

Temple Beth El Bulletin

VOLUME 52, No. 10
MARCH 2021
ADAR/NISAN 5781



The Temple Beth El Bulletin is published monthly according to the Gregorian calendar.

Phone:
(805) 928-2118
Email: TempleBethEl@verizon.net

Website:
<http://www.TBEsantamaria.com>
The Bulletin is emailed for free to Members and Friends of TBE.

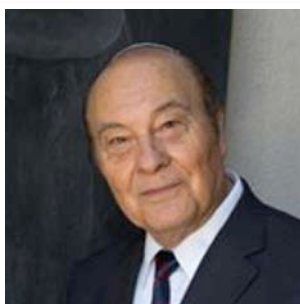
Street address: 1501 E. Alvin Ave., Santa Maria, CA 93454
Mailing address: P.O. Box 5217, Santa Maria, CA 93456

Rabbi's Message ~ Dov Gottesfeld

SHOULD EVERYONE DESERVE A SECOND CHANCE?

Shalom to all

This week's Torah portion Exodus 30:11–34:35 –is Ki Tisa, which means in English “when you carry”. The phrase reads: “When you carry the heads of the Israelites...” What God means when he says that to Moses, is when you ask the people to raise up their heads to be counted don't count their heads, ask each one of them to give exactly half a Shekel, and at the end count the Shekels, and you'll know how many people you have in your nation. The sum which each person will give is exactly half a Shekel, whether the person is poor or rich and the money will go for the maintenance of the Tabernacle. It also says that the money would also be as follows: “The rich shall give no more, and the poor shall give no less than half a shekel, with which to give offering to the Lord, to atone for your souls.” (15). In other words all people are



Dov Gottesfeld

equal in the eyes of God and they can atone for their souls and everyone who gives half a Shekel “will get a second chance.”

And indeed, in the subsequent events, it seemed that God had given second chances to some of the people who had “sinned”. Notably is Moses who got a second chance after smashing the first set of Tablets when he saw that the Israelites were worshipping the Golden Calf. What was Moses' sin, you may ask? The Tablets were not his, they were meant to be given to the Children of Israel. Moses decided to smash them on his own accord. He could have easily turned around, climbed up the mountain and returned them back to God. Yet God didn't mention it and carved a second set of the Tablets.

The children of Israel who worshipped the Golden Calf also received a second chance from God by finally getting the Torah.

Aaron, Moses' brother got a second chance. He was the one responsible for fashioning the

Continued on Page 2

March Schedule of Services:

Anita Friedman (March 5th)
Diane Borad-Mirken (March 12th)
Anita Friedman (March 19th)
Josué Medrano (March 26th)
Rabbi Gottesfeld Passover Seder (2nd night) + Shabbat service (Sunday, March 28th)

Educational Activities

Adult conversational Hebrew on Tuesdays at 6 PM on Zoom

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

Continued on Page 5

Golden Calf, and he admitted it. Yet, he also got a second chance from God, and resumed his priesthood.

Yet, some three thousand men who apparently had raised concerns about Moses' tardiness returning with the Torah, which initiated the reason for Aaron to fashion the Golden Calf, ended up mercilessly murdered by a group of Levites under Moses' directions. There were no investigations, or trials. They did not get a second chance – from neither God nor from Moses. Why not? They had supposedly paid their half shekels.

Shouldn't those three thousand men have deserved a second chance too?

Well, they really should have, but they did not get it, because the writers of the Torah wanted to teach future generations of Jews a lesson, a lesson about consequences or "paying a price". Whenever God threatens the Israelites with annihilation from the face of the earth, for any type of sin, it should be seen as a metaphor. Or otherwise, why should anyone follow a religion where God kills or sends his followers to their death? Just like in the Story of Korach and his tribe who perished when the earth opened up and swallowed them all. It was symbolic of expelling them from the community. Expelling people from a community in ancient times was a death sentence, because it was almost impossible for an individual, or even a group to survive on its own in a desert, or for that matter almost anywhere.

The Torah comes to tell us that in order to survive as a community, people need laws in order to hold them together as a homogenous group, while living without laws might bring any group, gradually into extinction.

Just think about it.

Best wishes, and keep safe.

Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld

Board of Directors 2020-2021

Acting President:

Gary Epstein, gepstein@calpoly.edu

Vice President:

Gary Epstein, gepstein@calpoly.edu

Treasurer:

Ron Levy, ralevy@juno.com

Executive Secretary:

Dove Okonina, dov.nat@verizon.net

Past President:

Suzanne Levy, slevy93455@gmail.com

Committee chairs:

Brotherhood:

Michael LeCover

Buildings & Grounds:

Ken Wolf, kennethwolf94720@gmail.com
& Sid Goldstien

Education:

Amber Medina, amedinacasa@gmail.com.

Membership:

Steven Frucht

Religious Practices:

Anita Friedman & Gary Epstein

Sisterhood:

Marsha Epstein, mepstein@calpoly.edu

Ways & Means:

Diane Borad-Mirken,
diane.boradmirken@mail.com

Sunshine Chair:

Judith Klinger, judythecutie@comcast.net

Social Action Chair:

David Goldstien

Additional Contacts:

Rabbi: Dov Gottesfeld

Bulletin Editor:

Leslie Epstein, leslicchan31@yahoo.com

Webmaster:

Joel David, jandidavid@yahoo.com

Vice President's Column – Gary Epstein



Our Purim party – the first time on Zoom – was very successful. We had around 35 people attending. We were delighted to hear songs from the Etz Chayim students. Thank you to Diane for your creative organization of this when Zoom defeats synchrony from multiple platforms. By switching from one household to another in the course of singing each song you have hit upon a marvelous solution. Also, thanks to Diane and Judith for singing their songs too. Our Purim Spiel was lots of fun and the readers of the ten chapters of the Scroll of Esther were great. Dove Okonina did a wonderful job in presenting and scrolling the words of the Whole Magillah as well as Diane's songs so we all could sing along with Diane (muted). Dove is our Maestro Master of Zoom. And thanks to Rabbi Gottesfeld for emceeding and interspersing the Purim party with passages from an abbreviated Shabbat service. I note that each of us saw more faces on Zoom than we would in an in-temple party. Up ahead on Zoom will be our first-ever virtual community Passover Seder on the 2nd day of Passover which is Sunday, March 28th. We are considering having the event in two parts separated by an intermission for the Passover meal. On March 4th I emailed to the membership a sign-up sheet for 12 parts in a Passover play. We're considering doing something similar for The Four Questions (children & adults), for the children to sing the "Go Down Moses..." song, and for a contest for "Who Knows One?" on one breath.

Rabbi Micah Hyman, Executive Director of San Luis Obispo Hillel has contributed an article about our Holesov Torah on page 5. It is addressed to us: **To the Guardians of the Memorial Scrolls Trust Torah #164.**

Corinne Bernstein – who passed away on February 17th – was an institution at Temple Beth El. She always sat in the same chair at the corner of the front section on the left-hand side of the aisle. She was usually the person who opened and closed the doors to the Ark. And she always kissed the cover of the Torah scroll in the process. Corinne had claimed the right to sit in that particular chair. From that chair she often turned to see who was sitting in the back half of the audience. There came a time when the Board of Directors decided to honor Corinne for her steadfast service to the temple by fixing her name to that chair. During that honoring ceremony there were many of her banker friends and other officials who had come to see her receive this honor. She took the placque with her when she moved to Santa Barbara.

The annual Hanukkah party was the temple's main fundraiser. We would have a raffle and it was very important to sell tickets for that raffle and among the prizes was a large amount of scrip. But there were also prizes contributed by local merchants. Corinne didn't drive so temple volunteers would drive her all around the city of Santa Maria where she approached doctors and small businessmen to purchase raffle tickets as well as contributed merchandise for prizes. When the High Holidays rolled around Corinne took on the responsibility of lining up congregants to bring various foods to the Break-the-Fast. She would spend the day in the kitchen supervising the hired help in setting up the vast display of wonderful foods and desserts on a long table in the patio. Those were unforgettable events and the people always looked forward to them. Corinne was very opinionated but no one could deny that she was very loyal and dedicated to the welfare of Temple Beth El.

In closing, I urge everyone to be careful when going out of your homes. If you're going to be near other people please wear a mask and keep six feet away from others. And, when the time comes that your eligibility for the Covid vaccine arrives, please consider getting protection for yourself, your family, your friends, and others that you may not even know which these vaccines promise to protect both directly and indirectly.

