

Temple Beth Torah

NEWS FOR YOU

SEPTEMBER 2024 AV – ELUL 5784



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Gordon
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High Holidays Are Approaching!

Join Us In-Person or Virtually for
Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur

Mark your calendars for the upcoming High Holiday season.

We hope to see as many of you as possible in person!

Rabbi Dan Gordon and Cantor Francyne Davis Jacobs will be officiating.

2024 High Holiday Schedule

Wednesday, October 2 at 7:30 pm: Rosh Hashanah Eve/A dessert Oneg will follow.

Thursday, October 3 at 10:30 am: Rosh Hashanah morning

Friday, October 11 at 7:30 pm: Kol Nidre

Saturday, October 12 at 10:30 am: Yom Kippur morning service

Sunday, October 12 at 3:30 pm: Yom Kippur afternoon and concluding services/
A Break-the-Fast meal will follow.

Our Children's Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Services will be held at 9:30 am on the mornings of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. In Person Only

Members: All TBT members wishing to attend in person, please join us! Please make sure your 2024-2025 membership is current and filled out before Rosh Hashanah. For virtual attendance, all members will receive the link prior to the holidays.

Guests: If you are not currently a member of TBT, please call 281-446-5611 or email Stacey at admin@tbthumble.org to register to attend our in-person or virtual High Holiday services.

Suggested donation for those not yet members of TBT: Individuals: \$175 Families: \$350

High Holiday donations may be applied to future membership dues.

Donations can be made by sending a check to Temple Beth Torah or submitting payment online under the "Donation" tab at www.tbthumble.org and clicking on "High Holidays." Donations received for the High Holidays can be applied to future dues if you decide to join the temple.

NOBODY IS TURNED AWAY FOR FINANCIAL REASONS

Please make a gift that works for you.

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.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Friday, Sept. 6	7:00 PM	Shabbat Service with Cantor Francyne In Person and Virtual <i>Sponsored by Lenny and Karen Simmons – In honor of Jennifer Vanderlip's birthday</i>
Friday, Sept. 13	7:00 PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan In Person and Virtual
Sunday, Sept 15	10:00 AM	Adult Discussion Group with Rabbi Dan
Friday, Sept. 20	7:00 PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan In Person and Virtual
Sunday, Sept 22	10:00 AM	Adult Discussion Group with Rabbi Dan
Friday, Sept. 27	7:00 PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan In Person and Virtual

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

September is here and school is back in session. We started Sunday school last week and Rabbi is going to start an adult ed class at temple this month. This is a great time of year, the heat is finally starting to go down and everyone is out learning new things. The kids are getting settled into the new school year and we are opening up more opportunities for adults to come learn with the Rabbi. On top of all of that we just had Ellie Flier here to kick off a musical weekend of song and spirit. Many thanks to the Tom Theriot Memorial Program Fund for sponsoring the weekend. There was a great turnout with lots of music and fellowship. On Saturday evening during the dinner before the concert, I looked out across the common area and I saw so many smiles! Everyone was at the tables, eating, talking and just spending time together. This to me is what Temple is for; a place to come together and spend time learning and visiting and developing friendships.

With the High Holidays coming a little later on the calendar this year, September is a good time to get ourselves in the mood for worship, and reconnecting with each other and our Judaism. Cantor Francyne will be joining Rabbi Dan on the pulpit again, and you can get a preview, as she will be leading Shabbat services the week after Labor Day. The September 6 service is being underwritten by Karen and Lenny Simmons in honor of Karen's daughter's birthday, Jennifer Vanderlip. Jennifer passed away prematurely in 2021, and we thank Lenny and Karen for sponsoring the service in her honor. If you'd like to sponsor an Oneg or musical service, please contact me or our administrator, Stacey Blumin. It is a lovely way to honor a *simcha* or remember a loved one.

As more people are feeling comfortable coming to the synagogue in person, I know High Holidays will be very special this year. I am looking forward to seeing everyone.

Sincerely,

Michael Miller - TBT President

RABBI'S MESSAGE

WHAT DO JEWS THINK? WHAT DO YOU THINK?

A New Year of Learning

People often ask me, “What do Jews think about...” It could be any one of a number of topics, from the afterlife to the origins of Talmud, to varying theories about theology, to alternative interpretations of Torah to the different movements within modern Judaism, to Jewish views about controversial topics, etc. Often these questions come from non-Jewish people, but there are many topics that remain mysterious even to the most learned Jews. It's not unusual for someone to say, “Rabbi, I have a quick question for you.” Because there are so many nuances to pursue, they rarely get a quick answer. But the simple answer to the question, “What do Jews think about...” is: “It depends on the Jew.”

