

Temple Beth El Bulletin

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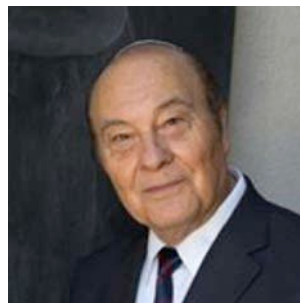
Rabbi's Message – Dov Gottesfeld

Shalom to All:

The story of Moses' life from birth to death is the story of every human being on earth. The circumstances and the variables are surely different, but the patterns are the same. At an early age we are given away to other people (educators) to teach us. As we grow older we set out to "find ourselves" and our purpose for being on this planet earth. We can experience success and happiness, but we can also encounter disappointments and failures.

Each human being who came into this world was designated to become a leader. A leader can become a president of a country, or a leader of a family, or a specific group, or even of a musical band, etc.

*A leader is **someone who inspires passion and motivation in followers.** A leader is someone with a vision and the path to realizing it. A leader is someone who ensures their*



Dov Gottesfeld

team has support and tools to achieve their goals. (Internet source)

While some people might naturally be drawn to management roles, good leadership is a combination of skills that anyone can master.

Strategic thinking. ... Delegation. ... Communication. ... Integrity. ... Empathy. ... Flexibility. ... and Enthusiasm. (Internet source)

There are other attributes to leadership. Moses was not born with leadership skills. He learned them in Pharaoh's palace and from Yitro – his father-in-law. Yet, he refined his leadership while dealing with the Israelite people – for better and for worse. Unfortunately, Moses did not accomplish his goal, which was to lead the Israelite people all the way into the Land of Milk and Honey.

Continued on Page 2

April Schedule of Services:

April 7th Anita Friedman (7:30 PM)
April 14th Raúl Medina (7:30 PM)
April 21st Andi & Jeff Portney (7:30 PM)
April 28th Diane Borad-Mirken (7:30 PM)

Educational Activities

Adult conversational Hebrew on Thursdays at 6 PM on ZOOM.

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

Continued from Page 1

The libraries are stacked with commentary and analytical books about that very predicament. The general consensus is the obvious fact that Moses disobeyed God's demand that Moses speak to the Rock in order to provide fresh water for the thirsty Israelite people, and Moses hit the rock with his cane instead – an act for which God prevented him from entering the Promised Land.

Yet, Moses had done previous acts for which God overlooked. If anything, the question should have been: "Why did God, keep testing (challenging) Moses in the desert?" Or did He? Or perhaps that shouldn't have been "the question" to be asked at all, because it didn't seem relevant to Moses' future generations of Jews – including us, today and or perhaps also for future generations.

I think that the answer to the question why God didn't let Moses enter the Land of Milk and Honey can be found in God's command to Joshua regarding the use of the Torah. He commanded him "This book of the Torah shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you observe to do according to all that is written on it..." (Joshua 1:8).

My take away is that Moses was too independent and self-governing and did not adhere to the laws of the Torah as God expected him to do. That is why God "warns" Joshua (by giving him a recipe for success) to adhere to the laws written in the Torah.

If we, as Joshua's future generations take that same advice, perhaps we will become as successful as Joshua had been.

Happy Passover

Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld

TBE Board of Directors for 2022-2023

President: Frank Young

Vice President: Raúl Medina

Treasurer: Ron Levy

Executive Secretary: Dove Okonina

Past President: Suzanne Levy

Brotherhood: Michael LeCover

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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

The yearly TBE Spring Membership meeting will be held on Sunday, May 21 at 3 PM at the temple.



-Frank Young, president of TBE

Wild West Jews

“The Wild West isn’t usually thought of as a home to Jews, yet early Jewish Americans lived there and left their marks.” (AISH website) Not all Jewish Immigrants came to the U.S. through Ellis Island, many entered by Galveston, Texas and New Orleans. Some settled there, but others moved further west.

Indeed, many Jews made the West their home. A survey performed by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations found that in 1878 there were 21,465 Jews living in 11 western states and territories.

In fact, Jews were ranchers, cowboys, and businessmen. They were also doctors. One, Dr. John Eisner, an emigrant from Austria, traveled on horseback in Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming and Nebraska. Between the years 1887 and 1905 he performed 169 Brit Milot on 169 Jewish baby boys.

An enterprising Jewish merchant by the name of Levi Strauss traveled to California during the 1849 gold rush. He brought canvas with him intending to fashion tents for the miners, but when he arrived on the scene, miners told him they needed pants not tents.

In those days, pants were often made of wool or homespun cotton. Working on their hands and knees, miners wore those pants out quickly. As good businessmen always do, Strauss adapted quickly, dying the canvas indigo and producing trousers with rivets and reinforced knees.

If you are interested in finding out more about Jews of the Old West, just google wild west Jews and you’ll get web sites like the following:

<https://www.atlantajewishtimes.com/the-wild-wild-kvetch-jews-often-forgotten-in-old-west/>

<https://aish.com/jews-in-the-wild-west/>

<https://jewishunpacked.com/the-jews-of-the-wild-west/>

Frank Young



Community Passover Seder



Afikomen Winners

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 Shabbat 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 Shabbat y una discusion 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.

