

Temple Beth El Bulletin

VOLUME 52, No. 12
MAY 2021
IYAR/SIVAN 5781



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

Phone:
(805) 928-2118
Email: TempleBethEl@verizon.net

Website:
<http://www.TBEsantamaria.com>
The Bulletin is emailed for free to Members and Friends of TBE.

Street address: 1501 E. Alvin Ave., Santa Maria, CA 93454
Mailing address: P.O. Box 5217, Santa Maria, CA 93456

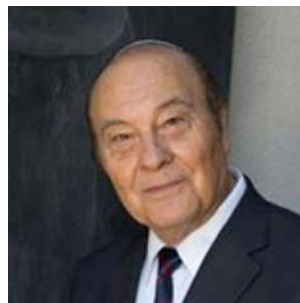
Rabbi's Message ~ Dov Gottesfeld

Torah portion "Behar-Bechukotai"
[In English – "On the mountain (Sinai) - In My laws" [Leviticus 25:1-27:34](#)

That portion consists of two portions, dealing with a variety of laws, which will be discussed later. As we have learned, the names of the Torah portions are made of selected words from the beginning lines of each portion.

"On the mountain" is taken from **Leviticus 25-1** "And the Lord spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying..." and "Bechukoti" is taken from **Leviticus 26-3** "If you follow My statutes and observe My commandments and perform them,..."

There are similar conditions and outcomes in both: In Leviticus 25-18 "You shall perform My statutes, keep My ordinances and perform them then you will live on the land securely.", and in Leviticus 26:4 "I will give your rains



Dov Gottesfeld

in their time, the Land will yield its produce, and the tree of the field will give forth its fruit. 5 Your threshing will last until the vintage, and the vintage will last until the sowing; you will eat your food to satiety, and you will live in security in your land."

What a bargain!
So, let us see what are the laws mentioned in those two portions are all about:

"**On the mountain** of Sinai, G-d communicates to Moses the laws of the **Sabbatical year**: every seventh year, all **work** on the land should cease, and its produce becomes free for the taking for all, **man and beast**."

Seven Sabbatical cycles are followed by a **fiftieth year**—the Jubilee year, on which work on the land ceases, all indentured servants are set free, and all **ancestral estates** in the Holy Land that have been sold revert to their original owners. Additional laws governing the sale of lands, and

Continued on Page 2

May Schedule of Services:

Diane Borad-Mirken (May 7th)
Diane Borad-Mirken (May 14th)
Anita Friedman (May 21st)
Anita Friedman (May 28th)

Educational Activities

Adult conversational Hebrew on Tuesdays at 6 PM on Zoom

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

Continued from Page 1



the prohibitions against **fraud** and **usury**, are also given.

G-d promises that if the people of Israel keep His commandments, they will enjoy **material prosperity** and dwell secure in their homeland. But He also delivers a harsh "**rebuke**," warning

of the **exile**, persecution and other evils that will befall them if they abandon their covenant with Him. Nevertheless, "*Even when they are in the land of their enemies, **I will not cast them away**; nor will I ever abhor them, to destroy them and to break My covenant with them; for I am the L-rd **their G-d**.*"

The Parshah concludes with the rules on how to calculate the **values** of different types of pledges made to G-d." © Copyright, Chabad.org.

It sounds like a good bargain, alright, but... there are also harsh consequences – mind you – for not keeping God's laws. Yet, there will always be light at the end of the dark tunnel. But the length of that dark tunnel will be calculated individually for each person according to his/her future conduct and action in accordance with their recognition of G-d's laws.

Sounds vaguely familiar – isn't it?

Let us take a look at the meaning of Jewish law

What is "the law" in Judaism?

The general description on Internet sources expresses it as follows: "[...]the word **defined** as a rule or set of rules which prescribe or prohibit our actions to conform to a certain order or pattern of behavior." However, when one asks the followers of the Jewish laws to define "the Law", the answers will be in accordance with each person's degree of observance.

The strict observant Jews would say:

"Halakhah, (Hebrew: "the Way") also spelled [...] "Halachah" [...] is the totality of **laws** and ordinances that have evolved since biblical times to regulate religious observances and the daily life and conduct of the **Jewish** people." (Internet source) "Many biblical precepts [teaching] are expressed as broad principles without legalistic detail. For example, "work" is prohibited on the Sabbath yet is never defined legally. This ambiguity, which allowed for some flexibility, was considered a liability by Pharisaic Judaism.

