

Temple Beth El Bulletin

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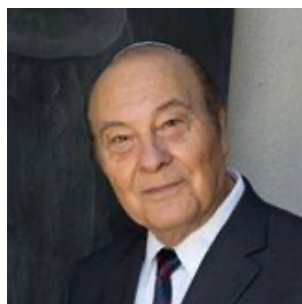
Rabbi's Message ~ Dov Gottesfeld

Shalom to all:

It is the first night of Hanukkah, and my wife is out of town for a few days. As the sun began to disappear behind the mountain, and darkness began to infiltrate into the reddish sky, instinctively, I began to prepare the Chanukiah (The Hanukkah Menorah) to light the first candle of Hanukkah.

Yet, I am not in the mood for celebrating Hanukkah. There is still a war raging in the land of Chanukah, and there is not a miracle of victory in sight. When I had expressed those feeling about not celebrating Chanukah this year to my wife a couple of days ago, she pointed to an article in the Washington Post newspaper, which dealt with a similar issue.

"For the past 28 years, the biggest and booziest inside-the-Beltway Hanukkah party has brought together Jewish Washingtonians for hot potato latkes,



Dov Gottesfeld

a vodka bar and Israeli-style sufganiyot, or jelly-filled doughnuts.

Known as Latkes and Vodka, the trademarked shindig hosted by D.C. publicist Steve Rabinowitz has been the place to celebrate the eight-day Festival of Lights. Each year the coveted invitation-only party has drawn White House staff, a few members of Congress, Israeli Embassy staff, a couple of sitting ambassadors and about 300 Jewish community leaders.

But on Tuesday, Rabinowitz sent out an email saying he has decided to forgo the celebration this year.

"I just don't feel right hosting a party this year, given Oct. 7 and in the middle of an actual war," Rabinowitz wrote.

Hanukkah, a joyous Jewish holiday, which in the United States has often tried to rival Christmas in buoyancy if not glamour, will not be the same this year. With the Israeli military in the middle of a destructive showdown in its war with Hamas, and with 1,200 dead in Israel and

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Educ

Adult conversational Hebrew on Thursdays at 6 PM

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

December Schedule of Services:

December 1st Anita Friedman (7:30 PM)
December 8th Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld (7:30 PM)
December 15th Diane Borad-Mirken (7:30 PM)
December 22nd Diane Borad-Mirken (7:30 PM)
December 29th TBA (7:30 PM)

16,000 in Gaza, few are in the mood to celebrate the holiday that begins at sundown Thursday.*

Rabbi Brad Hirschfield, president of the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, also shared his feelings about not celebrating Chanukah: “I don’t entirely know how you can celebrate a festival of victory fully and completely when we are a people at war; that’s a challenge.” *

Rabinowitz, Rabbi Hirschfield, and I are not the only Jews who feel that way. Synagogues and Jewish organizations not only tone down their Chanukah celebrations, but cancel public events of lighting the Chanukiah.

“At “Romemu, a New York synagogue known for its exuberant and mystical worship style, there has been no dancing at Shabbat services since Oct. 7. “It’s just not the kind of celebratory, huge, untrammelled joy that we had before Oct. 7,” said Romemu Rabbi David Ingber. “We just changed everything to speak to healing a little bit more and to a spiritual reset every week because people are so inundated with news and with grief.”

Romemu will celebrate Hanukkah but in a more subdued way — leaning into its themes of holding onto moments of light and hope. The congregation is encouraging people to sign up to light menorah candles with other families and emphasizing togetherness.

Hanukkah has always been a very malleable holiday, reinterpreted throughout history in different ways, said Rabbi Jill Jacobs, chief executive of T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights.

“It’s one of these holidays that can just be interpreted and reinterpreted and the themes are always relevant, but they might be a little bit different, depending on the moment,” Jacobs said. “What keeps Jewish tradition alive is that we can both hold on to the tradition and also find new meaning in different moments.”

