

Temple Beth Torah

NEWS FOR YOU

February 2020 TEVET – SHEVAT 5780



Rabbi Dan
Gordon
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FEBRUARY 7, 6:30 P.M. MUSICAL TU B'SHEVAT SEDER DINNER AND SPECIAL SERVICE

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO CELEBRATE SHABBAT WHILE HONORING THE GIFT OF TREES
LED BY RABBI DAN AND CANTOR VADIM
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY FEBRUARY 5

In the 16th Century, some of the original students of Kabbalah (Jewish mysticism) modeled a Tu B'Shevav seder after the concept of the Passover seder. Tu B'Shevav is considered the New Year of Trees; sort of a Jewish Arbor Day. Tu B'Shevav is a holiday mentioned in the Mishnah, and a seder on this holiday has become re-vitalized in modern times. We will blend our Shabbat observance with a tasting of traditional foods that are mentioned in the Torah and are grown in Israel. We will enjoy music and stories that honor our appreciation of trees. Rabbi Dan and Cantor Vadim will present a unique celebration, and we will enjoy a delicious Shabbat dinner. In order to participate, you **MUST** make a reservation by emailing admin@tbthumble.org or calling (281) 446-5611 by **February 5**. See flyer on page 11 for more details.

SHABBAT FOR LOVE

FEBRUARY 14 6:30 PM

EARLY ABBREVIATED SERVICE LED BY STUDENTS



You've got to love it! Shabbat and Valentine's Day are one this year. You don't have to choose! Shabbat services will start and end early to enable young children to be there and adults to celebrate how they like after the service. Religious School students have been working to present a lovely service. Many thanks to Religious School teacher and Ritual Chair, Shari Ellsworth, for coordinating this service with the students. Oneg following service sponsored by the Religious School families.

***TBT Wisdom Seekers
Share Experiences
at Shabbat Service***

February 21, 7:15 PM

See page 7 for details

**TBT HAVDALAH
RETREAT**

Saturday, February 22

**Lake Houston Wilderness
Park**

**See Flyer on Page 12 for
details.**

All are Welcome!

***The Gift of Purim
Shaloch Manot***

An easy way to perform a mitzvah, a good deed, for others and for our synagogue. See flyer on Page 13 for all the details.

Save the date: Celebrate Purim at TBT on Friday, March 6
Wear a costume!!

MISSION STATEMENT

Temple Beth Torah is a congregation that embraces the philosophy and values of Judaism in the following ways:

Spiritually, by celebrating the richness and traditions of Torah, prayer, holidays and life cycle events;

Educationally, by encouraging learning, increasing Jewish knowledge and enriching understanding for children, teenagers and adults;

Compassionately, by caring for our members and others in the Jewish community in times of need while also fostering positive relationships with our non-Jewish neighbors.

Temple Beth Torah embraces the spirit of inclusion for Jewish individuals and families who represent a variety of backgrounds and family compositions.

President's Message

As January starts the secular New Year, it certainly began in an exciting way for Temple Beth Torah. We experienced such a variety of activity that provides such a great springboard for 2020. I'm very excited about the leadership potential on our new board, and we can always use others who are interested in bringing new ideas to the temple. We were blessed this month with a visit from Rena Lubin, a young educator from the Institute of Southern Jewish Life, who engaged adults intellectually on Friday night and brought experiential learning to Religious School students on Sunday. Several TBT members joined the rabbi at Jesse Jones Park for campfire stories. Every Sunday morning, the temple is buzzing with learners. In addition to the children's Religious School, we've learned from the text studies with **TORCH** and the "Wisdom Seekers" studying Rami Shapiro's *Holy Rascals*. On Friday, February 21, we will have an opportunity to learn about this special group. One of the nicest highlights was the Family Feud Game Night at the temple. It combined Jewish learning and fun, but most of all, gave adults and children an opportunity to enjoy learning together. This month we will have another "come one, come all" event at Lake Houston Wilderness Park, February 22. Last year, about 50 people joined together and had a wonderful time at the park; it was so much fun, we couldn't wait to do it again. It's a great time to be together with all ages and have a fun, relaxing Shabbat afternoon.

All of our events come together with devoted volunteers. But what makes for a great program is when **YOU** show up! Who knew being Jewish was so much fun?

Happy Tu B'Shevat!

Jeremy Blumin

Shabbat and Events in February

Please note different times

Friday, February 7	6:30 PM	Tu B'Shevat Dinner Service - RSVP REQUIRED
Friday, February 14	6:30 PM	Shabbat Service led by Religious School
Friday, February 21	7:15 PM	Shabbat Service
Saturday, Feb. 22	2:00 PM	Havdalah Retreat at Lake Houston Wilderness Park
Friday, February 28	6:00 PM	TOT Shabbat
	7:15 PM	Shabbat Service
Friday, March 6	7:15 PM	Purim/Shabbat Service

ONEG INFORMATION

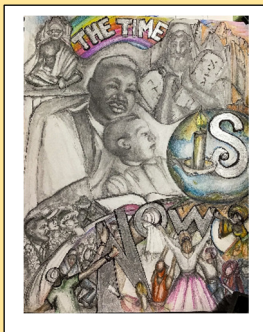
The NEW Year is HERE!!!! It's time to sign up for your oneg date for the 2020 year. Please Sign up Today!!!!