-Gary, VP of TBE

Bulletin Briefs

March Anniversaries

- 20 Renee & Steven Frucht
24 Deana & Gregory Hart
26 Lori & Bill Sutton

March Birthdays

- 3 Esther Kalish
8 Gregory Hart
9 Gloria Aguilar
15 Ilana David
15 Judith Klinger
22 Renee Frucht
27 Izbeth Basurto
28 Manning Semiatin
29 Alyshia Brunk

Donations

- Guillermo and Maria Aguilar
David and Linda Goldstien
In memory of Larry Levy, cousin of Mary Goldiner, by Mark and Karen Greene
In memory of Corinne Bernstein by Sid and Karen Goldstien
In memory of Corinne Bernstein by Myra Wapner
In memory of Corinne Bernstein by Ken Wolf

Brotherhood

The Temple Beth El Brotherhood meets on the first Sunday of the month, which this month is March 7th at 10 AM. While the temple is closed due to the Corona virus, we do not meet there. However, we will continue to meet virtually using Zoom. I will still be sending out articles of interest to members of the group. Any responses will be emailed to the rest for comment or interest. So please let me know if you are interested in attending our Zoom meetings and I will send you an invitation. Ladies are welcome too.

Be well,

Michael LeCover (president) & Gary Epstein (seminar guy)

Sisterhood

The Temple Beth El Sisterhood normally meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Jaffa Café in Santa Maria. We will not meet as long as social distancing is in effect. The Jaffa Café is still open for takeout. If you visit on the second Tuesday, March 9th, and write TBE at the top of your order form, the temple will still get 15% of your order as a donation.

Remember that the Sisterhood runs the Temple Gift Shop. We have some new items including Havdalah candles, beautiful Seder plates and gorgeous mezuzah cases. Spread the word.

Hope we will meet again before long.

Marsha Epstein

Are you ordering a lot from Amazon these days? If so, there are two ways you can help the Temple to raise money. The first is to buy Amazon script from Mike Sachs. When you get the gift card (scrip), you can go into Amazon, enter the code on the back of the card, and Amazon will deduct from the card balance. The other way is to always use Smile.Amazon.com <<http://Smile.Amazon.com>> . Amazon will donate directly to TBE. To do this, go into smile.amazon.com <<http://smile.amazon.com>> . Choose "Temple Beth El Santa Maria" as your charity. Then be sure to always order through Smile. The Temple really appreciates your support.

TBE is now able to accept payments via Paypal on our website: tbesantamaria.com <<http://tbesantamaria.com>>

When using this option, you may select "Dues" or "Donations". If you wish to pay for an event (such as the Chanukah party), please select "Donation" and be sure to add a description of what it is for in the optional comment area near the top of the payment screen on Paypal. If you have any questions about how to use Paypal, contact Suzanne Levy, slevy93455@gmail.com or 805-934-0477.

To the Guardians of the Memorial Scrolls Trust

Torah #164 by Rabbi Micah Hyman

Deuteronomy tells us the broken pieces of the first set of Commandments were stored in the Ark with the second set of Tablets written by Moses. We take this teaching to care for our Sacred objects no matter in what state of disrepair they may be, and preserve their legacy for the future. By preserving the broken with the fresh we bind an enduring chain of Jewish continuity.

Temple Beth El has fulfilled this duty. You are the guardians of MST Torah #164, one scroll from 1,564 scrolls that were rescued from Bohemia and Moravia. While Torah #164 is no longer "Kosher" (a Kosher scroll must have no blemishes and every letter must be both clear and legible), Beth El is part of an international consortium that preserves this patrimony.

The story of the Scrolls themselves is an adventure. When the Nazis (may their names be blotted) first controlled Prague and greater Czechoslovakia, the Jewish community in Prague began to curate Jewish objects from the region in a plan to create a Museum of the Jews. For the Nazis it was an emblem of their power to store the spoils of a past people they destroyed, like an Arch of Titus. For the Jews of Prague, it was a way to collect and catalog their patrimony in the hopes of returning the objects after the war. The Michle synagogue became the warehouse for these Scrolls and artifacts for a decade. In the early 1960's, the Communist Government of Czechoslovakia was cash starved and looking for revenue. An American Art dealer in England was approached to find a buyer. Through the Westminster Synagogue, and a donor Ralph Yablon, the entire collection was purchased and administered through the Czech Memorial Scrolls Trust. This trust distributed these scrolls around the world and one of them is in our own backyard.

