

Temple Beth Torah

NEWS FOR YOU

AUGUST 2017 AV - ELUL 5777



Rabbi Dan Gordon
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ADMINISTRATOR AND
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

MEET & GREET AT TEMPLE BETH TORAH

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27th
11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

A NEW EXCITING YEAR IS BEGINNING, COME CELEBRATE THE EXCITEMENT!

TBT is better than ever!

Something for Everyone – Children, Adults, Teens and Seniors!

Enjoy a free lunch and lively entertainment

Learn about High Holiday and Shabbat Services, New Enriching Adult Learning Programs, Social Justice Task Force, Religious School Information, Registration, & “Meet the Teachers,” and Enhanced Year-Round Music Programs

See the flyer on page 11 for more information

A Taste of Jewish Cuba!! A Shabbat Dinner and Program for the Entire Family!

Date: Friday, August 18th

Time: 6:15 pm Place: TBT

Several members of TBT recently returned from a Cuban adventure with the Texas Jewish Historical Society. Join them as they take you on a journey of Jewish Cuba!!

The evening will begin at **6:15 pm at TBT on Friday, August 18th** with a **Shabbat dinner-Cuban style** and an **informative program about Jewish life in Cuba today**. A short **documentary for all ages** will follow that you will not want to miss--the Humble premiere of **“Havana Curveball.”** It is the fascinating story of a boy's Bar Mitzvah project to help children play baseball in Cuba. View the following video to get a glimpse of this film:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sb22ifsKPS4&feature=youtu.be>

Please RSVP if attending the dinner to Stacey Blumin at admin@tbthumble.org by Wednesday, July 16th. Cost for the dinner is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 6 years and older and can be paid for that evening. Please also contact Stacey if you have questions or if you need financial assistance to attend the dinner.

Hope to see you there!!!.

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.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Summer time for me is usually a time when I catch up on reading. I thought I'd pass on a couple of interesting articles that I found.

The news today can be downright depressing. Yet we're still drawn to it like the proverbial moth to a flame. This is particularly true of articles related to Israel. So, for something a little less taxing, I found this article when reading through the ReformJudaism.Org blog last month. It's called "Five Light-hearted Jewish Headlines to Read This Week" It's worth a read (by the way I opened all of the links and did not get a virus)

http://reformjudaism.org/blog/2017/06/20/5-light-hearted-jewish-headlines-read-week?utm_source=WU&utm_medium=email&utm_content=20170623&utm_campaign=NewsandBlog

On a different note, I found an interesting article that compares different norms for practice at different temples. You'll find our customs in there as well as those of other Jewish communities.

http://reformjudaism.org/blog/2017/07/27/7-things-you-should-know-about-synagogue-etiquette?utm_source=WU&utm_medium=email&utm_content=20170727&utm_campaign=Feature

JEFF KAUFMAN

Shabbat Services in August

Friday, August 4	6:30 PM lay led Shabbat Service followed by dinner out
Friday, August 11	7:15 PM Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan
Friday, August 18	6:15 PM Shabbat dinner and presentation on Cuba
Friday, August 25	7:15 PM Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan
Friday, September 1	7:15 PM Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan

REMEMBER we have New Entry Procedure for Temple Beth Torah During Shabbat Services

To provide Temple Beth Torah members and guests with safety and comfort during Shabbat services, a new system for entry to the Temple has been initiated. When services begin, both the front and rear doors will be locked. A sign on the front door instructs individuals arriving when the door is locked to ring the doorbell, which activates a small receiver carried by a designated congregant, who then goes to the door and admits the member or guest. A sign on the rear door directs individuals to the front door. We appreciate your cooperation

RABBI'S MESSAGE

Harmonizing Despite Differences

*The optimist thinks this is the best of all possible worlds. The pessimist fears it is true.
Attributed to J. Robert Oppenheimer*

I find myself conflicted these days between my optimism and my pessimism. Perhaps I watch too much news. Every day, I watch and listen to discouraging reports. Anti-Semitic actions are happening around the world. Violence in Israel continues at a seemingly never-ending pace. Hateful speech and terrorist actions flood the airwaves. Today's children are subject to daily barrages of world situations that seem to defy hope for the future.

Can this be accurate? Are the loudest headlines the ones that define our existence?

Years ago, I was listening to a group of musicians "jamming" around a campfire. As the musicians played together, the music got louder. The percussionists seemed to be the most enthusiastic, and at one point, a flute player asked for the music to stop. "The drums are so loud," he said, "that nobody can hear the flute, guitar and violin. If the drums could quiet down a little, then all the music can be heard." The drummers took great offense. "You want to silence our drums? No way!" and continued to play even louder.