In stark contrast with Jews toning down the festivities, some non-Jews have canceled menorah lightings because of fears they might be seen as an endorsement of Israel.

A menorah lighting planned as part of a cultural festival in historic Colonial Williamsburg was called off. In Moncton, a city in New Brunswick, Canada, the city council canceled a menorah-lighting on the city hall lawn before reversing course after a public outcry.” *

There are those Jews who dare or defy.

“For some Jews, those instances of exclusion might strengthen their resolve to double down on Hanukkah celebrations. Chabad, the Hasidic Jewish group, will still light dozens of giant metal menorahs in public parks across the nation, including on the Ellipse, near the White House, and at the southern entrance to New York City’s Central Park.

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TBE Board of Directors for 2023-2024

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President's Column – Frank Young



-Frank Young, president of TBE

Why did Hamas start a war that they could not hope to win? It is my opinion that they knew they could not win a conventional war, but thought they could win a media war, the battle for public opinion. So, The Information War has reached the central coast. There has been an attempt at Cal Poly to recruit students to become activists to “decolonize Palestinian lands,” with teach-ins and to “take action for a cease fire.”

Other Individuals likely inspired by the attack on Israel have been spreading anti-Semitic flyers in some neighborhoods of the central coast. If you find an anti-Semitic flyer, contact the Santa Maria and Lompoc Police Departments and the Santa Barbara Sheriff.

1. Contact local law enforcement's non-emergency line (more information [here](#)). Relay the date, time and location in which you found the flyer, and the contents of the flyer.
2. If you have a home security camera (such as a Ring, Blink or Simply Safe) please check your footage to see if you can identify the vehicle used to distribute these flyers. Sharing this information with local law enforcement will help to aid in their investigations.
3. Report the flyer to relevant agencies. Note that there are multiple places to file hate crime reports. Although it may seem redundant to file the same incident with multiple agencies, keep in mind that doing so gives more accurate data to organizations tracking and combating hate.
 - If you live in the City of San Luis Obispo, please file a report [here](#).
 - File a report with the ADL [here](#).
 - Report hate crimes to the California Department of Civil Rights [here](#) or call 1-833-8-NOHATE
 - Do NOT visit the website listed on any flyer!

-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.

TEMPLE BETH EL

HANUKKAH PARTY AND RAFFLE



Our annual Hanukkah Party will take place on Sunday, December 10th at 5:00 PM. As always, our outstanding chefs will prepare the latkes and fixings. This will be a potluck dinner so bring a dish to share and table service. And don't forget your menorah! Donation is \$5 for adults (members), \$10 for non-members and \$2 for children.

Our Hanukkah Party is our biggest fundraising event for the year. A major event at our party is the Hanukkah Raffle. This year our special grand prize is \$300 in scrip of your choice. We also have a beautiful quilt by Anne Kaver and many other exciting prizes have been donated.

The first prize winner will pick first and subsequent winners will select from the other prizes. You do not have to be present to win. Tickets are available at \$10 each, or three for \$25. We hope you will plan to attend this event and support our raffle.



Contact Marsha Epstein at
mepstein@calpoly.edu
(805-929-6301)
for tickets and information.

Bulletin Briefs

December Anniversaries

- 20 Raul & Amber Medina
21 Bill Mirken & Diane Borad-Mirken
24 Ilana & Joel David

December Birthdays

- 6 Judith Basurto
6 Henry Beneda
6 Moshe Hernandez
9 Amy Goldstien
19 Stacy Goldstien
21 Rosalba Rodriguez
25 Aaron Hernandez
27 Cassandra Wolf

Donations

- For the High Holidays from
Andi and Jeff Portney
Ubaldo and Julia Alvarez Hernandez
Joel and Hermelinda Basurto
Robert Juarez
Ken Wolf
Charles and Vivian Alter
Sid and Karen Goldstein
Edward Milstein
Donna Eschen
For the High Holidays from Amber and Raul Medina
For the High Holidays from Josue Medrano
For Yizkor from Michael Sales
In memory of Sheila Sales from Ruth, Phyllis and Margery King
For High Holiday Security from
Josue Medrano and Gloria Aguilar

Of course, many will try to keep up some festivities for the kids' sake, at least. The 92nd Street Y, a popular Jewish hub in New York, is hosting a Hanukkah festival on Sunday with crafts, treats, a live game show and other entertainment for kids.