Continued on Page 5

Board of Directors 2020-2021

Acting President:

Gary Epstein, gepstein@calpoly.edu

Vice President:

Gary Epstein, gepstein@calpoly.edu

Treasurer:

Ron Levy, ralevy@juno.com

Executive Secretary:

Dove Okonina, dov.nat@verizon.net

Past President:

Suzanne Levy, slevy93455@gmail.com

Committee chairs:

Brotherhood:

Michael LeCover

Buildings & Grounds:

Ken Wolf, kennethwolf94720@gmail.com
& Sid Goldstein

Education:

Amber Medina, amedinacasa@gmail.com.

Membership:

Steven Frucht

Religious Practices:

Anita Friedman & Gary Epstein

Sisterhood:

Marsha Epstein, mepstein@calpoly.edu

Ways & Means:

Diane Borad-Mirken,
diane.boradmirken@mail.com

Trees for Israel:

Alyshia Brunk
805-478-3977

Sunshine Chair:

Judith Klinger, judythecutie@comcast.net

Social Action Chair:

David Goldstien

Additional Contacts:

Rabbi: Dov Gottesfeld

Bulletin Editor:

Leslie Epstein, lesliechan31@yahoo.com

Webmaster:

Joel David, jandidavid@yahoo.com

Vice President's Column – Gary Epstein



At long last – after 13 months – life in our temple is coming back. Anita Friedman, Diane Borad-Mirken, and Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld have resumed leading Shabbat services at the temple in the month of April. Meetings in the temple are now allowed for religious services in Santa Barbara County with the latest guidelines issued by the California Department of Public Health as of April 15, 2021. We can seat 56 people now but they must wear masks and sit six feet apart. Meetings in the patio are recommended for better ventilation. Last November we formed a Covid committee of six persons (5 members of TBE and one member of Redeemer Church) to make rules for compliance with the state mandates for indoor religious services during Covid.

Congregants are able to see our new sculpture affixed to the north wall just to the right of the doors leading to the patio. This sculpture was donated to our temple by Beth Emeth Synagogue of Larchmont, New York. We are thankful to Mary and Paul Goldiner who arranged the donation and to Sid Goldstien and Ken Wolf who prepared and secured the sculpture to the north wall.

Last year we were not able to have our annual Spring Membership Meeting at the temple because of Covid and we didn't know yet how to use Zoom as an alternative. Fortunately, most of the Board members volunteered to extend their terms. Our Fall Membership Meeting was on Zoom. This year the Board selected the date of Sunday, May 23rd at 2:00 pm, for this year's Spring Membership Meeting at the temple. At our May 4th Board meeting we reviewed the By-Laws to guide us on planning for this event. We are to elect four (4) officers and six (6) directors.

Remember that our By-Laws allow two persons to share any officer or director position (Article III, Section 2, A & B). Following the By-Laws, we established a Nominations Committee last January (Article IX, Section 1). We can now report that a preliminary slate of nominees has already been compiled (see page 4), and it's still appropriate to include more nominees for the final slate. The final slate of nominees must be reported as part of a Notice in writing to the congregation at least ten days before the general membership meeting (Article IX, Section 4). That would be May 13, 2021. However, additional nominations from the floor are acceptable at the membership meeting itself (Article IX, Section 5). In addition to the final slate of nominees reported by the Nominations Committee, this Notice will include the Agenda for the meeting, a list of the current Board members who will be reporting on the work of their committees, minor changes proposed for our By-Laws, and a discussion that looks at how the pandemic will or should have an impact on our future. There will be copies of the membership directory available to take home.

The Membership Meeting will require social distancing and mask wearing. If the weather is good we might sit in the patio outside. If you're wondering why we're having the Membership Meeting at the temple instead of on Zoom: Article XII of the By-Laws speaks to that issue:

Section 2: The Board of Directors will set the time and place of the membership meetings.

Section 4, F: Twenty (20) percent of the membership units (families) constitute a Quorum. We have 42 member families so 9 families constitute a quorum.

Section 4, D: All elections shall be decided by a majority vote of the members present and eligible to vote.

Section 4, E: No member shall be entitled to more than one vote.

Section 5: No voting by Proxy is allowed.

