

Temple Beth Torah

NEWS FOR YOU

April 2018 NISAN - IYAR 5778



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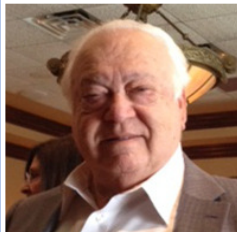
An Evening for Holocaust Remembrance

A beautiful and unique Shabbat service remembering the Holocaust

Friday, April 13 at 7:15 P.M.

Join Temple Beth Torah's Spiritual Leader, **Rabbi Dan Gordon** and Cantorial Soloist **Anita Bonanno** honor both those who have passed and those with the incredible strength to survive history's most horrible times.

We will hear a first-hand account from the personal story of Holocaust Survivor and Humble resident Alex Pollak.



Mr. Pollak was born in Yugoslavia. As a young child, he was imprisoned in the Rab concentration camp. Alex and his sister were rescued by a brave Christian woman who risked her own family's safety to help others. He never again saw his parents, who were both murdered

in the Jasenovac concentration camp. Mr. Pollak immigrated to Israel and served in the military before studying in Europe and eventually settling in Texas, where he has worked as an engineer and businessman.

This special evening is sponsored by Hy Penn and Lynn Gordon, and dedicated to the memory of Holocaust survivors Linda Penn, Morris I. Penn and Riva Kremer, all of blessed memory. Refreshments will follow the service.

Complimentary childcare will be provided **with reservations by April 11** toadmin@tbthumble.org.

All are welcome. Please invite your neighbors and friends!

Shabbat Services in April

Friday, April 6	7:15 PM	Shabbat Service
Friday, April 13	7:15 PM	Yom HaShoah Shabbat Service
Friday, April 20	7:15 PM	Shabbat Service
Friday, April 27	6:30 PM	Family Shabbat Service with Cantor Tunitsky

SAVE THE DATE
Shavuot Shabbat
Dinner – Pot Luck
At Temple Beth Torah
Friday, May 18 at
6:30 PM
More details to follow

**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.

TWO Mitzvahs – One Day!!

**Temple Beth Torah has two special occasions on
Saturday, April 14**

BAR MITZVAH of Dylan Daniels,

**Saturday, April 14, 4:30 PM at Temple Beth Torah
Join Dylan and his parents Allan and Lael Daniels as Dylan is called to
the Torah as a son of the Commandment.
Mazel Tov!**

BAT MITZVAH of Shayna Ellsworth

**Saturday, April 14, in Fort Worth
Mazel Tov to Shayna and her parents Shannon and Shari Ellsworth,
as Shayna is called to the Torah as a daughter on the Commandment.**

**Both Dylan and Shayna have been studying hard and we
congratulate them on their success.**

ISJL Weekend

With

Sierra Debrow April 20 – 22

Friday 7:15 pm

Sierra will give the d'var torah during Shabbat services

Saturday FUN DAY!!

10:00 am Cooking Class

Join Sisterhood and Sierra at TBT

as we all learn to make different types of kugel

RSVP to sisterhood@tbthumble.org or education@tbthumble.org by
Friday, April 20th so we know how many cooks we will have.

5:00 pm Youth Group at Main Event

Meet at Main Event in Humble next to Costco

Bring extra money for food or arcade games.

RSVP to education@tbthumble.org by Friday, April 20th.

Sunday at Religious School 9:00 am

Israeli Activities

Sierra will lead each group in fun activities to learn about Israel

RABBI'S MESSAGE

REMEMBERING THE PAST WHILE LOOKING AHEAD

This April is a season full of opportunities to remember. We begin the month in the midst of Passover week, remembering the Exodus from Egypt and the journey through the wilderness that leads to the Promised Land. Also occurring in April are two more modern holidays related to the state of Israel. Memorial Day (Yom HaZikaron) for Israel is a very important day; every able Israeli citizen serves in the military and *everyone* has lost someone dear during one of the many wars in their 70-year history. But the very next day is a celebration of Independence (Yom Ha-Atzmaut), in which the heart of the Jewish people thrives joyously. With this year being the 70th anniversary, the celebration will be as dramatic as when the U.S. celebrated the bicentennial 18 years ago.

With all these remembrances, Yom HaShoah, the remembrance of the Holocaust, stands alone. Never has the modern world seen such a dramatic example of evil, and we always pray, "Never Again!" This year, Temple Beth Torah will once again commemorate Yom HaShoah, with a Shabbat service featuring a Holocaust survivor. Local Humble resident Alex Pollak will help us learn about Jasenovac, the camp where his parents were murdered. Jasenovac is not one of the most well-known camps, but it was equally destructive.

Yes, it is absolutely important to remember the horrors that have been perpetrated in the name of hatred, and do everything we can to educate the world and each other to prevent other such tragedies. It is also absolutely important to look beyond the past, seeing how the bright spots can enhance our world. While murder and persecution happened nearby, Alex Pollak and his sister were rescued and hidden by a kind, brave Christian family. That family was not alone, and countless non-Jewish people became known as the Righteous Gentiles. While much of the world let Hitler poison the minds of his supporters, there *were* people who stood up and did whatever they could to save precious souls. The Talmud states: "Whoever destroys a soul, it is considered as if he destroyed an entire world. And whoever saves a life, it is considered as if he saved an entire world." (*Mishnah Sanhedrin 4:5*) Future generations live on because of those who make a difference.

