



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

Shalom to all.

Next week we will start the fifth and the last book of the Torah Devarim - Deuteronomy.

The names of this week's Parshot are "Matot," which means "Tribes," and "Masei," which means "Journeys." They are found in Numbers 30:2 and 33:1.

In these two portions the writers rush to close up unresolved issues, and settle points that had occurred previously during the sojourn of the Israelite nation in the Sinai desert. Here I would like to discuss one of the issues, which for me makes all the difference for the existence of a just community, and consequently, a nation – any nation.

In this portion Moses conveys the laws governing the annulment of vows to the heads of the tribes of Israel. Obviously, there could not be an annulment of vows if there are not vows made to begin with.



Dov Gottesfeld

A vow is between you, and yourself. A promise, is between you and someone else. I often hear at weddings a common error during the exchange of "vows" where the groom and the bride make "promises" to one another, rather than expressing what kind of a husband or wife they vow to become.

To break a promise (honorably), do the following: Look for a way to honor the original intent of the promise even though you're unable to follow through on the original plan. Acknowledge that you're breaking a promise. This isn't something you can mask or hide, so don't wait too long to tell the other person.

We learn from these portions that it is understandable that a person may break a promise made to another person. Unexpected circumstances may happen which could trigger such an act. Yet, one must re-examine, and reassess their promise. It is applicable not only concerning tangible goods, but also in terms of relationships between people. It is important that both sides come to amicable and mutual conclusions.

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July Schedule of Services:

July 7th Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld (7:30 PM)
July 14th TBE Members (7:30 PM)
July 21st TBA (7:30 PM)
July 28th TBA (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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Vows, however, according to Judaism need to be annulled by a “professional” person familiar with the type – or the particulars of the given vows. In other words, if the issue has to do with marriage, a Jewish person could seek advice from a rabbi or a marriage counsellor. If the vow is concerning health, the person can seek a specialist doctor concerning his vow.

Judaism views a person’s thoughts, vows, and promises as the foundations, and the pillars of a person’s stature, and standing within the community. You are NOT only what you do, but also what you vow to become, and the respect and reverence you apply to your words.

Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld

July 11, 2023

TBE Board of Directors for 2023-2024

President: Frank Young

Vice President: Raúl Medina

Treasurer: Ron Levy

Executive Secretary: Open

Past President: Suzanne Levy

Brotherhood: Michael LeCover

Buildings & Grounds: Ken Wolf & Sid Goldstien

Education: Amber Medina

Membership: Josué Medrano

Religious Practices: Open

Sisterhood: Marsha Epstein

Ways & Means: Diane Borad-Mirken

Trees for Israel: Alyshia Brunk

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Sunshine Chair: Open

Rabbi: Dov Gottesfeld

Bulletin Editor: Leslie Epstein

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President's Column – Frank Young



-Frank Young, president of TBE

PREPARE

Your most important weapon in the face of an active shooter is your prepared mind. Awareness is the first step. Awareness of the threat is knowing that there really are people out there who want to do us harm. While it is unlikely they will strike Temple Beth El in Santa Maria, the danger is non-the-less real.

Think about what you might do if there were an attack. Practice "**situational awareness**" wherever you go. Be aware of your environment. Pay attention to what's going on around you. Look for things that seem odd or out of place, or that could be dangerous. Take note of the exits in any facility you might enter. Have an escape plan in mind.

The current idea of what to do is known as Run, Hide, Fight. However, this is not meant to be a sequential procedure where you run if possible, if that's not possible, hide, and if neither one is possible, you fight. These are three different actions. For instance, you could run away, but instead decide to fight. Or if you have a good hiding place, do that first.

If you choose to run, run like hell. It's harder to hit a moving target. You need to create as much distance as possible between you and the shooter. This is where your escape planning comes in handy. Hide with the idea that you will eventually need to move. Know the difference between cover and concealment. Concealment is placing a visual barrier between yourself and the threat, like a curtain or a desk. Cover is something that can stop/slow a bullet, like a car or brick wall.

