

# Temple Beth Torah

## NEWS FOR YOU

JANUARY 2026 TEVET - SHEVAT 5786



**Rabbi Dan  
Gordon**  
**SPIRITUAL  
LEADER**

**BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS AND  
CHAIRPERSONS**

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**Emma Brawn**  
MEMBERSHIP

**Michael Miller**  
PAST PRESIDENT

**Stacey Blumin**  
ADMINISTRATOR  
AND NEWSLETTER  
EDITOR

### JANUARY EVENTS

Friday, January 2		NO Shabbat Service – Temple Closed
Friday, January 9	7:00PM	Shabbat Service with Cantor Francyne In Person and Virtual <i>Oneg sponsored by</i>
Sunday, January 11	9:00 AM	Religious School Resumes
Friday, January 16	7:00PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan and the Bar Mitzvah of Arthur Aizenberg In Person and Virtual <i>Oneg is sponsored by the TBT Sisterhood</i>
Wednesday, January 21	12:00PM	Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Dan
Friday, January 23	7:00PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan In Person and Virtual <i>Oneg sponsored by</i>
Sunday, January 25	1:00PM	HRA's March of Remembrance Event Reservations required <a href="http://www.hra18.org">www.hra18.org</a>
Friday, January 30	7:00PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan In Person and Virtual <i>Oneg sponsored by</i>

### Adult Learning with the Rabbi at TBT What do Jews think about...?

**Wednesday, January 21, 12 noon**  
**Bring your Lunch**

*Informal discussion covering a wide range of topics  
Everything you always wanted to know about Judaism but were afraid  
to ask!*

### **SISTERHOOD**

**Craving a Knish? Pining for Pastrami? Longing for lox?**

Join Sisterhood at Kenny & Ziggy's

Date has been changed – keep a watch for emails

Let's catch up and enjoy good food and fellowship.

## 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 newly elected President of Temple Beth Torah, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I have been a member of TBT since 1989, when my daughter Rebecca was four years old and beginning Religious School. My son Alex also grew up here at TBT. Over the years, I have been honored to serve in many board positions, though this is my first time serving as President.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our outgoing President, Mike Miller, for his outstanding leadership over the past two years. Mike guided our congregation with dedication and care, and I am pleased that he will continue to serve on the board as Past President.

I would also like to thank our outgoing board members: Lenny Simmons (Treasurer), Stacey Blumin (Secretary), and Pat Klemz (Delegate). Their commitment and years of service have been invaluable to our temple, and I know they will continue to support TBT in the future.

Please join me in welcoming our new board members: Sarah Miller (Vice President), Linda Stewart (Treasurer), and Adi Quick (Secretary). I am excited to work with them, along with our continuing delegates David Acosta, Brian Eoff, and Debye Lurie and our committee heads.

Finally, I am looking for "a few good men and women" to help serve on those committees. I am continually amazed at how our small synagogue in Humble, TX offers such wonderful programming—made possible almost entirely through volunteer efforts. If you are asked to help, or if you would like to volunteer in any capacity, large or small, please say yes. Temple Beth Torah truly runs on volunteer power!

Thank you, and I look forward to serving our congregation together.  
L'shalom,

*Debbie Swaim*

*President, Temple Beth Torah*

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL HAPPENNINGS

Happy 2026!!

I hope everyone had very happy holidays with family and friends. Our first Religious School class of 2026 will be January 11th. All classes begin at 9:00. Hebrew class will follow.

Thank you to Shari Ellsworth, Rachel McConnell and expert latke flipper, Landon Zweifel who helped the students learn to make latkes for Chanukah. Our Chanukah celebration on December 14 was fun for everyone at TBT. We opened gifts, made menorahs, played games and sang lots of songs. Thank you also to those that sent gifts for children in our area so that they could also have a happier holiday. I had a car full of clothing, nonperishable food and lots of gifts to deliver to HAAM. The volunteers at HAAM were thrilled to receive the food, toys and gift cards donations and clothing from TBT.

The teachers are looking forward to the Spring semester with lots of great activities and lessons planned for all of our TBT students.

*Carrie Keith*

*TBT Religious School Principal*

# RABBI'S MESSAGE

## *What is a Ner Tamid?*

If you turn off all the lights in the Temple Beth Torah sanctuary, one flicker remains. There it is, twinkling away with the tiny strength of 20 watts or so. Not enough power to read, but just enough to make its presence known. Follow that light and you'll find the Torah. We call it *Ner Tamid*, or Eternal Light, that is meant to stay lit for generations to come.

