

# Temple Beth Torah

## NEWS FOR YOU

OCTOBER 2021 TISHREI – CHESHVAN 5782



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LEADER**

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### **SIMCHAT TORAH / SHABBAT WITH RABBI DAN AND JOE BUCHANAN IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 7:00 PM**



Our special guest musician for Simchat Torah is Joe Buchanan. We are delighted to have Joe Buchanan return to TBT for one of the most joyous Jewish celebrations of the year. Joe brings with him some Country, some Bluegrass and a lot of Jewish Soul. He and Rabbi Dan will lead a Very Exciting Celebration during Shabbat services as we honor both the ending and beginnings of Torah. This is the “Joy of Learning!” You won’t want to miss, in person or virtually. **Registration information for members to attend in person is in the weekly email as well as the link to attend virtually. Guests should email [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) to attend in person or to obtain the link to attend virtually if needed.**

### **IS SUPERMAN CIRCUMCISED? THE COMPLETE JEWISH HISTORY OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST SUPERHERO A ZOOM PRESENTATION FROM TEMPLE BETH TORAH AND THE INSTITUTE OF SOUTHERN JEWISH LIFE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 7:00 PM**

According to Author Roy Schwartz, SUPERMAN, the quintessential superhero and American icon is Jewish! In 1938, the Man of Steel was crated by two Jewish teenagers whose parents were immigrants from Eastern Europe. They based their hero’s origin story on Moses, his strength on Samson and his nebbish secret identity on themselves. They made him a refugee fleeing catastrophe on the eve of World War II and sent him to tear Nazi tanks apart just before the US joined the war.

Zoom UP, UP AND AWAY with TBT and ISJL and this fascinating story. Zoom link will be provided in the weekly email.

### **"JEWISH STARS OF BASEBALL"**

**Not just for Baseball fans**

Amazing Presentation about  
Jewish Baseball Players Past and  
Present

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 3, 5:00 PM  
VIA ZOOM**

Win a personalized painting with Jewish  
Players and Fans. Raffle Tickets available  
until October 13<sup>th</sup> on the TBT Website.  
See the article and a replica of the  
painting on page 5.

### **Special Zoom-Only Shabbat Friday, October 22, 7 PM STORYTELLERS SHABBAT**

As part of the New Mexico Jewish  
Storytelling Festival. See the article on  
page 2.

### **2nd Annual Ner Tamid Event**

Honoring the **FIRST FIRST LADY** of  
TBT Joni Levy

A true "Eternal Light" in our  
community!

**Save the Date!**

**Saturday, December 4, 2021  
7:00 PM**

### **ADL's Annual Walk Against Hate**

October 10

Take Steps to Improve the World!  
[walkagainsthate.org](http://walkagainsthate.org)

## 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.

## Special Zoom-Only Shabbat Friday, October 22, 7 PM

### TBT ZOOMS TO NEW MEXICO FOR STORYTELLER'S SHABBAT DIFFERENT ZOOM LINK FOR THIS SHABBAT ONLY

Rabbi Dan Gordon will be leading Shabbat services on Zoom as part of the New Mexico Jewish Storytelling Festival. For this special "Storyteller's Shabbat," Rabbi Dan will be joined by Hazzan (Cantor) Baruch Morris of Portland and Maggidah Batya Podos. A *Maggid* or *Maggidah* is someone who has been trained and ordained in the art of sacred Jewish storytelling.

Traditional prayers and unique melodies will be enhanced by nationally acclaimed Jewish storytellers from all over the country. While there will be no in-person service at Temple Beth Torah on this evening, TBT is grateful for the opportunity to experience this unique blend of Shabbat worship, Torah learning, music and stories. A special Zoom link will be provided after October 15.

The New Mexico Jewish Storytelling Festival is a program of Congregation Nahalot Shalom in Albuquerque and is sponsored by a grant from the New Mexico Jewish Federation. The festival continues Saturday and Sunday with workshops and performances featuring the best in Jewish storytelling. Rabbi Dan will also be part of a Saturday night concert during the festival. Those wishing to learn more about the complete virtual festival should email [nmjewishstorytelling@gmail.com](mailto:nmjewishstorytelling@gmail.com). The Zoom link will be available in an upcoming TBT weekly email or contact [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) to obtain.

