

# Temple Beth Torah

## NEWS FOR YOU

AUGUST 2021 AV - ELUL 5781



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Gordon**  
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LEADER**

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### Temple Beth Torah In-Person & Virtual Shabbat Worship Guidelines

We wholeheartedly believe that TBT is more than a collection of individuals. We are a community, and we are all eager to worship together as a community again.

The value of preserving individual and communal health is of the utmost importance in Jewish ethics and Jewish law and the safety of our congregants is our top priority. It is in this spirit that TBT leadership has adopted the following policies for in-person attendance:

- **Do not come to Temple Beth Torah if you are ill with a communicable disease or if you have had possible or known exposure to COVID-19.**
  - **Everyone in the building must wear a mask except those speaking from the pulpit.**
  - **Distance yourself from others outside your family or friend “pod.”**
  - **The sanctuary capacity will be limited.**
  - **An usher will be available in the sanctuary to help with seating and answer any questions.**
  - **There will be no food served in the building.**
  - **Members: At this time, we are asking all members to register if you wish to attend Shabbat services in person—the link to register will be sent in the weekly email. The service will be streamed live for those who prefer to participate virtually-- the link to watch will be sent in the weekly email.**
- For questions, contact [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org).**
- **Guests: Guests wishing to attend in-person or needing the link to attend virtually should contact Stacey at [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org).**

We believe everyone understands that the situation with COVID-19 spread is fluid - sometimes changing on a day-to-day basis. TBT's safety and security committee meets frequently to assess the situation and may change these policies as more information becomes available.

### Thank Goodness It's Shabbat! A Virtual Musical Shabbat Service Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

In what will hopefully be our last virtual only service before we initiate in-person worship, this Shabbat service should prove to be an inspiration to all who attend. Join some of TBT's best home-grown talent as we welcome in the Shabbat with beautiful melodies and words of wisdom that come from our heart.

The link will be sent in our weekly email or contact [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) to obtain.

### Welcome Back Rabbi Dan... A Shabbat In-Person or Virtual Experience! Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

We welcome back Rabbi Dan as he leads us in our first official in-person worship service as he returns refreshed and energized from his summer vacation. We are all eager to worship together as a community again.

See “In-Person Shabbat Worship Guidelines” to the left on how to attend in person. The link to worship virtually will be sent in our weekly email or contact [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) to obtain.

### Cantor Francyne Davis Jacobs Joins Rabbi Dan Gordon for Shabbat Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

Native Houstonian Cantor Francyne Davis Jacobs returns to TBT to join our own Rabbi Dan for this Shabbat service! Cantor Francyne completed her cantorial training at Gratz College in Philadelphia in 2002 and she has been a Shabbat and High Holiday cantor at several synagogues in the Houston area. Cantor Davis teaches music to all ages, and currently serves as president of the Women Cantors' Network. The service is being sponsored by Castine Theriot and The Tom Theriot Memorial Program Fund.

See “In-Person Shabbat Worship Guidelines” to the left on how to attend in person. The link to worship virtually will be sent in our weekly email or contact [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) to obtain.

## 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.

## High Holidays Are Approaching! Join Us In-Person or Virtually for Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur

**Monday, Sept. 6 at 8:00 pm: Rosh Hashanah Eve**

**Tuesday, Sept. 7 at 10:30 am: Rosh Hashanah morning**

**Wednesday, Sept. 15 at 8:00 pm: Kol Nidre**

**Thursday, Sept. 16 at 10:30 am: Yom Kippur morning service**

**Thursday, Sept. 16 at 3:30 pm: Yom Kippur afternoon and concluding services**

Mark your calendars for the upcoming high holiday season. All TBT members will need to register by August 25th to guarantee a seat to attend in person any of our 5 services.

**TBT Members:** A link will be sent in the weekly emails for TBT members to register to attend in-person High Holiday Services. All TBT members wishing to attend virtually will receive the link prior to the holidays.

**Guests:** A limited number of seats will be available for guests for in-person worship. If you are not currently a member of the temple, please call 281-446-5611 or email Stacey at [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) to register to attend our in-person or virtual high holiday services.

