

Temple Beth Torah

July 2021 Bulletin

“A Month of Musical Shabbats”



Although Rabbi Dan is on vacation until August 13th, TBT will continue to have virtual Shabbat worship services every Friday at 7 pm with guest leaders who each have special musical talents. Links will be sent in the weekly emails or contact admin@tbthumble.org:

July 2 at 7:00 pm: Janice Rubin. Janice Rubin returns to TBT with her beautiful voice and spiritual insights which will enrich our Shabbat experience. Besides being an accomplished singer and musician, Janice is a professional photographer and educator. Janice’s visit is being sponsored by anonymous donations to the Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund.

July 9 at 7:00 pm: Ellie Flier. Ellie has become a favorite at TBT and the spirit and purity of her voice have moved audiences since she was a child. Now an inspiring performer, cantorial soloist, and song leader based in Nashville, she has found her passion and purpose in writing Jewish music. The service is sponsored by Lynn Gordon and Hy Penn in honor of their upcoming 33rd wedding anniversary.

July 16 at 7:00 pm: Bertrand Malo. Bert Malo is passionate about the arts and has had extensive training and professional experience in acting, voice and opera. He has been invited to perform as a cantorial soloist and as a service leader for Jewish Organizations and Synagogues in Canada and Israel. He practices as a Federal Prosecutor for the Public Prosecution Service of Canada. Bert will be accompanied on the flute and piano by professional musicians Barbara and Reinhard Kroller. Thanks to our TBT friend from Canada, Herb Sacks, for introducing Bert to us.

July 23 at 7:00 pm: Ellie Flier. Ellie returns with special melodies for a memorable Shabbat worship. The service is being sponsored by Castine Theriot and the Tom Theriot Memorial Program Fund.

July 30 at 7:00 pm: Cantor Francyne Davis Jacobs. Native Houstonian Cantor Francyne returns to TBT by popular demand. She completed her cantorial training at Gratz College in Philadelphia in 2002 and she has been a Shabbat and High Holiday cantor at several synagogues in the Houston area. Cantor Davis teaches music to all ages, and currently serves as president of the Women Cantors’ Network. The service is being sponsored by Steven Smith, M.D.

Drive By Drop Off Event Sunday, July 11 between 3:00 pm and 4:00 pm

Please come by TBT on Sunday, July 11 between 3:00 pm and 4:00 pm to drop off items for the Humble Area Assistance Ministries (HAAM) and the FamilyTime Women's and Children's shelter. Donations are greatly needed and appreciated. Non-perishable food is always needed.

FamilyTime Donations: Laundry Detergent Pods, New Twin Size Mattress Protector and Covers, Unopened and Unused Paper goods and cups.

HAAM- school supplies (lined paper, pencils, crayons, folders, backpacks)

"Pop-Up Clean Up Days" in July and August

There is much to do at TBT to get the building ready for our August 13th opening. If you are interested in volunteering to help, please contact Hy Penn at president@tbthumble.org to find a time that works for you. We are limiting the number of people that participate for each time slot. We need your help!

Special Virtual Musical Shabbat Service on Friday, August 6 at 7:00 pm

Planning is underway for our last service before Rabbi Dan returns. We have many surprises planned to make this one Shabbat service you will not want to miss!

TBT Set to Reopen on Friday, August 13

TBT is gearing up to reopen our doors August 13 at 7:00 pm for Shabbat worship. We are following CDC and local recommendations closely and we will have specific information for you in early August regarding our protocol for reopening. We are planning to continue to offer virtual services when we do start in-person worship.

Membership Update Forms Are Due July 15th

All TBT members should have received a membership update form. Please complete and return to TBT by July 15. These forms are vital in making sure we can operate within our means. Please contact admin@tbthumble.org with any questions. We truly appreciate your support!! Interested in becoming a new member? Please let us hear from you!

Save the date for our Annual Open House on Sunday, August 15

An Open House to welcome everyone back is scheduled for Sunday, August 15. More details to follow.

High Holidays are Coming.

Mark your calendars for TBT's High Holiday Services. Complete details will be in the August newsletter.

