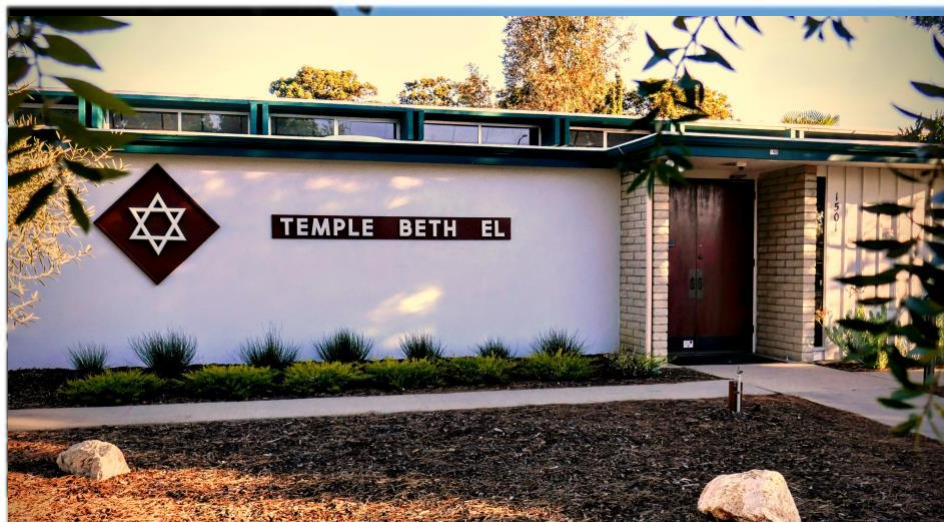


Temple Beth El

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Rabbi's Message ~ Dov Gottesfeld

Is the message of the Torah portion "Kedoshim" (Leviticus) applicable today?

Shalom To all:

Leviticus 19–20 presents a mix of moral, ceremonial, and civil laws given to ancient Israel, many of which can still offer meaningful ethical and spiritual insights today, in light of the turmoil which our society is enduring today.

Call to Holiness (Lev 19:2):

"Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy."

This overarching command encourages people today to pursue moral integrity, compassion, and justice in everyday life.

Justice and Equality (Lev 19:15):

This principle supports fair treatment in legal systems, workplaces, and communities. It's highly relevant in today's conversations around systemic bias, equity, and human rights.

Love Your Neighbor (Lev 19:18):

"Love your neighbor as yourself."

One of the most enduring moral teachings,



Dov Gottesfeld

this verse is central to many religious and ethical systems. It challenges individuals to act with empathy, forgiveness, and self-awareness.

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Respect for Parents and the Vulnerable (Lev 19:32, 19:33–34):

Respecting elders, caring for the disabled, promote dignity, compassion, and inclusion in society.

It seems to me that Leviticus 19–20 translates directly into today's modern life with its emphasis on holiness, justice, love, and community responsibility which challenges people to live with purpose, fairness, and compassion.

Are we indeed following the laws in Leviticus in our daily life?

Let us pray for Peace in Israel for Yom Ha-Atzmaut (Israel's Independence Day).

Peace and Blessings.

Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld

May 2025

May Schedule of Services:

May 2nd Diane Borad-Mirken (7:30 PM)

May 9th Diane Borad-Mirken (7:30 PM)

May 16th Rabbi Gottesfeld (7:30 PM)

May 23rd Diane Borad-Mirken (7:30 PM)

May 30th Andi & Jeff Portney (7:30 PM)

Educational Activities

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

A Message from Diane Borad-Mirken

Hello Friends. Something very exciting is coming to PCPA this July. A fantastic musical comedy called SOMETHING ROTTEN mustn't be missed! I have heard a few of the songs and they are hilarious. It is about two young men trying to become famous just as Shakespeare is rising to fame. I have 40 seats available. It's early so you have time to order tickets from me later. But remember this date.

SUNDAY JULY 20 MATINEE

Prices have risen at PCPA so I have to increase our price a little, but our price will still be \$5 to \$10 less than the box office price per ticket. I'll be getting back to you soon with more details.

Diane

(805) 478-1463

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

President's Column – Guest Columnist Anita Friedman

Hebrew Lesson:

Hebrew Lesson: Face to Face with Panim

Face has many meanings in English. Humans, animals, and many extraterrestrials have faces. Even inanimate objects can have a face, as when you place a printed page face down in the copier or climb the south face of a mountain. One can gain, lose or save face. You may take words at face value. When you turn to something and focus attention, you face it. You may face up to a situation or face down an opponent. Your double-dealing acquaintance is two-faced.

