



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

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## Rabbi's Message - Dov Gottesfeld

### The Importance of Celebrating Passover Today

Shalom to all:

Passover, one of the most significant Jewish holidays, commemorates the Israelites' liberation from slavery in Egypt, as described in the Book of Exodus. This festival, which has been observed for thousands of years, continues to hold profound religious, cultural, and historical significance. Despite the passage of time and the evolution of societies, celebrating Passover remains important today for several reasons: it reinforces Jewish identity and heritage, promotes family and community unity, and carries universal themes of freedom and resilience that resonate beyond religious boundaries.

One of the primary reasons Passover remains relevant is its role in preserving Jewish identity and heritage. The holiday serves as a reminder of the struggles and triumphs of the Jewish people, reinforcing the importance of their history and traditions.



**Dov Gottesfeld**

Through the Seder, a ritual meal held on the first two nights of Passover, families retell the story of the Exodus using the Haggadah, a text that guides the evening's customs and prayers. This transmission of knowledge from one generation to the next ensures that Jewish history and culture remain alive. The symbolic foods eaten during the Seder, such as matzah (unleavened bread) and maror (bitter herbs), further deepen the connection to the past, allowing participants to experience a tangible link to their ancestors' hardships and perseverance.

Passover also strengthens bonds within families and communities. The holiday is often a time for large gatherings, where relatives and friends come together to share in the rituals and traditions of the Seder. These communal experiences foster a sense of unity and belonging, as participants engage in storytelling, singing, and discussions about freedom and faith. In today's fast-paced world, where family members may be scattered across different locations, Passover serves as an opportunity to reconnect and reinforce the values of togetherness and mutual support.

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### April Schedule of Services:

April 4th Cantor Jonathan Kohan (7:30 PM)  
April 11th Josué Medrano (7:30 PM)  
April 18th Cantor Laura Lucaci (7:30 PM)  
April 25th Diane Borad-Mirken (7:30 PM)

### Educational Activities

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

## Continued from Page 1

Additionally, the holiday encourages charitable acts, as Jewish teachings emphasize the importance of ensuring that all members of the community, including the less fortunate, have the means to partake in the celebration.

Beyond its religious and cultural aspects, Passover conveys universal themes of freedom, justice, and resilience that remain relevant to people of all backgrounds. The Exodus story is a powerful narrative of liberation from oppression, inspiring those who struggle against injustice worldwide. Throughout history, many movements advocating for civil rights and human dignity have drawn inspiration from the Passover story. The holiday prompts reflection on the importance of freedom—not just in a historical or religious sense but in contemporary contexts where inequality and persecution still exist. By celebrating Passover, individuals are reminded of the ongoing responsibility to fight for the rights and dignity of all people.

In conclusion, Passover continues to be a meaningful and essential celebration in today's world. It preserves Jewish identity and traditions, fosters family and community unity, and highlights universal themes of freedom and justice. As societies evolve, the lessons of Passover remain as vital as ever, encouraging reflection on the past while inspiring action for a better future. By continuing to observe this holiday, individuals not only honor their heritage but also contribute to a broader dialogue about resilience, liberation, and human dignity.

I wish you a Kosher and a Happy Passover.

Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld

## TBE Board of Directors for 2024-2025

**President:** Frank Young

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**Ways & Means:** Diane Borad-Mirken

**Trees for Israel:** Alyshia Brunk

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**Sunshine Chair:** Open

**Rabbi:** Dov Gottesfeld

**Bulletin Editor:** Leslie Epstein

**Webmaster:** Nakiah Burnes

# President's Column – Guest Columnist Anita Friedman

## **Hebrew Lesson:**

### ***Zaycher – Remembrance of Things Past, Present and Future***

The English words, *remember* and *remembrance*, belong to the same word family. We remember people, objects, words, and ideas. People, many animals, and computers have memories. We may carry events and memories from the past into the future by creating a memorial, writing a memoir, or simply keeping a memento. To remember future events we may draft a memorandum or request a reminder.

Hebrew, too, has a family of words relating to remembrance. The three-letter verb root *zayin-chaf-resh* applies to the active verb *remember* and the passive *be remembered*. *Zachar* is *he remembered*. The word for *he will remember* or *may he remember* might be familiar from memorial services; it is *yizkor*. *Z'chor* is the imperative. Remember the difference between the *K* sound and the *Kh* (or *Ch*) sound in Hebrew is the presence or absence of the center dot (dagesh) in the letter *Chaf*.