The common joke is, “When you have two Jews, you'll have at least three opinions!” This is actually a true Jewish concept of learning. The Talmud, the Oral Law which was developed in the first few centuries of the Common Era, is filled with arguments and disagreements. Jewish practice is more connected with the Talmud than the Torah, because the Torah is cryptic and the Talmud elaborates on the details. When reading the Talmud, it seems like you are eavesdropping into a conversation. However, the rabbis who are quoted did not necessarily live at the same time. The conversations and disagreements could span decades or even centuries. And with modern Jews, the conversations continue.

Throughout my life, my studies and my rabbinic career, I have learned with Jewish people who were connected with Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist, Renewal and Hasidic Judaism. I don't claim to know all the answers, but I've heard a lot of the questions. I believe that learning is an ongoing process, and never truly ends. When one answer seems obvious, a new idea will surface. I personally enjoy exploring the different perspectives, and I invite you to join in the thought process.

So, for this New Year of Learning, I invite you to join me on Sunday mornings once or twice a month (depending on the Religious School calendar) to explore the various Jewish perspectives on topics that are important to the modern Jew, sharing the world with each other and our Gentile friends. **The first class will be on Sunday, September 15, 10-11 AM** – a good chance to get our heads and hearts ready for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. There is no RSVP necessary and no fee for the class (though optional donations are always accepted). For those specifically interested in learning Hebrew, on page 4 of this newsletter, you can learn about an online opportunity to learn through video in the convenience of your own home. But there is nothing to replace the interaction and camaraderie of a group learning together. This can help strengthen friendships and the community.

Pirke Avot (Ethics of Our Ancestors) teaches in Chapter 1: “Make for yourself a teacher; acquire for yourself a friend; and judge every person positively.” This class will model the respect of learning together. Later, in Chapter 4, Rabbi Hanina says, “I have learned much from my teachers. Even more from my friends and colleagues. But most of all from my students.”

I've always enjoyed learning from you, and look forward to kicking off a new year that includes traditional information sprinkled with fresh insights.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Dan Gordon

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL HAPPENINGS – by Carrie Keith - Principal

We had a wonderful first day of Religious School. A new year at Religious School is always exciting. All of our teachers have a wonderful year planned that is filled with lessons on Jewish traditions, history, Israel, prayer, Torah, and Hebrew. Our confirmation class (8th – 10th grade) will study ethics and their Jewish place in the world. We will also offer a once-a-month toddler class.

Over the next few weeks, the classes will focus on Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Simchat Torah. The students will learn the traditions and meanings of these important holidays. Each class is also working on Hebrew skills from learning the alef bet to reading Hebrew. Prayers and bar/bat mitzvah preparation is the goal for our Hebrew class which follows Religious School for students 4th grade and up.

There are two student led Shabbat services planned for this school year, November 1 and April 4. Mark your calendars for these important and fun musical Shabbats with Cantor Francyne and Rabbi Dan.

Parents are encouraged to volunteer and get involved in their child's Jewish education. We need parents to help with many activities throughout the school year. Watch your emails for upcoming events.

LEARN TO READ HEBREW AT HOME IN ONE HOUR FREE YOU TUBE VIDEO

Rabbi Stuart Federow, Rabbi Emeritus of Congregation Shaar Hashalom in Clear Lake, has developed a quick “jump start” to learning how to read Hebrew. For many years, he taught his method at Yom Limmud, the Houston community day of learning, and also at local synagogues. He even came to Temple Beth Torah several years ago. Now, his method is available to anyone on a YouTube video, by googling Rabbi Federow Hebrew Head Start. On this video, you will watch Rabbi Federow actively teach the Hebrew letters and vowel sounds. To help the process, he has also developed a workbook and flash cards on a website www.hebrewjumpstart.com. The flash cards are also free to download, and the optional workbook is \$10. Rabbi Gordon has observed this lesson, and endorses Rabbi Federow as an enthusiastic teacher. It is a course for reading the sounds, but not vocabulary. For those who want to follow along with services in the prayer book, this program can provide a great enhancement.

MEMBERSHIP FORMS ARE DUE NOW!

There are a couple ways to turn in your membership form – google drive, mail and email. Please submit your membership forms before the high holidays to received member tickets.

