

Temple Beth Torah

NEWS FOR YOU

DECEMBER 2023 KISLEV – TEVET 5784



Rabbi Dan
Gordon
**SPIRITUAL
LEADER**

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ADMINISTRATOR
AND NEWSLETTER
EDITOR

There is still time to purchase your ticket for the TBT Ner Tamid Event this Saturday, December 2 honoring Carrie Keith. The Auction is also now live! See page 6 and 7 for details.

Hanukkah at TBT

Friday, December 8, 7:00 PM

Music, Candles, Fun, Laughter, and Latkes!

Join Cantor Francyne Davis Jacobs and Rabbi Dan Gordon
in a Spirited Hanukkah Celebration



Nothing compares to a TBT Hanukkah Shabbat. Rabbi Dan and Cantor Francyne team up for an evening of music, stories, candle-lighting and surprises. Afterwards, enjoy a delicious Hanukkah Oneg. Hanukkah begins Thursday night, December 7. For our Shabbat/Hanukkah service, we will be lighting two candles for the second night of Hanukkah. If you have a *Hanukiah* (menorah) bring it with you, and we'll bring a shining light with the warmth of everything Hanukkah as to offer! Service will be In Person and Virtual.



Sunday, December 10, 12:30 PM at the Temple
Catered Authentic Middle Eastern Lunch Provided



No charge for lunch, thanks to a kind donation.
RSVP is NECESSARY to determine numbers for the caterer.

Since October 7, Israel has been on everyone's mind. Hamas attacked. Israel retaliated. Many innocent lives are being lost every day. The lives of hostages are being used in a political chess game. For every kidnap victim that is released by Hamas, three convicted Palestinian prisoners, some of whom have committed violent crimes, are released. Both sides have vowed to not stop fighting (though an extended "pause" is permitted) until the other side is annihilated. Is there an end in sight? Is a two-state solution still an option?

Temple Beth Torah is happy to welcome Guy Cohen, a native Israeli, who has been in Houston since 2012 to facilitate the discussion. For five years, he was the Director of Cultural Affairs for the Consulate General of Israel to the Southwest. He chose to stay in Houston and became the Southwest Regional Director of the Israeli American Council. Currently, he is Arts and Cultural Program Coordinator for the Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center of Houston. Guy holds a master's degree in Theater Directing from Tel Aviv University. Prior to coming to the U.S., he directed and produced many theatrical productions and taught in various acting schools.

Continued on Page 2

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.

Continued from Page 1....

For the Temple Beth Torah discussion, Guy is not representing the Israeli Consulate, the Jewish Community Center or the Israeli American Council. He represents himself, an Israeli citizen who makes his home in Texas, who served in the Israeli army and grew up in a household and neighborhood where he learned various viewpoints while developing his own. He is coming to present his own personal outlook, and to facilitate a respectful conversation where differing perspectives can listen to and learn from each other.

A delicious, authentic middle Eastern lunch is being catered by **Island Grill**, a Mediterranean restaurant with five locations throughout Houston, including Spring. Thanks to a generous donation from **Craig Lira** and **Guy Waguespack**, lunch is provided free of charge.

Reservations for lunch are **REQUIRED** by December 6 by emailing Stacey at **admin@tbthumble.org**. Also email Stacey at the same e-address if you are bringing children, as we will provide an alternative activity.

We are very grateful to our two Guys and a Craig for making this program possible.

Worship Services and Other Events in December

Friday, December 1	7:00 PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan In Person and Virtual
Saturday, December 2	6:15 PM	Ner Tamid Award Event – Honoring Carrie Keith
Friday, December 8	7:00 PM	Hanukkah Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan In Person and Virtual
Sunday, December 10	12:30PM	Israel Discussion Program and Luncheon – Please RSVP – In Person ONLY
Friday, December 15	7:00 PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan In Person and Virtual Oneg provided by the Keith and Couch families in memory of Mildred Denbina
Friday, December 22	7:00 PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan In Person and Virtual
Friday, December 29	6:30 PM 7:00 PM	TBT Congregational Meeting for Members Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan Virtual ONLY

Congratulations to TBT 2023 Ner Tamid Honoree Carrie Keith!

