

Temple Beth El Bulletin

VOLUME 53, No. 5
OCTOBER 2021
TISHREI/CHESHVAN 5782



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:

Growing up in Israel, we used to sing this song about Noah: "Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord, and that's why he remained dry". Ever since, I find myself singing it under my breath every year during the week of Noah's Torah portion, and wondering what Noah had done to find favor in the eyes of God, and why wasn't it detailed in the Torah for all humans so they could also find favor in the eyes of the Lord.

Yet, throughout the years Noah's righteousness and statured character became questionable in my eyes as the volume of unanswerable questions I had, while re-reading that Torah portion year after year, began to pile up in my deepest drawer. Sifting through the questions I found questions like: When God told Noah that he was about to abolish humanity, why didn't Noah go to warn the people to change their ways of living?



Dov Gottesfeld

Why didn't Noah challenge God as Abraham did later on in a quest to foil God's intention to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah? Why didn't Noah, secretly, pass the blueprint of the ark to his best friends, at least? I assume he had a couple, if not more. And yes, were Noah's wife and children righteous earthlings as was he?

I also dug up questions concerning the seven biblical "Noahide Laws, which were, according to the Jewish Talmud, given to Adam and Noah and consequently binding on all mankind. Beginning with [Genesis 2:16](#), the [Babylonian Talmud](#) listed the first six commandments as prohibitions against idolatry, [blasphemy](#), murder, adultery, and robbery and the positive command to establish courts of [justice](#) (with all that implies). After the Flood a seventh commandment, given to Noah, forbade the eating of flesh cut from a living animal ([Gen. 9:4](#)). (Britannica). Why weren't those seven laws itemized, much like those given to Moses on Mount Sinai.

Continued on Page 2

October Schedule of Services:

Josué Medrano (October 1st)
Rabbi Gottesfeld (October 8th)
Diane Borad-Mirken (October 15th)
TBA (October 22nd)
TBA (October 29th)

Educational Activities

Adult conversational Hebrew on Tuesdays at 6 PM

Etz Chaim Children's Religious School, Saturday mornings; See calendar for details.

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Continued from Page 1

Idolatry? When and how did other gods come into being, and why didn't God do anything to eliminate them? After all, the planet Earth is His domain. How come only one person (or a family) in the entire Earth walked with God, and the rest of humanity just ignored Him? And why do most of today's earthlings also continue to evade God's laws? Is God planning another "flood" to eradicate the world and therefore He gave one earthling -Elon Musk -the blueprint for his spacecraft "Starship" to resettle him, and sustain him on Mars? Is Musk the righteous man? Curious question. Isn't it?

Well, it's time to land our feet back on Earth, our only planet and ask the sixty four thousand dollar serious question: What's in Noah's story for us?! What can we take away from that story to prevent a similar disaster on a global scope, which unfortunately has been buzzing in our ears for a while now whenever we read, listen, or watch the grim news about state of affairs of planet Earth?

I haven't found any answer for that question in any of the commentaries, observations, and the analyses that I have collected about the meaning of the Noah's Flood story and its implication for the present day. I too, do not have an answer. Yet, I do do my part in Tikun Olam behind the metal bars, fences, and locks of a prison. Think of what kind of Tikun Olam you can do.

Make it a meaningful year.

Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld

October 6, 2021



Some of our temple members enjoying Sukkot, September 2021.

President's Column – Frank Young



-Frank Young, president of TBE

The Fall Membership Meeting will be on Sunday, November 21st. The Hanukkah Celebration will be on December 5th. The details are yet to be determined. If you intend to donate an item to the Hanukkah raffle that takes some time to make, you might start soon.

With the rise in anti-Semitism, the following story is important

It was reported by *Israel Hayom*, *Jerusalem Post*, and other news outlets, late September 2021 that the [Secure Community Network \(SCN\)](#), the official security organization of the Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, has launched an advanced National Jewish Security Operations Command Center (JSOCC). At the Center in Chicago, intelligence analysts and security professionals monitor and track threats to the Jewish community and coordinate responses with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.

“It is going to provide that centralized location that the community has been lacking in terms of instant reporting, tracking threats, tracking operational security issues and concerns,” said Michael Masters, national director and CEO of SCN.

Masters also said, the center ensures, “coordination between the Jewish communities around the country with our law enforcement partners and with our other partners within the Jewish community. So this is really a game-changer in terms of Jewish safety and security.”