If you If you need a membership form, please contact Stacey admin@tbthumble.org or visit www.tbthumble.org and scroll down under MEMBERSHIP. If you have questions about membership, email Stacey or call (281) 446-5611 and she will put the appropriate person in contact with you.

Support TBT and Make a High Holiday Donation

Beautiful and meaningful High Holiday services are being planned at Temple Beth Torah. It is one of our most important times of the year. We are looking for individuals and families to help underwrite our experience this year. Donations are needed to help especially with music and security for our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. Contact admin@tbthumble.org for more information. Also, please contact us if you would like to participate in any way in the services and/or food preparation and cleanup.

SISTERHOOD HAPPENNINGS

HIGH HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE PRAYERS TO ACTION

Temple Beth Torah regularly collects non-perishable food items to Humble Area Assistance Ministries (HAAM) to help our local residents who are in need. The High Holidays are a perfect time to remember to befriend our neighbors. The Torah has many references to our obligation to feed the hungry, including a passage that is read on Yom Kippur afternoon. When we offer gifts of food anonymously, then they can accept those gifts without shame or obligation; and if they become able to contribute to others in the future, they will do so with joy.

“When you harvest your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor, the widows, the orphans and the foreigners.” (Leviticus 19:9-10)

TBT Sisterhood is taking the lead this High Holiday season by distributing paper bags at Rosh Hashanah for our community to bring back to the temple on Yom Kippur. In fact, many faith-based communities will be participating in food drives during October, in a program called *“Competing in Goodness,”* coordinated by the Minaret Foundation, an organization whose vision is *“to see the world where faith communities seek each other’s help to better the world as the norm, instead of the exception.”*

In the past, the Minaret Foundation focused food drives toward the Houston Food Bank. At the suggestion of TBT, they are now encouraging groups to contribute to their own local food banks as an incentive to benefit local communities, like HAAM.

At the conclusion of the food drives throughout the greater Houston area, in early November there will be a multi-faith gathering at Skyfarm at the Post, a rooftop urban farm, where we will celebrate our collective mitzvah with other communities.

Whether or not you fast on Yom Kippur, this is a wonderful opportunity to start our year by helping others.



Book of Remembrance

The High Holiday season is a time we remember loved ones that are no longer with us. A Book of Remembrance is printed and distributed during our Yizkor/ memorial service on the afternoon of Yom Kippur and the names are read at that time.

Please find the form to complete on page 8. Please submit your names by Rosh Hashanah to ensure they will be included. It is customary to donate in memory of loved ones. The amount can be of your choosing, and many members contribute for each name they wish to be listed and read on Yom Kippur. Donations can be by check made payable to “Temple Beth Torah” or online under the “Donation” tab at our website and clicking the “Book of Remembrance” button. Contact admin@tbthumble.org for more information.

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Temple Beth Torah
5th Annual Ner Tamid (Eternal Light) Award
A program honoring Anita Bonanno
Benefiting Temple Beth Torah
Saturday, December 7, 2024

Evening's Celebration

(Silent Auction available throughout the evening. Final bid at 8:45 pm)

6:15 – 7:00 pm Wine and Cheese Reception

7:00 – 8:15 pm Program

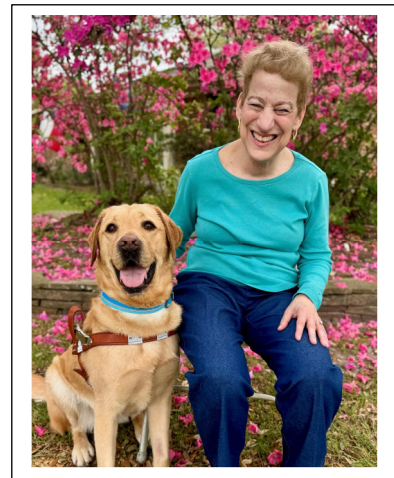
Welcome by Rabbi Dan, Master of Ceremonies

Havdalah Service

Toasts to our honoree

Entertainment

8:15 – 9:00 pm Dessert Reception



Congratulations to this year's Ner Tamid Award honoree Anita Bonanno

Anita was born in Dallas, Texas, the child of Holocaust survivors. She began singing at the age of 5 and majored in Music at the University of North Texas, with a concentration in voice. Blind from birth, Anita had many challenges in completing her education. In 1976 she came to Houston for training as a clerk typist at the Lighthouse of Houston. In the fall of 1995, while she was a guest artist at the Lighthouse International, in New York City, Anita learned about Guiding Eyes for the Blind and their Specialized Training Program. She applied to the program and after what seemed an interminable wait, Anita met and fell in love with Illy, her first guide dog. Since Illy, Anita has been back to Guiding Eyes and worked with guide dogs Nemo, Ephram, Magee, and now Loki.