If you choose to fight, attack with anything. Act with physical aggression and throw items, a vase, a chair or a book, anything to distract and make it possible to neutralize the shooter. If you can yell at the same time, do it. Attempt to incapacitate the shooter. When the police arrive, • Remain calm and follow instructions • Put down any items in your hands (i.e., bags, jackets) • Raise hands and spread fingers • Keep hands visible at all times • Avoid quick movements toward officers such as holding on to them for safety • Avoid pointing, screaming or yelling • Do not stop to ask officers for help or direction when evacuating.

Remember that you are the first responder, till the police show up. And when confronted with violence, violence should not be the last resort.

The above text is the result of a presentation by the Santa Maria Police Department and my online research from police web sites. This article is intended to summarize the subject and to contribute to a discussion about temple security.

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.

Bulletin Briefs

July Anniversaries

- 2 Olivia Romero
- 3 Suzanne & Ron Levy
- 8 Vicky & Sam Burg
- 17 Guillermo & Maria Aguilar

July Birthdays

- 3 Iacob Hernandez
- 14 Daniel Akronowitz
- 15 Karen Goldstien
- 26 Robert Juarez
- 25 Ellen Gave
- 24 Philip Epstein
- 28 Seymour Hersh

Sisterhood

The Sisterhood is happy to announce that we are resuming our dinner meetings.

We are going Mexican! The restaurant is La Villa, owned by Temple members Guillermo and Maria Aguilar. It is located at 1115 W. Main St., Santa Maria. It is in the La Joya Plaza shopping center near Blosser Rd.

The restaurant has a very extensive Mexican menu and a few American food choices like hamburgers, other sandwiches and a salad. They have a side room and a patio. If it's warm we can sit there or inside.

Date: Tuesday, July 18th. Time: 6:30 PM.

We do need a head-count, and they request we have it a week ahead so please RSVP to me as soon as possible. My email is mmepstein@charter.net.

Marsha Epstein

Brotherhood

The July Brotherhood meeting was held on July 2nd, both in person and via Zoom.

Our next scheduled meeting is set for Sunday, August 6th, at 8:30 am. We will enjoy our famous breakfast of lox and bagels, eggs, and extras. At 9:30 am there will be a Zoom link for the discussion portion of the meeting so that those who cannot attend in person can participate in the discussion.

As usual, I 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.

Remember: our next meeting will be on Sunday, August 6th, 8:30 AM for breakfast and 9:30 AM on Zoom.

Gary Epstein

Temple Beth El is very fortunate to have a team of dedicated Lay-Leaders for our Friday Night Services, and Educators of our children. It's time to honor these individuals and show our appreciation for their tireless generosity to our community.

A Shabbat Service to Honor Temple Beth El's Volunteer Lay-Leaders and Educators



Friday, July 14, 2023

6:30 - Potluck Shabbat Dinner

7:30 - Shabbat Service

Oneg to follow service

This is our chance to show:

- Amber Medina, Etz Chaim religious school director
- Anita Friedman, Lay Leader
- Andi and Jeff Portney, Lay Leaders
- Diane Borad-Mirken, Lay Leader
- Josue Medrano, Lay Leader
- Lori Meltzer-Sutton, Lay Leader
- Raul Medina, Lay Leader

our appreciation for their dedicated service to Temple Beth El.

The Temple's membership (minus Lay-Leaders/Educators*) will provide the Potluck Dinner (Dairy only) and treats for the Oneg.

The Temple's membership (minus Lay-Leaders/Educators*) will also be leading the service. Each member who wishes is invited to take part in the service (Service II in our Temple siddur will be used).

You may choose to:

- Lead a traditional song or introduce the congregation to a new tune you are familiar with
- Read a prayer in Hebrew, English, Spanish, Yiddish, or any other language you hold dear.
- Offer a brief insight into the Torah portion of the week (Matot-Massei)
- Offer a brief reflection or story about the meaning of Shabbat to you.
- Lead the candle lighting, kiddush over the wine or bread.

***Although Lay-Leaders/Educators are exempt from these "chores", honoree's spouses, family and friends are encouraged to participate.**

Contact David Goldstien, TBE Social Action Chair, for more information and to sign up for your part in the service, the potluck and Oneg.

