

Temple Beth El Bulletin

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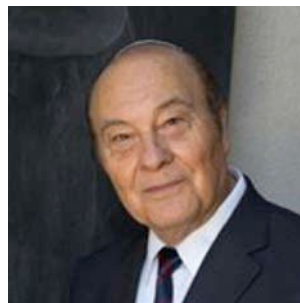
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Rabbi's Message ~ Dov Gottesfeld

Shalom To all:

On July 4th, three days from today we are going to celebrate here in our country The United States of America our independence day. On that Saturday, Jews are going to read the Torah portion "Hukat"-(the commandment of) the Red Heifer. The Torah portion describes the mystical ritual of the Red Heifer where an individual who has been defiled by contact with a dead body can be purified by being sprinkled with the ashes of a red heifer that was mixed with spring water. It may sound irrational, and it is irrational for rational people today. But being a commandment from God "made it rational" for the sake of the unification and amalgamation of the Israelite nation.

I believe that those citizens who were born in the United States, and those who immigrated to this country, and became naturalized citizens – and seriously read and reflected on the Constitution of the United States, came across articles that in their opinion may have not been "rational" for today's modern civil life. However, being an integral part of the



Dov Gottesfeld

Constitution obliged them to follow, or obey them for the sake of this country, which has been described as "a melting pot."

I believe in synchronicity. Therefore, I see the combination of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the Civil Rights demonstrations as "Rational" events that were synchronized by a "mystical power" for the given date of July 4th. Let me explain. The Covid-19 pandemic is mandating us to stay home on the 4th of July, and celebrate indoors, instead of celebrating it, as we've done in all the past years – outdoors. Perhaps this "irrational" situation will make us take another look at the Declaration of Independence and meditate on it:

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new

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July Schedule of Services:

Sunday, July 5: Brotherhood Virtual Seminar on Zoom (10 am)
Friday, July 10: Virtual Shabbat service led by Rabbi Gottesfeld on Zoom (7:30 pm)
Saturday, July 11: Torah discussion group led by Rabbi Gottesfeld on Zoom (10 am)

Educational Activities:

No activities scheduled until further notice due to COVID-19.

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Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

Shabbat Shalom and have a happy 4th.

Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld

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.

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Vice President's Column – Gary Epstein

Dear Members of TBE,



These past twelve months have been extraordinary. The tragic Pittsburgh and Poway synagogue shootings have caused our temple to search for ways to protect our congregation from violent intruders. So far we have installed surveillance cameras and applied for funding grants for further protection. (There may be more news about this in the August Bulletin.) Besides violent intruders, the TBE Board has been concerning itself with other intruders. I'm talking about viral intruders, namely the Coronavirus which causes the disease COVID-19. On March 4, 2020, the Governor of California proclaimed that a State of Emergency exists in California as a result of the threat of COVID-19. On March 13 we had our last in-house Shabbat service. It wasn't until June 26 that we had another Shabbat service which was on the internet via ZOOM. What does this notorious virus portend for our congregation? Before getting into the troubling details, here is a bit of good news: The government Stay-at-Home directive gave us an opportunity to carry out a planned renovation project on the temple building. We replaced the old carpet and the underlying asbestos tile with a new carpet and we painted the inside spaces. Our thanks go to Ken Wolf and Sid Goldstien, our co-directors of Buildings & Grounds, who oversaw the project. Also, for moving the furniture back we are grateful to TBE members Amber Medina, Virginia Burnes, Jeff Portney, David Goldstien, and to Redeemer Presbyterian Church members Keith Mougeotte, Nelson de Guia, and Issa Thompson.

Now to the dreaded virus. This is a new virus that humanity has never known before. As the scientists and health professionals struggle against it they are beginning to learn more and more about it.

First of all, it is a respiratory virus that passes from person to person inside of microscopic droplets of water which come from an infected person who sneezes, coughs, talks, sings, or even when he simply exhales his breath. The microscopic droplets of water carry the virus into your lungs. Once there, the effects can range from mild to serious. The most serious effect can be pneumonia which might cause the person to suffocate to death in a matter of days. The virus can also pass from the lungs to the blood stream and damage other organs like the heart, the kidneys, the liver, and even neurological impairment. Those who recover from COVID-19 might yet suffer from this damage in the long term.