Our longtime, devoted educator, Carrie Keith, has been the heart and soul of Temple Beth Torah's Religious School for over three decades, while also providing leadership to almost every aspect of the TBT community. She joins previous honorees Hy Penn, Joni Levy and Jeff Kaufman (of blessed memory) in this distinguished group of TBT leadership. This year, we have the opportunity to show our appreciation for the countless numbers of people who Carrie has touched. Please visit www.tbthumble.org for a schedule for the evening, a more complete biography of our deserving honoree and opportunities to honor Carrie by donating to this annual fundraiser - see ticket information on page 7.

RABBI'S MESSAGE

Hanukkah during Dark Times

While Hanukkah is really a minor holiday as far as its religious and spiritual content, it has certainly become a major holiday in the U.S. Of course, it is not really “the Jewish Christmas,” as some people like to think, but the seasonal gift-giving cannot be ignored. It’s December, after all. Children begin thinking about “what am I getting?” Adults with or without children hope to find ways to express to dear ones their love with thoughtful presents. Holiday parties have to do with people getting together with each other, rather than expressions of religiosity. It is a time for family and friends to reconnect.

For Jewish people, Hanukkah has all of that, plus the retelling of a story of liberation and freedom through military victory. The Hebrew month of Kislev is during the time when daylight is at its lowest point. Hanukkah comes at the end of winter’s lunar month, so the moon is barely visible in the sky. It is literally the darkest time of the year, and we light candles – one additional candle each night – to increase our joy as we bring light into the darkness. The well-known tale of one day’s worth of oil lasting for eight days brings us hope that even in the darkest times, we can find ways to shine more and more light every day we are together.

During the historical time of Hanukkah, approximately 160 years before the Common Era, Jewish people were divided. The fiercely devoted religious Jews included Mattathias and his sons, known as the Maccabees. Other Jewish people were attracted to the popular Hellenist culture of the ruling nation, and put their Judaism aside to blend in as they observed customs that had nothing to do with Judaism. In between these two extreme positions, there were probably many who did not consider either Jewish or Hellenistic customs as part of their lives. But it was a time of oppression, in which the King imposed his religion onto everyone in the land. The Jews fought back, and we won the right to observe Judaism. Like all wars, this came at a great cost. Loss of life should never be taken lightly. During battle, the Holy Temple was desecrated, but the Maccabees’ victory enabled Jews to rededicate the Temple at the end of the war. The word Hanukkah means “rededication,” though for many years, the holiday was simply referred to as the Festival of Lights, relating to the miracle of durable, long-lasting olive oil.

Once again, we are at war. Once again, the Jewish people are divided. We have been attacked by the most brutal actions since the Holocaust. While we are united in our resolve to rid the world of the evil Hamas regime, even Jewish people differ about how this should be done. Lives are in jeopardy, both innocent Israelis and innocent Palestinians. Just as frightening, public opinion around the world has turned on Israel, accusing defensive acts meant to protect Israeli citizens of excessive retaliation that results in too much collateral damage. This Hanukkah is truly a dark time. Hundreds of kidnap victims suffer the unknown mystery about whether they might be able to resume their lives, if at all. The kidnap victims’ families nervously wonder if they will see their loved ones again, and in what condition. Countless people are living in fear. Israeli citizens know they are targets of a group that does not value human life. Palestinian citizens are put in harm’s way as Hamas conducts military operations in tunnels under hospitals. Many Hamas leaders are safely hidden away, giving orders that result in death and injury almost indiscriminately.

Things are changing minute-by-minute. Even after I started writing this message, Hamas and Israel, with the help of Qatar and the U.S., reached a temporary agreement. SOME hostages will be released in exchange for SOME Palestinian prisoners being released from Israeli prisons and a TEMPORARY agreement for both sides to stop fighting and allow humanitarian aid to come to the citizens. By the time you read this, I’m sure things will have changed.

Rabbi’s Message continued on page 4.