Erev Rosh Hashanah service: Monday, September 6

Rosh Hashanah morning service: Tuesday, September 7

Kol Nidre: Wednesday, September 15

Yom Kippur: Thursday, September 16

Condolences:

Our sympathy goes out to Jim Meinholz on the passing of his father, George Meinholz.

Thinking of Sean Miller on the passing of his grandfather, Philip Sacks.

Adult Education via Zoom

- **Sunday Discussion Group—Every Sunday at 11:30 am**

The Sunday Discussion Group is open to all and is discussing "Caste" by Isabel Wilkerson. Please join us via Zoom for interesting conversations.

If you have questions, please email Susan at spollard@tbthumble.org. The link remains the same each week and is sent out in our weekly emails or contact admin@tbthumble.org.

- **TORCH (Torah Outreach Resource Center Of Houston) Sundays at 10 am**

TORCH Rabbi Yaakov Wolbe leads a discussion of Pirke Avot (Ethics of the Fathers). All meetings will be through Zoom. The link is sent out in our weekly emails or contact admin@tbthumble.org.

ARE YOU RECEIVING ALL YOUR EMAILS?

Because new things are happening all the time, you should be receiving at least one email a week with login information about Shabbat and other programs. The Shabbat Zoom will always be the same, but all other programs will have their own information.

Some members have reported that they do not always receive an email. We have learned that sometimes, the email gets diverted to another folder, like SPAM or PROMOTIONS. Please check your other folders, or if you feel you are missing some information, contact admin@tbthumble.org

TBT Donate a Brick Campaign:

A wonderful way to honor or remember someone. Please visit the website at www.tbthumble.org to download the form. Celebrate a birth, death, marriage or other mitzvah.

Order Your Memorial Plaques NOW

Now is the time to place your order for memorial plaques that are displayed on the walls of our sanctuary. The cost of the plaque is a minimum \$300 donation; checks can be made payable to Temple Beth Torah.

Once you have sent in the donation, please contact Rabbi Dan at rabbidangordon@gmail.com with the following information:

English name as you wish it to appear on the plaque
Hebrew name if known
Date of Death.

Unfortunately, the deadline to place the order for it to be ready by Rosh Hashanah is **July 1, 2021**. Contact Rabbi Dan now to see if he can still get the order processed so the plaque can be here in time for the holidays.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL:

We are so excited that Religious School will be in person for the upcoming school year. The first day of Religious School will be part of our Open House on August 15 with fun activities and school registration. The first day of class will be August 22 at 9:00 am. Every student will need a water bottle and a supply box this year with pencils, crayons, scissors, glue sticks, markers, and a dry erase marker (everything labeled). All other supplies such as construction paper, folders, paint etc. will be supplied.

All of the teachers are busy planning an awesome year full of fun activities. For the summer, there are some good sites for Jewish learning such as Akhlah.com, Jewishkids.org, and myjewishlearning.org. Also, for those of you that have Seesaw accounts for elementary age children, there are lots of Jewish themed books on their site. Just go to the search option. In the meantime, read some good books, take some long walks and stay connected with friends and family.

See you all on August 15th for Open House and on August 22 for class.

CARRIE KEITH

DONATIONS:

A Big THANK YOU to everyone who sponsored a service or a program:

Wes Goble - Friday night service in memory of Harold Liss

Lynn Gordon and Hy Penn - in honor of their upcoming 33rd wedding anniversary

Herbert Sacks

Castine Theriot and the Tom Theriot Memorial Program Fund.

Steven Smith, M.D

General Fund:

Hy Penn and Lynn Gordon - In memory of George Meinholz, father of Jim Meinholz

Adam Waxman

Lorna and Ronald Hill

Rabbi Discretionary Fund:

Dale Vine

John and Bobbylee Ruskis

If you would like to sponsor a TBT event or service in honor of someone or in memory of a loved one, please contact Hy Penn at president@tbthumble.org or Stacey at admin@tbthumble.org

SIMCHAS IN JULY:

Birthdays

2 Ken Troxclair
3 Miranda Shuman
5 Bernice Troxclair
5 Briana Christman
6 Shari Ellsworth
9 Bruce Pollard
9 Morton Winter
12 Roger Zevallos
13 Sarah Miller
18 Mabel Abrasley
18 Roger Poser
19 Iris Kelley
23 Maxine Sussman
26 Bob Abrasley
31 Amy Nossal
31 Ellen Grayson

Anniversaries

6 Morton and Ellen Winter
30 John and Bobbylee Ruskis

Yahrzeits in July:

The following names will be read each week during July 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.

