

Temple Beth El Bulletin

VOLUME 51, No. 9
FEBRUARY 2020
SH'VAT/ADAR 5780



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

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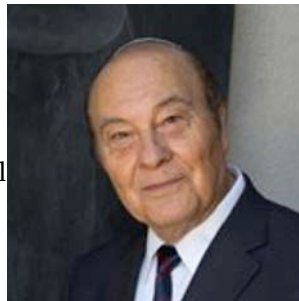
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Rabbi's Message ~ Dov Gottesfeld

There are no shortcuts in building a nation

Or as the Jewish saying goes:
"Depending on the level of care you took in making your bed, that's how comfortable you'll be sleeping on it"

Shalom to everyone:
The Torah portion of this week is called "B'Shalach", which means: "When he (Pharaoh) let the people go..." It tells the story of the exodus from the time Pharaoh let the Israelites leave Egypt, until their victory in the fight against the Amalekites. In between, the Torah portion tells about the splitting of the Red Sea – to let the Israelites cross on dry land upon hearing that Pharaoh had a change of mind, and was planning to bring them back to Egypt. It also tells about Moses striking a rock to get water out of it, instead of speaking to it – as God commanded him to do. It tells about the appearance of the manna on the ground, and the quails from the sky, to provide daily nourishment in the desert for all the Israelites



Dov Gottesfeld

for the forty years sojourn on their way to the Promised Land – the land of Milk and Honey.

The story teller doesn't tell the reader, however, why God didn't tell Moses to inform the Israelites that there was a game change, and that it would not take them two or three weeks to get to the Land of Milk and Honey, as Moses had promised them, but forty years. Instead, the story teller tells the reader in Exodus 13:17 the following:

"It came to pass when Pharaoh let the people go, that God did not lead them [by] way of the land of the Philistines for it was near, because God said, lest the people reconsider when they see war and return to Egypt."

However, in the following sentence, Exodus 13:18, the storyteller continues to tell the readers that:

"God led the people around [by] way of the desert [to] the Red Sea, and the Israelites were armed when they went up out of Egypt."

Continued on Page 2

February Schedule of Services:

Anita Friedman (February 7th)
Tu B'Shvat Seder Rabbi Gottesfeld (February 9th)
Andi & Jeff Portney (February 14th)
Rabbi Gottesfeld (February 21st)
Diane Borad-Mirken (February 28th)

Educational Activities:

Intermediate Conversational Hebrew
(Tuesdays at 6 PM)

Library is open at all congregation functions

Etz Chaim Religious School (Saturdays at 10 AM)

Continued from Page 1

The first, and foremost question should be, what were the Israelites told about their exodus from Egypt, which made them purchase weapons? And if they were not trained to use those weapons, and they knew that they might face wars, why then was that crucial point not mentioned prior to the exodus story?

Also, if God turned the Israelites around to go into the desert in order not "to see war", why shortly thereafter – in chapter 17:8-16 – did God send the Amalek to fight the Israelites? God could have easily prevented the Amalek from coming to fight if God had been worried about the Israelites returning to Egypt upon seeing war.

God, really, wasn't worried at all, I trust. The forty years (or the long road to the Land of Milk and Honey) had always been in the original plan of the Exodus. The short road ("by way of the land of the Philistines for it was near") was only a deviation in order to make a very meaningful and fundamental point in teaching the Israelites about the "right way" of building a solid and a just nation.

The lesson we can learn is that there are no shortcuts in building such a nation. A lasting nation is a result of multitude of people striving to establish such a nation by crossing space (the Sinai desert), and time (forty years – a few generations) to be eligible, and entitled to be called a nation and be recognized and respected as such by the world community.

The Jewish people proved time and time, again, through the course of history that they deserve that recognition by the world's community of nations. The only thing one has to do is look around at their achievements and contributions to the world. For centuries – after being expelled from their homeland – Jews developed, and established the art of human survival wherever they may be – whether scattered around the world or in their ancient homeland.

Shanah Ezrachit Tovah

(Happy New Civil Year).

Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld

Jaffa Café Fundraiser

Whether you dine in or take out, Jaffa Café in Santa Maria will donate 15% for all food purchased ALL DAY and EVENING, 10:30am and 8pm, on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. All you have to do is *write "TBE"* on your menu form. Jaffa Cafe will save all of TBE's receipts and donate 15% to TBE.

Jaffa prepares delicious homemade and healthy Mediterranean food - falafel, shawarma, gyros, baba ganoush, hummos, pita, tabbouleh, lentil soup, a variety of salads and vegetarian selections, baklava and more! You can see their entire menu on their website - www.jaffacafe.us

Bring your family and friends to Jaffa Cafe on Tuesday, February 11th AND every 2nd Tuesday each month!

Remember to write TBE your menu order form!

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President's Column ~ Suzanne Levy



Suzanne Levy

How do you deal with unpleasant people? Is it different if the unpleasantness happens over the phone or online? Hopefully this is something you don't have to think about, however, unfortunately, unpleasanties do occur.

Our congregation is not immune to unpleasanties. Maybe it is someone who is annoying you during services. Maybe it is an inappropriate email, or something someone said on Facebook or Twitter. How do you handle it? Most of us ignore it if we can. Some of us want to respond in anger. What do the Jewish teachings say?

The Jewish sage Ben Zoma: "Who is strong? He who subdues his personal inclination, as it is said: 'He who is slow to anger is better than a strong man, and a master of his passions is better than a conqueror of a city.'"

When we do not respond in anger, we are not encouraging other people to behave poorly; we are simply trying to respond in a way that is respectful.

So what does that actually mean? Perhaps you can tell the annoying person that their behavior is not appropriate for a temple and to please control themselves. To the person online you can say that you will not respond to that kind of behavior. If it is within an email, it is easy to simply ignore it. If the behavior becomes unmanageable, please ask a board member to assist you. Perhaps we can ask someone to leave, we can block emails and Facebook accounts, we can do something constructive without becoming the problem ourselves.

I write this because we have had a number of incidences in the past few weeks, and we want you to know that the board is aware and responding appropriately. This includes someone who has been using one of our identities to pfish for money online. If this happens to you, please don't respond without checking if the request is legitimate. Similarly, we ask that if you cannot respond in the temple in a considerate and respective manner, to not respond at all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Suzanne Levy

Bulletin Briefs

February Anniversaries

- 1 Esmeralda & Cesar Vidales
14 Abby Lassen & Michael LeCover

February Birthdays

- 12 Amber Medina
23 Vicky Burg
28 Beth Ladin

Donations

Judith Klinger
Jaffe Cafe
In memory of Joey Bilow, from Suzanne & Ron Levy
A tree was planted in Israel in memory of Lobe Elia-Reziah by the Wolf Family

SCRIP: something that is not currency but that can be used in the same way as money.

Help support your Temple by purchasing scrip as gifts. A percentage of all scrip sold goes back to the Temple (the amount varies with the retailer). It's a great "no cost" way to help our finances. Contact Michael Sachs at 928-2442 or email him at mjs1526@aol.com for further information. For a list of all the participating retailers, go to www.shopwithscrip.com <<http://www.shopwithscrip.com>> .

-Michael Sachs

74th Movie Night: The Biggest Little Farm

Saturday, February 15, 2020 at 7:00 pm.
Recommended donation of \$5 for refreshments and coffee.

The Biggest Little Farm chronicles the eight-year quest of John and Molly Chester as they trade city living for 200 acres of depleted farmland in California's Ventura County and a dream to harvest in harmony with nature. Through dogged perseverance and embracing the opportunity provided by nature's conflicts, The Chesters unlock and uncover a biodiverse design for living that exists far beyond their farm, its seasons, and our wildest imagination. Featuring breathtaking cinematography, captivating animals, and an urgent message to heed Mother Nature's call, The Biggest Little Farm provides us all a vital blueprint for better living and a healthier planet.

Brotherhood

Our January meeting was held on Sunday, February 2nd. We enjoyed our usual fabulous breakfast of lox and bagels, eggs, juice, muffins and coffee, followed by a group discussion, which focused primarily on current events, especially involving Israel.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, March 1st. We look forward to having you join us. All Jewish men (and women) are invited to attend.

