

Temple Beth Torah

July 2023 Bulletin

“Special Summer Shabbat Services in July and August”



Rabbi Dan



Cantor Francyne



Ellie Flier

TBT is so honored to have TBT favorites Cantor Francyne Davis Jacobs, Ellie Flier and Rabbi Yakira and Family lead our Friday evening Shabbat services while Rabbi Dan Gordon takes some much-deserved time away. We hope to see you at our in-person or virtual services. An Oneg with delicious treats will follow each in-person service.

The link to attend virtually can be found in our weekly emails. Contact admin@tbthumble.org or call 281-446-5611 to obtain if you are not on our email list.

Friday, July 7 at 7 pm: Virtual/ In-person Shabbat service with Cantor Francyne –
Oneg sponsored by the Simmons Family in Honor of Karen

Friday, July 14 at 7 pm: Virtual ONLY lay-led service coordinated by Shari Ellsworth

Friday, July 21 at 6 pm: In-person ONLY Shabbat Dinner and Movie -
Details will be announced in the weekly emails.

Friday, July 28 at 7 pm: Virtual ONLY Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Yakira and Family

Friday, August 4 at 7 pm: Virtual ONLY Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Yakira and Family

Friday, August 11 at 7 pm: Virtual/ In-person Shabbat service with Rabbi Dan

Friday, August 18 at 7 pm: Virtual/ In-person Shabbat service with Rabbi Dan

******Ellie Flier and Open House Weekend - August 25, 26, 27******

SAVE THE DATES: More detailed information to follow:

Friday, August 25 at 7 pm – Virtual/In-Person Beautiful Song-Filled Shabbat with Ellie Flier

Saturday, August 26 at 5 pm: Havdalah, Dinner, and Sing Along with Ellie Flier

Sunday, August 27 at 10 am: Open House with Ellie Flier in Concert followed by Lunch. Reconnect with everyone after the summer!

Adult Education Ongoing Programming:

***TBT Sunday Book Discussion Group at 11:30 am. Virtual Only.**

The Sunday Discussion Group is open to all. If you have any questions, please email Susan at spollard@tbthumble.org. The link can be found in the weekly email. Come and try the group out!!

***TORCH Class at 10 AM. Virtual Only.**

Rabbi Yakov Wolbe of the Torah Outreach Center of Houston leads a discussion of Pirke Avot (Ethics of Our Fathers). The link can be found in the weekly email.

Membership Forms are now due

Our fiscal year begins July 1. Please send your form and payment in today. Need a form? Contact Stacey Blumin at admin@tbthumble.org or call 281-446-5611.

Sponsor a Service or Underwrite a Special Guest or Program

Help us continue to bring excellent Shabbat worship leaders and speakers to TBT. This is an excellent way to honor someone or remember a loved one. Contact our administrator at admin@tbthumble.org.

Prepare an Oneg

Let us know if you would like to prepare an Oneg after one of our in-person services.

Clean up Days Planned

Volunteers are needed to get our spiritual home ready for the new year inside and out. Contact admin@tbthumble.org if you would like to participate.

Food for HAAM

Please remember to bring non-perishable food items for the Humble Area Assistance Ministry's food pantry when visiting TBT. There are so many people in our community that need our help.

Volunteers needed

There are so many volunteer opportunities at TBT. Let us know and we will find a way you can help! Please contact Stacey at admin@tbthumble.org to find out more.

The Ritual Committee is looking for volunteers to assist with the High Holidays! We need people willing to make phone calls, organize events, and help with assorted tasks that will come up. Please contact the Ritual Chair, Andrea Miller (amiller@tbthumble.org), if you are interested.

Are you receiving all our emails?

Because new things are happening all the time, you should be receiving at least one email a week with login information about Shabbat and other programs.

Some members have reported that they do not always receive emails. We have learned that sometimes, the email gets diverted to another folder, like SPAM or PROMOTIONS. Please check your other folders, or if you feel you are missing some information, contact admin@tbthumble.org

TBT Donate a Brick Campaign

A wonderful way to honor or remember someone. Please visit the website at www.tbthumble.org to download the form. Celebrate a birth, death, marriage or other mitzvah.

Order Your Memorial Plaques NOW

Now is the time to place your order for memorial plaques that are displayed on the walls of our sanctuary. The cost of the plaque is a minimum \$300 donation for 1 and \$500 for 2; checks can be made payable to Temple Beth Torah.

Once you have sent in the donation, please contact Stacey admin@tbthumble.org with the following information:

English name as you wish it to appear on the plaque

Hebrew name if known

Date of Death.

DONATIONS:

GENERAL FUND

Gloria Mendez

Linda Farber

Iris Graf

Alice Kaufman – In Memory of Jeff Kaufman

Ellen Delap – In Memory of Jeff Kaufman

Dennis and Carrie Keith – In Honor of Manny Miller Bar Mitzvah; In Honor of all TBT teachers for 2022-2023 year; In Memory of Jeff Kaufman, In Memory of William Denbina and In Honor of the Birth of Esther Couch.

