

Temple Beth Torah

July 2019 Bulletin

OPEN HOUSE: SAVE THE DATE!!!!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18 at 11:00AM at Temple Beth Torah

Fun activities planned and of course food. More to follow in the August newsletter.

Celebrate Shabbat each Friday in July at TBT:

- July 5 7:15 PM Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan Gordon
- July 12 6:30 PM No Service at Temple – Carrie Keith will be coordinating a dinner get together at Italiano's Italian restaurant. Please RSVP to education@tbthumble.org if you would like to join, so she can make a reservation.
- July 19 7:15 PM Shabbat Service led by Bruce Pollard
- July 26 6:30 PM Dinner
7:15 PM Shabbat Service led by Hy Penn
"The Moon and Judaism—the 50th Anniversary of the Lunar Landing"
Begin this special evening at 6:30 pm with a light dinner to welcome Shabbat and honor the lunar landing anniversary. No charge for the meal (donations will be accepted!) but must RSVP if attending the dinner by noon on Thursday, July 25 to admin@tbthumble.org.

TBT Donate a Brick Campaign:

A wonderful way to honor or remember someone. Please visit the website at www.tbthumble.org to download the form. Celebrate a birth, death, marriage or other mitzvah.

ORDER MEMORIAL PLAQUES NOW FOR HIGH HOLIDAYS

Now is the time to place your order for memorial plaques on the wall of the sanctuary. Synagogues all over the country put their orders in over the summer so the plaques will be ready for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. The company that makes the plaques is overwhelmed with hundreds of orders, so please get your order in now if you want the plaque to be here in time.

The cost of the plaque is a minimum \$300 donation, made out to Temple Beth Torah. Once you have sent in the donation, please email rabbidangordon@gmail.com with the following information:

- English name as you wish it to appear on the plaque
- Hebrew name if known
- Date of death

Deadline to place the order, in order for it to be ready by Rosh Hashanah is July 15, 2019.

Membership Renewals:

It's time to renew your membership to Temple Beth Torah! Renewal forms are now due, as our membership year runs from July 1st – June 30th. Current members will receive your membership renewal form by email. Please contact our membership chair Jeff Kaufman at membership@tbthumble.org if you have any questions. Please return them no later than July 31st. We appreciate everyone's support of TBT!

If you are interested in joining Temple Beth Torah as a member, please contact Jeff Kaufman at membership@tbthumble.org

TORCH - (TORAH OUTREACH RESOURCE CENTER OF HOUSTON)

Start your Sundays with Adult Learning at TBT. Come at 9:00 AM for bagels and coffee and then join us for class at 9:30 AM led by Rabbi Wolbe from TORCH. Each session a different Torah portion will be discussed. Participants may come to as many as they can. There is no charge for the class and optional gifts of tzedakah are welcome,

SIMCHAS IN JULY:

Birthdays

2	Ken Troxclair
3	Miranda Shuman
5	Bernice Troxclair
6	Shari Ellsworth
9	Bruce Pollard
9	Morton Winter
18	Mabel Abrasley
19	Iris Kelley
19	Shawna Kullman
23	Maxine Sussman
26	Bob Abrasley
31	Amy Nossal

Anniversaries

6	Morton and Ellen Winter
21	John and Hiedi Bassett
30	John and Bobbylee Ruskis

Yahrzeits in July:

The following names will be read each week during July to acknowledge those who have passed away who were connected with our community. If there are mistakes or omissions, please e-mail the temple at admin@tbthumble.org or leave a message at 281-446-5611.

Marc Fontanot, Leila Fern Camp, Sylvia Lesser, Lena Getz Lewis, Arthur Wiener, Helen Myers, Esther Spalter, Arthur Bricker, Murray Cuppy Rosenberg, Morris Kaufman, David Eynard, Ruth Nodler Schnitzer, Morris Blumstein, Marvin David Brand, Helen Wallack, Jack Stark, John Swaim, Cal Garcia, Maurine Swaim, Max Sanders, Joshua Lee Thomas, Joan Zinda, Hazel May Woods Tabor, Charles Lerner, Evelyn O'Rourke, Martha Houlihan, Lyuba Perelman.

TORAH PORTIONS for July 2019

Compiled by Rabbi Dan Gordon

July 5-6, 2019

Korach, Numbers 16:1-18:32

Korach joins together with some followers to challenge the leadership of Moses and Aaron. Korach asked why Moses and Aaron had a greater status among the Israelites, and brought about a group to rebel. Moses calls upon God's support, and the ground swallows up Korach and other participants of the rebellion. This story is often troublesome to scholars, who may feel that Korach's questions were justified. Perhaps the story of Korach helps us to understand a saying of R. Elazar HaKappar in *Pirke Avot* (4:28): "*Envy, irrational cravings, and honor take a person out of the world.*" Ultimately, Korach's ego became his downfall.

July 12-13, 2019 Chukkat, Numbers 19:1-22:1

A red cow is sacrificed in "Chukkat," but the meaning of the ritual is unclear to us today. Instructions are given to purify those who have been in contact with a corpse. Following the death of Miriam, the Israelites complain again, fearful that their source of finding water is gone. God tells Moses to speak to a rock to get water, but Moses strikes the rock – twice -- in anger, and the water spurts out. Both Moses and Aaron are told that they will not enter the Promised Land because this action showed lack of faith.

July 19-20, 2019 Balak, Numbers 22:2-25:9

"Balak" is named for the king of the Moabites who seeks to curse Israel but is cursed instead. He attempts to use Balaam to harm the Israelites. The LORD prevents Balaam from cursing the Israelites by using a talking donkey to help him see the right path. Balaam blesses Israel with the phrase, "*How beautiful are your tents, oh Jacob, your dwelling places, Israel,*" (Numbers 24:5) which has become part of modern liturgy and music, often the first song in a morning service ("*Ma Tov-u O'haleicha Y'aakov*").

July 26-27, 2019 Pinchas, Numbers 25:10-30:1

Pinchas kills an Israelite man and a Midianite woman who had entered a tent together, and this act, considered heroic, saved the Israelites from a plague. God rewards the zealot, Pinchas with a covenant of peace. While it may seem unusual for the killer of adulterers to receive the covenant of peace, this portion also includes a famous legal distinction for women. The daughters of Zelophehad claim they should have the right to his inheritance because he died with no male heirs. Although it contradicts the law at the time, God tells Moses that their claim is just, and the daughters are awarded the inheritance. Toward the end of the portion, God informs Moses that he will not enter the Promised Land because of striking the rock against God's instructions (see Chukkat). Joshua will become anointed as Moses' successor.