

Temple Beth El Bulletin

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Rabbi's Message ~ Dov Gottesfeld

Shalom to all:

So... One more Jewish New Year is knocking on our doors. "Why knocking?" you may ask? I am of the opinion that most humans want to remain young. Young people don't want to get older because they do not want to assume more responsibilities added to their lives, and older people... well, are tired of spending their time making doctors' appointments to find out what is wrong with their bodies.

In the book of Deuteronomy 5:33 God reassured God's followers: "*Walk in obedience to all that the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess.*" Which means that our body is capable of enduring many years of life. So far we bless each other by quoting the number of years which Moses had lived, which is one hundred and twenty years. Not withstanding the fact that we never



Dov Gottesfeld

inquired about his health condition at the time – we assume that he was healthy, because there is no mention in the Bible that he sought the help of any physicians during the exodus in the Sinai desert.

In response to Deuteronomy 5:33 our Jewish ancestors responded with Psalm 91:16: "*With long life I will satisfy Him, and show Him my salvation.*" There is a gap of more than three hundred years, roughly between 1300 BC and 1000 BC that the Israelite people in the book of Deuteronomy during the Desert period, and the Jews in the book of Psalms at the time of King David, had the same concept that following God's Commandments would guarantee a long life. Since in our time Jews still utter those same two biblical phrases, I assume that we, Jews, subscribe to the same belief that following God's commandments will result in our living longer.

Yet, God never specified the quality of that longevity- or did God? Pain, illnesses, and suffering during a person's journey of life

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September Schedule of Services:

September 1st Anita Friedman (7:30 pm)
September 8th Diane Borad-Mirken (7:30 PM)
September 15th Rabbi Gottesfeld (7:00 PM)
September 22nd Diane Borad-Mirken (7:00 PM)
September 29th Rabbi 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

could easily diminish one's desire to strive towards the ultimate age of one hundred and twenty. No one wants to suffer. Yet, if you read the Bible closely, you'll realize that from the outset, God did hint that life will not be exactly a "bowl of cherries" if we neglect and abuse the earth. (Deuteronomy 12:1) "These are the statutes and the Judgements, which you shall take care to do, in the land, which the Lord God of your fathers gives you to possess all the days that you live upon the earth". Some label them "Biblical Laws." I wonder what the world and life on it would have been like if humanity labeled them as "Universal" or "Natural" Laws?" Would they have treated Life on this earth differently?

Perhaps then each one of us would live as long as Moses did.

Shannah Tova Um'tukah – Make it a Happy New Year.

Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld

TBE Board of Directors for 2023-2024

President: Frank Young

Vice President: Raúl Medina

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Membership: Josué Medrano

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Trees for Israel: Alyshia Brunk

Social Action Chair: David Goldstien

Sunshine Chair: Open

Rabbi: Dov Gottesfeld

Bulletin Editor: Leslie Epstein

Webmaster: Nakiah Burnes

President's Column – Frank Young



-Frank Young, president of TBE

Jews have fought in every skirmish, battle, and war from the American Revolutionary War to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Congressional Medal of Honor is awarded to American warriors for valor above and beyond the call of duty. The Medal is typically presented by the President of the United States of America in the name of Congress. In 1861 the Congress authorized Medals of Honor to be awarded to Navy personnel and in 1862 the Congress authorized Medals of Honor to be awarded to Army personnel. In later years the Coast Guard and Air Force were authorized to award Medals of Honor. The Medals are different in appearance for each service. Sergeant First Class Christopher A. Celiz was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry while engaged with the enemy in Afghanistan.



He was born in 1986 in South Carolina. He attended high school in Summerville where he entered the Junior ROTC program. He spent off time competing at drill meets. He married his high school sweetheart. In September of 2007, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. He completed two years at the Citadel. The Citadel, located in Charleston, South Carolina, offers a classic military education. Afterwards, Celiz was assigned the 75th Ranger Regiment as a combat engineer. He made sergeant of a mortar platoon. At the time of his death, Celiz was serving as the battalion mortar platoon sergeant.

