



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

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## Rabbi's Message ~ Dov Gottesfeld

### The Good News

Shalom to all

Have you heard or read any good news lately... about what is happening in our country's (or for that matter also in the world's) state of affairs which would benefit all earthlings?

Please, stop reading, momentarily, and ponder... politics, economics, social justice, security, peace, quality of life, unity, and of course the results of the pandemic, etc, etc, etc.

Scratch the back of your neck, squint and deliberate.

Deliberate.

NOT really, I would guess your answer would be – to put it mildly – just to endure the burden of the heavy yoke of these times, which has stiffened our



**Dov Gottesfeld**

necks, and kept forcing down our shoulders to make us all look like humble subservient earthlings to whatever the opposite side tosses at us – Jews and non-Jews.

Occasionally, I find here and there, articles which their headlines “flicker” some hope for positive future outcomes, but their hope for positive outcomes are short-lived like falling stars which only magnify darkness when they finally burn out.

Being realistic, therefore, we need to ask - as Jewish world experience always makes us ask: “Ahd-Matai?”- literally: “Until when?” In English, that question would be “For How Long must we continue to suffer?”

Suffering is a two-edged sword. There is a personal – or an internal suffering, when a person experiences his/her own suffering, which s/he must attend to, and take care of in order to endure and survive.

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### November Schedule of Services (most on Zoom):

Rabbi Gottesfeld (November 5th)  
Diane Borad-Mirken (November 12th) (at temple)  
TBA (November 19th)  
Andi & Jeff Portney (November 26th)

### Educational Activities

Adult conversational Hebrew on Tuesdays at 6 PM on Zoom

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

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And there is also external suffering, when a person witnesses the suffering of other people. The latter is more problematic, and that's where the attendance to "human suffering" is put to the test (or is measured-as we say it in Hebrew), is judged – most often hypothetically by G-d (the scriptures), rather than by the earthlings themselves.

Solving internal suffering could be done by the suffering individual, a physician, the family, good friends, and occasionally by strangers. Solving an external suffering could only be done by the "whole world," i.e. all the united people of the world, the echo-system and the environment. Examples are in the Declaration of Independence of the United States "with liberty and [*the same*] justice for all", which must have been taken from Deuteronomy 16:30 "Justice, Justice you shall pursue, that you may live and inherit the earth which the Lord your G-d gives you" meaning, to every earthling on the planet Earth. Another one is: "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." I wouldn't be surprised if that phrase, "the pursuit of happiness" which was coined by the English Philosopher John Locke (1632-1704) was inspired by the prophet Micha 4:4 – "But every man shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree: and none shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken it."

It's all sounds great, but what if the opponent doesn't care or wish to follow that particular God?

This bible predicted that something like that would happen, and came up with the following solution: "For let all the nations [people] walk everyone in the name of his G-d, and we will walk in the name of our G-d [...]" (Micha 4:5)

The dilemma "Ahd Matahi" Thus, remains.

Isaiah asks G-d Ahd Matahi: "Lord, up till when are you going to see your people suffering, and G-d answered, until the cities are destroyed without inhabitants and the houses without man and the land is completely destroyed." (6:8-11).

Is that infinite, for generations to come; Jews being expelled and suffering anti-Semitism, while struggling to bring positive light to the world? (I assume, since it was written in Micha 4:2 and Isaiah 2:3 "For from Zion shall go forth Torah, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."). Who exactly is going to deliver the light and the word of G-d, if not the Jews? I'm wondering. And why does He expect that they would spread his Word in the world and be a Light, after throwing them out of the land of Israel for not following His laws?

And why does G-d often destroy the earth? Didn't He promise Noah – after the flood – that he would never destroy the earth again because of men's doing? "And the Lord smelled the pleasant odor, and the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake, for the inclination of man's heart is bad from his youth, I will not again destroy every living thing as I have done" (Gen 8:21).

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## TBE Board of Directors for 2021-2022

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# President's Column – Frank Young



-Frank Young, president of TBE

## FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**The Fall Membership Meeting at the temple:  
Sunday, Nov. 21 at 2 pm.  
Bring masks, households sit separated by 6  
feet. (County policy for November)**

Earlier this month, Anita and I visited the History Center of San Luis Obispo, which opened its newest exhibit after years of preparation with assistance from Sharon Gottesfeld, Abby Lassen and Bobby Naimark, as well as several local historians and experts on the local Jewish history of San Luis Obispo County.

Since the 1850s, generations of Jewish immigrants have made their way to San Luis Obispo County from all over the world. The exhibit highlights stories of these immigrants and their families.

There are stories of Jewish entrepreneurs who constructed the People's Wharf in Avila, led High Holiday services at the Grand Mason's building, and how Mayor Louis Sinsheimer worked with the local Catholic parish priest and local business owners to prevent the Ku Klux Klan from gaining a foothold here in the 1920s.