He stressed that “this center integrates all of those technologies in one location. It also provides a robust single component for us to operate from – not only on a daily basis, but in the event of an incident. We have all seen the value of a unified command location during incidents where different partners can come together and work to address a crisis. And this now provides that fusion center-style command center for us.”

He added that “the center provides a central location for all of our intelligence analysts to work out of, along with our operations response coordination team. Someone picks up the phone at our duty desk 24-7, 365 days a year. Every single day, they’re getting reports and issues from around the country. Just this morning, we’ve gotten incidents from Canada, from Tennessee, from California and from Arizona.”

If you want to see the original news articles:

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/jewish-security-organization-opens-national-command-center-in-chicago-680513>

<https://www.jta.org/2021/09/27/united-states/jewish-security-organization-opens-national-command-center-in-chicago>

The website for the Secure Community Network is <https://www.securecommunitynetwork.org/>

Bulletin Briefs

October Birthdays

2	Donna Eschen
6	Anita Friedman
10	Sam Burg
13	Madeleine Burg
13	Jaime Frucht
17	Aliya LeCover
19	Mia Levy
24	Deanna Hart
25	Diane Borad-Mirken
25	Allison Portney
30	Oceana Medina

Donations

Sid & Karen Goldstein
Ed & Linda Cohen
Sofia Ramirez-Gelpi
Ken Wolf
Lori Meltzer-Sutton
Len Akronowitz
Andi & Jeff Portney
Eric Berge

In memory of Susan Naiman from Anne Kaver

Brotherhood

The Brotherhood will hold our next Seminar meeting on Zoom, Sunday, October 3rd. The temple was briefly open for services but we have resumed holding them on Zoom due to the wildly infectious Covid Delta variant. Gary will still be sending out articles of interest to members of the group.

Please let us know if you are interested in attending our Zoom Seminar meetings and we will send you an email invitation with the link. Women are welcome.

Be well,

Gary Epstein, Seminar coordinator
Michael LeCover, Brotherhood president

Sisterhood

Although the Sisterhood held in-person dinner meetings early in the summer and it was wonderful being together in person after a year of enforced separation, the onslaught of the Delta variant has caused us to pause. We will keep an eye on the virus and as soon as it is safe we will resume our in-person dinners.

Of course this doesn't mean that you cannot continue to enjoy the wonderful food at Jaffa Café on the second Tuesday of the month, so either eat-in (they do have a small outside eating area) or take-out. Either way the temple will receive 15% of your order, which will be refunded to the temple as a donation. Just write TBE at the top of the order form.

Marsha Epstein

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.

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) 868-8153).

October Member Spotlight: Sid and Karen Goldstien

Name: Sid & Karen Goldstien

Age: Sid - 73, Karen - 73

How long have you been a member of Temple Beth El?

Sid: About 40 years.

Karen: Since 1977.

Why did you decide to join Temple Beth El?

Sid: We didn't have an organized [Jewish] community at the time in Santa Ynez.

Karen: So our kids could attend Sunday school.

What do you do for a living?

Sid: I am currently a [proudly] retired civil engineer.

Karen: Retired.

What is your favorite Jewish holiday?

Sid: Passover.

Karen: Passover.

How long have you lived in the area and what brought you here?

Sid: We have lived in Santa Ynez since 1977 when we moved from Santa Barbara for a new job.

Karen: 1977 - from Goleta.

What is your favorite Temple memory?

Sid: Celebrating our children's Bar and Bat Mitzvahs.

Karen: Our children's Bar and Bat Mitzvahs.

What is your favorite Jewish food?

Sid: Cholent, matzo meal, and kugel.

Karen: Kugel.

What are some of your hobbies and interests?

Sid: Playing music, hiking, gardening, woodworking, and puttering.

Karen: Reading.

If you could travel anywhere, where would that be and why?

Sid: Hudson Bay - always been curious to see it!

Karen: Rochester, NY where we were raised and where our parents are buried.

What do you look forward to as a Temple member?

Sid: Working on Temple projects.

Karen: When we can return to in-person services and activities.



