

Temple Beth Torah

NEWS FOR YOU

January 2021 TEVET – SHEVET 5781



Rabbi Dan
Gordon

**SPIRITUAL
LEADER**

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DIRECTORS AND
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AND NEWSLETTER
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Celebrate Shabbat Virtually

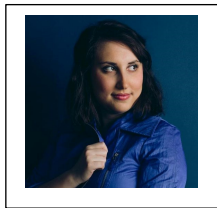
Friday Nights at 7:00 pm with Rabbi Dan Gordon

Zoom into Shabbat virtually every Friday evening at 7:00 PM. We are having great attendance, so don't miss out!! Zoom links are emailed regularly, and the link for Friday night services is always the same. If you need the link, email admin@tbthumble.org

Several kind members have chosen to sponsor a service in honor of an occasion, a simcha, an accomplishment or in memory of a loved one. If you would like to sponsor a Shabbat service, please contact Stacey at admin@tbthumble.org

Nashville Singer/Songwriter Ellie Flier Returns to TBT for a Virtual Shabbat Service and Installation of Our Board Members

Friday, January 15 at 7:00 pm



Join us for an exciting Shabbat service as Rabbi Dan will welcome us into Shabbat with singer and songwriter Ellie

Flier. Ellie has become a favorite at TBT, and the spirit and purity of her voice have moved audiences since she was a child. Now an inspiring performer, cantorial soloist, and song leader based in Nashville, she has found her passion and purpose in writing Jewish music. Listeners can't help but feel a connection to her songs, whether calling for social justice or celebrating the Joy of Judaism.

Our 2021 Temple Beth Torah Board of Directors will be honored during the service as we also thank those who served on our 2020 board. This volunteer group works tirelessly to make TBT what it is today.

Please join Rabbi Dan and Ellie Flier for this very special Shabbat. Ellie Flier is being brought to us by generous donations to our Virtual Program Fund. The Zoom link will be sent out in the weekly emails. Contact admin@tbthumble.org with any questions.

Learning and Growing with Music Yedidiah Family Band Joins TBT for Tu B'Shevat

Friday, January 29, 7 PM

Bring your musical spirit to our Zoom service on January 29 as we celebrate Tu B'Shevat, the holiday that honors the trees. The day commemorates the first blooms in Israel, a signal of springtime and rebirth. It is a time to think about all the blessings of nature. Rabbi Yakira Yedidia and her family return to the TBT Zoom Room, bringing their unique enthusiastic spirit, expressed with music and joy. We will also be joined by our ISJL Educational Fellow, Rena Lubin, who give a special d'var Torah related to our theme of nature. The Zoom link will be sent out in the weekly emails. Contact admin@tbthumble.org

Tot Shabbat

Friday, January 22, 6:30 PM

Please join Rabbi Dan at 6:30PM on January 22nd right before our Shabbat Service for a fun Tot Shabbat program. Same Zoom link as every Friday. Rabbi Dan will lead the kids in a fun and creative service with some learning too. Any questions please contact Stacey at admin@tbthumble.org

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.

LUNCH AND LEARN TEXAS JEWISH HISTORY with Dr. Joshua Furman Wednesday, January 13, 12 Noon

Dr. Joshua Furman is an adjunct lecturer at Rice University and the Curator of the Houston Jewish History Archive. He has assembled a wide collection of information from the long history of the Jewish community of Houston and surrounding areas around Texas. His presentation gives us a fascinating account of Southern Jewry and the foundations of early synagogue life and the Jewish community. The Zoom link will be sent out in the weekly emails. Contact admin@tbthumble.org with any questions.

LUNCH AND LEARN “Dr. Seuss Goes to War and Before” with historian and collector Gregg Philipson Tuesday, January 26 at 12 Noon

Temple Beth Torah’s Lunch and Learn favorite, Gregg Philipson, returns to share his knowledge with items from “The Gregg and Michelle Philipson Collection and Archive” as he discusses the Dr. Seuss you may not know.

