

Temple Beth Torah

NEWS FOR YOU

March 2021 ADAR – NISSAN 5781



Rabbi Dan
Gordon
**SPIRITUAL
LEADER**

**BOARD OF
DIRECTORS AND
CHAIRPERSONS**

Hy Penn
PRESIDENT

Shari Ellsworth
VICE PRESIDENT

Lenny Simmons
TREASURER

Noelle Cole-Baca
SECRETARY

Andrea Miller
DELEGATE

Emma Brawn
DELEGATE

Pat Klemz
DELEGATE

Norm Weiss
DELEGATE

Carrie Keith
EDUCATION

Jeremy Blumin
BUILDING

Mike Miller
FUNDRAISING

Dany Pilman
RITUAL

Jeff Kaufman
MEMBERSHIP

Wes Goble
SOCIAL

Susan Pollard
SOCIAL ACTION

Jeremy Blumin
PAST PRESIDENT

Stacey Blumin
ADMINISTRATOR
AND NEWSLETTER
EDITOR

Shabbat Services and Events in March

Wed., March 3	12:00 PM	LUNCH AND LEARN with Hand in Hand
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
Friday, March 12	7:00 PM	Virtual Shabbat Service – with musical guest Ellie Flier
Wed., March 17	12:00 PM	LUNCH AND LEARN with Rabbi Shaul Osadchey
Friday, March 19	6:30 PM 7:00 PM	TOT SHABBAT VIRTUAL Virtual Shabbat Service with musical guest Janice Rubin
Sunday, March 21	3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Drive By—Drop Off at TBT See the article from TBT Cares for the items we need on page 6. Please note the change on time
Friday, March 26	7:00 PM	Virtual Shabbat Service - Sponsored by Pat Klemz in memory of her father, William Klemz
Saturday, March 27	6:00 PM	Virtual Passover Seder

More Luchtime Learning on Zoom

Hand in Hand: The School where Arabs and Jews Learn Side by Side

Wednesday, March 3, 12-1 PM

In Israel, Jews and Arabs live in separation, fear and violence.

Hand in Hand is 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.

The **Mission Statement for Hand in Hand** can be found on page -16

The three speakers are **Noa Yammer, Director of International Engagement and Communications;** **Raneem Nashef, graduating class of 2016** and **Shira Mingelgrin, graduating class of 2012.** Their bios can be found on page --- 14

Many thanks to Lee Gordon, co-founder and Executive Director of American Friends of Hand in Hand for helping to organize this special program.

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.

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.

Special Shabbat, Friday, March 5, 7:00 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.

Nashville Singer/Songwriter Ellie Flier Returns to TBT for a Virtual Shabbat Service - Friday, March 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. A link will be sent in the weekly email of contact admin@tbthumble.org.

More Shabbat Music: A Pre-Passover Evening of Spiritual Journey with Musician/Soloist Janice Rubin Friday, March 19, 7 PM

A week before Passover, TBT will be treated to spirited and soulful musical leadership of Janice Rubin during our Zoom Shabbat service. Janice has visited Temple Beth Torah several times, leading songs for retreats and open house programs. She has become a very popular leader of prayer, and annually leads a special Rosh Hashanah "Service of the Heart" at Congregation Brith Shalom. She is an experienced spiritual leader, a graduate of the Davenen Leadership Training Institute and several courses on leading prayers and sacred chanting. She regularly facilitates a meditation and chanting group in Houston, and works as a hospital and hospice chaplain. Her beautiful voice blends with her own accompaniment on the guitar for an uplifting prayerful experience. She is committed to using music as a tool for creating personal and communal connections with the Divine. Janice's participation in the March 19 service is thanks to generous contributions to the Virtual Programming Fund. A link will be sent in the weekly email or contact admin@tbthumble.org

RABBI'S MESSAGE

From Purim to Pesach and Back

The Hebrew calendar gives us a double blessing in the months of Adar and Nissan, with the holidays of Purim and Passover coming back-to-back. These celebrations are very different from each other, and yet the progression of one to the other on the calendar can give interesting ideas to explore. Both deal with bitter enemies and the possibility of genocidal extinction. The Purim villain, Haman, manipulates the Persian king into decreeing legalized murder of the Jewish people. Haman's plan fails and the Jews retaliate. The Passover villain, Pharaoh, also threatens extinction by murdering Jewish baby boys at birth. This plan also fails, and the Israelites are redeemed by G-D's "mighty hand and outstretched arm" to escape into the wilderness and eventually the Promised Land. From the 15th of Adar to the 15th of Nissan, the score is: Jews 2, Evil 0.