Suggested donation for those not yet members of TBT: Individuals: \$175 Families: \$350

Donations can be made by sending a check to Temple Beth Torah or submitting payment online under the "Donation" tab at [www.tbthumble.org](http://www.tbthumble.org) and clicking on "High Holidays." Donations received for the High Holidays can be applied to future dues if you decide to join the temple. **NOBODY IS TURNED AWAY FOR FINANCIAL REASONS** – Please make the gift that works for you.

**Please carefully review the High Holiday attendance guidelines below:**

### TBT High Holiday Attendance Guidelines

- We hope this year's High Holiday experience at Temple Beth Torah will be meaningful and safe for everyone in attendance.
- Decisions made to protect human life and well-being – known in Hebrew as *pikuach nefesh* – are so weighty that they supersede nearly every other religious statute. It is the responsibility of all of us, whether vaccinated or not, to help keep our community safe from the COVID-19 virus.
- The best protection against COVID-19 is to be vaccinated against COVID-19. As per the CDC recommendations, everyone eligible for vaccination should be vaccinated.
- Do not come to Temple Beth Torah if you are ill with a communicable disease or if you have had possible or known exposure to COVID-19.
- Everyone in the building must wear a mask except those speaking from the pulpit.
- Distance yourself from others outside your family or social unit.
- The sanctuary capacity will be limited.
- An usher will be available in the sanctuary to help with seating and answer any questions.
- There will be no food served in the building.
- There will be no childcare in the building.
- Please contact us with any questions at [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) or call 281-446-5611.

TBT's Safety & Security Committee meets regularly to review and adjust our guidelines.

## **RABBI'S MESSAGE**

### **We Were ALL There This Time**

Tradition teaches that we were all present at Sinai to hear the Ten Commandments. We were all redeemed from Egyptian bondage; we all experienced the horrors of slavery. By extension, it makes sense that any past Jewish experience affects us all. We all should understand how it felt when the Temple was destroyed twice. The Spanish Inquisition, expulsion from Spain, the Crusades and other events are all part of our collective memory. Many in our community were alive during the Holocaust, some experiencing those terrors first-hand. More recently, the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center affected our lives deeply to this day. With each of these events, the world changed, and we responded with changes.

I admit I was not actually present for any of those events. Even the recent ones. I was not alive during the Holocaust, though I know many who were, and I have been able to learn from their personal experiences. I was alive during 9/11, and my life changed; but not as dramatically as those who were in New York and lost loved ones. As a Jew, I have collective memory of ancient experiences, but not as real as those who were ACTUALLY at Sinai, or in Egypt or in Europe when those powerful, world-changing events happened.

The COVID-19 experience is different. Every city, town, village and country has been affected by this virus. Those who became ill or lost loved ones experienced the most intimate trauma. Some Coronavirus victims have lingering symptoms; others had mysterious relapses. Even those of us who escaped the illness, or had mild symptoms and recovered, have been changed by this time period. None of us will forget what it's like to remain masked and to not see another's face. We won't forget observing High Holidays on a computer screen. The isolation, remaining far from loved ones in the interest of safety, was uncomfortable, frustrating and potentially devastating. We all missed simchas, missed watching young people grow, and were often unable to be with dear ones who were sick or dying. There were missed opportunities for graduations, proms, b'nai mitzvot and weddings. Emotional scars developed when we could not pay our respects for a funeral or shiva visit. Many had economic trauma that may be permanent.

The whole world has changed. What's next? After the Temple was destroyed, we developed rabbinic Judaism that remains vibrant to this day. When we were expelled from Spain, many immigrated to the Americas to develop thriving Jewish communities. After the Holocaust, it was apparent to Jewish people and the United Nations it was time to establish the State of Israel.

Rosh Hashana celebrates the beginning of Creation. When the modern world changes, it becomes our responsibility to re-create. We've found new ways to worship and connect. In the coming years, we'll continue to re-create the world as we know it, just as our ancestors did. Challenges help motivate us. As Rabbi Tarfon said in Pirke Avot (2:16): "The work is plentiful, and the reward is great." This year will be different, and what we've learned together will help us make it the best it can be.

