

Temple Beth El Bulletin

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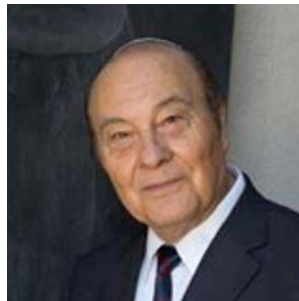
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Rabbi's Message ~ Dov Gottesfeld

THINK, AND THEN THINK AGAIN

The Torah portion "Ki Tetze" has 74 laws of the 613 laws given in the Torah. The Torah portion (Deuteronomy 21:10) begins with the words: 'Ki Tetze', which – when translated into English – could have different meanings, depending on the interpreter. For Example: "When you **go forth** to war **against** your enemies..." "When **you go** to war **against** your enemies..." "When you **go out** to war **against** your enemies..." "When **thou goest forth** to battle **against** thine enemies...". The native English speaking person might find only subtle differences among these examples. However, for those who can read the Hebrew text, those subtle differences would explain the inner struggle the translators were having in conveying in English the essence of that Hebrew sentence, which expresses the principles of what is truly behind the Jewish philosophical approaches regarding wars. In today's terms, I believe, it would be interpreted as: "The morals, ethics, and values in the rules of engagement during a time of (a specific type of a) war."



Dov Gottesfeld

The ancient rabbis thought that there were three types of war that a Jewish state should consider:

- **Obligatory wars:** these are wars that God commanded Jews to fight. They include the biblical wars against the Canaanites and against the Amalekites.
- **Defensive wars:** (These are also obligatory.) If the Jewish people are attacked, they are obliged to defend themselves. This doctrine covers pre-emptive strikes (which is when a country attacks an enemy who is about to attack it).
- **Optional wars:** These are wars undertaken for a good reason, and where no other form of "negotiation" remains possible.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/judaism/jewishethics/war.shtml>

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September Schedule of Shabbat Services:

All on Zoom at 7:30 pm:

September 4th: Josue Medrano

September 11th: Rabbi Gottesfeld

September 18th (Erev Rosh HaShanah): Rabbi Gottesfeld

September 25th (Shabbat Shuvah): Anita Friedman

Educational Activities

No educational activities are planned at this time due to COVID-19.

Continued from Page 1

The line reads:

(י) ...ע-גיבויא... (Ki-Tetze' la'milchamah al-oyveicha...). The word 'Ki' was translated by the interpreters that I came across as: 'When...'. In Hebrew, however it means: that, but, since, although, because, for, and as. Following verse 10 are a number of laws pertaining to the various interactions, and associations that must be obeyed by an Israelite captor towards his captive, especially if it is a woman. It means, that prior to embarking on a military campaign, an Israelite needed to learn these laws, and put them into his heart—in addition to learning how to use weapons, and to fight.

Most people don't really want to go to war, for an obvious reason – life is too precious. The Jewish sages also understood that war brought out the worst behavior and conduct in human beings - regardless of their religion. In war, gentleness turns into savagery. Therefore, the sages not only provided the “do, and don't” laws during war, but also the “in hindsight” – the rights that the captive must have later on, depending on the circumstances.

In light of the above, I would have translated to English 'Ki Tetze' as: “Since you are going to the war...”. For those who were reluctant, or afraid, and were too ashamed to admit it in public, the Sages completed the verse saying: “... and the Lord your God has delivered them into your hands, and you have taken them captive.” In other words, the sages wanted to assure all the Israelites that they'll come back alive.

There is one more mistranslation in verse 11 that should not be overlooked. The Hebrew word is: 'ע-גיבויא' (a' oyvecha) – which means in English: 'upon', 'on', or 'over' your enemies. Yet, all the interpreters used the English word: “against...” (..against your enemies), which is a proper way of saying it in English. However, the Hebrew translation of the English word 'against' is: 'neged', not 'al' - as the Hebrew text puts it, and it has appeared in the Bible 163 times, beginning in the book of Genesis 2:18. Why, then, didn't the English interpreters use the words, either 'upon', 'on', or 'over'? The clue is given at the end of the verse: ‘... and the Lord your God has delivered them into your hands, and you have taken them captive.’ In other words, the Israelite will not have to face the enemy and combat it. All they'll have to do is 'subdue' the enemy, and tying them down, and stand over them.

This Torah portion brought the issues of morals, ethics, and values to unify humane rules of engagement during any conflicts or wars, where human life is valued. There are also many other rules concerning other human interactions where disregard, and negligence could have caused injury or death to innocent bystanders. Judaism has always raised the banner which displays the slogan: “Choose Life.” (Deuteronomy 30:19).

