

# Temple Beth Torah

## NEWS FOR YOU

May 2021 IYAR – SIVAN 5781



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Gordon  
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LEADER**

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### Special Virtual Shabbat Service with Soloist Janice Rubin Friday, May 14, 7 PM Honoring the Festival of Shavuot and Confirmation

Seven full weeks after Passover is the Festival of Shavuot, commemorating the receiving of the Ten Commandments. It is a time to honor dedication to learning and celebrate the gift of Torah. Shavuot this year begins Sunday night, May 16, and we will be celebrating at Temple Beth Torah during our Shabbat service on May 14. Enhancing the service will be soloist Janice Rubin, whose beautiful voice and spiritual insights will enrich our experience.

175 years ago, the Reform movement of Judaism began to establish confirmation ceremonies in American synagogues. Confirmation became a post-bar/bat mitzvah age acknowledgement of students' continued dedication to Jewish studies. It is connected to Shavuot because, just as the Jewish people accepted Torah on Shavuot, teenaged students begin to accept a more adult concept of sophisticated learning.

At Temple Beth Torah, we acknowledge students who complete two years of additional participation in Jewish learning after their bar or bat mitzvah. Our confirmation teacher has been Dr. Shari Ellsworth, who supplements the teaching with guest presenters from the Institute of Southern Jewish Life, the Anti-Defamation League and others. This year, Shayna Ellsworth will be confirmed during the May 14 Shavuot service, and offer some personal reflections about her years of Jewish learning.

Please plan to join us for this special evening of music, learning and celebration. The link to join will be sent in TBT's weekly email or contact [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org)

### Celebrate the End of the School Year

With a Lively, Fun and  
Inspirational

**VIRTUAL FAMILY CONCERT**

Featuring the

**YedidYah Family Band**

**Saturday, May 22, 5:30 PM**

Temple Beth Torah's Musical Month of May continues with a dynamic concert, featuring returning guests from the YedidYah Family Band. Rabbi Yakira and her family have livened up TBT's Zoom Shabbat services several times. Now, we will really let loose with inspirational music, both familiar and new songs. This 1-hour concert will be a perfect way to enjoy time together after a challenging year, as we stir up our creative spirit to hopefully join each other in person soon.

Rabbi Dan will add his own special stories to the event, and the two rabbis will blend their talents to offer a unique havdallah service to end Shabbat.

The concert is sponsored in part by the Keith family, in loving memory of Carrie's parents, Mildred and Bill Denbina. Those wishing to provide an additional sponsorship can contact Stacey at [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org). The link to join will be sent in TBT's weekly email or contact [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org)

### Lunchtime Learning in May See page 4 for details.

**May 11--Genetic testing: Eradicating  
disease or playing God?**

**May 26--The Lubavitcher Rebbe and his  
Influence on Inclusion**

## 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.

## Shabbat Services and Events in May

Friday, May 7	7:00 PM	Virtual Shabbat Service
Tuesday, May 11	12:00 PM	LUNCHTIME LEARNING – Jewish Medical Ethics with Rebecca Lunstroth JD, MA See article on page 4.
Friday, May 14	7:00 PM	Virtual Shabbat Service with special guest Janice Rubin and Shayna Ellsworth’s Confirmation See article on the front page
Sunday, May 16	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 5
Friday, May 21	6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Tot Shabbat –VIRTUAL Virtual Shabbat Service with special guest Ellie Flier, see article below
Saturday, May 22	5:30 PM	YedidYah Family Band concert and Havdallah See article on the front page.
Wednesday, May 26	12:00 PM	LUNCHTIME LEARNING with Rabbi Dovid Goldstein - The Lubavitcher Rebbe and his Influence on Inclusion. See article on page 4.
Friday, May 28	7:00 PM	Virtual Shabbat Service

### Nashville Singer/Songwriter Ellie Flier Returns to TBT Virtual Shabbat Service Friday, May 21 at 7:00 pm

Join us for an exciting Shabbat service as singer/songwriting Elie Flier welcomes us into Shabbat with Rabbi Dan. An inspiring performer, cantorial soloist, and song leader based in Nashville, Ellie Flier has found her passion and purpose in writing and singing Jewish music. Listeners can’t help but feel a palpable connection to her songs, whether calling for social justice or rising up in joyous celebration. Please join Ellie for this very special Shabbat.