Diane has two new items to report on in the Good News department:

1. I am so happy to report to you that not only did we pass our original fundraising goal of \$1500, we passed the \$2000 mark, reaching \$2100. Thank you so much to all of our many donors!!!!!! (ED: and Thank You to Diane for doing this!)
2. We hope to see you at our July 4th celebration in our temple's backyard. Details will be emailed to you in early June. Help our temple by buying scrip. It costs you nothing. You get the full value of what you purchase, but the store gives us a percentage. Call Mike Sachs to find out what stores we have and to buy. His phone number is (805) 928-2442.

-Gary, VP of TBE

Bulletin Briefs

May Anniversaries

31 Esther & Mel Kalish

May Birthdays

8 Steven Frucht
9 Bernice Gaon
9 Suzanne Levy
11 Deiter Sachs
18 Sheila Sales
23 Lourdes Vidales
28 Boots Hersh
30 Mel Kalish

Donations

Trees:

A tree was planted in Israel in honor of the
Bat Mitzvah of Sadie Wein
by her grandparents, David & Linda
Goldstien

A tree was planted in Israel in honor of the
Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Melman
by David & Linda Goldstien

To the General Fund:

Andi & Jeff Portney
April Hardy
JP & Judy Villedrouin
Eric Berge
Diane Board-Mirken
Louise Gerber
Gary & Marsha Epstein
Susan & Keith Calvert
Mary & Paul Goldiner
Boots & Seymour Hersh
Phyllis Green
Bluma Felix
Joy Cook
Lewis Rosenberg
Bobby Naimark
Sofia Ramirez-Gelpi
Amber & Raul Medina

TBE is now able to accept payments via Paypal on our
website: tbesantamaria.com <<http://tbesantamaria.com>>

When using this option, you may select "Dues" or
"Donations". If you wish to pay for an event (such as the
Chanukah party), please select "Donation" and be sure to
add a description of what it is for in the
optional comment area near the top of the payment
screen on Paypal. If you have any questions about how
to use Paypal, contact Suzanne
Levy, slevy93455@gmail.com or 805-934-0477.

Brotherhood

The Temple Beth El Brotherhood met on the first Sunday of the
month, which this month was May 2nd. While the temple is closed due
to the Corona virus, we do not meet there. However, we will continue
to meet virtually using Zoom. I will still be sending out articles of
interest to members of the group. Any responses will be emailed to
the rest for comment or interest.

Our next meeting will be held on June 6th at 10:00AM. So please let
me know if you are interested in attending our Zoom meetings and I
will send you an invitation.

Be well,

Gary Epstein, seminar arranger & Michael LeCover, president

Sisterhood

It's been a long, lonely year without our usual monthly get-together.
But as the pandemic appears to ebb and restaurants and businesses
are opening up, we can look forward to in-person dinner meetings.

The Temple Beth El Sisterhood normally meets the second Tuesday
of the month at the Jaffa Café in Santa Maria. We will not meet this
month but our goal is to get together in June. Wouldn't that be
wonderful? So pencil it in on your calendar: Tuesday, June 8th,
6:00PM. As before, 15% of your order will be refunded to the temple
as a donation. Just write TBE at the top of the order form.

Here's hoping for June.

Marsha Epstein

Preliminary Slate of Nominees for Election to TBE Board 2021-2022

Officers

President: Frank Young
Vice President: Gary Epstein
Secretary: Dove Okonina
Treasurer: Ron Levy

Directors

Building & Grounds co-chairs: Ken Wolf & Sid Goldstien
Education: Amber Medina
Membership co-chairs: Steve Frucht & Bobby Naimark
Religious Practices: Anita Friedman
Social Action: David Goldstien
Ways & Means: Diane Borad-Mirken

Non-Elected Board Members

Past President: Suzanne Levy
Sisterhood Rep: Marsha Epstein
Brotherhood Rep: Michael LeCover

Other Volunteers

Sunshine Chair: Judith Klinger
Bulletin Editor: Leslie Bakst-Epstein
Webmaster: Joel David

Continued from Page 2

In an attempt to make sure the command proper was never violated, the rabbis created secondary, rigid rules which, if followed, would theoretically prevent a person from ever violating the biblical command itself. This was known as "putting a fence around the law." Such nonbiblical rules (e.g., the Sabbath day's journey) are prescribed exhaustively in the Talmud." (Internet source)

The lenient observant Jews look at "the nature of Biblical Laws and break them into various categories under the title of the Laws of the Torah, which include: Moral, Civil, and Ceremonial Laws. They refer to these laws as: "Instructions", where G-d is the enforcer. "(Internet source)

The modern observant Jews look at the Biblical Laws and apply to them timely or contemporary interpretations to reflect social justice, or as Moses Mendelssohn 18th- century Jewish Enlightenment and philosopher denoted it: (my interpretation) "The laws of Judaism is compatible with an intellectual commitment to universal reasoning." (Internet source).