Bulletin Briefs

April Birthdays

2 Sid Goldstein
3 Marsha Epstein
12 Julia Alvarez
14 Raul Medina
16 Caleb Medina
17 Cesar Vidales
22 David Goldstien
28 Sheryl Brunk

Sisterhood

The Sisterhood has not planned an April meeting but we have some ideas for May. Stay tuned.

Marsha Epstein

Donations

For Passover Seder supplies from Andi and Jeff Portney

In memory of Sheila Sales from
Ron and Suzanne Levy
Steve and Maia Lewis
Andi and Jeff Portney
Sid and Karen Goldstien

In memory of Boots Hersh from
Ken Wolf
Steve and Maia Lewis

Brotherhood

The April Brotherhood meeting was held on April 2nd. We met in person for our sumptuous breakfast but we held the discussion portion of the meeting with a Zoom link as well for those who could not attend in person. It worked very well and we will continue doing both so as to be as inclusive as possible.

As usual, Gary will be sending 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 invited to join us.

Our May meeting will be on Sunday, May 7th, 8:30 AM for breakfast and 9:00 AM on Zoom.

Be well,
Michael LeCover (president) and Gary Epstein (seminar planner).

April Yartzheits

4/1/23	Stan Eschen*	7	Nisan	Father of Donna Eschen
4/1/23	Juan Velasquez Jr.	21	Nisan	Cousin of Cesar Vidales
4/3/23	Arnold Stone	12	Nisan	Uncle of Jeff Portney
4/4/23	Lillian Balsam	13	Nisan	Mother of Shirley Kaver
4/5/23	Harry Heller*			Husband of Hazel Heller
4/6/23	Henrietta Swimmer*			Mother of Annette Barnett
4/9/23	Michael Ratner	11	Nisan	Cousin of Marsha Epstein
4/10/23	Miriam Barkai	19	Nisan	Friend of Lyn Meltzer
4/10/23	Annabelle Abramson	19	Nisan	Aunt of Abby Lassen
4/12/23	Conrad Sylinski*			Husband of Ruth Sylinski
4/12/23	Ilene Klass Kline	21	Nisan	Mother of Linda & Karen Goldstien
4/16/23	Cynthia A. Cohen			Daughter of Edgar Cohen
4/17/23	Paul Evans*			Brother of Ben Evans
4/17/23	Nathan Robbins*			Father of Evelyn Lubin
4/17/23	David Wall*	26	Nisan	Son of Leo and Florence Wall
4/18/23	Barry Green*	24	Nissan	Husband of Phyllis Green
4/18/23	Karl Wolf*	27	Nisan	Grandfather of Kenneth L. Wolf
4/19/23	Dave Argov*			
4/19/23	Anna Eschen			Grandmother of Donna Eschen
4/19/23	Barry Lipman*			
4/19/23	Helen Lipman*			
4/19/23	Janet Melman*			Wife of Harvey Melman
4/19/23	Zetta Rykiss			Aunt of Errin, Sari, and Abby
4/19/23	Sol Greenberg	28	Nisan	Cousin of Stan Eschen
4/20/23	Tiffany Dall			Niece of Mel Kalish
4/20/23	Jerome Sheinblum	29	Nisan	Father of Ellen Gave
4/25/23	Beverly Duel			Sister of Joe Friedman
4/28/23	Reisle Holstein	3	Iyar	Grandmother of Eric Berge
4/29/23	Shulamit Ben-Moshe			Mother of Ilana David
4/29/23	Avrum Goldman*			Father of Cary Goldman

Months of Mourning

Alan Kushnick		
Yuvis Ferrer	Cousin of Josue Medrano	11/24/22
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

APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<p>1</p> <p>Morning Shabbat service and Torah study with Raúl Medina at temple (9:30 AM)</p> <p>Also: Etz Chaim with Amber Medina at temple (10 AM)</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Brotherhood breakfast & 161st Seminar at temple (8:30 AM)</p>	3	4	5	<p>6</p> <p>Community Passover Seder (5:30 PM)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Shabbat service led by Anita Friedman (7:30 PM)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Morning Torah discussion with Rabbi Gottesfeld at temple (10 AM)</p>
9	10	<p>11</p> <p>TBE Board Meeting (6 PM)</p>	12	<p>13</p> <p>Adult Conversational Hebrew on Zoom with Joel David (6 PM)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Shabbat service led by Raúl Medina (7:30 PM)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Morning Shabbat service and Torah study with Raúl Medina at temple (9:30 AM)</p> <p>Also: Etz Chaim with Amber Medina at temple (10 AM)</p>
16	<p>17</p> <p>Yom HaShoah starts in the evening. (Light your candle)</p>	18	19	<p>20</p> <p>Adult Conversational Hebrew on Zoom with Joel David (6 PM)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Shabbat service led by Andi & Jeff Portney (7:30 PM)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Raúl Medina leads the Torah discussion group. (9:30 AM)</p> <p>Also: Amber Medina leads Etz Chaim (10 AM)</p>
23	24	25	26	<p>27</p> <p>Adult Conversational Hebrew on Zoom with Joel David (6 PM)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Shabbat service led by Diane Borad-Mirken (7:30 PM)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Raúl Medina leads the Torah discussion group. (9:30 AM)</p> <p>Also: Amber Medina leads Etz Chaim (10 AM)</p>
30						