July Yarzheits

7/1/23	Michael LeVine	11	Tammuz	Cousin of Gary Epstein
7/1/23	Macey Levy	12	Tammuz	Father of Ron, Karen and Linda
7/2/23	Esther Kalish			Wife of Mel Kalish
7/3/23	Rose Landau			Grandmother of Diane Borad-Mirken
7/3/23	Meyer Rosen	14	Tammuz	Father of Boots Hersh
7/7/23	Liese Spiegl			Cousin of Ken Wolf
7/9/23	Leon Gerris			Uncle of Bernice Gaon
7/9/23	Marilyn Auerbach	20	Tammuz	Cousin of Madelyn Akronowitz
7/10/23	Anne Klinger	21	Tammuz	Mother of Judith Klinger
7/11/23	Bella Hirshfield			Grandmother of Donna Eschen
7/11/23	David Klempfner			Nephew of Boots & Seymour Hersh
7/11/23	Shirley Ratner	8	Tammuz	Cousin of Marsha Epstein
7/11/23	Paul Super			Nephew of Mike Kaver
7/12/23	John Kleckner			Father of Barbara Sachs
7/13/23	Doris Schaefer	24	Tammuz	Cousin of Madeline Akronowitz
7/14/23	Ann Morrison Targer*	25	Tammuz	Mother of Tom Targer
7/16/23	Sarah Kaver	27	Tammuz	Mother of Mike Kaver
7/17/23	Nancy Evans*			Wife of Ben Evans, Mother of Allan Evans
7/17/23	Salvador Parra			Father of Frank Young
7/17/23	Robert Paul Stephey	21	Tammuz	Son of Marjorie Schwartz
7/19/23	Marilyn Friedman	13	Tammuz	Wife of Col. Joseph Friedman
7/20/23	David Buder*			Father of Madeline Akronowitz
7/20/23	Asbury Evans*			Father of Ben Evans
7/21/23	Carmen Prats-Leaf*			Daughter of Luis and Sarah Prats
7/23/23	Hesta Meltzer			Mother of Jack Meltzer
7/23/23	Kathleen Searles			Friend/sister of Diane Borad-Mirken
7/23/23	Maurice J. Bernstein*	5	Av	Husband of Corinne Bernstein
7/25/23	Leon Roseman*			Husband of Edith Roseman
7/27/23	Vicki Irgang	9	Av	Cousin of Len Akronowitz
7/30/23	Joseph Epstein	12	Av	Friend of Anita Friedman and Frank Young

Months of Mourning

Alan Kushnick	Cousin of Josue Medrano, Niece	
Yuvis Ferrer	of Elana 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
Margarita Ferrer	Sister of Elana Medrano	5/6/23
Judith Klinger	Long-time temple member	6/27/23

JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<p>1 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 Brotherhood Seminar on Zoom (10 AM)</p>	3	<p>4 Independence Day Picnic (Noon to 3 PM)</p>	<p>5 TBE Board Meeting (6 PM)</p>	<p>6 Adult Conversational Hebrew on Zoom with Joel David (6 PM)</p>	<p>7 Shabbat service led by Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld (7:30 PM)</p>	<p>8 Morning Torah study with Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld (10 AM)</p>
9	10	11	12	<p>13 Adult Conversational Hebrew on Zoom with Joel David (6 PM)</p>	<p>14 Pot Luck (6 PM), Shabbat service led by TBE members (7:30 pm)</p>	<p>15 Raúl Medina leads Shabbat service & the Torah discussion group. (9:30 AM)</p> <p>Also: Amber Medina leads Etz Chaim (10 AM)</p>
16	17	<p>18 Sisterhood dinner At LA Villa 6:30 pm 1115 W. Main St.</p>	19	<p>20 Adult Conversational Hebrew on Zoom with Joel David (6 PM)</p>	<p>21 Shabbat service led by TBA (7:30 PM)</p>	<p>22 Raúl Medina leads Shabbat service & the Torah discussion group. (9:30 AM)</p> <p>Also: Amber Medina leads Etz Chaim (10 AM)</p>
23/30	24/31	25	26	<p>27 Adult Conversational Hebrew on Zoom with Joel David (6 PM)</p>	<p>28 Shabbat service led by TBA (7:30 PM)</p>	<p>29 Raúl Medina leads Shabbat service & the Torah discussion group. (9:30 AM)</p> <p>Also: Amber Medina leads Etz Chaim (10 AM)</p>