

Temple Beth Torah

NEWS FOR YOU

MAY 2022 NISSAN – SIVAN 5782



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Gordon**
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Israel Independence Day Shabbat Service **Friday, May 6 at 7:00PM**

Please join us in person or via Zoom for the Israel Independence Day Shabbat Service on May 6 at 7 pm. Our special guest speaker, Rotem Cohen, is the Israeli Shlichah (Emissary) at the Evelyn Rubenstein JCC in Houston. Ms. Cohen will tell us about life in Israel and how they celebrate holidays differently than we do in America as we celebrate the modern state of Israel's 74th birthday. She has so much wonderful information to share and will be open for questions during the Oneg.

Rotem looks forward to joining us and sharing with us as we celebrate Shabbat and Israel's 74th birthday! The Israeli emissary program sends young Israelis to Jewish communities all over the world—they are ambassadors to the global Jewish community. Rotem not only loves her job but she believes in her job!

The link to attend virtually is in the weekly email or contact admin@tbthumble.org to obtain.

Special Musical Shabbat to Honor Students and Teachers **Join Rabbi Dan and Cantor Francyne in Person OR Virtually** **Friday, May 20, 7 PM**

The children are the future, and we have some wonderful youth at TBT. Our students have learned much this year, with enthusiasm and zest. Our principal and volunteer teachers have worked very hard to inspire learning. At the end of the school year is a great time to sing, celebrate and share the joy of learning! Please be part of this special Shabbat to honor the educators and the learners.

Lunchtime Learning with Rabbi Dan

Via Zoom

Wednesday, May 25 at 12:00 PM

Nourishment for the Body, Mind and Soul

Rabbi Dan Gordon facilitates a relaxed discussion on a variety of topics, including mitzvot, Torah, holidays, current events and Jewish Practices. Each session is a different topic, and everyone gets a chance to participate. Join us virtually and nourish your mind and your body! No RSVP necessary, feel free to just show up! This is an online Zoom event. The Zoom link will be in the weekly emails.

MISSION STATEMENT

Temple Beth Torah is a congregation that embraces the philosophy and values of Judaism in the following ways:

Spiritually, by celebrating the richness and traditions of Torah, prayer, holidays and life cycle events;

Educationally, by encouraging learning, increasing Jewish knowledge and enriching understanding for children, teenagers and adults;

Compassionately, by caring for our members and others in the Jewish community in times of need while also fostering positive relationships with our non-Jewish neighbors.

Temple Beth Torah embraces the spirit of inclusion for Jewish individuals and families who represent a variety of backgrounds and family compositions.

Shabbat Services and Events in April

Friday, May 6	7:00 PM	Israel Independence Day Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan and Guest Speaker Rotem Cohen In Person and Virtually
Friday, May 13	7:00 PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan In Person and Virtually Baby Naming of Bella Aurora Sledd – Oneg provided by the Ramirez Family
Friday, May 20	6:00 PM	Musical Shabbat Service Honoring Teachers and Learners - with Rabbi Dan Sponsored by the Keith Family In memory of William Denbina
Friday, May 27	6:30 PM 7:00 PM	TOT SHABBAT VIRTUAL Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan Virtual ONLY
Friday, June 4	7:00 PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan In Person and Virtually

TBT In-person Attendance Guidelines

We want to welcome you to in-person services and events in safe and healthy ways because we care about the health and safety of you and the whole community. TBT will continue to monitor the situation and CDC guidelines closely and make modifications to these recommendations as needed.

- 1) Everyone is welcome at TBT.
- 2) If you are at high risk or are in contact with someone who is at high risk for serious illness, talk to your healthcare provider for mask and other recommendations.
- 3) Stay home if you are ill with symptoms of COVID-19 or exposed to someone with COVID-19.

Join the Fundraising Committee!

We are looking for volunteers to join our fundraising committee. There are many events that we plan throughout the year, and we would like to have a number of people involved on this team to work together. If you are interested in participating in planning an event or two during the year, please contact the president at admin@tbthumble.org. Thank you all!!