## TBT NER TAMID 2021 Saturday, December 4, 2021 7:00 pm Temple Beth Torah

TBT created the Ner Tamid Award last year to honor members who shine a bright light for the future of TBT. Join us in celebrating this year's honoree, Mrs. Joni Levy, at a special fundraising event. Tickets will go on sale on October 15, 2021. They will be available on Eventbrite and the TBT website.

The money raised at this event helps provide additional funds for the temple that goes toward administration, education, the ritual department, programming, and maintenance.

In addition, there will be an online auction. This auction will begin on Friday, November 15 and go through Friday, November 26. The fundraising committee is asking for your help in securing auction items. We would appreciate your items any time from now until November 1st. These items can include but are not limited to the following: *toys, educational items, sports equipment, restaurant gift certificates, spa certificates, sport and entertainment items, jewelry, artwork, and other gift items.*

If you have a donation for the auction, please contact Donna Glaser at [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org).

We hope you will attend this wonderful event and support our online auction. Your support and participation will ensure a successful event for Temple Beth Torah!

## RABBI'S MESSAGE

### *What Happens Next?*

When the “big” holidays, the really High Holidays of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur are over, I am reminded of my younger years in high school and college. At the end of a school year, final exams were looming as well as the due dates for final papers. I would cram, study, lose some sleep, work hard, procrastinate and procrastinate some more. I was nervous and often questioned myself: Had I studied enough? Did I know the material? Did I express myself well on the assignments? How will I be judged? Then, in a matter of a few days, the exams were complete, and the papers were submitted. While waiting for the results, I breathed a sigh of relief. Soon afterwards, I would discover that I did well enough to progress to the next level of learning.

The emotions surrounding High Holidays can be similar. Granted, for a rabbi, the pressure is a little more intense. But the anticipation of a New Year is there for all of us. We focus our energies on these powerful days of worship, asking God to accept our prayers and inscribe us in the metaphorical “Book of Life” for a good year. People may start their emotional preparation for a new year at various times. The Jewish calendar gives us reminders beginning several months before. On Passover, we acknowledge freedom from bondage, and seven weeks later, on Shavuot, we celebrate receiving the Ten Commandments. After Shavuot comes Tisha B’Av, commemorating the date of the destruction of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. Each of these is a time of transition and renewal. Jewish life changed when we left Egypt, when received the Torah and when we changed our mode of worship from Temple sacrifices to communal prayer and study. Each of these events helps us think about the concept of starting something new. Every Passover, we have the opportunity to re-explore the concept of freedom. On Shavuot, we renew our commitment to Commandments and on Tisha B’Av we can contemplate how to deal with loss and move on to something new.

When students complete a level of learning, the next step can stimulate both excitement and nervous anticipation. It might be moving on from high school to college, or to a graduate program or to a job. It might even be completing a bar or bat mitzvah and becoming ready to develop into becoming a Jewish adult. We look back on what we’ve accomplished, and look forward to the mysteries of taking that next step. That is the excitement of a New Year. Whatever went into last year is a springboard for what happens next.

I am finally beginning to learn how endings and beginnings are linked. My graduation from college was a short-lived celebration that began the excitement for my first professional job. When I completed my rabbinic ordination, already several years into my service at Temple Beth Torah, I focused on becoming a better rabbi. A wedding is also a celebration that leads to the ongoing development of a committed relationship. The death of a spouse or a divorce, though hardly a celebration, is also a transition to the next step of life. With each transition, we learn how to move on.

That’s probably why Simchat Torah (literally “*the joy of learning*”) comes so soon after Yom Kippur. We’ve just completed “finals week” – the awesome mission of evaluating the past and preparing for the future. And *then*, we complete one level of Torah learning by reading the last section of Deuteronomy and *immediately* begin the next step by starting over with Genesis. And we call it a “simcha” – a joy. Because transitions, even hard ones, help us learn, grow and become the people we were destined to become.

What happens next? That is a mystery. And we’ll learn about it together, helping each other every new step of the way.

