

# Temple Beth Torah

## NEWS FOR YOU

OCTOBER 2024 ELUL 5784 – TISHREI 5785



Rabbi Dan  
Gordon  
**SPIRITUAL  
LEADER**

**BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS AND  
CHAIRPERSONS**

Michael Miller  
PRESIDENT

Debbie Swaim  
VICE PRESIDENT

Lenny Simmons  
TREASURER

Stacey Blumin  
SECRETARY

Pat Klemz  
DELEGATE

Brain Eoff  
DELEGATE

Debye Lurie  
DELEGATE

Carrie Keith  
EDUCATION

Debye Lurie  
BUILDING

Andrea Miller  
RITUAL

Emma Brawn  
SOCIAL

Emma Brawn  
MEMBERSHIP

David Acosta  
FUNDRAISING

Shari Ellsworth  
PAST PRESIDENT

Stacey Blumin  
ADMINISTRATOR  
AND NEWSLETTER  
EDITOR

### High Holidays Are HERE!

Join Us In-Person or Virtually for  
Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur

Join us for the upcoming High Holiday season.

We hope to see as many of you as possible in person!

Rabbi Dan Gordon and Cantor Francyne Davis Jacobs will be officiating.

#### 2024 High Holiday Schedule

Wednesday, October 2 at 7:30 pm: Rosh Hashanah Eve/A dessert Oneg will follow.

Thursday, October 3 at 10:30 am: Rosh Hashanah morning –  
A light Luncheon will follow Service

Friday, October 11 at 7:30 pm: Kol Nidre

Saturday, October 12 at 10:30 am: Yom Kippur morning service

Saturday, October 12 at 3:30 pm: Yom Kippur afternoon and concluding services/  
A Break-the-Fast meal will follow.

Our Children's Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Services will be held at 9:30 am on the mornings of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. In Person Only

**Members:** All TBT members wishing to attend in person, please join us! Please make sure your 2024-2025 membership is current and filled out before Rosh Hashanah. For virtual attendance, all members will receive the link prior to the holidays.

**Guests:** If you are not currently a member of TBT, please call 281-446-5611 or email Stacey at [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) to register to attend our in-person or virtual High Holiday services.

Suggested donation for those not yet members of TBT: Individuals: \$175 Families: \$350

**High Holiday donations may be applied to future membership dues.**

Donations can be made by sending a check to Temple Beth Torah or submitting payment online under the "Donation" tab at [www.tbthumble.org](http://www.tbthumble.org) and clicking on "High Holidays." Donations received for the High Holidays can be applied to future dues if you decide to join the temple.

**NOBODY IS TURNED AWAY FOR FINANCIAL REASONS**

Please make a gift that works for you.

## 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.

## OCTOBER EVENTS

Wednesday, Oct. 3	7:30 PM	Rosh Hashanah Eve <i>A dessert oneg will follow sponsored by the TBT Sisterhood</i> In Person and Virtual
Thursday, Oct. 4	9:30 AM 10:30 AM	Children's Service – In Person ONLY Rosh Hashanah Morning Service - A light Luncheon will follow Service. In Person and Virtual
Friday, Oct. 5	6:30 PM	Tashlich Service with Rabbi Dan In Person ONLY – NOT AT TBT
Friday, Oct. 11	7:30 PM	Kol Nidre - In Person and Virtual
Saturday, Oct. 12	9:30 AM 10:30 AM 3:30 PM	Children's Service – In Person ONLY Yom Kippur morning service Yom Kippur afternoon and concluding services/ A Break-the-Fast meal will follow.
Friday, Oct. 18	6:30 PM	Shabbat dinner for Sukkot - "Pizza in the Hut" In Person ONLY
Sunday, Oct, 20	9:30 AM	Adult Education with Rabbi Dan
Friday, Oct 25	7:00 PM	Simchat Torah Service with Rabbi Dan and Special Guest Joe Buchanan - In Person and Virtual <i>Oneg sponsored by the Brawn Family and Craig Lira</i>
Friday, Nov 1	7:00 PM	Shabbat Service led by the Religious School Students <i>Oneg sponsored by Religious School Families</i>

## SUNDAY MORNING WITH THE RABBI

*Everything you wanted to know about Judaism but were afraid to ask*

SUNDAY, October 20

9:30 am -11am

WITH RABBI DAN.