RABBI'S MESSAGE

What do Jews think about...?

One of the exciting things about being a rabbi is the wide variety of questions that come my way. Some are easier than others...and for many, there is not one simple answer. A random sampling:

- Why are ten people required to say Kaddish? Do they have to be men? Do they have to be Jewish? Does a “virtual” minyan count?
- Why is poultry prohibited to be eaten with dairy when the Torah says, “Don’t boil a kid in its mother’s milk?” (Deut. 14:21)
- Why do some people eat rice on Passover and others don’t?
- Is it OK to have a Passover seder when it is not the first or second night?
- Why do we eat dairy on Shavuot?
- Why isn’t Moses mentioned in the Haggadah? Why isn’t G-d’s name in the Book of Esther?
- What does the “star of David” represent, and why is it such a popular Jewish symbol?
- Why was 13 chosen to have a bar mitzvah? When did bat mitzvahs become common?
- How much of the Torah is “true?”
- Who was the historical Jesus, and how do Christian teachings differ from Jewish teachings?
- What are Jewish views on organ donation, abortion, stem cell research and other topics in the modern world?

Yes, some questions are easy, some are hard, some are controversial and most have multiple possible answers. The responses are not just about the perspective from Orthodox or Conservative or Reform tradition. The Talmud is a Jewish source that gives a lot of information, but it is also full of contradictions and arguments. Judaism’s major movements have developed their own rulings, but there is also disagreement even within those movements. Modern generations have produced countless “responsa,” or the views and opinions of rabbis and scholars attempting to answer the infinite list of questions that arise. When looking at these teachings, it is important for learners to consider that the scholar is producing an answer based on the research, texts and historical teachings that are consistent with their own perspectives and opinions. These opinions can have a wide variety of views.

There is a difference between asking a rabbi for a “ruling” or asking for an “opinion.” If you are looking for advice and want a ruling, then you are supposed to follow it, rather than shop around until you find a rabbi who gives you the answer you like. However, if your question is about furthering your own learning, you might consult multiple sources to develop your own opinion. Judaism absolutely encourages deep thinking about every issue, and you might surprise yourself to find out that your own opinion matches some of the great sages of Jewish history, or modern scholars who continue to explore and re-evaluate to create new meanings for ancient traditions.

When I’m asked what Jews think about a particular topic, before giving my own viewpoint, I’m tempted to say: “It depends on the Jew.”

Which is true. New thinking and learning, development of tradition and modern thought...depends on YOU!

Keep thinking, keep learning, keep asking and keep growing.

L’shalom,

Rabbi Dan Gordon

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

As I sat observing Shabbat, listening to stories and readings about the Holocaust one of the things that was mentioned more than once was about teaching our children about the past so that they would carry on the memories and traditions. Then of course, there is the V'ahavta that states "and you shall teach them diligently to your children." Having just completed celebrating Passover we also talk about teaching our children and their participation in the Seder and in all aspects of our holidays and celebrations.

We have so many special moments in Judaism that remind us of the importance of our children and their part in worship and faith. We celebrate their accomplishments with consecration, bar and bat mitzvahs, and confirmation. We try to lead them in life to follow the path of good and teach them Torah, so they have an understanding of why we do and say what we do. As a parent I sometimes forget the joy and reward I have in my children, as I am bogged down with the daily tribulations.

I want to take this time to remember how very blessed I am. Not only to have my children but that I get to interact and teach other children in religious school and in public school. Being a part of a child's life is an honor and I learn from them as I hope they are learning from me. This is a lesson that I hope everyone has an opportunity to gain through our faith and moments in each of our lives.

Shari Ellsworth

Mazel Tov

Meida and Felipe Ramirez are welcoming a granddaughter to their family! **Bella Aurora Sledd** was born on November 26, 2021, and she will receive her Hebrew name (Bathsheba) during Shabbat services on Friday, May 13.

Landon Zweifel will be called to the Torah during a special Shabbat morning service on June 4 at 10:30 AM.

Condolences

Ken Troxclair's mother, Marie Troxclair, passed away in Louisiana on April 10. Marie was 98 years old.

