

# Temple Beth El Bulletin

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## Rabbi's Message – Dov Gottesfeld

Shalom to all:

I have been standing for the past ten minutes or so (truthfully it feels like forever) shifting my gaze between my blank computer screen and a list of subjects I had scribbled down from which to select one for my monthly newsletter article. So far I had written the salutation: "Shalom to all:" After typing the colon I began to wonder what kind of "Shalom" am I offering? Is it a mere greeting like "Hi, is it peace of mind, is it a safeguard from anti-Semitism, and security from terrorism while worshipping in the temple? Or am I prophesizing that global Peace "Shalom" has finally arrived?

For those who may not know, or perhaps forgot, the root of the word 'shalom' in Hebrew is constructed from three pictures: Shin (meaning open mouth - conversing), Lamed (meaning to learn, to teach, and to study), and Mem (meaning



**Dov Gottesfeld**

live water – as in running water- which is synonymous with 'life'). Put together it declares that conversing for the purpose of teaching, learning and studying, yields refreshing and dynamic life.

My wife who had seen my list of subjects said unequivocally, "Tu Bishvat! Write about something happy. The holiday for trees, which is coming up. We need to plant more trees. Do you know how many thousands of trees were destroyed by the fire, then by the floods, and now by the freezing cold weather all over the country?" It sounds like a noble idea. Yet, where exactly am I going to tell our fellow Jews to go and plant trees, and sing Tu Bishvat songs – in northern California?

I checked off the subject 'current Jewish events and news' on my list. I surfed on Google's waves, and disappointedly, I didn't find any – what you might label as: "happy" articles.

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### February Schedule of Services:

February 3rd Anita Friedman (7:30 PM)  
February 10th Andi & Jeff Portney (7:30 PM)  
February 17th Diane Borad-Mirken (7:30 PM)  
February 24th Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld (7:30 PM)

### Educational Activities

Adult conversational Hebrew on Tuesdays at 6 PM

Etz Chaim Children's Religious School 9:30-10 AM

## Continued from Page 1

Phoenix Jewish News: Retired rabbis have their eyes on the future –by Shannon Levitt | Staff writer. Jan 26, 2023

One hundred and seventy-one retired rabbis gathered in Phoenix for the National Association of Retired Reform Rabbis' (NAORRR) annual conference Jan. 5-9, but they weren't there to reminisce about the good old days – at least, they weren't only reminiscing. Regardless of their emeritus status, attendees still have a keen interest in what the future holds for synagogue life and the rabbis still in the pulpit”.

“What the future holds for synagogue life ...” I can't wait for their report to be published. In the meantime it is up for every synagogue to determine its own present and future by having and encouraging their memberships to rise up and get themselves involved. That's what the future holds for synagogue life.

And now for the “Happy” subject.

I asked a 90+ year old lady a question about happiness while escorting her up the bimah to open the Holy Ark, and she whispered in my ear, “I'm still standing up.”

That is Happiness indeed.

Shavua Tov and a Happy Tu Bishvat.

Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld

## TBE Board of Directors for 2022-2023

**President:** Frank Young

**Vice President:** Vacant

**Treasurer:** Ron Levy

**Executive Secretary:** Dove Okonina

**Past President:** Suzanne Levy

**Brotherhood:** Michael LeCover

**Buildings & Grounds:** Ken Wolf & Sid Goldstien

**Education:** Amber Medina

**Membership:** Raul Medina

**Religious Practices:** Anita Friedman

**Sisterhood:** Marsha Epstein

**Ways & Means:** Diane Borad-Mirken

**Trees for Israel:** Alyshia Brunk

**Social Action Chair:** David Goldstien

**Sunshine Chair:** Judith Klinger

**Rabbi:** Dov Gottesfeld

**Bulletin Editor:** Leslie Epstein

**Webmaster:** Joel David

## Zoom Event on February 8 at 4 PM

**Topic of Discussion:** Israel and the Abraham Accords: the New Israel Government and Regional Threats Confronting the Jewish State. Sponsored by SLO Congregation Beth David. During his twenty-year diplomatic service, Dr. Hillel Newman has served in several critical positions including Policy Advisor to three Foreign Ministers of Israel and Ambassador of Israel to Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Dr. Newman has a Ph.D. in Jewish History and served as a professor of Jewish history, teaching graduate courses at Bar Ilan University and Boston University.

For the past five years, he served as a lecturer on Judaism in the NATO Defense College and served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as both Special Policy Advisor to the Director General and as Director of the World Jewish Affairs Department.

Consul General Newman made Aliyah with his family from South Africa, served as a medic in the IDF, and is married to Ayala. The couple have a ten-year-old son, Ram.

