

# Temple Beth Torah

## NEWS FOR YOU

DECEMBER 2021 KISLEV - TEVET 5782



Rabbi Dan  
Gordon  
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LEADER**

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### Oh Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah!

#### BRING ON THE LIGHT WITH RABBI DAN AND CANTOR FRANCYNE

Friday, December 3, 7:00 PM  
In Person and Virtually

It's the sixth night of Hanukkah, and Temple Beth Torah's sanctuary will be filled with light and warmth! Rabbi Dan Gordon and Cantor Francyne Davis Jacobs will team up with music and stories, while we all enjoy the beauty of the Hanukkah lights. Feel free to bring your own menorah, as it's always exciting to see the variety as well as the flickering flames of the season. The cantor will have festive tunes to share, and the rabbi will have a surprise or two up his sleeve to make it a truly memorable holiday.

The link to attend virtually can be found in the weekly email or contact [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org).

### TBT's Rabbi Dan Gordon Granted a Sabbatical

The Temple Beth Torah Board of Directors has granted Rabbi Dan a short sabbatical in appreciation of the years of service to the congregation. This will be a time for our beloved rabbi to become rejuvenated and refreshed. Rabbi Dan will be away from the synagogue beginning December 13 and he returns January 16. During this time, please relay any questions for him to our administrator, Stacey Blumin at [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org).

Rabbi Dan may be away on a well-deserved break, but TBT will have some exciting guest leaders for our Shabbat services during this time including Cantor Francyne Davis Jacobs, Janice Rubin, and Bert Malo this month and Ellie Flier in January. Congratulations to Rabbi Dan on a well-deserved break!

### COMING SOON: OUR ANNUAL NER TAMID FUNDRAISER HONORING JONI LEVY

Buy your Tickets NOW!!!

**Date:** Saturday, December 4, 2021  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Place:** In person at TBT or Virtually  
**Program:** Exciting entertainment featuring Andrew Briggs\* Toasts to Joni Hannukah Menorah Lighting and Havdalah Service

To purchase tickets and for more information, go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2nd-annual-temple-beth-torah-ner-tamid-eternal-light-award-tickets-170232011529>

Please visit our online auction at [www.TBThumble.org](http://www.TBThumble.org)

Auction has been extended till noon on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

\*Andrew Briggs is a Professor of Music at Houston Community College. He has performed in venues throughout the country, as well as locally with the Houston Grand Opera Chorus, Lone Star Lyric Opera and with the Three Texan Tenors.

**TBT Family Movie Event**  
Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> 3:00 - 6:00 PM  
See article on Page 4

### Annual Congregation Meeting

Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM  
Virtually

See article on Page 5 for more information.

## 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.

### Friday, December 17 at 7:00 pm Celebrate Shabbat Virtually with Singer Janice Rubin

TBT welcomes back Janice Rubin to lead us in a virtual only spirited Shabbat service on Friday, December 17 at 7 pm. Janice is an accomplished singer and cantorial soloist who is well known in the Houston Jewish community. She serves as a PRN Chaplain at Baylor St. Luke's Hospital and is also a professional photographer. Her photographic exhibition, "The Mikvah Project" has toured 34 cities in the U.S. and Europe since 2001. Her work is included in the permanent collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. There will be no in-person worship this night. If you need the link to join, contact [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org).

### Bert Malo Returns Virtually to TBT for Shabbat Friday, December 24 at 6:00 pm (NOTE EARLY START TIME)

We are so excited to welcome back Bert Malo as he leads us in Shabbat worship on Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Bert is passionate about the arts and has had extensive training and professional experience in acting, voice and opera. He has been invited to perform as a cantorial soloist and as a service leader for Jewish Organizations and Synagogues in Canada and Israel. He practices as a Federal Prosecutor for the Public Prosecution Service of Canada. Thanks to our TBT friend from Canada, Herb Sacks, for introducing Bert to us. Join Bert as he leads us in this very special 6 pm Shabbat service live from Edmonton, Alberta in Canada. There will be no in-person worship this night. If you need the link to join, contact [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org).

Listen to Bert at his website: <https://bertrandmalo.com/>

### Lay-led Virtual Only Shabbat Service to Usher in the New Year Friday, December 31 at 6:00 pm (NOTE EARLY START TIME)

Join your friends for an abbreviated and virtual only lay-led Shabbat service on Friday, December 31 at 6 pm. Start 2022 on the right foot by gathering together on our screens to celebrate Shabbat. There will be no in-person worship this night.