The following is the official Defense Department citation: "Sergeant First Class Christopher A. Celiz: distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry above and beyond the call of duty while engaged with the enemy in Paktia Province, Afghanistan, on July 12th, 2018. As the leader of a special purpose unit comprised of partnered forces and members of the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Sergeant First Class Celiz led an operation to clear an area of enemy forces and thereby disrupt future attacks against the government of Afghanistan and allied forces. Shortly after his team reached their final objectives, a large enemy force attacked, placed effective fire on him and his team, preventing them from maneuvering to counterattack. Realizing the danger the attack posed to his team and the operation, Sergeant First Class Celiz voluntarily exposed himself to intense enemy machine-gun and small-arms fire to retrieve and employ a heavy weapon system, thereby allowing U.S. and partnered forces to regain the initiative, maneuver to a secure location, and begin treatment of a critically wounded partnered force member. As a medical evacuation helicopter arrived, it was immediately engaged by accurate and sustained enemy fire. Knowing how critical it was to quickly load the casualty, Sergeant First Class Celiz willingly exposed himself to heavy enemy fire to direct and lead the evacuation. As the casualty moved from a position of cover and out into intense enemy fire, Sergeant First Class Celiz made a conscious effort to ensure his body acted as a physical shield to his team carrying the casualty and the crew of the aircraft. As the casualty was loaded and Sergeant First Class Celiz's team returned to cover, he alone remained at the aircraft, returning a high volume of fire and constantly repositioning himself to act as a physical shield to the aircraft and its crew. With his final reposition, Sergeant First Class Celiz placed himself directly between the cockpit and the enemy, ensuring the aircraft was able to depart. As the helicopter lifted off, Sergeant First Class Celiz was hit by enemy fire. Fully aware of his own injury but understanding the peril to the aircraft from the intense enemy machine gun fire, Sergeant First Class Celiz motioned to the aircraft to depart rather than remain behind to load him. His selfless actions saved the life of the evacuated partnered force member and almost certainly prevented further casualties among other members of his team and the aircrew. Throughout the entire engagement, Sergeant First Class Celiz significantly changed the course of battle by repeatedly placing himself in extreme danger to protect his team, defeat the enemy, and it ultimately cost him his life. Sergeant First Class Celiz's extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army."

Celiz is survived by his spouse, Katie Celiz, and their daughter.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

California Central Coast **YIDDISH BOOK DRIVE** is underway

A book drive on California's Central Coast to collect old Yiddish books is currently underway, David Goldstien, area spokesperson for the Yiddish Book Center announced. Local residents with unwanted Yiddish books should contact:

David Goldstien
Temple Beth El, Santa Maria
805-598-8994 dga@silcom.com

Cheri DeKofsky
Jewish Federation Of Ventura County
805-647-7800 cheri@jewishventuracounty.org

Susan Stern-Pearl
Temple Ner Shalom, San Luis Obispo
805-234-6612 sstern2125@aol.com

Collected volumes will be sent to the Yiddish Book Center's repository in Amherst, Massachusetts, where they will be catalogued and made available to teachers, students, and university libraries throughout the world.

Yiddish literature once enjoyed enormous popularity among the area's immigrant Jewish population. Sacred books in Yiddish translation, as well as sets of Sholem Aleichem, Y.L. Peretz, and other Yiddish classics were to be found in almost every Jewish home. In later years, however, assimilation took its toll. Books that had been treasured by parents and grandparents were often packed away and forgotten by a new generation of Jews who read no Yiddish.

Today, interest in Yiddish language and literature is experiencing a startling resurgence. Academic courses in Yiddish language and literature have been introduced at many colleges and universities around the world. Long-forgotten Yiddish books are urgently needed by a new generation of students and scholars.

All donations are tax-deductible. For additional information, please contact the two collection centers on the Central Coast, noted above.

Efforts to collect Yiddish books began nationally in June of 1980 with the founding of the Yiddish Book Center--a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and revitalization of Yiddish culture. To date the Center has recovered more than 1 million Yiddish books and has emerged as a major Jewish cultural organization, with initiatives in education, translation, and oral history as well as book collection.

The organizers hope that many volumes will be found in local homes on the Central Coast. All donations of Yiddish books and periodicals are welcome. The Center also accepts Yiddish sheet music and Ladino materials.

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, asi 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.

Bulletin Briefs

September Anniversaries

6 Jeff & Andi Portney

September Birthdays

2 Zoe Romero
13 Levi Medina
17 Barbara Sachs
20 Ed Cohen
21 Sarah Gelpi Deack

Jewish/Israel discussion group

Prior to Covid there was an active group who met monthly to discuss Israeli and Jewish topics. We resume this program and invite you to our first meeting at Congregation Beth David Tuesday, September 19th from 6:30 to 8:30pm.

The event will also be on Zoom. If you would like a zoom link, please email Gordon before the 19th.

The event will be held in the chapel so there is limited seating. Please, we need to know, prior to the 19th, if you are attending at CBD. If more folks than the chapel can hold wish to come, and we know several days prior, we can move it to another room if need be.

Please feel free to bring whatever nosh you wish to share.

Your comments and suggestions are welcomed.

Gordon Mullin

Cell (805)235-5098

Email- gordmullin@gmail.com

Sisterhood

Shana Tova! The High Holidays are now past and we look forward to October when we can get together again. Let's meet for dinner at the Aguilar's La Villa restaurant which is located at 1115 W. Main St., Santa Maria. It is in the La Joya Plaza shopping center near Blosser Rd. Date: Tuesday, October 10th, Time: 6:00 PM. Please let me know if you plan to come so I can let them know how many to expect,

Congratulations to Levi Medina on his Bar Mitzvah. It was a beautiful service led by his father, Raul. It was so joyful to celebrate with the family.

Marsha Epstein

Brotherhood

The October Brotherhood meeting will be held on Sunday, October 1st.

We will enjoy our famous breakfast of lox and bagels, eggs, and extras.