We all know of Theodore Geisel (aka Dr. Seuss) as the author of numerous children’s books including “The Cat in the Hat,” but what may surprise you is the material he produced during WWII as a Major in the U.S. Army and as a political cartoonist during the war. His early commercial art for Esso Oil and other companies will amaze you!! Join us for an exciting talk guaranteed to be an eye opener for many! The Zoom link will be sent out in the weekly emails. Contact admin@tbthumble.org with any questions.

Shabbat Services and Events in January Please note different times

Friday, January 1	7:00 PM	Virtual Shabbat Service
Friday, January 8	7:00 PM	Virtual Shabbat Service
Sunday, January 10	3:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Drive By—Drop Off! See the article from TBT Cares for the items we need on page 6
Wed, January 13	12:00 PM	LUNCH AND LEARN with Dr. Josh Furman Houston Jewish Archives
Friday, January 15	7:00 PM	Virtual Shabbat Service with Ellie Flier and Installation of the new 2021 TBT Board of Directors
Friday, January 22	6:30 PM 7:00 PM	TOT SHABBAT VIRTUAL Virtual Shabbat Service
Tuesday, January 26	12:00 PM	LUNCH AND LEARN with Gregg Philipson “Dr. Seuss Goes to War and Before”
Friday, January 29	7:00 PM	TU B’ SHVAT Virtual Shabbat Service with the Yediyah Family Band and the D’Var Torah from Rena Lubin from ISJL

RABBI'S MESSAGE

Let My People Read

While we remain socially safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, we might as well expand our minds with some good reading material. Once a year or so, I like to offer recommendations for inspiration...with a wide variety of choices. Hopefully, something for everyone. Enjoy!

I am Jewish, Personal Reflections Inspired by the Last Words of Daniel Pearl, edited by Judea and Ruth Pearl. When Wall Street Journalist, Daniel Pearl was murdered in Pakistan, many Jews were particularly touched by his last words affirming his Jewish identity. His parents assembled dozens of contemporary comments from a smorgasbord of well-known Jews, including political leaders, judges, entertainers, athletes, religious leaders, authors and more. These insightful commentaries are wonderful inspirations for our own identity exploration.

Everyday Holiness, the Spiritual Path of Mussar, by Alan Morinis. Alan Morinis is a lifelong teacher of disciplines that make up positive qualities that help us remain balanced and help individuals balance the world. Each chapter includes practical life lessons inspired by Jewish sacred texts.

Finding God, Selected Responses, by Rifat Sonsino and Daniel Syme. Two Reform rabbis bring together the teachings of ancient philosophers as well as modern day teachers to present a wide spectrum of individual thought. This book is a welcome reminder that, while God is One, each of our individual experiences of God is personal and unique.

40 Things You can Do to Save the Jewish People, by Joel Lurie Grishaver. Grishaver is a modern educator who understands contemporary, American Jewish life. His frank discussion poses the question many parents may not articulate: "How much can we get away with and still raise fully Jewish children, who will, in turn, raise fully Jewish children?"

Not in God's Name: Confronting Religious Violence, by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks. The former Chief Rabbi of England, Rabbi Sacks was one of the most respected modern scholars in the world prior to his recent death in November 2020. As an expert in several religions, Rabbi Sacks puts forth logical arguments from each religion's perspective that condemn the idea that "holy war" is justifiable.

The Essential Jewish Stories, collected, annotated & retold by Seymour Rossel. Rabbi Rossel (who presented at TBT Lunchtime Learning this year) has compiled an exhaustive list of Jewish stories from multiple categories, complete with sources (Torah, Talmud, Midrash and Folklore) and usage. It will bring you laughter, tears and learning!

The Storyteller, by Jodi Picoult. For those who enjoy novels, this work of fiction is gripping in its realistic possibilities. It includes a classic story within a story, as well as first person perspectives from a Holocaust survivor, her granddaughter, a former Nazi commandant and a Nazi hunter. Personally, I was on the edge of my seat through the whole book!

