

# Temple Beth Torah

## NEWS FOR YOU

FEBRUARY 2024 SHEVAT – ADAR 1 5784



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### SPECIAL SCHOLAR'S WEEKEND – FEBRUARY 2-4, 2024

Rabbi David Zaslow and his wife, Debra, from Havurah Shir Hadash in Ashland, Oregon, will be guest at Temple Beth Torah and in the community. This is part of the city-wide Yom Limmud at Congregation Emanu El in Houston. TBT has received a special grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston, endowed by Chair King and the Barish family, as well as support from Strawbridge United Methodist Church.

**Friday, February 2, 6:00 PM** – Shabbat dinner with the Zaslow's, and an informal discussion about **Renewing Judaism for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**. **RSVP has closed for this event.**

**Friday, February 2, 7:00 PM** – Shabbat services with Rabbi Dan Gordon, Rabbi David Zaslow and Debra Gordon Zaslow. Rabbi David brings his guitar and creative spirit to join Rabbi Dan in an inspirational service, with will include music and a teaching from Rabbi David, storytelling by Debra and Rabbi Dan, and inspiration for all!

**Saturday, February 3, 10:30 AM** – Rabbi Zaslow leads an informal Torah study about Parsha Yitro and the Ten Commandments.

**Saturday, February 3, 7:00 PM** – **"Songs, Stories and Solidarity"** Strawbridge United Methodist Church, located at 5629 Kingwood Drive, hosts TBT's guest scholars, Rabbi Dan and the Strawbridge choir for a unique interfaith concert. No charge, as the church has expressed a solidarity with the Jewish community as we embrace the spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood with Christians and Jews.

**Sunday, February 4, 9 AM – 4 PM** – **Yom Limmud**, a full day of Jewish learning at Congregation Emanu El in Houston. Debra Zaslow will present "Find Your Story and How to Tell It," At 9 AM, Rabbi Zaslow will present "Jesus: First Century Rabbi" at 11:30 AM and Rabbi Gordon will present "Tall Tales and Short Stories" at 12:45 PM. Dozens of other classes available. Visit <https://www.houstonjewish.org/yomlimmud/> for more information and to register.

### Friday, February 9, 7:00 PM

### Virtual Service – A Reprise with the YedidYah Family Band

When we celebrate Purim at the end of March, we will be FINALLY welcoming the YedidYah Family Band to Texas. They led services with Rabbi Dan frequently during COVID. On February 9, we will offer one of their best past Shabbat services with Rabbi Dan, as we get ready to host them in person in March.

There will be no in-person service on February 9, and we look forward to seeing everyone back on February 16. The Zoom link for service is the same as every week and can be found in the weekly email.

## 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.

## Worship Services and Other Events in February

Friday, February 2	7:00 PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan In Person and Virtual
Saturday, February 3	10:30 AM	Torah Study with Rabbi Zaslow
	7:00 PM	“Songs, Stories and Solidarity” at Strawbridge United Methodist Church – Kingwood
Sunday, February 4	9:00am – 4:00PM	Yom Limmud – A Day of Jewish Learning at Congregation Emanu El in Houston
Friday, February 9	7:00 PM	Shabbat Service – YedidYah Family Band replay Virtual ONLY
Friday, February 16	7:00 PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan In Person and Virtual
Friday, February 23	6:00 PM	Youth Shabbat Service and Potluck In Person Only
	7:00 PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan In Person and Virtual

Please see the article on the front page about the wonderful Yom Limmud weekend activities happening at TBT and in the Houston area.  
February 2nd-4th

### Family and Youth Service Friday, February 23 – 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).

### Save The Date

TBT's 1<sup>st</sup> Night of Passover Seder  
Monday, April 22 at 6:00PM  
more information to come.

If you would like to be on the committee, please contact Stacey at [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org)

## RABBI'S MESSAGE

### *The Gift of Time*

I have a friend who was born on February 29. I'm not sure what year she was born, but she claims to only have a birthday every four years. Yes, on Leap Year in the Gregorian Calendar, we add an extra day to the solar calendar so that our years balance out. 365 days are not enough for a full revolution around the sun.