Thank you to everyone who has provided an oneg recently. They have been delicious and a highlight to every Shabbat. Thank you also to those who have sponsored an oneg with your generous donations. Preparing an oneg is a wonderful way to celebrate a special event. It is also a way to commemorate a yahrzeit for a loved one. If you would like to do an oneg, or find out dates available, please leave a message for Pat Klemz or Stacey Blumin at 281-446-5611. Or email Stacey at admin@tbthumble.org.

RABBI'S MESSAGE

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Moses and Martin



Artwork: "The Time is Now" by Loren Gordon, depicting Martin Luther King, Jr., Martin Luther King III, Moses, Ghandi, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel and marchers for today and tomorrow.

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to join the *Houston Jewish Alliance for Civil Rights* at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade. The Jewish group was small in comparison to some of the schools and other organizations, and we represented a diverse group of Jewish clergy, community leaders, adults and children from several different synagogues and organizations. In marching for human rights, we joined a longstanding Jewish tradition, as one participant wore a t-shirt that said, "Fighting Tyrants Since Pharaoh." I was reminded of the many similarities between Martin Luther King, Jr. and the biblical hero, Moses.

The similarities have just as much to do with their shortcomings as with their leadership. Both men have come to symbolize the ultimate in leadership, and neither would have anticipated this role. Both came from humble beginnings, and both took on their leadership roles reluctantly. Civil rights leaders knew they needed a charismatic young voice to inspire the African American community to stand up for their own rights. A protest march was planned to go right by Dr. King's church, and when he saw the passionate marchers, he felt drawn to the movement. Moses found a heavenly voice that spoke to him from a burning bush as he chased after a lost sheep. He insisted that he was not the one to lead the Hebrews from slavery and pointed to his speech difficulties as a reason for G-d to look elsewhere. G-d countered by telling Moses that he would not have to act alone, but that his brother Aaron would help with the speaking and G-d himself would provide support. Both men needed to learn that they could not achieve such lofty goals without help from others. Despite their humility, both spoke truth to power, Moses with his demands to Pharaoh and King to political leaders of the south. Moses and Martin both helped their people move forward toward real progress, but neither lived to see the "Promised Land." As Moses looked over the Jordan River, he knew he had led his people as far as possible and they would have to go on without him. King's premonition on the night before his death was very reminiscent of Moses: *"Well I don't know what will happen...but it really doesn't matter to me now, because I've been to the mountaintop. Like anyone, I would like to live a long life...but I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. I've looked over and I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you, but I want you to know that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land...Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the LORD."*

A Jewish alliance in a parade to honor Dr. King's legacy is in perfect keeping with Jewish tradition. Our march across the desert took forty years. But the march continues as long as oppression exists against any people because of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, age or sexual identification. For some, the Jewish focus has been, "We have to look out for ourselves because nobody else will." I prefer to look at the teachings of Rabbi Hillel, who says, *"If I am not for myself, who will be for me? And if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?"*

Dr. King was famously joined by Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel in Selma, Alabama. Rabbi Heschel was asked why a Jewish rabbi, born in Poland, educated in Germany and who teaches rabbis at a Jewish seminary would interrupt his busy life to march in Alabama for the rights of African American who were not even Jewish. Rabbi Heschel said, "I am praying with my feet."

The march continues, progressing toward a "Promised Land" that is free from all oppression. We can all do our part.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Dan Gordon

THE COOLEST FUNDRAISER! HELP TBT GET A MUCH-NEEDED NEW AIR CONDITIONER

We've been lucky for several years at Temple Beth Torah. Seven years ago, we remodeled the social hall and sanctuary, added new classrooms, and created a kitchen and rest rooms that are comfortable, functional and beautiful. Our building is a comfortable place for worship, learning and fellowship. And now is YOUR chance to help keep it comfortable!

Due to a series of electrical issues over the last two years, it has become time to replace the air conditioning/heating system in the sanctuary. This is a major expense for our small pool of members. We need to raise \$15,000 quickly, and YOU can help. A couple of kind donors have already stepped up to start the process, but we are still far from filling the need. Small and large donations are welcome. If you know of people outside the temple who can help – out of town friends and relatives, or friends of other religious institutions who want to support our needs, please reach out to them. Just send a check to the temple with "A/C" in the memo line; you can even donate online (this is a great way to email your friends to make it easy for them) by visiting <http://www.temple-beth-torah.org/giving/> Any donations received once our goal is achieved will be used to help maintain our facility in the years to come.

