

The Fourth Annual
**DALLAS KOSHER BBQ
CHAMPIONSHIP**



OCTOBER 28, 2018

MEDIA GUIDE

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Questions? Problems? Contact Brian Rubenstein, 314-496-3986, or Mike Precker, 972-977-1743.

Dallas Kosher BBQ Championship Returns October 28

The National Cuisine of Texas meets the Dietary Laws of the Bible in the **Fourth Annual Dallas Kosher BBQ Championship**, a daylong festival for the entire community, on Sunday, October 28.

Popular KLUV radio host and Texas Radio Hall of Famer **Jody Dean** returns to host the competition, which is sanctioned by the world-renowned **Kansas City Barbecue Society** (KCBS). **Dallas Kosher**, the organization certifying that local food and facilities adhere to Jewish dietary law, will supervise every aspect of the event.

The Men's Club of **Congregation Beth Torah** in Richardson is organizing the championship benefiting the synagogue and **Community Homes for Adults, Inc.** (CHAI), which provides group homes for adults with intellectual disabilities.

Among the new twists this year will be a KidsQ contest, with teams of youngsters and teenagers competing in their own abbreviated barbecue showdown.

Celebrity judges for the competition include **Vicki Nivens** of Hard Eight BBQ, **Jill Grobowsky Bergus** of Lockhart Smokehouse and *Texas Monthly* barbecue editor **Daniel Vaughn**.

Last year's championship drew more than 1,600 barbecue lovers for a day of smoking, grilling and family fun. Brian Rubenstein, co-chair of the championship, says he expects a bigger crowd and teams from across the country to show off their barbecue skills as the event continues to grow.

"Now that we've put Dallas on the kosher barbecue map, we're drawing interest from all over," he said. "And we're proud to bring the joy of kosher barbecue to the community as a whole."

The competition will be held **Sunday, October 28, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** in the parking lot of **Sunnyland Patio Furniture**, at the corner of Spring Valley and Coit roads in Dallas. The festivities will include music, cooking demonstrations, silent auctions, a kids play area, hot dog and pickle eating contests – and, of course, barbecue. **Admission is free**, with plenty of free parking on site.

The Beth Torah organizers founded the championship in 2015. Last year they won a national **Gold Torch Award** for community outreach from the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs for staging the event and encouraging other clubs around the country to do the same.

Kosher barbecue competitions have one obvious difference – no pork – but there are other distinctions. To ensure adherence to dietary laws, the Men's Club provides all grills, smokers, utensils, condiments and spices – as well as the four meats in competition: chicken, turkey, beef brisket and beef ribs.

Because no work can be done or fires lit on the Jewish Sabbath, teams prepare the meats on Thursday night, then start cooking after sundown on Saturday.

As in all KCBS competitions, the society's judges will award official trophies for all four meats, as well as crown the grand champion and reserve grand champion, who will share \$500 in cash. The celebrity judge panel will award its own set of prizes for both the main battle and KidsQ.

"We're looking forward to another great day of barbecue for the whole community," "We have a passion for this, and we work all year so we can share it."

SCHEDULE FOR MEDIA COVERAGE

Reporters and camera crews are welcome at the Dallas Kosher BBQ Championship. It will be held rain or shine. Advance registration or credentials are not necessary.

Please consider the following events for coverage:

- **Thursday, October 25, 6-9 p.m.:** The BBQ teams will meet at Congregation Beth Torah, 720 W. Lookout Drive, Richardson to prepare their meats for the barbecue. When they are finished, the meats will be placed in a refrigerated truck until Saturday night.
- Representatives of the **Kansas City Barbecue Society** and **Dallas Kosher** will be at Congregation Beth Torah on Thursday evening and available for interviews. The BBQ teams will also be happy to discuss their techniques and their passion for barbecue.
- **Saturday, October 27:** Officials of **Dallas Kosher** will light the fires for the BBQ teams after sundown, about **8:30 p.m.** Many of the teams will begin cooking immediately, and some will be up all night, fine-tuning their entries and enjoying the camaraderie.
- **Sunday, October 28:** The Championship opens to the public at **11 a.m.** There will be music, food, vendor booths, children's play areas and cooking demonstrations. The teams will turn in the four meats for judging, one at a time, at **noon, 12:30 p.m., 1 p.m.** and **1:30 p.m.** *The actual judging will be closed to outsiders.* The winners will be announced and trophies presented around **3:30 p.m.**

If you have any questions, or would like to arrange interviews outside the above times, contact Publicity Coordinator Mike Precker, at 972-977-1743, or precker@sbcglobal.net.