WHAT DO JEWS THINK ABOUT...

This class will meet a couple times a month – dates will be announced in the newsletter and the weekly emails.

# RABBI'S MESSAGE

## *Home for the Holidays*

It's finally here! The New Year, 5785! It's been a long, difficult journey, but we're ready to begin anew! Since the beginning of 5784, we've endured violence in schools, college campuses and public places. Over 3,000 people in the U.S. were killed or injured by gun violence alone. We've watched a horrible war in our homeland of Israel. Israeli citizens were kidnapped and tortured by terrorists, and efforts to save them and protect the country have resulted in unthinkable death and destruction, with those wishing for Israel's annihilation emboldened by increasing antisemitism. In this country, political differences that were once civil disagreements have often progressed to extremism, with people on all sides of issues refusing to listen to each other.

Let's put that year behind us and move forward! Last year may have seemed overwhelming, but as a people, we have persevered. And we will again, as always. The primary theme of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur is *teshuvah*. In our liturgy, *teshuvah* is often thought of as repentance, but the actual translation is "return." Rabbi Alan Lew (1943-2009) published a book in 2003 called *This is Real and You are Completely Unprepared: The Days of Awe as a Journey of Transformation*. Rabbi Lew notices that most of our Biblical heroes leave a physical home to return to a spiritual home. Adam and Eve leave the Garden of Eden to find their way in a world that includes working for your food and giving birth to children. Noah sails away in an ark to come back and rebuild the world. Abraham leaves his father's house to become father of a new peoplehood. Moses floats down the Nile as a baby to bring his family of origin back to the Promised Land. And so on...

Rabbi Lew talks about the Jewish calendar as an annual return to beginnings. "*On Rosh Hashanah, a new year begins, and every day is one day farther from the starting point; but every day is also a return, a drawing closer to the completion of the cycle.*"

The timing of Rosh Hashana is particularly evident in America, as the baseball world prepares for the World Series. Rabbi Lew says, "*The dream (of coming home) is the basis of that most profound expression of the American psyche, the game of baseball, whose object is to leave home in order to return to it again, transformed by time spent circling the bases.*" The baseball diamond emulates the kind of journey from Rosh Hashanah to Rosh Hashanah. The batter starts at home plate, and his goal is to return home, after circling three other bases. When the runner comes home, crossing the plate where he began, the score changes and the game is different. Likewise, we begin our year with Rosh Hashanah, circling 365 days of experience, to come back to a new beginning. We leave the past behind us, not to forget it, but to help us move forward from what we have learned in the previous year.

I know that whenever I visit my hometown, or even look at pictures or talk to family and friends, I feel a unique sense of comfort. As we taste some apples and honey, praying together for a universally wonderful year, we can feel at home. Home with community. Home with tradition. Always ready to leave home for new experiences in order to return again; one year older, one year wiser and prepared to improve ourselves and our world.

L'shana Tova! Happy New Year! Welcome home!

L'shalom,

***Rabbi Dan Gordon***

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

As we kick off Rosh Hashanah, I just wanted to take a moment to wish you all a happy and sweet New Year! This time of year is all about reflection and renewal. It's a great opportunity for all of us to hit the reset button. Rosh Hashanah gives us a fresh start. It's a time to look back on the past year, celebrating the good times and learning from the challenges. Let's take this time to think about what we want to achieve in the coming year. Whether it's spending more time with family, getting involved in our community, or just being a little kinder to ourselves and others, every step counts.

As we gather around our tables, sharing meals and traditions, let's enjoy those sweet moments together. The apples and honey symbolize our hopes for a year filled with sweetness—so let's savor that sweetness, both in our food and in our relationships.

Remember, it's also a chance to reconnect with our values and what truly matters. Let's support each other, lift each other up, and make our community stronger. We all have something to contribute, and together, we can make a real difference.

