



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

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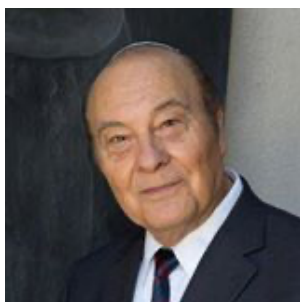
Rabbi's Message ~ Dov Gottesfeld

Shalom to all:

WHAT CONSTITUTES A TRUE LEADER? (from the Torah's point of view)

That question should be on the mind of every eligible voter no matter how old he or she is. Those who are mindful of that question, no doubt, spend extra hours reading the newspapers, magazines, or watching the various television news, and news magazines to learn about each of the candidates. Their flavor of the week candidate changes, depending on new revelations about their candidate in the media – good or bad.

My totally limited survey and unscientific poll shows that when those mindful voters, whom I expected to vote with their minds and not with their hearts, when reaching a point of no return in the voting booth – ended up voting for their party's candidate-instead for whom they acknowledged was a more suitable candidate for the country this time



Dov Gottesfeld

around. In other words, they end up making a decision just like those who are not mindful, and just vote for candidates from their own political party. It was the Party, which came first, not the country. Then, why bother being mindful about the election to begin with and wasting all that time doing research about the candidates?

I also learned from my limited survey that most voters did not have a total positive viewpoint of any politician or candidate for any office. The overall impression was that all the politicians didn't really care about the country. Their only concern, they said, was primarily more about themselves (the politicians), and their reelections than the voters who voted them into their office, to begin with; not to mention the ill manners in which they treat those other politicians from the other side of the aisle.

So, still, what constitutes a true leader – the one candidate, who could get the support of the entire nation regardless of his or her political affiliation? The majority of the responses from those voters I spoke to were about what they didn't like, rather than what they liked about one candidate or another.

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February Schedule of Services:

February 2nd Diane Borad-Mirken (7:30 PM)
February 9th Anita Friedman (7:30 PM)
February 16th Rabbi Gottesfeld (7:30 PM) (potluck)
February 23rd Diane Borad-Mirken (7:30 PM)

Educational Activities

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

Realistically, nothing I had heard was new news to me. I've seen it, and I have heard it, and it is happening, and had happened not only in our country, but all over the world. Why am I bringing it up this time?

Because last week's Torah portion was about just that – what constitutes a true leader?

The name of the Torah portion is TERUMAH (Exodus 25-2). Most of the translations refer to Terumah as “offering”, but I favor those few who translate it “Contribution”, because of the implication of the story. Perhaps those candidates who would like to become leaders could learn a lesson or two about what constitutes a true leader.

In Terumah, Moses needed to unify the 12 tribes of the Israelites, who had joined him in the Exodus from Egypt, into one nation. Moses does it by creating a “national goal” to design, fabricate, construct, and erect a Tabernacle for God. That was in 1300 BCE. In order to make people feel equal to one another he requires a half a shekel, from every individual – rich and poor, knowing that every person could afford it.

In his second step Moses wanted the Israelites to be active participants in the “national goal”. He did it by asking individuals whose hearts were moved by that goal to contribute either their talent or by means of materials needed. That approach was so successful, to a point where Moses requested that the people stop giving more items because they had enough for the Tabernacle.

A similar example is the Haftorah portion of Terumah this week, I Kings 5:26- VI:13. In this portion, three hundred years later, King Solomon followed Moses' example and unified the nation with the same idea, to build the first temple in Jerusalem in 1000 BCE.

Three millennia later, in the United States, President John F. Kennedy challenged and united the country behind “a national goal” to land on the moon.

I subscribe to the idea that in order to establish a unified country, a would be true leader should not make vague promises that might not materialize, but elicit the citizens and the residents of this great country to become united by creating a national project, which would light up the imagination of every individual, and require the ingenuity and skill of everyone in order to bring it to fruition, and from which current and future generations of Americans would benefit.

That one would be elected to become a true leader.

Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld

February 21, 2024

TBE Board of Directors for 2023-2024

President: Frank Young

Vice President: Raúl Medina

Treasurer: Ron Levy

Executive Secretary: Open

Past President: Suzanne Levy

Brotherhood: Michael LeCover

Buildings & Grounds: Ken Wolf & Sid Goldstien

Education: Amber Medina

Membership: Josué Medrano

Religious Practices: Anita Friedman (acting)

Sisterhood: Marsha Epstein

Ways & Means: Diane Borad-Mirken

Trees for Israel: Alyshia Brunk

Social Action Chair: David Goldstien

Sunshine Chair: Open

Rabbi: Dov Gottesfeld

Bulletin Editor: Leslie Epstein

Webmaster: Nakiah Barnes

President's Column – Frank Young



-Frank Young, president of TBE

JEWISH WAR HEROES

Jews have fought in every skirmish, battle, and war from the American Revolutionary War to the recent 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. It is awarded for outstanding heroism in battle.



SYDNEY G. GUMPERTZ

In World War One, 250,000 Jews joined the military, over 3500 were killed, over 12,000 were wounded, and over 1,100 received decorations for bravery.

Sidney Gumpertz was born in San Rafael, California 24 October 1879 and entered service at Chicago, Illinois.

First Sergeant Gumpertz was awarded the Medal of Honor for action he took in the Bois-de-Forges, France. Gumpertz was a member of E Company, 132nd Infantry, 33rd Division which took part in The Meuse-Argonne Offensive which began on 26 September 1918.

On the 29 September, when the line in his sector was held up by machine gun fire, Sergeant Gumpertz left the platoon of which he was in command and started with two other soldiers through a heavy barrage toward the machine gun nest. His two companions soon became casualties from the bursting shells, but Gumpertz continued alone in the face of direct fire from the machine gun, jumped into the nest and silenced the gun and captured nine of the enemy crew.

-Frank Young



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

February Anniversaries

14 Abby Lassen & Michael LeCover

February Birthdays

12 Amber Medina
23 Gabrielie Romero
23 Vicky Burg

Donations

In memory of Boots Hersh by Andi and Jeff Portney
In memory of Corinne Bernstein by Andi and Jeff Portney

Trees

A tree was planted in Israel in memory of Jean Ward by Suzanne and Ron Levy
A tree was planted in Israel in memory of Jack Pittman by Suzanne and Ron Levy

Donations

In memory of Boots Hersh by Andi and Jeff Portney

Sisterhood

The Sisterhood will not be meeting in February. We will try to get together in March.

The Sisterhood gift shop has seen a substantial increase in business with holiday gift-giving. It's time to restock. If you have ideas for items that you would like to see or order, let me know.

Marsha Epstein

Brotherhood

The next Brotherhood meeting will be held on Sunday, March 3rd, 8:30 am at the Temple. Join us for our famous breakfast of lox and bagels, eggs, muffins and extras. Our 172nd Seminar starts at 9:30 am.

As usual, I will send 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 welcome to join us.

Gary Epstein

Jewish/Israel discussion group

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

After the October 7th Pogrom in Israel we have been trying to resume these meetings but encountered various obstacles. Please keep your eye on this space for the announcement that we have found a physical space in which to meet.

We intend that future events will also be on Zoom. If you would like a zoom link when we resume meeting, please email Gordon Mullin (see below).