MAKING TBT FUN AND SAFE

Many thanks to Wes Goble and the Building Committee who worked tirelessly to make our playground safer for the children. They **replaced 7 foundation stumps** that hold up the playground play gym to make it much more stable. These new stumps should keep the **play gym strong and stable for many years** to come. The gym bridge also needed to be replaced, so the team built a whole new bridge. The **new bridge looks great and is safe and strong.**

Many kind donors stepped up to help fund these repairs, and the hard labor and physical hours from the Building Committee team helped save in the labor costs. We had a very successful funding drive at the beginning of the year, but completing the job required the purchase of more mulch than originally anticipated. The investment of this mulch, which is safer and longer lasting, means that we don't have to undergo the labor and expense every few years; in fact, instead of replacing the mulch every two years, this project is expected to last **FIFTY YEARS!** Anyone who would like to help sponsor this project can contact Wes or Jeremy. "Many hands can make the work light." If you're willing to lend some time, we can find a job that fits your skills and interest.

Also, many thanks to Roger Zevallos and his sons, Matthew and Joshua, who spent eight hours moving the heavy bags to the playground, **10,000 pounds** worth. Spreading the mulch was also a team effort. Thanks to the hard work of Roger Zevallos, Jeff Kaufman, Wes Goble, Manny Miller, Owen Brawn, Caleb Brawn, and Andrew Shuman, who cut open 250 bags and helped spread the rubber mulch onto the playground. Now the playground looks terrific, and more importantly, has a safe, soft, cushiony feel to it.

Welcome New Members Bormasters and Tobins

Temple Beth Torah's outreach is spreading, and our two new families show how well we can be connected even from far away. **Lacy and Ryan Bormaster** live in Willis, Texas and began coming to TBT this fall. They have a blended family and a new baby on the way, and we've been delighted to see them at various "Tot Shabbats," Hanukkah and other events.

Evan and Christa Tobin have also joined the temple, from even further away. The Tobins, along with their teenage children Noah and Sophie, live in Columbus, Ohio. Evan's parents, Gail and Howard, are longtime members, and Evan's sister, Tracy Tobin Johnson (of blessed memory) was an active TBT board member and Religious School teacher. Three nieces and nephews celebrated bar and bat mitzvah at TBT – Tobin, Abby and Maddy Johnson. It's great to have your support!

DIPPING MAKES A DIFFERENCE TZEDAKAH MADE EASY

Have you noticed the “DIP JAR” that seems to be minding its own business in the social hall? It’s located near on an end table near the couches. Well, a little dip can make a big difference. Since it came to TBT, a few dips from many people help keep the temple above water. It is currently set to only \$10 – an easy, two-second swipe with your credit card, and you’ve made a tax-deductible donation! With the addition of regular security guards and rising costs in all areas, these little dips give everyone who comes into the temple an opportunity to participate in the mitzvah of tzedakah in a quick, painless way that you won’t notice until your next statement. Synagogues don’t pass an offering basket during services like churches do, so this is our way of giving you the chance to give. It’s the one place where “double dipping” is encouraged! Since the first dip of 5780, we’ve collected \$646 from the kindness of the dippers.

Thanks to the following people who have taken advantage of the Dip Jar:

Adam Waxman, Bernice Troxclair, Brian Eoff, Chris Baur, Craig Gottfried, Dale Vine, Emma Brawn, Iris Kelley, Jeffrey Kaufman, Karen Simmons, Martin Lorin, Mary Hernandez, Michael Weisberg, Ritchard Shadian, Roger Zevallos, Scott Denbina, Vitaly Aizenberg

(note: some credit card information was unavailable, so there are other donors who are not listed.)

AMAZON SMILE

Please make sure you are using Amazon smile for all your purchases. Shop on amazon and give tzedakah to TBT. Type this web site and log into your amazon account and choose Temple Beth Torah in Humble, TX and a percentage of your shopping will go to TBT. smile.amazon.com

REGISTER ONLINE FOR YOM LIMMUD 2020

ALL DAY LEARNING: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16
CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL –
5600 NORTH BRAESWOOD, HOUSTON, 77096
90 PRESENTERS/DOZENS OF
CLASSES/HUNDREDS OF LEARNERS
THE HOUSTON JEWISH COMMUNITY ALL
LEARNING TOGETHER

Be Inspired Be Entertained Be Jewish

Sponsored by the Barish Family and Chair King, Houston’s Yom Limmud Day of Learning is one of the finest in the nation. Educators and community leaders from all areas of Jewish life will be in one building all day long, presenting on every imaginable topic. This year, everything is online for you to see what you’d like to attend. **WARNING:** There is much more available than you will be able to experience! Whether you attend one session or ten, you’ll be enriched. It is also a great chance to mingle with hundreds of others interested in getting a taste of Jewish learning. Rabbi Dan Gordon, of TBT will be leading a session at 1:30 P.M. called *Seeking Sacred Stories of the Soul*.