L'shalom,

*Rabbi Dan Gordon*

### **Submit Healing List Names at the First of Each Month**

Our healing list will now be updated at the first of each month. If you know of someone who is on the list who should remain on the list, please let us know. This list is important, but also can get quite lengthy, so we want to make sure all the names we read are timely. Please email [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) and [rabbi@tbthumble.org](mailto:rabbi@tbthumble.org) to be added.

## Join Us As We Partner With the ISJL In Presenting a Special Program

The link will be sent in the weekly email.

### "The 7 Questions You're Asked in Heaven"

**Dr. Ron Wolfson**

Thursday, August 19th, at 7:00 pm

*Preparing for the High Holy Days*



What will you be asked in heaven about how you lived life on earth? Join Dr. Ron Wolfson to explore "The Seven Questions You're Asked in Heaven" imagined by rabbis in Jewish tradition. Humorous and poignant, this program will get you laughing and thinking as we approach the High Holy Days.

Dr. Ron Wolfson is the President of the Kripke Institute and Fingerhut Professor of Education at American Jewish University, where he has been on the faculty for 45 years.

Join us for this very special Zoom event.

TEMPLE BETH TORAH



## Lunchtime Learning with Rabbi Dan on Zoom

### Wednesday, August 25 at Noon

Elul, the month preceding Rosh Hashana, is a time for spiritual preparation for the Days of Awe.

Teshuva, change, renewal and starting over are all particularly appropriate themes this year. Once more, we embark on the mystery of what's coming next. Join Rabbi Dan on Zoom as we get our hearts and minds ready for this important time of the year.

Zoom link will be sent out in the email updates.

## Book of Remembrance

The High Holiday season is a time we remember loved ones that are no longer with us. A Book of Remembrance is printed and distributed during our Yizkor/ memorial service on the afternoon of Yom Kippur and the names are read at that time.

Please submit your names by Rosh Hashanah to ensure they will be included. Please find the form to complete on page 13. Donations can be by check made payable to "Temple Beth Torah" or online under the "Donation" tab at our website and clicking the "Book of Remembrance" button. Contact [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) for more information.

## Give-a-Gift to TBT An Easy Way to Help TBT

TBT is in need of the following items this month. If you would like to donate any of these items, please send a message to [giveagift@tbthumble.org](mailto:giveagift@tbthumble.org) to ensure we do not get too many of a needed item. The items can be brought to TBT whenever we are open, or we may be able to arrange for a pick-up.

Items needed this month:

- Paper towel rolls
- Facial tissue-square boxes
- Glass Cleaner (Windex) refills
- AA Batteries
- 9-V batteries
- Hand wipes
- Copy paper
- Bottled water

## Support TBT and Make a High Holiday Donation

Beautiful and meaningful High Holiday services are being planned at Temple Beth Torah. We are looking for individuals and families to help underwrite our experience this year. Donations are needed to help especially with music and security for our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. Contact [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) for more information.

## Shabbat Services and Events in August

Friday, August 6	7:00 PM	Virtual Shabbat Service with special guests
Friday, August 13	7:00 PM	First In person Shabbat and Virtual Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan
Thursday, August 19	7:00 PM	EVENING LEARNING – “7 Question you’re asked in Heaven” See article on page 5
Friday, August 20	6:30 PM 7:00 PM	VIRTUAL TOT SHABBAT In Person Shabbat Service and Virtual Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan
Sunday, August 22	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.
Wednesday, August 25	12:00 PM	VIRTUAL LUNCHTIME LEARNING with Rabbi Dan via Zoom
Friday, August 27	7:00 PM	In Person Shabbat Service and Virtual Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan and Cantor Francyne Davis Jacobs

### The Dual Shabbat Experience: In Person and Virtual Worship

As we have been experimenting and experiencing different ways to worship together, we are excited to be able to start in-person Shabbat services beginning August 13. At the same time, we understand how many people have been enjoying the Zoom experience and may wish to continue participating in services from the comfort of their own homes, especially if you live far away from TBT.

It has been exciting for people to participate from home via the chat room. This becomes more complicated while leading a live service from the synagogue. Therefore, if you would like something announced at the Friday night service, like a prayer for healing, a memorial remembrance or a simcha blessing, please be sure to email it to [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) AND [rabbi@tbthumble.org](mailto:rabbi@tbthumble.org) by noon on Friday. If you put something into the chat room on Friday night, it will only be seen by others on Zoom, so that will be a more personal announcement and will not be read from the pulpit.