Shana Tova,

*Michael Miller - TBT President*

## **Celebrate Simchat Torah in Folk/Country Style! Joe Buchanan brings Americana with a Jewish Soul back to TBT In Person and Virtual October 25, 7 PM**

On Friday, October 25, Joe Buchanan returns to Temple Beth Torah to help us celebrate the most festive of Jewish holidays. He brings with him his unique style of music that includes a little country, a little bluegrass and a lot of Jewish soul! Rabbi Dan and Joe have shared their musical storying together at TBT several times in the past, always with exciting results. Dance and clap and tap your toes as we celebrate the circular year of learning, from Genesis to Deuteronomy and back!



Thank you to Craig Lira and the Brawn family for sponsoring the oneg and thank you to the Swaim family for a generous gift to help sponsor this event. TBT is always looking for sponsors to help bring wonderful events like this...please contact Stacey at [admin@tbthumb.org](mailto:admin@tbthumb.org) or any board member to inquire about sponsorships.

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL HAPPENNINGS – by Carrie Keith - Principal

We are looking forward to seeing many of our students enjoying Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services at TBT. Parents may turn in letters to schools for excused absences for the High Holidays.

There will be no Religious School classes on Sunday, October 6 and 13.

Sunday, October 20 will be our Sukkot celebration and Simchat Torah on October 27. Students may bring fruits, gourds, or fall decorations to hang in the sukkah. Parents and younger siblings are invited to both Sunday programs.

Please come to the special Shabbat services for Sukkot - Pizza in the Hut on Friday, Oct 18th, and Simchat Torah with Joe Buchanan on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> both at 7:00 pm. Joe Buchanan has a unique style of music that includes a little country, a little bluegrass and a lot of Jewish soul! This will be a fun Shabbat for everyone.

Another exciting Shabbat will be Friday, November 1st. This will be our family service led by the students along with Cantor Francyne and Rabbi Dan. We are also asking parents to bring items for the oneg sponsored by religious school that night. Be sure to mark your calendars!!

### **Tashlich 5784 – Cast Your Sins Away** **Shabbat Evening, Friday, October 4 6:30 PM** **Service to be held off-site (no service at TBT)**

*For Tashlich Shabbat*



*Our Friday night program and dinner will take place at a house on the lake in nearby Huffman. RSVP for the exact location. The address will also be available at Rosh Hashanah services, but NOT on the website.*

Tashlich is a unique tradition in which we throw breadcrumbs into water to symbolically “cast away” everything from the previous year that we don’t want to hold onto. Rabbi Dan will lead the activities and explain the ritual. We will then have an abbreviated Shabbat service before enjoying a wonderful Shabbat dinner together.

**Our gracious hosts, Suzanne Prevot-Scheurer and Hanan Yadin will be providing dinner, so please RSVP so they will know how much food to prepare and how many seats to set up. Those who wish may bring a side dish or dessert to share.**

**If you have a shofar, bring it and we’ll continue to ring in the New Year.**

**RSVP to [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org)**

## Book of Remembrance

The High Holiday season is a time we remember loved ones that are no longer with us. A Book of Remembrance is printed and distributed during our Yizkor/ memorial service on the afternoon of Yom Kippur and the names are read at that time.

Please find the form to complete on page 8. Please submit your names by Rosh Hashanah to ensure they will be included. It is customary to donate in memory of loved ones. The amount can be of your choosing, and many members contribute for each name they wish to be listed and read on Yom Kippur. Donations can be by check made payable to “Temple Beth Torah” or online under the “Donation” tab at our website and clicking the “Book of Remembrance” button. Contact [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) for more information.

Donations can be by check made payable to “Temple Beth Torah” or online under the “Donation” tab at our website and clicking the “Book of Remembrance” button. Contact [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) for more information.

# SISTERHOOD HAPPENINGS

## Fill THE BAG For HAAM



**We're excited to participate in a friendly competition between faith communities.** We have joined Competing In Goodness, a program hosted by Minaret Foundation to collect food for local food pantries. Following Rosh Hashanah services, representatives from Sisterhood will be handing out paper bags to be filled and returned at Yom Kippur services. The competition will be done by the amount of food items donated so please fill those bags to the brim! We want to show how generous and caring our congregation is!

### **You are invited to a Special Potluck with others in the faith community**

On November 3, from 2-5 pm, we will get together for an Interfaith potluck at the Buffalo Soldiers Museum to meet with other congregants, break bread, have some great dialogue, and find out who won the competition!