L’shalom,

*Rabbi Dan Gordon*

## Shabbat Services and Events in October

Friday, October 1	7:00 PM	Shabbat/Simchat Torah Celebration with Musical Guest Joe Buchanan In Person AND VIRTUAL
Sunday, October 3	5:00 PM	“Jewish Stars of Baseball” Special Virtual Presentation
Thursday, October 7	7:00 PM	“Is Superman Circumcised?” The Complete Jewish History of the World’s Greatest Hero – Virtual Presentation – co-sponsored by TBT and the ISJL
Friday, October 8	7:00 PM	Shabbat Service – In Person and Virtual
Friday, October 15	6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Virtual Tot Shabbat Service Shabbat Service – In Person and Virtual
Wed. October 20	12:00 PM	LUNCHTIME LEARNING - Virtual with Rabbi Dan via Zoom
Friday, October 22	7:00 PM	Virtual ONLY Shabbat Service – Special Storytellers Shabbat
Friday, October 29	7:00 PM	Shabbat Service – In Person and Virtual
Sundays, October 3, 17, 24 and 31	9:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Drop off your items for HAAM and FamilyTime on days of Religious School See the article from TBT Cares for the items we need on page 6

## Temple Beth Torah In-Person Shabbat Worship Guidelines

### Registration Not Required to Attend in-Person Shabbat Worship Starting October 8

Starting October 8<sup>th</sup>, registration to attend in-person Shabbat worship will not be required for most Friday evening services.

Our attendance protocols have not changed (see below) and all those entering the building will be asked to answer a series of questions regarding their health and possible exposure to COVID-19. We want everyone coming to worship at TBT to be safe.

Please feel free to let us know if you have any questions.

### Shabbat In-Person Worship Guidelines:

1. As per the CDC recommendations, everyone eligible for vaccination against COVID-19 should be vaccinated.
2. Do not come to Temple Beth Torah if you are ill with a communicable disease or if you have had possible or known exposure to COVID-19.
3. Everyone in the building must wear a mask except those speaking from the pulpit.
4. Distance yourself from others outside your family or friend “pod.” The sanctuary capacity will be limited.
5. An usher will be available in the sanctuary to help with seating and answer any questions.
6. There will be no food served in the building.

**Just in Time for the Baseball Playoffs!  
"Jewish Stars of Baseball"  
A Special Virtual Presentation and  
Art Raffle Benefitting TBT  
Sunday, October 3, 2021 at 5:00 PM via Zoom  
Tickets Available NOW on the TBT Website**

Do you know how many Jewish baseball players have made an impact in America's National Pastime? We have Alex Bregman locally for the Houston Astros, but past Astros included pitcher Norm Miller and catcher Brad Ausmus.

Hall of Famers Hank Greenberg and Sandy Koufax are at the top of the list, and there have also been several Most Valuable Players and Cy Young Award winners, like Al Rosen and Steve Stone. The first ever Designated Hitter was Ron Blomberg (known in NY as Der Boomer), of the Yankees and there have been several Jewish executives and team owners like Theo Epstein and former Commissioner of Baseball, Bud Selig.

Greg Harris, a Chicago attorney, has a passion for Jewish baseball players. He had a dream to create a painting of as many Jewish players as possible. With the support of Major League Baseball, he commissioned artist Ron Lewis to create a 24" by 36" painting, which is on display at Temple Beth Torah for an upcoming presentation and raffle. The painting includes 26 current and former Jewish baseball players along with 9 prominent Jewish figures, including fans like Rob Reiner, Larry King and Billy Crystal. To see a replica of the painting and the list of those portrayed, go to [www.jewishbaseballplayer.com](http://www.jewishbaseballplayer.com). Greg Harris will give an entertaining talk on Zoom especially for TBT on Sunday afternoon, October 3, the last day of the current season. Raffle tickets are \$25 each (or 5 for \$100) to win the painting for yourself, or to give as a gift.

As a special bonus, the winner can personalize the painting, as the artist will paint for the winner a designated person into the crowd behind the players! The value of this unique piece of art is \$1250. The winner can also personalize the nameplate on the painting. Multiple people can be added for an additional fee.

There is no limit on the number of tickets you can buy at \$25 each (or 5 tickets for \$100). Since the presentation and raffle drawing will be via Zoom, they are open to any of your friends and neighbors anywhere in Houston, the US or the world. As an added bonus, everyone buying a raffle ticket will receive special valuable gifts, so everyone is a winner!