Anita has been a past member of the Graduate Council for Guiding Eyes for the Blind and board member of the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. She was awarded the Peter F. Campbell Award in 2002 by Guiding Eyes for the Blind. She was a High Holiday cantorial soloist at TBT for several years and continues to sing at the TBT Holocaust Remembrance service. She has been a vocal soloist for various religious and civic events in the greater Houston area. Anita is a former professional member of Mu Phi Epsilon, a professional music fraternity, and a performing member of the Houston Tuesday Musical Club. In June 2004, she released a CD entitled "Friends Forever" which raised funds for the Specialized Training Program at Guiding Eyes. Anita is married to Emil Bonanno, a retired computer technician.

Anita was in the ensemble for Sweeney Todd at Main Street Theater in Houston in 1992. Other shows included Into the Woods, and Toad of Toad Hall. She was also in Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris and The Land Where the Good Songs Go, a Jerome Kern Retrospective, both at the Evelyn Rubinstein Jewish Community Center in Houston. In 2021, Anita and two other graduates of Guiding Eyes released another CD to benefit the Puppy Raiser Regions at Guiding Eyes. Anita continues to support and advocate for others with visual impairments and always seeks the best for every individual.

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

Tickets: Gold Level: \$250.00 per ticket includes admission, a ½- page ad in the program, and a glass of wine

Silver Level: \$100.00 per ticket includes admission, ¼- ad in the program, and a glass of wine

Bronze Level: \$50.00 per ticket includes admission and a glass of wine

Additional glasses of wine are available at the wine and cheese reception with a suggested donation.

Zoom Only: \$25.00 per ticket for Zoom access.

To purchase tickets, visit the Temple Beth Torah Donation page at [TBThumble.org](https://tbthumble.org) or click [HERE](#).

Or, send a check to TBT 320 Shallow Dr. Humble, TX 77338 noting Ner Tamid in the memo.

We would like everyone at Temple Beth Torah to have the opportunity to honor Anita. If finances are a concern for attending in person or on Zoom, please contact Rabbi Dan at rabbi@tbthumble.org or any board member.

Please feel free to share this information with anyone you think may be interested in attending.

For additional information, please contact Stacey Blumin at admin@tbthumble.org or 281-446-5611.

Please RSVP by November 18, 2024

What is Ner Tamid?

Honoring Temple Beth Torah and Anita Bonanno

The Eternal Light, which shines above the Ark at Temple Beth Torah and in every synagogue, was first mentioned in the Torah:

“And you shall instruct the Children of Israel to bring clear oil of beaten olives for lighting, for kindling lamps regularly. Aaron and his sons shall set them up in the Tent of Meeting, outside the curtain, which is over the Ark of the Covenant, to burn from evening to morning before the LORD. This shall be done in every generation, for all time, by the Children of Israel.”

-- Exodus 27:20-21

This light, now usually electric instead of olive oil, is a constant reminder that a spark, no matter how strong, can light up the darkness. In 2020, at the height of Covid, Temple Beth Torah established the Ner Tamid Award to honor a different congregant each year who has brought light to our community. Each recipient has offered a unique spark that has helped brighten our synagogue and our community.

2020 – Hy Penn. Hy and his wife, Lynn, were active members since 1985. Hy held almost every board position (including multiple terms as president) and has often been regarded as the “heart of TBT,” encouraging membership and helping to keep our facilities beautiful. Both a pediatrician and a magician, Hy has cared for our children, entertained our community, and helped Temple Beth Torah become a shining light.

2021 – Joni Levy. Joni and her husband Burt were founding members of TBT, with Burt serving as the first president. Joni has been in the middle of many volunteer activities, and is always a welcoming presence at the temple. Her willing spirit and her consistent participation set an example for a generation of TBT families.

2022 – Jeff Kaufman (of blessed memory). Jeff also had multiple terms as president of TBT, and served many other positions, including several years as treasurer and membership chair. His calm presence and experience as a project manager helped in infinite ways behind the scenes. Whenever the temple had difficult moments that could have been disastrous, Jeff seemed to be one who helped right the ship.

