

Temple Beth Torah

NEWS FOR YOU

November 2017 CHESHVAN - KISLEV 5778



Rabbi Dan Gordon
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Haley Heyman's Bat Mitzvah Saturday, November 18, 10:00 AM at Temple Beth Torah

Please join Sharon and Lawrence Heyman as their daughter Haley becomes a Bat Mitzvah. Haley will participate in Shabbat services on Friday, November 17th at 7:15 PM. Haley will be called to the Torah on Saturday, November 18 at 10:00 AM. Please help us in congratulating her. Mazel Tov to the Heyman family

Shabbat Services in November

Friday, November 3	7:15 PM	Shabbat Service
Friday, November 10	6:30 PM	Tot Shabbat
	7:15 PM	Shabbat Service
Friday, November 17	7:15 PM	Shabbat Service
Friday, November 24	7:15 PM	NO Shabbat Service - Temple Closed

Sisterhood Potluck Dinner Monday, November 13th 6:30pm-8:30pm

Join us on Monday, November 13th at the home of Ann Dominick. Bring a dish to share and we will schmooze and eat together. We are still collecting Boxed Stuffing for Humble Area Assistance Ministries (HAAM) so please bring a box of Stuffing Mix along with your pot luck dish. To RSVP or for directions email Ann at vpresident@tbthumble.org. If you are able to come at the last minute, please do! See you there!

Lunch & Learn

with Rabbi Dan

**Wednesday, November 15,
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 date is Dec 6.

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

Often people will say something like “Rosh Hashanah is late this year or Hanukkah is early”. The fact is that they are never late or early they are right on time based on the Jewish calendar which is basically a lunar calendar with periodic adjustments.

When most people think of holidays they think about the annual holidays and celebrations, but..... there is one holiday that is always on time. That is Shabbat which we, at TBT, celebrate every Friday night. Shabbat is central to Jewish life and has been a unifying force for many centuries. As Rabbi Dan often says, “more than the Jewish people have kept the Sabbath, the Sabbath has kept the Jewish people”.

I think of Shabbat as a way to take a break from our busy lives and come worship together and, afterwards, schmooze a little with old and new friends. It is a great way for our kids to learn more about Jewish customs, practice and values.

I hope to see y’all at our next Shabbat celebration

JEFF KAUFMAN

TORAH BUCKS –

NEW FOR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL STUDENTS

More of our students are finding out that Shabbat services really ARE fun...as well as enriching ways to become familiar with the service and enjoy family time together with friends. And now, there’s one more reason to come: earning “Torah Bucks.” Students who attend Friday night services will earn a “Torah Buck” each time they come. They will be distributed on Sundays, and the students can trade them in for a special treat, or save them up to “buy” an even bigger prize at the end of the year.

Make it even more fun – coordinate with your children’s friends the Fridays they want to attend together. The students love carrying the small Torahs in our Torah parade, and Rabbi Dan always finds ways to make them feel special on Shabbat.

These Torah Bucks are made in-house, and can be used only at TBT.



RABBI'S MESSAGE

A True Random Act of Kindness

On a Friday night in August, after Shabbat services, while most of the worshippers were enjoying the refreshments, I was in my office tutoring a Bat Mitzvah student. Hy Penn knocked and came into the office. "These were left at our door," he told me. After hearing of incidents of Anti-Semitic literature and vandalism at synagogues both in Houston and around the country, I was concerned. That is, until I saw what was in his hand: a bouquet with several sprigs of multi-colored daisies. When I looked more closely, I saw that each sprig had several daisies as well as a hand-written index card tied to the stem that said, "I am grateful to share the planet with you." Since there were several daisies as well as several notes, Hy and I figured it was meant to go to several households. He distributed the flowers to everyone who was still present at the Oneg.

My heart warmed. Who could have perpetrated this? Hy remembered seeing some people outside the temple before services, a teenaged girl and an adult, presumably mother and daughter. He thought they were coming into the temple, so didn't think much of it. My thoughts went to all the incidents of hateful rhetoric I had heard in the past, and realized that there **are** people who go out of their way to be kind. Those who seek attention for negative actions often get noticed; the kinder actions?...not so much. If acts of kindness were made as well-known as acts of hatred, perhaps more people would understand that open hearts and open minds are the norm, and ignorance is the exception. It gives me hope.