Rabbi's Message Continued

I wonder how I would feel if I were being held hostage and I was not one of the first 50 who were released. I wonder how I would feel if I had a loved one being held, and I didn't know their status. None of us is happy when others are controlling our lives. Human lives are in the hands of negotiators, playing a chess game of compromises that can result in life and death decisions. People have taken over choices that we believe only God has the right to make.

Compromise, almost by definition, means that both sides give up something. Nobody is happy unless nobody is happy.

What can we do from so far away? Safely distant in the United States, we may not feel as if our survival is threatened. But during the historic Hanukkah, part of the strife included a lack of unity among the Jewish people. While we can disagree on the many specifics of how we observe Judaism, we are one family. The Talmud says, *Kol Yisrael arevim zeh ba-zeh* – “All of Israel is responsible for each other.” Once we are able to care for our own family, I would like to extend that by saying, “all *humanity* is responsible for each other.” That may be too lofty of a goal for now, but, as Theodore Hertzl said in the early 1900's about the creation of the State of Israel, “If you will it, it is not a legend.”

Hanukkah is one of the holidays that is meant to be shared with our non-Jewish neighbors. We are supposed to put our *hanukiot* (menorahs) in the window, both to demonstrate pride in our Jewish identity, and to share a light with the world. Due to recent antisemitic attitudes, I have heard that some people have chosen to be less public about their Jewish identity. I suggest that this is an important time to demonstrate our pride and our unity, not to separate ourselves, but to share. When individuals get to know each other, and recognize the common humanity, there are fewer barriers to friendship and understanding.

In darkness, a little light can be the most powerful thing imaginable. When we shine together, we can help many others truly see the light.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Dan Gordon

Congregational Meeting Friday, December 29th at 6:30 PM Virtual Only

TBT's annual congregational meeting for the election of our officers and open delegate positions is set for Friday, December 29 at 6:30pm and will be held virtually.

The nominating committee has been working hard and will present the recommended slate at the board's next meeting. Thanks to Carrie Keith, Shari Ellsworth, Donna Glaser, 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, Shari Ellsworth, will also issue a brief report and be available to answer any questions.

Interested in serving on a committee? There are many opportunities! Contact Stacey at admin@tbthumble.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Shalom everyone! So many wonderful events are happening this month, starting right at the beginning! I am so excited to be celebrating Carrie Keith as our fourth Ner Tamid (Eternal Light) Award recipient. She is so deserving and has been such an amazing friend to me. She carries on the legacy of her predecessors, Hy Penn, Joni Levy and Jeff Kaufman (of blessed memory). Each of these four leaders has contributed the quality of Temple Beth Torah in unique ways, highlighting our diversity.

Hanukkah is early in the month this year, and we will light the second night candles together on Shabbat evening, December 8. We always enjoy Cantor Francyne's music and spirit and are delighted she will be part of the Hanukkah celebration.

Also, a reminder that December 29 will be a Zoom only. Prior to the beginning of the service, TBT members will vote on our new Board of Directors for 2024. We'll begin the New Year with a new board, and many opportunities to get involved. Our temple relies on volunteer energy, and we are open to new ideas and innovations.

This is the last president's message I am writing before a new board assumes leadership of the temple. I am humbled that I was allowed to serve this congregation and have felt so completely welcomed into the TBT family. I want to thank so many people that have supported me and encouraged me throughout my two years as president. Thank you, Rabbi Dan for so much. I cannot begin to list all of the ways that I have learned from you. Thank you Dr. Hy Penn for your wisdom and thoughtful encouragement. I could not have achieved anything without you as a role model. Thank you to all of the board members for all of your hard work and brilliant ideas – and especially your deep and committed caring. Carrie Keith (2022) and Mike Miller (2023) have helped guide us wonderfully as vice presidents, and we all look forward to their continued leadership. I'd also like to thank Joni Levy for always encouraging me and showing her confidence in me. It feels so good when Joni, who has been part of our leadership since the very beginning, tells you you're doing a good job.

And I especially want to thank our members for YOUR participation. Whether it was attending Shabbat services, participating in the Sunday "Cup of Wisdom" classes, bringing your children to religious school – it's all part of creating community. Don't ever minimize the importance of your presence!