Yes, both Purim and Pesach fulfill the traditional theme about Jewish holidays: "*They tried to kill us. We survived. Let's eat.*" The survival elements and food are certainly part of our contemporary celebrations for both holidays. The threats occur differently, and so do our observances. While Passover precedes Purim chronologically, Purim precedes Passover on the calendar. I've often considered the various ways these two springtime festivals differ as ways to look at the growth of our people.

In the Book of Esther, the name of God is not mentioned. In the traditional Passover Haggadah, the name of Moses is not mentioned. We are taught that Moses' name was left out of the Haggadah for fear of deifying Moses. As the Haggadah was written at a time during the rise of Christianity, the rabbis wanted to make sure the Jewish people of future generations were aware that God was responsible for the miracles, not a single person like Moses. In contrast, God's presence was hidden in the Book of Esther, just like Esther's identity as a Jew was hidden until she needed to reveal herself to save her people. Mordecai and Esther, mortal humans, get all the credit.

Perhaps the most striking difference is what happens in these stories after the fear of genocide is resolved. In Exodus, when the Israelites cross the Sea of Reeds into freedom, they dance and sing. According to the Midrash, the angels also began to sing, but the Holy One rebuked them, saying, "*The work of My hands is drowning in the sea, and you will sing?*" (Sanhedrin 39b) According to the Midrash, God accepted the Israelites singing because they were receiving their own freedom; but God would not allow the angels to rejoice in the sorrow of Egyptians, reminding them that all God's children are sacred. Later in the Torah and in Jewish liturgy, we are continually reminded of our time in Egypt, with multiple variations of the teaching, "*You shall treat the stranger as one of your own, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.*" (Leviticus 18:33) And in the Passover seder, when recounting the Ten Plagues that the Egyptians endured, we diminish our own joy by spilling out a drop of wine in sympathy for their suffering.

In Purim, there is no sympathy for anyone. It is not just the evil Haman who gets punished, but thousands of other Persians. If you read to the end of the Book of Esther, the Jews, in fear of those who might follow Haman's plans (despite the king rescinding the order), killed 75,510 Persians in what some might call a pre-emptive strike. Though Haman was the only real perpetrator, vengeance was meted out to thousands who might have been innocent. Even though we celebrate our liberation from Haman's plot, this act of violence is an example of a disproportionate attempt at justice. Elie Wiesel, author, Holocaust survivor and Nobel Peace Prize recipient once offered the theory that God did not want His name associated with the Book of Esther because of the over-zealous slaughter of the Persians.

My own thoughts: Purim is a short story. We were threatened and retaliated and then it was over...to be remembered one day a year with party. The redemptive parts of Purim are the modern customs of *mitzvot* that include giving *tzedakah* and gifts of food...and of course, a way for children to enjoy their heritage. But Passover is our long-lasting story of redemption. We suffered for generations, and learned what suffering is all about. And then, we were redeemed to spend future generations helping to heal the world of injustice. Passover is observed for a full week, not one day. And the redemption from Egypt is included in the Ten Commandments, in every Shabbat service, in every Kiddish and in daily prayers. Passover is with us all year long.

The brevity of Purim is like childhood and adolescence. It doesn't last long, but we have a lot of fun, make some mistakes, and learn valuable lessons.

The endurance of Passover helps us mature into a people that cares. Perhaps that's why Purim is earlier in the calendar than Pesach. It gives us time to grow up.

In our observances this year, let us remember a past that will lead us to a more caring future.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Dan Gordon

TBT's First Night of Passover Seder—Zoom Style (Again!)