Holocaust scholars talk about perpetrators, victims, bystanders and up-standers. The smallest groups are actually the perpetrators and the up-standers (those who take a risk to help others). The largest group, by far, is the bystanders (those who are not actively committing harm, but doing nothing to prevent it). When we are able to learn from the example of a strong minority, we can change the world. Remembering the past must include awareness that we **CAN** influence the future. We can do it one soul/one life at a time. Let us remember...and let us move forward! LET OUR PEOPLE GROW!

L'shalom,

Rabbi Dan Gordon

Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Dan

Wednesday, April 18, 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!

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CORNER

Welcome back to Religious School from Spring Break. All the students had a wonderful Passover experience on March 25th. Thank you to all the teachers and parents who helped make this is special day for the students.

Temple Beth Torah Religious School is very proud to have two students that will become Bar and Bat Mitzvah this month. Shayna Ellsworth will become Bat Mitzvah at Congregation Beth El in Tyler, Texas where she has been studying before moving to Humble. Dylan Daniels will become a Bar Mitzvah here at Temple Beth Torah. Both students have worked hard to prepare for this important day. Both events take place on Saturday, April 14th.

The students and parents in the Dahlet class taught by Bruce Pollard will have Rugallah with the Rabbi on April 8th at 9:15 am.

Our ISJL Fellow, Sierra Debrow, will join us for a fun weekend from Friday, April 20 through Sunday, April 22. Sierra will lead a d'vor torah for Shabbat. We have a full day of activities planned for Saturday, April 21st. Sierra will prepare different types of kugal with the Sisterhood at TBT starting at 10:00 am. Come cook with us and enjoy a tasty brunch. Then the Youth Group (6th graders and up) will join Sierra at Main Event in Humble on Saturday evening for a fun-filled time. Flyers and emails on both events will be sent out to everyone.

April is also Israeli celebration at TBT. We are excited to have one of our members, Pat Klemz, speak to the students about her experiences visiting Israel. Then our ISJL fellow will have Israeli activities for all the grades to participate in.

The Religious School students will lead and sing songs for the Family Shabbat Service on Friday, April 27th. This Shabbat service will begin at 6:30 pm. The students will practice with Rabbi Dan and Cantor Vadim for this service.

Mark your calendars for all these excellent educational and exciting April events.

Carrie Keith

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 Joy Fields by e-mailing tbtcaringcommittee@gmail.com or by leaving a message at TBT, 281-446-5611.

FAMILY SHABBAT SERVICE

Friday, April 27 6:30 PM

(note the earlier time)

Celebrate Shabbat Rabbi Dan, Cantor Vadim and the Religious School students as each class will have a part in the service and sing songs.

ADULT EDUCATION - TORCH

(TORAH OUTREACH RESOURCE CENTER OF HOUSTON)

Start your Sundays with Adult Learning at TBT. Come at 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, April 8 The Power of Action – Rabbi Aryeh Wolbe

Sunday, April 15 - The Spiritual Cost Benefit Analysis

Sunday, April 22 – Three Ways to Hack the AfterLife

Sunday, April 29 – Properly Judging Your Fellow

SPIRITUAL TRAVELERS CONTINUE THE JOURNEY BOOK DISCUSSION Continuing with The Sacred Art of Lovingkindness

SUNDAY MORNINGS, 11:15 A.M. at TBT

"The Sacred Art of Lovingkindness" 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.

Simchas in April Birthdays

3	Owen Brawn
7	Paige Nossal
8	Carole Curtis
10	Shannon Ellsworth
11	Dylan Daniels
12	Debbie Swaim
12	Shayna Ellsworth
19	Jenna Bleiberg
20	Steve Smith
23	Dan Gordon
25	Howard Tobin
25	Leah Ramirez
29	Sydney Daniels
29	Sara Myers

April Yahrzeits

The following names will be read each week during April 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.

*Milton Rackmil, Hubert Keith, Leslee Davis,
Rose Gennett, Isador Gennett, Buddy Rambo,
Ronnie Rubin, Lloyd Gordon,
Marilyn Chelnick Morgan, Abraham Eidelhoch,
Lisa Ann Wellner, Mike Mandell, Miriam Israel,
Maxine Callner, Benjamin Hirsch,
Harry Babendure, Mark Summer, John B Hall,
Harry Shadrin, Frances Sussman, Eva Wellner*

For HAAM (Humble Area Assistance Ministries)

TBT collects food for HAAM on an ongoing basis. Whenever you attend services, classes, or events at TBT, please remember to bring nonperishable items with you to help stock HAAM's pantry. Every item helps!

Thank you for your support.

