

Temple Beth Torah

NEWS FOR YOU

SEPTEMBER 2021 ELUL 5781 - TISHREI 5782



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Gordon
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LEADER

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In-Person & Virtual Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur Services Rabbi Dan Gordon & Cantor Francyne Davis Jacobs Officiating

Doors to the building and sanctuary open 20 minutes prior to the start time for the evening and morning services.

Monday, Sept. 6 at 8:00 pm: Rosh Hashanah evening service

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

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

Links to attend our virtual services will be sent to members and registered guests several days prior to each service as well as on the day of each service.

High Holiday Registration

Members: Please register if you wish to attend services in person—the link to register can be found in the weekly email. Seating is limited.

The service will be streamed live for those who prefer to participate virtually-- the link to watch will be sent in a separate email to all members and registration is not required. For questions or if you do not receive the link, contact admin@tbthumble.org or call 281-446-5611.

Guests: Guests wishing to attend in-person or needing the link to attend virtually should contact Stacey at admin@tbthumble.org or call 281-446-5611.

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 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.

Revised High Holiday In-Person Worship Guidelines

Consistent with Jewish law, the health and well-being of our TBT members and guests is of paramount importance. Expecting larger attendance for the High Holidays than on Shabbat and with the recent rapid rise of COVID-19 infections in our community, we are taking steps to protect our congregants. To this end, congregants who are fully vaccinated may join us for in-person services. For the safety of all, if you have not been vaccinated (including children under 12), please do not plan to attend High Holiday services in person and enjoy the services, virtually, from the comfort of your home.

- ♣ 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. There will be no childcare in the building.

The service will be streamed live for those who prefer to participate virtually-- the link to watch will be sent in a separate email to all members and registration is not required. For questions or if you do not receive the link, contact admin@tbthumble.org or call 281-446-5611.

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.

Cantor Francyne Davis Jacobs Joins Rabbi Dan Gordon For TBT's High Holiday Services

Temple Beth Torah is excited to announce that Cantor Francyne Davis Jacobs will be joining Rabbi Dan Gordon to lead us in worship for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Cantor Francyne is no stranger to TBT having been with us for Shabbat via Zoom this past year and most recently in person at the end of August.

A Houston native, Cantor Francyne is not only a cantor but also an educator and music teacher. She earned her undergraduate degrees from Brandeis University in Music and Near Eastern & Judaic Studies. She went on to Gratz College where she earned master's degrees in Jewish Music (Cantorial degree) and Jewish Education.

Cantor Francyne has been a cantor for over 25 years and has served congregations in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and southeast Texas. In addition to leading services and filling in for local cantors as needed, she teaches "Music Together" classes for young children (and their caregivers), leads a "Mommy & Me" class, and tutors B'nai Mitzvah students.

She received the GenNEXT award for "female cantor or vocalist" from the *Jewish Herald Voice* in 2007. She serves on multiple boards in the community, including the Evelyn Rubenstein JCC. She is the current president of the Women Cantors' Network.

Cantor Francyne lives in Houston with her husband, Kevin, an attorney, and her three teen/tween children. She is an avid runner, having completed the Tiberias marathon and numerous half marathons. She enjoys a variety of workouts and playing cards with her family. She also likes to cook, bake and generally nourish those around her.

Children and Family Virtual High Holiday Services

Our always popular children's and family services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur will be pre-recorded and offered virtually this year. Each service will be led by Rabbi Dan Gordon and Cantor Francyne Davis Jacobs and is geared for elementary school aged children and younger, but everyone is invited!

The Children and Family services can be accessed from our website at www.tbthumble.org. The link for the Rosh Hashanah service will be posted on Monday, September 6 and the link for the Yom Kippur service will be posted on Wednesday, September 15. Each service will last no more than 30 minutes.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE ENTRIES DUE BY SEPT 7

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 SEPTEMBER 7 to ensure they will be included. Please see form found later in this newsletter. Donations can be made by check, 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 for more information.

High Holiday Prayer Books Available for Virtual Worship

Please contact Stacey Blumin at admin@tbthumble.org or call 281-446-5611 if you are in need of a High Holiday prayer book if attending our Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur services virtually so arrangements can be made.