MST #164 is on permanent loan. It was scribed around 1890 and was used in the community of Holesov. From external records we know the Holesov Synagogue was commemorated in 1893 (so this was a new scroll written for them) and was set on fire August 11th, 1942. We can assume the Torahs were evacuated at that time and soon stored with the others until after the war.

Your legacy at Beth El is deep and wide. Your Torah, both physical and spiritual, is strengthened by the old and the new side by side. The next time we gather safely and open the Sacred Ark, see the scrolls housed together. Even our darkest chapters are opportunities to bring the light of Torah to the world.

Zoom by telephone

We are conducting services on the internet with Zoom during the Pandemic. Here are the instructions for how to do it from a landline (that is, an ordinary) telephone.

1. First, you have to find out from whomever is setting up the Zoom meeting (the "host") what the code number (called the meeting ID) is for the particular meeting that you want to join. It will be an eleven digit number. Some of you may also be asked for the passcode which is TBE123.
2. Second, you have dial the following phone number: 1 669 990 6833
3. Third, you will hear a voice saying, "Welcome to Zoom. Enter your meeting ID followed by pound sign (#)"
4. That's all you have to do.
5. Sometimes the host of the meeting asks the invitees to mute themselves. There should be a mute button somewhere on the front of your telephone. Press it and then any unwanted background noises at your house (like barking dogs) will not be heard at the meeting.
6. When the meeting is over the host will end it and you can just hang up.
7. If you get a busy signal there are alternate phone numbers that you can use:

346 248 7799
253 215 8782
312 626 6799
646 558 8656
301 715 8592

March Yarzheits

| | | | | |
|---------|----------------------------|----|---------|---|
| 3/1/21 | Al Perlman* | 17 | Adar | Husband of Rosalind Perlman |
| 3/2/21 | Paul Appel* | 7 | Adar | Father of Susan Appel Dempsey and Irwin Appel |
| 3/2/21 | Mary Ann Canter | | | Cousin of Gary Epstein |
| 3/2/21 | Lou Meyer* | | | Husband of Tibbie Meyer |
| 3/2/21 | Leah Akronowitz | 18 | Adar | Aunt of Len Akronowitz |
| 3/3/21 | Tibbie Meyer | 19 | Adar | Mother of Barry & Richard, Sister of Harry Kaplan |
| 3/3/21 | Steven Stone* | 19 | Adar | Son of Rita and Arnold Stone |
| 3/4/21 | Fannie Simon* | | | Mother of Nancy Evans |
| 3/4/21 | Elizabeth Friedman | 20 | Adar | Aunt of Arnold Stone |
| 3/6/21 | Bertha Berkowitz | 22 | Adar | Aunt of Gary Epstein |
| 3/6/21 | Sion Nasser Nourani* | 22 | Adar | Brother of Dan Nourani* |
| 3/7/21 | George Hersh | 9 | Adar | Brother of Seymour Hersh |
| 3/7/21 | Al J. Levinson* | | | Husband of Betty Levinson |
| 3/7/21 | Meyer Meltzer | | | Grandfather of Lori Meltzer-Sutton |
| 3/9/21 | Harry Kaplan | 28 | Adar | Father of Bonnie Skolnik, past president and founding member of TBE |
| 3/10/21 | Judy Eschen* | | | Mother of Donna Eschen |
| 3/10/21 | Gertrude Jackaway* | 26 | Adar | Mother of Lorraine Pregozen |
| 3/12/21 | Ben Bycher* | | | Husband of Evie Bycher |
| 3/13/21 | Cecilia Geiger | 29 | Adar | Grandmother of Tom Geiger |
| 3/14/21 | Ray Isenson | | | Friend of Tom Geiger |
| 3/14/21 | Stanley Ratner | 28 | Adar I | Cousin of Marsha Epstein |
| 3/14/21 | Alvin Lewis | 1 | Nisan | Father of Steve Lewis |
| 3/14/21 | Moshe Karim Nourani* | 1 | Nisan | Brother of Dan Nourani* |
| 3/16/21 | Chaya (Belle Black) Rifkin | 4 | Nisan | Great Aunt of Eric Berge |
| 3/17/21 | Irving Schwartz* | 4 | Nisan | Father of Stephen Schwartz |
| 3/18/21 | Rae Krivonos | | | Aunt of Corinne Bernstein |
| 3/18/21 | Karl Geiger | 5 | Nisan | Father of Tom Geiger |
| 3/20/21 | Sam Resnick | 7 | Nisan | Husband of Trudy Resnick |
| 3/21/21 | Bud Schenck* | | | Husband of Niki Eschen |
| 3/21/21 | Sherwin Sidney Bereskin | 8 | Nisan | Brother of Shep Bereskin |
| 3/21/21 | Lyn Meltzer | 8 | Nisan | Mother of Lori Meltzer-Sutton |
| 3/21/21 | Lillian Fischer Vincent* | 8 | Nisan | Grandmother of Kenneth L. Wolf |
| 3/22/21 | Sandy Zuckerbraun | 16 | Adar II | Father of Alan, Grandfather of Sarah & Hannah |
| 3/25/21 | Arnold Stone | 12 | Nisan | Uncle of Jeff Portney |
| 3/26/21 | Lillian Balsam | 13 | Nisan | Mother of Shirley Kaver |
| 3/29/21 | Joe Davis* | | | |
| 3/31/21 | Art Tunick* | 27 | Adar | Husband of Marcia Tunick |

