

# Temple Beth Torah

## NEWS FOR YOU

April 2021 NISSAN – IYAR 5781



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Gordon**  
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### TBT's Holocaust Remembrance Shabbat Service

Friday, April 9. 7:00 PM

### Welcomes Holocaust Survivor Nadira Lorin

Temple Beth Torah will honor the memory of those who lost their lives in the Holocaust and honor those who survived with a special Shabbat service on Friday, April 9th at 7:00 p.m. Rabbi Dan Gordon will lead the service with cantorial soloist Anita Bonanno. Ms. Bonanno's beautiful singing will help set the tone for the evening, as the synagogue's annual commemorative service pays tribute to victims and survivors of the most horrific time in history. Temple Beth Torah is honored to have Holocaust survivor, Nadira Lorin, speak to the congregation.

Nadira Rothe Lorin was born in Amsterdam, The Netherlands just before the start of World War II. She was four years old in 1943 when her loving parents had to hide her with a Gentile family which was prompted by the round-up of Jews that occurred in Holland that year. She survived the war in the care of a baker's family in a tiny town in Northern Holland. Her journey and the courage of her parents is another Holocaust story you will not want to miss.

Countless observances occur during this season to help pay tribute to the memory of those who died in the Holocaust, as well as honor those who were able to survive to tell their stories. Temple Beth Torah is fortunate to have been able to host a Holocaust survivor every year at this time. Hy Penn and Lynn Gordon are sponsoring the service in loving memory of Hy's parents and grandmother, Holocaust survivors Linda Penn, Morris I. Penn and Riva Kremer.

## Shabbat Services and Events in April

<b>Friday, April 2</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Virtual Shabbat Service</b>
<b>Friday, April 9</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Holocaust Remembrance Virtual Shabbat Service</b> See article above
<b>Tuesday, April 13</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>	<b>LUNCHTIME LEARNING with Gregg Philipson</b> See article on page 2
<b>Thursday, April 15</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Comedian Benji Lovitt – "Israeli History Through Comedy"</b> See article on page 2
<b>Friday, April 16</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>TOT SHABBAT VIRTUAL</b> Virtual Shabbat Service
<b>Friday, April 23</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Virtual Shabbat Service – Led by Special Guest Ellie Flier</b> See article below on page 2
<b>Sunday, April 25</b>	<b>3:00 PM –</b> <b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>Drive By—Drop Off at TBT</b> See the article from TBT Cares for the items we need on page 7
<b>Tuesday, April 27</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>	<b>LUNCHTIME LEARNING with Rabbi Dan</b>
<b>Friday, April 30</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Virtual Shabbat Service</b>

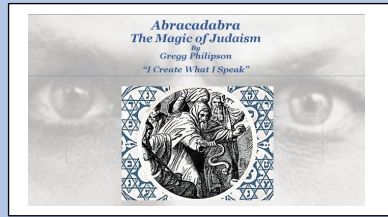
## MISSION STATEMENT

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.

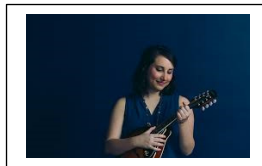
Temple Beth Torah embraces the spirit of inclusion for Jewish individuals and families who represent a variety of backgrounds and family compositions.

### Lunchtime Learning: Tuesday, April 13 at Noon “Abracadabra, the Magic of Judaism” with Gregg Philipson



**Guest speaker Gregg Philipson returns to TBT’s Lunchtime Learning for another colorful and engaging talk. This presentation examines the history and significant contributions of Jewish magicians of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Don’t blink or you will miss this interesting lunchtime program!**

### Nashville Singer/Songwriter Ellie Flier Returns to TBT to Lead Virtual Shabbat Service Friday, April 23 at 7:00 pm



Join us for an exciting Shabbat service as singer/songwriting Elie Flier welcomes us into Shabbat. An inspiring performer, cantorial soloist, and song leader based in Nashville, Ellie Flier has found her passion and purpose in writing and singing Jewish music. Listeners can’t help but feel a palpable connection to her songs, whether calling for social justice or rising up in joyous celebration. Please join Ellie for this very special Shabbat. A link will be sent in the weekly email or contact [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org).