JEWISH WAR HEROES

Jews have fought in every skirmish, battle, and war from the American Revolutionary War to the present war 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. Seventeen Jews have earned this award 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 capturing nine of the enemy crew. *By Frank Young*

October Yarzheits

10/3/21	Violet D. Ladin			Mother of Beth Ladin
10/4/21	Moshe Olevi Nourani*	28	Tishri	Father of Dan Nourani*
10/4/21	Jack Burton Sachs*	28	Tishri	Father of Michael Sachs
10/5/21	Melissa Marshall			Sister of Frank Young
10/5/21	Maurice Roth*			Father of Arthur Roth
10/6/21	Bill LeVine	2	Heshvan	Uncle of Gary Epstein
10/8/21	Irwin Jay Berson	2	Heshvan	Cousin of Len Akronowitz
10/9/21	Miriam Gaon			Daughter of Bernice Gaon
10/10/21	Walter Koch	22	Tishri	Brother of Katherine (Hersh) Koch
10/10/21	Frieda Levy			Mother of Mary Goldiner
10/11/21	Rabbi Abraham Raich	5	Heshvan	Rabbi at Temple Beth El
10/11/21	Emanuel Stone	5	Heshvan	Father of Arnold Stone
10/11/21	Kathlin Bakst			Mother of Leslie Bakst
10/11/21	Lilly Shulman			Mother of Bernice Gaon
10/12/21	Rhoda Rosenblum	6	Heshvan	Aunt of Len Akronowitz
10/14/21	Samuel Yasskin*			Father of Trudy Resnick
10/15/21	Ruth C. Stern			Sister of Howard Stern
10/19/21	Abraham Bakst			Father of Leslie Bakst
10/19/21	Lois Pawlan			Mother of Suzanne Levy
10/19/21	Abraham Rothstein	3	Heshvan	Stepfather of Gary Epstein
10/21/21	Samuel Gruver	15	Heshvan	Stepfather of Andi Portney
10/22/21	Mordka Berkowitz	16	Heshvan	Father of Sam Berkowitz
10/22/21	Joseph Y. Goldstien	16	Heshvan	Father of Sid & David Goldstien
10/22/21	Jacob Simon*			Father of Nancy Evans
10/23/21	Rose Morris	17	Heshvan	Aunt of Seymour Hersh
10/24/21	Ernest Kaplan*			Husband of Sylvia Kaplan
10/25/21	Matthew David Hersh	15	Heshvan	Nephew of Seymour and Boots Hersh
10/25/21	Enrique Vidales	21	Heshvan	Brother of Cesar Vidales
10/26/21	Bertha Rubenoff*			Mother of Lillian Tuman
10/27/21	John McManus	26	Tishri	Friend of Ron Levy
10/27/21	Sam Melman*			Father of Harvey Melman
10/27/21	Adele Mintzer	14	Heshvan	Aunt of Marsha Epstein
10/27/21	Stephen Schwartz			Husband of Marjorie Schwartz
10/29/21	Irwin (Irv) Boxer			Friend of Gary & Marsha Epstein
10/29/21	Ruth M. Levy*	10	Heshvan	Wife of Stanley Levy
10/30/21	Blanche Levy	24	Heshvan	Grandmother of Andi Portney

Months of Mourning

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
Tom Geiger	Long-time member of TBE	4/22/21
Frank Azevedo	Friend of Gloria Ortiz	
Esther Kalish	Wife of Mel Kalish	7/2/21
Liese Spiegl	Cousin of Ken Wolf	7/7/21
Rabbi Richard Hirsch	Cousin of Seymour Hersh	8/16/21
Marion Wolff	Friend of Gary & Marsha Epstein	

OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Shabbat service led by Josué Medrano on Zoom (7:30 PM)	2 Etz Chayim children's class: Shabbat Morning Prayers 10:30 AM at TBE. Torah Discussion in Spanish at TBE (9:30 AM)
3 Brotherhood Seminar on Zoom 10 AM	4	5 Adult Conversational Hebrew with Joel David (6 PM) TBE Board meeting (7 PM)	6	7	8 Shabbat service led by Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld on Zoom (7:30 PM)	9 Etz Chayim 11 AM at Waller Park. Torah Discussion in Spanish at TBE (9:30 AM)
10 Torah Discussion with Rabbi Gottesfeld on Zoom (10 am)	11	12 Adult Conversational Hebrew with Joel David (6 PM)	13	14	15 Shabbat service led by Diane Borad-Mirken on Zoom (7:30 PM)	16 Etz Chayim 10:30 AM at TBE. Torah Discussion in Spanish at TBE (9:30 AM)
17	18	19 Adult Conversational Hebrew with Joel David (6 PM)	20	21	22 Shabbat service led by TBA on Zoom (7:30 PM)	23 Etz Chayim The Patch (If open). Torah Discussion in Spanish at TBE (9:30 AM)
24/31	25	26 Adult Conversational Hebrew with Joel David (6 PM)	27	28	29 Shabbat service led by TBA on Zoom (7:30 PM)	30 No Religious School.