

L'Shanah Tovah HIGH HOLY DAYS at Beit Kulanu 5787 | 2026



L'Shanah Tovah!

I know it is just August and the dog days of summer are upon us, but soon Rosh HaShanah will be here, and we will welcome a new year. So much has changed for us over the past year. Some of the changes have been welcome, others not as much. Internationally, nationally, locally, and in our own community so much greets us anew this High Holy Days.

On an international level, many of us continue to wrestle with the role of America in the world. Many of us wrestle with the ongoing hostilities in Israel and the Middle East. What once seemed clear now seems muddled for so many of us.

The American ideal of being a “light in the darkness,” a place filled with welcoming shores for those seeking a better life as our ancestors did seems out of reach for so many now. Our commitment to immigrants in need, so essential to our identity as Jews, requires new actions, new willingness to step up and speak out.

Israel, for millennia the dream of the Jewish people, today feels mired in darkness for so many. The policies of a particular government, as in America, must not cloud our commitment and embrace of the ideal, the dream we have held for so long. Elections promise change—our call to engage and pursue new paths cries out louder than ever.

And here at home, we welcome the New Year as a united Beit Kulanu for the very first time.

High Holy Days • 2

We have begun an exciting and extraordinary new endeavor together, and the coming months will provide opportunities to learn and grow individually and collectively.

Each year as we gather for Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur services, we face choices as we look back and ahead. We can choose to see the mistakes, the things we wish we could do over. Or we can look at what we accomplished and build on that foundation. And when we look ahead, we can do so with fear or sadness for what was or with optimism for what can yet be.

Some years, world events push us in one direction or the other. This year, world

events and our own communal rebirth offer a rare and golden opportunity to find balance in all of the reflecting. Over the coming weeks I hope you will join me in celebrating all that we have been and all we have achieved. And I hope too that you will use these Holy Days to dream about what we can yet create. Our world has enough brokenness to darken our days. But our Jewish heritage overflows with optimism and hope about the promised land we are still creating.

Melissa, Zach, Jacob, and Lizzie join me in wishing you a sweet and healthy new year. We can't wait to dream and build with all of you!



GET TO KNOW Rabbi Erika Purdy-Patrick

What is your hometown?

Hurst, Texas, a suburb of Dallas-Fort Worth

Where's your favorite place in the world?

Copenhagen. My husband and I went there on our honeymoon.

If you could visit anywhere in the world you've never been, where would you go?

Antarctica

What is your favorite music?

I like to listen to everything but lately my favorites are Indie Rock and Electronic.

What was the best concert you ever attended?

My husband and I met at a concert for a small band called Real Estate. A standout concert that was unexpectedly brilliant was Muppets Take Hollywood Bowl.

Do you like to read?

I love to read. My goal this year is to read 100 books. I prefer romance, thriller, and non-fiction.

What is your favorite movie?

"There Will Be Blood" and "Pee Wee's Big Adventure"

Who would you most like to swap places with for a day?

My dog to see what it is like to sleep all day and not have a care in the world.

If you were a crayon, what color would you be?

I grew up in a time in which there were a lot of great colors. I would be dandelion, which is a yellow orange.

What is your favorite pizza topping?

Onions, bell peppers, extra cheese

What is your favorite snack?

Salt and vinegar chips

Do you now or have you ever played sports?

I played softball, volleyball, and ice hockey, and was a figure skater for several years.

Do you play a musical instrument?

I used to play the French horn and my original college major was musical performance. Now I play the shofar.

What are your hobbies?

Gardening, weaving and fiber arts, and watching hockey, baseball, and Formula 1 racing.

What do you wish you knew more about?

Math

What is your favorite holiday?

Simchat Torah. I love that we celebrate finishing reading the Torah and start reading it all over again, knowing that while the Torah hasn't changed, we have changed in the last year, and there's always something new to learn in its words.



Awaiting Sh'ma Koleinu

We all have one—a favorite and perhaps essential musical setting of a prayer that we await during the High Holy Day services.

And, also for many of us, the experience of these holiest moments of the Jewish calendar year would be incomplete without it.

For some it may be “Kol Nidrei,” others “Avinu Malkeinu,” and for me, it is “Sh'ma Koleinu.”

It is the famous dramatic setting by composer Max Helfman that for me is always a standalone moment of the High Holy Days. I sing this every year during the Yom Kippur evening service and in that moment, I think I feel connected to every single Yom Kippur service of which I have been the cantor in years prior. This is perhaps because, like “Kol Nidrei,” I only sing this setting once during the High Holy Days. This prayer grabs me every time I sing it with the simple help of its soaring and intense music written by its genius composer. It is not hard to get carried away by the connection of its deeply prayerful words to their noteful musical equal.

“Sh'ma Koleinu” is a prayer that is actually in the collection of prayers of the weekday “Amidah”—appearing three times a day: morning, noon, and night. While it is fittingly dramatic during the elevated period of the High Holy Days, on a weekday, it is to be recited quietly or even silently to oneself. The prayer does not appear in the Shabbat “Amidah,” and this is because twelve prayers are omitted on Shabbat—petitionary prayers deemed to be asking too much of

God when God should be resting alongside us. It is the sixteenth prayer of the nineteen prayers of the weekday “Amidah” and by its title, asks God to “hear our voice.” It implores God to not turn away from us, to ultimately not leave us empty handed. And, with words we also hear at the end of every Torah service, to “chadesh yameinu k'kedem”—“make our days new as was done in the past.” It is a prayer which includes these words of return, a central theme of the High Holy Days, and ends with the sentence “Blessed is God, the one who hears prayer.” “Sh'ma Koleinu” is a prayer about prayer.

“Sh'ma Koleinu” also has sentimental meaning for me, as it was one of my audition pieces when I applied to cantorial school. While I did not have a full grasp of the meaning of the text back then, I do feel that I truly connected with the intent of the music. It is not a musical setting that one can sing without emotional grasp. It would utterly fail if sung without the intense musical momentum and soulfulness that it breathes. The “Mishnah” teaches that if one is traveling under dangerous circumstances and unable to pray the entire set of “Amidah” prayers,



one is then instructed to only say a single prayer. This prayer is the end of “Sh'ma Koleinu,” for it understands this to be the most essential of the collection of prayers. “Baruch atah Adonai, Shomeia Tefillah.” “Blessed are you, Adonai, the one who hears prayer.” In requesting God to hear our prayers, we are ultimately covering the territory of all prayers.

