

Temple Beth Torah

NEWS FOR YOU

October 2017 TISHREI – CHESHVAN 5778



Rabbi Dan Gordon
SPIRITUAL LEADER

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OCTOBER SHABBAT SERVICES AT TBT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6 –

CELEBRATE SUKKOT WITH “PIZZA IN THE HUT”

6:30 PM Pizza Dinner – 7:15 PM Shabbat/Sukkot Service

Come early and enjoy friendship and pizza as we observe Sukkot, honor nature, and bring the spirit of the Harvest Moon into our celebration. Please let us know if you plan to come for pizza. Email admin@tbthumble.org

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13 – 7:15 PM

**MUSICAL SIMCHAT TORAH WITH RABBI DAN AND CANTOR
VADIM**

Join Rabbi Dan and Cantor Vadim to celebrate learning. We finish the last book of the Torah and start all over again – singing and dancing and honoring learning along the way. A service for all ages. Don't miss the festivities!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20 – A DOUBLE-HEADER!

6:00 PM – TOT SHABBAT 7:15 PM – SHABBAT SERVICE

Tot Shabbat is a once a month, child-friendly Shabbat service, led by Rabbi Dan, in which the children sing and dance and learn together. Afterwards, families enjoy a “pot-luck” Shabbat dinner.

Our regular Shabbat service follows at 7:15 PM.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27 – 7:15 PM

**ADL PRESENTS: AWARENESS AND EMPOWERMENT –
HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND RESPOND TO ANTI-SEMITISM**

The Anti-Defamation League has been at the forefront of combating Anti-Semitism since 1913. In recent years, it has become a voice for all oppressed people. As Anti-Semitism continues to be both a domestic and international concern, appropriate responses become increasingly important. While maintaining a strong Jewish identity, we remain proud and strong, hopefully able to educate others about common respect.

Friday's Shabbat observance will include an abbreviated lay-led service, followed by a special presentation with experienced ADL professionals who will help provide learning tools for turning difficult situations into learning opportunities.

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

As I write this it has been about a month since Hurricane Harvey devastated Houston and the surrounding area. Sadly, similar scenarios played out in Beaumont, in Florida, and now in Puerto Rico. With disasters of this magnitude it is easy for someone to throw up their hands and say “what can I do” in the face of such massive damage.

What we’ve witnessed is what I like to call the power of one. One person cannot reverse all the devastation that Harvey has brought to so many people. But one person can make a tremendous difference in people’s lives.

We’ve seen volunteers come from all over the country to help Houstonians survive and recover. We’ve seen neighbors helping neighbors try to restore their lives. We’ve seen people volunteering at shelters, distributing food and supplies, helping to restore flooded homes.

I was proud to see our TBT family step up and help those in our community who were affected by the flooding – physically, emotionally, financially. Many TBT members have been volunteering in the broader community. It is as if we – mere humans – were all God’s partners in helping people to start to restore their lives.

JEFF KAUFMAN

Services in October

Friday, October 6	6:30 PM	Pizza in the Hut
	7:15 PM	Sukkot /Shabbat Service
Friday, October 13	7:15 PM	Simchat Torah / Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan and Cantor Vadim
Friday, October 20	6:30 PM	Tot Shabbat
	7:15 PM	Shabbat Service
Friday, October 27	7:15 PM	Shabbat Service

Donations

Rabbi Discretionary Fund for Hurricane Harvey Relief

Rich and Melanie Wiener
 John and Bobbylee Ruskis
 Jeff and Alice Kaufman
 Jeremy and Stacey Blumin
 Cherie Karo Schwartz
 Paul and Ann Friedman
 Wesley Goble
 Marty Lorin
 Donna Glaser

General Fund

Norm and Marsha Weiss
 Michael and Andrea Miller
 Jeff and Joanie Spalter,
In Memory of Lewis Rosenfeld
 Donna Sallee,
In Memory of Jeff Sallee

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

Stephen and Ellen Stapleton,
In Memory of Stephen J Stapleton Jr.

RABBI'S MESSAGE

Keeping Our Holiday Spirits High

Several years ago, I was in Pittsburgh during the High Holidays, visiting my parents and attending services at a large, Conservative synagogue. During the long services, the hallways were crowded with people taking rest room breaks that often extended into socializing. As I was walking back into the sanctuary, I ran into a friend I had not seen since high school. She greeted me with a big smile, enjoying the fact that she was able to reunite with old friends. “Wow, I’m seeing *everyone* today!” she said, almost surprised. “They ought to have these more often!” I’m not sure she realized what she was suggesting, and I smiled back and said, “You mean, like, weekly?” She paused for a moment, and said, “Naah. That would be a bit much.”

