



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

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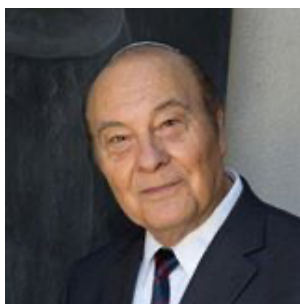
## Rabbi's Message ~ Dov Gottesfeld

### **There are no shortcuts in building a nation**

Or as the Jewish saying goes:  
"Depending on the level of care you took in making your bed, that's how comfortable you'll be sleeping on it"

Shalom to everyone:

The upcoming Torah portion is called "B'Shalach", which means: "When the (Pharaoh) let the people go..." It tells the story of the exodus from Egypt when Pharaoh let the Israelites leave, until their victory in the fight against the Amalekites. In between, the Torah portion tells how God split the Red Sea to allow the Israelites to cross on dry land to the other side when Pharaoh had a change of mind, and planned to bring them back to Egypt. It also tells how manna appeared on the ground, and quails in the sky, to provide daily nourishment for all the Israelites in the desert during their forty-year sojourn to the Promised Land – the land of Milk and Honey.



**Dov Gottesfeld**

The story teller doesn't tell the reader, however, why God didn't tell Moses to inform the Israelites that there was a change of plans, and that it would not take them two or three weeks to get to the Land of Milk and Honey, as Moses had promised them, but forty years instead. The story teller tells the reader in Exodus 13:17 the following:

*"It came to pass when Pharaoh let the people go, that God did not lead them [by] way of the land of the Philistines for it was near, because God said, lest the people reconsider when they see war and return to Egypt."*

However, in the following sentence, Exodus 13:18, the storyteller continues:

*"God led the people around [by] way of the desert [to] the Red Sea, and the Israelites were armed when they went up out of Egypt."*

The first, and foremost question should be, what were the Israelites told about their exodus from Egypt which made them purchase weapons?

**Continued on Page 2**

### **January Schedule of Services:**

January 5th Josué Medrano (7:30 PM)  
January 12th Anita Friedman (7:30 PM)  
January 19th Diane Borad-Mirken (7:30 PM)  
January 26th Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld (7:30 PM) Potluck at 6 pm

### **Educational Activities**

Etz Chaim Children's Religious School 10:30 AM

And if they were not trained to use those weapons, and they knew that they might face wars, why then was that crucial point not mentioned prior to the exodus story?

Also, if God turned the Israelites around to go into the desert in order not “to see war”, why shortly thereafter – in chapter 17:8-16 – did God send the Amalek to fight the Israelites? God could have easily prevented the Amalek from coming to fight if God had been worried about the Israelites returning to Egypt upon seeing war.

God, really, wasn't worried at all, I trust. The forty years (or the long road to the Land of Milk and Honey) had always been the original plan of the Exodus. The short road (“by way of the land of the Philistines for it was near”) was only a deviation to make a very meaningful and fundamental point to teach the Israelites about the “right way” to build a solid and a just nation.

The lesson we can learn is that there are no shortcuts in building a Jewish nation. A lasting nation is a result of a multitude of people binding together and becoming one, striving to establish a nation by crossing space (the Sinai desert), and time (forty years – a few generations) to be eligible, and entitled to be called a nation and be recognized and respected as such by the world community.

The Jewish people proved time and time again, through the course of history that they deserve that recognition by the world's community of nations. The only thing one has to do is to look at their achievements and contribution to the world. For centuries, after being expelled from their homelands, Jews developed and established the art of human survival wherever and whenever they were expelled from countries around the world or from their own ancient homeland. Currently, the existence of the State of Israel has been challenged once more, not only by Hamas, but also by much of the world's community. I wracked my brain, and I have yet to find a demand from any of those nations, which have been benefitting for years from Israeli brain power and innovations in almost every scientific discipline, that it is time that Hamas acknowledge the fact that Israel does exist, and that it has the legitimate right to be where it is now.

On the other hand, Israel today - on its part - must recognize that the longwinded exodus from Egypt in 1300 B.C.E. was a hint for its future generations of the Israelites that the Biblical promise of inheriting the land of Milk and Honey came with strings attached. Now it is their call.

Shanah Ezechit Tovah  
(Happy New Civil Year).

Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld

January 13, 2024

## TBE Board of Directors for 2023-2024

**President:** Frank Young

**Vice President:** Raúl Medina

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**Past President:** Suzanne Levy

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**Education:** Amber Medina

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**Sunshine Chair:** Open

**Rabbi:** Dov Gottesfeld

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**Webmaster:** Nakiah Burnes

# President's Column – Frank Young

## JEWISH WAR HEROES

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

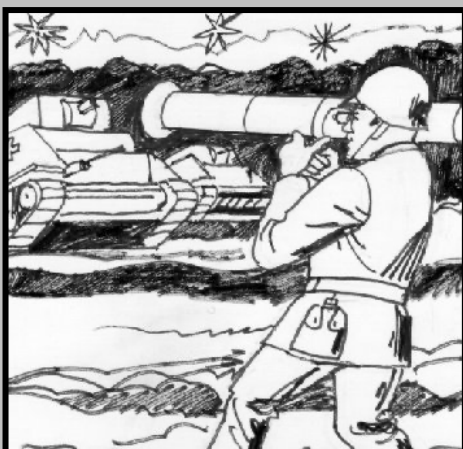
Sergeant Isadore Jachman of the 17<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division earned the Congressional Medal of Honor during the final stages of the Battle of the Bulge, which began on the morning of December 16, 1944, with a surprise attack by the German Army in the Ardennes Forest in Belgium. The attack caught most of the American military leadership by surprise, the exception being George S. Patton. The German Army Group met with initial success and drove deep into Allied territory, thus earning the name “Battle of the Bulge.”



-Frank Young, president of TBE

General Eisenhower decided to “squeeze” the “bulge” rather than cut it off. His plan called for steadily pushing the Germans back rather than a lightning attack that would encircle the Germans as General Patton suggested. The “squeeze” dragged the battle on into January 1945.

Earlier, Patton’s Third Army had driven up from the south and rescued the 101 Airborne Division surrounded at the Belgian town of Bastogne and was pushing on the southern shoulder of the German salient. Flamierge is a small town just to the northwest of Bastogne. On 3 January, General Patton ordered the 17th Airborne to seize Flamierge where the 11th Armor and the 87th Infantry Divisions had encountered fierce resistance from the Germans.



On 4, January, 1945, when Sergeant Isadore Jachman’s company was pinned down by enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire, two Panzer tanks were inflicting heavy American casualties. Sergeant Jachman saw the desperate plight of his comrades, left his place of cover with total disregard for his own safety, dashed across open ground through a hail of fire, seized a bazooka from a fallen comrade, and advanced on the tanks. Firing the weapon alone, he damaged one tank forcing both of them to retire. Sergeant Jachman's heroic action, in which he suffered fatal wounds from a machine gun burst, *disrupted the entire enemy attack*. Such behavior reflects the highest credit upon himself and the United States Armed Forces.

-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](mailto:dga@silcom.com)

Cheri DeKofsky  
Jewish Federation Of Ventura County  
805-647-7800 [cheri@jewishventuracounty.org](mailto:cheri@jewishventuracounty.org)

Susan Stern-Pearl  
Temple Ner Shalom, San Luis Obispo  
805-234-6612 [sstern2125@aol.com](mailto: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

## January Anniversaries

31 Marsha & Gary Epstein

## January Birthdays

7 Len Akronowitz  
7 Abby Lassen  
13 Tristan Romero  
15 Guillermo Aguilar  
19 Benjamin Epstein  
22 Michael LeCover  
23 Johanna Reese  
24 Kimberly Goldstien  
30 Ron Levy

## Donations

Andi and Jeff Portney  
Tanya Broberg  
Charles Alpers  
In memory of Stephen Schwartz from Marjorie Schwartz  
David and Linda Goldstien  
Joyce Lippman  
For Security from Henry Beneda  
Myra Wapner

## Sisterhood

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

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, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 am at the Temple. Join us for our famous breakfast of lox and bagels, eggs, muffins and extras. Our 170<sup>th</sup> 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 to discuss Israeli and Jewish topics. We resume this program and invite you to our first meeting at Congregation Beth David Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup>.

