

Temple Beth Torah

NEWS FOR YOU

FEBRAURY 2026 SHEVAT – ADAR 5786



Rabbi Dan
Gordon

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FEBRUARY EVENTS

Friday, February 6	7:00PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan In Person and Virtual <i>Oneg sponsored by The Blumin Family In Honor of Rachael's Birthday</i>
Friday, February 13	7:00PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan In Person and Virtual <i>Oneg sponsored by</i>
Friday, February 20	7:00PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan In Person and Virtual <i>Oneg sponsored by</i>
Wednesday, February 18	12:00PM	Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Dan
Friday, February 27	7:00PM	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan, Cantor Francyne and the Religious School Students In Person and Virtual <i>Oneg sponsored by the Religious School Parents</i>
Saturday, February 28	6:15PM	TBT's Ner Tamid Annual Fundraiser Reservations required www.tbthumble.org

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!!!
TBT'S 6TH ANNUAL NER TAMID EVENT

HONORING THE BLUMIN FAMILY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH

DETAILS ON PAGE 4



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:

Temple Beth Torah doesn't have many Bar and Bat Mitzvahs each year—we're definitely not a Bar/Bat Mitzvah factory! That's what makes every single one so special. This past month, we celebrated Arthur Aizenberg becoming a Bar Mitzvah, and he did a wonderful job. As I watched him on the bimah, I couldn't help but think back to my own children's Bar and Bat Mitzvahs—how poised and mature they seemed on such an important day. That really seems to be true for all our kids. They help lead the service and always share something thoughtful and insightful with the congregation. I remember looking at my own kids on that day and thinking, *"Who are you?"* What an incredible transformation! Of course, by the very next day, they're back to being typical teenagers—but for a moment, we get a glimpse of the amazing adults they're becoming. How special is that? Thank you to our rabbi, teachers, and congregation for all the support you give our kids along the way.

I'd also like to remind everyone about the upcoming **Ner Tamid event on February 28**, honoring the Blumin family. Rabbi Dan wrote so beautifully in last month's newsletter about everything they—truly *all* of the Blumins—have done for Temple Beth Torah over the years. Please check out the details in this newsletter and be sure to get your tickets as we celebrate this very special family.

L'shalom,

Debbie Swaim

President, Temple Beth Torah

A Special Mitzvah

Are you looking for a rewarding mitzvah that will take up very little of your time, but make a big impact? Within the Jewish community, there are elders and disabled people who are unable to make it to the temple who would love a personal visit periodically. Rabbi Barry Cohen, Chaplain Manager of Alexander Jewish Family Service in Houston, receives requests in various geographies, including Kingwood and other areas of northeast Houston for personal visitation. Rabbi Cohen is willing to give training and suggestions of how to implement these visits. Anyone who volunteers to be part of this kind of team would not have to commit to a specific number of visits, and not obligated to say "yes" every time. For more information, please contact Rabbi Dan Gordon, rabbi@tbthumble.org

RABBI'S MESSAGE

ALL WE NEED IS VAV:

How One Vital letter can help us with diversity and heal Beyond Divides

1

I recently attended a conference of clergy in which the keynote speaker used this title for his 90-minute teaching. The speaker was Rabbi Amichai Lau-Lavie, recognized as one of the strongest voices in Judaism today. Rabbi Amichai was born in Israel, and is the 39th generation of rabbis in his family, dating back to the 11th Century. He is the first non-Orthodox rabbi in the line. His father was an Israeli Consul General, and his uncle was Chief Rabbi of Israel for 10 years. He came to the U.S. as a young man and developed innovative ways to teach Torah and lead community, founding STORAHtelling – dramatic ways to deeply learn Jewish text – and Lab/Shul, an experimental synagogue in New York. I've known Amichai personally for over 30 years, through our shared love of theatre. A 2016 graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary, he is officially a Conservative rabbi, but broke away from the Conservative movement because he agrees to officiate weddings of Jewish people to non-Jewish people. His philosophy mirrors my own on that subject, saying, "A couple comes to me—the woman is Jewish and the man isn't. They want to get married, but he doesn't want to convert. They want to be part of our community, to raise their children as Jews. If I tell them 'no,' we've lost them and their children, and that's it."

Vav, sixth letter of the Hebrew alphabet, is a simple letter, a straight, vertical line. The V sound is formed by lips and teeth collaborating with a vibrating tone that is flexible in length; it can be spoken quickly or dragged out. When a dot is on top of the letter, it becomes a vowel – the O sound. When the dot drops to the middle of the Vav, the vowel is OO. Both the O and the OO can also make short or long sounds, depending on how they are voiced. The letter looks stiff, but is very versatile.

When the vav stands alone in front of a word, it simply means “and.”

Rabbi Amichai's lecture focused on the geographical, political and philosophical divide of the northern and southern areas in Israel. Israel enjoyed unity during the reigns of King David and King Solomon, and then one nation became two, Israel and Judea. The “and” that could connect, became a separation. The rabbi's lesson got me thinking about the importance of that little “and” in Torah AND in our lives.