The Hebrew word for face is *panim*, a plural form that can have a singular or plural meaning. The word pair form is *p'nay* (also spelled *p'nei*). It comes from the root verb *peh-nun-hay* meaning *turn to*. Like face, *Panim* morphs in unexpected ways. The Sabbath song *Lecha Dodi* refers to *P'nay Shabbat*, usually translated as the presence of Sabbath. (Incidentally, presence is an archaic meaning of the English word face.) The priestly blessing requests God to turn his face toward those being blessed.

A related word is *lifnay*, which means in front of or before. The Hebrew prefix *l'* usually translates as *to* or *for*, as in *L'chayim* (to life). Add that prefix to *p'nay* and you get *lifnay*, or *to the face of*. So, standing to the face of someone is equivalent to standing in front of them. Notice that the only difference between a *P* sound and an *F* sound in Hebrew is the presence or absence of the center dot (dagesh) in the letter *Peh* (or *Feh*).

Biblical examples of *panim* and *lifnay* include:

“*P'nay ha-mayim*” – the *face* (or surface) of the waters (Gen 1:2)

“*tzadik l'fanai bador hazeh*” – righteous *before me* in this generation (Gen 7:1, Noah)

“*Vayikra Yaakov shem ha-makom P'niel* – ki ra-iti Elohim *panim el panim* ...” – And Jacob called the name of the place *Peniel* (*Face-of-God*) – ‘For I have seen God *face to face* ...’ (Gen 32:31)

“*V'diber HaShem el Moshe panim el panim*” – HaShem would speak to Moses *face to face*. (Exodus 33:11)

“*Vayanas Moshe mifanav*” – Moses fled *from before it*. (Ex 4:3)

“*v'asitem lifnay parah*” – and perform them [wonders] *before Pharaoh*. (Ex 4:21)

“*Panim b'panim diber HaShem imachem bahar*” – *Face to face* HaShem spoke with you on the mountain. (Deut 5:4)

Since Hebrew is full of prefixes and suffixes, you will often find *p'nay* embedded in other words. The evening prayer *Maariv aruvim* contains “*golayl or mipnay choshech v'choshech mipnay or*” often translated as “rolling light from before darkness and darkness from before light.” It can also be read as “rolling light from the *face* of darkness and darkness from the *face* of light.”

In the *Hashkivaynu* is the phrase “*V'hasayr satan mi'l'fanaynu umay'acharaynu*.” It can translate as “remove evil (or moral impediment or Satan) from *before* us and from behind us.” Since *lifnay* can mean before, both in place and in time, the quote may refer to physical location in front of and to temporal location in the future (ahead of you in time) or past (before the present).

A more modern expression is: “*Lo l'halvin panim*.” – Don't whiten a face, meaning Don't shame a person.

Panim keeps its Hebrew letters and meaning in Yiddish where it is pronounced *punim* (*u* as in *put*, emphasis on first syllable).

The next time you face a prayerbook or other Hebrew, you will recognize two more words.

Sources:

1. *The Chumash*. ArtScroll
2. *Roots: A Hebrew-English Word-List* Mordechai Kamrat and Edwin Samuel
3. Almost any Siddur
4. *Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary*
5. Roger Talbot and Martin Friedman, personal communications.

By Anita Friedman

Bulletin Briefs

May Anniversaries

23 Rae & Nathaniel McCready

May Birthdays

9 Bernice Gaon
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11 Deiter Sachs
22 Ubaldo Hernandez
22 Blanca Arroyo
24 Salvador Medrano
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28 Seymour Hersh
28 Manning Semiatin

Donations

In memory of Len Akronowitz:
Andi & Jeff Portney
Michael & Barbara Sachs
Suzanne & Ron Levy
Marsha & Gary Epstein

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

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, May 13th, 6:00 PM, at La Villa Mexican restaurant (owned by the Aguilar family). The address is 1115 W. Main St. 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, May 4th, 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