I am so proud of all I have learned, and happy that I have been able to participate in so many different aspects of the life of the temple. I look forward to the New Year bringing many more blessings for all of us.

L'shalom,

Shari Ellsworth

TBT President, January 2022-December 2023

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.

If you are interested in serving on a committee or for more information, please contact Shari Ellsworth at president@tbthumble.org

***The TBT Ner Tamid
Online auction is LIVE!!***

Click on the link below and start your bidding!

The auction will conclude the evening of our Ner Tamid Event, this Saturday December 2nd.

You do not need to be present to win!

Happy Bidding!

[Click here for Auction!!!](#)

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL HAPPENINGS – by Carrie Keith - Principal

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 lots of boxes of corn bread mixes for HAAM !

This month we have a fun Hanukkah celebration for Temple Beth Torah students on Sunday, December 3rd and 10th. We will begin with our regular class schedule at 9:00 am and the kids will make latkes. On December 10th our class Hanukkah festivities will include a gift exchange so please send in a wrapped gift (approximately \$10.00) with your child that is suitable for a girl or a boy. The students will play dreidel, have fun crafts and tell the Hanukkah story.

Also in December, we are collecting toys for children who may not have any presents to open this year. So, while you are out shopping, please pick up gifts or gift cards for children in need. Bring these unwrapped gifts to Temple Beth Torah on Shabbat, during Religious School. We will get these to families in our area.

Have a safe and happy Hanukkah and New Years. Class will resume on January 7th.

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.

For HAAM (Humble Area Assistance Ministries)

The holiday season is a very difficult time for those families in economic distress. Our local partner, HAAM, works hard to keep the pantry stocked to help those in need. As we open our hearts to our own families, let us also remember others. You can bring non-perishable food donations to the temple, and we will arrange to get it to HAAM. Needed items include canned beans, canned fruit (low sugar), canned chicken and tuna and canned vegetables (low sodium). Pastas, sauces, breakfast cereals, mac and cheese and baby food. What would you like to eat if you didn't have enough? Hygiene items are also needed, like toilet paper, paper towels, toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors, soap, shampoo, and conditioner. This kind of tzedakah helps people hold onto dignity while receiving loving and necessary gifts.

Temple Beth Torah
4th Annual Ner Tamid (Eternal Light) Award

A Program honoring Carrie Keith

Benefiting Temple Beth Torah

Saturday, December 2, 2023

6:15 PM– 9:00 PM at Temple Beth Torah

*Including a Wine and Cheese Reception at the beginning of the evening
and a Dessert Reception at its conclusion*

Congratulations TBT 2023 Ner Tamid Honoree

Carrie Keith

Our longtime, devoted educator, Carrie Keith, has been the heart and soul of Temple Beth Torah's Religious School for over three decades, while also providing leadership to almost every aspect of the TBT community. She joins previous honorees **Hy Penn, Joni Levy** and **Jeff Kaufman** (of blessed memory) in this distinguished group of TBT leadership. This year, we have the opportunity to show our appreciation for the countless numbers of people who Carrie has touched. Please visit www.tbthumble.org for a schedule for the evening, a more complete biography of our deserving honoree and opportunities to honor Carrie by donating to this annual fundraiser.

TICKETS:

ALL IN-PERSON GUESTS ARE INVITED TO THE WINE & CHEESE AND DESSERT RECEPTIONS

Gold Level: \$250/person donation includes a ½ page ad in the program and a ticket for wine at the reception.

Silver Level: \$100/person donation includes a ¼ page ad in the program.

Bronze Level: \$50/ person donation

Zoom Only: \$25/ person donation gives access to the program via Zoom.

To contribute, please visit www.temple-beth-torah.org/4th-annual-ner-tamid

Or send a check to 320 Shallow Drive, Humble, TX 77338 noting NER TAMID in the memo line. Please feel free to share this information. For more information, please contact Stacey Blumin at admin@tbthumble.org or call (281) 216-2558.

