

# Temple Beth El Bulletin

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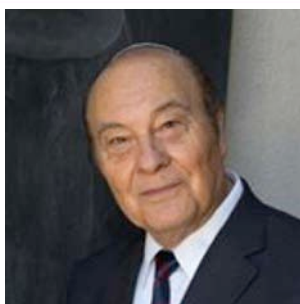
## Rabbi's Message ~ Dov Gottesfeld

Shalom to all:

"In July 1955 President Dwight Eisenhower endorsed a law passed by a joint resolution of the 84th Congress that required the words 'In God We Trust' to appear on all American currency. This came into effect two years after the law was passed when it was used on paper money for the first time.

Representative [Charles E. Bennett](#) of Florida introduced the resolution in the House adding "In God We Trust" to currency. Bennett believed it would **"serve as a constant reminder that the nation's political and economic fortunes were tied to its spiritual faith."**

In other words having American currency in our pockets or in the bank gives us (people) the subliminal assurance that our future needs will materialize with God's guarantees.



**Dov Gottesfeld**

As is well-known, Moses was a highly reluctant messenger. When G-d revealed Himself to Moses at the famous "Burning Bush" and instructed him to return to Egypt to lead the Israelites to their long-awaited freedom, Moses' initial reaction was: "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should take the children of Israel out of Egypt?" G-d responded: "For I will be with you, and this is the sign for you that it was I who sent you. When you take the people out of Egypt, you will worship G-d on this mountain."

If you think about it, the answer does not properly fit the question. Moses asked: "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh?" questioning why he, of all people, would be chosen for the task. Yet the response mostly focuses on what the Israelites will do *after* they are freed! How does that answer the question? Searching for merit, Rashi, the 11<sup>th</sup> Century commentator, adopts the Midrashic interpretation that the dialogue includes quite a different meaning: "What **merit** do the Israelites have that a miracle should be wrought for them, and I should take them out of Egypt?"

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### January Schedule of Services:

January 6th Diane Borad-Mirken Josué Medrano (7:30 PM)  
January 13th Raul Medina (7:30 PM)  
January 20<sup>th</sup> Josue Medrano (7:30 PM)  
January 27th Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld (7:30 PM)

### Educational Activities

Adult conversational Hebrew on Tuesdays at 6 PM

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

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G-d answered: As for your questions, “What merit do the Israelites have that they should go out of Egypt?” I have a great thing [dependent] on this Exodus, for at the end of three months from their Exodus from Egypt they are destined to receive the Torah on this mountain [Sinai]. In other words, if you are wondering what merit the Israelites have to be rewarded with the miracle of the Great Exodus, the answer is: “Right now, nothing”. However, given what they will do **after** they leave Egypt, their redemption is justified—i.e., the redemption was “payment” for the acceptance of the Torah that would occur later.

Is it a Prepaid Piety? The way rewards work is that first the person does something worthy, and thereafter a reward is given as compensation. Yet, in this case, we are supposed to imagine that they would first receive the reward, and only later would they earn it! The Chabad Rebbe offers a beautiful and moving explanation. “True they had not yet received the Torah, and thus had not actually earned the reward, but their attitude towards receiving the Torah meant they had earned it in advance”. [...] (*Adapted from Likutei Sichot, vol. 36, Parshat Shemot II.*)

Yet, there could be an additional interpretation “prepaid piety”, which could enhance and augment human freedom and spiritual faith. Money or credit cards in the pocket or in the purse has no value until one actually uses it. The challenge of the Israelite people – once they obtained their freedom and their Torah – was how to show that they were appreciative. That should also be the challenge of the Jews (and for that matter any human being) who has American currency in his pocket, purse or in the bank – What GOOD do I need to do with the money that was bestowed upon me (even if I worked hard to earn it) to sincerely believe that I deserved it?

Stay safe everyone.

Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld

## TBE Board of Directors for 2022-2023

**President:** Frank Young

**Vice President:** Vacant

**Treasurer:** Ron Levy

**Executive Secretary:** Dove Okonina

**Past President:** Suzanne Levy

**Brotherhood:** Michael LeCover

**Buildings & Grounds:** Ken Wolf & Sid Goldstien

**Education:** Amber Medina

**Membership:** Raul Medina

**Religious Practices:** Anita Friedman

**Sisterhood:** Marsha Epstein

**Ways & Means:** Diane Borad-Mirken

**Trees for Israel:** Alyshia Brunk

**Social Action Chair:** David Goldstien

**Sunshine Chair:** Judith Klinger

**Rabbi:** Dov Gottesfeld

**Bulletin Editor:** Leslie Epstein

**Webmaster:** Joel David

## President's Column – Frank Young



-Frank Young, president of TBE

On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, The Temple Beth El (TBE) Board voted to support the efforts of SLO4Home to resettle folks in Santa Maria under the auspices of our Social Action Committee.

SLO4Home is a Central Coast nonprofit that raises money to help those who fled Afghanistan in the wake of the U.S. withdrawal. From their website, *“We (SLO4Home) are a broad coalition of religious organizations, veteran and active duty military members, and community activists who are helping Afghan refugees establish new lives and livelihoods on the Central Coast.”*

*“Our grassroots group, which already has nearly 100 volunteers representing a broad cross section of the community, began coordinating assistance efforts late last year. Areas of focus include housing, job assistance, education, health, transportation, culture and hospitality.”*

SLO4Home works with Church World Service, a nondenominational organization recognized by the State Department, and has been placing refugees since the end of World War II.

SLO4Home is expanding its operation to Santa Maria. SLO4Home is fostering the Santa Maria Co-Sponsor Team to work collaboratively with SLO4Home on resettlement of refugee families into Santa Maria. Several churches as well as members of Temple Beth El are assisting in that effort. TBE members assisting are: Ken Wolf, David Goldstien, Abby Lassen, and Amber Medina. Suzanne Levy is helping a couple get enrolled in English as a Second Language classes as well as helping them apply for jobs.

If you are interested in helping, please contact me 805 714-1140 or email: [frank@youngreport.com](mailto:frank@youngreport.com)

Frank Young

# Bulletin Briefs

## January Anniversaries

- 4 Sheila & Mike Sales  
31 Marsha & Gary Epstein

## January Birthdays

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

### **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, así 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.

## Sisterhood

The Sisterhood is venturing into new territory. Our meetings will take place in the temple where we will share our talents with our "sisters". The first meeting will take place on Sunday afternoon, January 29<sup>th</sup>, at 2:30 PM. Anita Friedman who has long made beautiful jewelry, will give us the first of two lessons on beading – making necklaces and bracelets.

Bring if you have them (all optional):

- Tools of the trade, e.g., bead tray, needle nose pliers, fine wire cutters
- Broken necklaces or bracelets
- Favorite pendant that you want in a necklace, etc., bring them along. If you have bead trays, bring them too.

To be provided:

- Tools and felt (courtesy of Amber) working surfaces
- Good quality wire, also elastic for friendship bracelets
- Lots of beads
- Findings including crimp beads, jump rings, clasps, wire protectors, extenders
- plus ideas to play with.
- 

Suggested donation: \$10 to cover some materials, with the rest going to Sisterhood.

We would really love to hear from you if you have a skill to share. Volunteers for future classes are needed. Please RSVP to me or Anita a week in advance if you plan to come.

If you have any of the tools of the trade, bring them. If you have broken necklaces, etc., bring them along. If you have bead trays, bring them too. We suggest a donation of \$10 to cover some materials, with the rest going to Sisterhood.

We would really love to hear from you if you have a skill to share. Volunteers for future classes are needed. Please RSVP to me or Anita a week in advance if you plan to come.

Happy New Year,  
Marsha Epstein

## Brotherhood

We held the January meeting via Zoom meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Our February meeting will be on Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. I will be sure to let you know when we resume in-person meetings with our sumptuous breakfasts.

As usual, I will be sending out articles of interest to members of the group. Any responses will be emailed to the rest for comment or interest. Our conversations have been lively, interesting and informative and all interested people, men and women, are invited to join us.