About thirty years ago, I was principal of a high school learning program and youth group advisor at a large synagogue in Houston. The rabbi said to me, "Look at the teenagers for leadership. Young children dream of being older, when they can be teenagers. Adults dream of being younger, when they *were* teenagers. If you find some good teenagers, they will influence both younger and older people." I'm not sure if it always works that way, but I saw a great example of leadership and role modeling on the sixth night of Hanukkah at Temple Beth Torah.

We were in the middle of a spirited Hanukkah/Shabbat service. The room was full and over 120 little candles were glowing. Cantor Francyne had gotten the children dancing like dreidels. I played my traditional "stump the rabbi" game with the *I had a Little Dreidel* song, challenging people to propose a different word to rhyme than "I made it out of clay." The first example was a child who suggested, "I made it out of wood," and I responded with "I ate too many latkes/that didn't feel so good!" It seems every year a child wants to hear what I can rhyme with "glass."

The evening was getting long. We had three songs left on our play list, and only time for one. The cantor and I decided to sing Debbie Friedman's silly and lively rendition of *I am a Latke*. A fourteen-year-old boy started dancing by himself in the back. A few moments later, a younger boy began dancing with him. I made a subtle motion with my eyes and gestured for them to bring it to the front of the room. The two enthusiastic dancers caught the eye of three young girls in the front row, and the teen gave them the same eye contact and gesture I had just given him, inviting them to join the dance. Moments later, there was an all-ages parade of a dozen or more young people from two to 27 making circles throughout the sanctuary with adults clapping along, enjoying the spectacle.

This was a moment that will have lasting memories. When those who were there think about Hanukkah in the future, the sight of a full spectrum of young people dancing around the synagogue will bring us smile. The *ner tamid* is a little spark that can ignite brightness and warmth. Our small temple's Hanukkah celebration, between the dozens of burning candles and the dancing youngsters created the kind of spark that can help our temple shine continuously. All it needs is for us all to notice, and find our own ways to ignite the passion of sharing a community.

On February 28, we will have a chance to celebrate four sparks, the lights of a family who each has spread warmth in different ways. The **Blumin Family Four**. As the sixth annual **Ner Tamid/Eternal Light** honorees, the Blumins follow the legacy of **Hy Penn, Joni Levy, Jeff Kaufman** (of blessed memory), **Carrie Keith** and **Anita Bonanno**. Jeremy, through his devotion to the physical building and grounds, Stacey with her tireless efforts to keep us organized and informed, Rachael with her incomparable teaching skills and ability to connect with young children, and Aaron, with his unbridled enthusiasm, are all examples of what a TBT family can be. Each has unique ways of enhancing our community. And together, they touch almost every aspect of temple life. With their devotion, their individual and collective sparks help keep our community strong.

Please join us at the Ner Tamid celebration, as we honor the Blumins and the spirit of Temple Beth Torah.

L'shalom,

***Rabbi Dan Gordon***

*Temple Beth Torah  
6th Ner Tamid (Eternal Light) Award  
A program honoring The Blumin Family  
Benefiting Temple Beth Torah  
Saturday, February 28, 2026*

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 honorees  
Entertainment  
8:15 – 9:00 pm Dessert Reception



*Congratulations to this year's Ner Tamid Award honorees Jeremy, Stacey, Rachael and Aaron Blumin*

**Jeremy Blumin**, the patriarch of the Blumin family, is a pilot for United Airlines and also a tax advisor. With TBT, he has served on the board of directors as both treasurer and president. His contributions to the temple go well beyond board positions. He has spent countless hours at the temple as a general fixer upper from gardening to changing light bulbs to repairing the Sukkah and so on. He has carefully maintained the brick path in front of the Sukkah and the Kavannah Corner, which continues to raise funds by people dedicating bricks. From the time the Blumin children were babies, Jeremy has always encouraged their learning and brings them to Shabbat services almost every week. His leadership example sets the tone for this great family.

