting 'Congregation Bnai Torah' as your designated organization. For additional details and Frequently Asked Questions, please visit the Amazon Smile Program [FAQ](#) page.



Have you signed up for Vanco yet? Vanco allows members to pay their dues and make donations electronically. Setting up electronic payments is easy, and helps ensure that CBT maintains a consistent financial state.

Electronic transfers or credit card payments can be set up at regular intervals including monthly, quarterly and annually using the Vanco link on our website at the top of the page.



The King Soopers card program is an easy way to help CBT without financial commitment. Pre-load money that you normally spend on groceries onto the gift card. Then simply pay with the gift card when you go shopping. You can even load the card right at the register before they start ringing up your groceries. CBT gets a percentage of purchases paid with those cards.

If you're interested in obtaining a card, please contact [Paula Emeson](#) or click [here](#) for more information.

Happy Sukkot!

Congratulations to the Corn/Penka family for winning the Squash-a-thon with their giant pumpkin, and a huge thank you to the Colorado Hebrew Chorale for leading our sing-along.





CONGREGATION B'NAI TORAH

Join the CBT Mah Jongg Club
on the first Sunday of each month,
12:30pm - 2:30pm in the upstairs
library.

From the National Mah Jongg League ... quoted from their website

<https://www.nationalmahjonggleague.org/>

"When this ancient game was introduced in the USA in 1920, the best of both games was incorporated into this occidental version. Received enthusiastically by the American public, this game was also embraced by game players throughout Europe. Many felt the game would be improved and simplified by adding new combinations of tiles and eliminating some of the old combinations. It wasn't long before every group had its own combinations, leading to a fair amount of confusion in the game-playing community.

In 1937, a number of Mah Jongg enthusiasts met in New York City to standardize the game so that all players would play the same hands and rules - it was at this meeting that the National Mah Jongg League was founded. Each year the League changes the hands and rules to add more excitement to the game.

For more than 75 years, the NMJL has been the arbitrator for everything that relates to American Maj. The League started with 32 members and today numbers over 350,000.

- *The League: Publishes the American version of the rules.*
- *Supplies the Official Standard Hands and Rules Cards each year.*
- *Sells merchandise for playing the game and replacing missing playing pieces.*
- *Answers questions and arbitrates disputes about individual games.*
- *Makes numerous donations to charitable organizations."*



Welcome Mah Jongg Lovers...

New & Seasoned

By The Mah Jongg Mother

Sharyn Raynes

Whether you are a seasoned player or totally new to the game, or anywhere in between, I hope you enjoy some interesting and additional information on the age-old game of Mah Jongg.

I began my interest in Mah Jongg by watching my mother, Nettie Ashkenase, play the game with her neighbors and friends in the Bronx back in the 1950s. When I moved to Rockland County NY, I found a game for newcomers and fell in love with Mah Jongg. Every Tuesday night in the 1970s we played at each other's homes.

When I moved away, I lost touch with the game and couldn't find another group to join UNTIL we retired to Green Valley AZ.

YAY!

I FOUND OTHER MAH JONGG NUTS.

Over the years of relearning the game, I've picked up on some interesting techniques, strategies and rules.

My greatest joy was being able to share the love of the game with my son, Scott, and his family.

I hope you enjoy Mah Jongg and carry on the tradition.



○ Birthdays

Fran Kaufman	11/2	Hendrick Israel	11/20	Lexie Metlay	12/20
Ethan Hendricks	11/7	Neil Gallensky	11/26	Katie Fear	12/21
Jeremy Jacobi	11/10	Ben Jessen	11/29	Lynette Lobmeyer	12/26
Grace Kingen	11/11	Susan Scruggs	11/29	Evan Siegal	12/26
Ray Farkas	11/14	Chantal Rotondo	11/30	Nikki Goodman	12/28
West Palmer-Gould	11/14	Alison Gallensky	12/6	Stefanie Schroeder	12/30
Ari Thorne	11/14	Zachary Rotondo	12/10	Desmond (Desi) Israel	12/31
Carol Zeles	11/16	David Osborn	12/19		
John Habegger	11/20	Linus Penka	12/20		

○ Anniversaries

Jillian & Sean Thorne	11/1
Stella & Josh Fowler	11/11
Dee-Ann & Jerry Failing	11/24
Paula & Bruce Emeson	12/2
Dorothy & Howard Handler	12/27

○ Yahrzeits

○ Joe Shander	11/3	Shander
○ Annette Farkas	11/14	Farkas
○ Dorothy Florence Moss	11/19	Moss
○ Selma Firestone	11/21	Firestone
○ Eudice Gittleson Rose	11/23	Rose
○ Yetta Daskal	12/1	Handler, Dorothy & Howard
○ Jerry Failing Jr	12/17	Failing
○ Vincent Spalding	12/18	Parrone
○ Rose Lee Day	12/24	Schroeder
○ Gertrude Roselyn	12/24	Roselyn
○ William Corn	12/24	Corn
○ Walter Sichel	12/25	Pilecki
○ Amy Williams	12/25	Parrone
○ Doris Marin	12/28	Zeles
○ Roger Harrington	12/31	Failing

In Honor Of

Save the Dates:

December 3th - Lunch & Learn

December 10th - Latke-making

December 15th - Hannukah service

May 5th, 2018 - [Sababa](#) concert

Visit us online at [www. bnai-torah-colorado.org](http://www.bnai-torah-colorado.org)

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