

# Temple Beth Torah

## NEWS FOR YOU

JANUARY 2024 TEVET – SHEVAT 5784



Rabbi Dan  
Gordon  
**SPIRITUAL  
LEADER**

**BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS AND  
CHAIRPERSONS**

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AND NEWSLETTER  
EDITOR

### Enjoy Shabbat Dinner with your TBT Family

Friday, January 19, 6:00 PM

**Dinner and abbreviated Worship service (in person only)**

**Sponsored by Patricia Klemz in loving memory  
Of her parents, William and Lorraine Klemz**

Something a little different! As we welcome Shabbat with “Shabbat Shalom,” on this special Friday, we will have a casual dinner in the social hall. After we dine on a vegetarian meal from Italiano’s (a TBT favorite), we’ll share Shabbat blessings, prayer for healing, mourner’s kaddish and a teaching from Rabbi Dan Gordon. The informal atmosphere of the dinner table will add to the peacefulness of Shabbat. We are very grateful to Pat for honoring her parents by sponsoring the dinner, enabling us to offer the meal free of charge. This Shabbat will be in person only.

For anyone interested in honoring loved ones or celebrating a special occasion, sponsoring a dinner or an Oneg is a perfect way to acknowledge memories or simchas. Please contact our administrator, Stacey Blumin, our president, Mike Miller, the rabbi or any board member if you would like to sponsor an occasion.

Please contact Stacey at [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) to rsvp so we know how much food to order.

## Worship Services and Other Events in January

Friday, January 5	7:00 PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan In Person and Virtual
Friday, January 12	6:00 PM	Youth Shabbat Service and Potluck In Person Only
	7:00 PM	Shabbat Service and Installation of New 2024 TBT Board of Directors with Rabbi Dan In Person and Virtual
Friday, January 19	6:00 PM	Shabbat Dinner and abbreviated Service In Person ONLY Dinner sponsored by Patricia Klemz in memory of William and Lorraine Klemz
Friday, January 26	7:00 PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan In Person and Virtual

Please see the article on Page 4 about the wonderful Yom Limmud weekend activities happening February 2nd-4th

## 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.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

### Shalom

As the newly elected President for 2024, I wanted to introduce myself and reflect on some of my thoughts and Ideas. In a tightknit congregation like Temple Beth Torah, we have the opportunity to really get to know each other. For those of you who I have not yet met in person, I look forward to getting to know more about you and your family.

I was born in Houston, TX but moved around the country before returning to Houston as a teenager. After graduating high school at Sam Houston High School in Houston, I spent 4 years in the Navy. Currently, I am an IT Business Analyst for Shell Oil, where I have worked for the last 25+ years in various roles. Sundays, I teach Religious School at TBT for grades 6-7, focusing primarily on Torah and Prophets. Like all our Sunday School teachers, I volunteer my time as a teacher, and enjoyed learning right along with the students, I can honestly say I learn as much from the kids as they do from me, we have some incredible minds among our young people.

Our family has been members of TBT for about 10 years. I have served in various roles on the Board, including heading up the technology team that "Zooms" and records our weekly Shabbat services.

On a personal side, I am married to my wife, Andrea, who also serves on the TBT Board and teaches in our Religious School. Our son Manny went through TBT's religious school and had his Bar Mitzvah last year at TBT. Manny has enjoyed two summers at Greene Family Camp, connecting to his own Judaism in special ways. I enjoy bike riding, martial arts, and wargaming. I am happy to say I've completed the MS150 for the past 8 years.

Temple Beth Torah is a special community, and I look forward to partnering with you to go from strength to strength.

*L'shalom,*

**Mike Miller**  
*TBT President*

## 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 Mike Miller at [president@tbthumble.org](mailto:president@tbthumble.org)

## RABBI'S MESSAGE

### *What's New?*

There was a time, not so long ago, when most of us kept calendars, datebooks, appointment books, etc. in paper notebooks. My father kept his planners in a notebook that was approximately 5 X 7 inches. This was called a “day planner.” Each day had its own page and there were lines to write in appointments for every hour of the workday, with extra space at the bottom for evening appointments or engagements. Until recently, dozens of these day planners were in the basement of my childhood home, and you could leaf through decades of notebooks to see what appointments my father had throughout his career.

As a young professional, I kept a similar datebook, and experimented with several different sizes and styles, even though the example my father had shown me, every year was exactly the same format. My mother had a monthly calendar taped to the refrigerator, so everyone could see what was happening. It included birthdays, schedules for visitors, when the housekeeper or repair person was coming, and an ongoing grocery list where anyone with a pencil could make additions. Now, I keep my calendar in a cloud. My computer, phone and iPad are synched with each other. I can color-code different kinds of events and set the program to give me audible reminders, to invite other people to the appointment and do many other things I have yet to discover. It is very efficient; but there is a piece of me that misses the paper calendars I can leaf through and the big refrigerator calendar that everyone in the household can see.

