

ChaiLights

The monthly newsletter of Temple Beth Tikvah

September 2019
Yom Rishon, 8 Elul 5779

Visit the TBT Web site

Coming Soon! Yom Kippur Break-Fast Food Signup

Our congregational Break-Fast will take place on Wednesday, October 9th at 6:45 PM. The link below is a signup sheet of items you can check off on what you'd like to bring. If you do not see what you'd like to bring, please select "Your Signature Dish" at the bottom and write your dish in the comments. For any questions, feel free to message Jill MacGregor.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080e4facab29a4ff2-tbtyom2>



Rabbi's Message

As we approach our Jewish Days of Awe, I look forward to celebrating our 10th High Holy Day season and our 11th year together! Joe will be handling the honors, and I'm thrilled that our board has voted to

offer an even wider range of honors to non-Jewish family members. Many of you have shared with me how very special it is to have numerous congregants participating in services and this is only possible if YOU sign up with Joe for English readings, ark openings, candle blessings, English Haftorah readings and Hebrew Torah blessings. Please email him your desire to participate at joewallack@aol.com

Our High Holy Day schedule is as follows:

Sunday, September 29th ~ Erev Rosh Hashana congregational dinner at Maggiano's Little Italy at Baybrook Mall beginning at 5 pm.

Please RSVP to Joe Wallack by Sunday September 15th at joewallack@aol.com

Sunday, September 29th ~ Erev Rosh Hashana services begin at 7:30 pm and are followed by a sweet oneg. Please bring a dessert dish to share!

Monday, October 1st ~ Rosh Hashana services and a children's service beginning at 9:30 am.

Friday October 4th ~ family Shabbat Shuvah (the Shabbat between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur) services beginning at 6:30 pm followed by a potluck dinner.

Tuesday October 8th ~ Kol Nidrei services beginning at 7:30 pm

Wednesday October 9th~ Yom Kippur morning services and a children's service beginning at 9:30 am. Yom Kippur afternoon services start at 4 pm. Yizkor services begin at 5 pm~ please bring pictures of your loved ones whom you are remembering. Closing Service/Neilah~ 5:30 pm, followed by our community break the fast.

BEFORE the High Holy Days, there are two shows at the ERJCC that you may be interested in attending. Thursday September 19th is A Night of Comic Relief, featuring 3 Jewish comedians, with headliner Jessica Kirson. Following their comedy sets they will have a conversation about Judaism and comedy. Please let me know if you'd like to join me! Tickets are available at erjchouston.org.

The ERJCC is partnering with The Ensemble Theatre for a play called City of Good Abode which relives the story of the historic strike by Memphis sanitation workers that led to King's death, while exploring the relationship between America's African American community and the nation's Jewry. This play is the winner of the 2017 Jewish Plays Project's New Play Contest. Tickets for the play are available at erjchouston.org/theatre.

I hope all our children are off to a good start to the school year and Happy 5780,

Rabbi Deborah



President's Message

Summer is winding down. The kids are back in school, and my job is starting to go from crazy back to more “normal”. I hope everyone got to enjoy at least a part of the summer.

I think the highlight of the summer at TBT was the joyful Shabbat of August 23rd, as we welcomed Mike Howell into “the tribe”. We had a huge turnout, and everyone enjoyed both the service and the lovely oneg supplied by Mike and Cinnamon.

Coming up in September, we have the first day of religious school for the kiddos on September 15th, and then the High Holy Days, beginning on the 29th. See Rabbi Deborah’s blurb about specific times for each service.

As was made clear at the Congregational Meeting in June, TBT is in a pretty tough spot, financially. As we approach the Days of Awe, you might consider a double-whammy in helping out. I would encourage everyone to honor the memory of a loved one (or two) with a plaque on our yearzeit board. You will leave a lovely memory of those who have passed, as well as donating to TBT. If you are interested, contact Dave Salinsky at djs1122@aol.com for more information.

