

Temple Beth Torah

NEWS FOR YOU

February 2021 SHEVET - ADAR 5781



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Gordon**
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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 Friday, February 12 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.

Please join Rabbi Dan and Ellie Flier for this very special Shabbat. Ellie's visit is being underwritten by Lynn Gordon and Hy Penn in memory of Linda Penn on the 20th anniversary of her yahrzeit.

See inside for more information about:

Register for Yom Limmud Page 7
Drive by to donate Page 6
Upcoming Lunch and Learns Page 5
Passover is coming! Page 6
Tot Shabbat: page 8

A ZOOMING MUSICAL PURIM/SHABBAT

**with CANTOR FRANCYNE DAVIS JACOBS
FRIDAY, February 26, 7 PM**



A new voice joins Temple Beth Torah's Zoom services for the most festive holiday of Purim. COSTUMES ENCOURAGED,

even in your little zoom boxes! Let's take an evening for fun and frivolity, as we hear the story of Haman's failure and Esther and Mordecai's victory!

Cantor Francyne is a native Houstonian who completed her cantorial training at Gratz College in Philadelphia in 2002, honored as the valedictorian of her class. She has been a Shabbat and High Holiday cantor at several synagogues around Houston, including Beth Yeshurun and Congregation Beth Shalom in Bryan, Texas. The last few years, she has been the High Holiday cantor for Temple Beth Tikvah in Clear Lake. Cantor Davis teaches music to all ages, and currently serves as president of the Women Cantors' Network.

Join Rabbi Dan and Cantor Francyne for a fun-filled Purim celebration – ZOOM style! And don't forget to dress up or wear a funny hat or do something silly for a grand Shabbat!

HAPPY PURIM!!!!

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:

Baking Challah and What It Can Teach...

I had the opportunity to make a challah from scratch recently. This is something I have always wanted to do. There is something special about eating this warm, light, flavor filled bread that makes Shabbat so special.

Making challah takes time and until recently, I chose to go to HEB or the Great Harvest Bread Company in Kingwood and purchase one rather than make one. For my first attempt, I chose a simple recipe: "Challah in a bag," It sounded foolproof, or so I thought.

It starts with a Ziplock one gallon bag. Add yeast, water, sugar, salt, and oil followed by flour, and then all you do is "give it all a little shake." I then placed the bag with its contents in a bowl of warm water for 30 minutes as the instructions said and gave it another "shake." I let it sit on the table for an hour, flipping the bag every 20 minutes. Sounds easy, I thought. I cut the dough into 3 pieces and made a beautiful braid, basted the loaf with an egg bath and sprinkled sesame seeds on the finished product. So far, so good. It then went into the oven for 40 minutes and I was done.

My finished product looked beautiful but was as dense as a brick. Lynn, trying to be kind, said after eating a slice slowly during our Shabbat dinner, that "it was growing on her."

It is said that "baking challah brings blessings upon the home and helps transform the physical to the spiritual" – this is one of our main jobs in the world. Each challah, like each of us, is unique. "Just as we are a mixture of nature and nurture, so too is the finished challah a mixture of the measured ingredients and the care those ingredients received." I found that the "brick" of challah I made to eat is clearly a metaphor of life. As in life, "the more times you do something and the more attention you pay to what you are doing, the finished product will be better." First attempts (at anything) can be hard, tough, dense and difficult to chew. Trying something new can be a challenge, but ease comes with practice and encouragement.

Making the challah also reminded me of my mother. She was an amazing cook and baker and I can still taste the delicious challah she would make seemingly without any effort. It will be 20 years this month since her passing and I can still smell the sweetness in the air of her challah baking in the oven.

I found out that my sister has my mother's challah recipe—it may be a little more complicated than my "challah in a bag." I will try again...because that's what life is all about.

Hy Penn

Join a Committee!

Have you thought about becoming more active at TBT? One way is to join a committee. Some of our committees include the building, ritual, social, membership, fundraising, education, social justice and safety & security committees.

A new committee that is being brought back is the caring committee. This committee is designed to remember members on special occasions, help with meals if ill, and brighten people's lives.