A link will be sent in the weekly email or contact [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org).

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org).

## **RABBI'S MESSAGE**

### **What have we learned?**

Much of my connection to being part of a Jewish community started as a child at summer camp, and later as a camp director. My favorite times were always the campfires, singing old songs from another generation. One of my favorites was Pete Seeger's "*Where have all the flowers gone?*" It takes singers and listeners on a musical, philosophical journey, with each verse ending in the question, "When will they ever learn?" The last verse brings it back to the first verse and asks, "When will WE ever learn?"

The festival of Shavuot comes seven weeks after Passover and commemorates when we, as a people, received the Ten Commandments. In the times of the ancient Temple, Shavuot was one of three pilgrimages the Jewish people made to Jerusalem. Because the holiday is about solidifying our connection with Torah, one of the customs that has evolved is to stay up all night learning. The legend is that the Law came to us at 4:00 A.M., and so we want to be awake every year at that time in case there are more revelations we might be able to experience.

A couple of years ago, Loren and I were lucky enough to be in Jerusalem during Shavuot. In Jerusalem, in addition to staying up with public learning sessions, there is also a custom of going to the Western Wall at 4:00 A.M. to be with a large community for the morning prayers. It was an amazing scene, walking with thousands of Jews through the Old City, reaching the Western Wall, and returning back to our hotel as the sun was rising. I even ran into a rabbinic colleague from Michigan along the walk, as well as an Israeli tour guide who used to live in Houston whose wedding I had officiated!

I find it coincidentally appropriate that Shavuot, a holiday that encourages a commitment to Torah and learning, comes at a time when our modern school year is winding down. The month is filled with graduations, confirmations, transitions from one grade level or school to another and acknowledgment of completing part of our learning and continuing on to the next. We celebrate these transitions as ways to look back at what we've learned and to look forward at what we hope to learn. Each year and each level provide different challenges. This year, especially, we've had to learn how to learn differently! Many of us have adjusted to technology in ways that help expand our ability to learn. Beyond the learning of information and ideas, we've also had to learn how to stay connected with friends, family and community despite restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. This year forced us into making drastic changes, but also opened opportunities to explore new ways to learn. Restrictions also created different kinds of opportunities. Those unable to drive to the temple for a class or a Shabbat service could still participate by logging in. Members who moved out of town were able to stay connected, and even family members found ways to learn and worship together despite living in different cities.

Times change and sometimes the hardships inspire us to learn and connect in new ways. When the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed, it was a major tragedy that affected how the Jewish people worshipped. But wisdom prevailed and we found new ways to keep Judaism alive. We are grateful that our own temple stands strong and ready for us to return when the situation is appropriate. And when we do re-open the doors, we will still remain connected by utilizing techniques we learned during the pandemic. I personally am grateful for a community that continues its strong bond after all these months, and I know we will be even stronger because of what we've learned.

**L'shalom,**

*Rabbi Dan Gordon*

## Lunchtime Learning Tuesday, May 11, 12:00 Noon

### Guest Presenter: **Rebecca Lunstroth, MA, JD** **Genetic testing: Eradicating disease or playing God?**

In this session we will discuss current trends in genetic testing and its potential to eliminate diseases. But what does that mean for our humanity? Is this the shared goal of medicine? Come learn what the future holds.

**Rebecca Lunstroth** is an Associate Professor in Family Medicine and the Director of Administration and Ethics Education at the McGovern Center for Humanities and Ethics, McGovern Medical School, UT Health. In this role she helps guide the medical school on numerous issues related to ethics. She is chair of an Institutional Review Board with UT, exploring a variety of research issues, particularly privacy concerns.

Rebecca frequently lectures on the United States health care system, justice, and the legal and ethical issues in health care. Her research interests span from reproductive health to the rightful place of personal responsibility in medicine.

Rebecca received a Master's in Medical Humanities from UTMB and a J.D. from South Texas College of Law.

Prior to joining UT, Rebecca spent 14 years with Shell Oil in Human Resource Management, Operations and Health and Safety.