How do we protect ourselves? When you go out to public spaces practice social distancing yourself from others by at least six feet and wear a facemask. People mistakenly believe that the main function of their facemask is to protect themselves. It turns out that that is not exactly true. While you do get some protection with your facemask, its main function is that it protects the other people from you. How can that be explained? Suppose it is the other person who is the one who is spreading viruses when he sneezes. His facemask is stopping a fraction of those viruses. Then your facemask protects you from the remaining fraction of his viruses that manage to get through his mask. When the average infected person infects more than one susceptible person then we get a chain reaction and the disease embarks on exponential growth. Think of this as analogous to a runaway nuclear reactor. We can slow down the reactor with modulation rods which take many of the burgeoning fast neutrons out of play. The mask and distancing rule take many of the viruses out of reach of susceptible people, in other words: out of play.

Now the surprise: Researchers have discovered that sometimes people can be infected with COVID-19 without experiencing any symptoms. Then they can infect you with the virus even without knowing that they were infected themselves. In some cases the symptoms will come to them a few days later but by then it's too late for you if you have already caught the disease. In other cases they never feel symptoms (called asymptomatic) and they go ahead unknowingly spreading the infection to others. And the same applies to you: You might be the infected one and not know it. So what does all this mean? It means that we and others should act like we're interdependent. That means we all have to be courteous to one another by wearing facemasks when we're closer to one another than six feet.

Now the temple is a closed space and so we must wear facemasks and keep six feet away from others. The facemasks are uncomfortable. But sitting around the Oneg table and crowding around the kiddish and motzi blessings and yes loading up our plates with desserts – these violate the six foot rule. Some people really look forward to these social gatherings. When the Pandemic is over we will really have something to celebrate. So the challenge that we face is to persevere as best we can while taking every measure to keep our people safe.

-Gary Epstein, VP of TBE

Bulletin Briefs

July Anniversaries

- 2 Olivia Romero
- 3 Suzanne & Ron Levy
- 8 Vicky & Sam Burg
- 17 Guillermo & Maria Aguilar

July Birthdays

- 14 Daniel Akronowitz
- 15 Karen Goldstien
- 26 Robert Juarez
- 24 Philip Epstein
- 26 Jayden Vidales
- 28 Seymour Hersh

Donations:

In memory of Ilene Klass Kline by Andi and Jeff Portney
Mourris Taubman
Diane Borad Mirken
Nakiah Burnes

Brotherhood

The Temple Beth El Brotherhood normally meets the first Sunday of the month, which is July 5th. While the temple is closed due to the Corona virus, we will not meet there. However, we will meet virtually using Zoom. I 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 me know if you are interested in attending our Zoom meetings. We tried it out at our last meeting and it worked! So let me know if you want to be included and I will send you an invitation.

Be well,

Gary Epstein

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, June 9th, and write TBE at the top of your order form, the temple will still get 15% of your order as a donation.

Hope we will meet again before long.

Marsha Epstein

Dear members and friends of Temple Beth El,

This year has been difficult for everyone. We are facing challenges as people and as a community that we never imagined we would have to face. As the chairperson in charge of fundraising for Temple Beth El, I felt the need to write this letter. Our fundraising events that had been planned for this year sadly have been canceled. We were only able to have one PCPA theater event. Brighton Beach Memoirs was charming and funny. However, Sound of Music, Little Shop of Horrors, and Something Rotten were all canceled. I personally thought this season at PCPA was the best ever, which is why I scheduled FOUR shows for the first time.

In addition, we had Amaya Rose's 21st birthday concert scheduled for early April. Amaya, the amazing fiddler/vocalist who has played with top names in country and bluegrass, was also set to play at our July 4th picnic. That, too, has unfortunately, been canceled.

These fundraising events help keep Temple Beth El afloat. We will be losing between \$2500-\$3500 dollars because of these cancellations. We welcome any donation you might make to help us end our year "in the black". Checks to Temple Beth El should be sent to P.O. Box 5217, Santa Maria, CA 93456

Please stay healthy. Know that as soon as possible, we will be gathering together again for concerts, picnics, and theater parties.