Happy January, and I hope the New Year brings you all the inspiration you seek.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Dan Gordon

Temple Beth Torah's NEW 2021 Board of Directors

The 2021 Board of Directors were selected at the General meeting held via Zoom on December 30. The following members were elected to the Board of Directors:

President: Hy Penn
Vice President: Shari Ellsworth
Treasurer: Lenny Simmons
Secretary: Noellee Cole-Baca
Norman Weiss: Delegate
Emma Brawn: Delegate

Completing their 2-year term as delegates are Andrea Miller and Patricia Klemz. Jeremy Blumin will be serving on the board as past president.

Also serving on the board are several committee chairpersons. The chairpersons are

Ritual: Dany Pilman
Membership: Jeff Kaufman
Fundraising: Mike Miller
Education: Carrie Keith
Building: Jeremy Blumin
Social: Wes Goble

These wonderful volunteers keep our temple functioning and plan excellent programs and worship for our community. Please say "yes" when one of these volunteers asks for your help to plan a program, work on a Shabbat service, or help with a holiday service.

Volunteer to Serve on a Committee!

There is no better way to get involved with Temple Beth Torah than by serving on a committee. With the start of a new year, our committee chairs are looking for members to volunteer! Some of the committees that are looking for volunteers include ritual, building, membership, education, social, fundraising, finance, and social justice. We can help find the right committee for you.

Please contact Stacey at admin@tbthumble.org if you are interested.

Connections

Welcome to the new year. Most of us are glad 2020 is behind us and hopefully we will be in a better and safer world very soon. It is the time when our synagogue transitions from an old board to a new one. I want to thank my friends at TBT for the honor of allowing me to serve as president of the congregation for the upcoming year with the new board of directors.

My theme as president this year is "Connections." Connecting with ourselves, connecting with our family, connecting with each other in our TBT family, and connecting with the world and the greater Jewish community.

We must first work from within to make a fresh start to the new year. Let's evaluate our time and how we spend it; it is often too easy to become addicted to social media and binge-watch TV shows. The new year is a good time to do something to expand our perspective—consider starting a new hobby or continue an old one. Maybe even join a TBT committee!

Strengthening connections with family members and friends is essential, though we may need to push ourselves to accomplish this. Make a point to call a friend or relative once a day or send them an email. Making small changes to our daily routines will help us start the new year with a fresh perspective. Joining a Zoom TBT service or Lunch and Learn program is a great way to add variety to your life!

It is also important to connect to the rest of the world and realize we are part of a greater Jewish community. A great way to start this journey is to join the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston's upcoming program "One Night" on Sunday, January 31st at 7 pm. This will be a terrific evening of entertainment, also highlighting what our Jewish Federation does for us and for communities around the world. Details to come in our weekly emails.

I am looking forward to Zooming with you this month at our special Shabbat service led by Rabbi Dan and popular Nashville singer Ellie Flier as we honor our board of directors on Friday, January 15 as well as at our other Friday Shabbat services, adult Ed classes, and our "Drive by" event where you can actually drive to TBT to drop off needed items and food for FamilyTime and the Humble Area Assistance Ministries.

Let's connect!

Hy Penn
TBT President

Virtual Programming Fund and Shabbat Sponsorship

For a small congregation, TBT has brought wonderful guests to our virtual Shabbat services and special events. From the music of Ellie Flier and the Yedidia Family Band to the comedy of Rabbi Robert Haas to the wonderful presentations and words of wisdom from Gregg Philipson, Rabbi Rami Shapiro, Rabbi David Zaslow and Rabbi Seymour Rossel, these special guests have added a special dimension to our virtual programs. Please consider giving to our Virtual Programming Fund so we can continue such high caliber programs.

You can also be a "Shabbat Sponsor" to honor or remember a loved one.

Send your donations to TBT and note that your support is to go to the Virtual Programming Fund or to be a Shabbat sponsor.

Please contact Stacey at admin@tbthumble.org with any questions.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston Donates \$10,000 to Temple Beth Torah

With great pleasure, Temple Beth Torah is proud to announce that our synagogue and religious school have received a \$10,000 grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston and the Houston Jewish Community Foundation. \$2.8 million were approved from their joint COVID-19 Emergency Appeal to which some of our congregants may have donated to that supported 80 local and regional organizations including \$1.8 million to our local Jewish Family Service.