It is difficult to capture and maintain the High Holiday spirit. The combination of beautiful music, powerful liturgy and the timing of the spiritual awakening at the beginning of the year are hard to beat. There is another component that makes Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur special at Temple Beth Torah. There is a real buzz in the air as people reunite with old friends and establish new relationships. I saw a number of people making new friends, at an Oneg, Rosh Hashana lunch, the Yom Kippur break-fast and even during services. I got a lovely note from someone new to TBT who said, “I came in as a stranger and soon felt as if I had found a home.” I know that not everyone has the same experience, but the atmosphere of welcoming that some expressed is exactly what we’re hoping for. Religious services aren’t meant for people to sit and “put in time.” They’re meant to be meaningful, uplifting and inspirational. They’re meant to motivate us to include the teachings of the Torah and the sentiments of the prayers into our daily lives.

When I see a full room of people enjoying High Holiday services, I’ll admit that I’m secretly hoping the room will remain as full for our regular Shabbat services. I know that is an unrealistic expectation. Certain days on our calendar *are* more important than others, and the size of the crowd at temple mirrors them. There are also holidays that traditional Judaism has deemed important that don’t always make it to the radar screen of the mainstream American Jew. So, I’ll expect more modest crowds on Friday nights, realizing the “High Holidays” got their name for a reason.

There is a difference between a hope and an expectation. If we *expect* something to happen, and it doesn’t, we’re disappointed. But if we’re merely *hoping*, we could be in for a pleasant surprise.

Throughout the Torah, and particularly in the Yom Kippur afternoon Torah reading, we learn about the importance of treating strangers kindly. There are times when each of us feels like a stranger, wondering if we’re really where we’re supposed to be. When people come to temple, whether regulars or new, we never know what frame of mind brought them there. If we can treat everyone like the kind of stranger the Torah teaches about – embracing, welcoming and making them feel wanted – then we will have created the kind of spiritual home lots of people will enjoy returning to.

In the words of Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach: “Return again; return again; return to the place of your soul. Return to who you are; return to what you are; return to where you are born and reborn again.”

I look forward to seeing you soon; however often you return!

B’shalom,

Rabbi Dan Gordon

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CORNER

Chag Samech!

We had a great start to the school year in September. It was great seeing so many kids and parents coming together.

Religious School students will celebrate Sukkot and Simchat Torah on October 8th. Please send in fruit, gourds, or decorations for the sukkah. Parents are welcome to join us at 10:45 AM in the sukkah to celebrate. Ruggalah with the Rabbi will be on October 15 at 9:15 AM for grades pre K – 4th. Come enjoy a question and answer time with the Rabbi and nosh on some goodies. We will have another session in the spring for the students in grades 5th – 7th.

Sierra Dubow, our ISJL fellow, will at TBT for the weekend of October 27 through 29. She will present a D'var Torah on Friday, October 27. On Saturday, our Youth Group (6th- 11th graders) will meet with Sierra for dinner and fun activities. Watch your emails for more information. She will then present a lesson on Sunday to the Religious School. This will be a busy and Exciting Weekend!!

Carrie Keith

Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Dan

Wednesday, October 25, 12:30 PM

***Nourishment for the Body, Mind and Soul
Once a Month***

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!
No RSVP necessary, feel free to just show up!
Next dates are Nov 15 and Dec 6.

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

Start your Sundays with Adult Learning at TBT. Come at a new time this fall, 9:00 AM for nosh and coffee and then join us for class at 9:30 AM led by Rabbi Wolbe from TORCH. The class has studied every portion in the Five Books of the Torah, and is now moving on to another sacred text. Each week will include new ethical issues from *Pirke Avot, The Ethics of our Ancestors*. Participants may come to as many as they can. There is no charge for the class and optional gifts of tzedakah are welcome.

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

Sunday, October 8 No Class

Sunday, October 15 Eternal Ethics Part 1

Sunday, October 22 Eternal Ethics Part 2

Sunday, October 29 Eternal Ethics Part 3

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 to help bring people together in conversation. Frank Levy, a partner of Rami who lives here in Houston, joins us weekly as we explore insights of Perennial Wisdom and how it can change the way we view our lives.

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

TOT Shabbat Friday, October 20 6:00 PM

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

Upcoming TOT Shabbat: Nov 10

TBT Cares

As our community was overwhelmed by Hurricane Harvey, we were also overwhelmed by the offers of those who wanted to help. The outpouring of support of all sorts was amazing to see. People offered their time, their expertise, their efforts, their washing machines and their money to help both our TBT community and greater Houston and surrounding communities. It was wonderful to see everyone coming together. One thing that will be important is to keep in mind that for some of us everything will not be back to normal in a few weeks and so we want to continue to think of what might be needed to help out. TBT Cares is working to do just that.