Sometimes, I feel as if reasonable voices, looking to harmoniously work together for peaceful solutions, are like the softer instruments that can be overwhelmed by the louder ones. When digging deeply beyond the most dramatic events, we find levels of cooperation, caring and love that could overshadow the harshest headlines. We've seen Muslims help restore Jewish cemeteries that were desecrated by anti-Semitism. A school in Israel, "Hand in Hand," teaches Arab and Jewish children side-by-side, breaking the cycle and helping future generations learn that people are people. Palestinians and Israelis get together on land donated by a family of former PLO terrorists to learn about co-existence: "There can be no harmony until we see the humanity of the other side." (Ali Abu Awwad, co-founder of Roots www.friendsofroots.net)

Oppenheimer's quote is particularly striking when you remember that Dr. Oppenheimer was the physicist whose scientific expertise made it possible to develop the atomic bomb. This instrument that caused mass destruction also helped end World War II. It will always be a challenge to balance the strength of our ideals with the wisdom to implement it in positive ways. My uncle, Maestro Joseph Eger (z'l) was a symphony conductor. He said, "My role is to listen to the various instruments and bring them together as one." This is like our most sacred teaching, Deuteronomy 6:4, which begins with Shema/listen and ends with Echad/one. Only by listening to each other can we hope to find true harmony. Do we live in the best of possible worlds? We can, when we listen to each other and find humanity is one.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Dan Gordon

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CORNER

What an enjoyable (and HOT) summer we have had so far. I hope you have all enjoyed vacations in fun places or staycations exploring Houston.

Camp Ruach was a fun 3 days in July with lots of kids, activities and excitement.

Now we are into August and school will be starting soon. The first day of class is Sunday, September 10. There will be bagels and coffee for all parents at 9:00. We will then have a brief Religious School meeting at 9:15 to discuss the upcoming year. We will continue to have parents sign their children into and out of Religious School. So please come in each Sunday to do that and visit with other parents.

TBT's annual Meet and Greet is August 27. Meet the teachers, get information on temple activities and the High Holidays. Register for Religious School and enjoy an entertaining program followed by lunch. Festivities begin at 11:00.

Our teachers for the coming school year are-

Sarah Couch: once a month toddler class
Stacey Blumin: PreK - Kindergarten
Paige Daniels and Morgan Wadsworth: 1st – 2nd Grade
Carrie Keith and Rachel McConnell: 3rd – 4th Graders
Josh Hambrecht: 5th – 6th Graders
Bruce Pollard: 7th Graders
Pat Klemz: Special Programs
Susan Pollard: Pre-Confirmation – Confirmation

Ms. Rina Mesarwi is returning as our Hebrew Coordinator. She will be teaching Hebrew along with Rabbi Dan and our classroom teachers. Rina continues to keep our Hebrew program up to date, challenging and fun for all our students.

We have several teen madrichim to help in the classrooms including Ethan Hambrecht, Rebecca Shuman, Abraham Ramirez, Paige Nossal and Amy Nossal.

Parents are encouraged to participate with their children in our Religious School activities. Looking ahead in this first semester we will have Ruggalah with the Rabbi for PreK – 4th graders on October 15th, Havdalah Factory on November 5th and Chanukah Celebration on December 10.

We have many wonderful activities planned for the rest of the year as well.

Our teachers can't wait to get started!!

Hope to see everyone on August 27 for the Open House and on the first day of School September 10.

Carrie Keith

TOT Shabbat will return in September

Join us for a fun, kid friendly Shabbat service led by Rabbi Dan. Then bring a kid friendly food item to share for our pot luck following service. Please RSVP to Rachel McConnell at admin@tbthumble.org.

For HAAM

Sneakerdoodles: Every kid deserves **new**, back to school sneakers. We want to provide new sneakers for every child grades K-12. Please bring in new sneakers and drop them off in the brown basket through August 15th. Help us help the kids in our community! Every item helps!

Thank you for your support.

High Holidays at TBT

Please join us for services at Temple Beth Torah for High Holidays

Rosh Hashanah Services:

Wednesday, September 20 – 8:00 PM

Followed by Oneg

Thursday, September 21

9:30 AM: Children's Services

10:30 AM: Rosh Hashanah Service

Everyone is invited to a special lunch to follow the morning service.