Thank you to the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston!

SAVE THE DATE YOM LIMMUD 2021 Houston's Largest Day of Virtual Jewish Learning! Sunday, February 14, 2021 9 AM - 4 PM

The event will be entirely virtual this year. This offers our community the incredible opportunity to hear from presenters from around the world! Each presenter will either currently live or have lived in the country they discuss. We will host 20 sessions including a PJ Library program, a family program for middle school ages and up, as well as a teacher's track.

Highlights include:

- Rebbetzin and actress Michelle Azar, creator of Netflix's "From Baghdad to Brooklyn"
- Rabbi Deborah Prinz discusses The Chocolate Trail and The Chocolate Babka Project. Learn about Jewish history, values, and culture through chocolate and bread
- Cantor Robyn Helzner will present on Kreplach & Dim Sum: Yes, There are Jews in China

More information and registration instructions to follow!
For questions, please contact Marna Meyer at <mailto:mmeyer@houstonjewish.org>

The Houston Jewish Community Foundation
invites you to...

The Secret of the Light: Transforming Obstacles into Opportunities and Burdens into Blessings



Rabbi Daniel Cohen

Author of *What Will They Say About You When You're Gone?*
Creating a Life of Legacy

Tuesday, January 12, 2021
7 - 8 p.m. (Virtual Event)

Register for Zoom Webinar
<https://bit.ly/335kzCC>

Complimentary Event

There will be no solicitation
of funds.

Celebrating Your Commitment
to Support Our Community
Through Philanthropy

HJCF Houston Jewish
Community Foundation

Questions? Contact Cindy Anapolsky at
canapolsky@houstonjewish.org or by cell 832-535-4661

Drive By and Drop Off
Start the New Year Helping our Community
Sunday, January 10 from 3pm – 4:30pm at TBT

This month we are collecting: For the women at FamilyTime

1. Toiletries (soaps, body washes for sensitive skin and regular, deodorant, body lotion)
2. House shoes, flip flops

For HAAM we are collecting

1. Peanut Butter
2. Canned Foods
3. Cereal
4. Any non-perishable food items are always welcome

A very big thank you to those that donated during a busy December. We completely filled a shopping cart with food for HAAM and supplied bags of PJs, sweatpants and robes for FamilyTime's clients! We want to thank, The Curtis Family, Lauren Herman, The Hellers, Pat Klemz, The Keith Family, The Kaufmans, Jeanne Mandell, The Penn Gordon Family, The Pollards, The Swaims, Liz Stern and Catherine and Lizzy Zakes.

Successful Beginning for First Annual Ner Tamid Presentation

Temple Beth Torah's first program to honor a congregational leader was a tremendous success in every way. The award recipient, Hy Penn, was most deserving to become the first honoree, based on his tireless devotion to Temple Beth Torah and the greater Jewish community. The award is named Ner Tamid, or Eternal Light, to model the concept of igniting inspiration from one member to another. As other members receive this honor in the coming years, we hope every program will be just as successful, and more members will aspire to reach the example that has been set both by Hy Penn and the committee that planned an excellent program.

The December 6 event began with a virtual tour of Holocaust Museum Houston (HMH), led by staff of the museum and guided by Hy's wife, Lynn Gordon. Lynn added a very personal touch to her presentation, as she showed pictures of Hy's family of Holocaust survivors and talked about the special connection the family has in coming to Houston. A surprise guest, internationally known singer/songwriter Kinky Friedman added a musical tribute along with his own personal message to his old friend, Hy, who often performed magic as an opening act to Kinky's concerts. Susan Pollard, from TBT and Mary Lee Webeck, from HMH both spoke about how Hy had been a role model for them in his roles as temple leader and Holocaust Museum docent and board member. After Rabbi Dan Gordon added his own personal remarks about how much Hy has helped him as the TBT rabbi, Hy offered his own comments, thanking the temple, his family, the Museum and so many supporters who have been part of his life. The program closed with a beautiful song, "L'Dor Va-Dor" (Generation to Generation) sung by Ellie Flier.