## Lunchtime Learning Wednesday, May 26, 12:00 Noon

### **Rabbi Dovid Goldstein: The Lubavitcher Rebbe and his Influence on Inclusion**

Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson was the spiritual leader of the international Chabad Lubavitch for over forty years until his death in 1994. Though he was an Orthodox rabbi, he had a great influence on Jewish and non-Jewish people across the spectrum. Come learn about how the man and the movement has helped inspire multiple generations.

**Rabbi Dovid Goldstein** came to Houston in 1998 to serve the Jewish community as a *shaliach* (emissary) of Chabad Lubavitch. He is Executive Director of the Friendship Circle, a program that empowers mentally challenged youth and adults and is also head Jewish chaplain for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. He is the rabbi for a new synagogue in West Houston, serving the Jewish community in a variety of ways. Rabbi Goldstein has been a personal teacher and mentor for our own Rabbi Dan Gordon, who partners with him periodically on visits to Jewish inmates.

## 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 <mailto:admin@tbthumble.org> with any questions.

**Drive By and Drop Off at TBT**  
**Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**from 3:00pm – 4:00pm**

This month we are collecting:

**For the women and children at FamilyTime**

- Wash cloths
- Vaseline
- Allergy medication (non-drowsy and Benadryl)
- Eczema Lotion/Cream
- New boys underwear

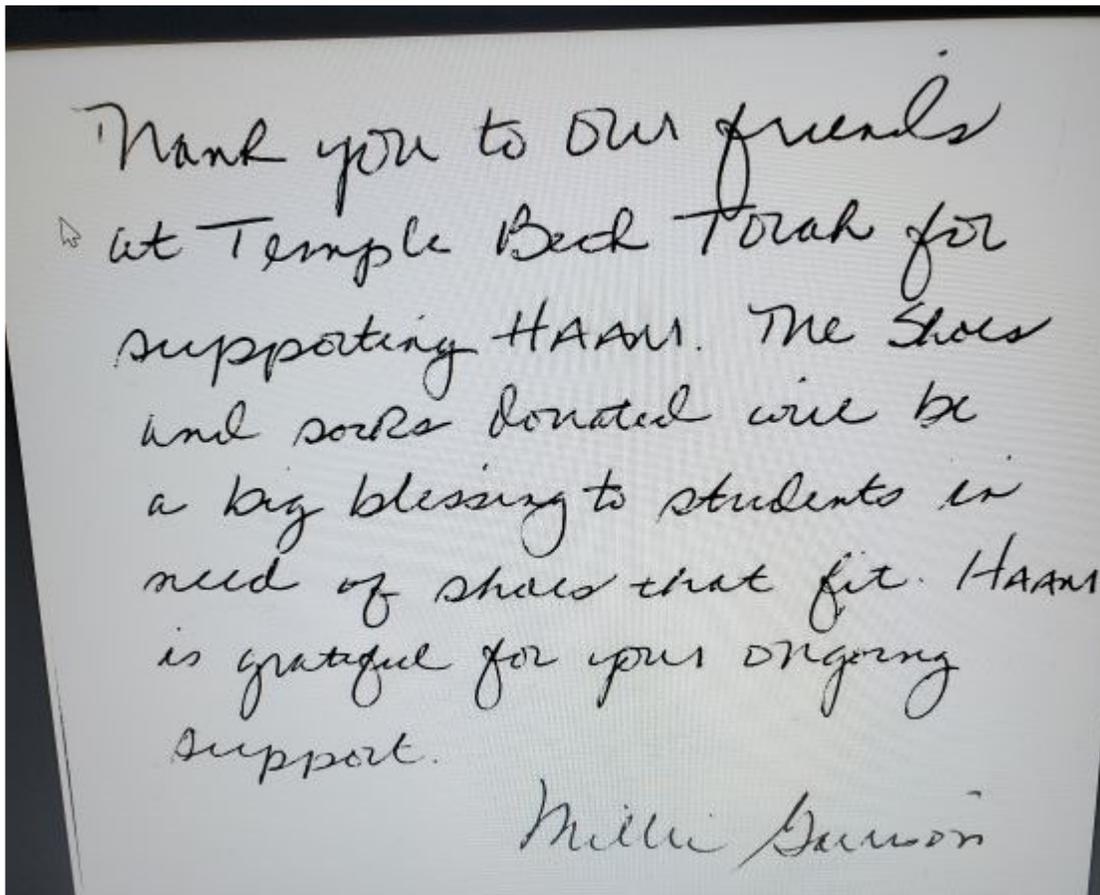
**For Humble Area Assistance Ministries**

- Boxed Pasta (mac and cheese or any other boxed meal pastas)
- Boxed Cereal
- Dried Beans in 1- or 2-pound bags
- All nonperishable foods

If you would like to donate but aren't able to come in person, please email Susan at [spollard@tbthumble.org](mailto:spollard@tbthumble.org) to make other arrangements.