### Comedian Benji Lovitt presents: “Israeli History Through Comedy” Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm



In honor of Yom Ha’atzmaut, Israel Independence Day, join TBT as comedian Benji Lovitt leads us through an entertaining historical journey using film and TV clips to track some of the paradigmatic periods and transformative events in Israeli history—all through the lens of humor. His unique observations about Israel are absolutely hilarious!

Temple Beth Torah in Humble has partnered with Temple Sinai in West Houston, other synagogues of the south, and the Institute of Southern Jewish Life in bringing this program to you. The link will be sent in the weekly email or contact [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org).



### **Celebrate Shabbat Virtually** **Friday Nights at 7:00 pm with** **Rabbi Dan Gordon**

Zoom into Shabbat virtually every Friday evening at 7:00 PM. We are having great attendance, so don’t miss out!! Zoom links are emailed regularly, and the link for Friday night services is always the same. If you need the link, email [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org)

Several kind members have chosen to sponsor a service in honor of an occasion, a simcha, an accomplishment or in memory of a loved one. If you would like to sponsor a Shabbat service, please contact Stacey at [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org).

## **RABBI'S MESSAGE**

### **...and the Journey Continues**

During our busy 21<sup>st</sup> Century lives, most of our schedules do not necessarily revolve around the Hebrew calendar. We participate in holiday programs and activities when they come up, but we may not pay much attention to how it all fits together. Think, for a moment, about the natural order of the world. Plants give us oxygen and we give plants carbon dioxide; but we don't really notice it. The insect and animal worlds regulate themselves through the food they eat, whether it is plants or other living beings; and it continues to perpetuate throughout past, present, and future. The world was set up in a way that makes sense. And so was the Jewish calendar, both ancient and modern.

As April begins, we are concluding our most transformative time of Passover. We celebrate breaking out of the narrow confines of slavery to experience the journey of the wilderness. The seven weeks between Passover and Shavuot, which commemorates the receiving of the Ten Commandments, are meant to remind us of a spiritual journey that leads to commitment, promises and a special relationship with God. The journey includes many challenges, and the destination – the Promised Land – provides even more challenges. Our journeys continually offer us ways to grow in our knowledge, our spiritual well-being, and our commitment to making the world a better place, day by day.

Post-biblically, our calendar continues to give us ways to observe important historical celebrations and challenges of the world. 33 days after we begin “counting of the Omer” (numbering each of the 49 days between Passover and Shavuot), we take a break from solemnity and celebrate Lag B'Omer, a festive time that recalls a brave revolution of Jews against the Roman Empire. Closer to present day, we have three special occurrences related to history: Yom HaShoah, honoring the memory of the Holocaust; Yom Ha-Zikoron, a day of remembrance for fallen Israeli soldiers; and the very next day, Yom Ha-Atzmaut, or Israeli Independence Day.

I think the modern calendar is trying to remind us that we still have a long way to travel. We continue to remember harsh times when enemies, whether Ancient Egypt, the Crusades or Nazi Germany, seek to destroy us. And we continue to celebrate our persistent resilience, maintaining strength despite the challenges. We stand to remember; we stand to celebrate; and we continue our journey to preserve our identity.

It isn't always easy. It isn't supposed to be. It requires dedication, commitment, and learning. Survival demands us to fulfill traditions and create new ones and make our time enjoyable and stimulating. With every hurdle we jump over, a new challenge can get in the way. The challenges make life exciting, and our ability to persevere energizes us to keep re-creating ways to be touched by deep meanings and mysterious questions.

On Yom HaShoah, we will learn with Nadira Lorin and Anita Bonanno. On Independence Day, we will laugh with Benji Lovitt. And before, after, and in between, we will continue the journey seeking fun, exciting, perplexing, and insightful ways to be Jewish.