If you are interested in serving on a committee or for more information, please contact Hy Penn at president@tbthumble.org.

RABBI'S MESSAGE

What a Difference a Year Makes

A year ago, at this time, life was very different for all of us. Personally, I was making arrangements to attend a rabbinic conference in New York. I had no qualms about flying and all the restaurants were open. At the conference, nobody was wearing masks, we sat close to each other and affectionately embraced our colleagues. As I flew back to Houston on February 15, 2020, I had no idea what the coming months had in store.

The Hebrew calendar starts with the month of Nissan, the month that includes Passover. When the Coronavirus became a reality a few weeks before Pesach, we scrambled to learn how to maintain our joyous community when we were separated physically. The “zoom” format was an uncomfortable solution for many, but we made it work. We all thought it was a temporary solution; it still IS temporary but has lasted much longer than anticipated.

Adjusting to a different reality is nothing new for the Jewish people. As I think back just a few months ago to the process of hosting, in virtual technology, a Passover seder, an Open House, weekly religious school classes, adult education and High Holiday worship, I'm reminded of when our ancestors were rushed out of Egypt. The Pandemic that arrived a year ago forced us to explore new avenues of learning and worship, just as the sudden redemption from Egypt forced us to explore a forty-year wilderness in search of a Promised Land.

It hasn't been an easy adjustment, but we continue to explore the best ways to stay safe and communicate. The desert wilderness was filled with challenges. It included the mysteries of available food and water, as well as fears about safety and uncertainty about how long the journey would last. Our society is experiencing many of those same mysteries. Countless people have gotten sick; many have recovered fully, some still experience symptoms while others, sadly, have died. A vaccine is here! And with it, the uncertainty of how long it will take before enough people are safe from the virus.

Like our biblical ancestors, we maintain our hopes, regardless of how uncertain the path. Our prayers are not empty, because they are accompanied by actions: increased hygienic practices, masking, and making sure we and our loved ones remain safe while embracing what medical science provides. In our desert journey G-d gave us manna to eat, helped Miriam find water and guided Moses on the path to freedom. Moses could not lead if we did not follow the paths and learn from G-d's instructions. Today, we rely on the wisdom of science to help us learn what we need to do...and then we need to do it! We have already shown that we can, and we will remain strong as a community, whatever challenges are in front of us.

And we continue, moving forever forward...

L'shalom,

Rabbi Dan Gordon

Special Shabbat, Friday March 5, 7 PM

Includes the Virtual Bar and Bat Mitzvah of Samuel and Sydney Baur

Temple Beth Torah's regular Friday night services always draw dozens of different devices to join in the joy. On March 5, that joy will include two of our students blessing the Torah demonstrating their learning as they become Bar and Bat Mitzvah.

Samuel and Sydney are the children of Alyce and Chris Baur and the brother of Ben. Please save the date so we can celebrate with the Baur family and celebrate the learning of our students. This is the first live stream Bar and Bat Mitzvah for TBT, and will be a joyous and educational event.

The Baur family is sponsoring the service in honor of their children, and invites everyone for a virtual oneg, schmoozing and socializing, after the service.

Shabbat Services and Events in February

Please note different times

Friday, February 5	7:00 PM	Virtual Shabbat Service
Wed., February 10	12:00 PM	LUNCH AND LEARN with Vickie Vogel
Friday, February 12	7:00 PM	Virtual Shabbat Service – Featuring Ellie Flier Sponsored by Lynn Gordon and Hy Penn in memory of Linda Penn on the 20 th anniversary of her yahrzeit
Sunday, February 14	All day	Yom Limmud – sign up information on page 9
Friday, February 19	6:30 PM 7:00 PM	TOT SHABBAT VIRTUAL Virtual Shabbat Service Sponsored by Wes Goble in memory of Marjorie Liss
Sunday, February 21	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., February 24	12:00 PM	LUNCH AND LEARN with Rabbi Dan - The Purim Story We Don't Tell Children
Friday, February 26	7:00 PM	Purim Virtual Shabbat Service with Cantor Francyne Davis Jacobs
Wednesday, March 3	12:00 PM	LUNCH AND LEARN - Hand in Hand: The School where Arabs and Jews learn side by side.
Friday, March 5	7:00 PM	Virtual Shabbat Service – Bar Mitzvah of Samuel Baur and Bat Mitzvah of Sydney Baur – Shabbat sponsored by the Baur Family