Contact Susan Meinholz, if you are interested in attending.

### **SAVE THE DATE November 10<sup>th</sup> 12:30 pm at TBT**

Sisterhood Latke Cook-off

What's the secret to a great tasting latke?

Come and sample different latke recipes and see for yourself!

Keep an eye out for a Sisterhood email for details.

Not receiving Sisterhood emails? Email [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org)



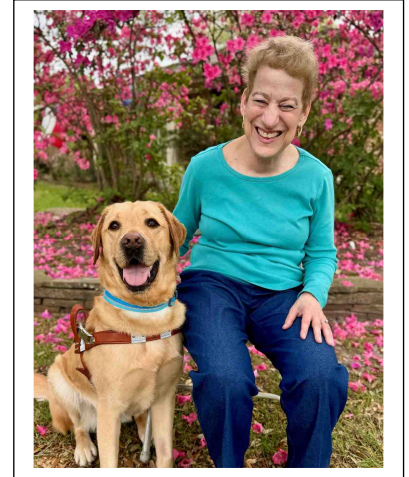
## Submit Healing List Names at the First of Each Month

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.

## Support TBT and Make a High Holiday Donation

Beautiful and meaningful High Holiday services are being planned at Temple Beth Torah. It is one of our most important times of the year. We are looking for individuals and families to help underwrite our experience this year. Donations are needed to help especially with music and security for our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. Contact [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) for more information. Also, please contact us if you would like to participate in any way in the services and/or food preparation and cleanup.

*Temple Beth Torah*  
*5<sup>th</sup> Annual Ner Tamid (Eternal Light) Award*  
*A program honoring Anita Bonanno*  
*Benefiting Temple Beth Torah*  
*Saturday, December 7, 2024*



Evening's Celebration

(Silent Auction available throughout the evening. Final bid at 8:45 pm)

6:15 – 7:00 pm Wine and Cheese Reception

7:00 – 8:15 pm Program

Welcome by Rabbi Dan, Master of Ceremonies

Havdalah Service

Toasts to our honoree

Entertainment

8:15 – 9:00 pm Dessert Reception

***Congratulations to this year's Ner Tamid Award honoree Anita Bonanno***

Anita was born in Dallas, Texas, the child of Holocaust survivors. She began singing at the age of 5 and majored in Music at the University of North Texas, with a concentration in voice. Blind from birth, Anita had many challenges in completing her education. In 1976 she came to Houston for training as a clerk typist at the Lighthouse of Houston. In the fall of 1995, while she was a guest artist at the Lighthouse International, in New York City, Anita learned about Guiding Eyes for the Blind and their Specialized Training Program. She applied to the program and after what seemed an interminable wait, Anita met and fell in love with Illy, her first guide dog. Since Illy, Anita has been back to Guiding Eyes and worked with guide dogs Nemo, Ephram, Magee, and now Loki.

Anita has been a past member of the Graduate Council for Guiding Eyes for the Blind and board member of the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. She was awarded the Peter F. Campbell Award in 2002 by Guiding Eyes for the Blind. She was a High Holiday cantorial soloist at TBT for several years and continues to sing at the TBT Holocaust Remembrance service. She has been a vocal soloist for various religious and civic events in the greater Houston area. Anita is a former professional member of Mu Phi Epsilon, a professional music fraternity, and a performing member of the Houston Tuesday Musical Club. In June 2004, she released a CD entitled "Friends Forever" which raised funds for the Specialized Training Program at Guiding Eyes. Anita is married to Emil Bonanno, a retired computer technician.

Anita was in the ensemble for Sweeney Todd at Main Street Theater in Houston in 1992. Other shows included Into the Woods, and Toad of Toad Hall. She was also in Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris and The Land Where the Good Songs Go, a Jerome Kern Retrospective, both at the Evelyn Rubinstein Jewish Community Center in Houston. In 2021, Anita and two other graduates of Guiding Eyes released another CD to benefit the Puppy Raiser Regions at Guiding Eyes. Anita continues to support and advocate for others with visual impairments and always seeks the best for every individual.