REGISTRATION IS ALL ONLINE THIS YEAR. See all the classes and instructors and register by going to <https://www.houstonjewish.org/houston-education/yom-limmud> The full day of learning with the choice of participating in ANY class is just \$10, or \$20 if you’d like to have lunch included.

2020 Temple Beth Torah Membership Directory is Coming

Directories are almost finished. Please let us know if your information has changed since the last directory or when you filled out your membership form. Correct addresses, phone numbers, emails, anniversary and birthdates are needed. And if you would like your occupation in the directory, please let us know. Email Stacey at admin@tbthumble.org Thank you!

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

We have a Fabulous February planned for Temple Beth Torah Religious School. We will have Tu B'Shevat lessons on February 2nd and 9th. Our garden is flourishing with lots of lettuce and parsley. The students will pick and replant with spring vegetables for Tu B' Shevat. The students have also been preparing for an All Student Led Shabbat Service on February 14th. They are very excited so please mark your calendars for this special service which will begin at 6:30pm.

Temple Beth Torah Havdalah in the Park is on Saturday, February 22nd at Lake Houston Wilderness Park. We will begin at 2:00 pm with crafts, games, a nature walk, and dinner. Celebrate Havdalah with Rabbi Dan and camp songs with Bruce Pollard. Last year's retreat was full of fun and fellowship despite the rainy weather. This year will be excellent as well. Please see the flier attached to this newsletter for registration, directions and details. We look forward to lots of fun, food, friendship, and festivities!!

Purim is just around the corner. This year, we are collecting sneakers for HAAM to support their Sneaker Doodle program for families in our area. Please shop for new sneakers and bring those to TBT any time. Remember there are teens in need of shoes also.

Along with sneakers for Sneaker Doodle, we will also be putting together nutrition bags for children. Please send in miniature boxes of cereal, individual boxes of raisins, packages of whole grain crackers, pretzels, individual packages of oatmeal, granola bars, and bottles of water. Most of these items come in multipacks. Any donation would be appreciated. Also, we will need gallon size zip lock bags to organize these items for individual children.

Our students ages 12 to confirmation and parents will be participating in a service project with our social justice chair, Susan Pollard, on March 22 at Aishel House in the Houston Medical Center. They will cook meals for Jewish families who have children under care at hospitals in the medical center. Maybe some of our food from our TBT garden can be used for this project.

Lots of Learning and Activities at TBT Religious School happening at TBT.

Carrie Keith

Religious School Principal

Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Dan

Wednesday, February 19 at 12:30 PM

Nourishment for the Body, Mind and Soul

Rabbi Dan Gordon facilitates a relaxed discussion on a variety of topics, including mitzvot, Torah, holidays, current events and Jewish Practices. Each session is a different topic, and everyone gets a chance to participate. Bring your own lunch and get ready to nourish both your mind and your body! No RSVP necessary, feel free to just show up!

Tot Shabbat Friday, February 28, 6:00 PM

This month we will have Tot Shabbat on Friday, February 28 at 6:00 PM. Come for a fun, lively service at 6:00 PM, then stay for a kid friendly potluck at 6:30 PM. Please let us know what you can bring so we have enough food. Parents can eat, too. Please RSVP to Stacey at admin@tbthumble.org

BOOK DISCUSSION ON SUNDAYS at 11:15 A.M.

The Holy Rascals, by Rabbi Rami Shapiro, is the current book being discussed during this lively Sunday morning get-together at TBT.

Join us on Sunday mornings as we explore reading and discussion and how it can change the way we view our lives. For more information, please contact Susan Pollard at spollard@tbthumble.org.

ADULT EDUCATION - TORCH (TORAH OUTREACH RESOURCE CENTER OF HOUSTON)

Classes Begins at 9:30 AM with coffee and refreshments served at 9:00 AM

Start your Sundays with Adult Learning at TBT. Come at 9:00 AM for nosh and coffee and then join us for class at 9:30 AM led by Rabbi Wolbe from TORCH. The class has studied every portion in the Five Books of the Torah and is now moving on to another sacred text. Each week will include new ethical issues from Pirke Avot, The Ethics of our Ancestors and The Mitzvah Series where each of the 613 mitzvot of the Torah are examined. Participants may come to as many as they can. There is no charge for the class and optional gifts of tzedakah are welcome.

What is Spiritual Wisdom? How can We Apply it to Daily Life? February 21, 7:15 PM

On Friday, February 21 at the Shabbat service, the Sunday Adult group that meets every Sunday at 11:15 AM will give you a taste of what we are cooking up to nourish the soul. Our ingredients start with reading books and articles written by Jewish wisdom instructors, like Rabbi Rami Shapiro, as well as teachers of many other spiritual practices. Then we come together on Sunday to discuss and practice ways to use what the readings introduce. We explore life enriching methods that range from meditation to debate about what the Golden Rule means in the world today. The goal is to help each person in our mixed-up group of wondering Jews and others find a better path through complicated our lives. Please come on Friday, February 21 starting at 7:15 PM to worship and share our recipe for spiritual learning and how it becomes a guide for daily life. Our Sunday group will cook up a little example class for you to sample. And we will sponsor the Oneg too! See you there!!