Please be understanding that the combination of technology and human beings is susceptible to error. We hope to acknowledge all the information we receive, but we hope that if there is an error, you will be forgiving.

### Susan Pollard Assumes Duties of TBT Board Secretary

Congratulations are in order for Susan Pollard who has been selected by the TBT Board of Directors to assume the duties of TBT Board Secretary, a position previously held by Noelle Cole- Baca. Noellee has performed her duties beautifully but is unfortunately moving out of the area. We wish her the best in the new teaching position she has accepted in Henderson, Texas.

## Drive By and Drop Off At TBT

**Sunday, August 22nd from 3:00pm – 4:00pm at TBT**

**(Religious school families can leave items by the brown drop off basket in the entranceway when you bring your children.)**

This month we are collecting:

### **For the women and children at FamilyTime**

Body Wash  
Middle School Age Boy and Girl Clothing (new)  
Ankle socks  
Allergy Medication (non- drowsy and Benadryl)

### **For Humble Area Assistance Ministries**

Peanut Butter  
Apple or Orange Juice  
Shampoo  
White Sugar and White Flour  
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 this month!! We filled a few shopping carts for both HAAM and FamilyTime. We want to thank, The Bours, JQ and Ellen Delap, Wes Goble, Rabbi Dan Gordon, Ron and Lorna Hill, The Keith Family, Iris Kelley and Mike Weisberg, The Kaufmans, Sarah and Cameron Miller, Jeanne Mandell, The Penn Gordon Family, Castine Theriot, The Pollards, The Simmons Family, Dale Vine and Leslie Witkov.

## Meals on Wheels to Resume Hot Meal Delivery in August



Meals on Wheels has been guided by a single goal since the first known U.S. delivery by a small group of Philadelphia citizens in 1954 – to support our senior neighbors to extend their independence and health as they age. Last year Humble Area Assistance Ministries in Humble delivered 43,190 meals to homebound seniors in our area. Those meals were delivered to 115 seniors. HAAM needs a minimum of 120 volunteers each month to operate the program successfully.

Due to the pandemic, hot meal delivery was suspended in March 2020. The clients have received a weeks' worth of frozen meals at each delivery. Hot meal delivery is set to resume in August.

Temple Beth Torah has participated in this worthwhile program since January 2016. We deliver hot meals the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month. (Excluding Thanksgiving Day and Christmas week.) The meals are delivered in Kingwood, Humble, Atascocita and Huffman. We need at least ten TBT volunteers for the delivery each month. We have team members who deliver each month and others who are substitutes who cover when a regular member is not available.

We are looking for additional delivery people either on a regular basis or to join the substitute list. If you are interested in participating in this worthwhile endeavor, please leave a message for Lynn Gordon at [admin@TBThumble.org](mailto:admin@TBThumble.org).

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

### **What the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston Means to Me and to Temple Beth Torah**

It has been 50 years this summer, just prior to starting my senior year in high school, that the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston sent me with approximately 50 friends from Houston on an amazing trip to Israel. This 6-week experience was life changing for me and solidified my connection to Israel and the Jewish people. It taught me how important it is to have connections with other Jews locally, in Israel, and around the world.

Since that time, I have been a supporter of our Jewish Federation, an organization that helps us engage philanthropically and drives meaningful social change to enhance the continuity, security, and unity of the Jewish community—not only locally but wherever Jews may live.

Last summer, I had the honor to be named to the board of trustees of the Federation. I have been overwhelmed by the dedication of the staff and board members whose purpose is to cultivate a thriving Jewish community. Their programs and networks “educate and connect our community to both Judaism and Israel while celebrating the rich heritage and values of the Jewish people.”

So how does this organization connect with TBT, our small synagogue on the northeast edge of Harris County? Let me give some examples on how the Federation has helped, at no cost to us, over the last year:

**Educational Resources:** Our principal, Carrie Keith, works with our Federation which provides TBT consultation, educational plans, materials, and programming for our students.