**ALL IN-PERSON GUESTS ARE INVITED TO THE WINE AND CHEESE AND DESSERT RECEPTIONS**

**Tickets:** Gold Level: \$250.00 per ticket includes admission, a ½- page ad in the program, and a glass of wine

Silver Level: \$100.00 per ticket includes admission, ¼- ad in the program, and a glass of wine

Bronze Level: \$50.00 per ticket includes admission and a glass of wine

Additional glasses of wine are available at the wine and cheese reception with a suggested donation.

Zoom Only: \$25.00 per ticket for Zoom access.

To purchase tickets, visit the Temple Beth Torah Donation page at [TBThumble.org](https://tbthumble.org) or click [HERE](#).

Or, send a check to TBT 320 Shallow Dr. Humble, TX 77338 noting Ner Tamid in the memo.

We would like everyone at Temple Beth Torah to have the opportunity to honor Anita. If finances are a concern for attending in person or on Zoom, please contact Rabbi Dan at [rabbi@tbthumble.org](mailto:rabbi@tbthumble.org) or any board member.

Please feel free to share this information with anyone you think may be interested in attending.

For additional information, please contact Stacey Blumin at [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org) or 281-446-5611.

Please RSVP by November 18, 2024

## **What is Ner Tamid?**

### **Honoring Temple Beth Torah and Anita Bonanno**

The Eternal Light, which shines above the Ark at Temple Beth Torah and in every synagogue, was first mentioned in the Torah:

*“And you shall instruct the Children of Israel to bring clear oil of beaten olives for lighting, for kindling lamps regularly. Aaron and his sons shall set them up in the Tent of Meeting, outside the curtain, which is over the Ark of the Covenant, to burn from evening to morning before the LORD. This shall be done in every generation, for all time, by the Children of Israel.”*

-- Exodus 27:20-21

This light, now usually electric instead of olive oil, is a constant reminder that a spark, no matter how strong, can light up the darkness. In 2020, at the height of Covid, Temple Beth Torah established the Ner Tamid Award to honor a different congregant each year who has brought light to our community. Each recipient has offered a unique spark that has helped brighten our synagogue and our community.

**2020 – Hy Penn.** Hy and his wife, Lynn, were active members since 1985. Hy held almost every board position (including multiple terms as president) and has often been regarded as the “heart of TBT,” encouraging membership and helping to keep our facilities beautiful. Both a pediatrician and a magician, Hy has cared for our children, entertained our community, and helped Temple Beth Torah become a shining light.

**2021 – Joni Levy.** Joni and her husband Burt were founding members of TBT, with Burt serving as the first president. Joni has been in the middle of many volunteer activities, and is always a welcoming presence at the temple. Her willing spirit and her consistent participation set an example for a generation of TBT families.

**2022 – Jeff Kaufman** (of blessed memory). Jeff also had multiple terms as president of TBT, and served many other positions, including several years as treasurer and membership chair. His calm presence and experience as a project manager helped in infinite ways behind the scenes. Whenever the temple had difficult moments that could have been disastrous, Jeff seemed to be one who helped right the ship.

**2023 – Carrie Keith.** Carrie has been devoted to three primary things her entire adult life: her own children and family, other people’s children, and Temple Beth Torah. A life-long educator in the public schools, specializing in kindergarten, Carrie brought her skills and dedication to the temple for decades. She has helped be an inspiration for education, as many of her TBT students (including her own children) became teachers in the program. Also fulfilling various board positions including president and even newsletter editor, Carrie’s light is one that will last for generations!

**2024 – Anita Bonanno.** “Cantor Anita” has brought her skill as a singer, her beautiful voice, and her devotion to Jewish worship to Temple Beth Torah for close to 30 years. As our primary High Holiday soloist, temple worshippers were inspired for new beginnings every Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. The child of Holocaust survivors, Anita continues to enhance the temple’s service for the annual Holocaust Remembrance Service. Never letting her disability as a blind woman get in her way, Anita also delighted our congregation by bringing her guide dogs with her, and her new dog, Loki, brings a special spirit! This year’s Ner Tamid is truly a very special light.

Please plan to join us in a wonderful honor on December 7!