2023 – Carrie Keith. Carrie has been devoted to three primary things her entire adult life: her own children and family, other people’s children, and Temple Beth Torah. A life-long educator in the public schools, specializing in kindergarten, Carrie brought her skills and dedication to the temple for decades. She has helped be an inspiration for education, as many of her TBT students (including her own children) became teachers in the program. Also fulfilling various board positions including president and even newsletter editor, Carrie’s light is one that will last for generations!

2024 – Anita Bonanno. “Cantor Anita” has brought her skill as a singer, her beautiful voice, and her devotion to Jewish worship to Temple Beth Torah for close to 30 years. As our primary High Holiday soloist, temple worshippers were inspired for new beginnings every Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. The child of Holocaust survivors, Anita continues to enhance the temple’s service for the annual Holocaust Remembrance Service. Never letting her disability as a blind woman get in her way, Anita also delighted our congregation by bringing her guide dogs with her, and her new dog, Loki, brings a special spirit! This year’s Ner Tamid is truly a very special light.

Please plan to join us in a wonderful honor on December 7!

Simchas in September Birthdays

- 2 Karen Simmons
- 7 Pete Brawn
- 16 Idalis Ramirez
- 17 Kim Levy
- 18 Sofia Gerszen
- 22 Wesley Goble
- 23 Howard Arner
- 23 Dennis Keith
- 25 Ellen Klager
- 25 Jacob Rhines
- 26 Rosie Brawn

Anniversaries

- 6 Larry and Lauren Rhines
- 9 David and Lori Acosta
- 15 Dennis and Carrie Keith

SEPTEMBER Yahrzeits

The following names will be read each week during September 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.

Annie Minkes, Clyde Blumin, Amerigo Strizzi, Maxinne Davis, Sarah Winsberg, James Cliff Smith, Marsha Schneps, Jack Balli, Amy Shalom, Jeff Reed, Tracy Tobin Johnson, Edith Kharasch, Karen Finn, Mathew Mounger, Joseph Lewis, Scott Sard, Rose Saslaw, Ruth Merki, Barney Gordon, Rildah Royal, Stephen Stapleton Jr., Stephen Stapleton Sr., Joseph Gordon, Rose Weiss, David Kestin, Lee Salkin, Tom Theriot, Harry Preusse, Wanda Preusse, Martha Weisberg, Carol Winter, Faye Cohn Graham, Jacob Halpern, Irwin Kaplan

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, but in the summer months, it can take longer because many synagogues are purchasing plaques to be ready for High Holidays. 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 Carrie Keith at 281-446-5611, or email education@tbthumble.org

For HAAM (Humble Area Assistance Ministries)

HAAM is collecting non-perishable foods and hygiene items: They are in need of canned beans, canned fruit (low sugar), canned chicken and tuna and canned vegetables (low sodium). If you prefer to donate hygiene items they need toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors, shampoo, and conditioner. Thank you for your support!

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.

NEW - ADULT EDUCATION DISCUSSION GROUP

BEGINNING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th and again on SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 22nd

10am -11am

WITH RABBI DAN.

WHAT DO JEWS THINK ABOUT...

This class will meet a couple times a month – dates will be announced in the newsletter and the weekly emails.

Celebrate Simchat Torah in Folk/Country Style! Joe Buchanan brings Americana with a Jewish Soul back to TBT In Person and Virtual October 25, 7 PM

On Friday, October 25, Joe Buchanan returns to Temple Beth Torah to help us celebrate the most festive of Jewish holidays. He brings with him his unique style of music that includes a little country, a little bluegrass and a lot of Jewish soul! Rabbi Dan and Joe have shared their musical storying together at TBT several times in the past, always with exciting results. Dance and clap and tap your toes as we celebrate the circular year of learning, from Genesis to Deuteronomy and back!



TBT is looking for a few good sponsors to bring this festive and wonderful event to TBT. Please contact Stacey at admin@btumble.org or any board member to give what you can and keep great performers coming to TBT.

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.

Torah Portions for September 2024

Summarized by Rabbi Dan Gordon

September 6-7, Shoftim, Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9

Bribery is forbidden and honesty is valued over all. Other governmental layers are described, including priests and even, eventually, kings. Kings must not be tempted by too much money or too many wives. The king must always keep a Torah with him, reminding him that God is the ultimate authority. Refuge cities are set up for those who kill accidentally. The death penalty is for malicious murder, but only with the collaboration of two or three witnesses; one witness is not sufficient. In the case of an unsolved murder, the priests are to pray for atonement for the whole city. We are instructed to appoint judges, and to make sure the judges are fair with all their decisions.