Displayed in the exhibit is a Chuppah, under which a bride and groom are wed. It is made up of four tall poles and a covering traditionally of tapestry or a tallit. It represents the house that the couple will have together. All four sides are open, with only the top covered which recalls the way that Abraham kept his own tent open to signal his hospitality. The exhibit also includes a video excerpt from Sky Bergman's film "Lives Well Lived," telling how the late Marion Wolff and her husband Paul escaped the Holocaust in Europe in the 1930s.

The exhibit is worth the trip! Find more information about the exhibit here: <https://www.historycenterslo.org/ldor-vdor.html>

The History Center of SLO County is located at 696 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. Metered parking is available on the street nearby the History Center or there are numerous parking structures within walking distance. Make sure to call them at 805-543-0638 to ask about hours and exhibit availability.

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Perhaps, just perhaps, all those incredible Biblical stories that often sound so conflicting were put together as a manual for all humanity to survive together on the planet Earth in one family of men, women, animals, in an echo-system that will keep them all alive for millenniums to come. Just maybe!

And now to the Good-News:

I have found an incredibly positive and uplifting scientific article, quoting scientists who are working on some form of medicine that will prolong the life of earthlings on the planet Earth. They predict that sooner than later earthlings will have a life expectancy of over a hundred and twenty five years minimum.

Hurray, Hurray!!!

Now earthlings can expect to suffer more years of life than their ancestors did. But, that is not all. There will be better and stronger pills to block their pains and sufferings physically, and mentally.

I guess it's now up to us.

Wishing you the best life can offer.

Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld

## A Message from Diane Borad-Mirken

We are making great progress with our online fundraiser. Part of what makes it so exciting is the anonymous donor who is going to match all donations received until December 31st, 2021 up to a maximum of ten thousand dollars. So if members and/or friends of TBE donate \$10,000, the donor will match that and the temple will receive \$20,000!!!! We have already received close to three thousand from members and friends of TBE and we still have 2 months to go. When our temple's needs were discussed with the anonymous donor, it was the parking lot that sounded like the need to which he would like his donation to be allocated.

As for other things coming up, I will have 40 tickets available to the Sunday matinee performance May 1st, opening weekend of INTO THE WOODS at PCPA. I will have 40 tickets in late July for THE SOUND OF MUSIC. As for concerts, I will be presenting DIANE BORAD-MIRKEN IN A ONE WOMAN CABERET featuring Broadway Show Tunes and songs from "The Great American Songbook". This concert is all new songs never performed by me before. Date for this concert TBD (to be determined).

We will probably schedule a bluegrass concert as well. Details TBD.

Thanks for your support for these events.

Diane

## Brent's Deli Day

"The JCC is excited to bring back Brent's Deli Day on Wednesday, December 1st! Order your deli favorites from **Brent's Deli in Westlake Village!** We pick-up the food for you while you stay safe at home.

To view and order your deli meals and sides, please visit <https://www.jccslo.com/brents-deli-day.html>.

Please order your food by **Tuesday, November 23rd!** If you have any questions or need help, please call or email the JCC at [info@jccslo.com](mailto:info@jccslo.com) or 805-426-5465.

# Bulletin Briefs

## November Birthdays

4	Shayna Levy
5	Maria Aguilar
5	Kristopher Wolf
7	Jonathan Goldstien
11	Talia Epstein
14	Molly Epstein
18	Adam Sales
19	Joel David
19	Sherry Semiatin
21	Barry Sutton
23	Andi Portney
24	Rachel LeCover
30	Ken Wolf

## Brotherhood

The Brotherhood will hold our next meeting on Zoom, Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. 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.

Please let me know if you are interested in attending our Zoom meetings and I will send you an invitation.

Be well,

Gary Epstein

## Sisterhood

The time has come to resume our in-person, real-life dinner meetings. Our last was this past June and the time has come to eat, sit and shmooze together again. Everyone is invited, men and women.

We will again enjoy the wonderful food at Jaffa Café on the second Tuesday of the month, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM. Of course the food is also available for 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.

We hope to see you in person!

Marsha 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 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.

# JEWISH WAR HEROES

Jews have fought in every skirmish, battle, and war from the American Revolutionary War to the recent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Early in the Civil War, a medal for individual valor was proposed to General-in-Chief of the Army Winfield Scott. He felt medals smacked of European affectation and killed the idea.

However, the medal found support in the Navy, where it was felt recognition of courage was a good thing. Public Resolution 82, containing a provision for a Navy medal of valor, was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln on December 21, 1861. The medal was "to be bestowed upon such petty officers, seamen, landsmen, and Marines as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry and other seamanlike qualities during the present war."