Interested in participating? Please contact Hy Penn at [president@tbthumble.org](mailto:president@tbthumble.org). If you need the link to join, contact [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org)

## RABBI'S MESSAGE

### *What is Eternal?*

When I first moved away from my parents' house, it was early December. I asked if I could take with me a Hanukkah menorah from the home. My mother suggested that I buy a new one when I got to my destination. I quipped, "But I only need it for a week!"

The menorah has become one of the most recognizable symbols of Judaism. The candles are short, often lasting less than an hour. The eight nights go by quickly, and we get ready to start the secular New Year. It is the memorable spark that shines in the darkness that makes Hanukkah so dramatic. Hanukkah is one of the few Jewish holidays that does not start during a full moon, but at the end of the lunar month. Hence, Hanukkah is designed to be during the darkest time of the darkest month. When the lights go out, we pray that the glow remains.

As we remember the story, a little oil lasted just long enough. A one-day supply lasted eight days, just enough time to bring in more olives to make oil to keep the lamp burning. What would have happened if the oil ran out? Would Judaism have flickered out with the last of the flame? I don't think so. My guess is that we would have created a different story of survival, one that included an "internal light" that shined as brightly as the "eternal light."

The Eternal Light that stays on above the ark that contains our Torah is called in Hebrew the *Ner Tamid*. It is the perfect name for Temple Beth Torah's annual award that honors a special member. It is a reminder that each individual spark has a way of coming close enough to ignite other flames. Founders and elders of the community inspire new generations to carry the torch into the future.

I love that our *Ner Tamid* celebration is during Hanukkah, and Joni Levy is quite a deserving recipient. She and her husband, Burt (of blessed memory) were among the first sparks that shined the lights of TBT. Our logo is also in the shape of an eternal flame. In 1983, the same year TBT was founded, Peter Yarrow (of Peter, Paul and Mary), published his famous Hanukkah song, "*Don't Let the Light Go Out*." As our own lights shine in the darkness of December, we look forward to many years of brightness.

In the classic story of Hanukkah, the valuable resource that provided light was olive oil. No matter how much oil we have, there is always a chance it can run out. Our most valuable resource is the light we have inside our hearts that we can share with others. The light of human kindness can transform any dark time or dark place into a burst of sunshine. And that is a much more precious gift than any presents we can buy. The holiday and the candles only last a week. The sparks we ignite, the spirit we inspire, and the torch of tradition shine on eternally. As one generation inspires the next, we have a warm, bright future to celebrate!

L'shalom,

*Rabbi Dan Gordon*

## Shabbat Services and Events in December

Friday, December 3	7:00 PM	HANUKKAH Celebration and Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan and Cantor Francyne – In Person and Virtually
Sat., December 4	6:30 PM	NER TAMID AWARD PROGRAM in Honor of Mrs. Joni Levy – In Person and Virtually
Sunday, Dec. 5	10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Drop off your items for HAAM and FamilyTime on days of Religious School See the article from TBT Cares for the items we need on page 5
Friday, Dec. 10	7:00 PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan In Person and Virtually – Sponsored by the Kaufman Family – In memory of Scott Eric Kaufman
Saturday, Dec. 11	3:00PM	TBT Family Movie Event – see article on page 4 below
Friday, Dec. 17	7:00 PM	Shabbat Service with Singer Janice Rubin – Virtual ONLY - Sponsored by the Dennis and Carrie Keith – In memory of Mildred Denbina
Tuesday, Dec 21	7:00 PM	Annual Congregational Meeting – Virtually ONLY
Friday, Dec. 24	6:00 PM	Shabbat Service with Burt Malo– Virtual ONLY
Friday, Dec. 31	6:00 PM	Shabbat Service – Lay-led - Virtual ONLY

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

#### In-Person Shabbat Worship Guidelines:

Everyone is welcome to attend Shabbat worship services.

Masks are to be worn in the building and please practice social distancing.

Please stay home if ill or if you have had a possible or know exposure to COVID-19 recently.

Be safe! The CDC recommends everyone eligible for vaccination against COVID-19 be vaccinated.

Temple Beth Torah partners with  
THE INSTITUTE OF SOUTHERN JEWISH LIFE



#### For a special Shabbat weekend, December 10-12.

ISJL Program Associate Matthew Osterman joins us to interact with the community.

**Saturday afternoon December 11<sup>th</sup>, 3-6 PM, is Family Movie Time**

**“A Stranger Among Us”**

Young children will be treated to Disney films, while adults and youth 6<sup>th</sup> grade and older will enjoy *A Stranger Among Us*. Melanie Griffith stars as an undercover New York detective who hides out in a Hasidic Jewish community and learns about life in this unique religious world. It is an exciting adventure film that also helps give insight into the ultra-observant Jewish lifestyle. There will be a question-and-answer session after the movie.