Adam Waxman's father, Jeff Waxman, passed away in Florida on April 16. Jeff was 76 years old.

Our hearts and prayer are with the Troxclair and Waxman families at this time.

Volunteer to Help Lead a Shabbat Service

The Ritual Committee is looking for interested congregants to participate in Shabbat services with Rabbi Dan. No experience is necessary! Would you like to lead the congregation in an English reading or a Hebrew prayer? Would you like to kindle the Shabbat candles or read from the Torah? If yes, let us know!

This is a wonderful way to connect with our religion and our community. Please contact a member of the ritual committee if you are interested or have questions: Andrea Miller, Carrie Keith, and Shari Ellsworth or you can let Rabbi Dan know. We look forward to working with you.

Religious School Corner

Carrie Keith, Religious School Principal

The Religious School Passover Seder was a wonderful experience. The students prepared all traditional and symbolic foods for Passover. We even had parsley from our TBT garden!! Dr. Shari led our Seder as all the students joined in for songs and blessings.

On Sunday, May 1st, we had an excellent presentation from Rabbi Erin Mason, Executive Director of Greene Family Camp. Several TBT members have enjoyed "GFC" over the years. The children were enthusiastic, and several parents attended as well. Whether for this summer or in the future, camp is a wonderful way to encourage children to enjoy their Judaism. For more information on the camp, please visit www.greene.org.

We only have 2 more sessions of Religious School this year, May 15 and May 22. We will have special end of the year activities on May 22. Religious School will start at 10:00 in the sanctuary for an end of the year program. Then an end of the year party will follow. Bring lunches, drinks, and other picnic necessities for your family. We will have some snacks and treats!

It has been a great year. Our teachers are already planning for the next school year with a calendar filled with fun activities. There will be many opportunities throughout the year for parents to be involved with their students so that we are all learning and enjoying being in a Jewish community together.

TBT CARES

Please continue to bring in non-perishable items for HAAM and FamilyTime

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

Tot Shabbat - VIRTUAL ONLY

Friday, May 27, 6:30 PM

Please join Rabbi Dan at 6:30 PM on May 27th 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

SUNDAY DISCUSSION GROUP

SUNDAYS at 11:30 A.M.

.No Meeting May 8th

We are reading The 23rd Psalm by Rabbi Rami Shapiro. This is an interesting interpretation of the psalm. If you have read other books by Rabbi Rami, you know he has a unique perspective. We have a few extra books if you would like to join and need a book.

If you are interested in joining the discussion or have any questions, please email Susan at spollard@tbthumble.org. The discussion group meets through Zoom. The link remains the same each week and is sent out in our weekly emails.

ADULT EDUCATION - TORCH

(TORAH OUTREACH RESOURCE CENTER OF HOUSTON)

SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM VIA ZOOM

TORCH Rabbi Yaakov Wolbe leads a discussion of **Pirke Avot** (Ethics of the Fathers). All meetings will be through Zoom. Any questions please contact admin@tbthumble.org. The Zoom links are sent out in the weekly email.

KROGER card to support TBT

Kroger has recently upgraded their Community Rewards system and as a result TBT has a new account number-VE980. Please use this new number when linking your Kroger card to TBT so we can receive a percentage of your Kroger purchases. It's an easy way to help TBT earn some money. While the previous number will continue to be associated with our organization, it will not be visible to members when enrolling. New members can enroll by searching for either VE980 or Temple Beth Torah. If you are a Kroger shopper, please link your Kroger card to TBT at no cost to you.

Simchas in June

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

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

May Yahrzeits

The following names will be read each week during May to acknowledge those who have passed away who were connected with our community. If there are mistakes or omissions, please e-mail the temple at admin@tbthumble.org or leave a message at 281-446-5611.

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

Torah Portions for May 2022

Summarized by Rabbi Dan Gordon

May 6-7, Kedoshim, Leviticus 19:1-20:27

Kedoshim begins with the Holiness Code: “You shall be holy, because I, the LORD your G-d, am holy.” Most of these regulations are related to morality, including fair business practices and treating others with kindness. It repeats these themes multiple times, such as “Love your neighbor as yourself” and “Treat the stranger as one who resides with you, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.” This portion reminds us that kindness to others is not merely a nice thing to do, but a sacred commandment.