Saturday, March 27 at 6:00 pm

Temple Beth Torah invites you to a ZOOM Passover Seder with Rabbi Dan Gordon on the first night of Passover. Rabbi Dan will lead us in a special 1 hour Seder with music and stories as we enjoy our four cups together, taste the ceremonial foods and pray together about celebrating IN PERSON next year! Everyone can enjoy their Seder meal after the Passover service.

The link will be sent in the weekly emails or contact admin@tbthumble.org for it. Please invite your family and friends! There is no charge for guests to attend. Donations always welcome.

Lunchtime Learning March 17, 12 noon Preparing for Pesach Seder 2021: Kicking It Up A Notch! Guest Speaker: Rabbi Shaul Osadchey

Rabbi Shaul Osadchey will lead an interactive session presenting new ideas, readings, conversation prompts, Passover humor, and new recipes. He will also provide a brief overview of the Haggadah and some of the major themes of the holiday. Each participant will receive from Rabbi Osadchey a packet with the materials from the presentation.

Rabbi Osadchey recently returned to Houston after serving the Jewish community of Calgary, Canada for a decade. While there he became active in interfaith relations, forging relations with the Muslim community and traveling to Amman, Jordan to accept the 2017 First Prize Gold Medal from King Abdullah for the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week. Rabbi Osadchey served the Houston Jewish community from 1979-2009 as the founding director of Houston Hillel and rabbi of Brith Shalom and Or Ami.

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 Yedidyah 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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Let My People Go.....Back to a "Normal" Life!

We all are anxious to get back to what we remember "normal" to be and it has been a difficult year for many of us. I keep telling Lynn that "we must have patience" and "it will get better." She ignores my comments and usually walks away.

At TBT, we are also ready to get to the way we used to do things. We all want to be able to be together, worship together, shake a hand and give a hug and especially enjoy refreshments at our Onegs after services! Hopefully we are moving forward to that reality.

Temple Beth Torah has regular meetings of our Safety and Security Committee under the leadership of Jeff Kaufman. We have ongoing discussions on how to make our synagogue a safe place to congregate. We are getting information from other synagogues on how they are planning a safe environment for congregants and guests to help with this process.

We are definitely in evolving times. New information is learned almost on a daily basis and we must thoughtfully work to find the best way to accomplish the tasks before us as we make our community safe.

It is hard to say what "normal" will look like when the pandemic is over at TBT. We have been able to bring amazing guest speakers, artists, musicians, and cantorial soloists into your home. We even will be bringing guests live from Israel for our noon Lunch and Learn program, "Hand in Hand" on Wednesday, March 3rd that you will not want to miss. Virtual programming has also brought worshipers to our services and participants to our events that would have been difficult for them to attend in person. We will probably be seeing a "hybrid reality" of in person and virtual programming. Whatever direction we are going, I think we will emerge stronger and better.

As Passover begins on the evening of Saturday, March 27th, we hope you are able to join TBT for our virtual Seder. I think you will enjoy attending and will look forward to what Rabbi Dan has in store for us. We will eat the bitter herbs even though it seems like we have been eating them for an eternity. For certain, we will all proclaim in a loud and unified voice, "let my people go... back to a normal life!"

Hy Penn

Scott Eric Kaufman Technology Fund

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 the Temple Beth Torah Board of Directors has created an official fund to help with technological needs at TBT. The Kaufmans have made a generous donation to seed this project.

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. Other identified needs include replacing outdated computers of our principal and rabbi and standardizing and updating our printers.

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.

Meet the TBT Board of Directors:

This Month We Introduce our 2 new Delegates Emma Brawn and Norman Weiss:

Hi, my name is **Emma Brawn** and I am currently a delegate on the board of directors after serving as secretary for the last two years. I feel so lucky to have found a home at Temple Beth Torah when we moved to Houston in 2016.