Lunchtime Learning with Rabbi Dan

Please contact admin@tbthumble.org to get the date and time. It will be In Person Only at TBT

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 month is a different topic, and everyone gets a chance to participate. Bring your own lunch and get ready to nourish both your mind and your body!

SAVE THE DATE – SCHOLARS IN RESIDENCE IN COOPERATION WITH YOM LIMMUD FEBRUARY 2-4

Temple Beth Torah has once again been blessed with a program grant in cooperation with Yom Limmud weekend. Yom Limmud is a city-wide program of the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston to provide education and entertainment. It is endowed by the Barish Family and Chair King. For 2024, the thirtieth year of Yom Limmud in Houston, the day of learning will be Sunday, February 4, at Congregation Emanu El, 1500 Sunset Blvd. Each year, a “Shabbat Limmud Scholars” committee reviews application from Houston area synagogues to bring in guest educators who will present for the individual synagogue during Shabbat weekend, and also speak at Yom Limmud for the city. Shirley Barish, of blessed memory, was one of the founders of both the Coalition for Alternatives in Jewish Education and the local Yom Limmud in Houston. She and her husband, Marvin, have both passed away, and their son, David has continued in their footsteps.

TBT’s grant proposal was accepted, and we are delighted to welcome **Rabbi David Zaslow** and his wife **Debra Gordon Zaslow**. Rabbi David is the longtime religious leader of Congregation Shir Hadash (a new song) in Ashland, Oregon, and is a respected leader in the Jewish Renewal movement. He visited Temple Beth Torah several years ago and presented a lecture on Zoom for us during Covid. Rabbi Zaslow is a dynamic education, musician, songwriter and prayer leader and author. He has written prayerbooks, poetry and study guides, including *Reimagining Exodus: A Freedom Story* and *Jesus: First Century Rabbi*.

Debra Zaslow is a *Maggidah* – one who shares sacred stories. She and our own Rabbi Dan Gordon have collaborated at several conferences. She teaches storytelling at Southern Oregon University, and with her husband, lead a Maggid Training Program that guides and certifies Jewish storytellers and educators.

On **Friday, February 2**, after a Shabbat dinner and discussion, Rabbis Zaslow and Gordon will collaborate in leading a spiritual, musical and inspirational Shabbat service. The Torah portion that Shabbat includes the Ten Commandments, and Rabbi Zaslow will help us reimagine Exodus, as his book title inspires us to do. Saturday evening, February 3, will include dinner and discussion, a musical Havdallah service, and then an interfaith storytelling concert led by the Zaslows, with a cameo by Rabbi Dan. On Sunday, February 4, both Rabbi David and Maggidah Debra will present at Emanu El for Yom Limmud. The Rabbi will discuss his fascinating book *Jesus: First Century Rabbi*, and the Maggidah will lead an experiential story writing workshop.

More information will be available in the next few months. Our guests are partially funded by a grant from the Jewish Federation, and those in the TBT community who wish to contribute toward subsidizing the program should contact Rabbi Dan Gordon or treasurer, Lenny Simmons.

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.

Submit Healing List Names at the First of Each Month

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

Simchas in December Birthdays

2	Mark Boyll
3	Kidah Perez
5	Sarah Couch
9	Lillian Eoff
9	Stephen Stapleton
9	Castine Theriot
12	Ruth Spiel
13	Ellen Shadian
18	Shae Ellsworth
23	Aaron Blumin
26	Loren Gordon

Anniversaries

6	Stephen and Ellen Stapleton
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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 or leave a message at 281-446-5611.

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

Yahrtzeit Memorial Plaques

The minimum donation for one memorial plaque to be placed on the wall in the sanctuary remains \$300. However, those purchasing two plaques at the same time can do so for \$500, a savings of \$100. It usually takes at least a month for a plaque to be engraved and sent back to the temple. There are three memorial boards in the sanctuary, and there are very few spaces left. *Thanks to the generosity of the Kaufman family, a new memorial board has been ordered, and will be installed sometime after the first of the year.* You may consult with the rabbi for the Hebrew name and date by emailing Rabbi Dan Gordon at rabbi@tbthumble.org Checks must be sent to TBT prior to the plaque being ordered.

