

Temple Beth El Bulletin

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Rabbi's Message – Dov Gottesfeld

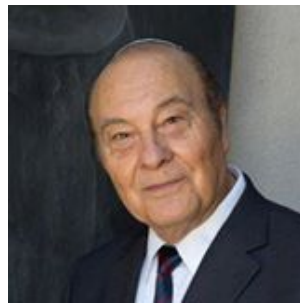
Shalom to all:

WHEN A CURSE INTERRUPTS A BLESSED LIFE

Upon crossing the Jordan River into the Land of Milk and Honey, God instructs each individual among the Israelite people to first go to twin mountains and place God's blessings on Mount Grizim, and God's curses on Mount Eibal,

That is the opening of the Torah portion Re'eh, which the Torah class discussed in yesterday's Shabbat class. It is one of the most important topics which affects every human being on this planet earth regardless of his or her religious affiliation, primarily when something bad, which they deem a "curse", befalls them.

"WHY ME?!" What have I done wrong?" "Why am I being punished?" Those are the most common dilemmas which



Dov Gottesfeld

almost each one of us—earthlings—questions him/her self. Those questions, mind you, are in essence directed towards God, to whom we attribute the "source" of that "curse".

In hindsight, I wished that those of you who are reading this article had participated in the class's discussion because I felt it evoked not only emotions, but promoted sincere, and deep reflections on the human condition at such time when a "blessed life with good health, food, shelter, work, friends, family, etc. – turns into a "cursed life" with illness, poverty, unemployment, loneliness, etc.

It would be a disservice to summarize the two hour class here, because each participant's view of this essential topic was unique and distinctive. Yet, in preparing for this class I consulted again with my new friend CHAT-GPT and asked him the following question: "Why bad things happen to good people?" I actually posed that question a little differently from Rabbi Harold Kushner who posed his question in his book: "When Bad Things Happen to Good People".

Continued on Page 2

August Schedule of Services:

August 4th Diane Borad-Mirken (7:30 PM)
August 11th Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld (7:30 PM)
August 18th Anita Friedman (7:30 PM)
August 25th Josué Medrano (7:30 PM)

Educational Activities

Adult conversational Hebrew on Thursdays at 6 PM
Etz Chaim Children's Religious School 9:30-10 AM

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Here is ChatGPT's answer:

"The question of why bad things happen to good people is a complex and philosophical one, and it has been a topic of discussion for centuries. The book "When Bad Things Happen to Good People" was written by Harold Kushner, a rabbi, in 1981. In the book, Rabbi Kushner grapples with this question after his own son was diagnosed with a terminal illness.

Kushner's main argument in the book is that bad things happen to everyone, regardless of their morality or goodness. He suggests that the traditional religious understanding of God as an all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-good being doesn't adequately explain the existence of suffering and tragedy in the world. He proposes a more nuanced view of God's role in human suffering, suggesting that God is not the direct cause of suffering but rather a source of strength and comfort for those who are going through difficult times.

Kushner's perspective is often seen as an exploration of theodicy, which is the attempt to reconcile the existence of evil and suffering in the world with the belief in a benevolent and omnipotent deity. His book offers a perspective that encourages people to find meaning and purpose in their suffering, rather than trying to justify it through traditional theological frameworks.

In summary, the book "When Bad Things Happen to Good People" doesn't necessarily provide a definitive answer to why bad things happen to good people, but it offers a perspective that challenges traditional religious explanations and encourages individuals to find their own ways of coping with and making sense of adversity."

I wish you all a life of only blessings, and may you only experience tears, and body-pain from laughter, and joy.

Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld

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: Open

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: Open

Hello Friends,

SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 1ST.

That's the date for a concert I have been preparing for almost 3 years! It is A Caberet Concert by Diane Borad-Mirken entitled "Music and Laughter". I will be performing all new songs I've never performed before, from Broadway shows and from "The Great American Songbook" (otherwise known as standards).

It will be held at Temple Beth El in mid-afternoon. I will provide more details and a flyer as the date comes closer. For now, just save the date.

