

Temple Beth Torah

NEWS FOR YOU

September 2017 ELUL 5777 - TISHREI 5778



Rabbi Dan Gordon
SPIRITUAL LEADER

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Stacey Blumin
ADMINISTRATOR AND

WELCOME BACK SHABBAT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 7:15 PM

JOIN RABBI DAN AND CANTOR VADIM TO GET READY FOR THE NEW YEAR

The end of August was a difficult time for all of us in the greater Houston area. Let's prepare a fresh start as the New Year approaches. It's time to get back to celebrate the things that unite our community. Rabbi Dan Gordon will be joined by Cantor Vadim Tunitsky who brings his music and enthusiastic spirit as they both help us enjoy the songs, the stories and the Sabbath. Shake off the storm and feel the presence of good friends for the opening Shabbat of September and a great new year! A special oneg will follow.

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 on Jewish Family Traditions

3:30 PM: Afternoon Service

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

Guests of TBT interested in worshipping with us during the High Holidays should contact the temple at 281-446-5611 or e-mail TBT administrator Stacey Blumin at admin@tbthumble.org to reserve a space.

Our services are open to all regardless of ability to pay.

Childcare will be available at no charge but you **must** contact the temple to reserve a space at least 2 days prior to the service.

If you do not reserve a space, we cannot guarantee childcare.

Anyone interested in **sponsoring** part of the High Holiday experience, please contact **Joanie Spalter** at ritual@tbthumble.org or leave a message at the temple.

See flyer at the end of the newsletter for more information

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.

HELP AFTER HARVEY

Temple Beth Torah had a number of families that we know of whose homes have flooded. May they all have a speedy recovery. There may be ongoing needs for these families, please contact Stacey admin@tbthumble.org if you would like to be added to a help list to either receive or offer assistance.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I know that many have been affected by the devastating events of the last week. Some of us have sustained damage to our homes and our belongings. Others were more fortunate. We have tried to reach out and help those who were affected physically and emotionally.

There was only minor damage to the temple. We will be ready for the upcoming high holy days. We are a small but strong community. I have faith that we can come together in our observance of the holiest of holy times.

For those who are able and are looking for a way to help victims of the storm, the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston has set up a site to take donations specifically for a Hurricane Harvey relief fund. You can donate through this website or by check. Hold down your control key and click here: [Harvey Relief Fund](#) or visit www.houstonjewish.org

JEFF KAUFMAN

Services in September

Friday, September 8	7:15 PM	Shabbat Service
Friday, September 15	7:15 PM	Shabbat Service
Wednesday, September 20	8:00 PM	Rosh Hashanah Service
Thursday, September 21	See schedule on the Front Page	
Friday, September 22	7:15 PM	Tashlich Shabbat Service
	details will be available at Rosh Hashanah Services	
Friday, September 29	8:00 PM	Yom Kippur Service
Saturday, September 30	See schedule on the Front Page	

Yom Kippur Afternoon Discussion

Reflection on Jewish Family Traditions

Sit back and think about Jewish traditions and memories in your home. Memories might be from years ago when you were a child, or a newer practice that is meaningful, that you would like to continue as a tradition for years to come. Do you have an object that has been passed down from previous generations or even a picture that reminds you of a favorite celebration or tradition?

We invite you to bring an object or picture to Temple on Yom Kippur day. Between the morning and afternoon service (approximately 1-2 PM), those who are interested will meet as a group to share memories and traditions. You can choose to bring something with your own story, or just join the group and listen to others. It might stir up warm memories, or perhaps you will learn a new tradition that you'd like to adopt for your own home or family.

This discussion should last about an hour, so people can have a little break before the afternoon service begins. We encourage brief presentations so multiple people will have an opportunity.

RABBI'S MESSAGE

...and the Rains Kept Tumbling Down

As I write this message, it is still raining. The flowing water that was at least three feet deep in front of my house has now dropped to an almost-drivable level. News reports say that more storms are coming, more flooding will happen, some will lose almost everything and the recovery time will drag on for a long time. I see national news reports with faces of people I know. Facebook posts show flooding and rescues and pleas for boats and other means to help those in most desperate need. A neighbor of mine who has a boat pulled it out to look for people to help. For now, my family and I are safe and dry; we have food, water, supplies and each other.

It's hard not to think about the time of Noah, recounted in Torah, when the world, except for one family and representatives from the animal world, was destroyed by a flood. At the end of it all, with a dove carrying an olive branch, Noah, his family and the animals began the process of rebuilding. GD promised that the world would never again be completely destroyed, and the promise is repeated whenever we see a rainbow. And what is a rainbow? It is a mysterious blend of sunlight and raindrops that we can see, but not touch, and includes **EVERY** color. The rainbow is a reminder of the inclusive nature of GD's promise. It includes the **OPPOSITES** of sun and rain; and while including every color, the rainbow also reminds us that GD's promise includes the entirety of human, plant and animal existence. There is no color that is not part of the rainbow prism in some way, and no living creation that is outside of GD's world.