**L'shalom,**

*Rabbi Dan Gordon*

**Happy Birthday to Rabbi Dan Gordon On His 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday April 23<sup>rd</sup>!!**

## **LUNCHTIME LEARNING with Rabbi Dan**

**Tuesday, April 27 12:00 PM**

### ***Nourishment for the Body, Mind and Soul***

Rabbi Dan Gordon facilitates a relaxed discussion on a variety of topics, including mitzvot, Torah, holidays, current events and Jewish Practices. Topics vary, and everyone gets a chance to participate. Zoom with us and get ready to nourish both your mind and your body! No RSVP necessary, feel free to just show up! The Zoom links will be in the weekly email. Please contact Stacey at [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) for questions.

## **Virtual Programming Fund and Shabbat Sponsorship**

For a small congregation, TBT has brought wonderful guests to our virtual Shabbat services and special events. From the music of Ellie Flier and the Yedidyah Family Band to the comedy of Rabbi Robert Haas to the wonderful presentations and words of wisdom from Gregg Philipson, Rabbi Rami Shapiro, Rabbi David Zaslow and Rabbi Seymour Rossel, these special guests have added a special dimension to our virtual programs. Please consider giving to our Virtual Programming Fund so we can continue such high caliber programs.

You can also be a "Shabbat Sponsor" to honor or remember a loved one.

Send your donations to TBT and note that your support is to go to the Virtual Programming Fund or to be a Shabbat sponsor.

Please contact Stacey at [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) with any questions.

## **Join a Committee!**

Have you thought about becoming more active at TBT? One way is to join a committee. Some of our committees include the building, ritual, social, membership, fundraising, education, social justice and safety & security committees.

A new committee that is being brought back is the caring committee. This committee is designed to remember members on special occasions, help with meals if ill, and brighten people's lives.

If you are interested in serving on a committee or for more information, please contact Hy Penn at [president@tbthumble.org](mailto:president@tbthumble.org).

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

### **Remembering...**

As many of you know, my brother, sister, and I grew up with 3 Holocaust survivors in our home. My mother, Linda Penn, and maternal grandmother, Riva Kremer, survived multiple concentration camps while my father, Morris I. Penn, was hidden by Christian farmers around his hometown of Vilkaviskis, Lithuania. They were able to survive but most of their family members were not so fortunate.

My father's home of Vilkaviskis had a thriving Jewish community with 4000 Jews out of a population of 10,000 people. My father and his family had a rich Jewish life in their community. There were multiple synagogues and Jewish schools and most of the merchants were Jewish in this small town. My father's parents owned a store that catered to the farmers around Vilkaviskis and they became friends with many of these Christian customers.

After witnessing the murder of his father and one of his brothers, my father realized that he and his mother, sister, remaining brother and sister-in-law were not safe anymore and must go into hiding. They contacted Christian farmers they knew, and some agreed to help. My father's mother and sister were hidden on one farm, his brother and sister-in-law on another farm, and my father was hidden on another farm. They could not stay in one hiding place too long for fear of being found. Unfortunately, my father's mother and sister were caught and murdered. My father, uncle, and aunt were able to survive thanks to these righteous gentiles.

In 1992, my father had a burning desire to find the families that had hid him during the war. He arranged a trip for my family to travel with him to the place of his ancestral roots and it was an amazing trip! We arrived in Vilkaviskis and met in the home of a family that had hid Jews in their home during WW II and they were still living in that same house! The Maladauskas family was warm and welcoming. We met with several members of the families that had hid my father and we all went to the site where my grandfather and uncle were murdered and buried. We then said Kaddish, the Jewish prayer to remember those that were no longer with us.

We asked Mr. Maladauskas why he did what he did. Why did he risk his life, the life of his wife, and the life of his then 3-year-old daughter to save these Jews he did not know? He turned to us with tears flowing from his eyes and said, "it had to be done." He was not going to allow innocent people to die.