--Diane

President's Column – Frank Young



-Frank Young, president of TBE

TEMPLE HISTORY

The Santa Maria congregation was established in the late 1950s. However, before the formal establishment, various groups were formed. In the fall of 1954, a Social Club was formed in Paso Robles with officers and by-laws. The name was later changed to the Amity Club. Jews in neighboring towns were invited to attend its functions. Meetings were held every few months until 1955, when another group from Shell Beach and Lompoc decided to form a congregation.

And on August 8, 1955, at a regular meeting of the Amity Club held in the Grange Hall in San Louis Obispo, Rabbi Zeldin of the American Hebrew Congregations attended. The Rabbi talked to the group about forming a Congregation and joining the Hebrew Union Congregations.

On February 8, 1956, the combined groups from Paso Robles, Shell Beach and Lompoc decided by vote to be called Congregation Beth El. On March 12, 1956, the Executive Board of The Amity Club voted to dissolve and transfer all assets to Congregation Beth El. Holiday services were held at various sites.

The transition of Army base Camp Cooke to Vandenberg Air Force Base on Oct. 4, 1958 brought many Jews to the Central Coast. As the numbers of residents increased, the Jewish communities recognized that a synagogue was needed.

Twice a month services began in 1960. They were held in a small building donated by a non-Jewish builder.

In January of 1961, a committee was appointed to investigate the feasibility of building a Temple. Years 1966-67 were devoted to developing plans and starting construction. The committee accepted Hubble Construction Company's bid on March 23, 1967. Ground was broken at the site on East Alvin on April 16, 1967 for Temple Beth El. "The new Temple opened (although not fully completed) in time for the High Holy Days on Oct. 4, 1967."

Temple President Paul Rosenblatt said at the dedication service on April of 1969: "Here is a temple which will take its place of honor among the other houses of worship in Santa Maria, and will speak to the society of men in the affirmation of faith. We have taken a parcel of earth and made it hallowed ground; we have used common space and transformed it into a holy sanctuary. This affirms that man's role is not to destroy, but to build; not to profane, but to sanctify."

Sources:

Shirley Contreras: *How a Temple came to Santa Maria*, May 17, 2019. Updated Jan 15, 2021

History of Congregation Beth El: A Chronological Order of Events Leading to the Organization of Congregation Beth El. undated

Frank Young

Bulletin Briefs

August Anniversaries

16 Sherry & Manning Semiatin

August Birthdays

1 Bill Sutton
4 Lori Meltzer-Sutton
5 Michael Sales
8 Bill Mirken
10 Marjorie Schwartz
12 Dove Okonina
13 Michael Sachs
15 Krystina Brunk
21 Liz Basurto
22 Adina Sales
29 Mindy Downum
29 Sofia Gelpi

Sisterhood

Is there someone out there who would like to assist with the Sisterhood's gift shop? We have sold quite a bit lately (thanks to Raul Medina's efforts) and need to replenish our stock. We need to decide what to get and also to restock our shelves. Maintaining the gift shop includes pricing items and making the display attractive.

Let me know if you are interested. It can be a fun endeavor enhancing a valuable temple asset.

Marsha Epstein

Brotherhood

The July Brotherhood meeting was held on August 6th.

Our next scheduled meeting is set for Sunday, September 3rd. We will enjoy our famous breakfast of lox and bagels, eggs, and extras. There will be a Zoom link for the discussion portion of the meeting for those who cannot attend in person.

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

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 Raúl 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 reúne casi todos los sábados por la mañana en el templo a partir de las 9:30 am. Usamos un libro de Rezos en español / 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 cómoda 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 español, así como nuestra herencia judía. 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.

Shabbat Lay-Leaders Thank You Service Friday, July 14th, 2023





Judith Miriam Klinger
March 15, 1943 – June 27, 2023

About the Artists

JUDITH KLINGER, daughter of two graduates of the Julliard School of Music, studied piano, cello, ballet and tap dancing as a child. She began her vocal studies at 13, adding modern dance and drama in college. She graduated from UCLA Phi Beta Kappa and cum laude, completed a master's degree in Voice and Opera with honors at USC, and in 1980 received a DMA in Voice at the Eastman School of Music.

