

Temple Beth Torah

NEWS FOR YOU

DECEMBER 2024 CHESHVAN – KISLEV 5785



Rabbi Dan
Gordon
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Annual Ner Tamid (Eternal Light) Award

A program honoring Anita Bonanno

Benefiting Temple Beth Torah

Saturday, December 7, 2024

See the article and information on tickets on page 4

Please check out Temple Beth Torah's silent auction at

<https://airauctioneer.com/temple-beth-torah-ner-tamid-2024>

It is live now and ready for you to bid. Lots of great items.

Support TBT, shop for the holidays and have fun at the same time!

Auction ends on Dec.7th at 8:45 pm

You may share this link with family and friends.

DECEMBER EVENTS

Friday, December 6	7:00 PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan In Person and Virtual <i>Oneg sponsored by the Blumin Family – In honor of Aaron's 13th Birthday</i>
Saturday, December 7	6:15PM	5 th Annual Ner Tamid Award Celebration Event and Online Auction
Sunday, December 8	9:30 AM	Adult Education with Rabbi Dan
Friday, December 13	7:00 PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan In Person and Virtual <i>Oneg sponsored by Judi and Ian Adler</i>
Thurs, December 19	7:00PM	TBT Congregational Meeting for Members to Vote for the 2025 Board of Directors ZOOM ONLY
Friday, December 20	7:00 PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan In Person and Virtual <i>Oneg sponsored by Donna Sallee – In memory of Jeffrey Sallee</i>
Friday, December 27	7:00 PM	Hanukkah Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan In Person and Virtual <i>Oneg sponsored by Carrie Keith – In memory of Mildred Denbina</i>

RABBI'S MESSAGE

A Mixed Bag for the Holidays

There are various times throughout the year that we refer to as “the holidays.” Whether we are talking about Rosh Hashana/Yom Kippur in the fall, Passover in the spring or Thanksgiving/Hanukkah/Christmas/New Year’s in winter, it is quite common to greet people at these times with the question, “So? What are you doing for the holidays?” Before Thanksgiving 2024, it was estimated that over 80 million people in the U.S. were planning to travel somewhere. That is a lot of people who are leaving their homes to go to someone else’s home, probably connecting important relationships with family or friends. Others are staying home, either receiving guests or celebrating with their nuclear families.

Of course, this is a time of joy and togetherness; but for some, it can be a time of tension and stress. There have been many hot issues in the world lately, between the U.S. elections, the war situations in Israel, general economic difficulties, deep seeded family circumstances and a host of things that might make getting together demanding or even traumatic. Some who are gathering might be wishing for solitude.

And what about those who are not traveling, not hosting, and do not have close friends or relatives nearby with whom they can celebrate? For some, the holidays might be a time of loneliness, especially when observing the emphasis on togetherness. The Jewish world is built around the family – a mother, father, children and perhaps grandchildren and grandparents. In today’s world it is important to note that a “traditional” family might be the exception rather than the rule. When individuals and families experience divorce, death, geographical distance, estrangement and illness, it can be hard to feel celebratory. For some, watching the whole world seem to rejoice can feel like a slap in the face, pushing people to feel like excluded outsiders. I also think about those in Israel who have lost a loved one in the current war, or who are awaiting the fate of hostages who are still in captivity for over 14 months.

I don’t say this to put a damper on the holidays, merely to be sensitive to the wide variety of differences with whom we share the world. Those who are able to celebrate should do so with gusto! We never know when our situation might change. And when there is an opportunity to include others who may feel like outsiders, don’t miss this mitzvah! “Hillel said: *Do not separate yourself from the community; and do not trust in yourself until the day of your death. Do not judge your fellow until you are in his place. Do not say something that cannot be understood but will be understood in the end. Say not: When I have time I will study because you may never have the time.*” (Pirke Avot, 2:5)

Hanukkah, specifically, is a holiday that is meant to be shared with others, including people who are not Jewish. We are supposed to proudly display the Hanukkah lights, to share with the world a beautiful light. As the prophet Isaiah said, “*I the LORD have called you into righteousness. I have taken hold of your hand, and kept you, and set you for a covenant of the people, for a light of the nations.*” (Isaiah, 42:6) As Christians are the overwhelming majority in America, this year can be a particularly special Hanukkah, as it begins December 25. We can share the spirit of light, showing and sharing with each other the opportunity to use that light to see another’s point of view. This holiday season let’s be mindful to seize the chances we have to celebrate with those closest to us and try to include others who may be in need of closeness.