Yom Kippur Services:

Friday, September 29 – 8:00 PM

Saturday, September 30

9:30 AM: Children's Services

10:30 AM: Morning Service

1:00 PM: Special adult education session with speaker and discussion.

3:30 PM: Afternoon Service

Everyone is invited to a break the fast meal after the conclusion of our afternoon/closing services.

Childcare will be provided during the services at no charge with a prior reservation.

Please contact Stacey Blumin at admin@tbthumble.org to make reservations.

Reminder Membership Forms Are NOW Due

All TBT members should have received their membership renewal forms in the mail in June. Please return your form if you have if you have not already done so to TBT now. Thank you for supporting TBT!

Please contact president, Jeff Kaufman, with general questions at president@tbthumble.org or treasurer, Bruce Pollard at treasurer@tbthumble.org with any financial questions. For admin questions please contact Stacey at admin@tbthumble.org.

Interested in joining TBT? Please contact us—we would love for you to be part of our family!!

ADULT EDUCATION - TORCH

(TORAH OUTREACH RESOURCE CENTER OF HOUSTON)

Start your Sundays with Adult Learning at TBT. Come at a new time for summer, 9:30 AM for nosh and coffee and then join us for class at 9:45 AM led by Rabbi Wolbe from TORCH. Each session a different Torah portion will be discussed. Participants may come to as many as they can. There is no charge for the class and optional gifts of tzedakah are welcome.

Sunday, August 6

Parsha Eikev

Sunday, August 13

Parsha Re'eh

Sunday, August 20

Parsha Shoftim

Sunday, August 27

Parsha Ki Taitzei

SPIRITUAL TRAVELERS CONTINUE THE JOURNEY BOOK DISCUSSION Continuing with "CUP OF WISDOM"

SUNDAY MORNINGS, 11:15 A.M.

"The World Wisdom Bible" is the current book being discussed. This is a program developed by Rabbi Rami Shapiro and his cohorts to help bring people together in conversation. We will have a special guest join us - Frank Levy - a partner of Rami who lives here in Houston who has helped develop this 12-14-week program. Class started on Sunday, June 25, but if you are still interested you can still join.

If you decide to join us, you will be given a new book written by Rami and a branded coffee mug. Someone has already paid for our books and mugs as an act of "paying it forward".

As a mitzvah we are asked to pay it forward for the next group by donating \$25 to allow the book and the mug to be produced and given to the next group that wants to study. Symbolically we are contributing to repairing the world...tikkun olam.

Yes you can buy the book on line for under \$20. And in the spirit of tikkun olam please consider letting the book be given to you, and give to pay it forward. If you have a copy already it will be nice that you have two and can give one away.

For more information please contact Greg LaCour at admin@tbthumble.org.

TBT Donate a Brick Campaign On Going Please notice the path has continued with Abraham Ramirez's Mitzvah project and now includes all the inscribed bricks.

As many of you know, 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 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.

All brick donations will be at these special prices:

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

We hope you will be interested in participating in this mitzvah to support TBT!

This is an ongoing fundraiser. We have received our second order!! When we receive at least 5 brick orders we will submit the next order.

Questions? Please contact Stacey Blumin at admin@tbthumble.org.

Please see the order form at the end of the newsletter on page 10

Torah Portions for August 2017

Compiled by Rabbi Dan Gordon

August 4-5, - V'Etchanan, Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11

Moses pleads with God to enter the Holy Land, but God's instructions are clear. Moses is to ascend to the top of the mountain to gaze upon the land, but to transfer the mantle of leadership to Joshua. Moses reviews the Ten Commandments, followed by *Shema*, the declaration of one God, and *V'ahavta*, the declaration of Israel's love for God and the obligation to teach it. The people are reminded they are a chosen nation, but a small one, and warned about the dangers of assimilation.

August 11-12, - Ekev, Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25

Following the Law will bring about great rewards, says God. Victory over the other nations is promised, but we are to guard against being overconfident. We are warned once again about the danger of idolatry as well as self-righteousness. Moses reminds the people of the incident of the Golden Calf, recounting the importance of *teshuvah* (repentance) that led to the creation of the second set of tablets to replace the broken ones. Loving God with all our heart, we are taught, will give us assurances to be able to live well in the Promised Land.

August 18-19, 20 Re'eh, Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17

This Torah portion reminds us that we have a choice, to follow good or evil. Following good will bring blessings and life; following evil will bring curses and death. "Choose life," we're taught. Appropriately included in this section is the obligation to tithe a portion of our earnings to the poor. We are also taught to be generous to those in need when it comes to lending money. The seventh year is one of freedom; we are commanded to forgive debts and free slaves in the seventh year. The three festivals of pilgrimage, Passover, Shavuot and Sukkot are described in detail.