The fundraiser inspired over 200 separate contributions, and over 170 different devices logged on to the event, making it one of the most wide-reaching programs TBT has ever attempted. Those who attended from several different states and countries included TBT members, former members, former TBT rabbis, community leaders and countless others.

The other thing that made the program so successful was the teamwork of a committee. At TBT, volunteers make everything happen, and this was no exception. Mike Miller chaired the committee and took care of all the technical aspects (which were many!). He worked with Wendy Warren from HMH and the TBT committee members, Lynn Gordon, Donna Glaser, Carrie Keith, Joni Levy, Jeanne Mandell, Susan Meinholz and Susan Pollard. As advertised, it was truly "A Magical Event." Please see our list of donors on pages 10 and 11.

Religious School Corner *Carrie Keith, Religious School Principal*

Happy 2021!!

I hope everyone had a very happy Hanukkah with family and friends. Our first Zoom class of 2021 will be January 10th. All classes begin at 10:00 am. Hebrew Zoom class will follow at 11:10 am.

We will have Rena Lubin from The Institute of Southern Jewish Life with us over Zoom on Sunday, January 31. She will work with third grade and up on this visit and also check in with the confirmation students. Rena will give the d'var Torah for Shabbat on Friday, January 29 and do an in-service with our teachers on Saturday, January 30.

The Religious School students and families will continue with our theme of "Kindness" for January. These activities and prayers will center around Tu B'Shevat. Watch for email details to come.

Lots of Learning and Activities at TBT ZOOM Religious School planned for 2021!!

SUNDAY DISCUSSION GROUP **SUNDAYS at 11:30 A.M.**

The Sunday Discussion Group is open to all and will be discussing: **Einstein and the Rabbi: Searching for the Soul by Naomi Levy.**

A bestselling author and rabbi's profoundly affecting exploration of the meaning and purpose of the soul, inspired by the famous correspondence between Albert Einstein and a grieving rabbi.

"Einstein and the Rabbi is an inspiring and deeply affecting book for people of all faiths, Rabbi Naomi Levy sets off on a three-year exploration of the mystery behind a moving and mystical letter that Albert Einstein wrote to a grieving father about the unity that underlies all existence. In the letter Einstein perfectly captures what Rabbi Levy has come to believe about the human condition: that we are intimately connected and that we are blind to this truth. Wondering what had elicited such spiritual wisdom from a man of science, Levy leads us on a breathtaking journey full of wisdom, empathy, and humor, all the while helping us to reclaim our souls and glimpse the oneness that has been eluding us, live up to our gifts, and understand why we are here."

If you have questions, please email Susan at spollard@tbthumble.org. The discussion group meets through Zoom. The link remains the same each week and is sent out in our weekly emails.

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.

ONE night. ONE event. FOUR communities.

HOUSTON | DALLAS | MILWAUKEE | ST. LOUIS

Join THREE Surprise Headliners

For ONE Virtually Amazing Event
Sunday, January 31, 2021
7:00 PM

Learn what the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston does for our own community, Israel, and for Jews around the world.

Watch for more information in TBT's weekly email!

ADULT EDUCATION - TORCH **(TORAH OUTREACH RESOURCE CENTER OF HOUSTON)** **SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM VIA ZOOM**

TORCH Rabbi Yaakov Wolbe leads a discussion of **Pirke Avot** (Ethics of the Fathers). All meetings will be through Zoom. Any questions please contact admin@tbthumble.org. The Zoom links are sent out in the weekly email.

Condolences

Condolences go out to TBT member Mike Weisberg on the loss of his brother, Richard.