RABBI DISCRETIONALRY FUND

John and Bobbylee Ruskis
Brian Eoff

SCOTT ERIC KAUFMAN TECHNOLOGY FUND

William Barrow – In Memory of Jeff Kaufman
Edward and Denise Saylor - In Memory of Jeff Kaufman
Harry and Nancy Feinman - In Memory of Jeff Kaufman
Debye Lurie - In Memory of Jeff Kaufman
Jason and Rebecca Cohen – In Memory of Jeff Kaufman

BERT LEVY MEMORIAL BEAUTIFICATION FUND-

Lisa Levy

SIMCHAS IN JULY:

Birthdays

2 Ken Troxclair
5 Bernice Troxclair
5 Briana Christman
6 Shari Ellsworth
9 Bruce Pollard
9 Morton Winter
13 Sarah Miller
19 Iris Kelley
23 Maxine Sussman
31 Ellen Grayson

Anniversaries

4 Guillermo and Deysi Velasquez
6 Morton and Ellen Winter
30 John and Bobbylee Ruskis

Yahrzeits in July:

The following names will be read each week during July 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.

*Helen Wallack, Joan Zinda, Murray Cuppy Rosenberg, Ruth Nodler Schnitzer,
Joshua Lee Thomas, Hazel May Woods Tabor, Maurice Schneps, Charles Lerner, Ilse Ballin,
David Heller, Morris Kaufman, Marc Fontanot, Arthur Bricker, Cal Garcia, Max Sanders,
Lena Getz Lewis, Sylvia Lesser, Morris Blumstein, Bea Moss, Evelyn O'Rourke,
Martha Houlihan, Helen Myers, Lyuba Perelman, Leila Fern Camp, Marvin David Brand,
Esther Spalter, Jack Stark, John Swaim, Maurine Swaim, Joan Weiss, Arthur Wiener,
Joseph Lappen, David Eynard, Thomas Graf*

TORAH PORTIONS for JULY 2023

Compiled by Rabbi Dan Gordon

June 30-July 1, 2023 Chukkat/Balak (double portion), Numbers 19:1-25:9

Chukkat includes the mystery of the red heifer, and the purification rituals connected with it. Water plays a major role in the description of purification procedures. Miriam, who throughout the desert journey had helped the people find water, dies. Fearful that without Miriam they would have difficulty finding water, the people cried out to Moses and Aaron. Moses, still recovering from his sister's death, hears the instructions from God about how to provide water. God instructs him to speak to a rock, but in anger, Moses strikes the rock twice. The water comes forth, but Moses failed to do it the way God had instructed. This is ultimately one of the reasons why Moses is denied entry into the Promised Land. *Balak* presents an interesting story; if Torah were a Shakespeare play, you might call it "comic relief." Balak is a foreign king who fears the Israelites and wants to place a curse upon them. He sends a servant, Balaam, to deliver the curse. While trying to follow orders, Balaam's *donkey* refuses to help him fulfill the mission. The donkey surprises Balaam by speaking to him to tell him that he G-d has instructed him to prevent the curse and encourage Balaam, instead, to offer a blessing. Overwhelmed by this development, Balaam and Balak come to understand God's connection to the Israelites, and how a good blessing can override a bad curse!

July 7-8, 2023, Pinchas, Numbers 25:10-30:1

Pinchas kills an Israelite man and a Midianite woman who had entered a tent together, and this act, considered heroic, saved the Israelites from a plague. God rewards the zealot, Pinchas with a covenant of peace. While it may seem unusual for the killer of adulterers to receive the covenant of peace, this portion also includes a famous legal distinction for women. The daughters of Zelophehad claim they should have the right to his inheritance because he died with no male heirs. Although it contradicts the law at the time, God tells Moses that their claim is just, and the daughters are awarded the inheritance. Toward the end of the portion, God informs Moses that he will not enter the Promised Land and Joshua will be his successor.

July 14-15, 2023, Matot-Masei, Numbers 30:2-36:13 (double portion)

Moses resolves a land dispute and provides further instructions for dividing land among the tribes. He teaches the Israelites to set up cities of refuge where those accused of involuntary manslaughter may find justice.

July 21-22, 2023, D'varim, Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22

The beginning of the fifth and final book of the Torah is "Devarim," or Hebrew for "words." Moses begins a lengthy recounting of the desert journey. He reminds the Israelites of their times of doubt and how God has helped them reach the brink of the Promised Land. God decrees that none of Moses' generation will enter the land, and that Moses, himself, will not enter the land. Joshua has been delegated as the new leader, and a new generation of people, born in freedom, will undertake the challenge of settling in the land that was promised.

July 28-29, 2023, Va'Ethchanan, Deuteronomy 2:32-7:11

Moses recounts the Israelites' experience in the desert and their connection with God. He reminds them that God had given Ten Commandments to live by, and also a series of rules, regulations and teachings. He repeats the Ten Commandments for all to remember. Shortly after the repetition of the Commandments, Moses pronounces what has become arguably the most sacred sentence in the whole Torah: "Hear, Oh Israel, the LORD is our God, the LORD is one." This sentence (Shema, Deut. 6:4) is immediately followed by a paragraph (V'Ahavta) expressing our love for God and our commitment to instill this love in our children. Moses warns about the dangers of prosperity, and the risk of becoming complacent. We are encouraged that by following these teachings, all will be well for us throughout the generations.