The date of the drawing will be announced by email and during the Zoom program. Winner need not be present. Framing, shipping and insurance are all included for the raffle winner. The personalized painting for the winner should be available in time for Hanukkah.

The Zoom link will be provided in our weekly emails. Raffle tickets are available NOW by sending a check to Temple Beth Torah with BASEBALL RAFFLE in the memo and including your name and email address. You will receive a confirmation email that your purchase has been received. If mailing, please be sure your check is received at the temple by September 30. You can also purchase your ticket online by going to [www.tbthumble.org](http://www.tbthumble.org). On the DONATIONS page, there is a special button labeled "Baseball Fundraiser" where you can buy one or multiple tickets.

If you have any questions, please contact TBT at [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) or 281-446-5611. All proceeds go to benefit Temple Beth Torah's ongoing programming.



## **Drop off and Donate- New Schedule**

**Sundays in October (3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and Nov 7<sup>th</sup>)**

**Come by between 9:30am and 11:00am and leave your items in the bin near the front door of TBT. We are helping with Seasons of Sharing Thanksgiving meals. HAAM provided over 1300 meals last year and needs have only increased. In addition to cornbread, you can bring canned vegetables, canned cranberry sauce or boxed instant mashed potatoes. For FamilyTime we are collecting Body Wash, allergy medication, Vaseline and Vicks VapoRub.**



**We want to thank all those who donated items last month. HAAM and FamilyTime were very happy to receive our collection! I know there were several donations made during High Holidays as well as those who “drove by” so thank you all!!**

## **Give-a-Gift to TBT An Easy Way to Help TBT**

TBT is in need of the following items this month. If you would like to donate any of these items, please send a message to [giveagift@tbthumble.org](mailto:giveagift@tbthumble.org) to ensure we do not get too many of a needed item. The items can be brought to TBT whenever we are open, or we may be able to arrange for a pick-up.

Items needed this month: Paper towel rolls - Facial tissue-square boxes - Glass Cleaner (Windex) refills - Hand wipes - Copy paper - Bottled water

## **The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston Welcomes New President and CEO: Renee Wizig-Barrios**

The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston is pleased to announce Renee Wizig-Barrios as the Federation's next President & Chief Executive Officer.

A native Houstonian, Wizig-Barrios comes to the Federation after more than two and a half decades rising through leadership positions in Texas non-profits. For the past 11 years, she has served as the Senior Vice President & Chief Philanthropy Officer for the Greater Houston Community Foundation (GHCF).

Prior to her work at GHCF, Wizig-Barrios worked as a community organizer for both The Metropolitan Organization in Houston and similar community-based organizations in Austin and El Paso. Her community organizing career focused on working with interfaith organizations across religious, racial, and economic lines to build common ground for positive local community change. She began her career, founded on a passion for helping others, as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in Nicaragua.

## **A Beautiful High Holiday Season**

Thanks to all who made our High Holiday season so beautiful and meaningful.

A special thank you to Rabbi Dan Gordon and Cantor Francyne Davis Jacobs for leading us in worship if you attended in person or virtually. There were so many people involved in making things flow so smoothly that we are not going to list all the names here! ...but TBT truly thanks you!!!

A special thank you to our donors who contributed financially to make our services possible and thank you to all who attended. Hopefully next year we can all be together in person at TBT.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

### **Be a Volunteer! It is All About Jewish Values.**

As I begin the final quarter of my term as president of Temple Beth Torah, I reflect on what it has meant to me to serve the congregation. The concept of “tikun olam”—repairing the world—first comes to mind. This expresses the value of volunteering for the synagogue as an important way to serve the community. Someone once said that “the world depends on people being active not only in their own lives, but in the community’s destiny, too.”

One of the best ways to connect to Temple Beth Torah is to volunteer. Volunteer to serve on one of our many committees, volunteer to help out at an event, volunteer to work in our flowerbeds, volunteer with your ideas, and volunteer your passion—there is so much you have to offer!

I remember one of the first tasks I was asked to do at TBT about 35 years ago was to organize a fundraising event selling bagels. I knew how to eat bagels but knew nothing about selling them! But we met as a committee--so I had others helping me--and I learned how to pull off a bagel sale while making friends in the process. I don't think we made a lot of money, but everyone was happy-the sellers and the eaters!