TBT CARES

Happy new year! Are you wondering how to make a difference in 2020? We have some opportunities for you! The social action committee is partnering with the Religious School as they focus on Tikkun Olam this year. The religious school, with the help of TBT members collected many new toys to donate to both Humble Area Assistance Ministries (HAAM) and FamilyTime. Both agencies appreciated our help. We will continue to work with the students on specific projects to help others. If you are thinking about what you might want to do, keep an eye out for these opportunities:

1. Meals on Wheels at HAAM is organized by Lynn Gordon and can always use help delivering meals to homebound seniors. TBT delivers on the 4th Friday of each month.
2. We will help out at FamilyTime by spending time with families that are victims of domestic violence. This is open to anyone age 12 years and older. We play games and do crafts with the families, usually on the weekend.
3. We are collecting 2 sets of items.
 - a. For Purim we will be putting together Children's Nutrition Bags. We are asking for donations of: Miniature cereal boxes, individual boxes of raisins, whole grain crackers, animal crackers, pretzels, individual packages of oatmeal, granola bars, bottles of water and gallon size plastic bags. Please leave your donations in the brown collection basket.
 - b. New sneakers for children and teens for the HAAM Sneakerdoodle program which provides new shoes for children. This will be ongoing into the summer.

TBT collects food for HAAM on an ongoing basis to feed those in need. Please remember to bring nonperishable food items when visiting the synagogue.

KROGER card to support TBT

Kroger has recently upgraded their Community Rewards system and as a result TBT has a new account number-VE980. Please use this new number when linking your Kroger card to TBT so we can receive a percentage of your Kroger purchases. It's an easy way to help TBT earn some money. While the previous number will continue to be associated with our organization, it will not be visible to members when enrolling. New members can enroll by searching for either VE980 or Temple Beth Torah. If you are a Kroger shopper, please link your Kroger card to TBT at no cost to you.

Simchas in February

Birthdays

- 1 Mark McCormick*
- 6 Allison Levy*
- 13 Barry Sachs*
- 14 Greg LaCour*
- 15 Rylan Horgan*
- 17 Alyce Baur*
- 17 Jonathan Couch*
- 19 William Pollard*
- 20 Jim Meinholz*
- 25 Donna Karash*
- 26 Iris Graf*
- 27 Lynn Gordon*
- 28 Fischer Sullivan*

Anniversaries

- 20 Mark and Kimberly McCormick*
- 22 Stephen and Kim Levy*

February Yahrzeits

The following names will be read each week during February 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.

*Beatrice Sayovitz, Susanne Witt Wiener,
Barbara Teichner, Anna Polavsky,
Irving Weisberg, Arlene Starr, Harry Rapoport,
Harold Minkes, Vesta Amos, Stanley Simrin,
Jacob Haidnick, Bob Theriot, Nathan Mandell,
Carolyn Katz, Harry Schnitzer, Mary Beth Graf,
Allan Berger, Jerome Kharasch, Ben Myers, Linda Penn,
Sheelah Smith, Ellis Caplan, Shirley Solomon,
Aaron Markowitz, Karen Arner, Kenneth Watterston,
Kathleen Dolan, Irving Weisberg*

THE CARING COMMITTEE

The Caring Committee can help in stressful times, such as family illness, death, birth, etc. We can provide a meal and offer sympathy, transportation, childcare, or congratulations for simchas. If you know of a congregant who could use a little caring, contact our Caring Committee at admin@tbthumble.org or leave a message at TBT, 281-446-5611.

ONEGS

Thank you to those who prepared and/or sponsored the Oneg Shabbat refreshments in January:

- January 3 – Wesley Goble
In memory of Barry J. Liss
- January 10 – The 2020 TBT Board of Directors
In Honor of a great year ahead
- January 17 – Carrie Keith
In Honor of the Religious School Teachers and Madrichim (classroom helpers)
- January 24 – Stephanie Stover
In Honor of Jeff Stover
- January 31 - The Blumin Family – In Honor of all the donors for the New AC / Heating Unit

Give a Gift to TBT!

“Give a Gift to TBT!” Please look for items needed by TBT **on the easel as you walk toward the sanctuary.** Take the paper with the item you would like to donate and bring the item to TBT. It’s that simple!!

Some of the needed items are **kitchen/bathroom supplies, Oneg supplies, and office/school supplies.** Items can be left in the kitchen to the right of the stovetop. Please place a note on your item so you can be acknowledged.

We will even take checks to defray some of our **ongoing expenses.** These needed donations will also be listed on cards on the bulletin board. Checks for monetary donations can be made payable to Temple Beth Torah.