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

February Yarzheits

2/1/24	Harry Kunarsky*			
2/1/24	Elmer Vincent	22	Shevat	Uncle of Kenneth L. Wolf
2/3/24	Sam Zuckerman*	24	Shevat	Father of Anne Berkowitz
2/4/24	Sam Berkowitz*	25	Shevat	Husband of Anne
2/6/24	Hope Howard			Friend of the community
2/8/24	William Hart			Father of Gregory Hart
2/9/24	Cirilo Medina	6	Shevat	Father of Raul Medina
2/9/24	B. Jack Meltzer*	30	Shevat	Father of Lori Meltzer-Sutton
2/10/24	Nathan Eschen			Grandfather of Donna Eschen
2/10/24	Harry Mintzer	16	Shevat	Uncle of Marsha Epstein
2/10/24	Nathan Weiser			Father of Sid Weiser
2/10/24	Dorothy Young			Mother of Frank Young
2/12/24	Leonard Friedman	3	Adar	Friend of Boots & Seymour Hersh
2/12/24	Harry Hayman	3	Adar	Friend of Boots & Seymour Hersh
2/12/24	Philip Schaefer	3	Adar	Cousin of Madeline Akronowitz
2/13/24	William Krupkin*	4	Adar	Husband of Dorothy Krupkin
2/14/24	Marjorie Gross			Aunt of Abby Lassen
2/14/24	Corinne Bernstein*	5	Adar	Wife of Maurice Bernstein
2/14/24	Sadie Gollub	5	Adar	Aunt of Myra Wapner
2/14/24	L. Walter Herscovitz	5	Adar	Father of Lyn
2/15/24	Michael Gerber			Cousin of Diane Borad-Mirken
2/15/24	Edith Zuckerman Cohen*	6	Adar	Mother of Anne Berkowitz
2/16/24	Valerie Cohen	7	Adar	Daughter of Ed Cohen
2/17/24	Louise Black Robertson	16	Adar	Mother of Eric Berge
2/18/24	Robert L. Cohen			Father of Edgar Cohen
2/19/24	Mort Russell*	13	Adar	Husband of Rose Russell
2/20/24	Gladys Zicherman*	20	Adar	Mother of Marsha Epstein
2/20/24	Ruth Friedman	11	Adar	Mother of Arnold Stone
2/21/24	Richard Meisler			Nephew of Mike Kaver
2/21/24	Trudy Chern*	12	Adar	Sister of Dan Davis
2/22/24	Betty Stein*	13	Adar	Mother of Michael Sachs
2/25/24	Bertha Goldberg*			Mother of Susan Schwartz
2/25/24	Harold Pawlan	25	Adar	Father of Suzanne Levy
2/26/24	Al Perlman*	17	Adar	Husband of Rosalind Perlman
2/27/24	Leah Akronowitz	18	Adar	Aunt of Len Akronowitz
2/28/24	Marion A. Gabler*			Mother of Elliott Gabler
2/28/24	Tibbie Meyer	19	Adar	Sister of Harry Kaplan
2/28/24	Steven Stone*	19	Adar	Son of Rita and Arnold Stone
2/29/24	Elizabeth Friedman	20	Adar	Aunt of Arnold Stone

Months of Mourning

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
Colleen Farber	Niece of Phyllis Green	11/30/23
Harold Poliskin	Brother of Sharon Gottesfeld	11/30/23
Howard Stern	Husband of Beth Ladin	12/20/23
Shirley Wagner	Mother of Randy Wagner	1/27/24

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 Diane Borad-Mirken leads Shabbat service (7:30 PM)	3 Raul Medina leads Shabbat service & Torah study (9:30 AM) Also: Amber Medina will lead Etz Chaim (10 AM)
4 TBE Brotherhood Breakfast (8:30 AM) and 171st Seminar (9:30 AM)	5	6 TBE Board meeting (6 PM)	7	8)	9 Anita Friedman leads Shabbat service (7:30 PM)	10 Raul Medina leads Shabbat service & Torah study (9:30 AM) Also: Amber Medina leads Etz Chaim class (10 AM)
11	12	13	14	15	16 Rabbi Gottesfeld leads Shabbat service (7:30 PM); Potluck (6 PM)	17 Rabbi Gottesfeld leads Torah discussion (10:30 AM)
18	19	20	21	22	23 TBD leads Shabbat service (7:30 PM)	27 Raul Medina leads Shabbat service & Torah study (9:30 AM) Also: Amber Medina leads Etz Chaim class (10 AM)
28	29	30	31			