Thank you to those who donated 2 very full shopping carts of food and supplies this month!! We want to thank The Aizenberg Family, The Blumin Family, Neil Davis, The Delap Family, Wes Goble, The Kaufmans, Pat Klemz, The Keith Family, Iris Kelley and Mike Weisberg, Lauren Herman and Ginny Skold, Joni Levy, Steve and Kim Levy, The Lurie Family, Jeanne Mandell, Sarah Miller and Family, The Penn Gordon Family, The Pilman Family, Castine Theriot, The Pollards, Dale Vine, Marsha and Norm Weiss and Leslie Witkov.

Our Shoes for Shushan collection in February was much appreciated. Here is a note from Millie Garrison, Humble Area Assistance Ministries Executive Director.



Thank you to our friends  
at Temple Beth Torah for  
supporting HAAS. The shoes  
and socks donated will be  
a big blessing to students in  
need of shoes that fit. HAAS  
is grateful for your ongoing  
support.

Millie Garrison

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

### Crossing the Narrow Bridge...

There is a quote from a famous Jewish sage who lived from 1772 until 1810 named Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav which is: *Kol ha-olam kulo gesher tsar me'od; v'ha-ikar lo lifacheyd klal*". It is translated as, "The entire world is a narrow bridge; the essential thing is not to fear at all."

This past year has been difficult for many of us—it has definitely been a narrow bridge to cross. We have had to make many adjustments to our lives as we have feared the possibility of contracting a life-threatening disease. We have all been walking on this narrow bridge; trying to be careful not to tumble off as we take precise and calculated steps--trying to focus on what's at the end of this bridge and what awaits us on the other side.

It reminds me of a story when Lynn and I visited Vancouver a number of years ago to spend time with a dear friend of my mother's, whom she had met in a displaced persons camp after WWII. Leon Kahn showed us the top sights of Vancouver and then he took us to this long, narrow, and WOBBLY suspension bridge in the rain and declared that we were all going to cross it. The Capilano Suspension Bridge crosses over towering evergreens in the cedar-scented rainforest air. Lynn and I were terrified, but we followed Leon gingerly, the bridge swaying side to side, as we made our way across. Leon had no fears—maybe because of his personal past history---but nothing seemed to cause fear in Leon. He showed us that day that if you are determined and not afraid, you can do anything.

One of Temple Beth Torah favorite singers, Ellie Flier, wrote a song, "Don't Be Afraid," based on this quote by Rabbi Nachman about the world being a narrow bridge:

Kol ha-o-lam ku-lo gesher tzar me-od

The whole world is a narrow bridge---A very, very narrow bridge

V'ha-i-kar, v'ha-i-kar---Lo l'fached, lo l'fached klal

And the main thing to recall---Is not to be afraid at all

And the main thing to recall---Is not to be, not to be afraid at all

The world is a very narrow bridge

Don't be afraid at all

Some say what this Hassidic rabbi meant was for us not to be "paralyzed by our fears." We must be strong in the face of danger and we must focus on what we will attain once we get to our destination. Ellie Flier suggested that standing together as a community is the best way to gain strength in order to reach a goal. Together we are stronger than one. Just as Leon Kahn helped Lynn and I cross that wobbly bridge; our TBT family can help us get through difficult times.

We all experience many emotions such as love, anger, joy, sadness, surprise. Fear is also an emotion that makes us who we are. Let us learn from Rabbi Nachman and learn how to manage our fears and as Ellie so eloquently sings, "don't be afraid."

I'll see you on the other side as we cross this bridge...together.

To hear Ellie Flier sing, "Don't Be Afraid," Go to <https://www.ellieflier.com/> and click on "Music" and "Listen" and then click on "Don't Be Afraid."