**TBT BASEBALL ART FUNDRAISER
ENTERTAINING ZOOM PROGRAM
OCTOBER 3, 5 PM
RAFFLE TICKETS
AVAILABLE NOW ON THE TBT
WEBSITE
PLEASE SEE THE ARTICLE LATER IN THIS
NEWSLETTER**

RABBI'S MESSAGE

Labor of Love to Begin the Year

When comparing the Hebrew calendar with the standard, Gregorian calendar, sometimes we find an odd quirk that provides a unique lesson. This year, Erev Rosh Hashana, the night we begin our entire High Holiday season and the New Year, is on Labor Day. Labor Day in America is a designated day off, a legal holiday, to honor the many ways workers contribute to our well-being. Rosh Hashana is designated as *Yontiff*, a day when working is against Jewish law. Many Jewish Americans struggle with the decision to take off from their regular jobs on *Yontiff* because it is not universally understood by non-Jewish employers.

In Hebrew, the word for work is *avodah*. At the beginning of the Passover seder, there is a passage that begins, *Avadim Hayinu*, or “We were slaves (workers).”

Because Hebrew often has multiple meanings for words, the word *avodah* takes on a different meaning in a special teaching from Pirke Avot (Ethics of our Ancestors) that has become a popular song. At Temple Beth Torah, we often sing this song while the Torah parades through the congregation:

Al Shloscha D'varim ha-Olam Omed

On three things the world stands

Al ha-Torah, v'al ha-Avodah, v'al G'milut Hasadim

On Torah, on prayer and on loving kindness. (Pirke Avot 1:2)

Notice that the word *avodah* in this teaching is translated as prayer. Why is the word for prayer the same as the one for work? Are we working when we pray? This translation has always been confusing to me, but bringing Labor Day and Rosh Hashana together has helped me add some understanding.

On Rosh Hashana, we pray for a year that is healthy, prosperous and fulfilling. Our contemplations leading up to Yom Kippur and the rest of the year are significant. And while we repeat the same words that we recited last year and the year before, our intention can be much different. The sacred work of prayer can inspire us to pursue knowledge (Torah) and to perform deeds of loving kindness. Our *avodah* consists of internal work that connects us to G-d, our fellow human beings and the world. Laborers must prepare for their work by training, learning, obtaining supplies and working well with team members that bring a variety of skills to the task. On Rosh Hashana, our prayers are preparation for an entire year of *mitzvot*. On Rosh Hashana, we prepare ourselves by tasting the sweetness of apples and honey, wishing each other Shana Tova, and deeply engaging with our own spiritual selves. Love is at the center, as our prayers help us engage in spiritual connections with the Divine and with humanity. *Yontiff*, instead of being a day off from work, is when we do our most important work: preparing to fulfill the sacred task of making the world a better place. Our preparation, devotion and teamwork build community at the beginning of the year and for the rest of our days.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Dan Gordon

Healing List Names will be Refreshed at the Start 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 and rabbi@tbthumble.org to be added.

Special Shabbat and Tashlich Service: “A Time of Transition”

Friday, September 10 at 7:00 pm

The time between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is a very special period. After inspirational worship on Rosh Hashanah, we focus our spiritual energy toward Yom Kippur, a time of being accountable for our past and our future. The sages called this time “*cheshbon ha-nefesh*” – an accounting of the soul. It is a time to contemplate a personal commitment to the coming year, while reflecting on the past year. The usual tradition is to go to a flowing body of water and toss breadcrumbs into the water, symbolically “casting our sins” away. While in person at TBT or “Zooming” from our homes, Rabbi Dan will lead a unique, creative, and interactive experience on Shabbat as we connect our inner selves and each other during this contemplative time.

Getting TBT Ready for the New Year: Clean-up Days a Success!

A big thank you to all who helped put in hours and hours of time to get our spiritual home ready for the new year over the summer. So much was accomplished including cleaning windows and walls, dusting what needed dusting, completely cleaning our kitchen (take a peek inside our refrigerator!), polishing our granite countertops, cleaning all our classrooms and our sanctuary and much, much more.

A separate crew spent hours weeding and trimming our flowerbeds in the front and back and spreading over 400 pounds of mulch. What a mitzvah this has been!!

Thank you to (let us know if your name was left off the list!):

Jeremy Blumin--Stacey Blumin—Mike Cahn—Carole Curtis—
Wes Goble --Loren Gordon—Rabbi Dan Gordon—Lynn
Gordon—Lorna Hill—Ron Hill—Jeff Kaufman—Carrie Keith—
Debye Lurie—Jeanne Mandell—Hy Penn—Susan Pollard—
Meida Ramirez—Steve Smith—Bob Swaim—Debbie Swaim—
Castine Theriot—Leslie Witkov—Roger Zevallos

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 for more information.