Speaking of donations, we have a dedicated fund to help pay for our Pasadena Police Officers, when they are needed. If you would like to make a donation in any amount to that fund, simply send a check to the temple, and mark “security fund” in the memo line.

Join us for services every Friday night. Remember, services begin at 7:00 p.m., except for the first Friday of the month, which begins at 6:30 and is followed by a pot-luck. The air is cold and the smiles are warm!

We will be having a garage sale in October. Please consider donating any clothing, toys, furniture, etc. that you are no longer using. We will notify you of the specific date in the near future.

I hope to see everyone in the very near future!

Stuart

The Chai Road

Before I had children, when I looked back on my childhood, the worst part was because I lived in a non Jewish city, it took me five hours a day to go to Hebrew School. 45 minutes to be driven to the edge of the bus route. 45 minutes to be driven to school. 2 hours of school. 45 minutes to be driven to the end of the bus route. 45 minutes to be driven home. 5 Hours, 3 days a week, uphill, both ways.

My parents though always considered it their greatest accomplishment. Because I was put on the path, I had a Bar Mitzvah and maintained a Jewish identity. 20 years later I got married and had kids (actually my wife had the kids) and because I lived in Clear Lake there was a Hebrew School, Temple Beth Tikvah, 5 minutes away. My children went to Hebrew School at Temple Beth Tikvah and had B'nai Mitzvahs there which my parents witnessed. When I look back now on my childhood I think the best part was my going to Hebrew School even though it took 5 hours a day. It made me what I am today. Jewish.

You may ask, “so what, what difference does it make that you retained your Jewish identity?” A few years ago the Unitarian Church installed its first gay Minister. I was there along with several other representatives from our Temple. Would I have been there if I hadn’t spent the last twenty years at Beth Tikvah? Probably not. After that I was at The Islamic Center of Clear Lake for an anti-hate rally with several other representatives from our Temple. Would I have been there if I did not still have a Jewish identity? No.

Being Jewish makes you different from most people. Ironically, it gives you a certain freedom. For people who do not like you because you are Jewish, they are not going to not like you any more just because you stand up for other people who are different than most people.

And more importantly, now every Friday I help feed hungry Jews healthy food. Would I be doing that if I wasn’t Jewish? I don’t think so.

If it’s also important to you to keep a Hebrew School in the Clear Lake area so that your children and their children and your Community’s children can have a Jewish education, have B’nai Mitzvahs and maintain a Jewish identity, then I ask you to consider making a contribution to Temple Beth Tikvah in connection with High Holy Days:

1) Temple Beth Tikvah’s 5780 Book of Remembrance – It’s traditional and appreciated to make a donation in memory of those you choose to list in The Book.

2) Temple Beth Tikvah's HHD 5780 Pledge Drive – This is an important part of our budget and can be in honor of whoever you choose.

Please make checks payable to Temple Beth Tikvah, indicate what the check is for (in memory of/in honor of/other) and mail to:

Temple Beth Tikvah
12411 Park Shadows Trail
Houston, TX 77058

By doing so you will help keep Judaism on the Chai Road and besides, it would have made my parents really happy.

Joseph Wallack Ritual/Fundraising Director, Temple Beth Tikvah JoeWallack@gmail.com

TBT
Board of Directors

President– Stuart Eisen

Executive VP– Deborah
Nowinski

Ritual– Joe Wallack

Finance– Paul Hamer

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Member at Large– Adam Baker

Secretary– Scott Vickers

Spiritual Leadership

Rabbi Deborah Schloss

rabbi@templebethtikvah.org

Office hours by appointment

Shabbat Services

September:

September 13th at 7 PM:
Shabbat Service

September 20th at 7 PM:
Shabbat Service

September 27th at 7 PM
Shabbat Service

Oneg Sponsorship

The TBT Oneg Fund provides catered onegs for musical shabbats and occasions when there is no sponsor.

To sponsor an oneg or donate to the fund, please contact [Joe Wallack](#).