Alice & Jeff Kaufman Make Donation to Improve Technology at TBT in Memory of Their Son, Scott Eric Kaufman

Dr. Scott Eric Kaufman was an amazing young man who touched the lives of so many people. He was an educator who was so respected by his students and colleagues. Scott loved using technology and found innovative ways as a college professor to teach his students.

Unfortunately, Scott was taken away from us too soon, passing away at the young age of 39. However, he influenced countless people through his university teaching and later as an editor of an online literary magazine. Scott was a pioneer in academic blogging when the academic powers that be did not think it was a productive form of discourse.

Scott's parents, Alice and Jeff Kaufman, have chosen to keep his memory alive with tzedakah, and are making a donation to Temple Beth Torah to start a fund to help with technological needs at TBT. The education committee is evaluating the religious school and building needs and will be making a formal presentation at the synagogue's next board meeting this month.

Items being considered include updating the computers and screens in our classrooms so our teachers will have better options for using technology in helping teach our children. Also being evaluated is the need to replace outdated computers of our principal and rabbi and standardizing and updating our printers.

Watch for further information on this project. If you are interested in making a donation to help with TBT's technology needs, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you again to Alice and Jeff for your significant contribution as we remember Scott.

Lunch and Learn
Wednesday, February 10 at 12 Noon
Interesting Jewish Texans You May
Not Know with Vickie Vogel

You may know about long time Galveston rabbi Henry Cohen, or Stanley Marcus of Neiman Marcus fame, but do you know the Banana King of Marshall? The San Antonio man who turned a Louisiana leper colony inside out? The Bay City merchants kidnapped and left for dead who lived to tell the tale? The amateur theatrics of Leona Westheimer? Rambling Rosella of the Houston Press? Dopplemayer's Rescue Liniment? The Shapira Hotel in Madisonville? There are eight million stories in the big state of Texas, to paraphrase Naked City's TV tag line, and we will explore a few of them. Join Vickie Vogel with the Texas Jewish Historical Society as she shares some interesting stories about Jewish Texans. The Zoom link will be sent out in the weekly emails or contact Stacey at admin@tbthumble.org with any questions.

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 Yediyah 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.

More Lunchtime Learning on Zoom
Wednesday, February 24, 12 noon
The Purim Story We Don't Tell
Children.

Led by Rabbi Dan Gordon

Purim is a great story for kids...the Book of Esther has more adult themes. On Purim, we wear masks that reflect the deceptions in the story. This session will look at the actual Megillah to try to uncover deeper meaning.

Hand in Hand: The School where
Arabs and Jews Learn Side by Side
Wednesday, March 3, 12 noon
In Israel, Jews and Arabs live in separation,
fear and violence.
We're on a mission to change that.

Come zoom in to learn about the unique school system in Israel, kindergarten through grade 12, whose student body is 50% Jewish and 50% Arab. They learn Hebrew AND Arabic, while making friends and learning about each other. Starting with only 50 children in 1998, Hand in Hand now has seven campuses and thousands of Jewish and Arab students. Israel's fastest growing, integrated social movement impacts over 10,000 people every day, proving that we can live together as Jews and Arabs, Israelis and Palestinians.

Temple Beth Torah is honored to have guest speakers that include staff from the school as well as two alumni students, one Jewish and one Arabic, who both spent their childhood and teen years at a school that encourages peaceful coexistence. When today's children learn peace, honor and respect, can they grow into adult leadership that promotes those values? Come learn about a school that is working to accomplish this very important mission. Zoom invitations will be sent in email updates and can be forwarded to other interested parties. For more information, visit www.handinhandk12.org

Drive By and Drop Off For HAAM/FamilyTime and Celebrate Purim!