Almost 40 years ago, as a young single man, I remember hosting a New Year's Eve party in my small apartment in Pittsburgh. While I knew most of the guests, some people brought friends who I did not know. We watched the big ball in Times Square countdown to midnight, and at the right time, people exchanged hugs and kisses to welcome in the New Year. One young woman who I did not know, acknowledged midnight in a different way. Most of us were embracing each other and shouting “Happy New Year; but our happy and hopeful exclamation was interrupted with a demonstrative display of emotion, as one woman violently tore up her calendar from the previous year. She seemed to express a variety of feelings, laughing to herself as she destroyed the notebook that contained the dates of a year she clearly wanted to forget.

I never found out if this woman's 1986 was better than her 1985. But I remember having my doubts that the destructive act of tearing a calendar would make a difference. If we are looking for reasons to forget 2023, there are plenty. Slow recovery from a pandemic has left us with continuing fear. An attack to our beloved homeland, and the ensuing, ongoing war gives us confusing and controversial feelings about the value of human life and the tragedies involved in self-preservation. An alarming number of antisemitic acts throughout the world, especially on college campuses make us wonder about the direction of future leadership. An unacceptable number of people have been murdered in mass shootings that have multiplied in astonishing ways in the last 25 years. Our political leaders and those who aspire to lead are setting a disturbing example of hostility that seems to teach leadership is about insulting and humiliating anyone who gets in your way. We don't discard last year easily.

Today's version of ripping up a calendar might be to push “control-alt-delete” on our collective computers. How might that sort of re-boot help us hope that 2024 will be better?

It's certainly not an easy question to answer. Perhaps, it's about finding the good, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant, and seeing how we can build on that. We can look to the future as much as the past and find the potential to focus on the positive. Think about people who have been in your life who you haven't connected with in a while and reach out to catch up. When you meet someone new, try to find out something special about them and become open to a new friendship. It may be hard to start a New Year with a completely blank slate. After all, historic lessons have taught us to “never forget.” At the same time, we can “always remember” the potential for good.

Later this month is the celebration of Tu B'Shevat, also known as the “Jewish Arbor Day.” A famous story is told in the Talmud about a sage named Honi, who observed an elder man planting a carob tree. He informed the elder that a carob tree takes 70 years to bear fruit, and suggested the man would never live to see the fruit of his labor. He told Honi, “There were trees here when I came into this world. I want to make sure there are trees here for my grandchildren.”

In the New Year, 2024, I hope we can plant the seeds of understanding and listening, open minds and open hearts. It may take time, but the potential is there for beautiful and delicious blossoming.

L'shalom,

***Rabbi Dan Gordon***

**RARE OPPORTUNITY**  
**FULL WEEKEND of SCHOLARS and PERFORMERS**  
**COMING TO TBT FEBRUARY 2-4, 2024**

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 applications 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. TBT has hosted scholars in the past, notably Rabbi Rami Shapiro. Rabbi Rami made a lasting impact on many of our members, who continue to meet weekly in our Cup of Wisdom group.

Temple Beth Torah is delighted to be selected to host **Rabbi David Zaslow** and his wife **Debra Gordon Zaslow**. Rabbi David is the longtime religious leader of Congregation Shir Hadash in Ashland, Oregon, and is a respected leader in the Jewish Renewal movement. He visited Temple Beth Torah several years ago, leading a spirited Shabbat service with Rabbi Dan. More recently, he presented a lecture on Zoom for us during Covid. Those who participated in the Zoom program enthusiastically expressed wanting to learn more. Rabbi Zaslow is a dynamic educator, musician, songwriter, prayer leader and author. He has written prayerbooks, poetry and study guides. His most recent publications are *Reimagining Exodus: A Freedom Story* and *Jesus: First Century Rabbi*. Rabbi David’s wife, **Debra Gordon Zaslow** is a *Maggidah* – one who shares sacred stories. She and our own Rabbi Dan Gordon have shared the stage many times. She teaches storytelling at Southern Oregon University, and with her husband, leads a Maggid Training Program that guides and certifies Jewish storytellers and educators. See below a full schedule for the weekend:

**Friday, February 2, 6:00 PM: Shabbat dinner and discussion:**

**Rabbi Zaslow presents *Renewing Judaism for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*.** Dinner is provided free of charge. Reservations will be required. In person only.