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](https://www.smile.amazon.com)

Simchas in January

Birthdays

5	<i>Tony Sullivan</i>
5	<i>Bob Swaim</i>
5	<i>Felipe Ramirez</i>
6	<i>Landon Horgan</i>
7	<i>LiJuan Aizenberg</i>
7	<i>Ginny Skold</i>
8	<i>Judi Adler</i>
8	<i>Ellen Delap</i>
8	<i>Bobbylee Ruskis</i>
8	<i>Ann Dominick</i>
10	<i>Benyamin Ramirez</i>
11	<i>Joanna Sullivan-Ofsowitz</i>
16	<i>Grayson Miller</i>
20	<i>Tom Graf</i>
20	<i>Hanah Stein</i>
27	<i>Ian Adler</i>
28	<i>Lenny Simmons</i>
30	<i>Rachael Blumin</i>
30	<i>Alexander Zweifel</i>

Anniversaries

1	<i>Robert and Mabel Abrasley</i>
25	<i>Richard and Miranda Shuman</i>
25	<i>Lauren Herman and Ginny Skold</i>

January Yahrzeits

The following names will be read each week during January 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.

Harold Rubin, Molly Rosenberg, Sara Solomon, Spurgeon Dunnam, David Kharasch, Joseph Abbell, Leah Denbina Wexler, Magdalena Rauba, Stanley Sonenfield, Charles Curtis, Shirley Weiss, Helen Gordon, Joseph Samuels, Mary Judith Keith, Rose Katz, Harry D. Smith, Roslyn Wolf, Erwin Cahn, Henry Lesser, Ann Wolfsohn, Elsie Kullman, Ruby Bluestein Kemble, Blossom Levy, Ella Eidelhoch, Shirley Lubin, Alfred Heyman, Marvin Charak

Torah Portions for January 2021

Summarized by Rabbi Dan Gordon

Va-Y'chi, January 1-2, 2021 Genesis 47:28-50:26

Jacob, at 147 years old, blesses his grandchildren, Ephraim and Menasseh, blessing the younger before the elder. He makes Joseph promise to have him buried with his forefathers in Canaan. Jacob calls all his sons to him and tells each what he thinks of them. After his death, Jacob's sons take him to Canaan for burial and then returned to Egypt. Joseph dies at 110 years old, after reconciling with his brothers again. The Biblical family is at home in Egypt as Genesis ends.

Shemot Exodus 1:1-6:1 January 8-9, 2021

We begin the Book of Exodus with the sons of Israel (Jacob) and their families settled in Egypt. But a new king arises who does not honor the relationship Joseph had established. Because of Pharaoh's fear of a revolt, male Hebrew babies are ordered to be killed. With the help of conspiring midwives, Shifra and Puah, Moses' mother saves him by putting him in a basket where he is later found by Pharaoh's daughter and adopted. Moses kills an Egyptian taskmaster and flees to Midian. He marries, and while watching his father-in-law's sheep, G-d appears to Moses out of a burning bush that is not consumed. G-d reveals His plan to free the Israelites and sends Moses and his brother Aaron to speak to Pharaoh about freeing the Hebrew slaves.

Va-eira Exodus 6:2-9:35 January 15-16, 2021

G-d reveals His sacred name to Moses, and tells him that he is the first one to know it. G-d assures Moses that He will be with him as he negotiates with Pharaoh. The plagues begin: blood, frogs, vermin, locusts, cattle disease, boils and hail; but each time, Pharaoh's heart is hard, and he does not free the Hebrew slaves.

Bo, Exodus 10:1-13:16 January 22-23, 2021

The plagues continue with Pharaoh's lack of response predictable, as G-d reveals to Moses, "*I am hardening Pharaoh's heart in order to increase My wonders - so you will tell your children and grandchildren how I toyed with Egypt, and the wonders I put in them. And they shall know that I am God.*" (Exodus 10:1-2) For years, scholars and commentators wonder why ten plagues were necessary. The Torah suggests that the plagues had to be memorable enough for us to continue to retell the story. The Israelites receive instructions to place blood above our doorposts as a sign for the angel of death to "pass over" our homes, and the Torah reveals laws about how to remember Pesach/Passover in the future.