May 13-14, Emor, Leviticus 21:1-24:23

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

May 20-21, Behar/Bechukotai, Leviticus 25:1-26:2

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

May 27-18, Bechukotai, Leviticus 26:3-27:34

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

DONATIONS

RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

John and Bobbylee Ruskis

Dale Vine

Herbert and Moira Sacks

Marla Drewinko

Brian Eoff

GENERAL FUND

David Acosta

Andrew Tolchin

Anonymous

ZOOM SHABBAT FUND

Hy Penn and Lynn Gordon -

-Holocaust Remembrance Shabbat IMO Linda and Morris I. Penn and Riva Kremer

-in honor of Jeff Kaufman for all he does for TBT

- in honor of Quinn Keith, granddaughter of Carrie and Dennis Keith.

Herbert and Moira Sacks

Thelma Douglass

ONEG FUND

Herbert and Moira Sacks

If you would like to sponsor a TBT Zoom event in honor of an occasion or in memory of a loved one, please contact Stacey at admin@tbthumble.org.

Crisis in Ukraine: Please Support the Jewish Community A Message from the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston

The news from Ukraine continues to be dire. There are 200,000 Jews in Ukraine who have been profoundly affected by political and economic instability. They are hurting, and we would like to do our part to support the needs of those impacted.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston has set a fundraising goal of \$220,000 to support the Jewish Federations of North America's \$20 million goal to help Ukrainian Jews. We need your support. Click here: <https://www.houstonjewish.org/ukraine-relief/>

A check can also be sent to the:
Jewish Federation of Greater Houston

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

SCOTT ERIC KAUFMAN TECHNOLOGY FUND

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

Temple Beth Torah Donate a Brick Campaign

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

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

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

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

Brick donations are:

1 Brick= \$100

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

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

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

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

6 or more Bricks= \$50 a brick

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

Questions? Please contact project coordinator Jeremy Blumin at admin@tbthumble.org.

Name of donor: _____

Phone number or email address: _____

Engraving details (please print):

Brick 1:

Line 1 _____

Line 2 _____

Line 3 _____

Brick 2:

Line 1 _____

Line 2 _____

Line 3 _____

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

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

THANK YOU

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



**TEMPLE
BETH TORAH**

Donation Form

Thank You!

From: _____

In honor of In memory of

Name _____

Please apply donation to (check one):

- General Fund
- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
- Burt Levy Memorial Library Fund
- Scott Eric Kaufman Technology Fund
- Tracy Tobin Johnson Memorial Education Fund
- Tom Theriot Memorial Program Fund
- Temple Security Fund

Please send acknowledgement of the donation to:

Name _____

Address _____

TEMPLE BETH TORAH 320 SHALLOW DRIVE HUMBLE, TX 77338

(281) 446-5611 WWW.TBTHUMBLE.ORG

MAY 2022 NISSAN – SIVAN 5782

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:00 AM Religious School 10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group					7:00 PM Israel Independence Day Shabbat Service In-Person and Virtually	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
MOTHER'S DAY NO Religious School 10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class NO Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group					7:00 PM Shabbat Service In-Person and Virtually Baby Naming <i>Oneg provided by the Ramirez Family</i>	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:00 AM Religious School 10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group					7:00 PM Musical Shabbat Service to Honor Teachers and Learners In-Person and Virtually <i>Sponsored by the Keith Family In memory of William Denbina</i>	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00 AM Religious School FINAL CLASS 12 NOON PICNIC 10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group			12:00 PM LUNCHTIME LEARNING VIRTUAL ONLY		6:30 PM TOT SHABBAT – Virtual ONLY 7:00 PM Shabbat Service Virtual ONLY	
29	30	31	JUNE 1	2	3	4
10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group					7:00 PM Shabbat Service In-Person and Virtually	