We all have powers to be called on when needed. We each have the power to make a difference in the world.

This is the month in which we remember the Holocaust, and I hope you join us for TBT's annual Holocaust Remembrance Shabbat Service on April 9<sup>th</sup> when we will hear the personal story of Holocaust survivor Nadira Lorin. We must remember so we do not forget.

***Hy Penn***

## **Meet the TBT Board of Directors: This Month We Introduce Jeff Kaufman and Jeremy Blumin**

### **Jeff Kaufman:**

Howdy, I'm Jeff Kaufman and I currently chair both the Safety and Security committee and the Membership committee. Alice and I joined TBT in 1996 after moving to Kingwood from Baton Rouge.

I have been on the TBT board of directors most years since joining holding different positions including serving as President for 5 years and Treasurer for 5 years.

I was raised in Brooklyn, NY (fuhgeddaboutit). Professionally, I am a chemical engineer having received a BS from Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn and an MS from Purdue University. I retired from ExxonMobil in 2016 after 44 years. We travelled some with Exxon and served long stints in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada. Now I work part time as an independent consultant.

Travel has been restricted as of late. Alice and I enjoy spending time with my daughter Sarah and her family—especially the little ones Arya and Grayson as well as with my son Marty's family – especially with the new arrival of Ainsley.

I feel strongly that Jewish citizens have an obligation to help propagate the Jewish faith. That's why I feel good about volunteering to help TBT grow and prosper.

### **Jeremy Blumin:**

I'm Jeremy Blumin and I hold two positions on the TBT Board of Directors—that of Building chair and Past President. As Building chair, I am responsible for our physical plant from changing lightbulbs to making sure our AC is working during the hot Texas summers! As Past President, my duties include keeping cohesiveness from one administration to another.

I grew up in Culver City, California which is about 12 miles west of Los Angeles. Culver City has been a center of film and television production including the headquarters of MGM Studios and Sony Pictures. It was also the home of the Hughes Aircraft Company for many years. I celebrated my Bar Mitzvah while living there.

I attended Cal Poly Pomona majoring in Aerospace Engineering and then worked for Boeing Satellite Systems launching satellites into space. I met Stacey while in college in 1996 and we finally married in 2004.

I decided to pursue a career as a commercial airline pilot and was hired by Mesa in 2001. I have flown many different types of planes, flown all over the world and have lived in many cities across the United States. I was hired by Continental Airlines in 2007. Our daughter Rachael was born in 2009 and we moved to Kingwood in 2010 when we became members of Temple Beth Torah. Our son Aaron was born in 2011.

In my spare time, I enjoy visiting with friends, bike riding and all types of trains. My wife Stacey is the TBT administrator.

Since the airline industry has given me many challenges, I also have chosen a second career working with people and businesses on their personal and corporate taxes.

I love being Jewish and I have enjoyed helping Rachael and Aaron with their Hebrew lessons and quizzing them on their aleph-bet!

## Drive By and Drop Off For HAAM and FamilyTime

Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 3:00pm –  
4:00pm at TBT

This month we are collecting:

### For the women at FamilyTime:

- African American Hair Care Products (shampoo, conditioner, gel, liquid hair oils)
- Nail Clippers/ files and Tweezers
- Fine Tooth Combs
- Boar Bristle Brushes

### For Humble Area Assistance Ministries:

- Mac 'n' Cheese
- Any kind of boxed meal pastas
- Dry beans in 1 or 2 lb. bags.
- All nonperishable foods

If you would like to donate but aren't able to come on April 25<sup>th</sup> please email Susan at [spollard@tbthumble.org](mailto:spollard@tbthumble.org) to make other arrangements.

Thank you to those who donated this month!!

We want to thank The Blumin Family, The Delap Family, Pat Klemz, The Keith Family, Sandra Kurlander, Lauren Herman, The Lurie Family, Jeanne Mandell, The Penn Gordon Family, The Pilman Family, The Pollard Family, Marcia Shultis, Dale Vine, Mort Winter, Catherine and Lizzy Zakes. We filled 2 shopping carts for the HAAM food pantry!!