The most important asset each of us has to offer is our time. Volunteers can provide an invaluable service to our congregation while receiving personal reward and satisfaction from the mitzvah of sharing their time.

A recent survey of synagogue presidents found “finding volunteers” as one of the biggest obstacles that a congregation’s leadership faces. Take a hands-on role at TBT and make a difference in our community.

Not sure where to start? There are many ways you can help; some can even be done from home. Perhaps you even have an idea of something we could be doing that involves your own desires and passions. We can brainstorm together to find a role that will be satisfying for you, and a blessing to the community.

Be a volunteer! It can start with simply selling a bagel...

For information how you can volunteer your time at TBT, contact me at [president@tbthumb.org](mailto:president@tbthumb.org).

*Hy Penn*

## **Welcome Lisa Levy to TBT!**

Although Lisa Levy is no stranger to Temple Beth Torah, she is now an official member of our synagogue. Lisa is the daughter of TBT member Joni Levy and the late Burt Levy and the sister of TBT members Stephen and sister-in-law Kim Levy. This is the first time in our history that 3 families are members of our synagogue at the same time!

Welcome Lisa!!

## **Passing of Shirley Sanders...**

We are sad to inform you of the passing of Shirley Sanders, a former member of Temple Beth Torah and mother of TBT member Ellen Klager. Shirley passed away on September 14 at the age of 95. She lived a wonderful, rich life. She was preceded in death by her parents, Leon and Elsie Unger, her husband, Max and her daughter, Karen. She is survived by daughters, Ellen Klager and Jayne Pincus, as well as five grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

May her memory be a blessing.

## ***RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CORNER***

It was great seeing families participate in person and on Zoom for the High Holidays. All of the services are available for viewing on the temple's web site [www.tbthumble.org](http://www.tbthumble.org) so you can still watch these with your children. The Shabbat services are also on the website if you would like to watch any other service. Mike Miller and Emma Brawn are doing an amazing job of keeping us connected through Zoom. Families can also attend Shabbat in person. Masks are required.

All the students and teachers had fun making Sukkot decorations for the Sukkah. Rabbi Dan led a fun Sukkot talk with all the students as they gathered in the Sukkah. Friday, October 1 is TBT's Simchat Torah Shabbat service with outstanding performer, Joe Buchanan. Join in person or virtual for this exciting Shabbat evening. We are also looking forward to a fun-filled Religious School Simchat Torah celebration on October 3<sup>rd</sup> with all the students, teachers, and Rabbi Dan.

All of the students in Religious School will be participating in collecting boxes of corn bread mix for HAAM's annual Thanksgiving food drive. Each class will collect corn bread mix and we will see which class collects the most by Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>. So send in lots of boxes and watch our corn bread towers grow!!

Also coming up in October will be our first Bat Mitzvah for this school year. We are excited that Rebeca Ramirez will be called up to the bima on Sunday, October 24 to become a Bat Mitzvah. She has been working towards this achievement for a few years, has studied with the rabbi and tutors to accomplish her goals.

Thank you, parents, for encouraging your children to wear masks during indoor class time and sending individual snacks/water bottles. Remember if your child is feeling ill to please keep them home. Also, please remember to let the director or teacher know as soon as possible if your child has been exposed or has tested positive to Covid. This will help keep everyone at TBT informed and healthy.

We have had fun Religious School classes with lots of art projects, Hebrew learning, and holiday activities. Lots more great stuff planned for the fall!!

Shana Tova,

***Carrie Keith***  
***Religious School Principal***

## **Lunchtime Learning with Rabbi Dan on Zoom Wednesday, October 20 at Noon**

Join Rabbi Dan for a lively discussion on a topic of interest to everyone. Watch for the link in your weekly emails or contact [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) to obtain.

## **BAT MITZVAH**

*We are excited to announce that Rebeca Ramirez will be called up to the bima on Sunday, October 24, 2021 at 11:30 am as she becomes a Bat Mitzvah. Mazel tov to Rebeca and her family.*

## **Tot Shabbat Virtual Friday, October 15, 6:30 PM**

Please join Rabbi Dan at 6:30 PM on October 15 at 6:30 pm for a fun Tot Shabbat program for our younger children. The Zoom link is the same one used for our 7:00 pm Shabbat service. 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).