Matthew will also be joining Religious School, leading special educational programs for all.

## TBT Cares Donations for December!

**Drive and Drop Off on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> between 10am and 11:30am at TBT**

*HAAM is collecting new, unwrapped toys and Gift cards to Target and Walmart no larger than \$25 per card.*

*FamilyTime is asking for thin ADULT pajamas and gift cards that are no larger than \$25 per card.*

We welcome any donation of nonperishable food as well.

If you want to give but can't join us that day, please contact Susan at [spollard@tbthumble.org](mailto:spollard@tbthumble.org) or you can go directly to HAAM and make a monetary donation

<https://haaministries.org/toy-drive/>

or click the link for FamilyTime's Amazon wish list

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/267BH0JIHTDL9/ref=hz\\_ls\\_biz\\_ex](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/267BH0JIHTDL9/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex)



## **Virtual Congregational Meeting Set for Tuesday, December 21 at 7:00 pm**

TBT's annual congregational meeting for the election of our officers and open delegate positions is set for Tuesday, December 21 at 7pm and will be held virtually. The nominating committee has been working hard and presented the recommended slate at the board's November 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. Thanks to Carrie Keith, Shari Ellsworth, Jeanne Mandell, Sarah Couch, and Sarah Miller for serving on the committee.

It is very important for everyone eligible to cast their vote. Information and the meeting link will be sent to members and voting can be done electronically by returning a proxy in advance of the meeting. Votes can also be cast at the meeting.

Outgoing president, Hy Penn, will also issue a brief report and be available to answer any questions.

Interested in serving on the board or a committee? There are many opportunities! Contact Stacey at [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org).

## **2021-2022 Membership Directories Coming Soon**

TBT is getting ready to publish our 2021-2022 membership directories. If you would like to make any changes to your information, please contact our administrator, Stacey Blumin, at [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) by December 7<sup>th</sup>.

## **Welcome New Members to TBT!**

TBT welcomes to its membership 2 new families:

### **Al Bleiberg**

We are pleased to welcome Al Bleiberg to the Temple Beth Torah family. Al is originally from Pennsylvania and is a retired school principal who has adult children and grandchildren living in Kingwood.

### **The Cohen Family:**

**Rebecca, Jason, William, and Margaret Cohen** are no strangers to Temple Beth Torah. Rebecca grew up in our congregation and is the daughter of Debbie and Bob Swaim. Although they belong to another congregation in College Station where they live, it was important to them and their 2 young children to be connected to TBT. We are so glad that they remain part of the TBT family!

## **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 - Hand wipes - Copy paper - Bottled water - Kids face masks

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

### **Gratitude...**

At a recent TBT adult education program, our guest speaker, Rabbi Ariel Shoklapper, spoke to us about the importance of gratitude. He took us through an exercise where we had to convey gratitude to a family member by writing that person a letter. It was hard for me at first, but once I got going, it was difficult to stop.

I do know that when someone expresses gratitude toward me, it feels good and reinforces what I had done was the right thing. I recently gave a tour for a 7<sup>th</sup> grade class from Congregation Beth Israel at Holocaust Museum Houston where I am a docent. A week later, I received a note from one of the parents which said, "thank you for our tour today. You were perfect for my 7<sup>th</sup> grader." This parent helped me realize that the tour I gave was worthwhile and appreciated.

I think journalist Cat Thompson summed it up best with her "12 Tips to Express Gratitude" and I wanted to share these tips with you:

1. "Waiting in a checkout line at the store, notice the cashier's work. If it's efficient and quick, take a moment to say you noticed and that you appreciate his or her skills. Tell the manager what a great employee the store has.
2. Develop a habit of leaving little notes for your spouse (or your children) telling them how much you appreciated them cleaning the kitchen or taking out the garbage or straightening the common space. Thoughtful expressions lead to more inspired behavior.
3. When tipping an exceptional waiter/waitress, also tell him or her in person how much you enjoyed the service.
4. Tell people who pack your groceries what a great job they did fitting everything into your bags.
5. Tell parents how much you appreciate something they did for you as a child, something that you still remember today.
6. Thank the earth for your daily meals.
7. Express your appreciation for the weather.
8. Daily, write down five things you feel grateful for. Once a month, see how many things you can find to feel grateful for in a single day.
9. Look in the mirror and express your appreciation to yourself for something you have done or given yourself recently.
10. Imagine how you would like to be appreciated and receive the appreciation of others. Visualize someone spontaneously telling you they are grateful for something you've done, or how happy they are just to have you around.
11. Practice expressing unrestrained gratitude. Let your face light up and break into a grin. Reach out your hand as you say, "Hey, I just want to tell you how much I appreciate you/this/what just happened." Or, "Wow, this is so great!" Just don't hold back, and don't let the moment pass unmarked.
12. By letting your voice, hands, face and body get into the act of appreciation, you'll expand the joy of the whole experience – for yourself, and whomever else is around you! And remember, you don't necessarily have to thank anyone in particular to express your gratitude. To show appreciation for a beautiful day, you might decide to just close your eyes and smile up at the big blue sky."