In Person and Virtual Shabbat/Sukkot Experience Friday, September 24, 7 PM

Welcome to Sukkot, the holiday commemorating the huts that were our temporary homes during the exciting journey from Egypt to the Promised Land. In addition to Shabbat worship and celebration, we will explore how Sukkot is observed and learn about the symbols of the harvest, the Lulav and Etrog.

Shabbat and Simchat Torah Service: Save the Date!

Friday, October 1, 7:00 PM

Bring on the Torah to this special Shabbat and Simchat Torah service. Rabbi Dan Gordon leads us in celebrating one of the most festive holidays on the Jewish calendar. Concluding the last portion of Deuteronomy and the first selection of Genesis, Simchat Torah embraces the Joy of Learning.

Shabbat Services and Events in September

Friday, September 3	7:00 PM	In Person and Virtual Shabbat Service service is sponsored by Dale Vine in memory of his sister, June Vine Meeks
Monday, Sept. 7	8:00 PM	Rosh Hashanah Service with Rabbi Dan and Cantor Francyne In Person and Virtual
Tuesday, Sept. 8	10:30 AM	Rosh Hashanah Morning Service
Friday, Sept. 10	7:00 PM	In Person and Virtual Shabbat/Tashlich Service
Wednesday, Sept 15	8:00 PM	Yom Kippur Eve Service
Thursday, Sept 16	10:30 AM 3:30 PM	Yom Kippur Morning Service Yom Kippur Concluding Services
Friday, Sept. 17	7:00 PM	In Person and Virtual Shabbat Service
Sunday Sept. 19	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
Friday, Sept. 24	6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Virtual Tot Shabbat Service In Person and Virtual Shabbat/Sukkot Service
Wed., Sept. 29	12:00 PM	LUNCHTIME LEARNING - Virtual with Rabbi Dan via Zoom

Temple Beth Torah In-Person 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:

- **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 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.**
- **Guests: Guests wishing to attend in-person or needing the link to attend virtually should contact Stacey at 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.

**Just in Time for the Baseball Playoffs!
"Jewish Stars of Baseball"
A Special Virtual Presentation and
Art Raffle Benefitting TBT
Sunday, October 3, 2021 at 5:00 PM via Zoom
Tickets Available NOW on the TBT Website**



Do you know how many Jewish baseball players have made an impact in America's 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 (known in NY as Der Boomer), 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 artist Ron Lewis to create a 24" by 36" painting, which is on display at Temple Beth Torah for an upcoming presentation and raffle. The painting includes 26 current and former Jewish baseball players along with 9 prominent Jewish figures, including fans like Rob Reiner, Larry King and Billy Crystal. To see a replica of the painting and the list of those portrayed, go to www.jewishbaseballplayer.com. Greg Harris will give an entertaining talk on Zoom especially for TBT on Sunday afternoon, October 3, the last day of the current season. Raffle tickets are \$25 each (or 5 for \$100) to win the painting for yourself, or to give as a gift.

As a special bonus, the winner can personalize the painting, as the artist will paint for the winner a designated person into the crowd behind the players! The value of this unique piece of art is \$1250. The winner can also personalize the nameplate on the painting. Multiple people can be added for an additional fee.

There is no limit on the number of tickets you can buy at \$25 each (or 5 tickets for \$100). Since the presentation and raffle drawing will be via Zoom, they are open to any of your friends and neighbors anywhere in Houston, the US or the world. As an added bonus, everyone buying a raffle ticket will receive special valuable gifts, so everyone is a winner!

The date of the drawing will be announced by email and during the Zoom program. Winner need not be present. Framing, shipping and insurance are all included for the raffle winner. The personalized painting for the winner should be available in time for Hanukkah.

The Zoom link will be provided after Yom Kippur, but raffle tickets are available NOW by sending a check to Temple Beth Torah with BASEBALL RAFFLE in the memo and including your name and email address. You will receive a confirmation email that your purchase has been received. If mailing, please be sure your check is received at the temple by September 30. You can also purchase your ticket online by going to www.tbthumble.org. On the DONATIONS page, there is a special button labeled "Baseball Fundraiser" where you can buy one or multiple tickets.

If you have any questions, please contact TBT at admin@tbthumble.org or 281-446-5611. All proceeds go to benefit Temple Beth Torah's ongoing programming.