The Gregorian calendar, which almost all of the world uses, is a solar calendar. But the Hebrew calendar is a lunar one, based on the moon. The moon takes 28 or 29 days to cycle, so Hebrew months are slightly shorter than solar months. 12 lunar months make up a total of 354 days, about 11 fewer days than the 365.25 days of the solar cycle. So instead of one day every four years, the Hebrew calendar adds one month every 2-3 years in a complicated pattern that amounts to 7 times every 19 years. And this year, 5784, is leap year!

Just imagine...how often do we complain that there is not enough time to do what we need to do? It seems to last our whole lives. When we were children, homework assignments and papers always seemed to be due before we were ready. As adults, April 15 Income Tax Day creeps us on us, as do all the rest of the deadlines to pay bills, register to vote, get our cars inspected, etc.

This year, we get an extra month. The current month of **Shevat** (which includes Tu Beshvat, the blessing of the trees) follows **Adar** (which includes Purim), and then comes **Nisan** (which includes Passover). Those who clean their homes and change dishes for Passover may find themselves scrambling to get ready. But we insert an extra Adar, giving us all more time. During Leap Year, Adar I is followed by Adar II.

Technically, the reason why we insert an extra month is to correct the calendar and to make sure that Passover is always in the spring. This is important because Passover represents the rebirth of our people, as we emerge from the dark times of slavery into the world of freedom. If not for the Leap Year formula, Passover would move up into winter. And it corrects the rest of the calendar, too. It means that Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, remains in the darkest month to allow our candles to shine brightly. It means that Sukkot, the Festival of the Harvest, includes the brightest moon and comes at a time when our ancestors gathered their crops. The practical aspects of a Leap Year, like many things in Judaism, make sense.

On a more philosophical level, now that we know there is an extra full month this year, how can we use it in a way that enhances ourselves and enhances the world? Perhaps read an extra book or learn something we always wanted to learn. Embark on a new exercise or food regimen that can be springboard for better health. Connect with old friends who we miss or make a new friend to enrich our lives. Give a little time toward volunteering for a cause or visit someone who needs company. Pick up some groceries for someone who is homebound. Or maybe, just relax with some quiet time, breathing in the air of freedom and reminding ourselves that we are the ones who decide how to best use our time. It's easy to forget.

I hope during Adar II, I will feel less hurried, and be able to devote this precious time to caring for others AND for myself.

L'shalom,

***Rabbi Dan Gordon***

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

*This happens to be a favorite time of year for me. I know a lot of people don't feel that way. Many say, "It's cold and rainy and icky out." People just want to stay home and light a fire and not go anywhere. So, what do we, as Jews, do during this time? We celebrate trees and get ready to plant! Last weekend at Sunday school, we planted seeds with all the kids as part of Tu B'shevat. While the rest of the world may be curling up under their blankets, we are coming together to plant! We celebrate trees and growing things by planting seeds and getting them ready to grow. In a few weeks, when it starts to warm up outside, we will come back together, and plant the seedlings in the garden at the temple. We have peppers, parsley and oregano all getting started and ready to go in the ground. While we are waiting for our seeds to sprout, we will join the rest of the Houston Jewish community at Yom Limmud, a day of learning (February 4 at Congregation Emanu El). Once again, a very Jewish tradition: coming together as a group to learn about Judaism and the world around us; a day to come together, to question, to agree and to disagree. This is one of the greatest strengths and things about Judaism that I love so much. "Blind faith" is not the Jewish way. If you do not agree with an interpretation, there are many sources that provide alternatives. If you don't like any of them, you can come up with your own to discuss with others while working through it. I have never heard a Rabbi, or a Jewish person say, "Believe because I said you should!" We talk, we discuss, we disagree, and sometimes even argue but we don't try to force others to change what they believe or think. Teaching and learning are central to being a Jew. That is one of the greatest things I have encountered in my life, and a main reason why I embrace Judaism.*

*When we take the time to learn together, we are planting seeds of inspiration that, with warmth, can blossom into real wisdom. So, this month, let's all try to learn something new, as together, we plant the seeds that lead us into the future.*