**Sunday, February 21st from 3pm – 4:30 pm
at TBT**

Come wearing a decorated mask and show us your Purim Spirit!

Enjoy a goodie bag of Hamentashen!
Children will take home a Megillah craft!

Witness an amazing feat while in the comfort of your car by the magician of Shushan!

This month we are collecting "Shoes for Shushan."
Donate children's sneakers, socks or a gift card for HAAM as well as any non-perishable foods.

For the women at FamilyTime, we are collecting:

1. Nail clippers
2. Nail files
3. Pepto Bismol
4. Cough Drops
5. Cold medicine (alcohol free)
6. Peroxide or Rubbing Alcohol

A very big thank you to those that braved the rain and cold to drop off their donations in January. We completely filled 2 shopping carts with non-perishable food for HAAM and gave a lot of toiletries to those FamilyTime serves! We want to thank The Blumins, The Cahns, The Delap Family, Ann Dominick and Mark Boyll, Lauren Herman, Pat Klemz, The Keith Family, Iris Kelley and Mike Weisberg, Jeanne Mandell, The Penn/Gordon Family, The Pollards, Castine Theriot, Leslie Witkov and The Zakes.

SAVE THE DATE:

**TBT'S PASSOVER SEDER WILL BE ON THE
FIRST NIGHT OF PASSOVER, SATURDAY,
MARCH 27 AT 6:00 PM**

**MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW IN THE
COMING WEEKS!**

Meet the TBT Board of Directors

Each month, we will be introducing 1 or 2 of our board members so we all get to know them a little better. This month we meet one of our delegates, Andrea Miller.

My name is Andrea Miller, and I am a **delegate** on the TBT Board of Directors. I also serve on the Finance Committee helping our treasurer, Lenny Simmons. I have served previously on the board as our Treasurer starting in 2019.

I am also the new **Hebrew Coordinator** for the students of our Religious School and a teacher for the third-fourth-fifth graders. My way of teaching includes engaging in fun activities and meeting the individual needs of my students. I like to mix Judaica with Hebrew in a holistic way allowing the students to connect it to their lives. I am also focusing on helping our students read Hebrew; teaching them to decode so that they can read any Hebrew word they see, not just ones they've memorized.

To help the students learn prayers and Hebrew, I've produced a few videos, with the help of my husband, Mike, to bring technology into play. Students can now use these videos to enhance their learning, including with their Bar/Bat-Mitzvah preparation.

Mike and I have a son, Manny, who joined our family when he was two days old, one day before my 36th birthday. May 24, 2010 was the best day of our lives. He's our pride and joy and he never fails to impress and amaze us.

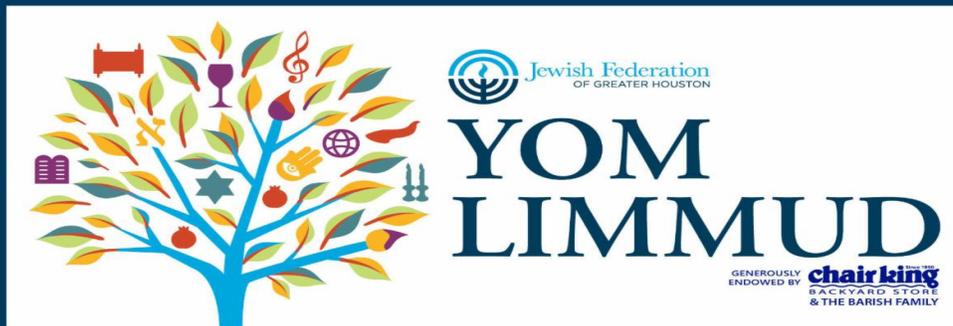
I have a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with a teacher's certificate for Early Childhood up through fourth grade. I've taught Kindergarten and First Grade in public school. I've tutored all ages from first grade through college in a variety of capacities. I love to teach and am always excited to do so here at Temple Beth Torah.

When I'm not teaching, I crochet, play computer games, and read a lot. We are a household of readers. I'm also learning Hebrew on an app called Duolingo and taking a Spanish class on Zoom. I love to learn which is why I love to teach so much.