I grew up outside of Cleveland, Ohio where my parents and two younger brothers still live. After high school I went to Penn State where I studied Animal Bioscience followed by veterinary school at the University of Illinois. I met my husband, Pete, while in vet school and followed him to Beaumont where we lived for three years before returning to Ohio. For most of my career I worked in emergency clinics caring for sick and injured dogs and cats. About a year ago I transitioned to providing hospice, palliative and end of life care for dogs and cats in their own homes. It has been so rewarding providing comfort families at a difficult time.

When I'm not at work, I'm even busier keeping up with my four kids. Owen (11), Caleb (9), Luke (6) and Rosie (4) are the lights of my life. Our house is busy, loud and messy and I wouldn't have it any other way! Add in choosing to homeschool this year and I don't have much down time.

When I do carve a few minutes to myself I enjoy reading, knitting, crocheting and doing puzzles. While travel has been put on hold for a bit, I can't wait to get back to exploring our world. I've been lucky to travel to 5 continents and more than half the states in our country and can't wait to tick off a few more!

My name is **Norm Weiss** and I am a new member to the TBT Board of Directors.

After graduating from dental school in 1968, Marsha and I moved to Texas to begin my military service at Fort Hood. Sometime during our two years in the army we decided to stay in Texas. Kingwood was a new community and that is where I opened my dental practice in 1971.

In 1974 we read an article that said a "bagel get-together" was being held in the 1960 area. That was the very first step in the formation of Congregation Jewish Community North.

Marsha and I served on the first Board of Directors in 1976 and I was elected president in 1978. I was also president in 2004-2006.

Both Marsha and I were involved in the formative years of Greene Family Camp in 1976 and of Temple Beth Torah in 1983.

Although I am now retired (semi-retired, sort of retired) from dental practice and less active in the Jewish community, my commitment to Judaism remains strong. I am glad to be a part of Temple Beth Torah.

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.

Drive By and Drop Off For HAAM and FamilyTime

Sunday, March 21st from 3:00pm – 4:00pm at TBT

Last month we are collecting:

For the women at FamilyTime

Wide Tooth Combs, Fine Tooth Combs,
Detangling Brushes, Boar Bristle Brushes, Rubber
Bands and Hair ties, African American Hair Care
Products (shampoo, conditioner, gel, liquid hair
oils)

For Humble Area Assistance Ministries (HAAM)

All nonperishable foods including peanut butter,
canned fruits and vegetables.

Thank you to those who donated this month!! We want
to thank The Adlers, The Baur Family, The Brawn Family,
Neil Davis, The Blumin Family, The Curtis Family, The
Delap Family, Tommy Epps, Pat Klemz, The Keith Family,
The Kaufmans, The Lurie Family, Sarah and Cameron
Miller and Family, Iris Kelley and Mike Weisberg, Jeanne
Mandell, The Penn Gordon Family, The Pilman Family,
The Pollards, The Posers, The Simmons Family, Castine
Theriot, Dale Vine and Leslie Witkov.

COMING UP IN APRIL

Friday, April 9, 7 PM (on Zoom)
Holocaust Remembrance Shabbat Service

Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance service
with Cantorial Soloist Anita Bonnanno and a special
conversation with a Holocaust Survivor

Thursday, April 15 at 7 pm
“Israeli History Through Comedy”
Comedian Benji Lovitt is
Zooming into TBT

Join comedian Benji Lovitt as he leads us through
an entertaining historical journey of important
events in Israeli history using film and TV clips—all
through the lens of humor.
This program is being presented in conjunction with
the Institute of Southern Jewish Life in honor of
Israel Independence Day.
More information coming in the April newsletter.
Watch your weekly emails!

ISJL and Rena Lubin

For over a dozen years, TBT has had a special relationship with the Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL). Young educators, called “fellows,” visit TBT three times a year, focusing mostly on Religious School, but also bringing their knowledge and talents to congregation. These fellows visit small synagogues throughout the south, usually staying with the synagogue one year and moving on to another synagogue before the end of their two-year fellowship. Sometimes, we are blessed to have the same educator stay with us for two years to develop a stronger relationship.