*Marc Fontanot, Leila Fern Camp, Sylvia Lesser, Lena Getz Lewis, Arthur Wiener,
Helen Myers, Esther Spalter, Arthur Bricker, Murray Cuppy Rosenberg, Morris Kaufman, Ruth Nodler
Schnitzer, Morris Blumstein, Marvin David Brand, Helen Wallack, Jack Stark, John Swaim, Cal Garcia,
Maurine Swaim, Max Sanders, Joan Zinda, Charles Lerner, Evelyn O'Rourke, Martha Houlihan,
Ilse Ballin, Joseph Lappen, Bea Moss*

TORAH PORTIONS for JULY 2021

Compiled by Rabbi Dan Gordon

July 2-3, 2021, Pinchas, Numbers 25:10-30:1

Pinchas kills an Israelite man and a Midianite woman who had entered a tent together, and this act, considered heroic, saved the Israelites from a plague. God rewards the zealot, Pinchas with a covenant of peace. While it may seem unusual for the killer of adulterers to receive the covenant of peace, this portion also includes a famous legal distinction for women. The daughters of Zelophehad claim they should have the right to his inheritance because he died with no male heirs. Although it contradicts the law at the time, God tells Moses that their claim is just, and the daughters are awarded the inheritance. Toward the end of the portion, God informs Moses that he will not enter the Promised Land and Joshua will be his successor.

July 9-10, 2021, Matot-Masei, Numbers 30:2-36:13 (double portion)

Moses resolves a land dispute and provides further instructions for dividing land among the tribes. He teaches the Israelites to set up cities of refuge where those accused of involuntary manslaughter may find justice.

July 16-17, 2021, D'varim, Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22

The beginning of the fifth and final book of the Torah is “Devarim,” or Hebrew for “words.” Moses begins a lengthy recounting of desert journey. He reminds the Israelites of their times of doubt and how God has helped them reach the brink of the Promised Land. God decrees that none of Moses’ generation will enter the land, and that Moses, himself, will not enter the land. Joshua has been delegated as the new leader, and a new generation of people, born in freedom, will undertake the challenge of settling in the land that was promised.

July 23-24, 2021, Va’Ethchanan, Deuteronomy 2:32-7:11

Moses recounts the Israelites’ experience in the desert and their connection with God. He reminds them that God had given Ten Commandments to live by, and also a series of rules, regulations and teachings. He repeats the Ten Commandments for all to remember. Shortly after the repetition of the Commandments, Moses pronounces what has become arguably the most sacred sentence in the whole Torah: “Hear, Oh Israel, the LORD is our God, the LORD is one.” This sentence (Shema, Deut. 6:4) is immediately followed by a paragraph (V’Ahavta) expressing our love for God and our commitment to instill this love in our children. Moses warns about the dangers of prosperity, and the risk of becoming complacent. We are encouraged that by following these teachings, all will be well for us throughout the generations.

July 30-31, 2021, Eikev, Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25

The Israelites may question, “How will we overtake the land (of Israel) when the other nations are more numerous?” Moses reminds them of the wonders that God guided them through when faced by Pharaoh. He then recounts the entire story about when he ascended the mountain to bring back the Ten Commandments. He includes the tale of the Golden Calf, and how God wanted to destroy the nation, but Moses pleaded with Him. Emphasizing the importance of *teshuvah* (repentance), Moses reminds the people that while God wrote the first tablets, Moses himself wrote the second set of Commandments. Moses pleads with God to enter the Holy Land, but God’s instructions are clear. Moses is to ascend to the top of the mountain to gaze upon the land, but to transfer the mantle of leadership to Joshua.