Beshalach Exodus 13:17-17:16 January 29-30, 2021

Finally set free by the Pharaoh, the Israelites depart from Egypt, only to be pursued by a Pharaoh who changed his mind about their freedom. 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 their leader, Moses. In response, God sends manna to appease their hunger.

DONATIONS

RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

John and Bobbylee Ruskis

Dale Vine

Stephen and Ellen Stapleton - In memory of Belle Weiss and Mazie Crosney

Stolbun and Spiwak Families – In memory of Edith and Bernard Stolbun

GENERAL FUND

Judith Coleman

Jewish Federation

Gloria and Raymundo Mendez

Lynn Gordon and Hy Penn – In memory of Richard Weisberg, brother of Mike Weisberg

TBT CARES – SOCIAL ACTION
THANK YOU TO ALL THE FAMILIES THAT HAVE
DONATED FOR THE DRIVE BY AND DROP OFF EVENTS

VIRTUAL PROGRAM FUND

SPONSORS OF SHABBAT SERVICES

If you would like to sponsor a TBT Zoom event in honor of

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.

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

Thank you to our Ner Tamid Event Donors

Ner Tamid Level

Hy Penn
Lynn Gordon
Joy and Benjamin Warren
Steven Smith
Lynn Paine Shapiro and Armand Shapiro/ Linda
and Jerrold Paine/ Linda Popkin-Paine and
Stephen Paine
The Sandra & Walter Rosen Family
The Castine Theriot Family
Cynthia and Barry Weinberger / Pam & Robert
Penn and Families
The Levy Group – Kim and Stephen Levy
The Merikansky & Nurko families
Sarah & Yoel Arnoni
Alyce and Chris Baur
Wes Goble
Joni Levy
Velva and H. Fred Levine
Susan and Jim Meinholz
Mike Stark
Houston Jewish Funerals
Melinda and David Askin
Alana Spiwak and Sam Stolbun
Martha & Don Freedman

Gold Level

Loren and Rabbi Dan Gordon
Susan and Jeff Penn
Beth Gordon and Glen Berkowitz
Barry Mandel
Sharyn Feller and David Harris
Debbie and Bob Swaim
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Thank you to Ellie Flier for her beautiful contribution to the program.

Thank you to Wendy Warren, Director of Education, Holocaust Museum Houston.

Thank you to Kinky Friedman for his wonderful introduction.

The Gala Committee members want to thank program chair Michael Miller for his steady leadership and technical expertise in making this event come to fruition.

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:

1 Brick= \$100

2 Bricks= \$180 @ \$90/each

3 Bricks= \$240 @ \$80/each

4 Bricks= \$280 @ \$70/each

5 Bricks= \$300 @ \$60/each

6 or more Bricks= \$50 a brick

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.

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 _____

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JANUARY 2021 TEVET - SHEVET 5781

ALL PROGRAMS LISTED ON THE JANUARY CALENDAR WILL BE VIRTUAL. LINKS TO LOG IN TO PROGRAMS ARE SENT REGULARLY THROUGH EMAIL. If you are not receiving the information, EMAIL ADMIN@TBTHUMBLE.ORG

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			30	31	JAN 1	2
					7:00 PM VIRTUAL Shabbat Service	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
NO Religious School 10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group					7:00 PM VIRTUAL Shabbat Service	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:00M AM Religious School 10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class 11:30 AM Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group 3:00PM – 4:30PM Drive By and Drop Off			LUNCH AND LEARN 12 noon Dr. Josh Furman		7:00 PM VIRTUAL Shabbat Service with Ellie Flier and Installation of Officers for 2021 TBT Board	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10:00M AM Religious School 10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group					6:30 PM TOT SHABBAT – Virtual 7:00 PM VIRTUAL Shabbat Service	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10:00M AM Religious School 10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group		LUNCH AND LEARN 12 noon Gregg Philipson			7:00 PM VIRTUAL Tu B'Shevat Shabbat Service with Yedidiah Family Band and Rena Lubin from ISJL	
31	FEB 1	2	3	4	5	6
10:00M AM Religious School 10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group					7:00 PM VIRTUAL Shabbat Service	