L’shalom,

Rabbi Dan Gordon

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

As the year comes to a close and we celebrate the warmth and joy of the holiday season, I want to take a moment to reflect on what we've accomplished together and share some exciting plans for the upcoming year. This past year has been one of resilience, renewal, and deep connection within our TBT family. From Shabbat services to educational programs, social gatherings to community service projects, we have continued to foster a sense of belonging and purpose, even in the face of challenges. The spirit of community is alive and well at TBT, and I am grateful to every one of you for that.

As we move into the month of December, we are reminded of the importance of community and tradition. First, we have the Ner Tamid event on Dec 7th honoring long time TBT member and cantor Anita Bonano. I look forward to seeing many of you at this important event, which demonstrates the best of TBT traditions. Hanukkah begins on the evening of December 25th, and we will celebrate together as a community on Friday, December 27. These celebrations remind us of the light that shines even in the darkest of times, and the strength that comes from unity and service. I encourage everyone to participate in the upcoming events. These traditions bring us closer and strengthen the bonds that make our temple such a warm and welcoming place.

In addition to our holiday celebrations, I want to highlight the ongoing work being done to ensure TBT remains a vibrant and thriving center of Jewish life. Our religious school continues to grow, our adult education programs are more engaging than ever, and our social action initiatives have made a meaningful impact on our local community. None of this would be possible without the support and dedication of our volunteers.

As we enter this season of reflection and renewal, let us all take a moment to appreciate the blessings in our lives, the strength of our community, and the promise of a bright future. I wish each of you a joyous Hanukkah, a peaceful winter season, and a happy and healthy New Year.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to Temple Beth Torah. Together, we are creating something truly special.

Michael Miller - TBT President

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL HAPPENNINGS

by Carrie Keith - Principal

I hope everyone had a very Happy Thanksgiving.

This month we have fun Hanukkah lessons and celebration for Temple Beth Torah students on Sunday, December 8 and 15. On December 15, our Hanukkah festivities will include a gift exchange so please send in a wrapped gift (approximately \$10.00) with your child that is suitable for a girl or a boy. The students will play dreidel, have fun crafts and tell the Hanukkah story. The students will be preparing and cooking latkes for the Hanukkah festivities. Call or email if you would like to help out with latke cooking- and eating!! It is always an exciting time to engage with the students as they learn and participate in the traditions of Hanukkah.

Also in December, we are collecting toys for children who may not have any presents to open this year. So, while you are out shopping, please pick up gifts or gift cards for children in need. Bring these unwrapped gifts to Temple Beth Torah on Shabbat and during Religious School. We will take these to families in our area.

Have a safe and happy Hanukkah and New Years. Class will resume on January 5th

Temple Beth Torah
5th 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

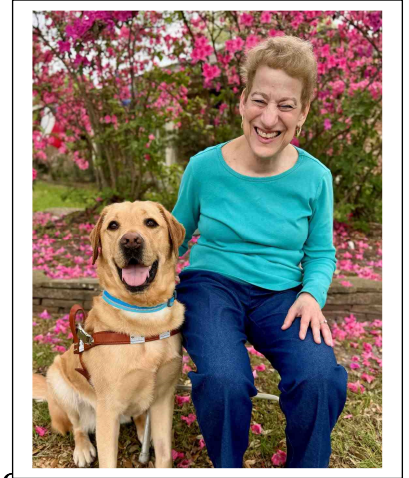
Welcome by Rabbi Dan, Master of Ceremonies

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 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 or 281-446-5611.

Please RSVP by December 2 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!

Adult Learning with the Rabbi at TBT

What do Jews think about...?

Sunday, December 8, 9:30 AM

Informal discussion covering a wide range of topics

Everything you always wanted to know about Judaism but were afraid to ask!

Please join us for a special LEGACY SHABBAT Service Friday, January 31, at 7 pm

Temple Beth Torah (TBT) invites you to a meaningful evening honoring our Legacy Society members and celebrating the dedication of two beautiful new stained-glass windows at the front of our sanctuary.

These stunning windows were made possible through after-lifetime legacy gifts from Dale Israel Vine and Jeffrey Kaufman, of blessed memory, along with contributions from recent B'nai Mitzvah families.

Cantor Francyne Davis Jacobs will join Rabbi Dan Gordon in leading this special service, featuring heartfelt remembrances from key members on TBT's history. We will hear from three generations: a founding member, a young parent who grew up at TBT, and a representative of the future.

The Houston Jewish Community Foundation is generously sponsoring the cantorial music and Oneg Shabbat refreshments.