**Hy Penn**

## **Meet the TBT Board of Directors: This Month We Introduce Carrie Keith**

### **Carrie Keith:**

I grew up in Hurst, Texas where we were the only Jewish family in this community. Growing up with 4 brothers (3 older and 1 younger), I became an expert in climbing trees and playing baseball. But being the only girl, I also enjoyed learning to sew, craft and cook with my mother and grandmother.

My Brooklyn, New York born father and my Texas born mom met at a Jewish USO dance in Panama where my dad was in the army air corps and my mom was a civilian employee in the Canal Zone during WWII. They married in Panama and came back to Texas to live and start a family. Judaism was important to my parents and they would drive us every Sunday and many Friday evenings to Temple Beth El in Fort Worth; this was quite a drive and commitment on my parents' part for our Jewish education.

I went to elementary school through high school in the Hurst- Euless- Bedford school district and graduated from L.D. Bell High School. I was in the band and started out in college at University of Houston. as a music education major. I quickly switched to elementary education with a specialty in Early Childhood, which I loved. I met my husband, Dennis Keith, at The University of Houston. After graduating magna cum laude in 1978 with a B.S. in elementary education, I began my teaching career. I moved to Woodland Hills Elementary in Kingwood the following year, got married, and then taught 5<sup>th</sup> grade at The Oaks Elementary in Atascocita before becoming a stay-at-home mom for several years (Sarah was born in 1982 and Brian in 1984). I resumed teaching at Pine Forest and then Lakeshore Elementary schools. We did all the usual school and after school activities- sports, dance, karate, and orchestra. Watching our children grow up into wonderful adults has been amazing. I don't know where the years have gone! Sarah married Jonathan Couch in 2008 and are members of Temple Beth Torah with their children Isaac and Rachel. Brian married Alexandra Dunk in 2019 and they currently live in the Boston area.

I taught school for a total of 25 years, 24 of them in Humble ISD and retired at the end of the 2012 school year. Now I have the pleasure of watching my grandchildren, Rachel and Isaac when their parents are working. Dennis and I both love this and treasure every moment with the grandkids. Since we retired, we have both enjoyed traveling and have been to Boston, Colorado, Disney World, Alaska and Hawaii. There is so much to see and we hope to continue traveling again starting this summer. Dennis likes to golf and I spend most of my free time sewing for the grandkids, quilting (which I love) and learning to knit. I like any kind of needle work and crafting.

We joined Temple Beth Torah in 1987 just before my daughter turned 5. I got involved right away with teaching religious school. This September will be my 34<sup>th</sup> year to teach or be the director of education at TBT. There have been so many excellent education directors and teachers in our religious school with whom I have worked with over the years including Rabbi Dan. They all have insured that our families have a great Jewish experience.

Temple Beth Torah is like our second home. Being members of a small congregation is wonderful for the personal connections that we make with others. Having good friends to talk to, go to dinner with, kvell at special occasions and share hardships are the best parts of being Jewish in a small community.

## **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@tbthumb.org](mailto:president@tbthumb.org).

## ***RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CORNER***

The end of the school year has “zoomed” by so quickly. All of our classes have experienced exciting lessons learning Hebrew and about Jewish holidays, history, traditions, and Israel. Thank you to all the teachers for coming up with creative lessons and to all the students for being flexible and engaging with our Zoom school.

We had two wonderful programs in April for our older students. The students went on a virtual field trip to Holocaust Museum Houston with Dr. Hy Penn as our docent. That was followed by Lisa Stone with the ADL speaking on “Words to Action”. Both programs were meaningful and thought provoking.

This has been our Year of Kindness at TBT Religious School. Packets of family activities aimed at gratitude and kindness have been sent throughout the year. Our goal is that students and families continue to use these activities and to come up with your own so that gratitude and acts of kindness become part of your families’ discussions, actions and traditions. Packets can be emailed to anyone wishing to have copies. Send an email request to [education@tbthumble.org](mailto:education@tbthumble.org)

There are only 3 more classes this school year, May 2, May 16 and May 23. Confirmation students will also meet on May 16 with Dr. Shari. May 23 will be our last class day with special end of the year activities.