Torah Portions for April 2018 *Summarized by Rabbi Dan Gordon*

April 6-7, Exodus 13:17-15:26 (special reading for the end of Passover)

On Shabbat at the end of Pesach, we read the dramatic story in which Pharaoh changes his mind and chases the fleeing Hebrew slaves. G-d did not show Moses the shortest route, but led the Israelites toward the Sea of Reeds. This was to keep them away from powerful warriors, for G-d did not want the people to be frightened back to Egypt. The fearful Hebrews, seeing the Egyptian soldiers at their heels, cry to Moses, "Why did you lead us here to the dessert to die? Were there not enough graves in Egypt?" The most memorable miracle then occurs when G-d causes a great wind to split the sea and allow the Israelites to pass through on dry land. Moses recites a song that includes the "Mi Chamocha" prayer (Who is like You, G-d, among the worshipped?) and Miriam leads the women with drumming and dancing. The freedom journey is on its way!

April 13-14, Shemini, Leviticus 9:1-11:47

Immediately after their seven days of inauguration into the priesthood, Aaron and his sons begin to serve in their new capacity. The two elder sons, Nadav and Avihu, offer "a strange fire before G-d, which He commanded them not." Because of this strange fire, the two are consumed by the fire and die. Aaron remains silent. There is much discussion about why they died, and some commentaries claim the sons went beyond their roles as priests. This Torah portion also contains the laws regarding kashrut, and which animals are permitted and forbidden to be eaten.

April 20-21, Tazria-Metzora, Leviticus 12:1-15:33

This portion deals with ritual impurity, particularly skin afflictions such as leprosy. It becomes the duties of the priests to determine and diagnose potential leprosy. When a person is afflicted, there are particular rituals the priest employs to help them regain ritual purity and return to the camp. Discussions of this Torah portion can help us relate to the importance of purity, as well as how to regain a pure state when we are "infected" by physical, spiritual or emotional "intruders."

April 27-28, Acharay Mot-Kedoshim, Leviticus 16:1-20:27

This double portion includes the "Holiness Code," which includes, among other things, the instructions for the Day of Atonement. A goat was used by the High Priest to take our sins away for us; the beginning of the term "scapegoat." It also includes a list of sexual prohibitions, primarily those related to incest. Continuing with the Holiness Code, Kedoshim begins with "You shall be holy, because I, the LORD your G-d, am holy." Most of these regulations are related to morality, including fair business practices and treating others with kindness. It repeats these themes multiple times, such as "Love your neighbor as yourself" and "Treat the stranger as one who resides with you, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." This portion reminds us that kindness to others is not merely a nice thing to do, but a sacred commandment from.

DONATIONS

GENERAL FUND

- Mary Lou Haidnick
Donna Sallee
In memory of her Husband Jeff Sallee
- Bruce and Susan Pollard
In Memory of Walter Heller
- Dan and Shawna Kullman
In honor of the conversion to Judaism of Roger Zevallos
Give a Gift to TBT
- Nigel Singh
Give a Gift to TBT

RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

- Ritchard and Michelle Shadian
In Honor of the birth, brit milah and baby naming of their son, Samuel Domenic Shadian
- Wesley Goble
In Memory of Barry Liss

TOM THERIOT MEMORIAL PROGRAM FUND

- Michael and Susan Cahn
In Honor of their new grandson, Max Samuel Kohn

BURT LEVY MEMORIAL LIBRARY FUND

- Wesley Goble
In Memory of Barry Liss

TRACY TOBIN JOHNSON MEMORIAL EDUCATION FUND

- Howard and Gail Tobin
In Memory of their daughter Tracy Tobin Johnson
- Wesley Goble
In Memory of Barry Liss

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

Give a Gift to TBT! A Fundraising Program at Temple Beth Torah is Underway!

A fundraising initiative has begun at Temple Beth Torah: "Give a Gift to TBT!" Please look for items needed by TBT on the **bulletin board in the synagogue's foyer**. Take the paper with the item you would like to donate and bring the item to TBT. It's that simple!!

Some of the needed items are **kitchen/bathroom supplies, Oneg supplies, and office/school supplies**. Items can be left in the kitchen to the right of the stovetop. Please place a note on your item so you can be acknowledged.

We will even take checks to defray some of our **ongoing expenses**. These needed donations will also be listed on cards on the bulletin board. Checks for monetary donations can be made payable to Temple Beth Torah.

Please contact admin Stacey Blumin at admin@tbthumble.org with questions or suggestions. We hope you will be interested in participating in this program of "tzedakah" and help our synagogue.

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

APRIL 2018

NISAN – IYAR 5778

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NO Religious School or Hebrew NO Adult Ed – Temple Closed					7:15 PM Shabbat Service	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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 YOM HASHOAH Shabbat Service	4:30 PM Bar Mitzvah of Dylan Daniels
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			12:30 PM Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Dan		7:15 PM Shabbat Service	10 AM – Cooking event with ISJL fellow 5PM Youth Event with ISJL fellow
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					6:30 PM Family Shabbat Service with Cantor Tunitsky and the Religious school students	
29	30	May 1	2	3	4	5
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@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 _____



Temple Beth Torah

320 Shallow Drive

Humble, TX 77338

(281) 446-5611

www.tbthumble.org