May Yahrzeits

5/1/25	Harry Berkowitz			Uncle of Gary Epstein
5/1/25	Morris Feller			Grandfather of Niki Eschen
5/2/25	Paul Friedman			Brother of Anita Friedman
5/2/25	Joe Perez			Husband of Stella Perez
5/3/25	Dan Chern*	12	Iyar	Husband of Trudy Chern
5/4/25	Terry L. Cohen Schwartz			Daughter of Edgar Cohen
5/4/25	Marion Friedman			Mother of Anita Friedman
5/5/25	Eva M. Stern			Mother of Howard Stern
5/5/25	Helen Weiser*			Mother of Sid Weiser
5/6/25	Margarita Ferrer			Sister of Ana Medrano
5/7/25	Sophie Braun	15	Iyar	Cousin of Gary Epstein
5/7/25	Chaia Sarah Lubin*			Mother of Jerry Lubin
5/8/25	Oscar Resnick*			Father of Sam Resnick
5/8/25	Thomas Geiger	10	Iyar	Longtime member of Temple Beth El
5/10/25	Bernice Becker	6	Iyar	Aunt of Marsha Epstein
5/10/25	Mary Resnick*			Mother of Sam Resnick
5/12/25	Lester Burg	23	Iyar	Father of Sam Burg
5/12/25	Rosalind Perlman*	21	Iyar	Wife of Al Perlman
5/15/25	Esther Lesser*			Mother of Sylvia Lesser
5/17/25	Marian Borad*	8	Iyar	Mother of Diane Borad Mirken
5/17/25	Mark Stone	8	Iyar	Friend of Phyllis and Barry Green
5/17/25	Barbara Simon	19	Iyar	Cousin of Seymour and Boots Hersh
5/20/25	Marilyn Epstein			Cousin of Gary Epstein
5/20/25	Rebecca Wapner	22	Iyar	Mother of Irwin Wapner
5/22/25	Shirley Sper			Mother of Corinne Bernstein
5/23/25	Mel Bilow			Father of Aaron Bilow
5/24/25	Abe Bereskin*	26	Iyar	Father of Shep Bereskin
5/24/25	Max Gollub	26	Iyar	Uncle of Myra Wapner
5/25/25	Martin Becker			Cousin of Marsha Epstein
5/25/25	Samuel Fishman*			
5/27/25	Carmen Vergara Hovey			Mother of Juan Hovey
5/28/25	Milton (Mike) Kaver*			Husband of Anne Kaver
5/30/25	Dan Davis			Partner of Hinda Beaman
5/30/25	Louis Lesser*			Father of Sylvia Lesser
5/31/25	Ruth Spivack*	6	Sivan	Mother of Niki Eschen
5/31/25	Sarah Meltzer Wilson	4	Sivan	Sister of Lori Meltzer-Sutton

Months of Mourning

Mel Kalish	Husband of Esther Kalish	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
Joyce Spezman Margolin	Friend of Diane Borad-Mirken	4/4/25
Len Akronowitz	Father of Dove Akronowitz	4/7/25

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:



Chabad

San Luis Obispo



Congregation Ohr Tzafon



JCCFEDERATION
of San Luis Obispo



Congregation

Beth David

"Holocaust Awareness: Preventing History from Repeating Itself"

Mark James Miller

**Sunday, June 1
2:00 pm**

Temple Beth El
1501 E. Alvin
Santa Maria



Mark James Miller is a novelist, teacher, and columnist. He is the author of three novels: *Red Tide* (2015), *The White Cockade* (2021), and *The Summer Soldiers* (2023), all published by Black Rose Writing of Castroville, Texas. His columns have appeared in the *Santa Maria Times*, the *Lompoc Record*, the *Santa Ynez Valley News*, and the *Hanford Sentinel*, as well as *Noozhawk*, an online news magazine based in Santa Barbara. He has been teaching English at Allan Hancock College since 1995. In 2015 he was honored as Instructor of the Year.

Mark's interest in The Holocaust dates back decades. When he discovered that several of his students at Hancock College knew little or nothing about it, he began incorporating it in his critical thinking lessons, making it his mission to educate as many people as he can so they will know the truth of this terrible event. In his presentation on June 1, he will cover how The Holocaust happened, who was responsible for making it happen, and what we can do to prevent history from repeating itself.

Please RSVP slevy93455@gmail.com or 805-934-0477

MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Diane Borad-Mirken leads Shabbat service (7:30 PM)	3 Raúl Medina leads Shabbat service & Torah study (9:30 AM) Also: Amber Medina leads the Etz Chaim Children's School (10 AM)
4 Brotherhood Breakfast (9 AM)	5	6 TBE Board of Directors Meeting (7 PM)	7	8	9 Diane Borad-Mirken leads Shabbat service (7:30 PM)	10 Raúl Medina leads Shabbat service & Torah study (9:30 AM) Also: Amber Medina leads the Etz Chaim Children's School (10 AM)
11	12	13 Sisterhood Dinner at La Villa (6 PM)	14	15	16 Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld leads Shabbat service (7:30 PM, potluck at 6 PM)	17 Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld leads the Torah discussion (10:30 AM)
18 Jewish Heritage Festival at Mitchell Park, San Luis Obispo 12:00 – 3:00 pm	19	20	21	22	23 Diane Borad-Mirken leads Shabbat service (7:30 PM)	24 Raúl Medina leads Shabbat service & Torah study (9:30 AM) Also: Amber Medina leads the Etz Chaim Children's School (10 AM)
25 Spring Membership Meeting 3:00 pm	26	27	28	29	30 Andi & Jeff Portney lead Shabbat service (7:30 PM)	31