Today, in that spirit, each one of us, Jews, must join forces to reduce the risk of Covid-19, and wear all the necessary protective gear to ensure safety, health, and life to all.

Blessings for good health.
Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld
September 1, 2020

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Vice President's Column – Gary Epstein



The High Holidays are this month. This year we will not observe this solemn occasion in our temple because of the Corona Pandemic. As you may know by now we are temporarily moving online. Those of you who are not equipped to participate visually online can still attend and participate audibly by ordinary telephone. The instructions for connecting audibly appear elsewhere in this Bulletin. Those who use the telephone will have to phone me ahead of time to get the ID number that Zoom assigns to each meeting. As in the past, we will be following the Gates of Repentance. You can come to the temple on Sunday, September 6th, or Sunday, September 13th, between noon and 2:00 pm to check out a copy of the Gates of Repentance. If this is not possible, please call me at (805) 929-6301 and other arrangements will be made.

Here is the High Holiday schedule:

Erev Rosh HaShanah: Friday, September 18th, at 7:00 pm
Rosh HaShanah I: Saturday, September 19th, at 10:00 am
Tashlich: Saturday, September 19th, at 4:00 pm
Rosh HaShanah II: Sunday, September 20th, at 10:00 am
Shabbat Shuva: Friday, September 25th, at 7:30 pm
Kever Avot: Sunday, September 27th, at 11:00 am
Kol Nidre: Sunday, September 27th, at 7:00 pm
Yom Kippur (morning service) Monday, September 28th, at 10:00 am
Yom Kippur (afternoon service) Monday, September 28th, at 2:45 pm

The deadline for getting your information to Marsha about the Memorial Book is September 4th. Volunteers are still welcome to participate in the services; contact Anita Friedman. We would appreciate it if you would tell us if you're planning to go with us to Tashlich.

After the High Holidays are over we have these other holidays in early October:

Building of the Sukkah: Wednesday, September 30th, at 10:00 am
Erev Sukkot: Friday, October 2nd
First Day of Sukkot: Saturday, October 3rd
Hoshanah Rabbah: Friday, October 9th
Shemini Atzeret: Saturday, October 10th
Simchat Torah: Sunday, October 11th

Let us remember how the Corona Pandemic hit us suddenly as we were preparing for our annual community Passover Seder. We canceled the Seder. As the Pandemic grew we canceled our Shavuot Seder and finally our Independence Day picnic was skipped over. In the meantime we began to hear about Zoom and noticed how people were responding to the challenge set before us all. Our temple now has its Board meetings on Zoom as well as our Shabbat services and our Torah discussions with Rabbi Gottesfeld. The Brotherhood has also switched its monthly seminars over to Zoom. And so we finally got back our stride. And in the meanwhile we moved forward and renovated the temple. And great news came to us last Friday: Escrow has closed! Now we can keep moving forward toward the completion of our landscaping, security safeguards, and a renewed parking lot. In time the Pandemic will recede in our memories where it truly belongs and we'll march forward to the future.

-Gary, VP of TBE

Etz Chayim children's religious school on Zoom

Shabbat & Havdalah

Zoom Meeting Schedule for the month of September

September 5 – Shabbat Morning Prayers 9:30 – 10:00 am

September 12 – Havdalah & Sundown Songs 7:45 pm

September 19 – Rosh HaShanah with Temple Beth El

September 26 – Havdalah & Sundown Songs 7:25 pm

Are you ordering a lot from Amazon these days? If so, there are two ways you can help the Temple to raise money. The first is to buy Amazon script from Mike Sachs. When you get the gift card (scrip), you can go into Amazon, enter the code on the back of the card, and Amazon will deduct from the card balance. The other way is to always use Smile.Amazon.com <<http://Smile.Amazon.com>> . Amazon will donate directly to TBE. To do this, go into smile.amazon.com <<http://smile.amazon.com>> . Choose "Temple Beth El Santa Maria" as your charity. Then be sure to always order through Smile. The Temple really appreciates your support.

TBE is now able to accept payments via Paypal on our website: tbesantamaria.com
<<http://tbesantamaria.com>>

When using this option, you may select "Dues" or "Donations". If you wish to pay for an event (such as the Chanukah party), please select "Donation" and be sure to add a description of what it is for in the optional comment area near the top of the payment screen on Paypal. If you have any questions about how to use Paypal, contact Suzanne Levy, slevy93455@gmail.com or 805-934-0477.