So, where do we go from here, and how should biblical laws reflect our existence on the planet earth, which is supposed to be G-d's domain according to the bible.

As such, let me quote from the book of Micah 4:4. "They shall sit every man [and woman] under his [her] vine and under his [her] fig tree; and none shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken [those Laws].

There is nothing more to add. World peace will prevail.

Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld

May 2021



It's wonderful being back at the temple again for the Shabbat service!

Zoom by telephone

The TBE Brotherhood will continue with their seminars on Zoom during the Pandemic. Here are the instructions for how to do it from a landline (that is, an ordinary) telephone.

1. First, you have to find out from whomever is setting up the Zoom meeting (the "host") what the code number (called the meeting ID) is for the particular meeting that you want to join. It will be an eleven digit number. Some of you may also be asked for the passcode which is TBE123. Ask the host for that information if your device requires it.
2. Second, you have dial the following phone number: 1 669 990 6833
3. Third, you will hear a voice saying, "Welcome to Zoom. Enter your meeting ID followed by pound sign (#)"
4. That's all you have to do.
5. Sometimes the host of the meeting asks the invitees to mute themselves. There should be a mute button somewhere on the front of your telephone. Press it and then any unwanted background noises at your house (like barking dogs) will not be heard at the meeting.
6. When the meeting is over the host will end it and you can just hang up.
7. If you get a busy signal there are alternate phone numbers that you can use:

346 248 7799
253 215 8782
312 626 6799
646 558 8656
301 715 8592

Jewish Free Loan Association, JFLA, is now serving the needs of Santa Barbara County residents

Got bills? Jewish Free Loan has recently expanded its service area to include Santa Barbara County, offering 0% interest, no fee personal/emergency loans to those who need assistance. Loans can be used for rent, medical or dental bills, car repair, childcare, remote learning expenses and more. Borrow up to \$3,000 with just two references. Loans up to \$10,000 are available with guarantors. Visit www.jfla.org <<http://www.jfla.org>> to learn more or call 323-761-8830.

Contact person is:

Sara Robyn
Chief Engagement Officer
Jewish Free Loan Association
(323) 761-8837
www.jfla.org <<http://www.jfla.org>>

Temple Beth El Español.

I think it is totally appropriate, as members of TBE, that we add to our bulletin calendar and weekly Shabbat announcements the activities that are offered in Spanish. To my knowledge, once the Pandemic is over, there will soon be traditional Shabbat services in Hebrew/Spanish regularly on Saturday mornings at the Temple. I understand also that there are groups who engage in Torah study sessions in Spanish/Hebrew as well.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

David Goldstien Architect
1478 Country Court
Santa Ynez, CA 93460
(805) 598-8994



JULY 4th AT TEMPLE BETH EL

Hello members and friends of Temple Beth El. Be sure to save the July 4th date for a celebration at the temple. We are planning to “party” together. We have the music planned. It will be the Fabulous Amaya Rose on fiddle and vocals along with Julio Boysenberry on banjo and vocals. We’ll have red, white, and blue everywhere! The part of the celebration we don’t yet know about is food. It all depends on the Covid situation. We may have a BBQ, or we may have each family bring their own picnic lunch. We may have to limit our numbers. We will decide these details in early June and let you know. But unless we have an unexpected setback with the Covid situation, we will be together on July 4th one way or another.