Many of the past fellows from TBT have gone on to other professional careers within the Jewish community, including rabbis, educational directors and directors of other Jewish communal agencies. Some have even continued to work with ISJL in other capacities.

Rena Lubin was with TBT for the past two years, and brought a dynamic spirit to her teaching to children, teens and adults. She has finished her ISJL fellowship and will be going to graduate school to further her own learning. She offered a special teaching at a Shabbat service in January about Tu B’Shevat, and several people commented on how much they had learned. You can read a copy of this d’var Torah accessing this link <http://www.temple-beth-torah.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/from-Rena-Lubin-Dvar-Torah-for-Humble-TX.pdf>

We thank Rena, wish her well, and look forward to meeting a new educator next fall!

Religious School Corner

Carrie Keith, Religious School Principal

What an exciting month of February we had on Zoom TBT! We celebrated Purim with Rabbi Dan, Ms. Esther and all of our teachers. We had fun in our Zoom boxes making masks and making noise when we heard Haman's name.

We had our drive through donations and celebrated "Purim from our Cars" on February 28th. Everyone received hamantaschen and our children were given a packet of fun Purim activities to do at home. Lots of "Shoes for Shushan" were collected along with non-perishables to donate to our local shelter and food pantry. Thank you, parents, students and all others, for fulfilling this Purim Mitzvah. Thank you also to the Ellsworth and Miller families for making Hamantaschen.

March brings us to our first Bar/Bat Mitzvah of 2021. We are so happy and excited to celebrate with Sammy and Sydney Baur and family for this wonderful milestone. We will also be celebrating Passover this month. The Religious School will have a Zoom model seder on March 14th. Please watch your emails for items to gather for this.

TBT Zoom Shabbats are a wonderful way for your children to participate each week. Students could light the candles and say the blessing, recite the Shema, recite the V'Ahavtah, read the English translations, or sing one of the Shabbat songs. This can be done on Flipgrid or live during Shabbat. Please contact Rabbi Dan, Andrea Miller or myself to participate. We would love to see all of the Religious School students take part in Shabbat!!

Our Religious School calendar has been updated. Please check emails and the website for these changes.

Our "Month of Kindness" for March will focus on Passover and mitzvot ("good deeds") to do with family and neighbors in the community.

Looking forward to a warm spring and delightful summer.

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, March 19, 6:30 PM**

Please join Rabbi Dan at 6:30 PM on March 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

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

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 March Birthdays

4	<i>Ellen Stapleton</i>
9	<i>Lauren Herman</i>
7	<i>Joni Levy</i>
18	<i>Lael Daniels</i>
20	<i>Mel Spiel</i>
25	<i>Rachel McConnell</i>
29	<i>Lauren Rhines</i>
31	<i>Ryan Bormaster</i>

Anniversaries

8	<i>Stephen and Barbara Heller</i>
16	<i>Aaron and Donna Karash</i>
19	<i>Mark Boyll and Ann Dominick</i>
25	<i>Barry and Tina Sachs</i>
27	<i>Lenny and Karen Simons</i>

March Yahrzeits

The following names will be read each week during March 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.

Elsie Keith Jarrell, Sadie Miller, Rebecca Winter, Mary Kharasch, Jules Troxclair, Alfred Bieler, Wilfred Kullman, Marion Spencer, Julius Kharasch, Marisa Weirnick, Naomi Joy Sorkin, Barbara Bernstein, Joseph Bernstein, Paul LaCour, William Klemz, Arline Rambo, Steve Grayson, Lorraine Gotfried, Charlie Litt, Emily Anne Mandell, Dell Amos, J.Q. DeLap Sr., Donald Plumb, Emmanuel Storey, John Greenbaum, Thelma Gordon, Rose Weintraub, Leo Auerbach, Elinor Arner, Walter Heller, Rildah Benham, Belle Weiss, Mazie Crosney, Jessie Gordon, John Levy, Sylvia Brodofsky, Christian "Micky" Baur

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.