**Stacey Zinda Blumin**, the family matriarch, is the central point of communication for Temple Beth Torah. She has served as secretary on the board of directors, and for many many years has been the temple administrator. She puts out the weekly email updates and edits the monthly newsletter. She receives all the phone calls and general emails that come to the temple. Her pleasant demeanor encourages new people as she is very welcoming. She is also her family's organizer extraordinaire, planning the children's activities, transportation, scouting, music, dances and everything for one of the busiest families you can imagine. She is always ready and willing to pitch in and help with all temple activities and keeps a smile on everyone's face.

**Rachael Blumin** is an 11th grader at Kingwood High School, a Gold Award Girl Scout, a National Honor Society member, and active in many high school activities. Rachael moved to Texas with her family when she was only two years old and is truly dedicated to learning. Her inquisitive nature brings many questions that keep her teachers and the rabbi on their toes! For the last four years, ever since her own bat mitzvah, Rachael has been the primary teacher at TBT Religious School for our preschool children. She also ran very successful Camp Ruach over the summer for grade school children. She is a wonderful planner and always has something to keep the children engaged. With her enthusiasm she introduces our youngest children to the joy of being Jewish.

**Aaron Blumin** is an 8th grader at Creekwood Middle School, has been at Temple Beth Torah his entire life, and even had his bris at the temple! He has an excellent memory, eagerly learns the details from his classes, and helps teach them to other students. He is never afraid to be the first one to try something. He is very involved in Boy Scouts, soccer, plays the saxophone... and the shofar! Aaron's enthusiasm sets the example for other students, and he is now helping as an assistant teacher in the TBT Religious School.

As a family the Blumins travel extensively providing their children with an appreciation of other cultures, communities, and fun experiences.

**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- page 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 the Blumins. 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 February 6, 2026**

## NER TAMID EVENING TO FEATURE OPERA LEGGERA WITH A PROGRAM DEVELOPED ESPECIALLY FOR TEMPLE BETH TORAH AND OUR AWARD RECIPIENTS

On February 28, Temple Beth Torah's *Ner Tamid* celebration will be blessed with the musical talents of four principle singers from the popular theatre company Opera Leggera. Known for their professional skills and innovation, each has been part of creating wonderful programs in the Kingwood area and beyond. And now, they will bring their gifts to enhance the honoring of the Blumins at our annual Ner Tamid fundraiser. They include:

**Tenor, Chris Holloway**, a native Texan who has performed throughout the United States and abroad. He has performed for Houston Grand Opera as well as with the L.A. Philharmonic Orchestra, the Cardiff Opera in Wales and with the Israeli Opera in Tel Aviv. His portrayal of King David was the highlight of the Jerusalem 2000 Festival. He is General Director of Opera Leggera (light opera), which he founded with his wife, Sasha, in 2005.

**Mezzo Soprano, Sasha Holloway**, originally from Odessa, Ukraine, has been part of operas and theatre companies in Ukraine, Israel, Florida and Houston. As Artistic Director of Opera Leggera, she has created, created, directed and produced more than 50 original musical and theatrical productions. Sasha and her daughter, Hannah, co-created an original biographical musical drama *Janusz and Stefa*, inspired by the final months of the Polish-Jewish educator and writer Janusz Korczak and the children of his orphanage in the Warsaw ghetto.

**Soprano, Hannah Holloway-Auchter**, performed onstage for the first time at the age of three. She has been involved in every aspect of the Opera Leggera performing arts productions, but shines most as a singer and actress. Co-creating *Janusz and Stefa* with her mother was one of her most satisfying accomplishments.

**Baritone, Christopher Auchter** is a Houston-based professional singer, keyboardist, and choral conductor. He earned a degree in Music and Vocal Performance from the University of Texas (Austin), and his work reflects a broad musical background that spans art song, oratorio, choral repertoire, and operatic performance. He has performed with numerous opera companies, both in the chorus and as a soloist, and is also a conductor, keyboardist and educator.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to enjoy these wonderful performers for a truly unique evening of entertainment.

## MARCH OF REMEMBRANCE 2026 – HONORING VICTIMS, SURVIVORS AND RESCUERS SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026 1:00 – 4:00 PM in Kingwood

Every year since 2012, Kingwood has hosted an annual March of Remembrance. This is a multi-faith event organized by the Holocaust Remembrance Association (HRA). Christians and Jews come together to honor those who were affected by the Holocaust, and provide information and education for people of all ages. Among the speakers will be Holocaust survivor Michael Siegel. Also sharing with the group will be Claudia Kiesinger, whose relatives were Nazi perpetrators. Claudia speaks frequently about her personal mission to rid the world of prejudice, breaking the cycle that existed in Germany when her relatives were involved in World War II. Kingwood is now home to the Holocaust Garden of Hope at King's Harbor. Please visit [www.hra18.org](http://www.hra18.org) for more information. The program is free, and registration on the website is REQUIRED to get the specific location of the event.