Months of Mourning

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Ilene J. Klass | Mother of Linda and Karen Goldstien | 4/15/2020 |
| Hinda Beaman | Member of TBE | 6/7/2020 |
| Adam Hill | SLO County Supervisor | 8/6/2020 |
| Megan Wolf | Niece of Ken Wolf | 8/13/2020 |
| Daivon Young | Nephew of Frank Young | 8/18/2020 |
| Renee Coe | Mother of Andi Portney | 8/22/2020 |
| Ulysses Ferrer | Cousin of Josue Medrano | 8/19/2020 |
| Janice Schragger | Mother of Michael Shragger | 9/8/2020 |
| Ruth Bader Ginsburg | Justice of the Supreme Court | 9/18/2020 |
| Walter Koch | Brother of Katherine (Hersh) Koch | 10/10/20 |
| Irwin (Irv) Boxer | Friend of Gary & Marsha Epstein | 10/29/20 |
| Lawrence Levy | Cousin of Mary Goldiner | 1/21/21 |
| Paula Peyser | Cousin of Paul Goldiner | 1/24/21 |
| Mary Oliver | Friend of many at TBE | 2/3/21 |
| Corinne Bernstein | Long-time member of TBE | 2/17/21 |

MARCH

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--------|--|-----------|----------|--|---|
| | 1 | 2 TBE Board meeting (7 PM) Adult Conversational Hebrew with Joel David on Zoom (6 PM) | 3 | 4 | 5 Shabbat service led by Anita Friedman on Zoom (7:30 PM) | 6 Etz Chayim children's class: Shabbat Morning Prayers on Zoom (9:30-10 AM) |
| 7 137th Brotherhood Seminar on Zoom (10 AM) | 8 | 9 Adult Conversational Hebrew with Joel David on Zoom (6 PM) | 10 | 11 | 12 Shabbat service led by Diane Borad-Mirken on Zoom (7:30 PM) | 13 Etz Chayim children's class: Havdalah & Sundown Songs on Zoom (6:45 PM) |
| 14 | 15 | 16 Adult Conversational Hebrew with Joel David on Zoom (6 PM) | 17 | 18 | 19 Shabbat service led by Anita Friedman on Zoom (7:30 PM) | 20 Etz Chayim children's class: Shabbat Morning Prayers on Zoom (9:30-10 AM) |
| 21 | 22 | 23 Adult Conversational Hebrew with Joel David on Zoom (6 PM) | 24 | 25 | 26 Josue Medrano leads Shabbat service on Zoom (7:30 PM) | 27 Etz Chayim school: First Seder |
| 28 Community Passover Seder led by Rabbi Gottesfeld (5:30 pm) | 29 | 30 Adult Conversational Hebrew with Joel David on Zoom (6 PM) | 31 | | | |