Drive By and Drop Off At TBT

Sunday, September 19th from 3:00pm – 4:00pm at TBT

(Religious school families and those attending services in person can leave items in the brown drop off basket in the entranceway.)

This month we are collecting:

For the women and children at FamilyTime

Body Wash

Middle School and High School Age Boy and Girl Clothing (new)

Socks and Underwear for boys and girls (new)

Eczema lotion/cream

African American leave in conditioners and hair oil

For Humble Area Assistance Ministries

Diapers

Toothbrushes

Toothpaste

Razors and Shaving Cream

Canned tuna or chicken

All nonperishable foods

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 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 - Hand wipes - Copy paper - Bottled water

If you would like to donate but aren't able to come in person, please email Susan at 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, Ellen and JQ Delap, Wes Goble, The Keith Family, Pat Klemz, Jeanne Mandell, The Penn Gordon Family, Castine Theriot, The Pollards, Leslie Witkov and the Zakes.

The Dual Shabbat Experience: In Person and Virtual Worship

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 and 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 AND 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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Change Your Routine for a Fresh Start on the New Year

During the days before Rosh Hashanah, I always think about how I can lead my life differently this coming year. What do I want to accomplish, what do I want to change? What can I do differently and what can I improve upon?

Our lives often seem so busy that we sometimes feel overwhelmed and have a hard time getting things done. I am a "list" person. On some days, I think I spend more time writing my lists and then rewriting my lists than trying to get the tasks on my lists done! I often feel out of control when I look at all the things I want and need to do that I feel "frozen" and don't know where to begin. It reminds me of the wise words that basketball coach John Wooden once said: "Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do."

We all need to set goals and go after them. Target the items that are easier to accomplish to gain confidence and build upon that. Once you start reaching some of your goals, it will give you the confidence to go after more. I feel so good when I can cross things off my list!

We all need to balance our time. Sometimes taking one hour out of one's schedule and do something that is specific and productive—you will be rewarded for this. Make sure you leave time for friends and family. Be proactive and reach out to people even if it is a quick email. For 3 months, I had on my "to do list" to call a woman whose husband had dementia just to say "hello." The man died before I made the call. Don't put things off until tomorrow or it may be too late.

The University of Texas at Austin psychologist, Art Markman, says the most important thing we need to do is "disrupt the daily routine." He says "the reason routines are so comforting is that people engage in them without thinking." Start with simple changes and work your way up. Maybe even consider joining a TBT committee bringing in new ideas to our synagogue or coming in person or "Zoom in" for Shabbat services. We recently had the "flowerbed brigade" work on our landscaping making our spiritual home more inviting. We cleaned up the "Kavanah Corner" that is next to our sukkah which is dedicated to the memory of TBT teacher Tracy Johnson—it made us all feel good to do this. There are so many things we can do to "disrupt our routine."

I could even teach you how to make a list...

Hy Penn

Welcome Lorna and Ron Hill to TBT!

Lorna and Ron Hill are officially welcomed to TBT as new members! Ron recently completed his conversion to Judaism and we are so happy that they have decided to become members of our family.

Condolences to Dale Vine and Family...

June Meeks, sister of TBT member Dale Vine, passed away August 17, 2021 at the age of 72. June Carrolle Vines Meeks is survived by her husband, Jerry B Meeks, her mother, DewDrop Muse and her brothers, Dale and Jimmy in addition to five children and eight grandchildren.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CORNER

Temple Beth Torah is off to a great start! We had an exciting first day of Religious School on August 22. We are so pleased to have excellent classroom teachers, Madrichim and Rabbi Dan to work with your children. Emma Brawn is teaching Pre-k and Kindergarten in the Alef class. Rebecca Shuman and Amy Nossal are teaching 1st – 3rd grade in the Bet class. Andrea Miller is teaching 4th – 5th in the Gimmel class and Mike Miller is teaching 6th – 7th grade in the Dahlet class. Shari Ellsworth is coordinating our Madrichim (classroom helpers) and teaching them in our once a month confirmation program. Rabbi Dan is working with all of our students providing a love of Judaism, and a joy of learning.

Our Religious School theme for the year is A Year Of Togetherness, B'Yachad, with a goal to focus on family, friends, community and increase appreciation for the world around us. This past Sunday, most of our students created Rosh Hashanah cards for Holocaust survivor families in the Houston Area. Dr. Hy Penn and Ms. Lynn Gordon will distribute baskets of goodies to these families with the students' cards included. We hope to do many family and community activities throughout the school year.