HRA's program is in January to coincide with United Nations Holocaust Remembrance Day, which is annually on January 27. Temple Beth Torah will host our own Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Shabbat service on Friday, April 17, 2026, and we are thrilled to have Cantorial Soloist Anita Bonanno to join us once again.



## ANDREA URGENTLY NEEDS A KIDNEY DONOR



Andrea is a beloved wife, mother and aunt.  
She wants to continue to be there for her family.  
Kidney failure is getting in her way.

To learn more about kidney donation or to see if you are  
a match, scan the QR code, visit [renewal.org/RN26819](http://renewal.org/RN26819),  
email [RN26819@renewal.org](mailto:RN26819@renewal.org) or call 718-431-9831 Ext. 315



 **Renewal**  
[www.renewal.org](http://www.renewal.org)

SEE PAST KIDNEY DONOR STORIES  
@renewalnews

Renewal is a non-profit organization dedicated to  
saving lives by helping kidney donors and recipients  
navigate all aspects of the transplant process.

## It's Miller Time for a Mitzvah Looking for Potential Kidney Donors

*Acheinu kol beyt Yisrael* begins a prayer dating back to 9<sup>th</sup> Century C.E. in Babylon that means, in effect, “We are all one family.” It is a central aspect of Judaism that we look out for each other. The Talmud states, “Whoever saves one life, has saved an entire world.” (Sanhedrin 4:5) And the Torah says, “Do not stand idly by while a neighbor bleeds.” (Leviticus 19:16) One of our family members, Andrea Miller, needs a kidney transplant to maintain a healthy life.

Andrea and her husband, Mike, have been valuable members of Temple Beth Torah since they first joined, over 15 years ago, shortly before their son, Manny, came into their lives. Both have served on the board and Mike is the current president. Andrea has served as treasurer, ritual chair and coordinates our security, cleaning services and bills payable. Both Mike and Andrea are volunteer teachers in Sunday School, and their boys, Manny and Levi, willingly help out whenever needed.

The efforts to find a kidney for Andrea are being coordinated by Renewal, a non-profit organization dedicated to saving lives by helping kidney donors and kidney recipients navigate all aspects of the transplant process. Testing is easy; finding the perfect match is not. There is complete anonymity with any questions. The staff at Renewal can answer any questions about the safety of being a kidney donor. Passing this information along to anyone you know will help spread the word and help Renewal have a list of potential matches for Andrea and other patients in need. Please call (718) 431-9831 Ext. 315 or email [RN26819@renewal.org](mailto:RN26819@renewal.org) There is no obligation to get tested. The more people who know about this opportunity, the better are the chances to save lives.

# **Yom Limmud—A Jewish Day of Learning**

**Sunday, February 15, 2026**

**Congregation Beth Israel, Houston**

**5600 North Braeswood**

**8:30 am-3:45 pm**

**Featuring both local and nationally recognized teachers and scholars**

We hope you can attend Yom Limmud 2023—a Jewish Day of Learning on February 15, 2026. This in person event is provided by the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston and will take place at Congregation Beth Israel. The Federation hopes you will join for some exciting and innovative new programming!

Yom Limmud has educated students, parents, and teachers across our diverse community for more than 30 years. The theme this year is B'Yachad/Together highlighting the strength we gain through unity, shared experiences, and growing as a collective. It encourages each participant to bring their unique voice and help shape a community that grows stronger when we show up for one another. The full program list will be published soon on the Federation's website [www.houstonjewish.org](http://www.houstonjewish.org)

The keynote speaker is Gil Hoffman, an Israeli-American journalist who is the executive director of HonestReporting.com. Other class categories include: Israel & Jewish Peoplehood, Jewish Values, Torah & Spirituality, Advocacy & Activism, Combating Antisemitism & Building Awareness, and Jewish Creativity, Learning & Personal Growth.