**Safety & Security:** Just ask Jeff Kaufman, chair of our Safety & Security Committee, how helpful the Federation has been. We have received much assistance to help formulate our plans during the current COVID-19 pandemic. We have also been provided many resources to improve security at TBT.

**Grants:** We received an outright grant of \$10,000 at the beginning of this year just because we are part of the Jewish community of Greater Houston—no strings attached---to help us during the pandemic.

**Legacy Giving:** The Federation helps coordinate TBT's Legacy Giving program. Thanks to our generous donors, we have commitments of over \$1.5 million to help ensure TBT will live on for many years to come.

**Israel Trips:** A number of our congregants have travelled to Israel with our Federation which has always proved to be a wonderful experience. Twice, TBT Religious School teachers went on this trip with special educator grants. This summer, 2 of our students traveled to Israel through the Federation's Kehillah High program. Come to services virtually on August 6<sup>th</sup> and you will hear from one of TBT's participants!!

I hope you will consider supporting the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston. Lynn and I have been contributing to the Federation every year for the 33 years we have been married. We believe in their mission. We hope you will believe in it, too.

For more information and to make a donation, please go to: [www.houstonjewish.org](http://www.houstonjewish.org)

***Hy Penn***

## ***RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CORNER***

We have many exciting events happening at Temple Beth Torah for our Religious school. We are excited to see everyone back in person this year.

Our Religious School theme for the school year is “A Year of Togetherness (B’Yachad)”. We have been apart except through the internet for over a year. So now is a wonderful time to think about friendships, togetherness, and making connections with each other. Emma Brawn will be teaching PreK through 1<sup>st</sup> Grade. Rebecca Shuman and Amy Nossal will be teaching 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade.

Andrea Miller will be teaching 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade. Michael Miller will be teaching 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade. Shari Ellsworth will teach our once-a-month PreConfirmation – Confirmation Students. These students will also be our Madrichim, helping out teachers and students in the classrooms.

Andrea Miller is Temple Beth Torah’s Hebrew Coordinator. She and Rabbi Dan will work to continue providing excellent Hebrew instruction.

The first day of class will be August 22 from 9:00 am-11:15 am followed by Hebrew 11:30 am – 12:30 pm. This year all students need to bring a supply box, 2 glue sticks, 2 sharpened pencils, 1 box of 16 or 24 count crayons, 1 box of 8 watercolor markers, an eraser, a dry eraser marker, and a box of Kleenex. Please label all items. Each child will also need to bring a healthy snack and a labeled water bottle with a pull up top (no open water bottles, please. They spill!!) Masks are required for all students.

We are all very busy planning fun and meaningful instruction for all of the students. We hope to have several programs throughout the school year for our Youth Group (6<sup>th</sup> graders through High School) as well as activities for families to come together.

Watch your emails for Religious School Registration form, calendar and Parent Handbook. We will see everyone on August 22 at 9:00 for the first day of Religious School

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

## **TBT Welcomes New Members Karen and Joel Heller**

TBT officially welcomes new members Karen and Joel Heller. Although the Hellers live in Scottsdale, Arizona, they have become regular Zoom participants. Karen and Joel are members of a synagogue in their own community, but they have enjoyed their experience so much with us that they have joined our family, too!

If you are interested in becoming a member of Temple Beth Torah, please contact Jeff Kaufman at [membership@tbthumble.org](mailto:membership@tbthumble.org).

## **Tot Shabbat via Zoom Friday, August 20, 6:30 PM**

Please join Rabbi Dan at 6:30 PM on August 20 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)

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

The Sunday Discussion Group is open to all and is discussing: "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.

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**Just in Time for the Baseball Playoffs:**  
**Jewish Baseball Player Presentation and Art Raffle**  
**Sunday Afternoon, September 26 at 1:30 PM**

Do you know how many Jewish baseball players have made an impact in America's Favorite National Pastime? We have Alex Bregman locally for the Houston Astros, but past Astros included pitcher Norm Miller and catcher Brad Ausmus. Hall of Famers Hank Greenburg and Sandy Koufax are at the top of the list, and there have also been several Most Valuable Players and Cy Young Award winners, like Al Rosen and Steve Stone. The first ever Designated Hitter was Ron Blomberg of the Yankees and there have been several Jewish executives and team owners like Theo Epstein and former Commissioner of Baseball, Bud Selig.