It has been a terrific year! Thank you to all of our Judaica teachers: Rebecca Shuman, Paige Daniels, Andrea Miller, and Shari Ellsworth. Thank you to Rachel McConnell for being our tech and zoom coordinator for Religious School. Special thank you to Andrea Miller for being our Hebrew Coordinator and Hebrew teacher along with Rabbi Dan, Rebecca Shuman and Paige Daniels. A big thank you to our ISJL fellow, Rena Lubin for her creative ideas and lessons. And as always, thank you to Rabbi Dan who brings the stories and joy of Judaism to life for all of our students, teachers and parents.

Have a wonderful summer!

And

**READ A GOOD BOOK, TAKE A LONG WALK AND  
MAKE A NEW FRIEND!!**

***Carrie Keith***  
***Religious School Principal***

## **Condolences:**

Rosalind Mandell, stepmother of Jeanne Mandell and congregant of TBT passed away at her New York nursing home at the age of 98 on April 23. She was a woman truly ahead of her time. Armed with a love of education, sewing, ancient aliens, and politics, she loved life, interesting people and current events. If you wanted to banter about anything, especially politics or the latest court trials, she would be happy to engage a conversation.

She attended many TBT events and services, and always said it was a warm, inviting temple to her, as it always was. She was bright and engaging up until the day she passed away, and her friends and family will deeply miss her spirit.

Temple Beth Torah also mourns the loss of Leya Tziporah Nossal, who passed away unexpectedly on April 27 at the age of 52. Our hearts go out to James and their daughters Paige and Amy, as well as Leya’s mother, Sandy Rhoton, her brothers Scott and Kevin and her sister, Tammy, all of Colorado. Leya was very appreciative of TBT, from the time of her daughters’ naming through their combined bat mitzvah. Despite the fact that the family moved to Pasadena, Texas several years ago, they remained at TBT because of that special relationship, and Amy became a religious school teacher this year. A private family service is being planned. May her memory be a blessing.

## **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 May*

### *Birthdays*

1	Vicky Aizenberg
1	Susan Pollard
1	Adam Waxman
2	Tony Curtis
5	Leslie Witkov
6	Caleb Brawn
8	Allan Carroll
8	Sydney Baur
11	Richard Shuman
11	Cameron Miller
22	Sara Bleiberg
22	Brandon Curtis
22	Manny Miller
24	Zachary Bleiberg
25	Andrea Miller
25	Stephen Levy
27	Guillermo Velasquez
29	JQ Delap
31	Hiedi Bassett

### *Anniversaries*

15	Jonathan and Sarah Couch
16	Vitaly and LiJuan Aizenberg
17	Tom and Iris Graf
17	Mel and Ruth Spiel
19	Cameron and Sarah Miller
21	Greg and Mindy LaCour
23	Jim and Susan Meinholz
27	Bruce and Susan Pollard
29	Michael and Susan Cahn

### **May Yahrzeits**

The following names will be read each week during May 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](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) or leave a message at 281-446-5611.

**Tommy Mounger, Riva Kremer, Ruth Gerhardt,  
Edythe Levy, David Auerbach, Beverly Litt,  
Evelyn Lovitt, David Sayovitz, Lester Nussbaum Sr.,  
Victor Rosen, Jolan Halpern, Morton Wallack,  
Irwin Gotfried, Philip Salkin, David Rosenberg,  
William L Denbina, Benjamin Hirsch,  
Alice Dunnam, Spurgeon Dunnam,  
Cliff Thomas Smith, Ernest Graf, Irving Biegel,  
Robert Kharasch, William Hulland,  
Sadie Nussbaum, Harold J Gordon, Helen Howard,  
Mike Pope**

## **SUNDAY DISCUSSION GROUP**

### **SUNDAYS at 11:30 A.M.**

The Sunday Discussion Group is open to all and is discussing: Man's Search For Meaning by Victor E. Frankl.

We will be reading a new book soon, "Caste" by Isabel Wilkerson. Please join us for interesting conversations.

If you have questions, please email Susan at [spollard@tbthumble.org](mailto:spollard@tbthumble.org). The discussion group meets through Zoom. The link remains the same each week and is sent out in our weekly emails or contact [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org)

## **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](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org). The Zoom links are sent out in the weekly email.