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

Gary Epstein

DIANE BORAD-MIRKEN

Presents

The Golden Age of Broadway

A Cabaret performance entitled:

Music and Laughter



When: Sunday, October 1 at 3:00 PM Doors open at 2:30 PM

Where: Temple Beth El
1501 E Alvin, Santa Maria

Why: It's a fundraiser for the Temple

Cost: \$18 with reservations \$25 without reservations

To get on the reservation list, call or text
Diane at (805) 478-1463.

Attendance must be limited to 85 people; please call early

All money will be collected at the door

September Yarzheits

9/2/23	Benjamin Bakst	19	Elul	Brother of Leslie Bakst
9/2/23	Anne Price			Mother of Edgar Cohen
9/3/23	Abraham Hersh Lubin*			Father of Jerry Lubin
9/4/23	Jack E. Portney	18	Elul	Father of Jeff Portney
9/4/23	Betty Fetzner			Friend of Gary & Marsha Epstein
9/4/23	Lil Klempfner			Sister of Seymour Hersh
9/5/23	Adelyn (Addy) Raich	19	Elul	Wife of Rabbi Abraham Raich
9/6/23	Anna Stahl*			Mother of Sid Stahl
9/7/23	Norman Rosen	21	Elul	Cousin of Boots Hersh
9/7/23	Joseph Ben-Moshe			Father of Ilana David
9/10/23	Raye Linden*			Wife of Sidney Linden
9/12/23	Daniel Eli Stone	26	Elul	Grandson of Rita and Arnold Stone
9/12/23	Emil Schafer			Cousin of Gary Epstein
9/13/23	Leonard Gaon			Husband of Bernice Gaon
9/16/23	Shadi Olevi Nourani*	1	Tishri	Mother of Dan Nourani*
9/19/23	Charlie Drucker			Stepfather of Diane Borad-Mirken
9/19/23	Louise Nemerson*	18	Elul	Daughter of Annette and Arthur Silverfarb
9/25/23	Hy Spivack*	21	Elul	Father of Niki Eschen
9/25/23	Marcella Steinberg	5	Tishri	Wife of Alvin Steinberg, Mother of Mindy Downum
9/26/23	Muriel Levy			Mother of Ron Levy
9/26/23	Kurt Sondermann	18	Tishri	Great-cousin of Ken Wolf
9/27/23	M.J. Salle	12	Tishri	Great Uncle of Jeff Portney
9/28/23	Madeline Akronowitz*	13	Tishri	Wife of Len, Mother of Dove and Daniel
9/28/23	Martin Friedman	20	Tishri	Father of Anita Friedman
9/29/23	David Baer	14	Tishri	Cousin of Boots Hersh

Months of Mourning

Yuvis Ferrer	Cousin of Josue Medrano, Niece of Eliana Medrano	11/24/22
Boots Hersh	Wife of Seymour Hersh	1/22/23
Ed Chait		3/1/23
Dominga Trujillo	Mother of Stella Perez	3/28/23
Sheila Sales	Wife of Michael Sales	3/31/23
Margarita Ferrer	Sister of Eliana Medrano	5/6/23
Judith Klinger	Long-time Temple member	6/27/23
Harvey Blatter	Friend of Gary & Marsha Epstein	8/27/23
Joseph Friedman	Long-time Temple member	9/15/23

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Shabbat service led by Anita Friedman (7:30 PM)	2 Morning Shabbat service and Torah study with Raúl Medina at temple (9:30 AM) Also: Etz Chaim with Amber Medina at temple (10 AM)
3 Brotherhood Breakfast & 166 th Seminar (8:30 AM)	4	5 Board of Directors Meeting (6 PM)	6	7 Adult Conversational Hebrew on Zoom with Joel David (6 PM)	8 Shabbat service led by Diane Borad-Mirken (7:30 PM)	9 Morning Shabbat service and Torah study with Raúl Medina at temple (9:30 AM) Also: Etz Chaim with Amber Medina at temple (10 AM)
10	11	12	13	14 Adult Conversational Hebrew on Zoom with Joel David (6 PM)	15 Shabbat service & Erev Rosh HaShanah led by Rabbi Gottesfeld. (7 PM)	16 Rosh HaShanah, Day 1 led by Rabbi Gottesfeld. (10:00 am) Also: Tashlich at Harford Pier (4:00 pm)
17 Rosh HaShanah, Day 2 led by Rabbi Gottesfeld. (10 AM)	18	19	20	21 Adult Conversational Hebrew on Zoom with Joel David (6 PM)	22 Shabbat Shuvah service led by Diane Borad-Mirken. (7:30 PM)	23 Levi Medina Bar Mitzvah led by Raul Medina. (10 AM)
24 Kol Nidre led by Rabbi Gottesfeld. (7 PM)	25 Yom Kippur (10 AM & 4:30 PM), Yizkor (5:30 PM), Break-the-Fast	26 Build Sukkah with Ken Wolf. (10 AM)	27	28 Adult Conversational Hebrew on Zoom with Joel David (6 PM)	29 Potluck at 6pm Shabbat service & Erev Sukkot led by Rabbi Gottesfeld (7:30 PM)	30 Torah Study led by Rabbi Gottesfeld. (10 AM)