So, the world will not be completely devastated...but in reality, some lives will be. As we approach the ominous liturgy of Yom Kippur, I personally struggle with the passages about "who shall live and who shall die...who by fire and who by water..." After this powerful and frightening paragraph, we conclude that section of the liturgy by saying, "*repentance, prayer and charity shall temper judgment's severe decree.*" The next line: "*And GD pardoned in response to our plea.*"

The "tempering" of a severe decree can be confusing. Each of us has experienced severity in one form or another, and the recent losses and devastation of the Harvey storm make it even more real. Does the liturgy suggest that those affected by tragedy, this one or others, are "punished" by not repenting well, praying poorly and giving inadequate charity?

I've come to look at the notion of a Yom Kippur "decree" a little differently than a judgment about "who shall live and who shall die." I find a hard time fully accepting that repentance, prayer and charity can *change* anything that is happening. It won't remove a cancerous tumor, patch a broken leg, raise the value of your stocks, get you the job or the relationship of your dreams, find you a parking space, cause the light to turn green at the right moment or make rains blow into your neighbor's house rather than your own. But it may change how we experience our difficulties. When we concentrate on our own mindful worship, our ability to help others in need and our capacity to ask and offer forgiveness, we may just be able to handle difficult times with a different kind of ease. When we focus on what we *have* rather than what we lack, we fulfill the saying from *Pirke Avot* (Ethics of our Ancestors), "*Who is rich? Those who are happy with what they have.*" We can see those beautiful prisms of color between the raindrops, and let it support our confidence that, no matter how bad the storm, we can make the world whole again.

Ready to start over...again...for the New Year 5778? Me, too!

L'shalom,

Rabbi Dan Gordon

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CORNER

The past week has been difficult for so many people in our Houston area. We all either know someone who is out of their home or we are ourselves in such a situation. I watched local broadcasts and felt helpless and scared for my family. Our children, too, have experienced fear and uncertainty while watching the news, listening to adults discuss the situations or actually going through evacuations. All of our kids have been affected by this storm and its aftermath. Children might not show stress in the same ways as adults do but they are stressed none the less. When we start the school year at Temple Beth Torah, we will all make every effort to assure all the students that this is a safe and a welcoming home for them. The next several weeks will be difficult for adults and children but we will all try to make it as normal as possible. So...we will take a deep breath and do what is best for our kids!

The first day of class is Sunday, September 10. There will be bagels and coffee for all parents at 9:00 am. We will then have a brief Religious School meeting at 9:15 am to discuss the upcoming year. Please remember that we are asking parents to come in each Sunday to sign students in and out of school. This is to ensure the safety of each child attending Religious School at Temple Beth Torah.

We have a calendar full of exciting events for the year. Parents and visitors are welcome to join us each Sunday from 11:00 am – 11:15 am for Sanctuary time with Rabbi Dan. In addition, parents are encouraged to participate with their students throughout the year.

September 10th: the students will create their Hebrew name

September 17th: the students and teachers will have Rosh Hashanah activities

September 24th: the students and teachers will have Yom Kippur activities

October 8th: please send in fruit to decorate our sukkah for a Sukkot/Simchat Torah celebration

October 15th: Parents and students in PreK – 4th will have Ruggalah with the Rabbi from 9:00 am – 9:30 am

Join us for an exciting year,

Carrie Keith

Remember a Loved One in TBT's Book of Remembrance

See flyer at end of newsletter for more information.

ADULT EDUCATION - TORCH (TORAH OUTREACH RESOURCE CENTER OF HOUSTON)

Start your Sundays with Adult Learning at TBT. Come at a new time for summer, 9:00 AM for nosh and coffee and then join us for class at 9:30 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, September 10 Parshot Netzavim - Vayeilech

Sunday, September 17 Haazinu

Sunday, September 24 No Class

Sunday, October 1 Parsha Vezot – Haberachah and graduation Ceremony at Genesis Steakhouse

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.

For more information please contact Greg LaCour at

admin@tbthumble.org

Membership Forms Are 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!!

TBT Donate a Brick Campaign

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. When we receive at least 5 brick orders we will submit the next order.

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

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

Torah Portions for SEPTEMBER 2017

Compiled by Rabbi Dan Gordon

September 1-2, 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." 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.