“Sh'ma Koleinu”—In this forthcoming new year, may each of our individual voices be heard with understanding and clarity and all of our collective voices be blessed in goodness. L'shanah tovah.

Hear the original recording of Max Helfman's “Sh'ma Koleinu” sung by Jan Peerce, one of the most esteemed opera singers and early American cantors, for whom it was originally written. Scan this code.



MARCIE J. SOLOMON, PRESIDENT

A Home for All of Us

The month of Elul is traditionally a time for each of us to consider where we have been, and to find the truest version of who we hope to become. Looking back over the past year at Beit Kulanu reminds me just how much we can change from one holiday season to the next.

A year ago today, we had just voted to pursue unification. We were only beginning to imagine what a new congregation might look like, working hard to figure out the values and essence that would define Beit Kulanu. Since then, we have honored our legacy congregations, celebrated our Torah March, and completed our legal unification. Most importantly, we have begun the work of creating

a congregation that lives up to its name: “a home for all of us.”

As meaningful as each of those milestones have been, I see these moments not as the finish line but instead as our foundation. Elul is a time for looking back so that each of us can find what we need in order to move forward. Beit Kulanu was established as a vibrant, innovative Jewish community, rooted in Torah and tradition, and committed to lifelong learning and social action. For me, this mission is personal. Beit Kulanu is not just “a home for all of us” today. I want Beit Kulanu to be the place where my children and their friends — and someday their children — feel connected to Jewish life in a way that is meaningful to them,

where they find mentors and friendships, are comfortable asking big questions, and are excited to celebrate their own milestones into the future. As we move forward into 5787, I am filled with gratitude for all that our clergy, staff, leadership and members have already accomplished in moving us down this path, and excitement for all that still lies ahead. As we continue to move forward together, I invite you to share your ideas, your talents, and your dreams as we all reflect, build, adapt, and evolve.

I look forward to being with you during the High Holy Days. Wishing you and your loved ones a happy, healthy, and sweet new year. L’shanah tovah!

DREW S. BARKLEY, FTA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

All Together in 5787

I am looking forward to the High Holy Days for so many reasons. First, our Beit Kulanu community will gather and that, by itself, is the best part. Being together in our “home for all of us” is the feeling that sustains me throughout the year. Second, this year I don’t have to be in two buildings at the same time. Last year I served as the Executive Director for both congregations, which required that I plan and attend services in both buildings. Third, my staff and I get to plan for a doubling of the number of people attending services. While last year, with the primary exception of Erev

Rosh HaShanah, I bounced back and forth, each location provided services to its own membership of about 625 households. This year, as we combine into one community, everything is new and different. We are planning for 1,275 households, or as many as 2,500 people, attending services.

Suddenly that very large Main Sanctuary won’t be that big. Suddenly the parking lot will appear very tiny. The scale has changed and that means logistics have changed. It’s a new challenge that I am excited to plan for. If you know me, you know that I am motivated by paying attention

equally to the large and obvious demands as well as the small touches that make a difference. My staff and I are dedicated to anticipating, responding, and being flexible so that Beit Kulanu families and guests have the best possible High Holy Day experience.

Knowing that everyone experiences their High Holy Days in slightly different ways, each person’s individual experience is very important to us.

I am so happy to greet everyone in September, and I am also very happy to only be in one building.

REGISTER FOR HIGH HOLY DAY DINNERS

LEARN MORE & REGISTER
AT BeitKulanu.org

Erev Rosh HaShanah | Friday, September 11 | 5:45 PM

Cost: \$48 Adult (13+) / \$24 Child (6–12) / Free Child (0–5)

Buffet menu catered by Cory Rockwood of The Hunger

- 48-Hour slow braised beef brisket with onions, apples, and pan gravy (not kosher)
- Chicken breast scallopini with lemon capers, crimini mushrooms, and spinach (kosher)
- Zucchini, carrot, and farro grain cakes with curry butternut squash gravy
- Summer greens with poached beets, honey crisp apples, and non-dairy feta with honey and lemon vinaigrette
- Quinoa with roasted vegetables and pomegranate molasses
- Roasted maple carrots tzimmes with raisins
- Roasted creamer potatoes with Brussels sprouts and non-dairy Parmesan

Kol Nidre | Sunday, September 20 | 5:45 PM

Cost: \$48 Adult (13+) / \$24 Child (6–12) / Free Child (0–5)

Buffet menu catered by Zur Goldblum of The Forge

- Fresh challah
- Autumn salad with spring mix, cherry tomatoes, beets, cucumber, and roasted sweet potatoes
- Matzah ball soup
- Apricot chicken (kosher)
- Brisket
- Mashed potato with gravy
- Asparagus
- Apple rose cake
- Fresh fruit



Rosh HaShanah Young Adult Dinner | Saturday, September 12 | 6:30 PM

Cost: \$25

Let's celebrate the new year by joining with old friends and making new ones.
We'll eat a festive dinner and reflect on how we can be our best selves.

HIGH HOLY DAY SCHEDULE

S'lichot

Saturday, September 5

6–9 PM | Carnegie Museum of Natural History
Details on page 9.

Service of Remembrance

Sunday, September 6

9 AM Service of Remembrance at West View Cemetery,
4720 Perry Highway Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15229
11:30 AM Service of Remembrance with Temple David
at Temple Sinai Memorial Park, 7740 Saltsburg Road,
Plum, PA 15239

Rosh Hashanah

Friday, September 11

5:15 PM Erev Rosh HaShanah & Shabbat Tot Services
(Snacks & Fun at 4:45 PM)
5:45 PM Erev Rosh HaShanah Dinner
7:45 PM Erev Rosh HaShanah & Shabbat Services

Saturday, September 12

9 AM Rosh HaShanah & Shabbat Morning Tot Services
9 AM Rosh HaShanah Shabbat & Family Services
11 AM Rosh HaShanah & Shabbat Youth Program
11 AM Rosh HaShanah & Shabbat Morning Services
6:30 PM Rosh HaShanah Young Adult Dinner

Sunday, September 13

10 AM Rosh HaShanah 2nd Day Morning Service
followed by a light kiddush lunch
(Tickets not required.)
5 PM Tashlich Service @ Chatham University
(Family activity at 4:15 PM. Tickets not required.)