What is a Legacy Gift? Temple Beth Torah and the Houston Jewish Community Foundation are working together to secure the future of a vibrant Jewish community in the northeast suburbs. Legacy gifts allow individuals to include TBT in their after-lifetime plans—through a will, retirement account, or other means—ensuring their impact lives on. No immediate action is required, just the decision to leave a legacy.

Join us for Legacy Shabbat! This is not a sales pitch, but a celebration of TBT's impact and an opportunity to envision a bright future together.



SISTERHOOD HAPPENNINGS

Thank you, Marsha Weiss and Shari Ellsworth, for cooking up delicious latkes for our latkes cook off!

Wishing everyone a happy holiday season and look forward to seeing you at Sisterhood events next year!

Yours In Sisterhood - Susan Meinholz

If you would like to join the TBT Sisterhood please contact Stacey at admin@tbthumble.org

Congregational Meeting Thursday, December 19th at 7:00 PM Virtual Only

The nominating committee has been working hard and will present the recommended slate at the board's next meeting. Thanks to Carrie Keith, Shari Ellsworth, Donna Glaser, Sarah Couch, and Sarah Miller for serving on the committee. It is very important for everyone eligible to cast their vote. Information and the meeting link will be sent to members and voting can be done electronically by returning a proxy in advance of the meeting. Votes can also be cast at the meeting.

Simchas in December Birthdays

2	Mark Boyll
3	Kidah Perez
5	Sarah Couch
9	Lillian Eoff
9	Stephen Stapleton
9	Castine Theriot
12	Ruth Spiel
13	Ellen Shadian
18	Shae Ellsworth
23	Aaron Blumin
26	Loren Gordon

Anniversaries

6	Stephen and Ellen Stapleton
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DECEMBER Yahrzeits

The following names will be read each week during December 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.

Hans Auerbach, Isidor Blumin, Edward Furst, Helen Furst Schuman, Faye Avery, David Daniels, Sylvan Davis, Ellis Dworsky, Yvonne Farber Schwartz, Anna Glaser, Carol Ann Johnson, Bernard Schneps, Michael Schneps, Nadine Smith, Bob Grayson, Dorothy Rabin, Irving Kharasch, Nathan Kharasch, William Dunk, Mildred Denbina, Ida Scharff, Graham Marquis, Robert Wolfsohn, Alvin Bernstein, Burt Levy, Betty Rapoport, Sylvia Lurie, Shirley Mandell, Janie Elyse Campbell, Carol Terreri, Harry Sachs, Kenneth Benham, Aubrey Spalter, Ruth Levitan, Kate Srulovitz, Martin Salkin, Nadine Theriot, Gloria Wood, Richard Weisberg, Gary Herren, Hyman Sukenik, William Sidney Graham, Rose Katz, Sharon Braley, Jennifer Van Der Lipp, Jeffrey Sallee, Martin Kader, Anavah Snow

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 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!

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

Please sign up at this link to prepare an oneg – thank you in advance

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F084BAEAA22A2FB6-51181610-tbtoneg#/>

THANK YOU to the Blumins, Adlers, Keiths and Donna Sallee for honoring loved ones by sponsoring an Oneg in December

Torah Portions for December 2024

Summarized by Rabbi Dan Gordon

December 6-7, 2024, Vayitzei, Genesis 28:10-32:3

Along his journey, Jacob experiences G-d's presence through dreaming of a ladder with angels ascending and descending from heaven. He pledges himself to G-d and continues to his uncle Laban's home. He falls in love with Laban's daughter, Rachel and asks to marry her. He promises to work for Laban for seven years to marry his daughter, but is surprised to find the older sister, Leah, in his wedding bed. Laban informs him it is customary to marry the older child first, so Jacob pledges another seven years of labor to marry Rachel. Leah is more fertile, bearing six sons and a daughter. Rachel pleads to G-d for children, and eventually bears Joseph and Benjamin.

December 13-4, 2024, Vayishlach, Genesis 32:4-36:43

Jacob has left Laban's land after 20 years of service. Along his journey home, he prepares to meet Esau for the first time since their bitter argument. The night before their meeting, Jacob wrestles with a "man," who turns out to be a messenger from G-d. He is injured in the fight, and receives a new name, Israel, meaning, "one who wrestles with G-d." Jacob and Esau reunite, with Jacob humbling himself before his brother. Jacob's only daughter, Dina, is raped by a neighboring prince. Simeon and Levi, in an attempt to avenge their sister's honor, kill all the males. Jacob informs them that their reaction was too severe, bringing dishonor to the family.