Rabbi Dan Gordon is a frequent presenter at Yom Limmud. This year, he will present a unique session called, "*Ordinary People with Extraordinary Stories*"

More details and registration information can be found by clicking on the link: <https://www.houstonjewish.org/yomlimmud/>

## **RABBI DAN BRINGS THE TBT SPIRIT TO PHILLY**

In April 2025, Rabbi Dan Gordon was elected President of OHALAH, a multi-denominational clergy association representing rabbis, cantors and rabbinic chaplains from all over the United States, Canada and Europe. January 8-15, Rabbi Dan will be presiding over his first conference since becoming president.

The full name of the organization is OHALAH: Association of Rabbis Cantors and Rabbinic Chaplains for Jewish Renewal. You may ask, "What is Jewish Renewal?" Jewish Renewal, in short, combines a philosophy of prayer and study with an attempt to blend ancient tradition to meaningful Jewish experiences. Founded by a former Hasidic rabbi, Zalman Schachter Shalomi (of blessed memory), Renewal includes a wide variety of observance styles and practices. There are a small number of "Jewish Renewal" synagogues, as well as many clergy who bring their knowledge and desire to many different professional ways of worship, education and spiritual care.

The organization is called OHALAH, which means "the big tent," because it includes clergy from different denominations within Judaism as well as those whose connection might be considered "post denominational." Jewish Renewal does have its own seminary, through its sister organization ALEPH, and about 60% of the clergy in OHALAH were ordained in the Aleph Ordination Program. The rest include Reform, Conservative and Orthodox ordinations, as well as various alternative programs.

While Temple Beth Torah is considered "Reform in style," using prayerbooks published by the Reform movement, Rabbi Dan considers himself a "pluralistic" rabbi. Having studied with teachers from all movements, he says, "I wanted to be able to be familiar with all traditions and connect with Jewish people from different perspectives."

He is excited to learn from the wide variety of Jewish perspectives in OHALAH, and help to contribute to "renewing Judaism" for the great spectrum of Jewish people.

## Simchas in January

### *Birthdays*

3	Talia Manusov
5	Bob Swaim
5	Felipe Ramirez
7	LiJuan Aizenberg
7	Ginny Skold
8	Judi Adler
8	Bobbylee Ruskis
8	Ann Dominick
8	Ellen Delap
10	Benjamin Ramirez
14	Elahn Quick
16	Grayson Miller
16	Lori Acosta
23	Paola Lemus
27	Ian Adler
28	Lenny Simmons
30	Rachael Blumin
30	Alexander Zweifel

### *Anniversary*

25 Lauren Herman and Ginny Skold

## 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!

## January Yahrzeits

The following names will be read each week during January 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.

*Mike Kelley, Bernard Kullman, Dr. Jacob Belofsky, Goldie Bernstein, Samuel Levy, Harry D. Smith, Roslyn Wolf, Erwin Cahn, Henry Lesser, Ann Wolfsohn, Elsie Kullman, Ruby Bluestein Kemble, Blossom Levy, Ella Eidelhoch, Shirley Lubin, Alfred Heyman, Marvin Charak, Harold Rubin, Molly Rosenberg, Sara Solomon, Spurgeon Dunnam, David Kharasch, Joseph Abbell, Leah Denbina Wexler, Magdalena Rauba, Stanley Sonenfield, Charles Curtis, Shirley Weiss, Helen Gordon, Joseph Samuels, Mary Judith Keith, Rose Katz, Robert Argus Campbell III, Robert Vine, Rabbi Hilel Rudavsky*

## CUP OF WISDOM

**A VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB AND DISCUSSION GROUP  
MEETING EACH SUNDAY  
AT 11:30 AM ON ZOOM**

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.

## 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 Stacey Blumin at 281-446-5611, or email [admin@tbthumble.org](mailto:admin@tbthumble.org)

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

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F084BAEAA22A2FB6-57857673-tbtoneg#/>



## Torah Portions for January 2026

*Summarized by Rabbi Dan Gordon*

### **January 2-3, 2026**

#### **Va-Y'chi, Genesis 47:28-50:26**

Jacob, at 147 years old, blesses his grandchildren, Ephraim and Menasheh, blessing the younger before the elder. He makes Joseph promise to have him buried with his forefathers in Canaan. Jacob calls all his sons to him, and tells each what he thinks of them. After his death, Jacob's sons take him to Canaan for burial and then returned to Egypt. Joseph dies at 110 years old, after reconciling with his brothers again. The Biblical family is at home in Egypt as Genesis ends.