*L'shalom,*

### **Mike Miller - TBT President**

*P.S. In addition to Yom Limmud in Houston, the first weekend in February, we are blessed with the opportunity to learn from guest scholars, Rabbi David and Debra Zaslow, as they bring a unique spirit from their synagogue in Ashland, Oregon, Havurah Shir Hadash (translates to "Friends Singing a New Song." See the front page for more information.*

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL HAPPENINGS – by Carrie Keith - Principal

Temple Beth Torah students celebrated Tu B' Shevat in January. The classes planted vegetable seeds in starter containers since the weather was too cold to go outside. I hope everyone will have parsley by Passover! Also, in January our older students had a field trip to the Holocaust Museum Houston. We were especially glad to have one of our members, Michael Cahn, be our docent for the tour. Thank you to the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston for arranging this tour for our students.

We have a very special weekend coming up on February 2 –4 with guest speakers Rabbi David Zaslow and his wife, Debra Gordon Zaslow. Shabbat Services on Friday night. Join us on Saturday morning at 10:30 for Torah study. RSVP to Stacey at [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org). Join TBT and Strawbridge United Methodist Church on Saturday evening, February 3, 7:00 PM: for Songs, Stories and Solidarity: an Interfaith Concert. Strawbridge United Methodist Church is located at 5629 Kingwood Drive.

Sunday February 4 is Yom Limmud, a Day of Jewish Learning, at Congregation Emanu El, 1500 Sunset Blvd. in Houston. The Zaslows will be among the presenters. There will not be class for Religious School at TBT but it would be wonderful to see families at Yom Limmud. There will be a fun and exciting concert by the Maccabeats at the conclusion of Yom Limmud.

Visit the Federation website at [www.houstonjewish.org](http://www.houstonjewish.org) for registration forms, links and class lists. The topics are always interesting and varied from cooking classes to political discussions. Presenters from the Houston area and worldwide will be teaching.

Purim is just around the corner. We will begin our celebration on Friday, March 22 with the Yedidiah Family Band in person at TBT! Watch your emails for details on this exciting event.

As part of our Purim celebration and Social Justice Projects we will again have **Shoes for Shushan**. Please start bringing in gently worn shoes and also new sneakers for HAAM to support their Sneaker Doodle program for families in our area. Remember there are teens in need of shoes also. Gift cards are also appreciated. These may be dropped off at TBT beginning this month. They will be donated to HAAM and Family Time this spring. We will continue to also collect nonperishable food for families in need in our area.

## **THANK YOU!!!**

**We would like to thank the following supporters who generously donated to our silent auction.  
We encourage you to patronize these businesses!**

Chili's Grill & Bar Atascocita  
Crunch Fitness Atascocita  
Cyrese & Company Kingwood  
Chili's Grill & Bar Humble  
la Madeleine Kingwood  
Culver's Atascocita  
Loren Gordon  
Jason's Deli Humble  
Salata Kingwood  
Outback Steakhouse Humble  
TGI Fridays Humble  
MOD Pizza Kingwood  
Rancho Paloma's Kingwood  
Dixon Jewelers  
Pure Barre Kingwood  
Firehouse Subs Atascocita  
Brooklyn Pizzeria Atascocita  
Nice Winery Houston  
Jimmy John's Kingwood  
Tune Up The Manly Salon  
La Villa Mexican Restaurant  
Center Court Pizza & Brew  
Bruce Creations  
Dogtopia of Atascocita  
Savvas Greek Cuisine & Grill

Starbucks FM1960 & Kenswick  
Humble Atascocita Diabolical Collectibles &  
Gaming Atascocita  
AzulAgave TexMex Restaurant & Bar

Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen Humble  
Potbelly Sandwich Shop Kingwood  
Freebirds World Burrito Kingwood  
Hacienda Paloma's Mexican Grill  
Marsalas Italian Grill Atascocita  
Red Lobster Humble  
Chuy's Humble  
Tin Roof B-B-Q Atascocita  
Nothing bundt Cakes Atascocita  
Bobbylee Ruskis  
The Curry House Houston Grand Opera  
Italiano's Restaurant  
Texas Roadhouse Kingwood  
Torchy's Tacos Kingwood  
Three B's Grill  
Kingwood Bagel & Sandwiches  
Chelsea Deli & Cafe  
Carrie Keith  
Leslie Witkov  
Teriyaki Madness Atascocita  
Crumbl Cookies Atascocita  
Raising Cane's Atascocita  
Panera Bread Atascocita  
Spring Creek BBQ Atascocita