If there's a softening of public displays of Hanukkah, it will be for security reasons, said Rabbi Jacob Blumenthal, CEO of the United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism and the Rabbinical Assembly. But he also said the emphasis in most celebrations is about light and hope – not victory.

*"Our celebration is really about miracles and redemption," Blumenthal said. "It's not the celebration of victory itself. In a time when we are feeling anxious and we're grieving, there is actually reassurance in looking back at past miracles and our history of perseverance and thriving that brings us comfort and encouragement."**

I can say with (almost) certainty that some Chanukiot in the public places will be damaged by those who support Hamas, unless the Chanukiot would be protected around the clock for the duration of Hanukkah. Watching their behavior and slogans of those of Hamas supporters project their victimhood mentality. As such, they are prone to irrational violence and destruction if provoked – not only against Jews, but against anybody, and anything – like a Chanukah Menorah. So why provoke them? If anything, Jews need to find ways to establish communication in order to present and examine true historical facts regarding the Middle East.

The refrain of one of many Israeli songs which yearn for peace reads: "Come Shalom, and bring tranquility because we are tired of blood-shed.

Happy Hanukkah
Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld
December 7, 2023

*Washington Post— *Religion News Service*

Jewish/Israel discussion group

Prior to Covid there was an active group who met monthly to discuss Israeli and Jewish topics. We are planning to resume this program and will invite you to our first meeting in San Luis Obispo. We normally meet from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

These events will also be on Zoom. If you would like a zoom link, please email Gordon Mullin (gordmullin@gmail.com).

Participants may bring whatever nosh they wish to share.

Your comments and suggestions are welcomed.

Gordon Mullin

Cell (805)235-5098

Email- gordmullin@gmail.com

Sisterhood

The Sisterhood will not be meeting in December due to the crowded schedule of holidays.

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, January 7th, 8:30 AM at the Temple. Join us for our famous breakfast of lox and bagels, eggs, muffins and extras.