### **January 9-10, 2026**

#### **Shemot Exodus 1:1-6:1**

We begin the Book of Exodus with the sons of Israel (Jacob) and their families settled in Egypt. But a new king arises who does not honor the relationship Joseph had established. Because of Pharaoh's fear of a revolt, male Hebrew babies are ordered to be killed. With the help of conspiring midwives, Shifra and Puah, Moses' mother saves him by putting him in a basket where he is later found by Pharaoh's daughter and adopted. Moses kills an Egyptian taskmaster and flees to Midian. He marries, and while watching his father-in-law's sheep, G-d appears to Moses out of a burning bush that is not consumed. G-d reveals His plan to free the Israelites, and sends Moses and his brother Aaron to speak to Pharaoh about freeing the Hebrew slaves.

### **January 16-17, 2026**

#### **Va-eira Exodus 6:2-9:35**

G-d reveals His sacred name to Moses, and tells him that he is the first one to know it. G-d assures Moses that He will be with him as he negotiates with Pharaoh. The plagues begin: blood, frogs, vermin, locusts, cattle disease, boils and hail; but each time, Pharaoh's heart is hard, and he does not free the Hebrew slaves.

### **January 23-24, 2026**

#### **Bo, Exodus 10:1-13:16**

The plagues continue with Pharaoh's lack of response predictable, as G-d reveals to Moses, *"I am hardening Pharaoh's heart in order to increase My wonders - so you will tell your children and grandchildren how I toyed with Egypt, and the wonders I put in them. And they shall know that I am God."* (Exodus 10:1-2) For years, scholars and commentators wonder why ten plagues were necessary. The Torah suggests that the plagues had to be memorable enough for us to continue to retell the story. The Israelites receive instructions to place blood above our doorposts as a sign for the angel of death to "pass over" our homes, and the Torah reveals laws about how to remember Pesach/Passover in the future.

### **January 30-31, 2026**

#### **Beshalach Exodus 13:17-17:16**

Finally set free by the Pharaoh, the Israelites depart from Egypt, only to be pursued by the ambivalent Pharaoh. God instructs Moses to lift his staff, and the Sea of Reeds parts for the Israelites to walk through on dry land. When Moses and the Israelites see the Egyptians drown in the Reed Sea, they sing a song of praise to God. Bitter reality of their journey causes them to complain to Moses their leader. In response, God sends manna to appease their hunger.

## **Join a Committee!**

### **It's a New Year – Time to Get Involved!**

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 Debbie Swaim at [president@tbthumble.org](mailto:president@tbthumble.org)

## DONATIONS

### RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

*Brian Eoff*

*Joel and Karen Heller*

*Chris and Alexandra Holloway*

### GENERAL FUND

*Edith and Bernard Stolbun Family Foundation*

*Deborah Rodriguez-Castindp*

*Gloria Mendez*

*Alice Kaufman*

### TOM THERIOT MEMORIAL PROGRAM FUND

*Jeffrey and Joanne Spalter*

### SCOTT ERIC AND JEFFREY KAUFMAN TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION FUND

*Alice 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).*

### 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 Creamer	Dessert size plates
Forks	Copy paper
Bottled water	Decaf Coffee
To go Containers	

## 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.

## DONATIONS Cont.

### 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](mailto: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.

### CHILDREN'S MUSIC EDUCATION FUND

Enables TBT's students to enrich their learning of prayer and Jewish music by having a cantor or music educator come multiple times to Sunday School and lead services with the students.

# 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

# January 2026    Tevet – Shevat 5786

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				JAN 1	2	3
				Happy NEW YEAR!!!	No Services – Temple Closed	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
NO Religious School  11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group-Virtual					7:00 PM Shabbat Service with Cantor Francyne  In Person and Virtual <i>Oneg sponsored by</i>	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:00 AM – 12:15 PM Religious School  11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group-Virtual					7:00 PM Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan and the Bar Mitzvah of Arthur Aizenberg  In Person and Virtual <i>Oneg sponsored by the TBT Sisterhood</i>	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:00 AM – 12:15 PM Religious School  11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group-Virtual			12:00 noon Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Dan		7:00 PM Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan  In Person and Virtual <i>Oneg sponsored by</i>	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9:00 AM – 12:15 PM Religious School  11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group-Virtual  1:00PM HRA March of Remembrance Event					7:00 PM Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan  In Person and Virtual <i>Oneg sponsored by</i>	