Yom Kippur

Sunday, September 20

5:15 PM Kol Nidre Tot Service (Snacks & Fun at 4:45 PM)
5:45 PM Kol Nidre Dinner
7:45 PM Kol Nidre Service

Monday, September 21

9 AM Yom Kippur Tot Morning Service
9 AM Yom Kippur Family Morning Service
11 AM Yom Kippur Youth Program

11 AM Yom Kippur Morning Service

1:30–3:45 PM Yom Kippur Beit Midrash*

- 1:30–2:30 PM Jewish Journeys with David Johnson
- 2:30–3:45 PM Beit Midrash Discussions

4 PM Yom Kippur Minchah Afternoon Service*

5:15 PM Yom Kippur Yizkor & N'ilah Services*

Yizkor will be led by Cantor David Reinwald, Rabbi Emerita Sharyn Henry, and Rabbi Emeritus Jamie Gibson.

Yom Kippur Break Fast (a light snack to break your fast) will follow N'ilah. Sponsored by Women of Beit Kulanu.

*Please note times are approximate on Yom Kippur afternoon.

Sukkot

Friday, September 25

5:30 PM Supper in the Sukkah
7 PM Erev Sukkot & Shabbat Services

Saturday, September 26

10 AM Sukkot & Shabbat Morning Services

Simchat Torah

Friday, October 2

5 PM Erev Simchat Torah Dinner Honoring
New Students & New Members

6 PM Erev Simchat Torah & Mostly Musical Shabbat
Services with the Band & Consecration of New
Students

Saturday, October 3

10 AM Simchat Torah & Shabbat Morning Service
with Yizkor Service

American Sign Language interpreter provided.

Livestream and Zoom links will be provided closer to the dates above.

Tickets required for all attendees at all services unless noted (except for Sukkot and Simchat Torah).

Register at beitkulanu.org for Tot Services and Youth Programs or contact Danie Oberman for Tot Services

HIGH HOLY DAYS FOR KIDS & FAMILIES

TOT SERVICES

Our Tot Services are fun and active with stories, singing, and dancing for families with children ages 0–5. (30 minutes)

EREV ROSH HASHANAH | Friday, September 11 | 5:15 PM | Fun starts at 4:45 PM
Led by Rabbi Daniel Fellman, Rabbi Erika Purdy-Patrick, and Cantor David Reinwald.

ROSH HASHANAH | Saturday, September 12 | 9 AM
Led by Rabbi Larry Freedman, Religious School Director.

KOL NIDRE | Sunday, September 20 | 5:15 PM | Fun starts at 4:45 PM
Led by Rabbi Daniel Fellman, Rabbi Erika Purdy-Patrick, and Cantor David Reinwald.

YOM KIPPUR | Monday, September 21 | 9 AM
Led by Rabbi Larry Freedman, Religious School Director.

FAMILY SERVICES

Our Family Services are a more informal experience than our traditional services to relate to our younger attendees (up to 12 years old). The service includes participatory music, a shorter Torah reading, and a full shofar service on Rosh HaShanah. Join us for these uplifting, inspiring, family-friendly services! (approximately 1.5 hours)

ROSH HASHANAH | Friday, September 12 | 9 AM

YOM KIPPUR | Monday, September 21 | 9 AM

YOUTH PROGRAMS

For children in grades K–4, during the traditional morning service, we will have activities to inspire and engage young students around the meanings and messages of the High Holy Days. Check-in begins 15 minutes prior to services; pick-up immediately following services. No early pick-up is permitted. Register by: Monday, August 31 for Rosh HaShanah morning; Monday, September 7 for Yom Kippur morning. Unfortunately, we are not able to accept walk-ins. (approximately 2 hours)

ROSH HASHANAH | Saturday, September 12 | 11 AM

YOM KIPPUR | Monday, September 21 | 11 AM



Visit our website for babysitting options!

S'lichot-A-Saurus: Night at the Museum

Saturday, September 5 | 6–9 PM

Carnegie Museum of Natural History Wildlife Halls

All are welcome to celebrate S'lichot with us at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

- Perfect for families. Activities for all ages.
- Admission and parking are free.
- Self-guided access to the Kamin Hall of Dinosaurs and Wildlife Halls, which feature world-renowned, scientifically accurate habitat dioramas.
- Light refreshments followed by a brief service with our clergy.
- Register online at beitkulanu.org so we can plan ahead.



Services of Remembrance

Sunday, September 6 | 9 AM & 11:30 AM

9 AM West View Cemetery, 4720 Perry Highway Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15229

11:30 AM Memorial Park, 7740 Saltsburg Road, Plum, PA 15239

In keeping with Jewish tradition, our clergy will conduct a short service on the Sunday prior to Rosh Hashanah.

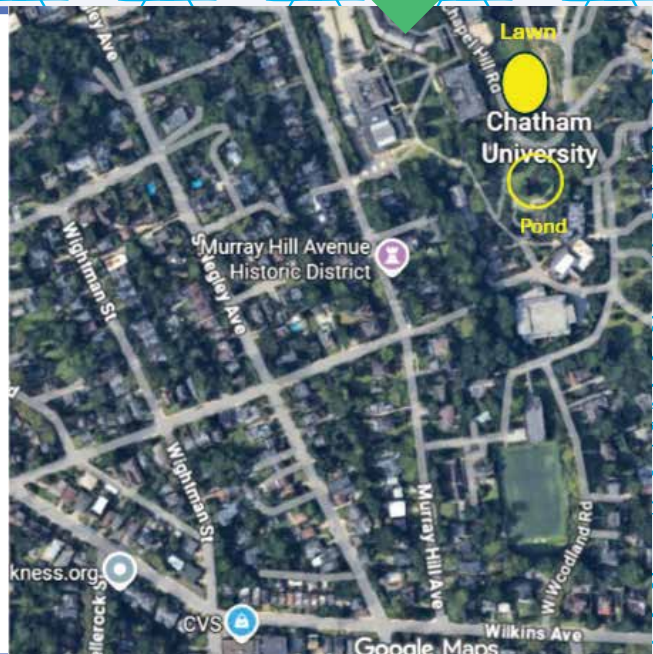
Tashlich Service

Sunday, September 13 | 5 PM (4:15 PM Family Activity) | Chatham University

Tashlich is the symbolic casting away of sins. We will have a family event at 4:15 PM led by all the youth staff from Beit Kulanu and Beth Shalom with games, thoughtful conversations between parents and children, and possibly some bubbles! Then at 5 PM, we move a short distance over to the pond to cast away our sins and let the fish take them away. A new spin on an old tradition! Open to all.