December 21-22, 2024, Vayeishev, Genesis 37:1-40:23

Joseph, through Jacob's favoritism and his own boastfulness, has created a jealous situation between him and his brothers. When he comes to check on their work, they toss him into a pit and conspire to kill him. Instead, they sell him to traveling slave traders, and he ends up in Egypt. He rises to become the head servant of Potiphar's household, until Potiphar's wife falsely accuses him of trying to rape her. He is imprisoned, and develops a reputation in jail for being able to interpret dreams.

December 27-28-16, 2024, Miketz Genesis 41:1-44:17

Joseph successfully interprets Pharaoh's dreams and becomes a powerful man in Egypt. The famine in Canaan forces Joseph's brothers to come begging for food, and they don't suspect his identity. Joseph tricks his brothers into coming back again with their youngest brother, Benjamin. Benjamin is found with a stolen (planted) goblet, and the brothers fear that, if anything happens to Benjamin, it would be too much for Jacob to handle.

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.

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 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

DONATIONS

RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

Brian Eoff

Leslie Witkov – In Memory of Iris Kelley

M. Barton and Suzanne Baker

Chris and Sasha Holloway

Joseph Fagner and Lisa Brannon – In Memory of Iris Kelley

Carloe Curtis – In Memory of Iris Kelley

Steve Lee

GENERAL FUND

Eliana Jeni Clem

Bruce and Susan Pollard – In Memory of Iris Kelley

JQ and Ellen Delap – In Memory of Iris Kelley

Joseph Fagner and Lisa Brannon – In Memory of Iris Kelley

Michael and Annette Hluza

Lynn Gordon and Hy Penn – In Memory of Iris Kelley

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.

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. 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 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, 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 easily to establish, cost nothing during your lifetime, and make a difference for our community. Contact admin@tbthumble.org for more information.

SCOTT ERIC KAUFMAN AND JEFFREY KAUFMAN TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION FUND

This fund helps support the technology needs of TBT including computers, screens, and cameras and will help with our virtual programming. It also supports other educational pursuits related to technology. The fund was established in memory of Dr. Scott Eric Kaufman and his father, Jeffrey Kaufman.

Temple Beth Torah Donate a Brick Campaign

TBT member Will Pollard has built a brick path in front of our Sukkah as part of his Eagle Scout project. We are now giving everyone an opportunity to donate an engraved brick for the path with **all donations going to support Temple Beth Torah!**

This is a wonderful way to remember a loved one or honor a friend/family member. You can also use it to commemorate an occasion, like a bar/bat mitzvah, a wedding, an anniversary or a memorable birthday.

Each brick can be inscribed with 3 lines and 20 characters per line (letters, numbers, spaces, punctuation and other keyboard symbols are considered characters).

Various approved clip art designs can be made available for an additional \$20 donation per brick. If clip art is used, the text is limited to 15 characters per line.

Brick donations are:

1 Brick= \$100	4 Bricks= \$280 @ \$70/each
2 Bricks= \$180 @ \$90/each	5 Bricks= \$300 @ \$60/each
3 Bricks= \$240 @ \$80/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.

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

DECEMBER 2024 CHESHVAN – KISLEV 5785

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
DEC 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Silent Auction Live NO Religious School 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group-Virtual	Silent Auction Live	Silent Auction Live	Silent Auction Live	Silent Auction Live	Silent Auction Live 7:00 PM Shabbat Service with Rabb Dan In Person and Virtual <i>Oneg sponsored by The Blumin Family</i>	5th Annual Ner Tamid Event 6:15 – 7:00 pm Wine and Cheese Reception 7:00 – 8:15 pm Program 8:15 – 9:00 pm Dessert Reception Silent Auction ENDS 8:45 PM
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:00 AM Religious School 9:30 AM Adult Education with Rabbi Dan 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group-Virtual					7:00 PM Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan In Person and Virtual <i>Oneg sponsored by Judi and Ian Adler</i>	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:00 AM Religious School 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group-Virtual			12 noon Lunchtime Learning with Rabbi Dan	7:00 PM TBT Congregation Meeting Via Zoom Vote om 2025 Board of Directors	7:00 PM Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan In Person and VIRTUAL <i>Oneg sponsored by Donna Sallee</i>	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
NO Religious School 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group-Virtual					7:00 PM Hanukkah Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan In Person and VIRTUAL <i>Oneg sponsored by Carrie Keith</i>	
29	30	31	JAN 1	2	3	4
NO Religious School 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group-Virtual					7:00 PM Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan In Person and VIRTUAL	SAVE THE DATE - JANUARY 31 LEGACY SHABBAT AND DEDICATION OF STAINED GLASS WINDOWS