We are all connected and the impact of Hurricane Harvey just keeps happening. For example, we recently learned that because certain places have flooded some fundraising events were cancelled and organizations that TBT supports, Humble Area Assistance Ministries (HAAM) and FamilyTime, are likely to be affected, even though they did not suffer direct losses. Beyond financial losses, some people will have less time to volunteer as they have to focus on their own concerns. The needs of the Humble community will be greater and so the demand for services from HAAM will increase. The congregants who had their homes flooded will likely take several months to rebuild. TBT Kingwood families with high school students, who now attend a school about 30 minutes away, will feel the effects for most of the year as their schedules and routines have changed. Large or small there have been, and will continue to be, changes for all of us. If you want to help out you can bring food to TBT for HAAM, you can join us for our Meals on Wheels deliveries or let us know you are available for hands on help as needed down the road. Email Susan at spollard@tbthumble.org for more information or with any thoughts you have about how to help.

Sisterhood Kickoff!

**Dinner at Hin's Garden,
Wednesday, October 18, 6:30 PM**

Calling all women of TBT- join us for our first Sisterhood dinner of the fall! We will meet at Hin's Garden, 4582 Kingwood Drive, at 6:30pm on Wednesday, October 18th. To help support Humble Area Assistance Ministries (HAAM) please bring a box of Stuffing Mix (it's not too early to start collecting for the HAAM Thanksgiving Dinners). To RSVP for the dinner please email spollard@tbthumble.org. See you there!

For HAAM

Stuffing the Food Basket for Humble Area Assistance Ministries (HAAM)



Thanksgiving comes quickly and last year HAAM fed over 4000 holiday meals to families in November and December. TBT is providing stuffing mix so please drop your boxes of stuffing in our handy food donation basket near the front entrance. Thank you for helping!

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

OCTOBER

3
Herb Marchand
5
Joanie Spalter
6
Janet Sisler
9
Susan Meinholz
John Ruskis
11
Jessica Pous – Holyfield
Abraham Ramirez
13
Peter Myers
14
Emily Smith
17
Sammy Baur
Lawrence Heyman
Joe Kullman

BIRTHDAYS

20
Irene Carroll
22
Allan Daniels
Ted Weinberger
23
Rosie Brawn
24
Marvin Sussman
Morgan Wadsworth
27
Patricia Klemz
28
Manette Farber
Jeffrey Spalter
29
Jeremy Blumin
30
Debye Lurie

Anniversaries

2 Allan and Irene Carroll
7 Allan and Lael Daniels
9 Ted and Iris Weinberger
11 Tony and Carole Curtis
17 Jeremy and Stacey Blumin
19 Roy and Sara Bleiberg
22 JQ and Ellen Delap
29 Jennifer Ofsowitz and Tony Sullivan

October Jahrzeits

The following names will be read each week during October 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.

Rose Markowitz, Lawrence Wallach, Ethel Lappen,
Joseph Cohn, Jean Krafcheck Farber, Mary Hauptman
Conway, Solomon Miller, Alvin Gerhardt, Lloyd Spalter,
Bill Clark, Jesse W Bluhm, Robert Lipstat, Harry Kimmel,
Ben Solomon, E. L. Tabor, Helen Shaw Smith, Ida Ruskis,
Jack Moss, Lee Biegel, Louis Feldstein, Martin Greenbaum,
Mary Jane Ciotta, Max Muller, Morris Cahn,
Morris Kharasch, Piotr Perelman, Roslyn Smith, Sam Winter,
Sylvia Myers

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 7

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
- Hurricane Harvey Relief 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

OCTOBER 2017

TISHREI - CHESHVAN 5778

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
					SUKKOT 6:30 PM Pizza in the Hut 7:15 PM Sukkot/Shabbat Service	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:00 AM Religious School 11:15 AM Adult Ed – Book Discussion 11:30 AM Hebrew School					7:15 PM Simchat Torah /Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan and Cantor Vadim	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:00 AM Religious School 9:30 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class 11:15 AM Adult Ed – Book Discussion 11:30 AM Hebrew School			6:30 PM Sisterhood Dinner Hin’s Garden in Kingwood		6:00 PM TOT Shabbat 7:15 PM Shabbat Service	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00 AM Religious School 9:30 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class 11:15 AM Adult Ed – Book Discussion 11:30 AM Hebrew School			12:30 PM Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Dan		7:15 PM Shabbat Service And Presentation from the ADL	
29	30	31	NOV 1	2	3	4
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	

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@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