The event will be held in the chapel so there is limited seating. Please, we need to know, prior to the 19<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:gordmullin@gmail.com)

## January Yarzheits

1/1/24	Irwin Wapner*	20 Tevet	Husband of Myra
1/2/24	Laurie Wikes	20 Tevet	Friend of Boots & Seymour Hersh
1/2/24	Lily Korklin	21 Tevet	Aunt of Michael LeCover
1/4/24	Morris Klempfner		Brother-in-law of Boots & Seymour Hersh
1/4/24	Gertrude Resnick*	23 Tevet	Sister of Rose Shrogin
1/4/24	Nathan Novak	23 Tevet	Uncle of Michael Sachs
1/6/24	Caroline Barnett*		Mother of Bert Barnett
1/6/24	Tillie Kaplan	25 Tevet	A founding member of Temple Beth El
1/7/24	Cheryl Lynn Pinckard*	6 Shevat	Daughter of Terri Ellen & G. Thomas Pinkard
1/7/24	Louis Vincent*	26 Tevet	Grandfather of Kenneth L. Wolf
1/8/24	Rae Schklair	27 Tevet	Grandmother of Suzanne Levy
1/12/24	Maurice Lafferty		Father of Sherry Semiatin
1/12/24	Ruth Sylinski*		Wife of Conrad Sylinski
1/12/24	Bess Perline	2 Shevat	Sister of Irwin Wapner
1/15/24	Morris Shulman	19 Tevet	Father of Bernice Gaon
1/15/24	Rachel Smith		Mother of Deanna Hart
1/19/24	Louis Klein*		Father of Ruth Roth
1/21/24	Edith Greenberg*		Mother of Sandra Sussman
1/22/24	Joanna (Joey) Bilow		Mother of Aaron Bilow
1/22/24	Bernice (Boots) Hersh		Wife of Seymour Hersh
1/22/24	Rosa Mora		Grandmother of Josue Medrano
1/24/24	Yankel Holstein	2 Shevat	Grandfather of Eric Berge
1/24/24	Elma Traub	14 Shevat	Aunt of Ken Wolf
1/25/24	Trudy Andross*		Wife of Norman Andross
1/25/24	Al Feinblatt	14 Shevat	Friend of Gary & Marsha Epstein
1/25/24	Paul Goldiner		Husband of Mary Goldiner
1/25/24	Samuel David Kellman	21 Shevat	Grandfather of Gary Epstein
1/25/24	Bert Coe	15 Shevat	Father of Andrea Coe Portney
1/26/24	Norma Miller	16 Shevat	Aunt of Kenneth L. Wolf, sister of Betty J Wolf
1/27/24	Marvin Morris	7 Shevat	Cousin of Seymour Hersh
1/27/24	Shirley Simon*		Sister-in-law of Nancy Evans
1/29/24	Bonny LeVine	17 Shevat	Aunt of Gary Epstein
1/31/24	Millie Kring		Wife of Ray Kring
1/31/24	Leo Schutz*	21 Shevat	Friend of Tom Geiger
1/31/24	Hattie Lester Schwartz*	21 Shevat	Mother of Stephen Schwartz
1/31/24	Marcia Tunick*	21 Shevat	Wife of Art Tunick

## 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

# JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5 Josué Medrano leads Shabbat service (7:30 PM)	6 Raul Medina leads Shabbat service & Torah study (9:30 AM)  Also: Amber Medina will lead Etz Chaim (10:30 AM)
7 Brotherhood Breakfast & 170 <sup>th</sup> Seminar (9:30 AM)	8	9	10 TBE Board of Directors (6 PM)	11	12 Anita Friedman leads Shabbat service (7:30 PM)	13 Raul Medina leads Shabbat service & Torah study (9:30 AM)  Also: Amber Medina leads Etz Chaim class (10:30 AM)
14	15	16	17	18	19 Diane Borad-Mirken leads Shabbat service (7:30 PM)	20 Raul Medina leads Shabbat service & Torah study (9:30 AM)  Also: Amber Medina will lead Etz Chaim (10:30 AM)
21	22	23	24 Raul Medina leads Tu-B'Shvat Seder (6:30 PM)	25	26 Rabbi Gottesfeld leads Potluck & Tu-B'Shvat celebration (6 PM) and Shabbat service (7:30 PM)	27 Rabbi Gottesfeld leads Torah Discussion (10 AM)
28	29	30	31			