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

The Sunday Discussion Group is open to all and is discussing: "The Power of Now" by Eckhart Tolle. Please join us for interesting conversations.

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 or contact [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org)

## **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.



## *Simchas in October Birthdays*

- 6 Janet Sisler  
9 Susan Meinholz  
9 John Ruskis  
11 Abraham Ramirez  
11 Jessica Pous  
17 Sammy Baur  
17 Maddox Jensen  
20 Irene Carroll  
22 Allan Daniels  
24 Marvin Sussman  
26 Lacy Bormaster  
26 Sean Miller  
27 Patricia Klemz  
28 Manette Farber  
28 Barbara Heller  
29 Jeremy Blumin  
30 Debye Lurie

### *Anniversaries*

- 1 Ryan and Lacy Bormaster  
2 Allan and Irene Carroll  
7 Allan and Lael Daniels  
11 Tony and Carole Curtis  
15 Dany Pilman and Gail Ambrose  
17 Jeremy and Stacey Blumin  
19 Roy and Sara Bleiberg  
22 JQ and Ellen Delap  
23 Pete and Emma Brawn  
29 Tony Sullivan and Jennifer Ofsowitz

## **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.

## **October Yahrzeits**

The following names will be read each week during October to acknowledge those who have passed away who were connected with our community. If there are mistakes or omissions, please e-mail the temple at [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) or leave a message at 281-446-5611.

*Rose Markowitz, Max Glaser, Lawrence Wallach, Ethel Lappen, Joseph Cohn, Jean Krafcheck Farber, Mary Hauptman Conway, Solomon Miller, Alvin Gerhardt, Lloyd Spalter, Bill Clark, Jesse Winsburg Bluhm, Robert Lipstat, Harry Kimmel, Ben Solomon, Helen Shaw Smith, Ida Ruskis, Jack Moss, Lee Biegel, Louis Feldstein, Martin Greenbaum, Mary Jane Ciotta, Max Muller, Morris Cahn, Morris Kharasch, Roslyn Smith, Sam Winter, Sylvia Myers, Syble Marie Wilson, Ethel Simmons, Samuel Weiss, Benjamin Weiss, Mary Hauptman Conway, Lisa Kantor de Szereszewski, Moselle Levy, Leonard Arthur Ambrose, Cynthia Ruth Ambrose, Samuel Herman*

## **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.

## **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).

## **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.

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## DONATIONS

### RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

*John and Bobbylee Ruskis*

*Dale Vine*

*Brian Eoff*

*Gloria Mendez*

*Bernice Field*

*Project Noontide*

*Rhoda Durbin*

*Susan Dulman – in memory of Roberta Horwitz*

*Herbert Sacks – in memory of Malcom Mendel and Fancis Sacks*

*Irv Berger – in memory of Julie Cohen, mother of Susan Berger*

### GENERAL FUND

*Hy Penn and Lynn Gordon - in memory of Shirley Sanders*

*Norman and Marsha Weiss*

*Herbert and Jema Mendelsberg*

*David Acosta*

*Gloria Mendez*

*Sheryl Davis – in honor of Rabbi Dan and Cantor Francyne and a New Year*

*Jeanne Mandell – in memory of Rosalind Mandell*

*Iris Graf – in memory of Tom Graf*

### SCOTT ERIC KAUFMAN TECHNOLOGY FUND

*Alice and Jeff Kaufman*

*Dennis and Carrie Keith – in honor of Mike Miller's dedication in providing technology. In honor of the teachers, madrichim and students in religious school. In honor of Rebeca Ramirez on her Bat Mitzvah*

### TRACY TOBIN JOHNSON EDUCATION FUND

*Ruth Bargainer*

*Howard and Gail Tobin*

### TOM THERIOT MEMORIAL PROGRAM FUND

*Castine Theriot – in memory of Tom Theriot*

### HIGH HOLIDAY DONATIONS

*Mike Stark*

*Yoni and Holly Cohen*

*Jason and Rebecca Cohen*

*The Cohen Group*

*Castine Theriot*

*Lani Weirnick*

*Dale Vine*

*The Shadian Family*

*Thelma Douglas*

*Ann Friedman*

*Susan Glick*

*Paul Varner*

*Lloyd Kleiman*

*Jeanne Mandell*

**HIGH HOLIDAY FLOWERS: JEANNE MANDELL, JONI LEVY, AND CASTINE THERIOT**

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE A DONATION FOR THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE**