ONEG INFORMATION

Thank you to everyone who has provided an Oneg recently. They have been delicious and a highlight to every Shabbat. Thank you also to those who have sponsored an Oneg with your generous donations. Preparing an Oneg is a wonderful way to celebrate a special event. It is also a way to commemorate a Yahrtzeit for a loved one. If you would like to do an Oneg, please leave a message for Shari Ellesworth at 281-446-5611, or email admin@tbthumble.org

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:

Coffee cups with lids	Dessert size plates
Copy paper	Dinner size plates
Coffee Creamer	Bottled water.
Rolls of Paper Towels	Decaffeinated Coffee

Torah Portions for December 2023

Summarized by Rabbi Dan Gordon

December 1-2, 2023, Vayishlach, Genesis 32:4-36:43

Jacob has left Laban's land after 20 years of service. Along his journey home, he prepares to meet Esau for the first time since their bitter argument. The night before their meeting, Jacob wrestles with a "man," who turns out to be a messenger from G-d. He is injured in the fight, and receives a new name, Israel, meaning, "one who wrestles with G-d." Jacob and Esau reunite, with Jacob humbling himself before his brother. Jacob's only daughter, Dina, is raped by a neighboring prince. Simeon and Levi, in an attempt to avenge their sister's honor, kill all the males. Jacob informs them that their reaction was too severe, bringing dishonor to the family.

December 8-9, 2023, Vayeishev, Genesis 37:1-40:23

Joseph, through Jacob's favoritism and his own boastfulness, has created a jealous situation between him and his brothers. When he comes to check on their work, they toss him into a pit and conspire to kill him. Instead, they sell him to traveling slave traders, and he ends up in Egypt. He rises to become the head servant of Potiphar's household, until Potiphar's wife falsely accuses him of trying to rape her. He is imprisoned, and develops a reputation in jail for being able to interpret dreams.

December 15-16, 2023, 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.

Joseph

December 22-23, 2023, 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 29-30, 2023 Va-Y'chi, 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.

DONATIONS

RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

*Brian Eoff
John and Bobbylee Ruskis*

SCOTT ERIC KAUFMAN TECHNOLOGY FUND

Bob and Debbie Swaim

GENERAL FUND

*Samuel Smith
Debye Lurie
Linda Farber*

*Craig Lira and Guy Waguespack - Luncheon Sponsorship
for December 10 Israel Discussion.*

*Keith and Couch families sponsoring December 15 in
loving 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.*

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

The Sunday Discussion group reads a new book every couple of weeks. Currently reading and discussing "Zealot" by Reza Aslan.

New members are always welcome. 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.

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 AND BEAUTIFICATION FUND

This fund maintains the library and helps purchase new books, as well as other cosmetic improvements to the temple's interior. 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.

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

DECEMBER 2023 KISLEV – TEVET 5784

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Friday	Saturday
					DEC 1	2
12:00 PM Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Dan Please contact admin@tbthumble.org to get the date.					7:00 PM Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan - In Person and VIRTUAL	6:15PM – 9:30PM Ner Tamid Event Honoring Carrie Keith
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Religious School 9:00 AM – 11:15 AM Hebrew 11:30 AM – 12:15 PM 10:30 AM Adult Ed TORCH - Virtual 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group-Virtual					7:00 PM Hanukkah Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan and Cantor Francyne - In Person and VIRTUAL	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Religious School 9:00 AM – 11:15 AM Hebrew 11:30 AM – 12:15 PM 10:30 AM Adult Ed TORCH - Virtual 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group-Virtual 12:30 PM Israel Discussion Program and Luncheon					7:00 PM Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan - In Person and VIRTUAL Oneg - The Keith and Couch families in memory of Mildred Denbina	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 10:30 AM Adult Ed TORCH - Virtual 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group-Virtual					7:00 PM Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan - In Person and VIRTUAL	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 10:30 AM Adult Ed TORCH - Virtual 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group-Virtual					6:30PM Congregational Meeting- VIRTUAL 7:00 PM Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan – VIRTUAL ONLY	