Please contact admin Stacey Blumin at admin@tbthumble.org with questions or suggestions. We hope you will be interested in participating in this program of “tzedakah” and help our synagogue.

DONATIONS

RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

John and Bobbylee Ruskis

Pastors Kristin Galle and Brent Hampton

20 years and Counting with Rabbi Dan Gordon

Jannis Kinard

In Memory of Gwen Kaufman

Rabbi Jay Weinstein

GENERAL FUND

Lynn Gordon and Hy Penn

In Memory of Lenora Brand, mother of Selina Smith

Irving and Susan Berger

Schlepping to Shop? Houston's New HEB Meyerland to Carry Kosher Selections

Many people in the Jewish community of Houston and surrounding areas were sad to see Belden's grocery store close. Belden's was the "go to" place for many to get kosher food and Passover products. Randall's in Meyer Park and Kroger's on South Post Oak still have a good selection, and management of the new HEB in Meyerland Plaza near Bellaire is promising a very wide selection of kosher products. Sharing covered parking with JCPenney, it's convenient and easy to access. For those driving from Kingwood, it is just off the Beechnut exit of 610. The store is open 6 a.m. to 12 a.m. The location's manager, Hugh Sintic explains, the "95,000-square-foot store will offer traditional H-E-B offerings, in addition to a slew of kosher offerings, including a dedicated bakery, butcher, sandwiches, and coffee shop, plus sections stocked with kosher frozen food, seafood and dairy products." For more information about this store and the many products and services they have, go online and search www.heb.com and select store location: Meyerland. Or, call the store directly call (281) 564-5201.

DONATIONS

Making a donation to TBT is a perfect way to honor a joyous occasion, like a birthday, anniversary, wedding/engagement, new home, job change, or retirement. It is also appropriate to honor someone who has passed away with a donation in his/her memory at the time of the passing or on the yahrzeit (anniversary) of the passing. All donations to Temple Beth Torah are tax deductible. You can choose where you would like your donation to be applied.

GENERAL FUND

Any donation that is not specified to another specific fund goes to the General Fund, which helps maintain the operating budget of the temple. Building expenses, insurance, staff salaries and all program expenses that are not underwritten come out of the General Fund, as well as support for the Religious School.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

This separate tzedakah fund enables the rabbi to make confidential contributions to help individuals and causes that may be in crisis. The rabbi may also use this fund to help support unbudgeted programs that will benefit the temple or community.

BURT LEVY MEMORIAL LIBRARY FUND

This fund maintains the library and helps purchase new books. Our library, located in the back of the sanctuary, is named after TBT's founding president, Burt Levy, who was a major inspiration in starting Temple Beth Torah.

TRACY TOBIN JOHNSON MEMORIAL EDUCATION FUND

This fund provides scholarships to Jewish summer camps for children and for educational conferences for teachers. It also helps support special educational programs that are not in the general budget. The fund honors Tracy Tobin Johnson, who was an active TBT member, volunteer and teacher before passing away at a young age.

TOM THERIOT MEMORIAL PROGRAM FUND

This fund supports special dynamic programs, often related to the arts. It is named after Tom Theriot, a lover of the arts, who was a constant presence at TBT and supported every cause.

DONATIONS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

You can now make donations online for any fund donation. Now there is an easy way to honor the memory of loved ones or acknowledge a joyous occasion by giving tzedakah. Tell your friends and family to visit our website, www.tbthumble.org, to make use of this mitzvah. Or SEE THE DONATIONS FORM ON PG 12

Torah Portions for February 2020

Summarized by Rabbi Dan Gordon

Beshalach Exodus 13:17-17:16 February 7-8, 2020

Finally set free by the Pharaoh, the Israelites depart from Egypt, only to be pursued by the ambivalent Pharaoh. God instructs Moses to lift his staff, and the Sea of Reeds parts for the Israelites to walk through on dry land. When Moses and the Israelites see the Egyptians drown in the Reed Sea, they sing a song of praise to God. Bitter reality of their journey causes them to complain to Moses their leader. In response, God sends manna to appease their hunger.

Yitro Exodus 18:1-20:23 February 14-15, 2020

Yitro, the portion named for Moses' father-in-law, begins with the Midianite priest's stunning confession that "the Lord is greater than all gods." Wise Jethro sees that Moses is taking too much on his own shoulders, and counsels his son-in-law to delegate his authority. The Ten Commandments are given by God in *Yitro*, amidst thunder and lightning, through Moses' voice. These commandments begin our relationship as a people with a special covenant with God that includes special responsibilities. They are not referred to as "Ten Commandments" at this point, and later called in Hebrew "*Aseret Dibrot*," or "Ten Words/Utterances." How the ten are divided differs between Judaism and Christianity, as well as within some Christian denominations.