Directions from Beit Kulanu to the Anne Putnum Mallison '61 Pond at Chatham University

1. On Fifth Avenue turn right onto Wilkins Avenue.
2. Drive 0.2 miles and turn left onto W. Woodland Road.
3. When you come to a stop sign, turn right to continue on W. Woodland Road.
4. Parking is along the road near the pond. (We'll have more details closer to the date.)



THINGS TO KNOW

We look forward to welcoming you for the High Holy Days, whether you join us in person or online. Please take a few moments to review the information below and visit our website for additional details.

TWO TICKETS will be mailed to each member household on August 20. If you do not receive your tickets by September 1, please contact Kate Fraser at kfraser@beitkulanu.org or 412-621-6566, ext. 137.

COLLEGE STUDENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY are welcome as our guest at any Beit Kulanu High Holy Day service. Please bring your college or military photo ID.

GUEST TICKETS are available for a suggested donation of \$36 for family or out-of-town guests of members. You can find a form on our website for guest tickets.

RECIPROCITY TICKETS are available for members who wish to attend High Holy Day services at another URJ congregation. Contact Kate Fraser for details at kfraser@beitkulanu.org or 412-621-6566, ext. 137.

ENTER AND EXIT the building through the entrances from the parking lot (port cochère) or from Fifth Avenue (which goes directly into the Main Sanctuary).

LIVESTREAMING of our services will be available on the Beit Kulanu YouTube channel. The link can be found on our website.

SEATING is first come first served. Doors will open 30 minutes prior to services when possible. Ushers will be available to assist with seating.

GREETERS AND USHERS ARE NEEDED to help make Beit Kulanu a welcoming place. To greet, all it takes is your smiling face and a few warm, caring words before or after services. Ushers help direct congregants to seats and pass out hearing devices. Contact Edie Raphael to volunteer at eraphael@beitkulanu.org or 412-621-6566, ext. 114.

PRAYER BOOKS will be located at each seat. Please replace them when leaving so they can be used at the next service.

HEARING DEVICES are available. Please see an usher to receive one. If you have a T-Coil in your hearing aid, you can activate it in the Main Sanctuary.

BABYSITTING is available during morning services on Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur for children who are preschool age or younger. Reservations are required. Visit our website for details and to fill out the babysitting form.

OUR COMFORT STATION is available in the Kamin Dining Room by the reception desk. Visit any time during Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur services for a beverage, snack, or place to rest. A registered nurse will be on duty.

A QUIET ROOM is available in the Lippman Library for adults who need a sensory friendly spot during services.

A NURSING ROOM is available in the Bride's Room in the Devonshire Hallway behind Levy Hall. Follow the signs from the Commons (lobby).

Forms on BeitKulanu.org

Valet Parking for anyone with state-issued disability parking placards and others with accessibility needs

Reciprocity Tickets if you want to attend services at another URJ synagogue

Guest Tickets if needed for visiting family members or friends

Yizkor Remembrance Book if you'd like to remember a loved one

Babysitting for children who are preschool age or younger

Registration for dinners, programs, and services where required

FOOD DRIVE donations support the JFCS Squirrel Hill Food Pantry. While attending holiday services, pick up an empty bag in our lobby and return it filled by Simchat Torah. Details available on our website.

PARKING this year will utilize street parking, designated garage and parking lots at Carnegie Mellon University, and the Beit Kulanu parking lot, which will be used only for those who require accessibility accommodations.

Three options for parking:

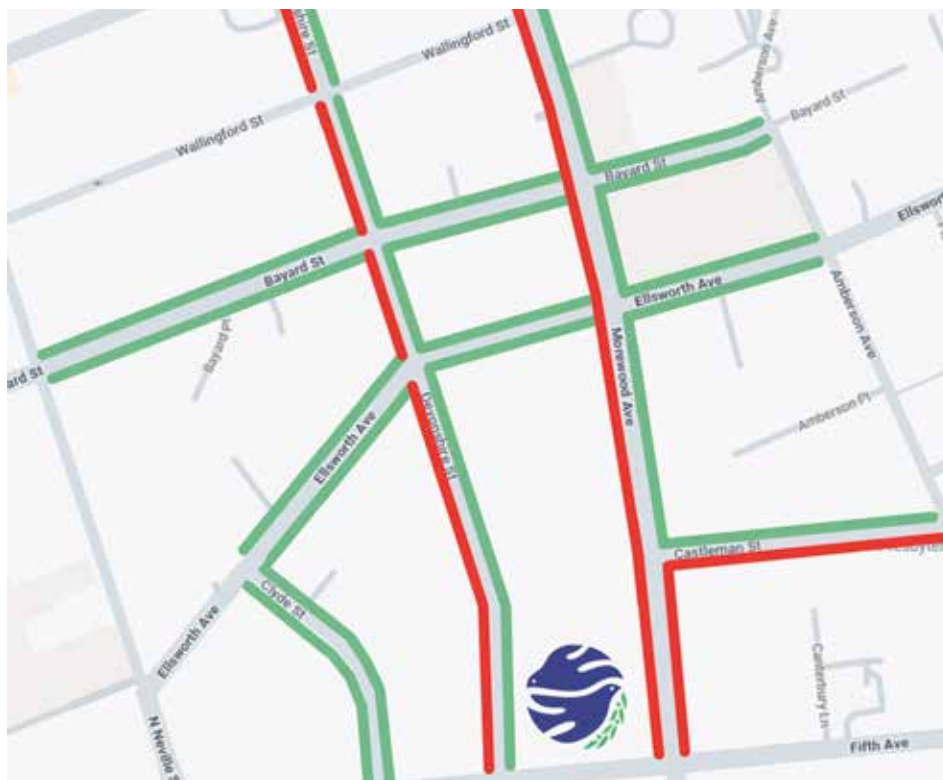
- 1. Complimentary valet parking will be available for anyone with a state-issued disability parking placard or those who have accessibility needs.** Fill out our valet parking form for the Beit Kulanu parking lot as soon as possible to secure your spot. (The parking lot will be closed to everyone else.)
- 2. Free parking at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU)** is available on Erev Rosh HaShanah, Rosh HaShanah Day 1, and Kol Nidre in the Morewood Parking Lot (1048 Morewood Avenue) behind the Tepper Quad Building. After parking, it's only a short walk down Devonshire Road or you may take our free shuttle. **Please be careful and cross Fifth Avenue at Morewood Avenue. We will have security at the intersection.** On Yom Kippur, parking is available at CMU in the East Campus Garage (5040 Forbes Avenue). We will have two shuttles running to and from Beit Kulanu throughout the day. Security will be present at all CMU parking locations on all days.