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

December Yartzheits

12/3/23	Anne Berkowitz*	20	Kislev	Wife of Sam Berkowitz
12/4/23	Rose LeCover	21	Kislev	Mother of Michael LeCover
12/6/23	Frieda Gollub*	23	Kislev	Mother of Myra Wapner
12/6/23	Jeston B. Wolf*	23	Kislev	Father of Kenneth L. Wolf
12/8/23	Esther Herskovitz	25	Kislev	Mother of Seymour Hersh
12/10/23	Susan Irgang	27	Kislev	Cousin of Len Akronowitz
12/10/23	Daniel Wolf	27	Kislev	Uncle of Kenneth L. Wolf
12/10/23	Roberta Simon Stewart*			Daughter of Phil & Shirley Simon
12/11/23	Benjamin Rubin	28	Kislev	Father of Rita Stone
12/12/23	Rita Portney	29	Kislev	Mother of Jeff Portney
12/13/23	Diane Kaunfer	1	Tevet	Mother of Al Kaunfer
12/13/23	Claudia Fairweather	22	Kislev	Cousin of Diane Borad-Mirken
12/14/23	Rubin Klinger*	2	Tevet	Father of Judith Klinger
12/15/23	Katie Goldstien	3	Tevet	Mother of Sid & David Goldstien
12/15/23	Janet Hirsch	3	Tevet	Cousin of Boots & Seymour Hersh
12/17/23	Freda Kunarsky*	5	Tevet	Mother of Diana Bereskin
12/17/23	Moe Berkowitz*			Brother-in-law of Nancy Evans
12/17/23	Mildred Levine*			
12/19/23	Dorothy Herscovitz	7	Tevet	Mother of Lyn Meltzer
12/19/23	Israel Berkowitz			Brother of Sam Berkowitz
12/19/23	Yolanda Brocke			Mother of Linda Cohen
12/19/23	Lisa Arlene Miles	16	Tevet	Sister of Al Kaunfer
12/20/23	Henry Hirshfield			Grandfather of Donna Eschen
12/21/23	Sheldon "Shep" Bereskin	9	Tevet	Father of Sari & Abby
12/21/23	Emma Wiessenberg	9	Tevet	Aunt of Lori Meltzer-Sutton
12/21/23	Jack Resnick			Brother of Sam Resnick
12/22/23	Jan Wikes	9	Tevet	Friend of Boots and Seymour Hersh
12/23/23	Jerome F. Lubin*	11	Tevet	Husband of Evelyn Lubin
12/23/23	Ken Burrough			Friend of Tom Geiger
12/23/23	Daniel Green			Grandson of Phyllis Green
12/23/23	Jules Razon	6	Tevet	Father of Ira Razon
12/24/23	Leon Janchill			Uncle of Linda & Karen Goldstien
12/26/23	Jacob S. Gollub*	14	Tevet	Father of Myra Wapner
12/27/23	Judith Epstein*	3	Tevet	Mother of Gary Epstein
12/28/23	Morris Akronowitz	16	Tevet	Father of Len Akronowitz
12/28/23	Philip Leo Epstein*	19	Tevet	Father of Gary Epstein
12/28/23	Anita Feinblatt			Friend of Gary & Marsha Epstein
12/28/23	Mark Goodman	16	Tevet	Son of Hinda Beaman
12/28/23	Elfie Morgan			Grandmother of Nakiah Burnes
12/29/23	Ida Friedlander	23	Tevet	Cousin of Boots Hersh
12/29/23	David Rosenblatt*			Brother of Paul Rosenblatt
12/30/23	Shari Schwartz			Wife of Seymour Schwartz
12/31/23	Aaron Goldberg*			Father of Susan Schwartz
12/31/23	Jacob Swimmer*			Father of Annette Barnett

Months of Mourning

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
Colleen Farber	Niece of Phyllis Green	11/30/23

DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Anita Friedman leads Shabbat service (7:30 PM) Potluck (6 PM)	2 Raul Medina leads Shabbat service & Torah study (9:30 AM) Also: Amber Medina will lead Etz Chaim (10:30 AM)
3 Brotherhood Breakfast & 169 th Seminar (8:30 AM) Fall Membership General Meeting (3 PM)	4	5 TBE Board Mtg (6:00 pm)	6	7 Adult Hebrew conversation with Joel David (Zoom @ 6 PM) Also: First day of Hanukkah	8 Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld leads Shabbat service (7:30 PM)	9 Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld leads Torah discussion (10 AM)
10 4th Day of Hanukkah: Hanukkah Party at 5 PM	11	12	13	14 Adult Conversational Hebrew on Zoom with Joel David (6 PM) 8th Day of Hanukkah: Hanukkah Party at 5:30 PM	15 Diane Borad-Mirken leads Shabbat service (7:30 PM)	16 Raul Medina leads Shabbat service & Torah study (9:30 AM) Also: Amber Medina will lead Etz Chaim (10 AM)
17	18	19	20	21 Adult Conversational Hebrew on Zoom with Joel David (6 PM)	22 Diane Borad-Mirken leads Shabbat service (7:30 PM)	23 Raul Medina leads Shabbat service & Torah study (9:30 am) Also: Amber Medina will lead Etz Chaim (10 AM)
24/31	25	26	27	28 Adult Conversational Hebrew on Zoom with Joel David (6 PM)	29 TBA leads Shabbat service (7:30 PM)	30 Raul Medina leads Shabbat service & Torah study (9:30 am) Also: Amber Medina will lead Etz Chaim (10 AM)