Starbucks FM1960 & Atasca Oaks  
Hand & Stone Massage and Facial Spa  
Kingwood  
Carlos Uzcategui

*Thank You to Dairy Queen Humble & Yummy Tummy Bakery for generously donating to our  
dessert reception.*

***Special Thank You to Leslie Witkov for acquiring donations.***

## **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)

## 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!

## SAVE THE DATE

### ANOTHER TBT GUEST ARTIST PROGRAM –

## FULL PURIM WEEKEND OF FUN AND LEARNING WITH THE YEDIDYAH FAMILY BAND IN PERSON!

### MARCH 22-24 - A LEGACY FOR THE FUTURE

Several times during the COVID pandemic, TBT's Zoom services were brought to life by Rabbi Yakira Yedidia and family. Now, four of the band members will be coming to Texas, exclusively for Temple Beth Torah! They will be with us all weekend, leading Friday night services, special Shabbat programs on Saturday and helping our Religious School students and adults on Sunday embracing the joy of learning. Their musical spirit and love of Judaism caught the attention of our TBT community, and we are very excited to be able to enjoy their talents here and up close! Rabbi Yakira has written several books about learning to read Hebrew, and has a unique method that children and adults can easily follow.

This weekend is made possible by a special donation by former TBT member **Dale Israel Vine**, of blessed memory. Dale started coming to Temple Beth Torah in the spring of 2019, after years of curiosity about Judaism. Born in Louisiana in 1947, Dale had lived in Houston most of his adult life, often in the heart of the Jewish community in the Meyerland/Bellair area. He was a passionate student of religion, learning several languages. He completed his conversion to Judaism shortly before his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, with a Beit Din (rabbinic court) led by Rabbi Dan Gordon.

When TBT began Zoom services during the pandemic, Dale immediately fell in love with the YedidYah Family Band. He wrote to the group and bought several CD's that he gave as gifts. Having them perform and teach at Temple Beth Torah was one of his dreams.

Dale joined Temple Beth Torah's **Legacy Program** by choosing to leave a gift to TBT in his will, helping to ensure our future. When he passed away in 2022, shortly after his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday, the temple was informed of his generosity. Because of Dale's love of Judaism, Jewish music and specifically the YedidYah Family Band, the Board of Directors chose to honor his memory with a musical/educational weekend. With additional help from the **Goldstaub Fund** from the **Houston Jewish Community Foundation**, TBT is able to sponsor the band and its activities in Dale's memory.

For information about how to participate in the Legacy Program to help TBT in future generations, please contact Rabbi Dan Gordon or any board member.

## 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.

## 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.

## Simchas in February Birthdays

6	Patty Perez
11	Ruth Tobin
13	Barry Sachs
14	Greg LaCour
16	Michelle Schwartz
17	Alyce Baur
17	Jonathan Couch
20	Jim Meinholz
25	Donna Karash
26	Iris Graf
27	Lynn Gordon

## Anniversaries

22	Stephen and Kim Levy
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## February Yahrzeits

The following names will be read each week during February 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.

*Harold Minkes, Vesta Amos, Karen Arner, Kenneth Watterston, Carolyn Katz, Harry Schnitzer, Anna Polavsky, Marjorie Liss, Mary Beth Graf, Allan Berger, Marilyn Lapman, Jerome Kharasch, Arlene Starr, Harry Rapoport, Nathan Mandell, Kathleen Dolan, Julie Jones, Ben Myers, Barbara Teichner, Linda Penn, Jacqueline Bitterman, Jacob Haidnick, Beatrice Sayovitz, Sheelah Smith, Ellis Caplan, Shirley Solomon, Bob Theriot, Irving Weisberg, Joseph Kolichstein, Aaron Markowitz, Susanne Witt Wiener, Stanley Simrin, Sylvia Schwartz, Patricia Pena*

## 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 soon, hopefully.* 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 February 2024