Over the next few weeks, the classes will focus on Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Simchat Torah. The students will learn the traditions and meanings of these important holidays. Each class is also working on Hebrew skills from learning the alef bet to reading vocabulary words. Prayers and bar/bat mitzvah preparation is the goal for our Hebrew class which follows Religious School for students 4th grade and up.

We have several protocols in place this year to ensure the health and safety of all students and teachers. Thank you, parents, for providing masks, individual supplies, snacks and for following these protocols. Parents and guests are an important link with our students and we hope to have more parent involvement next semester.

Shana Tova,

Carrie Keith
Religious School Principal

Lunchtime Learning with Rabbi Dan on Zoom Wednesday, September 29 at Noon

Join Rabbi Dan for a lively discussion on a topic of interest to everyone. Watch for the link in your weekly emails or contact admin@tbthumble.org to obtain.

Tot Shabbat Virtual Friday, September 24, 6:30 PM

Please join Rabbi Dan at 6:30 PM on September 24 at 6:30 pm for a fun Tot Shabbat program for our younger children. The Zoom link is the same one used for our 7:00 pm Shabbat service. 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.

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

The Sunday Discussion Group is open to all and is discussing: "The Power of Now" by Eckhart Tolle. Please join us for interesting conversations.

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 or contact 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. The Zoom links are sent out in the weekly email.

Simchas in September Birthdays

2	<i>Andrew Shuman</i>
2	<i>Karen Simmons</i>
7	<i>Bernard Lewis</i>
7	<i>Pete Brawn</i>
11	<i>Roy Bleiberg</i>
15	<i>Sophie Rhines</i>
16	<i>Idalis Ramirez</i>
17	<i>Kim Levy</i>
18	<i>Sophia Gerszen</i>
22	<i>Wesley Goble</i>
22	<i>Matthew Zevallos</i>
23	<i>Howard Arner</i>
23	<i>Dennis Keith</i>
25	<i>Ellen Klager</i>
25	<i>Jacob Rhines</i>
26	<i>Rosie Brawn</i>
28	<i>Adam Curtis</i>
28	<i>Paige Daniels</i>

Anniversaries

6	<i>Larry and Lauren Rhines</i>
15	<i>Dennis and Carrie Keith</i>

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.

September Yahrzeits

The following names will be read each week during September 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. *Faye Cohn Graham, Mathew Mounger, Tom Theriot, Carol Winter, Jacob Halpern, Annie Minkes, Tracy Tobin Johnson, Lee Salkin, Martha Weisberg, Joseph Lewis, Barney Gordon, Scott Sard, Karen Finn, Sarah Winsberg, Jack Ballin, Clyde Blumin, Amerigo Strizzi, James Cliff Smith, Edith Kharasch, Stephen Stapleton Jr., Harry Preusse, Wanda Preusse, Lester Nussbaum, Ruth Merki, Rose Saslaw, Jack Ballin, Rildah Royal, Stephen Stapleton Sr. Joseph Gordon, Rose Weiss, David Kestin, Maxinne Davis, Amy Shalom*

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.

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.

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

DONATIONS

RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

John and Bobbylee Ruskis

Dale Vine

Wesley Goble

Leslie Witkov – in memory of Tom Graf

Roger and Marsha Poser – in memory of Jacqueline Bitterman and Raymond Poser

Harry Feinman – in memory of Tom Graf

GENERAL FUND

Hy Penn and Lynn Gordon - in memory of Tom Graf and In honor of Leslie Witkov and her dedication to Judaism

Morton and Ellen Winter

Bruce and Susan Pollard – in memory of Tom Graf

Wesley Goble – Yahrzeit FUND

Pratik Shah – in memory of Tom Graf

David Acosta

Jessica Smith – in memory of Tom Graf

SCOTT ERIC KAUFMAN TECHNOLOGY FUND

Patricia Klemz – in memory of Lorraine Klemz

Wesley Goble

SPONSORS OF SHABBAT SERVICES

Dale Vine – In memory of his sister June Vine Meeks

HIGH HOLIDAY DONATIONS

Hy Penn and Lynn Gordon

Castine Theriot

Jeanne Mandell

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.

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.