I love TBT. It's our home away from home, even on Zoom. Please feel free to say hello, introduce yourself, and let me know how I can help you. I can be shy at first, but I'm friendly and eager to help where I can.

Yom Limmud (Day of Learning) is Virtual this Year and Free of Charge Sunday, February 14

The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston's Yom Limmud (Day of Learning) provides a unique opportunity for Jews from all denominations and walks of life to come together in one place at one time to learn, exchange ideas, and share experiences.



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR
YOM LIMMUD 2021: JEWS AROUND the WORLD
Houston's Largest Day of Virtual Jewish Learning!
Sunday, February 14, 2021 9 AM - 4 PM

Connect with unique Jewish stories and culture from around the globe through music, art, cooking, and general education. Free classes will be available from 9-4 pm. You can see the full schedule at www.houstonjewish.org/yomlimmud or via the Whova app. Within the app, you will see a schedule of classes as well as descriptions for each class. Sign up for each individual class that you would like to attend by clicking the Zoom link within Whova. You will need to enter your name and email on the Zoom registration page. Follow these steps:

- Step 1:
- From your phone: Download the Whova app to your phone.
 - Search Yom Limmud 2021 and use invitation code: yomtc
 - From your computer: [click here](#)

Registering with Whova lets you choose the classes you are interested in and to add it in your agenda.

- Step 2:
- After you have chosen which class(es) you want, click on the Zoom link included in each class description to register for the class.

For more information on Yom Limmud, please contact Marna at mmeyer@houstonjewish.org.

IMPORTANT NOTE FROM JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE

Jewish Family Service (JFS) of Houston has many ways to help members of the Jewish community. One of them is a chaplaincy department within Texas Medical Center in Houston. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, hospital visitation policies changed to protect the staff and patients from possible exposure. Currently, most hospitals still are not allowing patients to bring a caregiver or family member into the hospital for their appointments or to visit inpatients in their hospital rooms. These changes have made it more difficult at times for patients, families, caregivers, and clergy to connect with Jewish chaplaincy services. If you or a family member become hospitalized, PLEASE let us know, either through admin@tbthumble.org or by contacting Rabbi Gordon directly by email or cell phone. Intake time at the hospital can be quite stressful and involved, but it will be helpful if you remember to identify your religious preference as "Jewish" and say "yes" to the section that asks if you would like to be contacted by a chaplain from your faith group. Also, tell your caregiver (doctor, nurse, social worker or case manager) that you would like to be contacted by a Jewish chaplain and share with the staff chaplain on duty that you would like to connect with a Jewish chaplain. If you give her permission, the Jewish chaplain will also be in contact with Rabbi Gordon. The Jewish chaplain for JFS is Hope Lipnick, who has been to TBT several times and works closely with Rabbi Gordon.

To learn about other important ways JFS can be helpful, please visit www.jfshouston.org

Religious School Corner

Carrie Keith, Religious School Principal

I hope everyone enjoyed Tu B'Shevat. Rena Lubin, our ISJL fellow, presented a fun program to the 3rd – 7th graders on January 31st. She also worked with our confirmation students, checking in on their community engagement projects.

We have a Fabulous February planned for Temple Beth Torah Religious School. Yom Limmud, Houston's Day of Learning on February 14th, will be virtual this year and feature classes from around the world. There are cooking, art and travel classes that sound super interesting for all ages. This is Religious School for the 14th so please go to the Yom Limmud article on page 7 to register through WHOVA. This is a free program for the greater Houston area.

Purim is just around the corner. This year we will have a Drive Through Purim experience along with our monthly collection on February 21st from 3–4:30 pm. We are collecting sneakers, socks, slippers and gift cards for SHOES for SHUSHAN. Susan Pollard, TBT's social justice chair will donate these to children, teens and families in our area along with any nonperishable food items and toiletries collected. Everyone will receive a goodie bag (shaloch manot) of hamentashen. There will be a megillah craft to take home and a special MAGIC SHOW for your car presented by the Great Hydini!! Decorate your masks for Purim to show off as you drive through.