Greg Harris, a Chicago attorney, has a passion for Jewish baseball players. He had a dream to create a painting of as many Jewish players as possible. With the support of Major League Baseball, he commissioned an artist to create a painting, which will be on display at Temple Beth Torah for an upcoming presentation and raffle. Greg Harris will give an entertaining talk on Zoom especially for TBT on Sunday afternoon, September 26. More details will be coming in September, and you will be able to buy raffle tickets to win the painting for yourself or to give as a gift. The painting has a \$600 value, and as an added bonus, everyone buying a raffle ticket will receive special valuable gifts, so everyone is a winner! As a special bonus, you can personalize the painting as the artist will paint the winner of the auction into the crowd!

For more information on this exciting project, visit [www.jewishbaseballplayer.com](http://www.jewishbaseballplayer.com). Information on how to purchase raffle tickets will be coming in the September newsletter and upcoming emails.

### **Condolences to the Graf Family...**

After several years of illness, Tom Graf passed away on Friday, July 23. Tom was the devoted husband of Iris Graf and father of their twin daughters Meredith and Becky.

Tom was devoted to his Christian faith and a great supporter of the Jewish community, in particular, Temple Beth Torah. He often volunteered at TBT and was instrumental in the creation of our sanctuary. Tom was a veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard. Tom was laid to rest at Veteran's Memorial Cemetery in Houston.

## *Simchas in August Birthdays*

- 2     *Jeanne Mandell*  
5     *Susan Cahn*  
6     *Rachel Couch*  
6     *Catherine Zakes*  
8     *Meida Ramirez*  
9     *Stacey Blumin*  
9     *Michael Cahn*  
14    *Dale Vine*  
15    *Dennis Klager*  
17    *Jamie Nossal*  
18    *Roger Poser*  
20    *Hannah Lewis*  
21    *Stephen Heller*  
21    *Michael Miller*  
22    *Arnold Farber*  
28    *Rebeca Ramirez*

### *Anniversaries*

- 4     *Jeff and Alice Kaufman*  
7     *Hy Penn and Lynn Gordon*  
18    *Ian and Judi Adler*  
20    *Howard and Gail Tobin*  
20    *Michael and Andrea Miller*  
22    *Dennis and Ellen Klager*

## **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.

## **August Yahrzeits**

The following names will be read each week during August 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.

*Arthur Abrasley, Lorraine Klemz Irene Sara Macaluso, Marlene Salkin, Leon Bluestein, Rodney Abrasley, William Belofsky, Susan Hensley Christman, Olive Bricker, Irving Simmons, Samuel Rosenfield, Juanita Adams, Lucy Mueller, Lillian Blumin, Jetchen Cahn, Estella DeLap, Col. Leonard Farber, Abraham Marcus, David Rapoport, Marylyn Cash, Dana Samuel Szerezewski, Marion Delores Carson*

## **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](mailto:president@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 August 2021

Summarized by Rabbi Dan Gordon

### August 6-7, 2021 Re'eh, Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17

This Torah portion reminds us that we have a choice, to follow good or evil. Following good will bring blessings and life; following evil will bring curses and death. "Choose life," we're taught. Appropriately included in this section is the obligation to tithe a portion of our earnings to the poor. We are also taught to be generous to those in need when it comes to lending money. The seventh year is one of freedom; we are commanded to forgive debts and free slaves in the seventh year. The three festivals of pilgrimage, Passover, Shavuot and Sukkot are described in detail.

### August 13-14, 2021 Shoftim, Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9

Bribery is forbidden and honesty is valued over all. Other governmental layers are described, including priests and even, eventually, kings. Kings must not be tempted by too much money or too many wives. The king must always keep a Torah with him, reminding him that God is the ultimate authority. Refuge cities are set up for those who kill accidentally. The death penalty is for malicious murder, but only with the collaboration of two or three witnesses; one witness is not sufficient. In the case of an unsolved murder, the priests are to pray for atonement for the whole city. We are instructed to appoint judges, and to make sure the judges are fair with all their decisions.