## **Tot Shabbat**

### **Friday, May 21 at 6:30 PM**

Please join Rabbi Dan at 6:30 PM on May 21st 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](mailto: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](https://smile.amazon.com)

## Torah Portions for May 2021

Summarized by Rabbi Dan Gordon

### April 30-May 1, 2021      Emor, Leviticus 21:1-24:23

Emor begins with instructions for the priests, who were considered separate from others. Priests could not have any blemishes, and had to refrain from any activity that could potentially contaminate their purity. Several rituals are described, including setting aside a portion of “cake” as a burnt offering. In modern times, this burnt offering is still practiced by many who bake challah. We are also given instructions for harvesting our fields. We are to leave the corners for poor people to be able to glean what they need without the embarrassment of having to ask.

### May 7-8, 2021      Behar/Bechukotai, Leviticus 25:1-27:34 (double portion)

Just as people and animals must observe a Sabbath every seven days, the land must have a Sabbath every seven years. The land will produce enough in the sixth year to provide for the seventh, so no harvesting shall take place. In the fiftieth year, on Yom Kippur, a jubilee is celebrated. Debts are reduced and slaves are freed. The Torah portion ends with a reminder of the prohibitions of idolatry and the obligation to observe the weekly Sabbath. This reminds us that freedom always comes with responsibility, and the Jubilee year is no exception.

In Bechukotai, G-d promises that there will be great rewards for following the proper path of the commandments. Not only will the rain come at the proper times and produce our necessary food, but we will also live without fear of enemies. G-d will remember the promises made to Jacob, Isaac and to Abraham (curiously listed here in reverse order) to help us maintain our homeland. We're also commanded to tithe, donating ten percent of all we gain, realizing that all our gifts come from G-d.

### May 14-15, 2021      Bamidbar, Numbers 1:1-4:20

At the beginning of the Book of Numbers, Moses is instructed to take a census of the entire Israelite nation. Each of the tribes is listed with their descendants, and a number is assigned to each. Each tribe is given specific tasks. Aaron and his sons prepare the sacred objects and curtains connected to the Ark of the Covenant, where the tablets of the Ten Commandments are carried throughout the desert.

### May 21-22, 2021      Naso Numbers 4:21-7:89

"Naso" concludes the census, and the work of the various clans is described. Practical instructions are given regarding sanitary conditions in the Israelite camp and restitution for stolen property. To appease a suspicious husband, a "ritual in cases of jealousy" is given. People who wish to become Nazarites may not drink alcohol, have contact with a corpse or cut their hair.

We find the Priestly Benediction in this Torah portion, which has become a blessing for all life cycle events: “*May the LORD bless you and watch over you; May the LORD’s countenance shine upon you and be gracious to you; May the LORD’s presence be with you, and may He grant you peace*” (Numbers 6:24-26).

### May 28-29, 2021      Beha’alotecha Numbers 8:1-12:16

The Israelites complain to Moses about their living conditions in the desert, and a disgusted Moses complains to God about them. God's response is to instruct Moses to delegate his power. Later Miriam and Aaron, Moses' brother and sister, demonstrate their jealousy by criticizing Moses, especially his choice of a Cushite wife. Miriam is punished with leprosy for her jealousy, but Moses pleads to God, “Heal her – heal her now!” Miriam’s affliction lasts just seven days.

## 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](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) or leave a message at TBT, 281-446-5611.

## DONATIONS

### RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

**John and Bobbylee Ruskis**

**Dale Vine**

**Jeff and Alice Kaufman** - in honor of Rabbi Dan Gordon's 60th birthday

### GENERAL FUND

**Lynn Gordon and Hy Penn** –  
In memory of Rosalind Mandell  
In memory of Leya Nossal

**Dennis and Carrie Keith** –  
In memory of Rosalind Mandell  
In memory of Leya Nossal

**Thelma Douglass** - in appreciation of the annual Passover Seder

**Norman and Marsha Weiss** - in honor of Rabbi Dan Gordon's 60th birthday

**Tedd H. Wein** - in honor of Rabbi Dan Gordon's 60th birthday

**Dennis and Carrie Keith** – in honor of Rabbi Dan Gordon's 60th Birthday

**David Acosta** -

### SCOTT ERIC KAUFMAN TECHNOLOGY FUND

**Dennis and Carrie Keith** –  
in memory of William Denbina.  
in honor of Sanuel Baur becoming a Bar Mitzvah and  
Sydney Baur becoming a Bat Mitzvah.  
in honor of all Temple Beth Torah teachers and students  
who have zoomed all year to continue their Jewish  
education

### SPONSORS OF SHABBAT SERVICES

**Lenny and Karen Simmons** – in memory of Rildah Benham and in celebration of Jennifer Van der Lipp's successful recovery from cancer.