## *Simchas in April Birthdays*

2	Neil Davis
3	Owen Brawn
7	Paige Nossal
8	Carole Curtis
10	Shannon Ellsworth
11	Dylan Daniels
12	Debbie Swaim
12	Shayna Ellsworth
17	Gail Ambrose
17	Daniella Pilman
17	Lia Pilman
18	Brandy Bedgood
19	Jenna Bleiberg
20	Steve Smith
23	Dan Gordon
23	Jan Pope
25	Howard Tobin
25	Leah Ramirez
27	Dany Pilman
29	Sydney Daniels

## 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](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) or leave a message at 281-446-5611.

*Milton Rackmil, Ida Glaser, 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, Nora Stapleton, Lisa Sparber,  
Melvin Lapman*

## **Religious School Corner**

**Carrie Keith, Religious School Principal**

Chag Samayach! Happy Passover!

Congratulations to Samuel and Sydney Baur for becoming Bar and Bat Mitzvot. They did an excellent job. It was TBT's first zoom B'Nai Mitzvot. Thank you to Mike Miller for all of his technical expertise. Thank you to Rabbi Dan and Ms. Andrea Miller for working with Sammy and Sydney in their preparations for this wonderful life cycle event.

Our first Zoom class for April will be on April 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am followed by Hebrew class. The 6<sup>th</sup> through 10 graders will participate in a virtual tour of Holocaust Museum Houston with TBT's Dr. Hy Penn leading the tour. We are excited to partner with Congregation Beth Yeshurun for this program. Thank you to the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston and Lisa Klein for organizing this virtual field trip for our older students. Later in the month these students will have another very special class with Lisa Stone from the Anti-Defamation League to discuss bullying and prejudice and how to respond.

It was wonderful to see several of TBT's students participating in the Passover Seder. Kudos to Aaron Blumin, Rachael Blumin, Manny Miller, Danielle Pilman, and Lia Pilman. Great Job! There are many opportunities for students to take part in upcoming Shabbat services. Contact Rabbi Dan or Ms. Andrea Miller to set this up.

The Confirmation students are working on their projects for the year. Hebrew students are very busy working on prayers and all of our Religious School kiddos have continued to learn about holidays, Torah, prayer, mitzvot and tikkun olam.

We just have a few classes left this year. Look for information to come about a Special -Exciting -Fun - End of the Year Program for May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **SUNDAY DISCUSSION GROUP** **SUNDAYS at 11:30 A.M.**

The Sunday Discussion Group is open to all and will be discussing **Einstein and the Rabbi: Searching for the Soul** by **Naomi Levy**.

A bestselling author and rabbi's profoundly affecting exploration of the meaning and purpose of the soul, inspired by the famous correspondence between Albert Einstein and a grieving rabbi.

If you have questions, please email Susan at [spollard@tbthumble.org](mailto:spollard@tbthumble.org). The discussion group meets through Zoom. The link remains the same each week and is sent out in our weekly emails.

## **ADULT EDUCATION - TORCH** **(TORAH OUTREACH RESOURCE CENTER OF HOUSTON)** **SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM VIA ZOOM**

TORCH Rabbi Yaakov Wolbe leads a discussion of **Pirke Avot** (Ethics of the Fathers). All meetings will be through Zoom. Any questions please contact [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org). The Zoom links are sent out in the weekly email. No class on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **Tot Shabbat** **Friday, April 16, 6:30 PM**

Please join Rabbi Dan at 6:30 PM on April 16th right before our Shabbat Service for a fun Tot Shabbat program. Same Zoom link as every Friday. Rabbi Dan will lead the kids in a fun and creative service with some learning, too. Any questions please contact Stacey at [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org)

## **AMAZON SMILE**

Please make sure you are using Amazon smile for all your purchases.