September 8-9, 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 15-16, Nitzavim-Vayelech Deuteronomy 29:9-31:30

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 G-d's words, teachings and spirit are not meant to be distant, but are close to us, in our hearts.

September 22-23, Ha'Azinu Deuteronomy 32:1-52

Moses, nearing the end of his life, uses poetry and song to recount the journey in the desert. At the conclusion of the song, G-d instructs Moses to climb to the top of Mount Nebo, overlooking the Jordan River. This is where Moses will die, able to see the Promised Land, but not enter it. G-d explains this is because Moses broke faith with Him when he struck the rock. Moses is 120 years old.

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

SEPTEMBER

2
Andrew Shuman
3
Craig Gotfried
5
John Bassett
Deysi Velasquez
6
Leya Nossal
7
Bernard Lewis
Pete Brown
11
Roy Bleiberg
13
Hayley Heyman
15
Sophie Rhines
16
Merissa Stein
Idalis Ramirez

BIRTHDAYS

17
Kim Levy
18
Sofia Gerszen
Alla Myers
21
Adalberto Velasquez
23
Dennis Klager
Howard Arner
25
Ellen Klager
Jacob Rhines
Guillermo Velasquez
26
Noelle Cole
Mitch Holyfield
28
Adam Curtis
Paige Daniels

Anniversaries

4
Joe and Sally Kullman
6
Larry and Lauren Rhines
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.

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

SEPTEMBER 2017

ELUL 5777 - TISHREI 5778

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
					7:15 PM Special Welcome Back Shabbat Service	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00 AM Religious School 9:30 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class 11:15 AM Adult Ed – Book Discussion 11:30 AM Hebrew School					7:15 PM Shabbat Service	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00 AM Religious School 9:30 AM Adult Ed – TORCH Class 11:15 AM Adult Ed – Book Discussion 11:30 AM Hebrew School			8:00 PM Rosh Hashanah	9:30 AM Children's Service 10:30 AM Rosh Hashanah Service and Luncheon	7:15 PM Tashlich / Shabbat Service	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:00 AM Religious School 11:15 AM Adult Ed – Book Discussion 11:30 AM Hebrew School					8:00 PM Kol Nidre	9:30 AM Children's Service 10:30 AM Yom Kippur Service 1:00 PM Discussion 3:30 PM Afternoon/Yizkor Service 6:00 PM Break the Fast

TEMPLE BETH TORAH
320 SHALLOW DRIVE
HUMBLE, TX 77338
281-446-5611

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Please return this form no later than September 22

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 September 30th 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.



Celebrate the High Holidays at Temple Beth Torah

Join us at Temple Beth Torah
for beautiful High Holiday services
officiated by Rabbi Dan Gordon
and Cantor Vadim Tunitsky.

We are so excited to have Cantor Tunitsky join us again this year.

High Holiday Schedule:

Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, September 20, 8:00pm: Evening Service

An Oneg sponsored by the TBT Sisterhood will follow.

Thursday, September 21, 10:30am: Morning Service

A **children's service** will begin at **9:30am**.

Everyone is invited to attend a **Kiddush luncheon** following the morning service
hosted by TBT President Jeff Kaufman and his wife Alice
& the TBT Board of Directors.

Yom Kippur:

Friday, September 29, 8:00 pm: Kol Nidre

Saturday, September 30, 10:30 am: Morning Service

A **children's service** will begin at **9:30 am**.

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm: Adult Education Discussion on Jewish Family Traditions

3:30 pm: Afternoon, memorial (Yizkor), and concluding services (Neila & Havdalah)

All are invited to a community "**pot-luck**" **break-the-fast meal** following the service.

Guests of TBT interested in worshipping with us during the High Holidays should contact the temple at 281-446-5611 or e-mail TBT administrator Stacey Blumin at admin@tbthumble.org to reserve a space.

Suggested donation for guests:

Individuals: \$180 Families: \$360

Our services are open to all regardless of ability to pay.

Childcare will be available at no charge but you **must** contact the temple to reserve a space at least 2 days prior to the service. If you do not reserve a space, we cannot guarantee childcare.

Anyone interested in **sponsoring** part of the High Holiday experience, please contact **Joanie Spalter** at ritual@tbthumble.org or leave a message at the temple.

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).

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2 Bricks= \$180 @ \$90/each

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

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

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

6 or more Bricks= \$50 a brick

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

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

Name of donor: _____

Phone number or email address: _____

Engraving details (please print):

Brick 1:

Line 1 _____

Line 2 _____

Line 3 _____

Brick 2:

Line 1 _____

Line 2 _____

Line 3 _____



Temple Beth Torah

320 Shallow Drive

Humble, TX 77338

(281) 446-5611

www.tbthumble.org