Michael LeCover

Sisterhood

The Sisterhood will meet on Tuesday, February 11th, 6:00 pm, at the Jaffe Café on South Broadway. We benefit from a great meal, and on that day the restaurant gives the temple 15% of money spent. We just have to be sure to write TBE on the order form. The food is always good, the prices moderate, and the atmosphere casual where reservations are not necessary and drop-ins are encouraged.

Sisterhood dues of \$25 are payable at this time. Sisterhood provides the flowers for the bima on the High Holidays. We maintain the gift shop and make donations to the temple. Your support is appreciated.

Marsha Epstein

Exciting Fundraising Events coming to Temple Beth El

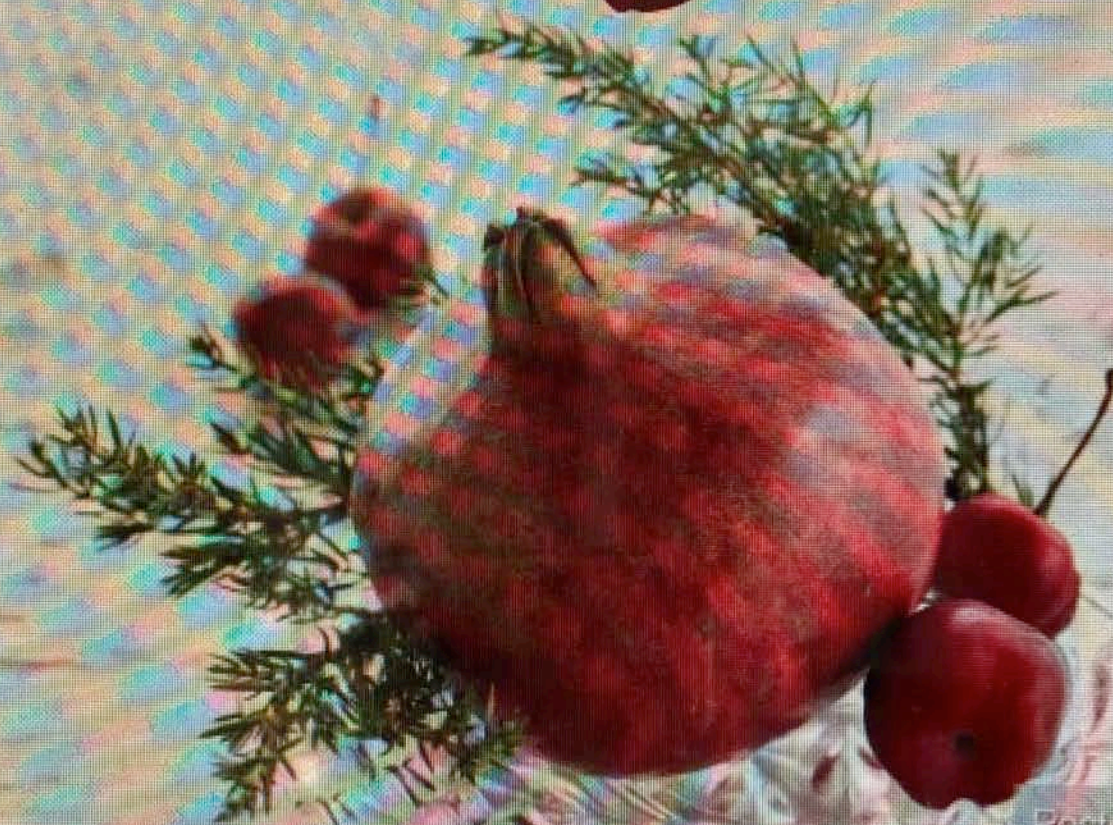
Please mark your calendars and SAVE THE DATES for the following great events. PCPA has a really good season this year and the Temple will be selling tickets for FOUR shows. Our price is the same price you would pay at the PCPA box office. First, on Sunday afternoon February 23 is Neil Simon's "Brighton Beach Memoirs". This is an autobiographical comedy about his Jewish family. Next on Sunday afternoon May 3 is the "Sound of Music", a wonderful musical for the whole family. Then the hilarious "Little Shop of Horrors" comes to PCPA and we will be selling tickets for Sunday, June 28. Last is a musical not to be missed named "Something Rotten". It is a really funny play taking place in Shakespeare's time. This play we will be seeing on Sunday, July 26. I have heard some of the music and it is SO funny! All of these will be in the Marian Theater right here in Santa Maria.