Zoom by telephone

We are conducting services on the internet with Zoom during the Pandemic. Here are the instructions for how to do it from a landline (that is, an ordinary) telephone:

1. First, you have to find out from whomever is setting up the Zoom meeting (the "host") what the code number (called the meeting ID) is for the particular meeting that you want to join. It will be a ten or eleven digit number.
2. Second, you have dial the following phone number: 1 669 990 6833
3. Third, you will hear a voice saying, "Welcome to Zoom. Enter your meeting ID followed by pound sign (#)"
4. That's all you have to do.
5. Sometimes the host of the meeting asks the invitees to mute themselves. There should be a mute button somewhere on the front of your telephone. Press it and then any unwanted background noises at your house (like barking dogs) will not be heard at the meeting.
6. When the meeting is over the host will end it and you can just hang up.
7. Note: One of our members dialed the number 669 990 6833 and got a busy signal. There are alternative phone numbers that you can use:

346 248 7799

253 215 8782

312 626 6799

646 558 8656

301 715 8592

Try it at our next Shabbat service at 7:30 pm. It's good to know that you can do this even when you're away from home. We are going to observe the High Holidays on Zoom, so this may be a way of being present.

High Holy Days 5781
All Services Virtual via Zoom
Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld

<i>Erev Rosh Hashanah</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>September 18</i>	<i>7:00 pm</i>
<i>Rosh Hashanah I</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>September 19</i>	<i>10:00 am</i>
<i>Tashlich, Avila Pier</i>			<i>4:00 pm</i>
<i>Rosh Hashanah II</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>September 20</i>	<i>10:00 am</i>
<i>Kever Avot</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>September 27</i>	<i>11:00 am</i>
<i>Santa Maria Cemetery</i>			
<i>Kol Nidre</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>September 27</i>	<i>7:00 pm</i>
<i>Yom Kippur</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>September 28</i>	<i>10:00 am</i>
<i>Afternoon Service</i>			<i>2:45 pm</i>
<i>Yizkor</i>			<i>5:00 pm</i>
<i>Ne'ileh</i>			<i>5:30 pm</i>
<i>Havdalah</i>			<i>6:30 pm</i>

Non-members: Donations accepted
Military and students welcome as our guests



A photo of the late Hinda Beaman standing in front of the Library of Celsus in Ephesus, Anatolia, Turkey. It was built between 110 and 135 AD and housed 12,000 scrolls. In ancient times it was the 3rd largest library in the world. Hinda was a member of Temple Beth El and participated in the building of the new Library in Santa Maria.

Bulletin Briefs

September Anniversaries

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September Birthdays

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17 Barbara Sachs
20 Ed Cohen
21 Sarah Gelpi Deack

Donations

A tree was planted in Israel in memory of Megan Wolf by Kenneth L. & Kristopher A. Wolf

A tree was planted in Israel in memory of Renee Coe by Suzanne & Ron Levy

A tree was planted in Israel in memory of Linda Ward by Suzanne & Ron Levy
In memory of Renee Coe by Kenneth L Wolf

In memory of Renee Coe by Marsha & Gary Epstein

In memory of Renee Coe by Paul & Mary Goldiner

In memory of Hilda Beaman by Andi & Jeff Portney

Brotherhood

The Temple Beth El Brotherhood normally meets the first Sunday of the month, which this month is September 6th. While the temple is closed due to the Corona virus, we will not meet there. However, we will continue to meet virtually using Zoom. Gary will still be sending out articles of interest to members of the group. Any responses will be emailed to the rest for comment or interest. So please let him know if you are interested in attending our Zoom meetings and he will send you an invitation.

Be well,
Michael LeCover, president
Gary Epstein, seminar planner

Sisterhood

The Temple Beth El Sisterhood normally meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Jaffa Café in Santa Maria. We will not meet as long as social distancing is in effect. The Jaffa Café is still open for takeout. If you visit on the second Tuesday, September 8th, and write TBE at the top of your order form, the temple will still get 15% of your order as a donation.

Remember that the Sisterhood runs the Temple Gift Shop. I just received some new items including Havdalah candles, beautiful Seder plates and gorgeous mezuzah cases. We also replenished our supply of tallit (including one in pink) and have some very nice kippot. We also have an ample supply of Bar and Bat Mitzvah cards, not always easy to find in Santa Maria. Although the Temple is not open, I can meet you there by appointment so let me know if you would like some of our beautiful items.

Hope we will meet again before long.