When we recite Shema in our worship service, it comes from Deuteronomy 6:4. The next paragraph, 6:5-9, starts with V'ahavta. In our prayer book it says in our prayer book, “You shall love...” – but if it were translated literally, it would say, **AND** you shall love.” The “and” connects the paragraph about love with the statement about one God for all. That connection makes a world of difference. Throughout the Torah, countless paragraphs begin with “Vayomer Adonai” or “Vayidaber Adonai” – “And God spoke” or “AND God said.” All of our teachings are connected to each other, as different as they may be. Likewise, all Jews – and I daresay, all humans – are connected to each other.

What divides us? We have our labels and our loyalties. We can hold fast to the notion that someone who lives, works, dresses, worships, loves or thinks differently is **WRONG**. That there is only one right answer to every situation. That we have a monopoly on truth, and one who disagrees with us is evil. While prejudice against Jews has led to persecution, prejudice within our people, judgments about the right or wrong way to be Jewish, disrupts our unity.

SHEMA YISRAEL, ADONAI ELOHEINU, ADONAI ECHAD

LISTEN, ISRAEL! GOD – OUR GOD – IS ONE!

V'AHAVTA ET ADONAI ELOHECHA...

AND YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR GOD...

We show our love for God most appreciatively when we love God's most precious creations: God's children. Shema reminds us to listen, and hence, to connect. Listening (shema) leads to love (v'ahavta). The **AND** brings it all together.

Let US be together, as ONE.

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
Student Level: Age 13- 18 \$10 Under age 13 free
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 www.TBThumble.org.

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 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 Debbie Swaim at president@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.

**Adult Learning with the Rabbi at
TBT**

What do Jews think about...?

**Wednesday, February 18, 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

If you would like to join Sisterhood and
keep up to date on future events and
get together. Please contact Susan
Meinholz at sisterhood@tbthumble.org.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL HAPPENNINGS

February is a busy time for TBT Religious School. We will celebrate Tu B'Shevat with the planting, fruits to eat, and songs to sing. Casey Snyder will help the students plant parsley in pots so that they will have parsley for Passover. The students will have a fun day of activities to learn about the meaning and traditions of Tu B'Shevat.

Yom Limmud, Houston's annual Day of Learning presented by the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston, will be held on February 15 at Congregation Beth Israel in Houston. There will be no Religious School at TBT but we encourage parents to check out the classes available on that day. The full program list and registration can be found at www.houstonjewish.org/yomlimmud.

On February 22, associate director of Greene Family Camp, will have a video and short presentation about all the fun activities for campers. Parents are encouraged to attend. Also on February 22, the 6th -7th grade class will be going on a field trip to Holocaust Museum Houston. Thank you to the teachers and parents who will be chaperoning this experience for our students. Thank you also to the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston for arranging this tour.

EXCITING WEEKEND

Friday, February 27

Student Led Shabbat Service

Cantor Francyne and Rabbi Dan are preparing the Religious School students to lead the Shabbat service on Friday, February 27 at 7:00 pm. This is a Purim service so please come in costume. The Religious School families will provide the oneg for the evening.

Saturday, February 28

Ner Tamid Award to honor the Blumin Family

6:15 Wine/Tea and Cheese Reception

7:00 Entertainment from Opera Leggera singing lots of fun songs that families will enjoy, Program to honor the Blumins

8:15 Dessert

Tickets may be purchased on the temple website or drop a check off at the temple.

We would like as many families and friends to attend as possible. The Blumins have been the heart of TBT for many years and this is a lovely way to honor them.

Our online silent auction at Air Auctioneer will begin on February 21 and concludes that evening at 8:45 pm. Go to www.airauctioneer.com to set up an account. Click on Temple Beth Torah Ner Tamid 2026 after the 21st to check out all the fantastic item on which to bid.

Sunday, March 1

Religious School Purim Celebration

Rachel McConnell will help students bake hamantaschen. There will be lots of fun activities and crafts. We are collecting toiletry items to donate to HAAM so please start bringing those in as soon as possible.

An Exciting February!

Carrie Keith

TBT Religious School Principal

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
Including our own Rabbi Dan

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

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 at 11:00AM 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/>

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

Acheinu kol beyt Yisrael begins a prayer dating back to 9th 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 There is no obligation to get tested. The more people who know about this opportunity, the better are the chances to save lives.

Simchas in February Birthdays

11	Ruth Tobin
13	Barry Sachs
14	Greg LaCour
16	Michelle Schwartz
17	Alyce Baur
17	Jonathan Couch
20	Jim Meinholz
25	Donna Karash
26	Iris Graf
27	Lynn Gordon

Anniversary

22 Stephen and Kim Levy

February Yahrzeits

The following names will be read each week during February 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.