September 13-14, Ki Tetze, Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19

There are seventy-two commandments in *Ki Tetze*, the largest number in any Torah portion. Topics covered include marriage and divorce, defiant children, fair weights and measures and charity for the poor. At the end of the *parsha* we are instructed to "blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven." While some look at Amalekites as a group of people, others have considered "Amalek" as the force of evil and hatred within our hearts. Many of the regulations teach us about righteous living. Others, such as how to handle a defiant child, convey problematic approaches that must be studied in the context of time, and perhaps should be read metaphorically. The punishment for a defiant child appears to suggest he be stoned to death. Since there are no references in which this punishment was actually administered, we can assume the Torah is encouraging us to look closely at behavior before casting immediate judgment.

September 20-21, Ki Tavo, Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8

The *parshah* begins with a description of a ceremony to commemorate the occupation of the land. Some of every first fruit of the soil will be given to the priest as the exodus experience is retold. A tenth of the yield must be set-aside for the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless and the widow. Blessings and curses, some extremely graphic, are recited to motivate the people to observe the covenant.

September 27-28, 2024 Deuteronomy 29:9-30:20

Nitzavim,

Nitzavim is read twice a year: once on its calendar date and once on Yom Kippur. It is no mere recapitulation but instead is a talk about the future. Moses' speech to the Israelites just before they enter the Land of Israel reveals that in Judaism, belief flows from behavior. Moses reminds the Israelites that God's words, teachings and spirit are not meant to be distant, but are close to us, in our hearts.

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	Dessert size plates
Forks	Copy paper
Coffee Creamer	Bottled water
Rolls of Paper Towels	ToGo Containers
Zip Lock Bags	

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.

A new committee that is being brought back is the caring committee. This committee is designed to remember members on special occasions, help with meals if ill, and brighten people's lives.

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

DONATIONS

RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

Brian Eoff

John and Bobbylee Ruskis

Mike and Elaine Stark

TOM THERIOT FUND

Castine Theriot – in memory of Tom Theriot

GENERAL FUND

Wesley Goble – In Memory of Shannon Ellsworth

SECURITY FUND

Patricia Klemz in memory of Lorraine Klemz

SCOTT KAUFMAN TECHNOLOGY FUND

Alice Kaufman – In Memory of Jeff and Scott Kaufman

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.

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

SCOTT ERIC KAUFMAN TECHNOLOGY FUND

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

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

The Sunday Discussion group meets every Sunday at 11:30 AM virtually. Books are read and discussed. The books chosen are always thought provoking and generate interesting discussions. 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.

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.

TEMPLE BETH TORAH

320 SHALLOW DRIVE

HUMBLE, TX 77338

281-446-5611

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Please return this form no later than October 4

Please inscribe the following names in our "Book of Remembrance" which the synagogue is publishing for the Day of Atonement in honor and memory of our loving family.

**As a tribute to our departed ones, I/we are enclosing \$ _____
as a tzedakah gift for the beloved souls who are remembered on October 12th at the Memorial Service.**

Listed below are the full
names of the departed:

Date of Death:

Or **There are no changes from last year. _____**

Remembered by: _____

Address/Phone/Email: _____

Thank you for your donation. Yahrzeit plaques for the memorial board are available. Call 281-446-5611 for more information.

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@tbthumb.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

SEPTEMBER 2024 AV – ELUL 5784

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SEPT 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	<i>LABOR DAY</i>				7:00 PM Shabbat Service with Cantor Francyne – In Person and VIRTUAL <i>Sponsored by Lenny and Karen Simmons – In honor of Jennifer Vanderlip's birthday</i>	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:00 AM Religious School 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group-Virtual					7:00 PM Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan – In Person and VIRTUAL	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:00 AM Religious School 10 AM Adult Discussion with Rabbi Dan 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group-Virtual					7:00 PM Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan – In Person and VIRTUAL	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00 AM Religious School 10 AM Adult Discussion with Rabbi Dan 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group-Virtual					7:00 PM Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan – In Person and VIRTUAL	
29	30	OCT 1	2	3	4	5
9:00 AM Religious School 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group-Virtual			ROSH HASHANAH SERVICE 7:30PM	ROSH HASHANAH SERVICE 10:30 AM CHILDRENS SERVICE 9:30 AM	7:00 PM TASHLICH Service with Rabbi Dan LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED	