

Temple Beth El Bulletin

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

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Rabbi's Message ~ Dov Gottesfeld

Shalom to all:

THE RAIN IN SPAIN STAYS MAINLY
IN THE PLAIN

By George, she's got it!
Now once again, where does it rain?
On the plain! On the plain!
And where's that blasted plain?
In Spain! In Spain!

I have no doubt that the readers of this article will identify these lyrics immediately. But, just in case you didn't, they were sung by Liza Doolittle in the musical "My Fair Lady". It was enjoyable and funny watching the musical and the movie. However nowadays, those lyrics are no longer funny or enjoyable. The current rain in Spain is a storm washing the plains in Spain down into the Mediterranean, carrying everything along its destructive route – houses, cars, motorcycles, and people.

Moving east across the Mediterranean
The lands of the Near East and the Far
East are scorched and/or still burning as
a result of the daily falling missiles.



Dov Gottesfeld

A typhoon hit Taiwan causing it to shut down and then moved towards China.

Is this the repeat of this week's Torah portion Noah? Had God decided to destroy His creation - every breathing creature especially human beings again by floods? And which "family" is designated by Him to survive just like "Noah's family" had been, this time around? The families of the Jews? The families of the Muslims? The families of the Christians? Just to mention a few.

Shall I assume that it would it be that religion which is still following the same laws that God had given to Noah's generation in Biblical time?

Or if this is not the case, will it be any religious nation which God has designated to remain standing after wiping out all the other religious nations in wars?

Or perhaps God has nothing at all to do with the bad weather, nor the multiple wars around His Earth creation.

Maybe it only has to do with us - totally irresponsible human beings - who neglected to care for the planet Earth as God had designated us to do:

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November Schedule of Services:

November 1st Diane Borad-Mirken (7:30 PM)
November 8th Anita Friedman (7:30 PM)
November 15th Diane Borad-Mirken (7:30 PM)
November 22nd Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld (7:30 PM)
November 29th TBA (7:30 PM)

Educational Activities

Etz Chaim Children's Religious School 10:00-10:30 AM

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“And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew; for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground... cultivate it, and keep it.” (Genesis 2-5, 2-15).

We, (almost), the entire population of human beings on this Earth – disregard the ancient notion that we were designated to become the care takers of the planet Earth. Yet, those minority human beings who keep reminding us of our responsibility, and implore us to stop polluting the Earth, are being scornfully dismissed.

WHY?

An honest to God answer would fill up a book shelf with many volumes. Yet, their common denominator would be: Selfishness, greed, and politics.

Unfortunately, that common denominator runs in the veins of most human beings, if not all - a total disregard and reverence for the essence of the existence of human life on the planet Earth. LIFE – the miracle of miracles. (except, for Dr. Frankenstein I presume – a Jew).

Seriously, now.

Upon reentering the land of Canaan from slavery in Egypt for a few hundred years, God reminds the Jews of the Laws of their land. He then emphasizes:

“I have set before you life and death, blessings and cursing. Therefore choose life that both you and your descendants may live” (Deuteronomy 30-19).

Life, or better, the essence of being alive as a human being here on the planet Earth; doesn't seem to be considered extremely valuable, or cherished nowadays. Ending the LIFE of another human being became a random act of personal problem solving.

Looking back onto my time line on earth, and searching the history books, I doubt if human life has ever been revered by those who considered themselves Human Beings. It is sad. Very Sad. And I wouldn't be surprised if researchers will one day ascertain that the cries babies born into this world are actually an angry protest sound for being conceived, knowing the harsh life which is awaiting them in the future on the planet Earth.

Now that we are here, what must we human beings do to “repair the world.” (“Tikun Olam”). And I mean doing it seriously! Donating money and doing charity work for the needy is greatly appreciated and helpful.

Yet, it is only a temporary “cure” for needy human beings. which makes the doer feel good sporadically, and mostly temporarily. My understanding of the meaning

TBE Board of Directors for 2024-2025

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

Acting Religious Practices Director: Anita Friedman

Sisterhood: Marsha Epstein

Ways & Means: Diane Borad-Mirken

Trees for Israel: Alyshia Brunk

Social Action Chair: David Goldstien

Sunshine Chair: Open

Rabbi: Dov Gottesfeld

Bulletin Editor: Leslie Epstein

Webmaster: Nakiah Burnes

of “Tikun Olam” is revering every human being's life existence on the planet Earth, by making her/him an essential member of the family of women, men.

My approach is not an original one. Most, if not all the Religions, mind you, were based upon that philosophy which preach unification by subscribing (or obeying) to one or multiple Omnipowers in order to revere and support human life on the planet Earth in order to assure the preservation of the planet which sustains human existence... namely LIFE.

The mishap (or the ultimate mistake) which occurred (or was purposefully forced upon us) was that we ended up bowing to that (or those) OmniPower(s), instead of bowing to one another.

Now it's our turn to really get off our @\$%&*S and do the appropriate and correct Tikun Olam before we pass the point of no return!

Good luck.

Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld

President's Column – Frank Young



-Frank Young,
president of TBE

Temple Beth El

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Agenda General Membership Meeting November 17, 2024 @ 3:00 pm

1. Call to order
2. Membership and Quorum count
3. D'var Torah – Anita Friedman
4. Approval of Minutes of May 19, 2024 General Membership Meeting
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Old Business
 - a. Security
7. New Business
 - a. Upcoming Events
 - b. Nominating Committee for board of Directors
8. Committee Reports
 - a. Membership
 - b. Religious Practices
 - c. Education
 - d. Social Action
 - e. Ways and Means
 - f. Buildings and Grounds
 - g. Brotherhood
 - h. Sisterhood
 - i. Youth Coordinator

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Minutes

General Membership Meeting

May 19, 2024

1. Frank Young called meeting to order at 15:09.
2. Membership and Quorum count:
 - Membership estimate of 36 households
 - 7 member households present/ 7 member households needed for Quorum
 - 12 people present: Frank Young & Anita Friedman, Gary & Marsha Epstein, Nakiah Burnes (Honorary), Suzanne & Ron Levy, Michael Sachs Myra Wapner, Ken Wolf, Amber Medina, Josué Medrano
3. D'var Torah – Anita Friedman presented
 - Shimon Bar Yochai emerges from his cave to live out a Torah-filled life.
4. Approval of Minutes of December 3, 2023 General Membership Meeting
 - Read by Anita Friedman, Approved 15:22
5. Treasurer's Report: Ron Levy presented
 - See attached Profit & Loss
 - Temple is suffering from a \$1,610 deficit
 - Costs were lower costs for repairs/grounds, Rabbi Salary over last fiscal year than the year before
 - Redeemer church is no longer renting as of July 2024. This will cause a \$6,000 loss of annual revenue.

6. Old Business

a. Security: Frank Young Presented

- Frank Young explained that the previously suggested plan to set up new cameras was estimated at to cost \$20,000. Steps to improve security could instead begin with the integration of our three current systems for little to no additional cost. The pastor from Redeemer Church volunteers to help with that process, despite upcoming move. Afterwards, it would be easy and less expensive (\$100s not \$1,000s) to add a few new cameras.

- CPR/ First Aid/ Active shooter training (cost of \$75 /person) did not proceed due to lack of the minimal number of interested parties.

- Stop the Bleed, a training course to administer First aid to gunshot victims, led by local representative, Scott Hunter, can be offered for free (donations welcome) and can accommodate 1-10 people per training. A First Aid kit will be required to be purchased to proceed. The First Aid kit would be purchased by Frank Young & Anita Friedman and then donated to TBE. Ken Wolf recommends the class due to his prior experience.

7. New Business

a. Upcoming Events

- June 11th, 2024: Shavuot. Raul Medina is likely to offer a Shavu'ot service, to be discussed in more depth at next Board meeting.

- July 4th, 2024: The annual Independence Day Concert and Picnic is assumed to be proceeding. Reports confirm that musicians Amaya Rose and possibly Christie Hudson (Hammered Dulcimer) will be in attendance. It was unknown at the meeting who would be running the Barbecue.

- July 21st, 2024: TBE fundraiser for the PCPA matinee performance of Cabaret.

- High Holidays were tabled to be planned by the board.

b. Election of 2024-2025 Board of Directors

◦ Anita self-nominated for the position of Religious Practices. She declined the role of Executive Secretary

◦ Suzanne Levy moved to elect all previous officers to same post with the addition of Anita to Religious Practices. Michael Sachs seconded.

Approved by vote of 11-1.

- Membership: SAME – Josué Medrano
- Religious Practices: NEW – Anita Friedman
- Education: SAME – Amber Medina
- Social Action: SAME – David Goldstein
- Ways and Means: SAME – Diane Borad-Mirken
- Buildings and Grounds: SAME – Ken Wolf and Sid Goldstein
- Brotherhood: SAME – Michael LeCover
- Sisterhood: SAME – Marsha Epstein
- Youth Coordinator: SAME – Rubi Basurto
- Trees For Israel: SAME – Alyshia Brunk
- Executive Secretary: EMPTY – Lydia Romeo can be appointed by the board. She is willing to serve beginning in October 2024.
- Sunshine Chair: EMPTY– Left to the Board to appoint

Change of By-Laws

Motion to change bylaws:

- A strip of paper containing the previously requested change was distributed at the meeting. After some discussion and review of the bylaws, it was discovered that a vote could not proceed, because the motion had not been mailed to all membership, more that 10 days before the meeting.
- Suzanne Levy moved to amend all places in the bylaws where postal mail is required. She suggests updating the wording to “sent” or “communicated” allowing for modern forms of communication (such as electronic mail) to be used as an option. The motion was tabled until the end of the meeting to allow Suzanne ample time to undergo a full review of the bylaws.
- It was also suggested that an addition to TBE's membership application should be made to collect communication preferences.

8. Committee Reports

a. Membership: Josué Medrano presented

- Current membership estimate is 36 households.
- Josué Medrano has had communication with three potential new member families. Two have not responded, one is considering.
- Marsha Epstein suggests we need new members to remain a viable congregation.
- Amber Medina shared two new possible member families from Lompoc.
- Ken Wolf suggested the possibility of TBE joining the Santa Maria Chamber of Commerce
- Frank Young indicated that becoming more public involves risk.
- It was suggested that realtors may know of Jews who recently moved to the area that could be invited to TBE.
- Nakiah Burnes suggested using a new online platform, Zeffy, to provide an online option to collect membership dues and ticket fees. It was agreed that Ron Levy will investigate and if viable submit financial information to allow payments to be collected.

b. Religious Practices: Anita Friedman presented

- Shavu'ot- as previously discussed, Shavu'ot celebration will be planned at the next Board Meeting. It was suggested that a Tres Leches cake would be appropriate for the occasion and that a delicious one could be procured from La Villa Bakery (associated with a congregant).
- Lay leaders desperately needed. The forthcoming services are covered, but the lay leaders are being called upon to fill multiple slots each month.
- Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld's contract has been renewed for the upcoming year.
- Diane Borad-Mirken will lead this Friday's Shabbat Service.

c. Education – Amber Medina presented

- Religious school continues. There are, on average, 4-6 families, with a total 8-12 kids in attendance. Plans to continue through the Summer are under consideration. As always, religious school is without any fee. Parents donate supplies and snacks as able.

- Amber Medina has been in diligent collaboration with several families who live on/ near Vandenberg AF Base. Dr. David Frederick is attempting to create a coalition of several central coast Jewish congregations and organizations.

d. Social Action – chairman David Goldstein was not present

e. Ways and Means – chairwoman Diane Borad-Mirken was not present. She sent a statement in her absence but it was accidentally left in another location.

f. Buildings and Grounds – Ken Wolf presented

- There is need of a new weed whacker.

- The FBI has followed up with TBE following encounter with a first amendment auditor at TBE and the same auditor's appearance filming inside a local post office.

- Certain people listed as “Friends of the Temple” are unsatisfied with promptness of notifications via emails. It was suggested to them that becoming a member would ensure the most prompt communication from the Temple.

- Stella (the cleaner) and her son are in possession of a recurring “to do” list which contains the frequency requested by the Temple. It was suggested and favorably received that the list needs to be reviewed by TBE Board members and then reviewed on location with Stella.

- As Stella's son is not consistently reliable, Ken Wolf is investigating the possibility of hiring a new gardener. The board would have to discuss any subsequent reduction to Stella's salary

g. Brotherhood: Gary Epstein presented

- At the May 5th, 2024 meeting, there were 8 people in attendance.
- On June 2nd, 2024, the 175th brotherhood seminar will commence.

h. Sisterhood: Marsha Epstein presented

- The Sisterhood account has a balance of around \$2,000. It was suggested that there is a need to refill the TBE gift shop with Judaica.
- There have been no meetings lately, and as of this meeting, there were no future Sisterhood meetings planned. Marsha Epstein requested assistance in planning future meetings.

i. Youth Coordinator – appointee Rubi Basurto was not present.

j. Tabled motion renewed by Suzanne Levy. She proposed the enclosed changes to TBE bylaws. Marsha Epstein motioned for a vote, Suzanne Levy seconded, motion passed unanimously. Attached changes will be presented to the membership before the next General Membership meeting at the end of the year.

k. Myra Wapner, shared her tax filer's suggestion, that when making mandatory IRA withdrawals, your resulting charitable contribution is tax free up to allowed limits. This could be a future stream of donations for the TBE.

l. Michael Sachs reminded everyone that purchasing Scrip is a win-win way to support TBE. Nakiah Burnes will be posting information on the website to promote more awareness of the Scrip program.

Anita Friedman adjourned Meeting at 16:58. Elapsed time 109 minutes.

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PROPOSED CHANGES TO TEMPLE BETH EL BYLAWS

May 19th, 2024

LOCATION	ORIGINAL	PROPOSED CHANGE
I, 1 Name	it is affiliated with the Union of Reform Judaism	a Jewish synagogue.
II, 1 Eligibility	Any	Any
II, 6 Privileges	Incident to membership in the Congregation, each member shall also become a member of the Union of Reform Judaism.	(removed)
VIII, D Voting	telephone polls	polls
XII, 3A Notice of Meetings	written notice shall be mailed to each member	notice shall be sent to each member
XII, 3B Notice of Meetings	Written notice of all special meetings all be mailed to each member	Notice of all special meetings shall be sent to each member
XVI, 1B Amendments	Copies of the proposed amendments shall be mailed	Copies of the proposed amendments shall be sent

See attachment for strikeout text

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

Donations

Maria & Guillermo Aguilar
Gloria & Rosalba Aguilar
For the High Holidays from Josue Medrano
For the High Holidays from Josef Asher
Donna Eschen
David & Linda Goldstien
Sid & Karen Goldstien
Robert Juarez
Abby Lassen & Michael LeCover
Larry & Eilene Riemer
Myra Wapner
Ken Wolf
In memory of Phyllis Green from Andi & Jeff Portney
In memory of Phyllis Green from Ron & Suzanne 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, 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.

Sisterhood

The Sisterhood will not be meeting in December due to the crowded schedule of holidays. In the meantime, keep a lookout for your packet of raffle tickets for our upcoming Hanukkah Party. As usual we will have some great prizes, latkes and fixings. See the flyer in this bulletin for more information.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Marsha Epstein

Brotherhood

The next Brotherhood meeting will be held on Sunday, December 8th, 9:00 AM at the Temple. Join us for our famous breakfast of lox and bagels, eggs, muffins and extras.