A winner of the Metropolitan and San Francisco National Opera Auditions, Dr. Klinger is also a recipient of a dozen vocal awards and grants. She has performed with 15 symphony orchestras nationwide and was chosen to tour Mexico under the auspices of the U.S. State Department.

Her operatic repertoire includes more than 20 roles, and she has considerable experience in oratorio as well. Local performances include leading roles with the Pacific Repertory Opera and appearances as soloist with the San Luis Obispo County Symphony, the Cuesta College "Portraits in Music" concert series, the Lompoc Music Association concert series, and "Music For a Sunday Afternoon" concert series. She resides in Los Osos, where she teaches privately.

Past Presidents of Temple Beth El

Leonard Goodman	1956
Larry Dushkin	1957
Elkin Mittelman	1958
Sam Berkowitz	1959
Harry Steinberg	1960
Nathan Marks	1961
Jules Weisbuck	1962
Harold Polgar	1963
Gerald Abrams	1964
Harry Kaplan	1965
Harvey Melman	1966, 1967
Sam Resnick	1968
Paul Rosenblatt	1969
Dr. Jerry Lubin	1970
Art Roth	1971
Sid Stahl	1972
Shep Bereskin	1973
Joe Krinsky	1974, 1975
Marty Meer	1976
Trudy Resnick	1977
Sid Weiser	1978
Marty Lowy	1979
Charles Leaf	1980
Sid Weiser	1981
Max Tuman	1982
Martin Berkowitz	1983
Marvin Sussman	1984
David Lyman	1985
Steve Lewis	1986
Stewart Daniels	1987
Mike Kaver & Steve Rubin Co-Presidents	1988
Mike Kaver	1989
Errin Berkowitz	1990
Lyn Meltzer	1991
Mike Kaver	1992
Stan Eschen	1993
Mike Sachs	1994, 1995
Suzanne Levy	1996, 1997
Tom Geiger	1997, 1998
J. P. Villedrouin	1998, 2000
Rose Russell	2000, 2001
Diane Borad-Mirken	2001, 2002
Paul Broeker	2002, 2004
Niki Eschen & Gary Epstein	2004, 2006
Gary Epstein & Herb Pregozen	2006, 2007
Rick Feldman	2008
Gary Epstein	2008, 2010
Frank Young & Juan Hovey	2010, 2011
Juan Hovey	2011, 2012
Juan Hovey & Elise Cassel	2012, 2013
Tom Geiger	2013
Gary Epstein	2013, 2014
Gary Epstein & Mike Sachs	2014, 2015
Mike Sachs	2015, 2016
Suzanne Levy	2016, 2020
Gary Epstein	2020, 2021
Frank Young	2021, 2023

Erev Rosh Hashanah: Friday, September 15th, (7 pm to 9 pm)

Rosh Hashanah I: Saturday, September 16th, (10 am to 1 pm)

Tashlich (4:00 pm)

Rosh Hashanah II: Sunday, September 17th, (10 am to 1 pm)

Shabbat Shuvah: Friday, September 22nd, (7:30 pm)

Kol Nidre: Sunday, September 24th, (7 pm to 9:30 pm)

Yom Kippur "AM": Monday, September 25th, (10 am to 1:30 pm)

Yom Kippur "PM": Monday, September 25th, (4:30 pm to 7:30 pm)

Mincha 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm

Yizkor 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm

Ne'ila 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm

Break-the-Fast 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

RSVP:

Anita Friedman (805) 736-2722; c/o TBE P.O. Box 5217, Santa Maria 93456;

anita@youngreport.com; or in person.

or Gary Epstein (805) 929-6301; 221 La Camarilla Place, Nipomo 93444; gepstein@calpoly.edu; or in person.