3. The City of Pittsburgh has granted parking variances for the following streets (see map below).

- Devonshire Street (*east side of street only*) to Centre Avenue
- Morewood Avenue (*east side of street only*) from Castleman Street to Center Avenue
- Castleman Street
- Clyde Street
- Ellsworth Avenue from Clyde Street to Amberson Avenue
- Bayard Street from Neville Street to Amberson Avenue

SECURITY is always taken very seriously at Beit Kulanu. We will have armed guards at each door. While we strive to create a welcoming environment, we ask everyone entering Beit Kulanu to show us their tickets. We reserve the right to search any bags or refuse entry to the premises and/or services to anyone for any reason. Thank you for cooperating if we ask to search your bag.

YIZKOR REMEMBRANCE BOOK information will be mailed soon to anyone who was in the book last year. If you are new to the book, you can fill out a form on our website. Donations are not required but are always appreciated.



Parking Map Legend

- **Parking permitted** along routes marked in green.
- **No parking** along routes marked in red.

Do you have GOOD NEWS to share?

Contact Tami Opyoke, at topyoke@beitkulanu.org or 412-621-6566, ext. 109 with the details.

SUKKOT

at Beit Kulanu

Friday, September 25

5:30 PM Supper in the Sukkah

7 PM Erev Sukkot & Shabbat Services

Join us for a festive supper and stay for the Erev Sukkot & Shabbat Services in our Sukkah (weather permitting).

Cost: \$18 Adult (13+) / \$10 Child (6–12) / Free Child (0–5)

Saturday, September 26

10 AM Sukkot & Shabbat Morning Services

Celebrate Shabbat and the first morning of Sukkot with us in our sukkah (weather permitting). Our service will be followed by a light kiddush lunch.



Big Fall Community Meetup

Monday, September 28 | 6:15–9 PM

Join us for a complimentary Harvest Dinner in the Sukkah at 6:15 PM! Our menu includes a fall salad, harvest soup, roasted vegetables, and fish main dish. The Women of Beit Kulanu are providing the dinner at no cost to kick off the fall in style. Join us in the kitchen to assist in making dinner starting at 3 PM. Contact Mara Kaplan to volunteer at maratkaplan@gmail.com.

Activities include:

- Take a moment to shake the Lulav
- Preservation class led by Rachel Kudrick
- Tour of the Biblical Botanical Garden
- Adult Education Course about Sukkot with Rabbi Daniel Fellman
- Activities led by Rabbi Erika Purdy-Patrick and Cantor David Reinwald
- Tiferet Project activity
- Election Social Justice activity
- Wellness and Arts Activities
- Our regular, popular gaming: Deal the Cards, Mahjong, and D&D
- Super Special Dessert Break!

LEARN MORE & REGISTER AT BeitKulanu.org

**AUGUST 10,
17, 24 & 31**

6:45–7:45 PM

**Prepare spiritually for
the High Holy Days**

Join Rabbi Erika Purdy-Patrick for her first adult education class at Beit Kulanu.



**AUGUST
(every Monday)**

6:45–7:45 PM

Aleph-Bet Boot Camp

Learn the Aleph-Bet with Karen Brean before the High Holy Days. The class is free, but the book is \$15 (financial support is available if needed). Space is limited to 12. Contact Karen to reserve your spot at kmbrean@gmail.com or 412-977-0271.



**COOKING/
BAKING**

AUGUST 10

6:45–8:50 PM

**So Your Mom Never
Taught You How to Make
Rosh HaShanah Dinner**

Learn how to make matzah balls (hard and soft), a savory kugel, brisket, and a vegan entrée. Recipes will include these and other ideas for your Rosh HaShanah dinner.

AUGUST 24

6:45–8:50 PM

Braiding a Round Challah

Learn how to make a challah and a variety of techniques for braiding a round challah. Go home with dough to freeze and bake for your High Holy Day celebration.

AUGUST 31

6:45–8:50 PM

**So Your Mom Never
Taught You How to Make
Yom Kippur Break Fast**

Learn how to make blintze souffle, shakshuka, sweet kugel, and a dessert. Recipes will include these and other ideas for your break fast or to bring to the potluck.

**HIGH HOLY DAY PREP
@ Community Meetup**

AUGUST 17

6:45–7:45 PM

**Learn how to Build Your
Own Sukkah for Sukkot**

Join Gary Sorock, who will teach you how to build a sukkah—reusable, fun, and affordable for the entire family. Gary will discuss the materials you will need and the best strategy for creating yours.



AUGUST 17

8–8:50 PM

**“What in God’s Name are
We Doing Here?” with
Danie Oberman**

Nobody was born knowing what certain prayers mean, the choreography behind standing and bowing, or the origins of certain rituals. This is an informal learners’ minyan dedicated to breaking down a High Holy Day service for anyone who’s ever felt a little lost. Come as you are, bring all of your questions, and let’s learn together.

SIMCHAT TORAH at Beit Kulanu

Friday, October 2

5 PM Erev Simchat Torah Dinner Honoring
New Students & New Members

6 PM Erev Simchat Torah
& Mostly Musical Shabbat
Services with the Band
& Consecration of New
Students

Join us for a festive dinner honoring our new religious school students and their families as well as our new members. Everyone is welcome! Stay after the dinner to celebrate the unrolling of our Torah as we finish reading Deuteronomy and start again with Genesis. It will be a lively service filled with music and dancing.

Menu and reservations coming soon!

Saturday, October 3

10 AM Simchat Torah & Shabbat Morning Service
with Yizkor Service



Contact Information

Drew Barkley

dbarkley@beitkulanu.org
412-621-6566, ext. 107
Contact Drew with any
High Holy Day question.