Shortly after this, a resolution similar in wording was introduced on behalf of the Army and signed into law July 12, 1862. The measure provided for awarding a medal of honor "to such noncommissioned officers and privates as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action, and other soldier like qualities, during the present insurrection."

Although it was created for the Civil War, Congress made the Medal of Honor a permanent decoration in 1863.

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.



**SIMON SUHLER**

Simon Suhler was born in Bavaria, Germany in 1844. He immigrated to the United States around 1860. He enlisted in the Army in 1863 and left in 1878. Many Jews fought and died for the United States in combat using other than their birth names. Simon Suhler was one of those heroes who used other names in the Army. He used his mother's maiden name, Newstattel, when he enlisted in the New York Heavy Artillery on June 9, 1863. When the Civil War ended, he was discharged on September 26, 1865.

He used the name Charles Gardner when he went to San Francisco, California, to enlist in the 8th Cavalry on October 15, 1866. He was sent to fight the Apaches in Arizona where his bravery earned him the Congressional Medal of Honor. The citation is in the name of Charles Gardner, which commends him "...for his bravery in scouts and actions" in Arizona, from August to October 1868. The Medal of Honor was awarded on 24 July 1869. He was also recommended for promotion to second lieutenant, but did not accept it.

## November Yarzheits

11/1/21	Goldie Buder*			Mother of Madeline Akronowitz
11/4/21	Marion I. Levy*	29	Heshvan	Father of Jill Targer
11/4/21	Alice Mae Evans*			Mother of Ben Evans
11/5/21	Morris Albert Targer*	9	Heshvan	Father of Tom Targer
11/6/21	Arthur Goldiner			Father of Paul Goldiner
11/6/21	Morris Krieger*			Father of Burton Krieger
11/7/21	Hymen L. Klass	3	Kislev	Father of Linda & Karen Goldstien
11/8/21	Sidney Kaver	4	Kislev	Brother of Mike Kaver
11/10/21	Gertrude Levine	6	Kislev	Aunt of Len Akronowitz
11/11/21	Morton LeCover	7	Kislev	Father of Michael Lecover
11/14/21	Leah Yasskin*			Mother of Trudy Resnick
11/16/21	Pearl Lewis	12	Kislev	Mother of Steve Lewis
11/17/21	Martha Kaver*	15	Heshvan	Sister-in-law of Ann & Milton Kaver
11/18/21	Joe Cohen*			Brother of Tillie Kaplan
11/20/21	Pearl Lewis	16	Kislev	Aunt of Seymour Hersh
11/24/21	Anne Berkowitz*	20	Kislev	Wife of Sam Berkowitz
11/25/21	Rose LeCover	21	Kislev	Mother of Michael LeCover
11/26/21	Stanley Jones			Father of Maia Lewis
11/26/21	Richard Wolson*			
11/27/21	Frieda Gollub*	23	Kislev	Mother of Myra Wapner
11/27/21	Jeston B. Wolf*	23	Kislev	Father of Kenneth L. Wolf
11/27/21	Aggie Margolis			Friend of the Goldstien Families
11/27/21	Rose Shrogin*			Mother of Miriam, Aaron Shrogin
11/29/21	Esther Herskovitz	25	Kislev	Mother of Seymour Hersh
11/29/21	Rose Russell	16	Tevet	Wife of Mort Russell

## 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	

# NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 TBE Board meeting (7 PM)  Adult Conversational Hebrew with Joel David on Zoom (6 PM)	3	4	5 Shabbat service led by Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld on Zoom (7:30 PM)	6 Etz Chayim children's class at Chumash Nature Center 11 AM)  Torah study with Rabbi Dov 10 AM on Zoom  Torah Discussion in Spanish with Raul at TBE (9:30 AM)
7 Brotherhood Seminar on Zoom 10 AM	8	9 Sisterhood Dinner 6 PM  Adult Conversational Hebrew with Joel David on Zoom (6 PM)	10	11	12 Shabbat service led by Diane Borad-Mirken on Zoom (7:30 PM)	13 Etz Chayim (10:30 AM)  Torah Discussion in Spanish with Raul at TBE (9:30 AM)
14	15	16 Adult Conversational Hebrew with Joel David on Zoom (6 PM)	17	18	19 Shabbat service led by TBA on Zoom (7:30 PM)	20 Etz Chayim (10 AM)  Torah Discussion in Spanish with Raul at TBE (9:30 AM)
21 Fall Membership meeting of TBE Board at TBE (2 PM)	22	23 Adult Conversational Hebrew with Joel David (6 PM)	24	25	26 Shabbat service led by Andi & Jeff Portney on Zoom (7:30 PM)	27 Torah Discussion in Spanish with Raul at TBE (9:30 AM)
28	29	30 Adult Conversational Hebrew with Joel David (6 PM)				