**Friday, February 2, 7:00 PM: A musical, story-filled Shabbat service led by two Rabbis: Zaslow and Gordon.** The Torah portion that Shabbat includes the Ten Commandments. Rabbi Zaslow’s sermon topic: *Reimagining Exodus*. In person and virtual.

**Shabbat morning, February 3, 10:30 AM: Informal Torah study discussion** with our guest scholars, followed by light refreshments. In person only.

**Saturday evening, February 3, 7:00 PM: *Songs, Stories and Solidarity: an Interfaith Concert hosted and co-sponsored by Strawbridge United Methodist Church, 5629 Kingwood Drive.*** A smorgasbord of inspirational entertainment featuring the guest performers with additional appearances by Rabbi Dan and singers/musicians from Strawbridge. TBT and Strawbridge have a longtime friendship, and the church is happy to show its solidarity with the Jewish people, especially during our uncertain times. In person only.

**Sunday, February 4, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM Yom Limmud – a city-wide day of learning.** Dozens of classes and activities for all ages, sponsored by the Jewish Federation and Chair King, and hosted at Congregation Emanu El, 1500 Sunset Blvd. in Houston. Rabbi Zaslow, Rabbi Gordon and Maggidah Zaslow will be among the presenters. More information will be available at [www.houstonjewish.org](http://www.houstonjewish.org)

The entire weekend is partially funded by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston, as well as support for the Saturday evening program from Strawbridge United Methodist Church. Additional costs include transportation and lodging for the guest scholars, security for all the events and food. Those in the TBT community who wish to help support the program may contact [rabbidangordon@gmail.com](mailto:rabbidangordon@gmail.com)

**TBT for Shabbat Worship and  
Installation of the 2024 Board of Directors  
Friday, January 12 at 7:00 pm -  
In Person and Virtual**

Join Rabbi Dan for Shabbat services on Friday, January 12 at 7:00 pm as we honor our retiring 2023 board of directors and welcome our new board of directors.

We hope everyone can join as we honor our volunteer board members on this special evening.

The link to join the service if you are not attending in person can be found in your weekly email from TBT or contact [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) to obtain.

*RELIGIOUS SCHOOL HAPPENINGS – by Carrie Keith - Principal*

Happy 2024!!

I hope everyone had very happy holidays with family and friends.

Our first Religious School class of 2024 will be January 7th. All classes begin at 9:00 am. Hebrew class will follow at 11:30.

Thank you to all the parents and teachers who helped make our Chanukah celebration fun for the students at TBT. We had latkes, jelly donuts, opened gifts, played games and sang lots of songs. Thank you also to those that sent in gifts for children in our area so that they could also have a happier holiday.

The Parent/Tot class will meet on January 14th at 10:00am.

The Gimmel Class (6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> graders) and will be going on a field trip to the Holocaust Museum Houston on January 28<sup>th</sup>. The tour begins at 9:45. This is always an excellent presentation and opens up lots of ways to discuss this difficult topic with your tweens and teens.

The teachers are looking forward to the Spring semester with lots of great activities and lessons planned for all of our TBT students. Coming up this semester is Tu B'Shevat, Purim and Passover- a very full Spring semester and lots of opportunities for parents to help out at school.

Peace, Health and Happiness in 2024

**ATTENTION ALL TEENS  
JCC MACCABI GAMES COMING TO HOUSTON!  
TRYOUTS BEGIN JANUARY 14 – COMPETITION IS AUGUST 4-9**

Every year, the Jewish Community Center Organization brings approximately 3,000 Jewish teenagers from around the globe to the world's largest Jewish sporting event . JCC Maccabi Games® offers Olympic-style sports competitions, including opening and closing ceremonies; travel; community service; social and cultural events; and opportunities to make friends and memories to last a lifetime. Athletes can be between the ages of 12-16 as of July 31, 2024. **Teams Sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Flag Football, Soccer, Volleyball. **Individual Sports:** Bowling, Competitive Dance, Swimming, Tennis, Star Reporter. For information visit [jchoustonmaccabi.org](http://jchoustonmaccabi.org) or contact [maccabi@erjchouston.org](mailto:maccabi@erjchouston.org) .

## Lunchtime Learning with Rabbi Dan

Please contact [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto: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!

## Family and Youth Service Friday, January 12 – 6:00 PM In Person ONLY

Please join Rabbi Dan for a fun Shabbat Service for Youth and Families at the Temple. In Person service only. Come hear Songs, Stories, and a Torah Lesson. A beautiful way for parents and children from birth to 12 years old to spend Shabbat. Bring a potluck item to share. This is a “kid friendly” service followed by dinner. Our regular Shabbat Service begins at 7:00PM. Any questions, please contact Stacey at [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org).

## 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.

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

## KROGER card to support TBT.

Kroger has 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)

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. Thank you.