Mishpatim Exodus 21:1-24:18 February 21-22, 2020

"*Mishpatim*" means "rules," "laws" or "ordinances," and seems disorganized to the modern reader because the rules were meant to be remembered through hearing rather than reading. Both ritual and ethical laws are given in *Mishpatim*. Some of the most important laws concern ethical treatment for the stranger, the widow and the orphan. The first laws given after the Ten Commandments include treatment of slaves. While we were not forbidden to have slaves, we were commanded to treat them in a certain manner, which included offering freedom after seven years. It is a valuable lesson to remember, since we had just come out of slavery. Sometimes, we are expected to do the opposite of the examples of what we've observed from our experiences. In this case, we're expected to treat servants how we would have liked to have been treated, rather than how we were treated.

Terumah, Exodus 25:1-27:19 February 28-29, 2020

We receive an elaborate description of how the Tabernacle is to be constructed, from the kind of wood used to the fabric for the drapes. Even though the construction is described in very elegant terms, we are encouraged only to make offerings from our hearts. A center piece in the Tabernacle will be the seven-branched menorah, which will be kept lit in an eternal light, signifying God's constant presence.



Friday February 7 - 6:30 PM

A Musical Shabbat Experience

Join Rabbi Dan and Cantor Vadim

In a unique Tu BeShevat Seder



Dinner included

Honoring

- *The gift of Trees*
- *The gift of Shabbat*
- *The gift of Music*
- *The gift of Food*



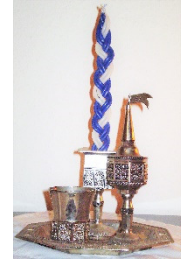
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED by February 5
admin@tbthumble.org or (281) 446-5611

NO CHARGE – DONATIONS WELCOME

Temple Beth Torah
320 Shallow Drive, Humble, TX 77338
www.tbthumble.org



TEMPLE BETH TORAH HAVDALAH RETREAT



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2020
2:00 PM – 6:00 PM
LAKE HOUSTON WILDERNESS PARK
DINING HALL

Please join Temple Beth Torah for an afternoon of family fun on Saturday, February 22, at Lake Houston Wilderness Park located at **25840 FM 1485, New Caney, TX 77357.**

Meet at the Dining Hall at 2:00PM for crafts, nature walk, games, dinner, camp songs and Havdalah.

Entry into the park is included with this registration.

Bring camp chairs, hats, mosquito spray, flashlights, outdoor games and equipment, water bottles, and clothing for weather.



Please return registration form by **Friday, February 14,**

Cost for this event

Adults: \$10.00

Guests: Adults \$12.00

Children under 12 \$5.00

Children \$7.00

Make checks payable to Temple Beth Torah and mail or bring to 320 Shallow Drive, Humble, TX 77338

Name _____

Adults: _____ x \$10 _____

Guest adults _____ x \$12 _____

Children _____ x \$5 _____

Guest children _____ x \$7 _____

Total payment included with this registration form \$_____

We encourage everyone to attend. If payment is a concern, there are scholarships available. Contact rabbidangordon@gmail.com to discuss.

CELEBRATE PURIM WITH GIFTS OF FOOD

Every Jewish holiday has its special food, for Purim, it is *Hamantaschen!*

On Purim we emphasize the importance of Jewish unity and friendship by sending gifts of food called **Shaloch Manot** to family and friends. This year, Temple Beth Torah will assemble these gift bags of goodies which will include homemade hamantaschen, candy, and snacks. There are four mitzvot associated with Purim: Hearing the *Megillah*, Giving *Tzedakah*, Giving gifts of food, and sharing a meal. Participating in this project, you fulfill half of the Purim *mitzvot*!

**Each box that you give is a mitzvah from you to a special person or family.
It is also a mitzvah to Temple Beth Torah.**

Fill out the form below along with your payment by **February 21, 2020**.

Checks may be made payable to Temple Beth Torah mail or bring to 320 Shallow Drive

There will be one gift bag for every temple household. If there are multiple senders, then all names will be listed on an attached gift card.

1 Shaloch Manot Box is \$10.00 **SPECIAL:** 6 Boxes for \$50.00

EXTRA SPECIAL: For \$200, you can send a box to EVERY TBT household!

We hope that you can come to TBT to celebrate Purim on March 6th and pick up your gift bags at that time.

Those who order shaloch manot for friends and family who do not come to TBT should pick these up by March 6th and deliver them personally. Volunteers will deliver unclaimed gift bags to members' homes who live in the Kingwood, Humble, Atascocita area. **Orders and payment are due to TBT by February 21, 2020**