Torah Portions for September 2021

Summarized by Rabbi Dan Gordon

September 3- 4, Nitzavim Deuteronomy 29:9-30:20

Nitzavim is read twice a year: once on its calendar date and once on Yom Kippur. It is no mere recapitulation but instead is a talk about the future. Moses' speech to the Israelites just before they enter the Land of Israel reveals that in Judaism, belief flows from behavior. The actions – rituals as well as deeds of kindness – help inspire our faith. Moses reminds the Israelites that G-d's words, teachings and spirit are not meant to be distant, but are close to us, in our hearts.

September 10-11, Va-Yelech

In *Vayelech* Moses announces to the Israelites that at one hundred and twenty years old, he is no longer active. He publicly transfers his authority to Joshua and empowers the Levites to bring the Teachings of the Torah into the Ark of Covenant. Moses warns the Israelites to remember all of G-d's commandments by re-reading the teachings even after his own death.

September 17-18, Ha'Azinu Deuteronomy 32:1-52

Moses, nearing the end of his life, uses poetry and song to recount the journey in the desert. At the conclusion of the song, G-d instructs Moses to climb to the top of Mount Nebo, overlooking the Jordan River. This is where Moses will die, able to see the Promised Land, but not enter it. G-d explains this is because Moses broke faith with Him when he struck the rock. Moses is 120 years old.

September 24-25, Special Reading for Sukkot, Leviticus 22:26-23:44

The Torah readings for Sukkot concern the marking of time and the sacrifices related to them. It includes a reminder about sacred places and making sure not to profane a sacred place or G-d's sacred name. It also reminds us about keeping the Sabbath holy and the special customs related to Passover, Shavuot and Sukkot. Much of the teaching is related to harvesting and acknowledging the importance of appreciation of the harvest. It is essential to remember the importance of gratitude. Observing the specific times of the year for different offerings helps us keep those priorities.

Help Needed For Our Friends in Louisiana—The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston, JFS, and JCC are Organizing Ways to Help

Life on the Gulf Coast unfortunately means hurricanes. Here in Houston, we know it, we have lived it, and we stand ready to help. Our brothers and sisters in New Orleans and across southeast Louisiana sustained major damage Sunday after the Category 4 Hurricane Ida ripped through the area. The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston, Jewish Family Service (JFS), and the Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center (The J) are proud to be able to again unite to organize a community response to meet the evolving needs.

More than a million people are left without power. This outage is expected to last a minimum of 21 days, but could last six weeks. The outage is also hindering full assessment of the extent of storm damage. Evacuees have been asked not to return to the city due to the utility situation, and others who are currently there may need to leave. Many have come here to Houston, and we welcome them with open arms.

2 Ways You Can help...

Monetary Donations

The Houston Federation is raising money to meet the urgent needs of those individuals who have evacuated to Houston, and the longer-term needs of those individuals and organizations in Louisiana as they begin to recover. A gift of any amount will do a great deal to help. Please donate to the Federation's fund to help those impacted by Ida here.

[Donate Here](#)

Housing Assistance

If you have a garage apartment or a room in your home that you can offer to an individual or family needing a place to stay, please click the link below to fill out the form and JFS will contact you if there is a match.

[Housing form](#)

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 16th at the Memorial Service.

Listed below are the full names of the departed:

Date of Death:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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.

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

SEPTEMBER 2021 ELUL 5781 – TISHREI 5782

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			SEPT 1	2	3	4
					7:00 PM In Person Shabbat and VIRTUAL Shabbat Service sponsored by Dale Vine in memory of June Vine Meeks	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class - Virtual 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group -Virtual	Labor Day 8PM ROSH HASHANNAH SERVICES	10:30 AM ROSH HASHANNAH SERVICES			7:00 PM T In Person and VIRTUAL Shabbat/Tashlich Service	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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 Religious School Hebrew			8PM KOL NIDRE SERVICE YOM KIPPUR	10:30 AM YOM KIPPUR SERVICE 3:30 PM AFTERNOON CONCLUDING SERVICE	7:00 PM In Person and VIRTUAL Shabbat Service	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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 Religious School Hebrew 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Drive By and Drop Off					6:30PM VIRTUAL TOT SHABBAT 7:00 PM In Person and VIRTUAL Shabbat/Sukkot Service	
26	27	28	29	30	OCT 1	2
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 Religious School Hebrew			VIRTUAL LUNCHTIME LEARNING 12 noon with Rabbi Dan		7:00 PM In Person and VIRTUAL Shabbat Service	