Other Hebrew words with this root are: *zikaron* - memorial or memory, *zaycher* - a remembrance or trace, *zichronot* - memoirs; *hizkir* - he mentioned (or reminded), *mazkir* - a secretary (someone who reminds you); *mazkeret* - souvenir (memento), *tizkoret* - a reminder; and *tizkir* - memorandum.

The Friday night Shabbat service includes:

“Shamor v'zachor b'dibur echad” – “Safeguard and *remember* in a single command” (Lecha Dodi)

“L'ma'an tiz-k'ru va'asitem et kol mitzvotai” – “So that *you* (plural) *will remember* and perform all my commandments” (Blessings after the Shema)

“Zikaron l'ma'asay v'raysheet. Ki hu yom t'chila l'mik'ra'ay kodesh, zaycher li'tzi'at mitzra'yim.”  
“A *remembrance* of the work (deeds) of creation. For that day is the prologue to holy festivals, a *memorial* of the Exodus from Egypt.” (Kiddush)

From the Torah we find:

“Vayomer Moshe al ha'am, 'Zachor et hayom hazeh asher y'tzatem mimitzra'yim'” – Moses said to the people, ‘*Remember* this day on which you came out of Egypt’” (Ex. 13:3)

“Va-yizkor elokim et Noach” – “*And God remembered* Noah” (Gen. 8:1)

Common Hebrew expressions include

*Zichrono/zichrona* livracha – may *his memory/her memory* be a blessing.

*Zaychayr tzadik* livracha – May the *memory* of the righteous be a blessing.

Next time you see or hear words in this family, ***z'chor!***

Sources: 1) *Chumash*. Metsudah and Art Scroll. 2) *Roots: A Hebrew-English Word-List* Mordechai Kamrat and Edwin Samuel. 3) *The Joys of Hebrew* Lewis Glinert. 4) *Etymological Dictionary* Matityahu Clark. 5) Almost any Siddur.

**By Anita Friedman**

# Bulletin Briefs

## April Birthdays

- 2 Sid Goldstein
- 3 Marsha Epstein
- 12 Julia Alvarez
- 14 Raul Medina
- 16 Caleb Medina
- 22 David Goldstien
- 28 Sheryl Brunk
- 29 Nathaniel McCready

## Donations

Andi and Jeff Portney  
Anita Friedman and Frank Young

### **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 sumergimos 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

Diane Borad-Mirken has taken on the job of organizing our Sisterhood meetings on the second Tuesday of each month. Our dinner this month will take place on Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM, at The Swiss restaurant, 516 N. Broadway. The restaurant specializes in oak BBQ, with steaks, chops, poultry and fish. Everyone is invited; bring friends along. Please RSVP to Diane: (805) 478-1463 so we know how many to expect.

**Marsha Epstein**

## Brotherhood

The next Brotherhood meeting will be held on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 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**

## April Yarzheits

4/1/25	Stan Eschen*	7	Nisan	Father of Donna, Grandfather of Ali
4/2/25	Irving Schwartz*	4	Nisan	Father of Stephen Schwartz
4/5/25	Harry Heller*			Husband of Hazel Heller
4/5/25	Sam Resnick*	7	Nisan	Uncle of Miriam Shrogin
4/6/25	Henrietta Swimmer*			Mother of Annette Barnett
4/6/25	Sherwin Sidney Bereskin	8	Nisan	Brother of Shep Bereskin
4/6/25	Lyn Meltzer	8	Nisan	Mother of Lori Meltzer-Sutton
4/6/25	Lillian Fischer Vincent*	8	Nisan	Grandmother of Kenneth L. Wolf
4/9/25	Michael Ratner	11	Nisan	Cousin of Marsha Epstein
4/10/25	Arnold Stone	12	Nisan	Uncle of Jeff Portney
4/11/25	Lillian Balsam	13	Nisan	Mother of Shirley Kaver
4/12/25	Conrad Sylinski*			Husband of Ruth Sylinski
4/16/25	Cynthia A. Cohen			Daughter of Edgar Cohen
4/17/25	Paul Evans*			Brother of Ben Evans
4/17/25	Nathan Robbins*			Father of Evelyn Lubin
4/17/25	Miriam Barkai	19	Nisan	Friend of Lyn Meltzer
4/17/25	Annabelle Abramson	19	Nisan	Aunt of Abby Lassen
4/18/25	Barry Green*	24	Nissan	Husband of Phyllis Green
4/19/25	Dave Argov*			
4/19/25	Anna Eschen			Grandmother of Donna Eschen
4/19/25	Barry Lipman*			
4/19/25	Helen Lipman*			
4/19/25	Janet Melman*			Wife of Harvey Melman
4/19/25	Zetta Rykiss			Aunt of Errin, Sari, and Abby
4/19/25	Ilene Klass Kline	21	Nisan	Mother of Linda & Karen Goldstien
4/24/25	David Wall*	26	Nisan	Son of Leo and Florence Wall
4/25/25	Karl Wolf*	27	Nisan	Grandfather of Kenneth L. Wolf
4/26/25	Sol Greenberg	28	Nisan	Cousin of Stan Eschen
4/28/25	Reisle (Rose Jane) Holstein	3	Iyar	Grandmother of Eric Berge
4/29/25	Shulamit Ben-Moshe			Mother of Ilana David
4/29/25	Avrum Goldman*			Father of Cary Goldman

## Months of Mourning

Mel Kalish	Husband of Esther	7/30/24
Willis Oren Wagner	Father of Randy Wagner	8/30/24
Phyllis Green	Wife of Barry Green	9/17/24
Beverly Lassen	Mother of Abby Lassen	1/22/25
Carolyn Koepke	Cousin of Gary Epstein	1/25/25
Philip Fetzer	Friend of Gary and Marsha	2/21/25

*Temple Beth El hosts its annual*

# **PASSOVER SEDER**



**Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>  
5:30 p.m.**

**Buffet Dinner & Seder  
at TBE, led by  
Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld**

**Tickets: Member adults, \$20; children \$10**

**Pre-payment guarantees reservation.**

**RSVP *Required* by Friday, April 11, 2025**

**Amber Medina: 805-478-3238**

**[amedinacasa@gmail.com](mailto:amedinacasa@gmail.com)**

**Gary Epstein: 805-929-6301**

**[gepstein@calpoly.edu](mailto:gepstein@calpoly.edu)**



**Make checks payable to:**

**Temple Beth El**

**P.O. Box 5217**

**Santa Maria, CA 93456**

# Central Coast Jewish Heritage Festival

Food | Music | Activities | Arts & Crafts

May 18, 2025



12:00-3:00pm

Mitchell Park, San Luis Obispo

Tickets & Admission  
Information



Vendor Booth  
Registration:



## A Message from Diane Borad-Mirken

Hello friends. I'm so excited to announce that Amaya, the amazing fiddler/vocalist is going to be performing for us on Sunday afternoon, April 6th at 2:30 PM. She will be accompanied by my husband, A.K.A. Julio Boysenberry on banjo. You have seen Amaya play at our July 4th picnics, but hearing her play in an indoor concert is so much better! She has played with many musical greats. In fact, when Merle Haggard heard Amaya, he asked her to be his opening act. She was only 16 years old at the time.

The admission for this concert is only \$15 if you are on the reservation list. It will be \$20 at the door if you haven't made a reservation. Just reply to this email to get your name on the reservation list or text or call me at (805) 478-1463. There will be one intermission with plenty of yummy desserts.

Our temple is located at 1501 E. Alvin in Santa Maria.

See you there!

Diane Borad-Mirken

Fundraising chair For Temple Beth El

# APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 TBE Board of Directors Meeting (7 PM)	2	3	4 Cantor Jonathan Kohan will lead Shabbat service (7 PM, potluck at 6 PM)	5 Cantor Jonathan Kohan leads the Torah discussion (3 PM)
6 Brotherhood Breakfast (9 AM)  Also: Bluegrass Concert (2:30 PM)	7	8 Sisterhood dinner at The Swiss (6 PM)	9	10	11 Josué Medrano will lead Shabbat service (7:30 PM)	12 Raúl Medina leads Shabbat service & Torah study (9:30 AM)  Also: Amber Medina leads the Etz Chaim Children's School (10 AM)
13 Rabbi Gottesfeld leads Community Passover Seder (5:30 PM)	14	15	16	17	18 Cantor Laura Lucaci will lead Shabbat service in English (7 PM, potluck at 6 PM)	19 Cantor Laura Lucaci will lead Shabbat service in Spanish (9 AM)
20	21	22	23	24	25 Diane Borad-Mirken leads Shabbat service (7:30 PM)	26 Rabbi Gottesfeld leads the Torah discussion (10:30 AM)
27	28	29	30			