Diane Borad-Mirken
Ways and Means Chair
Temple Beth El

May Yarzheits

5/1/21	Harry Berkowitz			Uncle of Gary Epstein
5/1/21	Morris Feller			Grandfather of Niki Eschen
5/1/21	Barbara Simon	19	Iyar	Cousin of Seymour and Boots Hersh
5/2/21	Paul Friedman			Brother of Anita Friedman
5/2/21	Joe Perez			Husband of Stella Perez
5/3/21	Dan Chern*	12	Iyar	Husband of Trudy Chern
5/4/21	Terry L. Cohen Schwartz			Daughter of Edgar Cohen
5/4/21	Marion Friedman			Mother of Anita Friedman
5/4/21	Rebecca Wapner	22	Iyar	Mother of Irwin Wapner
5/5/21	Eva M. Stern			Mother of Howard Stern
5/5/21	Helen Weiser*			Mother of Sid Weiser
5/7/21	Sophie Braun	15	Iyar	Cousin of Gary Epstein
5/7/21	Chaia Sarah Lubin*			Mother of Jerry Lubin
5/8/21	Oscar Resnick*			Father of Sam Resnick
5/8/21	Abe Bereskin*	26	Iyar	Father of Shep Bereskin
5/8/21	Max Gollub	26	Iyar	Uncle of Myra Wapner
5/10/21	Bernice Becker	6	Iyar	Aunt of Marsha Epstein
5/10/21	Mary Resnick*			Mother of Sam Resnick
5/12/21	Lester Burg	23	Iyar	Father of Sam Burg
5/12/21	Rosalind Perlman*	21	Iyar	Wife of Al Perlman
5/14/21	Michael Andrew Rothman	3	Sivan	Cousin of Judith Klinger
5/15/21	Esther Lesser*			Mother of Sylvia Lesser
5/15/21	Sarah Meltzer Wilson	4	Sivan	Sister of Lori Meltzer-Sutton
5/16/21	Rebecca Rosen	5	Sivan	Mother of Boots Hersh
5/17/21	Marian Borad*	8	Iyar	Mother of Diane Borad Mirken
5/17/21	Mark Stone	8	Iyar	Friend of Phyllis Green
5/17/21	Isadore Kaver	6	Sivan	Father of Mike Kaver
5/20/21	Marilyn Epstein			Cousin of Gary Epstein
5/20/21	Philip Katz	9	Sivan	Boots and Seymour Hersh
5/22/21	Elaine Gollub	11	Sivan	Sister-in-law of Myra Wapner
5/23/21	Mel Bilow			Father of Aaron Bilow
5/25/21	Martin Becker			Cousin of Marsha Epstein
5/25/21	Samuel Fishman*			
5/25/21	Pearl Judith Gardner*	14	Sivan	Mother of Shep Bereskin
5/26/21	Diana K. Bereskin*	15	Sivan	Mother of Errin, Sari & Abby
5/26/21	Ben Kaver*	15	Sivan	Brother of Mike Kaver
5/30/21	Dan Davis			Partner of Hinda Beaman

Months of Mourning

Hinda Beaman	Member of TBE	6/7/2020
Adam Hill	SLO County Supervisor	8/6/2020
Megan Wolf	Niece of Ken Wolf	8/13/2020
Daivon Young	Nephew of Frank Young	8/18/2020
Renee Coe	Mother of Andi Portney	8/22/2020
Ulysses Ferrer	Cousin of Josue Medrano	8/19/2020
Janice Schragger	Mother of Michael Shragger	9/8/2020
Ruth Bader Ginsburg	Justice of the Supreme Court	9/18/2020
Walter Koch	Brother of Katherine (Hersh) Koch	10/10/2020
Irwin (Irv) Boxer	Friend of Gary & Marsha Epstein	10/29/2020
Lawrence Levy	Cousin of Mary Goldiner	1/21/2021
Paula Peyser	Cousin of Paul Goldiner	1/24/2021
Mary Oliver	Friend of many at TBE	2/3/2021
Corinne Bernstein	Long-time member of TBE	2/17/2021

MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Etz Chayim children's class: Shabbat Morning Prayers on Zoom (9:30-10 AM) Torah Discussion Group on Zoom (10 AM)
2 Brotherhood Seminar on Zoom (10 AM)	3	4 Adult Conversational Hebrew with Joel David on Zoom (6 PM) TBE Board meeting (7 PM) on Zoom	5	6	7 Shabbat service led by Diane Borad-Mirken in the temple (7:30 PM)	8 Etz Chayim on Zoom (8:30 PM)
9	10	11 Adult Conversational Hebrew with Joel David on Zoom (6 PM)	12	13	14 Shabbat service led by Diane Borad-Mirken in the temple (7:30 PM)	15 Etz Chayim children's class: Shabbat Morning Prayers on Zoom (9:30-10 AM)
16	17	18 Adult Conversational Hebrew with Joel David on Zoom (6 PM)	19	20	21 Shabbat service led by Anita Friedman in the temple (7:30 PM)	22 Etz Chayim school: On Zoom (8:30 PM)
23 Spring Membership meeting at temple (2 PM) Bring your mask	24	25 Adult Conversational Hebrew with Joel David on Zoom (6 PM)	26	27	28 Shabbat service led by Anita Friedman in the temple (7:30 PM)	29 Etz Chayim school: On Zoom (10 AM)
30	31					