### August 20-21, 2021 Ki Tetze Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19

There are seventy-two commandments in *Ki Tetze*, the largest number in any Torah portion. Topics covered include marriage and divorce, defiant children, fair weights and measures and charity for the poor. At the end of the *parsha* we are instructed to "blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven." Many of the regulations teach us about righteous living. Others, such as how to handle a defiant child, convey problematic approaches that must be studied in the context of time, and perhaps should be read metaphorically.

### August 27-28, 2021 Ki Tavo Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8

The *parshah* begins with a description of a ceremony to commemorate the occupation of the land. Some of every first fruit of the soil will be given to the priest as the exodus experience is retold. A tenth of the yield must be set-aside for the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless and the widow. Blessings and curses, some extremely graphic, are recited to motivate the people to observe the covenant.

## DONATIONS

### RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

*John and Bobbylee Ruskis*

*Dale Vine*

### GENERAL FUND

### SCOTT ERIC KAUFMAN TECHNOLOGY FUND

*Martin and Nadira Lorin*

### SPONSORS OF ZOOM SERVICES

*Sherwin B. Rubin – In honor of his daughter Janice Rubin*

*Dr. Steve Smith*

*Castine Theriot and the Tom Theriot Memorial Program Fund – August 27<sup>th</sup> Shabbat with Cantor Francyne*

### TBT CARES – SOCIAL ACTION

*Dale Vine*

### 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 service or event in honor of an occasion or in memory of a loved one, please contact Stacey at [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org).*

## THE CARING COMMITTEE

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

## 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

320 SHALLOW DRIVE  
HUMBLE, TX 77338  
281-446-5611

## BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

**Please return this form no later than September 7**

Please inscribe the following names in our "Book of Remembrance" which the synagogue is publishing for the Day of Atonement in honor and memory of our loving family.

**As a tribute to our departed ones, I/we are enclosing \$\_\_\_\_\_**  
**as a tzedakah gift for the beloved souls who are remembered on September 16<sup>th</sup> at the Memorial Service.**

Listed below are the full  
names of the departed:

Date of Death:

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**Or** **There are no changes from last year.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Remembered by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address/Phone/Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your donation. Yahrzeit plaques for the memorial board are available. Call 281-446-5611 for more information.**

# Temple Beth Torah Donate a Brick Campaign

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

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

Each brick can be inscribed with 3 lines and 20 characters per line (letters, numbers, spaces, punctuation and other keyboard symbols are considered characters).

Various approved clip art designs can be made available for an additional \$20 donation per brick. If clip art is used, the text is limited to 15 characters per line.

## Brick donations are:

**1 Brick= \$100**

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

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

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

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

**6 or more Bricks= \$50 a brick**

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

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

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

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

Engraving details (please print):

## Brick 1:

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

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

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

## Brick 2:

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

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

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

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

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

*THANK YOU*

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



**TEMPLE  
BETH TORAH**

Donation Form

*Thank You!*

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

In honor of       In memory of

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Please apply donation to (check one):*

- General Fund
- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
- Burt Levy Memorial Library Fund
- 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

# AUGUST 2021 AV - ELUL 5781

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>AUG 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class - Virtual 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group -Virtual					7:00 PM VIRTUAL Shabbat Service with Special Guests	
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class - Virtual 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group -Virtual					7:00 PM In Person Shabbat and VIRTUAL Shabbat Service With Rabbi Dan	
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class - Virtual 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group -Virtual				7:00PM VIRTUAL Adult Learning “7 Questions you are asked in Heaven”	6:30PM VIRTUAL TOT SHABBAT 7:00 PM In Person Shabbat and VIRTUAL Shabbat Service	
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
9:00AM– 11:15AM First day of Religious School 10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class - Virtual 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group -Virtual 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Hebrew 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Drive By and Drop Off			VIRTUAL LUNCHTIME LEARNING 12 noon with Rabbi Dan		7:00 PM In Person Shabbat and VIRTUAL Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan and Cantor Francyne	
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>SEPT 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
9:00AM – 11:15AM Religious School 10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class - Virtual 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group-Virtual 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Hebrew					7:00 PM In Person Shabbat and VIRTUAL Shabbat Service	