Our first concert this year will be on Sunday, November 17th at 3 PM. Barbara Wilson will be returning to Temple Beth El to put on another great show. She will be starting with "swing era Big Band music" and she will throw in some country and old standards. The second half will be audience participation and sing alongs. She is a great entertainer, having performed on Celebrity Cruise ships, Las Vegas venues, Country clubs etc. One of our members, Mike Kaver, said "She is the best entertainment you've ever brought to the temple!" If Mike said it, it MUST be true. I will be selling tickets for these fun activities as the dates get closer.

Diane Borad-Mirken, Fundraising Chair

Temple Beth El
Invites you to join our
meaningful and upllifting

Tu B'Shevat ^{ב"ח} Seder



Sunday, Feb 9, @ 5:00 pm

Potluck at 5:00 pm. Seder at 6:30 pm.

For more information contact
Gary Epstein, 805-929-6301

PosterMyWall.com

Stasty food and photo pages

NOTE: Watermark not for purchases

An Evening with Rabbi Lee T. Bycel Humanitarian, Teacher and Author

Please join Congregation Beth David for an evening with Rabbi Lee Bycel, our Scholar in Residence. Lee is the author of *Refugees in America*, *Stories of Courage*, *Resilience and Hope in their own Words*. Forward by Ismael Beah.

Each chapter of *Refugees in America* focuses on an individual from a different country. Lee Bycel weaves their lives into a rich tapestry of Human resilience, suffering, determination and hope. Their stories reveal the people at the center of the political debates about US immigration.

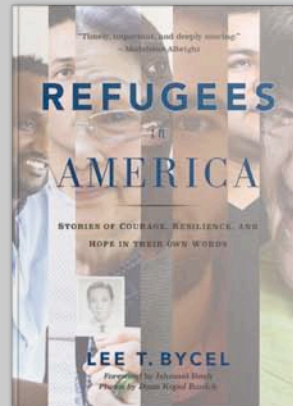
Rabbi Bycel was motivated to write this book after experiencing first hand the plight of people forced into refugee camps. He has visited camps worldwide. He will inform us on how we can engage in helping refugees.

Saturday, February 22, 2020
Havdalah, 7pm
Program, 7:30pm

Rabbi Bycel will lead a discussion based on his book *Refugees in America*, followed by a dessert reception.

**Books Will Be Available
for Sale, and Signed
by Request**

All profits from the sale of this book will be donated to two organizations dedicated to refugee resettlement work: HIAS (founded as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid society HIAS), hias.org. and International Rescue Committee (IRC) rescue.org



More about Rabbi Lee T. Bycel

Lee serves as the Sinton Visiting Professor of Holocaust, Ethics and Refugee Studies at the University of San Francisco. He has written extensively about the plight of refugees and has secured much needed funding for medical clinics in refugee camps.