Here is the Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85455637188>

## President's Column – Frank Young



-Frank Young, president of TBE

Hillel Newman, Consul General of Israel for the southwestern region of the US, will speak on Zoom Wednesday, February 8th at 4:00 pm. He is sponsored by Congregation Beth David as part of the JCC Speaker's Program. *Topic: Israel and the Abraham Accords: the New Israel Government and Regional Threats Confronting the Jewish State.*

To attend the Zoom event, Click on the following link:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85455637188>

The synagogue is the most prevalent and arguably the most important institution in American Jewish life and therefore a target of people whose anti-Semitism demands action. The most important defensive weapon is a prepared mind. Knowing that there really are people out there who want to do us harm is the first step.

A prepared mind, allows one to respond quickly to danger such as an active shooter. Think about what you might do if you were confronted by an active shooter or hostage situation if you were at some venue like the store or the synagogue. Where are the exits? What route would you take? Where could you hide? If you were unable to run or hide, what could you pick up and use as a weapon?

If you are in the habit of thinking about these things, you will respond quicker should you be confronted with a dangerous situation. I don't like having to think about such things. However, in a dangerous world it's a good idea to be prepared.

Frank Young

# Bulletin Briefs

## February Anniversaries

- 1 Esmeralda & Cesar Vidales  
14 Abby Lassen & Michael LeCover

## February Birthdays

- 12 Amber Medina  
23 Gabrielie Romero  
23 Vicky Burg

### **Weekly Torah Portion Discussions and Shabbat services at Temple Beth El for TBE members whose main language is Spanish.**

The Spanish-speaking portion of our membership meets just about every Saturday morning at the temple starting at 9:30 am. We use a Spanish/Hebrew prayer book and hold a Shabbat service and a discussion of the weekly portion in Spanish. We are not a separate group from the temple (TBE) membership but are members of it whose main language is Spanish and feel that this space creates for us a comfortable way to immerse ourselves in the study of the Torah. Everyone is welcome to join with us, even the English speaking who are striving to learn Spanish as well as our Jewish heritage. We are pleased that we have a space to accommodate our needs and we thank the Board of Directors who encouraged this. The leader of our group is Raul Medina (805) 922-4171 or (805) 868-8153).

Discusiones semanales de la porcion de la Tora y servicios de Shabat en el Templo Beth El para los miembros de TBE cuyo idioma principal es el español. Los miembros de habla hispana de nuestra sinagoga se reune casi todos los sabados por la mañana en el templo a partir de las 9:30 am. Usamos un libro de Rezos en espanol / hebreo y celebramos un servicio de Shabat y una discusión de la porcion semana en español. No somos un grupo separado de la sinagoga (TBE), sino que somos miembros de el cuyo idioma principal es el español y sentimos que este espacio crea para nosotros una manera comoda de sumergirnos en el estudio de la Tora. Todos son bienvenidos a unirse a nosotros, incluso los de habla inglesa que se esfuerzan por aprender espanol, así como nuestra herencia judia. Nos complace tener un espacio para acomodar nuestras necesidades y agradecemos a la Junta Directiva que permita esto. Para mas información comunicarse con Raúl Medina al 805-868-8153.

## **Sisterhood**

For our first “sharing” meeting we met at the temple where Anita Friedman shared her skill at jewelry making and beading. Some of us created new pieces; others, like me, got help repairing some broken items. It was very enjoyable and we had a pretty decent turnout. The plan is to have two jewelry-making sessions, so the next one is planned for Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2:30 PM.

Bring if you have them (all optional):

- Tools of the trade, e.g., bead tray, needle nose pliers, fine wire cutters
- Broken necklaces or bracelets
- Favorite pendant that you want in a necklace, etc., bring them along. If you have bead trays, bring them too.

To be provided:

- Tools and felt (courtesy of Amber) working surfaces
- Good quality wire, also elastic for friendship bracelets
- Lots of beads
- Findings including crimp beads, jump rings, clasps, wire protectors, extenders
- plus ideas to play with.

Suggested donation: \$10 to cover some materials, with the rest going to Sisterhood.

We would really love to hear from you if you have a skill to share. Volunteers for future classes are needed. Please RSVP to me or Anita a week in advance if you plan to come.

If you have any of the tools of the trade, bring them. If you have broken necklaces, etc., bring them along. If you have bead trays, bring them too. We suggest a donation of \$10 to cover some materials, with the rest going to Sisterhood.

We would really love to hear from you if you have a skill to share. Volunteers for future classes are needed.

Marsha Epstein

## **Brotherhood**

We held the February meeting via Zoom on February 5<sup>th</sup>, the first Sunday of the month. Our March meeting seminar (160<sup>th</sup>) will be on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 AM on Zoom. I will be sure to let you know when we resume in-person meetings with our sumptuous breakfasts.

As usual, I will be sending out articles of interest to members of the group. In April we will be preparing the candles to commemorate the HaShoa. Our seminar conversations have been lively, interesting and informative and all interested people, men and women, are invited to join us.