At the end of the evening, all the flowers had gone to the various homes, and I realized I didn't take one for myself to bring home to my wife. I decided to take picture with my phone, and said, "I guess Loren will have to be satisfied with a picture of a flower instead of the real thing." But when I got to my car, there was one sprig left on my windshield, with the same note. Whoever you are: I'm grateful to share the planet with you, too!

B'shalom,

Rabbi Dan Gordon



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CORNER

It is almost Thanksgiving and it is finally beginning to feel like fall. We have lots of exciting things planned for November and December.

On November 5th, the Havdallah Factory will be at TBT at 10:00 am. The students will learn about Havdalah and then get to make beautiful candles to take home. Parents are welcome to attend. Parents with Toddler Class will be participating in this with all the Religious school students.

We are collecting food for HAAM especially now during this holiday season for the families in need in our area. Please send in packages of stuffing mix with your children. We will see who collects the most-boys or girls at Temple Beth Torah. We are also collecting gifts between now and Dec. 10 for children in need that live in the Humble area. While you are out shopping, please pick up a small gift suitable for a boy or girl. Bring it to TBT and we will make sure it gets to Family Time to help make the holidays happy for as many kids as we can.

Our Hanukkah Celebration for the Religious School will be on December 10th. If you would like to help with the planning, please contact Carrie at education@tbthumble.org.

Kids, save those Torah Bucks from Shabbat services for a treat!!

Have a wonderful, warm, Thanksgiving with family and friends. Remember all that there is for which we are thankful!

Carrie Keith

TBT sends out condolences to:

Michael, Andera and Manny Miller on the loss of Michael's mother Syble Marie Wilson.

Also to Ian and Judi Adler on the loss of Ian's mother Hindie Adler

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, November 5 Anatomy of a Righteous Home
Sunday, November 12 An Introduction to Talmud
Sunday, November 19 Talmudic Workshop on the Laws of a deadly Pursuer
Sunday, November 26 Winning Friends and Influencing People

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, November 10, 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.

Hanukkah service December 15 - 7:15 PM

TBT Cares

Our TBT community has been helping those in need. We have been delivering meals to the elderly through the Meals on Wheels program and donating food to the Humble Area Assistance Ministries (HAAM). HAAM provides meals for Thanksgiving and TBT is committed to bringing boxes of stuffing mix. This year the need is greater since more people have losses due to the Hurricane. If getting to the temple is difficult and you want to make arrangements to drop off stuffing, please email Susan at spollard@tbthumble.org. Thank you for your help!

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!

Save the Date

Hanukkah Shabbat

*With Rabbi Dan and Cantor Vadim
Friday, December 15, 2017
7:15 PM*

Bring your Menorah as we light up for the 4th night of Hanukkah. Cantor Vadim will join Rabbi Dan for a fun and festive Hanukkah Celebration

**Temple Beth Torah Children
Receive Free Jewish Books**
Celebrate Jewish values, culture, and tradition

Every month, PJ Library sends free Jewish books to more than 500,000 families around the world with children 6 months through 8 years old. PJ Library shares stories that celebrate Jewish values, culture, and tradition, all at no cost to families. Go to www.pjlibrary.org to sign up.

Free Jewish chapter books for 9-11-year-olds are available at [PJ Our Way](#).

Shabbat Dress for Everyone's Comfort

For Shabbat services at Temple Beth Torah, we strive to create an atmosphere that is both respectful to the spirit of Shabbat and comfortable for all worshippers.

Please refrain from wearing shorts, t-shirts, worn-out jeans, etc.

When coming to services, what you bring in your heart is always more important than what you wear on the outside. Please keep in mind that some styles of dress might be distracting to other worshippers. Be comfortable, certainly, without making others uncomfortable. This way, we can all respect the spirit of Shabbat and the community.