Torah Portions for March 2021

Summarized by Rabbi Dan Gordon

March 5-6, 2021 Ki Tissa Exodus 30:11-34:35

This is one of the most dramatic Torah portions, which includes the Israelites losing faith and building a Golden Calf to worship. Moses pleads with G-d to show mercy, and then his own anger causes him to break the tablets. Those who are not willing to come back to the LORD are killed. But the Torah portion includes reconciliation, as G-d instructs Moses to construct a new set of tablets "like the first." The first set were written by G-d; the second by Moses, empowering a human, and in turn, humanity, to maintain the commitment and the covenant.

On March 5, Samuel Baur and Sydney Baur will be reading from the Torah as part of the Zoom service, becoming Bar and Bat Mitzvah. They will offer their own personal teachings of the portion.

March 12-13, Vayakhel/Pekude Exodus 35:1-40:38

This double portion brings us to the end of Exodus. Vayakhel describes the specifics of the wood and other items required in building the tabernacle. But it begins with a reprise of the commandment to rest on Shabbat. This teaches us that, even a highly important task like the tabernacle is not more important than our weekly day devoted to rest and rejuvenation. "Pekude" means "records" and refers to the accounting of the gold, silver, copper and yarn that were used to make the Tabernacle. In this last portion of Exodus, the presence of the Lord fills the Tabernacle. Traditional rabbinic commentators have compared the building of the Tabernacle to the creation of the world itself.

March 19-20, Vayikrah Leviticus 1:1-5:26

"Vayikrah" is both the name of the book, which in English is translated as Leviticus, and the name of our Torah portion. While the book contains sacrificial practices, which are completely out of date, the issue of the proper form of atonement for modern Jews is a contemporary one. According to some rabbinic commentators, prayer has replaced sacrifice for the modern Jew. The description of what constitutes sin in Leviticus demonstrates the ethical principles of our tradition. In Judaism, each individual must take responsibility for making amends to God: no person can sacrifice her or his life for another's.

March 26-27, 2021 Tzav Leviticus 6:1-8:36

G-d instructs Moses to teach Aaron and his sons the rights and duties they will take on in becoming priests. They, and their descendants, will be the ones to offer the sacrifices in the Sanctuary. A fire on the holy altar must be kept burning at all times in preparation for the sacrifices. The Kohanim (priests) must learn the variety of different offerings for peace, sin and guilt, and practice very specific rituals regarding each. Aaron and his sons remain in the sanctuary compound for seven days, and Moses initiates them into the priesthood.

TBT's first night Passover Seder will be held over Zoom at 6 PM on March 27.

DONATIONS

RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

John and Bobbylee Ruskis

Dale Vine

Jeff and Alice Kaufman

GENERAL FUND

Lynn Gordon and Hy Penn – in honor of the Bar and Bat Mitzvah of Samuel and Sydney Baur

TBT CARES – SOCIAL ACTION

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

VIRTUAL PROGRAM FUND

Hy Penn – In Honor of Lynn Gordon's Birthday

SPONSORS OF SHABBAT SERVICES

Pat Klemz – In memory of William Klemz

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.

***Please Consider Making a
Donation to
Temple Beth Torah
This Month!
Your Support is Always
Appreciated!***

***TBT Wishes
A Happy Passover
To All Our Members and Friends***

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 easily to establish, cost nothing during your lifetime, and make a difference for our community. Contact admin@tbthumble.org for more information.

SCOTT ERIC KAUFMAN TECHNOLOGY FUND

This fund helps support the technology needs of TBT including computers, screens, and cameras and will help with our virtual programming. The fund was established in memory of Dr. Scott Eric Kaufman.