Be well, Michael LeCover & Gary Epstein



## February Yarzheits

2/1/23	Harry Kunarsky*			
2/5/23	Elma Traub	14	Shevat	Aunt of Ken Wolf
2/6/23	Bert Coe	15	Shevat	Father of Andrea Coe Portney
2/7/23	Norma Miller	16	Shevat	Aunt of Kenneth L. Wolf
2/8/23	William Hart			Father of Gregory Hart
2/9/23	Cirilo Medina	6	Shevat	Father of Raul Medina
2/10/23	Nathan Eschen			Grandfather of Donna Eschen
2/10/23	Harry Mintzer	16	Shevat	Uncle of Marsha Epstein
2/10/23	Nathan Weiser			Father of Sid Weiser
2/10/23	Dorothy Young			Mother of Frank Young
2/12/23	Hattie Lester Schwartz*	21	Shevat	Mother of Stephen Schwartz
2/12/23	Marcia Tunick*	21	Shevat	Wife of Art Tunick
2/13/23	Elmer Vincent	22	Shevat	Uncle of Kenneth L. Wolf
2/14/23	Marjorie Gross			Aunt of Abby Lassen
2/15/23	Michael Gerber			Cousin of Diane Borad-Mirken
2/15/23	Sam Zuckerman*	24	Shevat	Father of Anne Berkowitz
2/16/23	Valerie Cohen	7	Adar	Daughter of Ed Cohen
2/16/23	Sam Berkowitz*	25	Shevat	Husband of Anne
2/17/23	Louise Black Robertson	16	Adar	Mother of Eric Berge
2/18/23	Robert L. Cohen			Father of Edgar Cohen
2/19/23	Mort Russell*	13	Adar	Husband of Rose Russell
2/20/23	Gladys Zicherman*	20	Adar	Mother of Marsha Epstein
2/21/23	Richard Meisler			Nephew of Mike Kaver
2/21/23	B. Jack Meltzer*	30	Shevat	Father of Lori Meltzer-Sutton
2/24/23	Leonard Friedman	3	Adar	Friend of Seymour Hersh
2/24/23	Harry Hayman	3	Adar	Friend of Seymour Hersh
2/24/23	Philip Schaefer	3	Adar	Cousin of Madeline Akronowitz
2/25/23	Bertha Goldberg*			Mother of Susan Schwartz
2/25/23	Harold Pawlan	25	Adar	Father of Suzanne Levy
2/25/23	William Krupkin*	4	Adar	Husband of Dorothy Krupkin
2/26/23	Corinne Bernstein*	5	Adar	Wife of Maurice Bernstein
2/26/23	L. Walter Herscovitz	5	Adar	Father of Lyn Meltzer and Em Wiessenberg
2/26/23	Sadie Gollub	5	Adar	Aunt of Myra Wapner
2/27/23	Edith Zuckerman Cohen*	6	Adar	Mother of Anne Berkowitz
2/28/23	Marion A. Gabler*			Mother of Elliott Gabler

## Months of Mourning

Peggy Rodriguez	Friend of Gary & Marsha Epstein	4/8/22
Tiffany Dall	Niece of Mel Kalish	4/20/22
Alan Kushnick		
Yuvis Ferrer	Cousin of Josue Medrano	11/24/22
Boots Hersh	Wife of Seymour Hersh	1/22/23

# FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Adult Conversational Hebrew on Zoom with Joel David (6 PM)	3 Shabbat service led by Anita Friedman (7:30 PM)	4 Morning Shabbat service and Torah study with Raul Medina at temple (10:30 AM)  Also: Etz Chaim with Amber Medina at temple (10:30 AM)
5 Brotherhood Seminar on Zoom (10 AM)	6	7 TBE Board Meeting (6 PM)	8 Dr. Hillel Newman, Consul General of Israel, speaks to us on Zoom (4:00 pm)	9 Adult Conversational Hebrew on Zoom with Joel David (6 PM)	10 Shabbat service led by Andi & Jeff Portney (7:30 PM)	11 Morning Shabbat service and Torah study with Raul Medina at temple (10:30 AM)  Also: Etz Chaim with Amber Medina at temple (10:30 AM)
12	13	14	15	16 Adult Conversational Hebrew on Zoom with Joel David (6 PM)	17 Shabbat service led by Diane Borad-Mirken (7:30 PM)	18 Morning Shabbat service and Torah study with Raul Medina at temple (10:30 AM)  Also: Etz Chaim with Amber Medina at temple (10:30 AM)
19	20	21	22	23 Adult Conversational Hebrew on Zoom with Joel David (6 PM)	24 Shabbat service led by Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld (7:30 PM)	25 Rabbi Gottesfeld leads the Torah discussion group. (10:00 am)  Also: Amber Medina leads Etz Chaim (10:30 am)
26 Sisterhood Jewelry repair at temple 2:30 pm	27	28				