**Jeanne Mandell** – in memory of Rosalind Mandell

**Dennis and Carrie Keith** – *Havdallah* in memory of William and Mildred Denbina

### TBT CARES – SOCIAL ACTION

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

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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org).

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

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

Engraving details (please print):

## Brick 1:

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

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

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

## Brick 2:

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

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

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

## JFS Now Accepting Application for Student Loans and Scholarships For 2021-2022 College Year

Jewish Family Service is privileged to once again offer our *Nathan and Sarah Klein Interest-Free Student Loans* and/or our *Lloyd and Morissa Parkans Scholarship* in partnership with the **Hebrew Free Loan Association** and the **Houston Jewish Community Foundation**. Applications are currently being accepted for the 2021-2022 academic year. **DEADLINE FOR BOTH THE LOAN AND SCHOLARSHIP IS MAY 28, 2021.**

Students seeking the Parkans Scholarship should be local Jewish students who will be attending college in the fall of 2021. These students should demonstrate financial need, outstanding academic achievement, leadership, community involvement and admirable personal attributes. This scholarship will provide resources to enable an undergraduate student to realize their potential through academic achievement.

Eligible local Jewish students seeking an interest-free student loan for undergraduate studies from the Klein Fund can receive assistance with educational and living expenses. Jewish Family Service works in partnership with the Hebrew Free Loan Association to provide additional resources to graduate and trade school students seeking a loan.

Adele Croft of Jewish Family Service who coordinates the process states “students are grateful and excited when they learn about our interest-free loans and scholarship opportunities. With the extraordinary cost of attending college today, interest-free loans are often used to relieve a portion of the financial burden. Thanks to the generosity of the Parkans family, students can maximize their educational opportunities.”

To apply, you must submit your [application](#) online with all of your supporting documents and complete an interview (scholarship applicants only) by our **deadline of May 28, 2021**. Please see our website, <https://www.jfshouston.org/jfs-central/cm-student-loans-scholarships> for additional information. If you have any questions, please reach out to Adele Croft at 713-986-7821 or [acroft@jfshouston.org](mailto:acroft@jfshouston.org).

*In honor of Yom Haatzmaut (Israel Independence Day) and Yom Yerushalayim (Day of Jerusalem, begins the evening of May 9<sup>th</sup>), a concert to share with your family on Mother's Day...*



*Presents*

# ISRAEL. THE LAND WE LOVE.

Performed by Cantor Vadim Tunitsky  
and Yanina Didyk, Pianist

Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

View the concert on the JFS Houston Facebook page  
or at [jfshouston.org](http://jfshouston.org)



*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

# MAY 2021 IYAR - SIVAN 5781

ALL PROGRAMS LISTED ON THE MAY 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](mailto:ADMIN@TBTHUMBLE.ORG)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					April 30	MAY 1
					7:00 PM VIRTUAL Shabbat Service	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10 AM Religious School 10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group					7:00 PM VIRTUAL Shabbat Service	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
MOTHER'S DAY NO Religious School 10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group		LUNCHTIME LEARNING 12 noon with Rebecca Lunstroth, JD, MA			7:00 PM VIRTUAL Shabbat Service Special guest Janice Rubin and Confirmation of Shayna Ellsworth	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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					6:30 PM Virtual TOT SHABBAT 7:00 PM VIRTUAL Shabbat Service – Special guest Ellie Flier	5:30 PM Family concert with YedidYah Family Band and Havdallah VIRTUAL
23 / 30	24 / 31	25	26	27	28	29
23 10:00M AM Religious School - LAST CLASS 10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group 30 10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group			LUNCHTIME LEARNING 12 noon with Rabbi Dovid Goldstein		7:00 PM VIRTUAL Shabbat Service	