## *Simchas in October Birthdays*

- 9 Susan Meinholz
- 9 John Ruskis
- 11 Abraham Ramirez
- 12 Al Bleiberg
- 17 Sammy Baur
- 24 Marvin Sussman
- 26 Sean Miller
- 27 Patricia Klemz
- 28 Manette Farber
- 28 Barbara Heller
- 29 Jeremy Blumin
- 30 Debye Lurie

### *Anniversaries*

- 15 Dany Pilman and Gail Ambrose
- 17 Jeremy and Stacey Blumin
- 22 JQ and Ellen Delap
- 23 Pete and Emma Brawn

## **Yahrtzeit Memorial Plaques**

The minimum donation for one memorial plaque to be placed on the wall in the sanctuary remains \$300. However, those purchasing **two plaques at the same time can do so for \$500, a savings of \$100.** It usually takes at least a month for a plaque to be engraved and sent back to the temple, but in the summer months, it can take longer because many synagogues are purchasing plaques to be ready for High Holidays. You may consult with the rabbi for the Hebrew name and date by emailing Rabbi Dan Gordon at [rabbi@tbthumble.org](mailto:rabbi@tbthumble.org) Checks must be sent to TBT prior to the plaque being ordered.

## **For HAAM (Humble Area Assistance Ministries)**

HAAM is collecting non-perishable foods and hygiene items: They are in need of canned beans, canned fruit (low sugar), canned chicken and tuna and canned vegetables (low sodium). If you prefer to donate hygiene items they need toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors, shampoo, and conditioner. Thank you for your support!

## **OCTOBER Yahrzeits**

The following names will be read each week during September 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.

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

## **ONEG INFORMATION**

Thank you to everyone who has provided an oneg recently. They have been delicious and a highlight to every Shabbat. Thank you also to those who have sponsored an oneg with your generous donations. Preparing an oneg is a wonderful way to celebrate a special event. It is also a way to commemorate a Yahrtzeit for a loved one. If you would like to do an oneg, please leave a message for Carrie Keith at 281-446-5611, or email [education@tbthumble.org](mailto:education@tbthumble.org)

## **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 October 2024

Summarized by Rabbi Dan Gordon

### October 4-5, 2024 Haazinu Deuteronomy 32:1-32:48

This year, the Torah reading Haazinu comes immediately after Rosh Hashanah. As we prepare for Yom Kippur, our Torah reading is a fitting transition from one year to the next, as Moses' leadership will give way to a new era. Nearing the end of his life, Moses uses poetry and song to recount the journey in the desert. At the conclusion of the song, G-d instructs Moses to climb to the top of Mount Nebo, overlooking the Jordan River. This is where Moses will die, able to see the Promised Land, but not enter it. G-d explains this is because Moses broke faith with Him when he struck the rock. Moses is 120 years old.

### October 11-12, 2024 Nitzavim Deuteronomy 29:9-30:20

A "reprise" special reading for Yom Kippur. Having just read this section the week before Rosh Hashanah, the Torah reading for Yom Kippur morning repeats Moses' speech to the Israelites before they cross over to the Promised Land. We remember the long journey that got us to this point, and Moses emphatically reminds us that G-d's words are everlasting; as much a part of the past as the present and the future.

### October 18-19, Special Reading for Sukkot Exodus 33:12-34:26

After the incident with the Golden Calf, Moses and G-d have an intimate conversation in which G-d reassures Moses that "*you have truly gained my favor, and I have singled you out by name.*" (Exodus 33:17). Moses is instructed to carve new tablets to replace the broken ones. Building a sukkah reminds us of the temporary nature of life blends with the eternal presence of the Holy One. Moses begs to be able to "see" G-d. But even Moses cannot see the LORD's face. G-d offers Moses to see the back, reminding us that G-d is always with us, and also, always a mystery.

### October 25-26, 2024 V'zot Ha-Beracha Deuteronomy 33-34 and Bereshit Genesis 1:1-6:8

On the holiday *Simchat Torah*, we traditionally read the last verses of the Torah, and then go back to the beginning to begin the year's cycle. In the last section of **Deuteronomy**, each of the tribes of Israel receives a special blessing, and Moses has the opportunity to ascend Mount Nebo to see the Promised Land that he will not enter.