Happy February!

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.

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.

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.

Tot Shabbat **Friday, February 19, 6:30 PM**

Please join Rabbi Dan at 6:30 PM on February 19th 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

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.

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)

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

6	Allison Levy
13	Barry Sachs
14	Greg LaCour
15	Rylan Horgan
17	Alyce Baur
17	Jonathan Couch
19	William Pollard
19	Lizzy Zakes
20	Jim Meinholz
22	Margaret Pous-Holyfield
25	Donna Karash
26	Iris Graf
27	Lynn Gordon
28	Fischer Sullivan-Ofsowitz

Anniversaries

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, Julie Jones*

Torah Portions for February 2021

Summarized by Rabbi Dan Gordon

Beshalach Exodus 13:17-17:16 February 5-6, 2021

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 12-13, 2021

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 19-20, 2021

"*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 26-27, 2021

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.

DONATIONS

RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

John and Bobbylee Ruskis

Dale Vine

Susan Zigelman and Family - in memory of Sid Zigelman

Susan Dulman – in memory of Sidney Dulman

Jeff and Alice Kaufman

Pastors Kristen Galle and Brett Hampton – in honor of Rabbi Dan Gordon's service to the community

GENERAL FUND

Leah Theriot – in honor of her mom, Castine Theriot

Annette and Michael Hluza

TOM THERIOT MEMORIAL PROGRAM FUND

Leah Theriot – in memory of her father Tom Theriot

TBT CARES – SOCIAL ACTION

THANK YOU TO ALL THE FAMILIES THAT HAVE DONATED FOR THE DRIVE BY AND DROP OFF EVENTS

VIRTUAL PROGRAM FUND

Lynn Gordon and Hy Penn – In Memory of Linda Penn

SPONSORS OF SHABBAT SERVICES

Wes Goble – In memory of Marjorie Liss

The Baur Family – in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Samuel Baur and the Bat Mitzvah of Sydney Baur

If you would like to sponsor a TBT Zoom event in honor of an occasion or in memory of a loved one, please contact Stacey at admin@tbthumble.org.

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.

You can now make a donation online to any of our funds. Tell your friends and family to visit our website, www.tbthumble.org, to make a donation or see the donations form in this newsletter.

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.

LEGACY GIVING SOCIETY

TBT's Legacy Giving Society is a group of visionary donors who have committed themselves to the future of Temple Beth Torah. Legacy gifts are easy to establish, cost nothing during your lifetime, and make a difference for our community. Contact admin@tbthumble.org for more information.

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 _____

TEMPLE BETH TORAH 320 SHALLOW DRIVE HUMBLE, TX 77338

(281) 446-5611 WWW.TBTHUMBLE.ORG

FEBRUARY 2021 SHEVET - ADAR 5781

ALL PROGRAMS LISTED ON THE FEBRUARY 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
	FEB 1	2	3	4	5	6
					7:00 PM VIRTUAL Shabbat Service	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10:00 AM Religious School 10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group			LUNCH AND LEARN 12 noon Vickie Vogel on Jewish Texans		7:00 PM VIRTUAL Shabbat Service with Ellie Flier <i>Sponsored by Lynn Gordon and Hy Penn in memory of Linda Penn</i>	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
YOM LIMMUD – A Jewish Day of Learning					6:30 PM TOT SHABBAT – Virtual 7:00 PM VIRTUAL Shabbat Service <i>Sponsored by Wes Goble in memory of Marjorie Liss</i>	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10:00M AM Religious School 10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group 3:00PM – 4:30PM Drive By and Drop Off and Purim Fun!			LUNCH AND LEARN 12 noon Rabbi Dan – The Purim Story for Adults		7:00 PM VIRTUAL Purim - Shabbat Service with Cantor Francyne Davis Jacobs	
28	MAR 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			LUNCH AND LEARN 12 noon HAND IN HAND SCHOOL		7:00 PM VIRTUAL Shabbat Service and the Bar Mitzvah of Samuel Baur and the Bat Mitzvah of Sydney Baur <i>Sponsored by the Baur Family</i>	