As we celebrate Chanukah, we are thankful for the miracle that happened so long ago with the rededication of the 2<sup>nd</sup> temple in Jerusalem. May we continue to express gratitude for all the miracles that happen around us every day.

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CORNER

I hope everyone had a very happy Thanksgiving. Thank you to everyone who sent in corn bread mix for food baskets for families in need. We collected over 100 boxes of corn bread mixes for HAAM. We have also been collecting toys and gift cards for HAAM for the holidays. We will collect these through December 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Temple Shabbat/Hanukkah service will be on Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm. Everyone is encouraged to join our TBT family in person. Bring your menorahs and candles!! It will be beautiful to see all the candles on all the menorahs. Masks are still required, and a zoom link will be available.

The Religious School will celebrate the last day of Hanukkah with fun activities on Sunday, December 5.

ISJL Program Associate Matthew Osterman will join us on December 10 - 12. He will greet everyone for Shabbat on Friday, December 10 at 7:00 pm. Then we have a very special program on Saturday, December 11! **Everyone is invited Saturday afternoon, 3-6 PM, for Family Movie Time.** Young children will be treated to Disney films, while adults and youth 6<sup>th</sup> grade and older will enjoy *A Stranger Among Us*. Melanie Griffith stars as an undercover New York detective who hides out in a Hasidic Jewish community and learns about life in this unique religious world. It is an exciting adventure film that also helps give insight into the ultra-observant Jewish lifestyle.

On Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, Matthew will also be joining Religious School, leading special educational programs for all.

Classes will resume after Winter Break on January 9, 2022.

L'Shalom,

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

## Tot Shabbat will return in January Join us December 3<sup>rd</sup> for the Hanukkah Shabbat Service

Please join Rabbi Dan and Cantor Francyne for a fun filled Hanukkah Shabbat Celebration on Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM. In Person or Virtually! Bring your Menorahs and light the night up!! The Zoom link is the same one used for all services and will be sent in the weekly email. 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: "The Power of Now" by Eckhart Tolle. 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.

## 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)

## *Simchas in December Birthdays*

2	<i>Martin Lorin</i>
2	<i>Marck Boyll</i>
5	<i>Sarah Couch</i>
5	<i>Rebecca Shuman</i>
9	<i>Lillian Eoff</i>
9	<i>Stephen Stapleton</i>
9	<i>Castine Theriot</i>
12	<i>Jennifer Ofsowitz</i>
13	<i>Mylie Pous</i>
14	<i>Ruth Spiel</i>
18	<i>Shae Ellsworth</i>
23	<i>Aaron Blumin</i>
26	<i>Loren Gordon</i>
28	<i>Gail Tobin</i>

## *Anniversaries*

6	<i>Stephen and Ellen Stapleton</i>
16	<i>Arnold and Manette Farber</i>
21	<i>Paul and Janet Sisler</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.

## **December Yahrzeits**

The following names will be read each week during December 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.

*Michael Schneps, Bernard Schneps, Anna Glaser, Hans Auerbach, Edward Furst, Gary Herren, Hyman Sukenik, Aubrey Spalter, Nadine Theriot, Burt Levy, Ruth Levitan, Mildred Denbina, Faye Avery, Martin Salkin, Helen Furst Schuman, Kate Srulovitz, William Sidney Graham, Ida Scharff, Betty Rapoport, Graham Marquis, Janie Elyse Campbell, Shirley Mandell, Carol Ann Johnson, Rose Katz, Harry Sachs, Isidor Blumin, Ellis Dworsky, Yvonne Farber Schwartz, Nadine Smith, Irving Kharasch, Nathan Kharasch, Alvin Bernstein, Carol Terreri, Gloria Wood, David Daniels, Robert Wolfsohn, Bob Grayson, Sylvia Lurie, Kenneth Benham, Sylvan Davis, Richard Weisberg, William Dunk*

## **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.

## **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).

## DONATIONS

### RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

*John and Bobbylee Ruskis*

*Dale Vine*

*David Wolf*

*Paul Varner*

### GENERAL FUND

*Stephanie Stover*

*John and Bobbylee Ruskis*

*David Acosta*

*Karen Heller*

*Thank you to all who supported the Ner Tamid Event and Auction.*

### SHABBAT SERVICE SPONSORS

*The Kaufman Family – In memory of Scott Eric Kaufman*

*Dennis and Carrie Keith – In memory of Mildred Denbina*

*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).*

## 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](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) and [rabbi@tbthumble.org](mailto:rabbi@tbthumble.org) to be added.