Summarized by Rabbi Dan Gordon

## **February 2-3, 2024 Yitro Exodus 18:1-20:23**

*Yitro*, the portion named for Moses' father-in-law, begins with the Midianite priest's stunning confession that "the Lord is greater than all gods." Wise Jethro sees that Moses is taking too much on his own shoulders, and counsels his son-in-law to delegate his authority. The Ten Commandments are given by God in *Yitro*, amidst thunder and lightning, through Moses' voice. These commandments begin our relationship as a people with a special covenant with God that includes special responsibilities. They are not referred to as "Ten Commandments" at this point, and later called in Hebrew "*Aseret Dibrot*," or "Ten Words/Utterances." How the ten are divided differs between Judaism and Christianity, as well as within some Christian denominations.

## **February 9-10, 2024 Mishpatim Exodus 21:1-24:18**

"*Mishpatim*" means "rules," "laws" or "ordinances," and seems disorganized to the modern reader because the rules were meant to be remembered through hearing rather than reading. Both ritual and ethical laws are given in *Mishpatim*. Some of the most important laws concern ethical treatment for the stranger, the widow and the orphan. The first laws given after the Ten Commandments include treatment of slaves. While we were not forbidden to have slaves, we were commanded to treat them in a certain manner, which included offering freedom after seven years. It is a valuable lesson to remember, since we had just come out of slavery. Sometimes, we are expected to do the opposite of the examples of what we've observed from our experiences. In this case, we're expected to treat servants how we would have liked to have been treated, rather than how we *were* treated.

## **February 16-17, 2024 Terumah, Exodus 25:1-27:19**

We receive an elaborate description of how the Tabernacle is to be constructed, from the kind of wood used to the fabric for the drapes. Even though the construction is described in very elegant terms, we are encouraged only to make offerings from our hearts. A center piece in the Tabernacle will be the seven-branched menorah, which will be kept lit in an eternal light, signifying God's constant presence.

## **February 23-24, 2024 Tetzaveh Exodus 27:20-30:10**

This Torah portion describes the elaborate procedure involved in ordaining the priestly family, Aaron's descendants, who will be known as "Kohanim." Their clothes and their lives distinguish them as servants of both G-d and the people. They must take their roles extremely seriously, as they represent their sacred rituals will represent the Israelites to G-d. The portion begins with instructions for the "ner tamid" or Eternal Light, that reminds both of G-d's everlasting presence and our eternal relationship and devotion.

## **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.



## DONATIONS

### RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

*Brian Eoff  
John and Bobbylee Ruskis  
Wes Goble*

### GENERAL FUND

*Gloria Mendez  
Media Ramirez*

*Lynn Gordon and Hy Penn – In Honor of Barbara Heller’s  
Bat Mitzvah*

*Wes Goble – Yahrtzeit Plaques in memory of Dale Vine and  
Neil Davis*

*Michael and Annette Hluza – Happy Hanukkah Donation*

*Pat Klemz – Shabbat Dinner in honor of her parents  
William and Lorraine Klemz*

*Strawbridge United Methodist Church – supporting the  
February 3 concert "Songs, Stories and Solidarity."*

*Goldstaub Community Special Needs Fund of the Houston  
Jewish Community Foundation to support Temple Beth  
Torah's Purim weekend with the YedidYah Family Band.*

*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.

**THE JEFF AND SCOTT KAUFMAN EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY FUND.** - This fund helps support a variety of educational and 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 and his father, Jeffrey 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

# FEBRUARY 2024 SHEVAT - ADAR 1 5784

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Friday	Saturday
				<b>FEB 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</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 Rabbis David and Dan – Rabbi Zaslow’s sermon “Reimagining Exodus” In Person and Virtual	10:30 AM – Torah Study  7:00 PM “Songs, Stories and Solidarity” at Strawbridge United Methodist Church – Kingwood
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
YOM LIMMUD  NO - Religious School or Hebrew  NO - Adult Ed TORCH - Virtual  NO - Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group-Virtual					7:00 PM Shabbat Service Virtual ONLY – YedidYah Family Band Replay	
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
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	
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</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 - In Person and Virtual	
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>MAR 1</b>	<b>2</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	