**For questions and information please
contact the office 805 544-0760**

Congregation
Beth David

www.cbdslo.org 10180 Los Osos Valley Road, San Luis Obispo, Ca. 93405

February Yarzheits

2/4/20	Doug Magnon			Friend of Tom Geiger
2/6/20	Hope Howard			Friend of the community
2/9/20	Cirilo Medina	6	Shevat	Father of Raul Medina
2/9/20	Elma Traub	14	Shevat	Aunt of Ken Wolf
2/10/20	Nathan Eschen			Father of Stan Eschen
2/10/20	Harry Mintzer	16	Shevat	Uncle of Marsha Epstein
2/10/20	Nathan Weiser			Father of Sid Weiser
2/10/20	Bert Coe	15	Shevat	Father of Andrea Coe Portney
2/11/20	Eric Lee Levinson	9	Adar	Cousin of Niki Eschen
2/11/20	Norma Miller	16	Shevat	Aunt of Kenneth L. Wolf, sister of Betty J Wolf
2/14/20	Marjorie Gross			Aunt of Abby Lassen
2/15/20	Michael Gerber			Cousin of Diane Borad-Mirken
2/15/20	Beverly Jacobson			Cousin of Boots Hersh
2/16/20	Valerie Cohen	7	Adar	Daughter of Ed Cohen
2/16/20	Leo Schutz*	21	Shevat	Friend of Tom Geiger
2/16/20	Hattie Lester Schwartz*	21	Shevat	Mother of Stephen Schwartz
2/16/20	Marcia Tunick*	21	Shevat	Wife of Art Tunick
2/17/20	Elmer Vincent	22	Shevat	Uncle of Kenneth L. Wolf, Brother of Betty Wolf
2/18/20	Robert L. Cohen			Father of Edgar Cohen
2/19/20	Rosemary Allen	5	Adar	Sister-in-law of Tom Geiger
2/19/20	Mort Russell*	13	Adar	Husband of Rose Russell
2/19/20	Sam Zuckerman*	24	Shevat	Father of Anne Berkowitz
2/20/20	Sam Berkowitz*	25	Shevat	Husband of Anne Berkowitz
2/20/20	Gladys Zicherman*	20	Adar	Mother of Marsha Epstein
2/21/20	Richard Meisler			Nephew of Mike Kaver
2/25/20	Bertha Goldberg*			Mother of Susan Schwartz
2/25/20	Harold Pawlan	25	Adar	Father of Suzanne Levy
2/25/20	B. Jack Meltzer*	30	Shevat	Father of Lori Meltzer-Sutton
2/27/20	Mazel Cohen	2	Adar	
2/28/20	Marion A. Gabler*			Mother of Elliott Gabler
2/28/20	Leonard Friedman	3	Adar	Friend of Boots and Seymour Hersh
2/28/20	Harry Hayman	3	Adar	Friend of Boots & Seymour Hersh
2/28/20	Philip Schaefer	3	Adar	Cousin of Madeline Akronowitz
2/29/20	William Krupkin*	4	Adar	Husband of Dorothy Krupkin

Months of Mourning

Mel Bilow	Father of Aaron Bilow	5/23/19
Mike Kaver	Husband of Anne Kaver	5/28/19
Syd Hershfield		8/5/19
Lil Klempfner	Sister of Seymour Hersh	9/4/19
Miriam Gaon	Daughter of Bernice Gaon	10/9/19
Emily Hoffman McGinn	Historian of SLO Jewish community	12/12/19
Joanna (Joey) Bilow	Mother of Aaron Bilow	1/22/2020

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Etz Chayim school 10 AM
2 Brotherhood Breakfast (8:30 AM)	3	4 Adult Conversational Hebrew class with Joel David (6 PM) TBE Board Meeting (7 PM)	5	6	7 Anita Friedman leads Shabbat service (7:30 PM)	8 Etz Chayim school Rabbi Gottesfeld leads Torah discussion group (10 AM) 0 AM
9 Rabbi Gottesfeld leads Tu B'Shevat Seder; potluck @ 5 PM, Seder @ 6:30 PM	10	11 Adult Conversational Hebrew class with Joel David (6 PM) Sisterhood Dinner Meeting & Monthly TBE Fundraiser (6 PM)	12	13	14 Andi & Jeff Portney lead Shabbat service (7:30 PM)	15 Etz Chayim school 10 AM Movie Night 7:00 PM "The Biggest little Farm"
16	17	18 Adult Conversational Hebrew class with Joel David (6 PM)	19	20	21 Rabbi Gottesfeld leads Shabbat service (7:30 PM) Potluck at 6 PM	22 Rabbi Gottesfeld leads Torah discussion group (10 AM) Etz Chayim school (10 AM) CBD speaker Rabbi Bycel (Refugees in America) (7:30 pm)
23 PCPA: Brighton Beach Memoirs (1:30 pm)	24	25 Adult Conversational Hebrew class with Joel David (6 PM)	26	27	28 Diane Borad- Mirken leads Shabbat service (7:30 PM)	29