Be well,  
Gary Epstein

## January Yarzheits

1/2/23	Laurie Wikes	20	Tevet	Friend of Boots and Seymour Hersh
1/2/23	Sheldon "Shep" Bereskin	9	Tevet	Father of Sari & Abby
1/2/23	Emma Wiessenberg	9	Tevet	Aunt of Lori Meltzer-Sutton
1/4/23	Morris Klempfner			Brother-in-law of Boots & Seymour Hersh
1/4/23	Gertrude (Trudy) Resnick*	23	Tevet	Sister of Rose Shrogin
1/4/23	Jerome F. Lubin*	11	Tevet	Husband of Evelyn Lubin
1/6/23	Caroline Barnett*			Mother of Bert Barnett
1/7/23	Cheryl Lynn Pinckard*	6	Shevat	Daughter of Terri & Thomas Pinkard
1/7/23	Jacob S. Gollub*	14	Tevet	Father of Myra Wapner
1/9/23	Morris Akronowitz	16	Tevet	Father of Len Akronowitz
1/12/23	Maurice Lafferty			Father of Sherry Semiatin
1/12/23	Ruth Sylinski*			Wife of Conrad Sylinski
1/13/23	Irwin Wapner*	20	Tevet	Husband of Myra
1/14/23	Lily Korklin	21	Tevet	Aunt of Michael LeCover
1/15/23	Morris Shulman	19	Tevet	Father of Bernice Gaon
1/15/23	Rachel Smith			Mother of Deanna Hart
1/16/23	Nathan Novak	23	Tevet	Uncle of Michael Sachs
1/18/23	Tillie Kaplan	25	Tevet	A founding member of Temple Beth El
1/19/23	Louis Klein*			Father of Ruth Roth
1/19/23	Louis Vincent*	26	Tevet	Grandfather of Kenneth L. Wolf
1/20/23	Rae Schklair	27	Tevet	Grandmother of Suzanne Levy
1/21/23	Edith Greenberg*			Mother of Sandra Sussman
1/23/23	Joanna (Joey) Bilow			Mother of Aaron Bilow
1/24/23	Yankel (Chester) Holstein	2	Shevat	Grandfather of Eric Berge
1/24/23	Bess Perline	2	Shevat	Sister of Irwin Wapner
1/25/23	Trudy Andross*			Wife of Norman Andross
1/25/23	Al Feinblatt	14	Shevat	Friend of Gary & Marsha Epstein
1/25/23	Paul Goldiner			Husband of Mary Goldiner
1/25/23	Samuel David Kellman	21	Shevat	Grandfather of Gary Epstein
1/27/23	Marvin Morris	7	Shevat	Cousin of Seymour Hersh
1/27/23	Shirley Simon*			Sister-in-law of Nancy Evans
1/29/23	Bonny LeVine	17	Shevat	Aunt of Gary Epstein
1/31/23	Millie Kring			Wife of Ray Kring

## Months of Mourning

Jeff Simons	Friend of Andi and Jeff Portney	2/8/22
Louise Black Robertson	Mother of Eric Berge	2/17/22
Peggy Rodriguez	Friend of Gary & Marsha Epstein	4/8/22
Tiffany Dall	Niece of Mel Kalish	4/20/22
Alan Kushnick		
Yuvis Ferrer	Cousin of Josue Medrano	11/24/22

# JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 TBE Board Meeting (6 PM)  Adult Conversational Hebrew on Zoom with Joel David (6 PM)	4	5	6 Shabbat service led by Diane Borad-Mirken (7:30 PM)	7 Morning Shabbat service and Torah study with Raul Medina at temple (9:30 AM) Also: Etz Chaim with Amber Medina at temple (10 AM)
8 138 <sup>th</sup> Brotherhood Seminar on Zoom (10 AM)	9	10 Adult Conversational Hebrew on Zoom with Joel David (6 PM)	11	12	13 Shabbat service led by Raul Medina (7:30 PM)	14 Morning Shabbat service and Torah study with Raul Medina at temple (9:30 AM) Also: Etz Chaim with Amber Medina at temple (10 AM)
15	16	17 Adult Conversational Hebrew on Zoom with Joel David (6 PM)	18	19	20 Shabbat service led by Josue Medrano (7:30 PM)	21 Morning Shabbat service and Torah study with Raul Medina at temple (9:30 AM)  Also: Etz Chaim with Amber Medina at temple (10 AM)
22	23	24 Adult Conversational Hebrew on Zoom with Joel David (6 PM)	25	26	27 Shabbat service led by Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld (7:30 PM)	28 Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld will lead Torah discussion at temple (10 AM)
29 Sisterhood at the temple: Beading with Anita Friedman (2:30 PM)	30	31 Adult Conversational Hebrew on Zoom with Joel David (6 PM)				