Judy Aiello

jaiello@beitkulanu.org
412-621-6566, ext. 182
Contact Judy about
Pledge or with questions
about your account.

Dana Block

dblock@beitkulanu.org
412-621-6566, ext. 124
Contact Dana to volunteer
to blow the shofar on
Rosh HaShanah.

Yael Eads

yeads@beitkulanu.org
412-621-6566, ext. 130
Contact Yael regarding our
Youth Program.

Leslie Fleisher

lfleisher@beitkulanu.org
412-621-6566, ext. 125
Contact Leslie about the
Music Mensch program.

Kate Fraser

kfraser@beitkulanu.org
412-621-6566, ext. 137
Contact Kate about
Reciprocal Tickets.

Danie Oberman

doberman@beitkulanu.org
412-621-6566, ext. 118
Contact Danie about
Tot Services and the
Young Adult Dinner.

Edie Raphael

eraphael@beitkulanu.org
412-621-6566, ext. 114
Contact Edie to volunteer to
be a greeter or usher
or with questions about
dinner reservations
and valet parking.

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BEIT KULANU BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, August 10 | 2-7 PM

Schedule your appointment today! Use code AUGUST15-2026-V for a \$15 Rewards gift card.* Register at vitalant.org or call 877-25-VITAL. Use blood drive code: 100564376. **VISIT BEITKULANU.ORG FOR DETAILS!**

*Donor Rewards program opt-in required for gift card.

Thank you for your generous donations! (May–June 2026)

BEIT KULANU JEWISH MUSEUM

In Memory of
Jeffrey Lederer by Barry & Mayda Roth

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Bill Stein by Robert & Nancy Rosenthal
Bernard Newman by William Klingensmith & Cantor Julie Newman

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In Honor of our granddaughter Tessa Avivah
Kraut's Bat Mitzvah at Temple Sholom in
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Ellen Katzen

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In Memory of Jeffrey Lederer by Dale Lazar
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In Honor of
Engagement of Tarna Batelman & Averie
Peet by Karen Levin
Birth of Ada Rose by Karen, Nate, Noah, &
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Joan Schwartzman & Irving Schwartzman
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Grossman
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 In Memory of Sandy Zelekovitz by Richard & Heather Rattner

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 Joseph & Jennifer Goldston
 Shirley Goldstein, z"l
 Rabbi Keren Gorban
 Juliette Grauer, z"l
 Anna Greenberg, z"l
 Marjorie Greenberger
 Rabbi Sharyn Henry & Dennis Grinberg
 Lester Hamburg, z"l
 David Hammerstein
 David Hauptman & Family
 Suzan Hauptman & Family
 Jane Haskell, z"l
 Alex & Harris Heid
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Our Sacred Community

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE A BLESSING

(May 13–July 30)

Marlene Bernstein
Barney Guttman
Marie Hildebrand
Barry Landay
Jeffrey Lederer
Sidney Somers
Dr. Alan Tapper
Joel Herman Weiss

B'NEI MITZVAH—MAZAL TOV!

Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Dinah Goldblatt October 10

Rachel is the daughter of Marcie Solomon and Nathan Goldblatt, sister of Matthew, and the granddaughter of Fay and Tom Goldblatt of Wilmette, Illinois, and the late Ellen and Martin Solomon of Commack, New York. Rachel is a seventh grader at Colfax and enjoys dancing, reading, and spending time with friends and most especially her cats.



Join us in welcoming our NEW MEMBERS

Amy & Joel Dresbold, Helen Dorra & Greg Casher, Deborah & Alexander Gershanok, Anastasia Giampa, Kim Halpern, Andrew Horowitz, Cheryl Kaufman & Stephen Laidhold, Lorinda Lasus, Susan & Louis Leff, Elaine Morner, Ilene & Mitchell Rinn, Judy Rubinstein, Gerald & Carmel Schatten, Elizabeth Schwartz & Jason Conn, Ilene & John Steiner, Joseph Stern

Bar Mitzvah of Jax Jay Sigal | October 17

Jax is the son of Justin and Megan Sigal, and the brother of Luke, Cooper, and Leo. Jax attends Winchester Thurston. He is kind, smart, and funny. He loves to play soccer, go to the movies, and play video games with his friends. He has enjoyed his time studying for his Bar Mitzvah!

Bat Mitzvah of Eliana Tabachnick October 24

Eliana is the daughter of Michael and Sarah Tabachnick and sister of Isaac.

Louise Malakoff
Stephanie & Bernard
Mallinger, z"l
David & Carole Maretsky
Myrna, z"l & Mark Mason
Louise Mayo
Lois & Milton, z"l Michaels
Norma & Edgar Michaels, z"l
Pauline & Bernard
Michaels, z"l
Gwen & Felix "Bebe"
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Marcia & Thomas, z"l
Morton
Laurie Mulvey
Ruth Westerman, z"l &
J. Robert Myers
Esther Mishevich
Nathanson & Harvey C.
Nathanson, z"l

Helen Orringer
Lynn & Gerald Ostrow, z"l
Elliott Oshry, z"l
Marla Perlman, z"l
Marolee and Burton Pollock
David & Rita Pollock
Jeffrey Pollock
Shirley & Sidney Rapport, z"l
Richard E. Rauh
Rosalyn C. Richman
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Mildred Rogow, z"l
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Sabina & Peter Rosenfeld
Marcia Rosenthal
Nancy & Robert Rosenthal
Richard & Carol Rosenthal
Mayda & Barry Roth
Lynn Rubenson
Selma P. Ryave, z"l
Michele Gray-Schaffer &

Eric Schaffer
John & Denise Schiller
Steven Schimmel
Esther Schwartz
Carolyn Schwarz
Frank Schwarz
Sally & Lanny Seed
Jay Silberblatt
Dottie & Alan Silberman, z"l
Marjorie Silverman
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Strassburger
Mona & E.J. Strassburger

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Adeline & Harry Tabor, z"l
Barbara & Emil, z"l Trellis
Shirley Tucker, z"l
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Carol Williams
Ruth Wintner, z"l
Susan & Robert Wolf, z"l
Leatrice & John, z"l Wolf, Sr.
Ed Wrenn
Lynda Wrenn
Ruth C. Yahr
Florence & Harvey Zeve, z"l
H. J. Zoffer, z"l
Ronnie Cook Zuhlke

z"l = Of blessed memory

Where Children Flourish

American psychologist Urie Bronfenbrenner is best known for his ecological systems theory, which explains that a human's development is shaped by the environments and relationships, including family, school, community, and culture. He challenged traditional developmental psychology's focus on laboratory settings, arguing that children must be understood within the real-world contexts where they live, learn, and grow. As he famously stated, developmental psychology had become "the science of the strange behavior of children in strange situations with strange adults for the briefest possible periods of time."