Want one more easy/fun mitzvah? Come to a Hamantaschen baking party Sunday, March 1st If you would like to help bake hamantaschen and /or put together boxes please contact Carrie at education@tbthumble.org

~~~~~  
Name \_\_\_\_\_



I would like to order a Shaloch Manot box for

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to order 1 shaloch manot for each TBT family for \$200.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of gift bags ordered \_\_\_\_\_ Payment included \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my name on a gift card included with each box ordered \_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_ no

# Temple Beth Torah Donate a Brick Campaign

TBT member Will Pollard has built a brick path in front of our Sukkah as part of his Eagle Scout project. We are now giving everyone an opportunity to donate an engraved brick for the path with **all** donations going to support Temple Beth Torah!

This is a wonderful way to remember a loved one or honor a friend/family member. You can also use it to commemorate an occasion, like a bar/bat mitzvah, a wedding, an anniversary or a memorable birthday.

Each brick can be inscribed with 3 lines and 20 characters per line (letters, numbers, spaces, punctuation and other keyboard symbols are considered characters). Various approved clip art designs can be made available for an additional \$20 donation per brick. If clip art is used, the text is limited to 15 characters per line.

**Brick donations are:**

- |                                    |                                       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>1 Brick= \$100</b>              | <b>4 Bricks= \$280 @ \$70/each</b>    |
| <b>2 Bricks= \$180 @ \$90/each</b> | <b>5 Bricks= \$300 @ \$60/each</b>    |
| <b>3 Bricks= \$240 @ \$80/each</b> | <b>6 or more Bricks= \$50 a brick</b> |

Please send your check with the engraving information to TBT:  
320 Shallow Drive, Humble, Texas 77338.

Questions? Please contact project coordinator Jeremy Blumin at [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org).

Name of donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number or email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Engraving details (please print):

**Brick 1:**

Line 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Line 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Line 3 \_\_\_\_\_

**Brick 2:**

Line 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Line 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Line 3 \_\_\_\_\_

*Please consider making a donation to support  
Temple Beth Torah's many worthy endeavors.  
You can indicate which fund you would like your contribution  
to support on the form below,  
as well as the names of those you wish to honor or remember.*

*You may contact the Temple by calling 281- 446-5611 with any questions.*

*THANK YOU*

**Please mail your donation and form to the Treasurer at:  
Temple Beth Torah 320 Shallow Drive Humble, TX 77338**



**TEMPLE  
BETH TORAH**

Donation Form

*Thank You!*

From: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of       In memory of

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Please apply donation to (check one):*

- General Fund
- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
- Burt Levy Memorial Library Fund
- Tracy Tobin Johnson Memorial Education Fund
- Tom Theriot Memorial Program Fund
- Temple Security Fund

*Please send acknowledgement of the donation to:*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

TEMPLE BETH TORAH 320 SHALLOW DRIVE HUMBLE, TX 77338

(281) 446-5611 WWW.TBTHUMBLE.ORG

# February 2020 SHEVAT – ADAR 5780

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                 | Monday    | Tuesday   | Wednesday                                         | Thursday  | Friday                                                                                                                                | Saturday                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                        |           |           |                                                   |           |                                                                                                                                       | <b>FEB 1</b>                                                          |
| <b>2</b>                                                                                                                                               | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>                                          | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>                                                                                                                              | <b>8</b>                                                              |
| 9:00 AM Religious School<br>11:30 -12:30PM Hebrew<br><br>9:30 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class<br><br>11:15 Adult Ed – Book Club<br><br>11:30 AM Adult Hebrew |           |           |                                                   |           | 6:30 PM<br><b>Tu B’ Shevat Seder Dinner – RSVP mandatory by Feb 5</b>                                                                 |                                                                       |
| <b>9</b>                                                                                                                                               | <b>10</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b>                                         | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b>                                                                                                                             | <b>15</b>                                                             |
| 9:00 AM Religious School<br>11:30 -12:30PM Hebrew<br><br>9:30 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class<br><br>11:15 Adult Ed – Book Club<br><br>11:30 AM Adult Hebrew |           |           |                                                   |           | 6:30 PM<br><b>Shabbat Service led by the Religious School Students</b><br><br><i>Oneg – provided by the religious school families</i> |                                                                       |
| <b>16</b>                                                                                                                                              | <b>17</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b>                                         | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b>                                                                                                                             | <b>22</b>                                                             |
| 9:00 AM Religious School<br>11:30 -12:30PM Hebrew<br><br>9:30 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class<br><br>11:15 Adult Ed – Book Club<br><br>11:30 AM Adult Hebrew |           |           | 12:30 PM<br><b>Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Dan</b> |           | 7:15 PM<br><b>Shabbat Service</b><br><br><i>Oneg – provided by the Book Discussion Group</i>                                          | 2:00 PM<br><b>Havdalah in the Park - Lake Houston Wilderness Park</b> |
| <b>23</b>                                                                                                                                              | <b>24</b> | <b>25</b> | <b>26</b>                                         | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b>                                                                                                                             | <b>29</b>                                                             |
| 9:00 AM Religious School<br>11:30 -12:30PM Hebrew<br><br>9:30 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class<br><br>11:15 Adult Ed – Book Club<br><br>11:30 AM Adult Hebrew |           |           |                                                   |           | 6:00 PM<br><b>Tot Shabbat</b><br><br>7:15 PM <b>Shabbat Service</b><br><br><i>Oneg – Open</i>                                         |                                                                       |