ABOUT THE DALLAS KOSHER BBQ CHAMPIONSHIP

The Championship

Sunday, October 28, is the Fourth Annual Dallas Kosher BBQ Championship. This is now an annual event and a popular community-wide celebration of kosher barbecue. It is being hosted by Sunnyland Patio Furniture, an outdoor and casual furniture superstore, in the store's parking lot at the corner of Coit and Spring Valley roads in Dallas.

The event opens to the public at 11 a.m. and should end about 4 p.m. Admission is free and kosher food will be available for purchase. Attractions include live music, vendor booths, silent auctions, cooking demonstrations and a large children's play area. [Here](#) is a story about last year's event.

For more information, see www.dallaskosherbbq.com

Jody Dean



Jody Dean is a veteran radio and television journalist in North Texas and a member of the Texas Radio Hall of Fame. His illustrious career has included stints as a talk-show host, a television news anchor, executive producer of the Dallas Cowboys Radio Network, and the public address announcer at AT&T Stadium. In 2005 he succeeded the legendary Ron Chapman as host of the popular KLUV-FM Morning Show, featuring music, news, traffic reports. He is the author of *Finding God in the Evening News: A Broadcast Journalist Looks Beyond the Headlines*.

Kansas City Barbecue Society (KCBS)

KCBS, which is sanctioning the Championship and conducting the official judging, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and enjoying barbeque. It is the world's largest organization of barbeque and grilling enthusiasts, with over 19,000 members worldwide. KCBS sanctions over 450 barbeque contests annually around the world. From volunteering to actual event production, its members assist civic and charitable organizations to organize events. For more information, see

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Celebrity Judges

In a separate, unofficial competition, celebrity judges also rate the barbecue entries. Judges for the 2018 Championship include:

- **Jill Grobowsky Bergus**, co-owner of the renowned Lockhart Smokehouses in Dallas's Bishop Arts District and Plano.
- **Vicki Nivens**, owner of Hard Eight BBQ, whose three locations in the Dallas area are rated among the best in Texas.
- **Daniel Vaughn**, a former architect who became the country's first and only barbecue editor when he joined *Texas Monthly*. He is the author of *The Prophets of Smoked Meat: A Journey Through Texas Barbecue*.

Kosher Barbecue

Kosher barbecue is an increasingly popular topic in contemporary cuisine, as well as barbecue competitions around the country. Here is a recent article on the topic from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency:

<http://www.jta.org/2015/08/10/arts-entertainment/meet-the-rabbi-q-kansas-citys-kosher-bbq-star>

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Congregation Beth Torah

Congregation Beth Torah is a Conservative, egalitarian synagogue of about 350 families, led by Rabbi Elana Zelony. The synagogue is located at 720 W. Lookout Drive in Richardson, near the crossroads of Central Expressway and Bush Turnpike. Its members come from Dallas, Richardson, Plano, Allen, Frisco, McKinney and beyond. The Men's Club, which is organizing the Championship, has won the International Quality Chapter Award from the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs for the past 11 consecutive years.

For more information, see www.congregationbethtorah.org.

Community Homes for Adults, Inc.

Part of the proceeds from the Championship will benefit Community Homes for Adults, Inc. (CHAI), a nonprofit, nonsectarian organization which operates six group homes in Dallas for adults with intellectual disabilities. It also provides nonresidents with individual services and daily group programs. People in the CHAI program are participating in the Championship by helping with preparations and volunteering at the event.

For more information, see www.chaidallas.org.

Dallas Kosher

Dallas Kosher is a nonprofit agency that certifies that supermarkets, bakeries, restaurants and manufacturing facilities adhere to Jewish dietary laws in their preparation of food. For more information, see www.dallaskosher.org.

Scenes from the 2017 Championship