## 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.

## **Torah Portions for December 2021**

*Summarized by Rabbi Dan Gordon*

### **December 3-4, 2021 Miketz Genesis 41:1-44:17**

Joseph successfully interprets Pharaoh's dreams and becomes a powerful man in Egypt. The famine in Canaan forces Joseph's brothers to come begging for food, and they don't suspect his identity. Joseph tricks his brothers into coming back again with their youngest brother, Benjamin. Benjamin is found with a stolen (planted) goblet, and the brothers fear that, if anything happens to Benjamin, it would be too much for Jacob to handle.

### **December 10-11, 2021 Va-Yigash Genesis 44:18-47:27**

After a stolen goblet is found in Benjamin's bag, Judah asks that he be held prisoner in his brother's place. Joseph cannot hide his identity anymore and has a tearful reunion with his brothers. He invites the whole family to move to Egypt, where he has achieved power. On the journey to Egypt, God speaks to Jacob in a vision. He solidifies that Jacob will now be known as "Israel," and promises to be with his people in Egypt and to eventually bring them home. The entire tribe migrates to Egypt, where they are permitted to live peacefully.

### **December 17-18, 2021 Va-yechi Genesis 47:28-50:26**

Jacob, at 147 years old, blesses his grandchildren, Ephraim and Menasseh, blessing the younger before the elder. He makes Joseph promise to have him buried with his forefathers in Canaan. Jacob calls all his sons to him, and tells each what he thinks of them. After his death, Jacob's sons take him to Canaan for burial and then returned to Egypt. Joseph dies at 110 years old, after reconciling with his brothers again. The Biblical family is at home in Egypt as Genesis ends.

### **December 24-25, 2021 Shemot Exodus 1:1-6:1**

We begin the Book of Exodus with the sons of Israel (Jacob) and their families settled in Egypt. But a new king arises who does not honor the relationship Joseph had established. Because of Pharaoh's fear of a revolt, male Hebrew babies are ordered to be killed. With the help of conspiring midwives, Shifra and Puah, Moses' mother saves him by putting him in a basket where he is later found by Pharaoh's daughter and adopted. Moses kills an Egyptian taskmaster and flees to Midian. He marries, and while watching his father-in-law's sheep, G-d appears to Moses out of a burning bush that is not consumed. G-d reveals His plan to free the Israelites and sends Moses and his brother Aaron to speak to Pharaoh about freeing the Hebrew slaves.

### **December 31-January 1, 2022 Va-eira Exodus 6:2-9:35**

G-d reveals His sacred name to Moses and tells him that he is the first one to know it. G-d assures Moses that He will be with him as he negotiates with Pharaoh. The plagues begin: blood, frogs, vermin, locusts, cattle disease, boils and hail; but each time, Pharaoh's heart is hard, and he does not free the Hebrew slaves.

# 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

# DECEMBER 2021 KISLEV – TEVET 5782

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
					7:00 PM IN PERSON and VIRTUAL HANUKKAH Shabbat Service With Rabbi Dan and Cantor Francyne	6:30 PM NER TAMID AWARD PROGRAM, HONORING JONI LEVY IN PERSON AND VIRTUALLY
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:00AM– 11:15AM Religious School 10:00 – 11:30 AM – Drive By and Drop OFF 10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class - Virtually 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group -Virtually 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Religious School Hebrew					7:00 PM IN PERSON and VIRTUAL Shabbat Service  <i>Sponsored by the Kaufman Family – In memory of Scott Eric Kaufman</i>	3:00PM – 6:00 PM TBT Movie Event with ISJL “A Stranger Among Us”
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:00AM– 11:15AM Religious School 10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class - Virtually 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group -Virtually 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Religious School Hebrew					7:00 PM VIRTUAL Shabbat Service with Janice Rubin  <i>Sponsored by Dennis and Carrie Keith in memory of Mildred Denbina</i>	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
NO Religious School 10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class - Virtually 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group -Virtually		Congregational Meeting 7:00PM Virtually			6:00 PM VIRTUAL ONLY Shabbat Service with Bert Malo	
26	27	28	29	30	31	JAN 1
NO Religious School 10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class - Virtually 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group-Virtually					6:00 PM VIRTUAL ONLY Shabbat Service	