## 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.

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

## Torah Portions for October 2021

*Summarized by Rabbi Dan Gordon*

### **October 1-2, 2021 Bereshit, Genesis 1:1-6:8**

For our Simchat Torah celebration, we repeat the last lines of Deuteronomy and begin immediately with the first passages in Genesis. Torah is a never-ending learning process, so as soon as we finish, we begin again, searching for new insights. The end of Deuteronomy includes the final blessings that Moses bestows upon the Children of Israel, detailing the end of his life and the transition to new leadership for the new land. The opening chapters of Torah outline G-d's creation of the world day-by-day, and move into the struggles of the human family. These passages include commonly known stories; Adam and Eve eating the forbidden fruit, Cain's murder of his brother, Abel and the Tower of Babel, leading up to the time of Noah. Simchat Torah, coming at the end of Sukkot, highlights the transition from one journey to the next.

### **October 8-9, 2021 Noah, Genesis 6:9-11:32**

Noah's story is also about new beginnings. Noah, having been "righteous in his day" gains G-d's trust, and his family becomes the sole survivors of the Great Flood. The evil world is washed away, and Noah and his family gave the opportunity to rebuild and repopulate. G-d makes everlasting promises to mankind. The rainbow tells us that G-d will never again destroy the world, and Noah's line will lead us to Abraham, with whom G-d will connect the eternal covenants.

### **October 15-16, 2021 Lech L'Cha, Genesis 12:1-17:27**

G-d speaks to Abram for the first time, establishing both blessings and covenants. Abram shows his faith to G-d by leaving his home and following G-d's plan. It is unclear from the Torah why Abram was chosen, but *midrashic* stories hint the Abram had a special connection, believing in one G-d when others worshipped idols. In one popular midrash, young Abraham smashes idols in his father's shop to prove they are not gods. G-d changes his name to Abraham, which means "father of many," and promises that he will be blessed by all nations, and will have a legacy of many offspring.

### **October 22-23, 2021 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. Sarah laughs at the possibility, leading to the child being named Isaac ("she will laugh"). G-d consults with Abraham about His plan to destroy Sodom and Gemorrah, 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, and a ram is sacrificed instead of his son.

### **October 29-30, 2021 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, Elazar, to look for a wife for Isaac. Rebecca, a distant cousin, is chosen because her kindness to humans and animals indicates a unique sensitivity that Elazar thinks will be important to become Isaac's bride.

## Healing List Names will be Refreshed at the Start of Each Month

Our healing list will now be updated at the first of each month. If you know of someone who is on the list who should remain on the list, please let us know. This list is important, but also can get quite lengthy, so we want to make sure all the names we read are timely. Please email [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) and [rabbi@tbthumble.org](mailto:rabbi@tbthumble.org) to be added.

# 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

# OCTOBER 2021 TISHREI – CHESHVAN 5782

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					7:00 PM Shabbat/Simchat Torah Service with Rabbi Dan and Joe Buchanan In Person and VIRTUAL	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:00AM– 11:15AM Religious School  10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class - Virtual  11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group -Virtual  11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Religious School Hebrew  5:00PM Baseball Art Presentation via ZOOM					7:00 PM In Person and VIRTUAL Shabbat Service	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
NO RELIGIOUS SCCHOOL  10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class - Virtual  11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group -Virtual					6:30PM VIRTUAL TOT SHABBAT 7:00 PM In Person and VIRTUAL Shabbat Service	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00AM– 11:15AM Religious School  10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class - Virtual  11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group -Virtual  11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Religious School Hebrew			VIRTUAL LUNCHTIME LEARNING 12 noon with Rabbi Dan		7:00 PM In Person and VIRTUAL Shabbat Services	
24 / 31	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:00AM – 11:15AM Religious School  10:00 AM Adult Ed – TORCH class - Virtual  11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group-Virtual  11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Religious School Hebrew					7:00 PM In Person and VIRTUAL Shabbat Service	