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
- Scott Eric Kaufman Technology 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

MARCH 2021 ADAR – NISSAN 5781

ALL PROGRAMS LISTED ON THE MARCH 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
	MAR 1	2	3	4	5	6
			LUNCH AND LEARN 12 noon <i>Hand in Hand School in Israel</i>		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>	
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					7:00 PM VIRTUAL Shabbat Service with Ellie Flier	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:00 AM Religious School 10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group			LUNCH AND LEARN 12 noon with Rabbi Osadchey		6:30 PM TOT SHABBAT – Virtual 7:00 PM VIRTUAL Shabbat Service with Janice Rubin	
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 – 4:00PM Drive By and Drop Off					7:00 PM VIRTUAL Shabbat Service <i>Sponsored by Pat Klemz in memory of William Klemz</i>	6:00 PM Virtual Passover Seder
28	29	30	31	APR 1	2	3
NO Religious School NO Adult Ed – TORCH class 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group					7:00 PM VIRTUAL Shabbat Service	

Hand in Hand

Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel
יד ביד | המרכז לחינוך יהודי ערבי בישראל (ע"ר)
يداً بيد | مركز التربية العربي اليهودي في إسرائيل



Noa Yammer, *International Engagement and Communications*

Noa is an American-born educator, activist and musician who has been living in Jerusalem since 2003. Noa shares the Hand in Hand story with thousands of supporters in Israel and around the world in visits, workshops, and online. Trained in Public Narrative, she also leads storytelling workshops for Hand in Hand staff, parents, and alumni, helping them share their stories locally and world-wide. Noa is also the Program Director at Heartbeat, a music dialogue organization for Israeli and Palestinian youth and has years of experience in dialogue facilitation and informal education in many different forums. Noa earned a BA in psychology and Jewish history and an MA in gender studies from Bar Ilan University. In her spare time, Noa studies and teaches Nonviolent Communication, studies Arabic, and volunteers at the Jerusalem Rape Crisis Center.



Raneem Nashef, *Graduating Class 2016, Max Rayne Hand in Hand Jerusalem School*

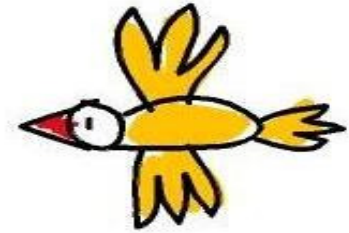
Raneem grew up in Jerusalem in the Beit Tzafafa Neighborhood, and studied at Hand in Hand from kindergarten through 12th grade. She graduated in 2020 with a BA in Biology from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She is interested in graduate work in microbiology, focusing on studying diseases and developing new medications. In her free time, she volunteers in a children's cancer ward in Hadassah hospital, supporting and bringing joy to the Jewish and Arab patients there. "Hand in Hand is a huge part of who I am now – strong and independent, open to all of the different people that I meet out in the world. I see that Jews and Arabs stay so separate, but I know it can be different. I want to show them that."



Shira Mingelgrin, *Graduating Class 2012, Max Rayne Hand in Hand Jerusalem School*

Shira grew up in Jerusalem with one younger brother, and started at Hand in Hand in first grade. She left the school for a few years at age 13, but chose to return at age 16, because "this is where I feel most at home – with my Jewish and Arab friends, together." After graduating high school in 2012, she entered a two-year compulsory military service, which she finished in 2015. In 2016, Shira began her BA in statistics and economics in Hebrew University and graduated in 2019. She works as a statistician at the Kaplan Hospital in the Israeli city of Rehovot. She hopes to continue into a MA in biostatistics and bio data analysis. Shira was one of the founders of the Hand in Hand alumni program, because she wanted to help alumni stay connected and involved with Hand in Hand. In her free time, she also volunteers in a shelter for abused women and their children, working with children while their mothers went to work. "I take the message of the school with me wherever I go – that everybody deserves to be heard, and even if we don't agree, we can listen, and start to build a peaceful future."

יד ביד: המרכז לחינוך יהודי ערבי בישראל (ע"ר)
يداً بيد: مركز التربية العربي اليهودي في اسرائيل
Hand in Hand: Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel



BUILDING SHARED SOCIETY in ISRAEL THROUGH INTEGRATED SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

In a society in which Jews and Arabs live in almost total separation from one another and in the context of ongoing violent conflict between these two communities, Hand in Hand's mission is to create a strong and inclusive shared society in Israel through a network of integrated bilingual schools and active communities for Arabs and Jews. Starting with only 50 children in 1998, Hand in Hand now operates 7 schools with over 2,000 Jewish and Arab students. More than 3,000 parents and other adults, Jews and Arabs alike, currently participate in integrated community activities organized by Hand in Hand. Over the next ten years, Hand in Hand aims to create a network of up to 10-15 integrated bilingual schools, supported and enhanced by active communities, altogether involving more than 20,000 Israeli citizens. Hand in Hand believes that the actual living experience of its students, teachers, parents and others who participate in its schools and communities can inspire broad support for social inclusion and civic equality in Israel.