*Beatrice Sayovitz, Susanne Witt Wiener,
Barbara Teichner, Anna Polavsky, Irving Weisberg,
Arlene Starr, Harry Rapoport, Harold Minkes,
Vesta Amos, Stanley Simrin, Jacob Haidnick,
Bob Theriot, Nathan Mandell, Carolyn Katz,
Harry Schnitzer, Mary Beth Graf, Allan Berger,
Jerome Kharasch, Ben Myers, Linda Penn,
Sheelah Smith, Ellis Caplan, Shirley Solomon,
Aaron Markowitz, Karen Arner, Kenneth Watterston,
Kathleen Dolan, Julie Jones, Marjorie Liss,
Marilyn Lapman, Bessie Hill, Jacqueline Bitterman,
Joseph Kolichstein, Chana Rudavsky, Aaron Colunga*

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. The discussion group meets through Zoom. The link remains the same each week and is sent out in our weekly emails.

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 Stacey Blumin at 281-446-5611, or email 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 February 2026

Summarized by Rabbi Dan Gordon

February 6-7, 2026 Yitro Exodus 18:1-20:23

Yitro, the portion named for Moses' father-in-law, begins with the Midianite priest's stunning confession that "the Lord is greater than all gods." Wise Jethro sees that Moses is taking too much on his own shoulders, and counsels his son-in-law to delegate his authority. The Ten Commandments are given by God in *Yitro*, amidst thunder and lightning, through Moses' voice. These commandments begin our relationship as a people with a special covenant with God that includes special responsibilities. They are not referred to as "Ten Commandments" at this point, and later called in Hebrew "*Aseret Dibrot*," or "Ten Words/Utterances." How the ten are divided differs between Judaism and Christianity, as well as within some Christian denominations.

February 13-14, 2026 Mishpatim Exodus 21:1-24:18

"*Mishpatim*" means "rules," "laws" or "ordinances," and seems disorganized to the modern reader because the rules were meant to be remembered through hearing rather than reading. Both ritual and ethical laws are given in *Mishpatim*. Some of the most important laws concern ethical treatment for strangers, widows, and orphans. The first laws given after the Ten Commandments include the treatment of slaves. While we were not forbidden to have slaves, we were commanded to treat them in a certain manner, which included offering freedom after seven years. It is a valuable lesson to remember, since we had just come out of slavery. Sometimes, we are expected to do the opposite of the examples of what we've observed from our experiences. In this case, we're expected to treat servants how we would have liked to have been treated, rather than how we *were* treated.

February 20-21, 2026 Terumah, Exodus 25:1-27:19

We receive an elaborate description of how the Tabernacle is to be constructed, from the kind of wood used to the fabric for the drapes. Even though the construction is described in very elegant terms, we are encouraged only to make offerings from our hearts. A center piece in the Tabernacle will be the seven-branched menorah, which will be kept lit in an eternal light, signifying God's constant presence.

February 27-28, 2026 Tetzaveh Exodus 27:20-30:10

This Torah portion describes the elaborate procedure involved in ordaining the priestly family, Aaron's descendants, who will be known as "Kohanim." Their clothes and their lives distinguish them as servants of both G-d and the people. They must take their roles extremely seriously, as they represent their sacred rituals will represent the Israelites to G-d. The portion begins with instructions for the "ner tamid" or Eternal Light, that reminds both of G-d's everlasting presence and our eternal relationship and devotion.

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

DONATIONS

RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

Brian Eoff

Deborah Rodriguez-Castindo

Greg and Mindy LaCour

Vitaly and Lijuan Aizenberg – In Honor of Arthurs Bar Mitzvah

Herbert and Moira Sacks

Judy Mellon - in loving memory of Harry Mellon

Steve Lee

GENERAL FUND

Lynn Gordon & Hy Penn Charitable Fund at the Houston Jewish Community Foundation – In memory of Ian Adler – In Honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Arthur Aizenberg - TBT's Holocaust Remembrance Shabbat Service In memory of Linda and Morris I. Penn and Riva Kremer.

SCOTT ERIC AND JEFFREY KAUFMAN TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION FUND

Alice Kaufman – for Books

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.

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 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, 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 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

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

February 2026 Shevat - Adar 5786

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
FEB 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
					7:00 PM Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan In Person and Virtual <i>Oneg sponsored by the Blumin Family In Honor of Rachael's Birthday</i>	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
NO Religious School 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group-Virtual					7:00 PM Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan In Person and Virtual <i>Oneg sponsored by</i>	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
NO Religious School YOM LIMMUD - HOUSTON			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>	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00 AM – 12:15 PM Religious School 11:30 Adult Ed – Sunday Discussion Group-Virtual					7:00 PM - Purim Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dan, Cantor Francyne and the Religious School Students In Person and Virtual <i>Oneg sponsored by the Religious School Families</i>	6:15PM NER TAMID ANNUAL EVENT – HONORING THE BLUMIN FAMILY