Shop on amazon and give tzedakah to TBT. Type this web site and log into your amazon account and choose Temple Beth Torah in Humble, TX and a percentage of your shopping will go to TBT. [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com)

## **KROGER card to support TBT**

Kroger has recently upgraded their Community Rewards system and as a result TBT has a new account number-VE980. Please use this new number when linking your Kroger card to TBT so we can receive a percentage of your Kroger purchases. It's an easy way to help TBT earn some money. While the previous number will continue to be associated with our organization, it will not be visible to members when enrolling. New members can enroll by searching for either VE980 or Temple Beth Torah. If you are a Kroger shopper, please link your Kroger card to TBT at no cost to you.



## Torah Portions for April 2021

*Summarized by Rabbi Dan Gordon*

### **April 2-3, 2021 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 9-10, 2021 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 16-17, 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 23-24, 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.

### **April 30-May 1, 2021 Emor, Leviticus 21:1-24:23**

Emor begins with instructions for the priests, who were considered separate from others. Priests could not have any blemishes and had to refrain from any activity that could potentially contaminate their purity. Several rituals are described, including setting aside a portion of “cake” as a burnt offering. In modern times, this burnt offering is still practiced by many who bake challah. We are also given instructions for harvesting our fields. We are to leave the corners for poor people to be able to glean what they need without the embarrassment of having to ask.

## 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 our Caring Committee at [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) or leave a message at TBT, 281-446-5611.

## Congratulations! – Mazel Tov!!

Congratulations go out to Susan and Jim Meinholz on the upcoming wedding of their son Jeff Meinholz to Marleah Palmer.

Good wishes go out to Jeff and Marleah!

## DONATIONS

### RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

*John and Bobbylee Ruskis*

*Dale Vine*

*Chris and Alyce Baur*

### TRACY TOBIN JOHNSON EDUCATION FUND

*Chris and Alyce Baur – in honor of Andrea Miller for her help in preparing Samuel and Sydney Baur for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah*

### GENERAL FUND

*Lynn Gordon and Hy Penn – in honor of the upcoming wedding of Jeff Meinholz and Marleah Palmer.*

*Lynn Gordon and Hy Penn – in honor of Rabbi Dan Gordon's Birthday*

### TBT CARES – SOCIAL ACTION

**THANK YOU TO ALL THE FAMILIES THAT HAVE DONATED FOR THE DRIVE BY AND DROP OFF EVENTS**

### VIRTUAL PROGRAM FUND

### SPONSORS OF SHABBAT SERVICES

*If you would like to sponsor a TBT Zoom event in honor of an occasion or in memory of a loved one, please contact Stacey at [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org).*

***Please Consider Making a Donation to Temple Beth Torah This Month! Your Support is Always Appreciated!***

## 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 yahrzeit (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.

You can now make a donation online to any of our funds. Tell your friends and family to visit our website, [www.tbthumble.org](http://www.tbthumble.org), to make a donation or see the donations form in this newsletter.

### 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.

### LEGACY GIVING SOCIETY

TBT's Legacy Giving Society is a group of visionary donors who have committed themselves to the future of Temple Beth Torah. Legacy gifts are easily to establish, cost nothing during your lifetime, and make a difference for our community. Contact [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) for more information.

### SCOTT ERIC KAUFMAN TECHNOLOGY FUND

This fund helps support the technology needs of TBT including computers, screens, and cameras and will help with our virtual programming. The fund was established in memory of Dr. Scott Eric Kaufman.