As usual, I will send 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 welcome to join us.

Gary Epstein

November Yartzheits

11/1/24	Goldie Buder*			Mother of Madeline Akronowitz
11/3/24	Irwin Jay Berson	2	Heshvan	Cousin of Len Akronowitz
11/4/24	Alice Mae Evans*			Mother of Ben Evans
11/5/24	Morris Albert Targer*	9	Heshvan	Father of Tom Targer
11/6/24	Arthur Goldiner			Father of Paul Goldiner
11/6/24	Morris Krieger*			Father of Burton Krieger
11/6/24	Cynthia Klein	5	Heshvan	Aunt of Andi Portney
11/6/24	Rabbi Abraham Raich	5	Heshvan	Rabbi at Temple Beth El
11/6/24	Emanuel Stone	5	Heshvan	Father of Arnold Stone
11/7/24	Rhoda Rosenblum	6	Heshvan	Aunt of Len Akronowitz
11/14/24	Leah Yasskin*			Mother of Trudy Resnick
11/16/24	Samuel Gruver	15	Heshvan	Stepfather of Andi Portney
11/17/24	Martha Kaver*	15	Heshvan	Sister-in-law of Ann and Milton Kaver
11/17/24	Mordka Berkowitz	16	Heshvan	Father of Sam Berkowitz
11/17/24	Joseph Y. Goldstien	16	Heshvan	Father of Sid & David Goldstien
11/18/24	Joe Cohen*			Brother of Tillie Kaplan
11/18/24	Rose Morris	17	Heshvan	Aunt of Seymour Hersh
11/24/24	Yuvis Ferrer			Niece of Ana Medrano
11/25/24	Blanche Levy	24	Heshvan	Grandmother of Andi Portney
11/26/24	Stanley Jones			Father of Maia Lewis
11/26/24	Richard Wolson*			
11/27/24	Aggie Margolis			Friend of the Goldstien Families
11/27/24	Rose Shrogin*			Mother of Miriam, Aaron Shrogin
11/27/24	Geneva Yasskin*			Aunt of Miriam Shrogin
11/28/24	Marion I. Levy*	29	Heshvan	Father of Jill Targer
11/29/24	Rose Russell	16	Tevet	Wife of Mort Russell
11/30/24	Colleen Farber			Niece of Phyllis Green
11/30/24	Harold Poliskin			Brother of Sharon Gottesfeld

Months of Mourning

Howard Stern	Husband of Beth Ladin	12/20/23
Shirley Wagner	Mother of Randy Wagner	1/27/24
Mel Kalish	Husband of Esther Kalish	7/30/24
Willis Oren Wagner	Father of Randy Wagner	8/30/24
Phyllis Green	Mother of Steven Green	9/17/24

NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Diane Borad-Mirken will lead Shabbat service (7:30 PM)	2 Raúl Medina leads Shabbat service & Torah study (9:30 AM) Also: Amber Medina leads Etz Chaim class (10 AM)
3 Brotherhood Breakfast (9 AM)	4	5 TBE Board meeting (7 PM)	6	7	8 Anita Friedman will lead Shabbat service (7:30 PM)	9 Raúl Medina leads Shabbat service & Torah study (9:30 AM) Also: Amber Medina leads Etz Chaim class (10 AM)
10	11	12	13	14	15 Diane Borad-Mirken will lead Shabbat service (7:30 PM)	16 Raúl Medina leads Shabbat service & Torah study (9:30 AM) Also: Amber Medina leads Etz Chaim class (10 AM)
17 Fall General Membership Meeting (3 PM)	18	19	20	21	22 Rabbi Gottesfeld will lead Shabbat service (7:30 PM)	23 Rabbi Gottesfeld will lead Torah discussion (10:30 AM)
24	25	26	27	28	29 TBA leads Shabbat Service (7:30 PM)	30 Raúl Medina leads Shabbat service & Torah study (9:30 AM) Also: Amber Medina leads Etz Chaim class (10 AM)