At the Berkman Family Center at Beit Kulanu, we believe children reveal themselves most fully when they are seen, respected, and supported within their natural environments. Our work reflects Bronfenbrenner's belief that children develop through meaningful relationships and experiences.

Benni, Age 4

Benni arrives at camp each day wishing he was at work. Mature beyond his years, his desire to be a grown-up often outweighs his desire to play with the "small children."

On a random Tuesday, I

approached Benni with an offer: he could spend the morning working with me instead of joining his class. The caveat? My work was nowhere near as fun as camp. Without hesitation, Benni accepted, clocked in with his educators, and began a morning of "work."

Our first order of business was a meeting with Beit Kulanu fundraiser, Leslie Fleisher. When we arrived, I explained to Leslie that Benni was shadowing me because he was interested in my work and was considering leaving camp to become my assistant.

Leslie immediately understood the importance of the moment. She invited Benni to sit at the conference table, included him in the conversation, and even found an age-appropriate way to suggest that he consider making a donation to the Family Center.

Back in my office, I explained our next task: responding to emails. Benni paused thoughtfully as I opened my laptop. Then he stopped me and said, "I'm tired to be a grown-up. I'm going back to my class."

Caleb, Age 4

Two of the most anticipated events in the Family Center community: birthdays and Shabbat. When Caleb's birthday fell on Shabbat, we knew it would be something special.

Knowing Caleb's shy nature, I met with him privately on the playground to discuss how he wanted to celebrate. Would he like to celebrate in his classroom? On the playground? Or during Shabbat?

Caleb immediately knew: Shabbat was the perfect way to celebrate

turning four. Before I could ask another question, Caleb ran across the playground inviting his friends to "my birthday party in the sanctuary with the rainbow." There was only one challenge—Family Center Shabbat typically takes place in the garden.

I immediately contacted our clergy team to explore whether we could move Shabbat to the sanctuary and create a celebration that reflected Caleb's vision.



On Friday morning, Caleb was surrounded by his Family Center community and Beit Kulanu clergy as he celebrated Shabbat and received a birthday blessing beneath the rainbow in the sanctuary.

Guided by a mission deeply rooted in social-emotional development and child agency, the Berkman Family Center at Beit Kulanu—and the greater Beit Kulanu community—cultivates an ecological system where children, families, and educators grow together. Through relationships, belonging, and meaningful experiences, we honor each child as a unique human being doing unique things in the world.



Welcome Mirit Sands

We are pleased to introduce Mirit Sands as Beit Kulanu's Senior Director of Programs.

This new position serves as a key member of the senior leadership team, providing visionary strategic direction and comprehensive operational management for Beit Kulanu's expansive program portfolio. With her years of experience in leadership positions at both Central Synagogue and Ramah camps, as well as her M. A. in Jewish Education, Mirit is well qualified to help lead Beit Kulanu into the future.

"I am excited to join Beit Kulanu as the Senior Director of Programs. Throughout my career, I have been passionate about bringing people together and creating experiences that foster meaningful relationships, belonging, and community," Mirit said.

A New Orleans native, Mirit loves traveling, discovering coffee shops and bakeries, and is always up for an adventure. Whether it's a city street, a nature trail, or a hike to a waterfall, she's happiest when she's outside and wandering. When she's not working, you'll



likely find her checking out live music or a Broadway show, watching a sports game, planning her next trip, or getting lost in a good book. She is thrilled to be joining the Beit Kulanu community and beginning this next chapter in Pittsburgh.

SAM SISKIND, DIRECTOR

Library News

The Lippman Library, like Beit Kulanu as a whole, is undergoing a revitalization, which began in the spring.

We are now busy reorganizing the shelves and expect books will start to be moved over from Forbes & Murdoch in late summer/early fall.

The timing is wonderful, considering themes of the fast-approaching High Holy Days are very resemblant of this work: reflection, evaluation, and making decisions on how to bring about a positive future.

Below are two adult and children's books available in the library appropriate for this season.

"The New Reform Judaism" by Rabbi Dana Evan Kaplan

Appropriate for exploring our collective future, this book discusses the modern social, technological, and demographical changes that have made an influence on the current Reform Jewish community and the adaptations it must make. The author, Rabbi Dana Evan Kaplan, has held rabbinic posts in a range of communities, including the United Congregation of Israelites in Kingson, Jamaica, and at Temple B'Nai Israel in Albany, Georgia. This book is included on the front display table in the library along with a collection of other books on the theme of congregational transformations.



"The Hardest Word: A Yom Kippur Story" by Jacqueline Jules, illustrated by Katherine Janus Kahn

Recommended for children ages 5-8, this story follows the mythical Ziz: the absent-minded, nervous-yet-lovable giant bird. As Yom Kippur approaches, he makes a big mistake and afterwards goes to Mount Sinai to talk to G-d about it. G-d gives the Ziz a task: to go out and bring back the hardest word to say. This story is collectively funny, sweet and serious and a delight for both children and parents.