August 25-26, 2017 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.

AUGUST

1
David Smith
Karen Wadsworth
2
Jeanne Mandell
5
Susan Cahn
6
Rachel Couch
8
Meida Ramirez
9
Stacey Blumin
Michael Cahn
10
Sarai Stein

BIRTHDAYS

15
Dennis Klager
17
Jamie Nossal
20
Hannah Lewis
21
Stephen Heller
Michael Miller
22
Arnold Farber
28
Micah Stein
Rebeca Ramirez
Deysi Velasquez

Anniversaries

4
Jeff and Alice Kaufman –
7
Hy Penn and Lynn Gordon
17
Alan and Donna Solovay
18
Ian and Judi Adler
20
Michael and Andrea Miller
Howard and Gail Tobin
22
Dennis and Ellen Klager

August Yahrzeits

The following names will be read each week during August 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.

Faye Cohn Graham, Mathew Mounger, Tom Theriot, Carol Winter, Jacob Halpern, Annie Minkes, Tracy Tobin Johnson, Lee Salkin, Martha Weisberg, Joseph Lewis, Barney Gordon, Karen Finn, Sarah Winsberg, Jack Ballin, Amerigo Strizzi, James Cliff Smith, Jaime Szereszewski, Jeff Reed, Edith Kharasch, Stephen Stapleton Jr, Harry Preusse, Wanda Preusse, Lester Nussbaum, Ruth Merki

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 yahrtzeit (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.

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 FUND

This fund maintains the library and helps purchase new books. 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.

DONATIONS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

You can now make donations online for any fund donation except for dues payments and the Building Renovations Fund. Now there is an easy way to honor the memory of loved ones or acknowledge a joyous occasion by giving tzedakah. Tell your friends and family to visit our newly named website, www.tbthumble.org, to make use of this mitzvah. Or SEE THE DONATIONS FORM ON PG 9

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
- Tracy Tobin Johnson Memorial Education Fund
- Tom Theriot Memorial Program 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

AUGUST 2017

AV - ELUL 5777

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
					6:30 PM Lay led Shabbat Service then Dinner at Restaurant	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:45 AM Adult Ed – TORCH Class 11:15 AM Adult Ed – Book Discussion					7:15 PM Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:45 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class 11:15 AM Adult Ed – Book Discussion					6:15 PM Shabbat dinner- Cuban style and an informative program about Jewish life today in Cuba	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:45 AM Adult Ed – TORCH Class 11:15 AM Adult Ed – Book Discussion					7:15 PM Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan	
27	28	29	30	31	SEPT 1	2
9:45 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class 11:00 AM TBT Meet and Greet Lunch and entertainment					7:15 PM Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan	

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3 Bricks= \$240 @ \$80/each

4 Bricks= \$280 @ \$70/each

5 Bricks= \$300 @ \$60/each

6 or more Bricks= \$50 a brick

Please send your check with the engraving information to TBT:
320 Shallow Drive, Humble, Texas 77338.

Questions? Please contact project coordinator Jeremy Blumin at admin@tbthumble.org.

Name of donor: _____

Phone number or email address: _____

Engraving details (please print):

Brick 1:

Line 1 _____

Line 2 _____

Line 3 _____

Brick 2:

Line 1 _____

Line 2 _____

Line 3 _____



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Learn about
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New Enriching Adult Learning Programs
Social Justice Task Force
Religious School Registration and “meet the teacher”
Enhanced Year-Round Music Program



Share the Excitement!

Please RSVP TO education@tbthumble.org or call 281.446.5611 by
August 22

“Walk-ins” welcome, but an RSVP helps us plan the right amount of food.
There’s no charge for this event, but we are asking those able to bring new, unopened
school supplies to be donated to the Family Time Shelter.
**WELCOME TO ALL TBT MEMBERS AND THOSE INTERESTED IN LEARNING
MORE ABOUT TEMPLE BETH TORAH**

*Since 1983, Temple Beth Torah has served the Jewish community in
Humble, Kingwood, Atascocita & surrounding areas.*

If not already, OUR spiritual home can be YOUR spiritual home.

Temple Beth Torah ☆ 320 Shallow Drive ☆ Humble, TX 77338 ☆ 281.446.5611

www.tbthumble.org Rabbi: Dan Gordon President: Jeff Kaufman



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