Diane Borad-Mirken, Fundraising Chair

July Yarzheits

7/1/20	Michael LeVine	11	Tammuz	Cousin of Gary Epstein
7/3/20	Rose Landau			Grandmother of Diane Borad-Mirken
7/3/20	Alisa David	11	Tammuz	Mother of Joel David
7/4/20	Macey Levy	12	Tammuz	Father of Ron Levy
7/6/20	Meyer Rosen	14	Tammuz	Father of Boots Hersh
7/9/20	Leon Gerris			Uncle of Bernice Gaon
7/10/20	Alex Cohen	18	Tammuz	Husband of Monique Cohen
7/11/20	Bella Hirshfield			Grandmother of Donna Eschen
7/11/20	David Klempfner			Nephew of Boots & Seymour Hersh
7/11/20	Shirley Ratner	8	Tammuz	Cousin of Marsha Epstein
7/11/20	Paul Super			Nephew of Mike Kaver
7/12/20	John Kleckner*			Father of Barbara Sachs
7/12/20	Marilyn Auerbach	20	Tammuz	Cousin of Madelyn Akronowitz
7/13/20	Anne Klinger	21	Tammuz	Mother of Judith Klinger
7/16/20	Doris Schaefer	24	Tammuz	Cousin of Madeline Akronowitz
7/17/20	Nancy Evans*			Wife of Ben Evans, Mother of Allan Evans
7/17/20	Robert Paul Stephey	21	Tammuz	Son of Marjorie Schwartz
7/17/20	Ann Morrison Targer*	25	Tammuz	Mother of Tom Targer
7/19/20	Marilyn Friedman	13	Tammuz	Wife of Col. Joseph Friedman
7/19/20	Sarah Kaver	27	Tammuz	Mother of Mike Kaver
7/20/20	David Buder*			Father of Madeline Akronowitz
7/20/20	Asbury Evans*			Father of Ben Evans
7/21/20	Carmen Prats-Leaf*			Daughter of Luis and Sarah Prats
7/21/20	Bernard Howard	29	Tammuz	Friend of Tom Geiger
7/23/20	Hesta Meltzer			Mother of Jack Meltzer
7/23/20	Kathleen Searles			Friend/sister of Diane Borad-Mirken
7/25/20	Leon Roseman*			Husband of Edith Roseman
7/25/20	Ellen Rosenblitt			Sister of Herb Pregozen
7/26/20	Maurice J. Bernstein*	5	Av	Husband of Corinne Bernstein
7/30/20	Vicki Irgang	9	Av	Cousin of Len Akronowitz
7/31/20	Esther Spivack			Grandmother of Niki Eschen

Months of Mourning

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
Ilene Klass Kline	Mother of Linda and Karen Goldstien	4/15/2020

Calendar for July:

Wednesday, July 1:

Thursday, July 2:

Friday, July 3: No Shabbat service

Saturday, July 4: Etz Chaym class (10 am on Facebook)

Sunday, July 5: Brotherhood Virtual Seminar on Zoom (10:00 am)

Monday, July 6:

Tuesday, July 7: Virtual Board Meeting on Zoom (7:00 pm)

also: Conversational Hebrew class (6 pm on Zoom)

Wednesday, July 8:

Thursday, July 9:

Friday, July 10: Virtual Shabbat service led by Rabbi Gottesfeld on Zoom (7:30 pm)

Saturday, July 11: Torah discussion group led by Rabbi Gottesfeld on Zoom (10:00 am)

Also: Etz Chaym class (10 am on Facebook)

Sunday, July 12:

Monday, July 13:

Tuesday, July 14: Conversational Hebrew class (6 pm on Zoom)

Wednesday, July 15:

Thursday, July 16:

Friday, July 17: No Shabbat service

Saturday, July 18: Etz Chaym class (10 am on Facebook)

Sunday, July 19:

Monday, July 20:

Tuesday, July 21: Conversational Hebrew class (6 pm on Zoom)

Wednesday, July 22:

Thursday, July 23:

Friday, July 24: No Shabbat service

Saturday, July 25: Etz Chaym class (10 am on Facebook)

Sunday, July 26:

Monday, July 27:

Tuesday, July 28: Conversational Hebrew class (6 pm on Zoom)

Wednesday, July 29:

Thursday, July 30:

Friday, July 31: No Shabbat service