Simchas in November *Birthdays*

2	21
Vitaly Aizenberg	Arthur Aizenberg
Luke Brawn	James Eoff
3	23
Sharon Kennedy	Chris Baur
7	Alice Kaufman
Mike Stark	Emily Levy
9	24
Brian Eoff	Liz Smith
10	25
Larry Rhines	Rachel Pollard
Mike Weisberg	27
16	Isaac Couch
Sharon Heyman	Mindy LaCour
17	Amy Kennedy
Bradley Heller	

Anniversaries

1
Mike and Penny Stark
8
Marvin and Maxine Sussman
8
Ken and Bernice Troxclair
28
Bob and Debbie Swaim

November Yahrzeits

The following names will be read each week during November 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.

Anna P. Abrasley, Freda Rae Cahn, Marie Rackmil, Joseph Schwartzberg, Lena Wallach, Richard Perwien, Natha Lee Rubin, Myron Gross, Jerry Wolf, Gene Sachs, Morris Penn, Tony Sulpezio, Bill Gaile, Michael Hirsch, Evelyn Haidnick, Murray Adler, Scott Eric Kaufman, Simon Rubin, Charlotte Kimmel, Frances Rubin, Esther Kaufman, Amelia Perwien, Lenore Greenbaum, Frances Strizzi, Morris Schalet, Dr. Marvin P. Farber, M. Paul Farber, Arnold Kharasch, Freda Kharasch, Yakov Royzenurten, Billie Pollard, Frances Greenbaum, Alfred Lubin, Louise Post

Torah Portions for November 2017 *Summarized by Rabbi Dan Gordon*

November 3-4, Vayeira, Genesis 18:1-22:24

There are many tests in this Torah portion. Visitors come to see Abraham, and he welcomes them with extraordinary hospitality. Sarah and Abraham learn that, despite their advanced years, they will have a son together. G-d consults with Abraham about His plan to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, and Abraham negotiates a plan to try to save the city. Later, Abraham is tested by being asked by G-d to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham is prepared to make this ultimate sacrifice before an angel of G-d stops him.

November 10-11, Chaya Sarah, Genesis 23:1-25:18

Almost immediately after the near-death of her son, Sarah dies at 127 years old. Abraham wants to make sure she has an honorable burial. Though the landowner offers to give him burial land for free, Abraham insists on paying the full price. He then sends his servant to look for a wife for Isaac. Rebecca, a distant cousin, is chosen because her kindness to humans and animals indicates a unique sensitivity.

November 17-18, Toldot, Genesis 25:19-28:9

The most volatile sibling rivalry since Cain and Abel begins with the twins, Esau and Jacob, battling in the womb. Mother Rebecca is told by G-d that the greater of the two shall serve the younger. Esau sells Jacob his birthright for some soup, and Jacob collects the blessing of the firstborn with Rebecca's help. Having built a brotherly relationship based on trickery, deceit and manipulation, Jacob and Esau realize that the town isn't big enough for both of them. Both brothers go to uncles. Jacob travels to Rebecca's father's house (where he will marry both of Laban's daughters), and Esau finds himself a wife from the daughters of Uncle Ishmael.

November 24-25, Vayitzei, Genesis 29:10-32:3

Along his journey, Jacob experiences G-d's presence through dreaming of a ladder with angels ascending and descending from heaven. He pledges himself to G-d and continues to his uncle Laban's home. He falls in love with Laban's daughter, Rachel and asks to marry her. He promises to work for Laban for seven years to marry his daughter, but is surprised to find the older sister, Leah, in his wedding bed. Laban informs him it is customary to marry the older child first, so Jacob pledges another seven years of labor to marry Rachel. Leah is more fertile, bearing six sons and a daughter. Rachel pleads to G-d for children, and eventually bears Joseph and Benjamin.

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

NOVEMBER 2017

CHESHVAN – KISLEV 5778

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
					7:15 PM Shabbat Service	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:00 AM Religious School 10:00 AM Havdalah Factory 9:30 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class 11:15 AM Adult Ed – Book Discussion 11:30 AM Hebrew School					6:00 PM TOT Shabbat 7:15 PM Shabbat Service	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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 Pot Luck dinner		12:30 PM Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Dan		7:15 PM Shabbat Service	10:00 AM Haley Heyman Bat Mitzvah
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
NO Religious School 9:30 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class 11:15 AM Adult Ed – Book Discussion				THANKSGIVING	NO SHABBAT SERVICE – TEMPLE CLOSED	
26	27	28	29	30	DEC 1	2
NO Religious School 9:30 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class					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