BACKGROUND

Arabs make up 22% of Israeli citizens, and Jews 78%. Yet, these two communities live separately and segregated from one another in virtually all aspects of daily life. This separation is particularly obvious in the K-12 public education system, which is based on separate schools for Jews and Arabs. Although children may legally attend either type of school, the fact is that only a few Arab children attend Jewish schools (where the primary language of instruction is Hebrew) and essentially no Jewish children attend Arab schools (where the primary language of instruction is Arabic). The sense of separateness, the barriers to communication, and the lack of mutual understanding that begin in school too often carry through to many other aspects of adult life.

INTEGRATED BILINGUAL SCHOOLS

In 1998, Hand in Hand started to establish a network of schools with integrated student populations, integrated teaching and supervisory staffs, and a bilingual educational curriculum and methodology. From the beginning, Hand in Hand has been committed to maintaining its schools as part of the Israeli public education system: operating under the supervision of the Ministry of Education, using a core curriculum based on Ministry of Education approved content, and receiving substantial core funding from the Ministry of Education budget.

To this Ministry of Education core, Hand in Hand has added special elements to implement the bilingual education and social values that are its reason for being:

- Both Hebrew and Arabic are primary languages of instruction (often with dual teachers in a single classroom);
- The curriculum includes extra content to acknowledge and respect the traditions, history, values, holidays, and culture of all students (Jewish, Christian and Muslim); and
- Specialized guidance and mentoring help students, teachers, and parents express empathy and mutual respect in the most difficult of circumstances.

Starting with 2 kindergarten classes and about 50 children in 1998, Hand in Hand has grown to 7 schools with more than 2,000 children, covering grades levels preK-12.

SHARED COMMUNITIES

During 2012, Hand in Hand established active integrated communities of Jewish and Arab adults to support and amplify the impact of its schools. With core funding from the US Agency for International Development (a division of the U.S. government Department of State), Hand in Hand launched communities in all 7 locations where it now has schools. These communities are engaged in a wide variety of activities: from competing in adult sports leagues (where they may have the only integrated team); to participating in adult education programs focused on learning each other's language, culture and traditions; to engaging in activities that might be directly tied to a school (such as establishing a parent-child vegetable garden). These activities may not seem very important by themselves; but the fact that they are undertaken in the context of a structured, continuing, and integrated Jewish-Arab community makes them very special in Israel. Hand in Hand believes that these visibly integrated shared communities will not only help its schools succeed, but will also show the broader public that social inclusion does not end with graduation from high school.

THE FUTURE

In the coming years, Hand in Hand plans to continue and expand its two-pronged approach to building support for social inclusion and civic equality in Israeli society:

- The 7 current schools will grow year-by-year, both in grade level and number of students. And new integrated bilingual schools will be established in appropriate locations. Eventually, 10-15 Hand in Hand schools will form a strong network of integrated bilingual schools across Israel; and hopefully that network will include schools established by other NGOs and perhaps directly by governmental authorities.
- Active shared communities will be initiated and sustained in every location where there is a school. In 10 years, these communities, plus the students, parents and teachers directly involved in the schools, should include some 20,000+ individuals who have visibly chosen to live important parts of their daily lives through institutions that embody the values of a shared, inclusive and equal society – values that were the foundation of the State of Israel.



This is an ambitious but achievable plan. It will require the hard work, steadfast commitment, and good will of thousands of Israeli citizens. It will also require the support of all who care about Israel's future and who believe that future depends on building a society that includes all citizens on a fair, welcoming and equal basis.

For more information –

Please see our website: www.handinhandk12.org

Or contact us at <info@handinhandk12.org>