Marsha Epstein

September Yarzheits

9/1/20	Josephine Gollub	12	Elul	Aunt of Myra Wapner
9/2/20	Benjamin Bakst	19	Elul	Cousin of Gary Epstein
9/2/20	Anne Price			Mother of Edgar Cohen
9/3/20	Sidney I. Ladin			Father of Beth Ladin
9/3/20	Abraham Hersh Lubin*			Father of Jerry Lubin
9/4/20	Betty Fetzner			Friend of Gary & Marsha Epstein
9/4/20	Lil Klempfner			Sister of Seymour Hersh
9/4/20	Rose Botwinik	15	Elul	Grandmother of Yael Gott
9/5/20	Joseph Spivack			Grandfather of Niki Eschen
9/6/20	Anna Stahl*			Mother of Sid Stahl
9/7/20	Joseph Ben-Moshe			Father of Ilana David
9/7/20	Jack E. Portney	18	Elul	Father of Jeff Portney
9/8/20	Adelyn (Addy) Raich	19	Elul	Wife of Rabbi Abraham Raich
9/10/20	Raye Linden*			Wife of Sidney Linden
9/10/20	Norman Rosen	21	Elul	Cousin of Boots Hersh
9/12/20	Emil Schafer			Cousin of Gary Epstein
9/13/20	Leonard Gaon			Husband of Bernice Gaon
9/15/20	Daniel Eli Stone	26	Elul	Grandson of Rita and Arnold Stone
9/19/20	Charlie Drucker			Stepfather of Diane Borad-Mirken
9/19/20	Ellis Kram			Father of Marilyn Friedman
9/19/20	Louise Nemerson*	18	Elul	Daughter of Annette & Arthur Silverfarb
9/19/20	Shadi Olevi Nourani*	1	Tishri	Mother of Dan Nourani*
9/25/20	Hy Spivack*	21	Elul	Father of Niki Eschen
9/25/20	Marcella Steinberg Downum	5	Tishri	Wife of Alvin Steinberg, Mother of Mindy
9/26/20	Muriel Levy			Mother of Ron Levy
9/26/20	Kurt Sondermann	18	Tishri	Great-cousin of Ken Wolf
9/28/20	Martin Friedman	20	Tishri	Father of Anita Friedman
9/30/20	M.J. Salle	12	Tishri	Great Uncle of Jeff Portney

Months of Mourning

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
Ilene J. Klass	Mother of Linda and Karen Goldstien	4/15/2020
Hinda Beaman	Member of TBE	6/7/2020
Adam Hill	SLO County Supervisor	8/6/2020
Megan Wolf	Niece of Ken Wolf	8/13/2020
Renee Coe	Mother of Andi Portney	8/22/20
Ulysses Ferrer	Cousin of Josue Medrano	8/19/20

Calendar for September

Tuesday, September 1: Temple Board meeting (7:00 pm) (on Zoom)

Wednesday, September 2:

Thursday, September 3:

Friday, September 4: Shabbat service led by Josue Medrano (7:30 pm) (on Zoom)

Saturday, September 5: Etz Chayim Shabbat Morning Prayers (9:30 – 10:00 am) (on Zoom)

Sunday, September 6: Brotherhood Seminar (10:00 am) (on Zoom)

Monday, September 7:

Tuesday, September 8:

Wednesday, September 9:

Thursday, September 10:

Friday, September 11: Shabbat service led by Rabbi Gottesfeld (7:30 pm) (on Zoom)

Saturday, September 12: Torah discussion led by Rabbi Gottesfeld (10:00 am) (on Zoom)

also: Etz Chayim Havdalah & Sundown Songs (7:45 pm) (on Zoom)

Sunday, September 13:

Monday, September 14:

Tuesday, September 15:

Wednesday, September 16:

Thursday, September 17:

Friday, September 18: Erev Rosh HaShanah (7:00 pm) (on Zoom)

Saturday, September 19: Rosh HaShanah I (10:00 am) (on Zoom)

also: Rosh HaShanah with Temple Beth El (on Zoom)

Also: Tashlich at Avila Pier (4:00 pm) (real life)

Sunday, September 20: Rosh HaShanah II (10:00 am) (on Zoom)

Monday, September 21:

Tuesday, September 22:

Wednesday, September 23:

Thursday, September 24:

Friday, September 25: Shabbat Shuvah service led by Anita Friedman (7:30 pm) (on Zoom)

Saturday, September 26: Etz Chayim Havdalah & Sundown Songs (7:25 pm) (on Zoom)

Sunday, September 27: Kever Avot at Santa Maria Cemetery (11:00 am) (real life)

also: Kol Nidre (7:00 pm)

Monday, September 28: Yom Kippur (morning at 10:00 am; afternoon at 2:45 pm) (on Zoom)

Tuesday, September 29:

Wednesday, September 30: Building of the Sukkah (10:00 am) (real life)