# 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](mailto: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 \_\_\_\_\_



*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
- Scott Eric Kaufman Technology Fund
- Tracy Tobin Johnson Memorial Education Fund
- Tom Theriot Memorial Program Fund
- Temple Security 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

*On March 30, 2021, Rabbi Gordon was invited to deliver the invocation at the meeting of the Harris County Commissioners, led by Judge Lina Hidalgo. He was invited by Jack Cagle, Commissioner of Precinct 4, which includes Humble. Here is the blessing Rabbi Gordon presented:*

Allow me to offer respectful greetings to the Honorable Judge Hidalgo, and Commissioners Ellis, Garcia, Cagle and Ramsey and all others who have business to present today. It is an honor for me to be invited to offer a blessing for this important meeting. Harris County includes one of the most diverse populations in the U.S., and I commend the Commissioners for choosing diverse ways to open your meetings. Of the many faith communities represented in Harris County, this season recognizes that three of the most numerous communities observe important springtime festivals that help define sacred values. The Christian community is preparing for Easter, a time of rebirth, renewal, resurrection and hope. In two weeks, the Muslim community will be starting the sacred fast of Ramadan, strengthening their community and spiritual connections with the Almighty. And my own community in the Jewish world is in the midst of Passover, the story of liberation of one people that carries universal lessons. Of the many lessons the Passover story teaches, I am going to share two significant ones that are meaningful for Harris County at this time.

One commandment in the Hebrew Scriptures is repeated more than any other. Thirty-six times, in one form or another, we are taught: "Treat the stranger as one of your own, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." Almost every American has ancestors who were once new to this country and could be regarded as strangers. Thinking of people as strangers leads to ignorance, fear and prejudice. When we make the effort to get to know the other, to TRULY know the other...there are no strangers, and we become one community.

Another lesson from the biblical Exodus helps us learn about responding to challenges. The Jewish people were enslaved for generations. Of course this is a universal story, as we know all too well about other populations who have been unjustly enslaved. When our people were finally redeemed, our freedom journey started in a mysterious, sometimes dangerous desert wilderness. The struggles in the desert led to finding a Promised Land...but, of course, there were challenges there, too. Throughout the generations, one challenge leads to another, but each one brings new knowledge wisdom and inner strength. Harris County has endured Hurricanes, debilitating freeze, economic turmoil and many other challenges. Those who dedicate themselves to the well-being of the community know this as well as anyone. Overcoming a hurricane does not mean we won't have another one. But we learn from our challenges. And now, as we battle a health pandemic, we count on the wisdom of our leaders to help guide us to the ways of health and safety.

Three thousand years ago, the Jewish people had a guide to help us through challenges in the wilderness. His name was Moses. When the challenges were great, Moses and his brother, Aaron delivered a blessing that has stood the test of time for many Jews and Christians. I offer you this blessing, that is found in the Book of Numbers, for the sacred work you do to care for the well-being of all of Harris County:

May God bless you and protect you.

May God's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

May God's presence be with you, and give you peace.

Judge, Commissioners and staff: May the work you do today, and every day bring a sense of comfort and unity to all those who live in and visit our home...Harris County, Texas.

And may we all say: AMEN!

# APRIL 2021 NISSAN - IYAR 5781

ALL PROGRAMS LISTED ON THE MARCH CALENDAR WILL BE VIRTUAL. LINKS TO LOG IN TO PROGRAMS ARE SENT REGULARLY THROUGH EMAIL. If you are not receiving the information, EMAIL [ADMIN@TBTHUMBLE.ORG](mailto:ADMIN@TBTHUMBLE.ORG)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
					7:00 PM VIRTUAL Shabbat Service	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
NO Religious School NO Adult Ed – TORCH class 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group					7:00 PM VIRTUAL Shabbat Service Yom HaShoah – Holocaust Remembrance Day	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:00 AM Religious School 10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group		LUNCHTIME LEARNING 12 noon with Gregg Philipson		7:00 PM Comedian Benji Lovitt	6:30 PM TOT SHABBAT – Virtual 7:00 PM VIRTUAL Shabbat Service	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:00M AM Religious School 10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group					7:00 PM VIRTUAL Shabbat Service - led by Ellie Flier	
25	26	27	28	29	30	MAY 1
10:00 AM Religious School NO Adult Ed – TORCH class 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group 3:00PM – 4:00PM Drive By and Drop Off		LUNCHTIME LEARNING 12 noon with Rabbi Dan			7:00 PM VIRTUAL Shabbat Service	