Pursuer of Peace Award 2026 Photos



Family House founders: Howard "Hoddy" Hanna III, left, Mary Lou McLaughlin, center, and Joel Ettinger, right



Steering Committee Co-Chairs Ali Gumberg, left, and Mara Leff Koperwas, right



(From left): Jerry Guttman, Don Shaw, Tim Litman, Bob Rosenthal



Steering Committee members, front row from left: Mimsie Leyton, Goldie Katz and Marcia Baumfeld; back row from left: Co-Chairs Ali Gumberg and Mara Leff Koperwas



Family House founder Howard "Hoddy" Hanna III



Family House founder Mary Lou McLaughlin

HONOREE FAMILY HOUSE

FOUNDERS

Joel Ettinger, Howard *Hoddy* Hanna III, Mary Lou McLaughlin

*Thank you to everyone who made
Pursuer of Peace 2026 a success!*

PLATINUM

Mary Anne and Howard *Hoddy* Hanna III
The McLaughlin Family
PNC

GOLD

Debra Demchak
Catherine Loevner
UPMC Health Plan
Eva Tansky Blum and Dr. Norman Wolmark

SILVER

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Dr. Eugene Myers
Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle
Pittsburgh Stained Glass
Carol and Richard Rosenthal
Strassburger McKenna
Gutnick & Gefsky
Patricia and John Whitehill
Women of Rodef Shalom

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Music Mensch Program

As we continue shaping our new community at Beit Kulanu, we have a unique opportunity to carry forward meaningful traditions while creating something entirely our own. One of the most powerful ways we come together across histories and experiences is through music.

From uplifting Shabbat services to the depth and beauty of the High Holy Days, music helps define who we are as a community and how we connect with one another.

To support and sustain this essential part of congregational life, we are pleased to introduce Music Mensch at Beit Kulanu—an opportunity to invest in the musical experiences we are building together.

Inspired by a successful program from one of our legacy congregations, Music Mensch has been thoughtfully adapted for our unified community. It reflects our

shared commitment to vibrant, inclusive, and meaningful musical worship.

An annual gift of \$360 helps support:

- Professional sound and production for services and special programs
- Guest musicians and vocalists across a range of musical styles
- Music licensing to broaden and enrich our repertoire
- Inclusive elements such as sign language interpretation at musical services

As a Music Mensch, you'll also enjoy special opportunities to connect more deeply, including private pre-concert receptions, along with recognition in our community.

At this moment of coming together, your support helps ensure that the music of Beit



Kulanu reflects the richness and diversity of our entire community.

Join us in creating the sound of Beit Kulanu.

To learn more or to become a Music Mensch, contact Leslie Fleisher at lfleisher@beitkulanu.org or 412-621-6566, ext. 125.

Have you made your Pledge?

As we prepare for the 2026–2027 membership year and look ahead to the High Holy Days, many households in our community have already made their Membership Pledge for the coming year. Adding your commitment now helps ensure that Beit Kulanu can continue to offer meaningful worship, programs, lifecycle events, education, social justice work, and music that strengthens our community throughout the year.

To have everything in place before the High Holy Days, we ask that you make your Pledge by August 15. A few minutes now makes a big difference in helping our clergy, staff, and lay leaders plan confidently for the season ahead. **Thank you!**

Update from WBK

The Women of Beit Kulanu have been working diligently over the past year to ensure that once unification was complete, we would be ready and excited to continue programming and activities—some of which are legacy to our past and many new as we join together.

Thanks to our new board members for stepping up to help shape the future of our group. This group consists of Tanya Bass, Karen Brean, Susan Cohen, Nancy Dubuar, Tammy Garrison, Barbara Gibson, Anita Gordon, Michele Gray-Schaffer, Judy Kampert, Andi Kaufman, Judy Mahan, Esther Nathanson, Carol Nathenson,

Lynn Rubenson, Elaine Rybski, Jan Shaw, Rebekah Siegel, Terry Starrett, Colleen Wolfson, and Carol Woolford. We are poised to bring new ideas and exciting programs to the congregation.

Some of the things that our groups have done in the past include sponsoring Oneg Shabbats; providing scholarships for our youth to attend Jewish programs; support for congregants in need; pulpit flowers on each Shabbat; running the Gift Corner; providing break fast at Yom Kippur; offering financial support to temple whenever there's a need; sending High Holy Day cards to the whole congregation; Soup from the

Heart; and holiday bags for people in care facilities.

Visit our beautiful Gift Corner when you need your next gift. We have everything Judaica related as well as hostess gifts, jewelry, greeting cards, and books. It's one stop shopping. It's located right by the front desk when you come into Beit Kulanu. Our gift shop supports all the work that we do with an annual contribution, so please support it.

Be on the lookout for your email to order your High Holy Day cards this year as well as a membership appeal to join us. Without you, we are one woman short!

High Holy Day Greeting Cards

Our Biblical ancestors may have relied on the shofar to remind villagers of the important holiday of Rosh HaShanah, but the Women of Beit Kulanu have several easier options for conveying good wishes for a happy, healthy new year.

New year's greeting cards can be sent to fellow congregants by using our convenient online holiday program—Happy Rosh HaShanah

This program enables you to send greetings to congregants of your choice (or to a group such as the entire congregation, clergy, staff, the choir, and board). You will also have an opportunity to make an additional donation to WBK. The donations raised by this project

will also provide Beit Kulanu with much needed financial support.

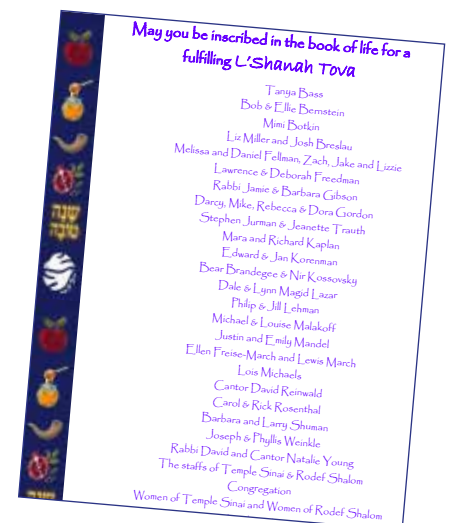
The board of WBK thanks everyone in advance for participating in this important effort to help our newly unified temple, and most importantly, express our appreciation and support for one another.

You will have already received an email with the subject heading "Holiday Card Program," which will explain how to file your selections online. Please look for it in your SPAM or JUNK folder if it isn't in your inbox.

If you prefer to get a printed order form sent to your home, contact Judy Kampert at 412-228-1068

or judithckampert@gmail.com. If you have received a printed form in the past, you will automatically receive one in the mail.

The deadline for ordering the cards is August 24, 2026.





c/o Rodef Shalom Congregation
4905 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213-2953
412.621.6566

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**MAKE
YOUR
PLEDGE**

welcome back

SHABBAT-B-QUE



FRIDAY | SEPT. 4
Service @ 6 PM
Dinner @ 7:15 PM

RSUP: BEITKULANU.ORG