The Israelites mourn following Moses' death, and prepare for a new life with a new leader, Joshua. **Genesis** gives us our beginnings, G-d's creation of the world, and our first human mistakes. Adam and Eve are entrusted with the Garden of Eden, but choose to eat the forbidden fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Bad. They accept the consequences and begin new lives outside the garden. Cain and Abel enter the world as jealousy and rivalry brings a tragic end to Abel's life. As people continue to embrace evil, G-d decides to destroy the world and start over with a new generation.

Singer/songwriter Joe Buchanan will join us for our Simchat Torah service, blending Shabbat, the joy of learning and his unique "*Americana with a Jewish Soul*" to help make it a celebration!

## 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:

Coffee cups	Dessert size plates
Forks	Copy paper
Coffee Creamer	Bottled water
Rolls of Paper Towels	Togo Containers
Zip Lock Bags	

## 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 Shari Ellsworth at [president@tbthumble.org](mailto:president@tbthumble.org)

## DONATIONS

### RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

*Brian Eoff*

*John and Bobbylee Ruskis*

*Hebert Sacks*

*Steve Lee*

*Dr. Jordan and Mrs. Bernice Loftus*

### GENERAL FUND

*Jeanne Mandell – In memory of Iris Weinberger and Suzanne Kahn*

*Gloria Mendez*

*Hy Penn and Lynn Gordon - In Memory of Shannon Ellsworth*

*Adalberto Velasquez*

### BUILDING FUND

*Dennis and Carrie Keith – to repair the Sukkah*

*Debye Lurie*

*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).*

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

The Sunday Discussion group meets every Sunday at 11:30 AM virtually. Books are read and discussed. The books chosen are always thought provoking and generate interesting discussions. If you are interested in joining the discussion or have any 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.

## 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.

## 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 AND BEAUTIFICATION

**FUND** This fund maintains the library and helps purchase new books, as well as other cosmetic improvements to the temple's interior. 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 easy 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

320 SHALLOW DRIVE

HUMBLE, TX 77338

281-446-5611

## BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

### Please return this form no later than October 4

Please inscribe the following names in our "Book of Remembrance" which the synagogue is publishing for the Day of Atonement in honor and memory of our loving family.

As a tribute to our departed ones, I/we are enclosing \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
as a tzedakah gift for the beloved souls who are remembered on October 12th at the Memorial Service.

Listed below are the full  
names of the departed:

Date of Death:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Or **There are no changes from last year.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Remembered by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address/Phone/Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your donation. Yahrzeit plaques for the memorial board are available. Call 281-446-5611 for more information.**

# 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 2024 ELUL 5784 - TISHREI 5785

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>Oct 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
			<i>7:30 PM ROSH HASHANAH EVE SERVICE</i>	<i>9:30 AM CHILDRENS SERVICE</i>  <i>10:30 AM ROSH HASHANAH</i> <i>A light Luncheon will follow Service</i>	6:30 PM TASHLICH Shabbat Service - Location to be announced by RSVP  In Person ONLY – NOT AT TBT	
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
NO Religious School  11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group-Virtual					7:30 PM YOM KIPPUR - KOL NIDRE SERVICE -  In Person and VIRTUAL	9:30 AM CHILDRENS SERVICE 10:30 AM YOM KIPPUR MORNING SERVICE 3:30 pm YOM KIPPUR AFTERNOON SERVICE – CONCLUDING SERVICES A Break-the-Fast meal will follow
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
NO Religious School  11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group-Virtual					6:30 PM – Sukkot Shabbat Service with Pizza in the Hut with Rabbi Dan – In Person ONLY	
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
9:00 AM Religious School  9:30 AM Adult Discussion with Rabbi Dan  11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group-Virtual					7:00 PM Simchat Torah Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan and Special Guest Joe Buchanan In Person and VIRTUAL <i>Musical program co-sponsored by the Swaim family.</i>  <i>Oneg sponsored by the Brawn Family and Craig Lira</i>	
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Nov 1</b>	<b>2</b>
9:00 AM Religious School  11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group-Virtual					7:00 PM – Shabbt Service led by Religious School Students and Cantor Francyne <i>Oneg sponsored by the religious school Parents</i>	