Donations

In memory of Judith Klinger
 from Andi and Jeff Portney
 from Ron and Suzanne Levy
 Maria and Guillermo Aguilar
 Josef Asher
 Michael Sales

August Yarzheits

8/1/23	Althea Kleckner	29	Tammuz	Mother of Barbara Sachs and Jack Kleckner
8/1/23	David Pallay*			Father of Marian Wise
8/5/23	Bertha Baum Wolf*	18	Av	Grandmother of Kenneth L. Wolf
8/6/23	Betsy Goodman*	16	Av	Daughter of Hinda Beaman
8/7/23	Charles Wagner*			Husband of Lee Wagner
8/7/23	Leon Kessler	20	Av	Cousin of Len Akronowitz
8/8/23	Megan Wolf	21	Av	Niece of Ken Wolf
8/10/23	Ester Greenberg*			Mother of Maurice Greenberg
8/11/23	Abraham Wapner	24	Av	Father of Irwin Wapner
8/13/23	Arnold Katzenstein*			Father of Dorothy Tuman
8/14/23	Harry Tuman*			Father of Max Tuman
8/15/23	John Reese	15	Av	Father of Johanna Reese
8/17/23	May Akronowitz	30	Av	Mother of Len Akronowitz
8/17/23	Kevin Matthew Schragger*	30	Av	Son of Dr. Michael and Georgia Schragger
8/17/23	Ruth Zuckerbraun	30	Av	Mother of Alan
8/18/23	Elyce Kaplan	18	Av	Daughter of Mike & Anne Kaver
8/18/23	Daivon Young			Nephew of Frank Young
8/19/23	Ulysses Ferrer			Cousin of Josue Medrano
8/19/23	Renee Coe	2	Elul	Mother of Andrea Coe Portney
8/20/23	Lionel Semiatin			Father of Manning Semiatin
8/24/23	William Herskovitz	7	Elul	Father of Seymour Hersh
8/25/23	Shirley Berens			Friend of Gary & Marsha Epstein
8/25/23	Ruth Hart			Mother of Gregory Hart
8/25/23	Solomon Sussman*			
8/25/23	Richard Hirsch, Rabbi	8	Elul	Cousin of Seymour Hersh
8/26/23	Dorothy Greenberg	9	Elul	Cousin of Stan Eschen
8/26/23	Alvin Minzenberg*	1	Elul	Husband of Jean, Father of Mike and Eric
8/26/23	Ivy Sheryl Pregozen*			Daughter of Herb and Lorraine Pregozen
8/26/23	Pam Gollub	9	Elul	Niece of Myra Wapner
8/26/23	Saul Tunick*	9	Elul	Son of Marcia and Art Tunick
8/29/23	Josephine Gollub	12	Elul	Aunt of Myra Wapner

Months of Mourning

Alan Kushnick	Member of Brotherhood	
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

AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 TBE Board Meeting (6 PM)	2	3	4 Shabbat service led by Diane Borad-Mirken (7:30 PM)	5 Morning Shabbat service and Torah study with Raúl Medina at temple (9:30 AM) Also: Etz Chaim with Amber Medina at temple (10 AM)
6 Brotherhood Breakfast & Seminar (8:30 AM)	7	8	9	10 Adult Conversational Hebrew on Zoom with Joel David (6 PM)	11 Shabbat service led by Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld (7:30 PM)	12 Morning Shabbat service and Torah study with Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld (10 AM)
13	14	15	16	17 Adult Conversational Hebrew on Zoom with Joel David (6 PM)	18 Shabbat service led by Anita Friedman (7:30 pm)	19 Raúl Medina leads the Torah discussion group. (9:30 AM) Also: Amber Medina leads Etz Chaim (10 AM)
20	21	22	23	24 Adult Conversational Hebrew on Zoom with Joel David (6 PM)	25 Shabbat service led by Josué Medrano (7:30 PM)	26 Raúl Medina leads the Torah discussion group. (9:30 AM) Also: Amber Medina leads Etz Chaim (10 AM)
27	28	29	30	31 Adult Conversational Hebrew on Zoom with Joel David (6 PM)		