## Simchas in January

### Birthdays

5	Bob Swaim
7	LiJuan Aizenberg
7	Ginny Skold
8	Judi Adler
8	Bobbylee Ruskis
8	Ann Dominick
8	Ellen Delap
16	Grayson Miller
27	Ian Adler
28	Lenny Simmons
30	Rachael Blumin
30	Alexander Zweifel

### Anniversaries

25 Lauren Herman and Ginny Skold

## January 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.

*Spurgeon Dunnam, Erwin Cahn, Molly Rosenberg, Marvin Charak, Charles Curtis, Harold Rubin, Alfred Heyman, Catherine Heller, Joseph Rabin, David Kharasch, Joseph Abbell, Leah Denbina Wexler, Mary Judith Keith, Ann Wolfsohn, Mike Kelley, Louis Silverman, Bernard Kullman, Elsie Kullman, Sara Solomon, Goldie Bernstein, Samuel Levy, Blossom Levy, Henry Lesser, Ella Eidelhoch, Robert Angrus Campbell III, Magdalena Rauba, Joseph Samuels, Harry D. Smith, Stanley Sonenfield, Shirley Weiss, Helen Gordon, Ruby Blustein Kemble, Robert Vine, Shirley Lubin, Rose Katz, Dr. Jacob Belofsky, Roslyn Wolf, Joyce Ammons, Arnold Farber, Jan Heller, Joseph Rabin, Rosalin Kaplan, Mary Ellen Allen, William Schwartz*

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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:

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 January 2024

Summarized by Rabbi Dan Gordon

## **January 5-6, 2024 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.

## **January 12-13, 2024 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.

## **January 19-20, 2024 Bo, Exodus 10:1-13:16**

The plagues continue with Pharaoh's lack of response predictable, as G-d reveals to Moses, *"I am hardening Pharaoh's heart in order to increase My wonders - so you will tell your children and grandchildren how I toyed with Egypt, and the wonders I put in them. And they shall know that I am God."* (Exodus 10:1-2) For years, scholars and commentators wonder why ten plagues were necessary. The Torah suggests that the plagues had to be memorable enough for us to continue to retell the story. The Israelites receive instructions to place blood above our doorposts as a sign for the angel of death to "pass over" our homes, and the Torah reveals laws about how to remember Pesach/Passover in the future.

## **January 26-27, 2024 Beshalach Exodus 13:17-17:16**

Finally set free by the Pharaoh, the Israelites depart from Egypt, only to be pursued by the ambivalent Pharaoh. God instructs Moses to lift his staff, and the Sea of Reeds parts for the Israelites to walk through on dry land. When Moses and the Israelites see the Egyptians drown in the Reed Sea, they sing a song of praise to God. Bitter reality of their journey causes them to complain to Moses their leader. In response, God sends manna to appease their hunger.



## DONATIONS

### RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

*Brian Eoff  
John and Bobbylee Ruskis  
Edith and Bernard Stolbun Family Foundation  
Karen and Joe Heller*

### GENERAL FUND

*Susan and Bruce Pollard  
Edith and Bernard Stolbun Family Foundation  
Donald and Martha Freedman Charitable Fund at Houston  
Jewish Community Foundation – In Honor of Rabbi Dan  
Gordon  
Linda Farber*

*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).*

## 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](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.

## 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.

## 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 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](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.

# 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:

<b>1 Brick= \$100</b>	<b>4 Bricks= \$280 @ \$70/each</b>
<b>2 Bricks= \$180 @ \$90/each</b>	<b>5 Bricks= \$300 @ \$60/each</b>
<b>3 Bricks= \$240 @ \$80/each</b>	<b>6 or more Bricks= \$50 a brick</b>

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

# JANUARY 2023 TEVET – SHEVAT 5784

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Friday	Saturday
	<b>JAN 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
12:00 PM Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Dan Please contact <a href="mailto:admin@tbthumble.org">admin@tbthumble.org</a> to get the date.					7:00 PM Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan - In Person and VIRTUAL	
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
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					6:00 PM Youth Shabbat Service and Potluck – In Person ONLY  7:00 PM Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan - Installation of TBT 2024 Board In Person and Virtual	
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
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					6:00 PM Shabbat Dinner with Abbreviated Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan - In Person ONLY  <i>Sponsored by Pat                      Klemz in memory of                      William and Lorraine                      Klemz</i>	
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
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 Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan - In Person and Virtual	
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Feb 1</b>	<b>FEB 2</b>	<b>FEB 3</b>
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 Shabbat Service with Rabbis David and Dan – Rabbi Zaslow’s sermon “Reimagining Exodus” In Person and Virtual	See article on Page 4 for events today