

# Temple Beth El Bulletin

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## Rabbi's Message ~ Dov Gottesfeld

Shalom to all:

Last week's Torah portion is called Mishpatim. It is the plural form of the Hebrew noun Mishpat (משפט), which means - law, justice; trial, case, suit; verdict, sentence, and judgment.

Among the Mishpatim we find the following: "And a stranger ("Ger") you shall not oppress; for you know the heart of a stranger, because you were strangers in the land of Egypt." (**Exodus 23:9**).

Reading about the difficulty the Israeli government has had in solving the dilemma regarding what to do about the African refugee seekers from Sudan and Eritrea, who illegally crossed into Israel, and the discriminating treatment that these refugees experienced from many Israelis, only confirms that the concept of "Mishpat" above is not being practiced today by many Israelis.

Similarly, there is another group of African people in Israel who are also experiencing similar discriminating treatments.



**Dov Gottesfeld**

The difference is that they are Ethiopian Jews who were brought to Israel in a mass migration by the Israeli government in 1984, and in 1991.

Recently in Tel Aviv thousands of demonstrators came out to protest police violence against Israelis of Ethiopian descent. Several protesters clashed with police at the end of the event.\*

One Ethiopian protester said: "Our goal is to have our voices heard, we don't want problems. There is an entire generation born here who doesn't know what Ethiopia is but we're labeled as Ethiopians because of our skin color. We see acts of violence towards Ethiopian Jews on a daily basis, but the murder of Yehuda by a policeman is the last straw. We just want to show that we will not stand for it anymore."

"It is not the first time that Israeli officials have been accused of racism against Ethiopians. Many activists have noted that one of the reasons the government has potentially not acted to bring the remaining Jews of Ethiopia to Israel is a combination of racism and finances."\*\*

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### February Schedule of Services:

Anita Friedman (February 1st)  
Andi Portney (February 8th)  
Rabbi Gottesfeld (February 15th)  
Diane Borad-Mirken (February 22nd)

### 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

Unfortunately, that scenario sounds and looks too familiar to us, because it is right in our own backyard here in the U.S. As a "Forensic" Rabbi", (a title I conjured for myself), I decided to look deeply into the fundamentals of the human rejection of either of the Stranger (Ger), or the Jewish Ethiopians which were bought back to Israel.

Believing that the universe is structured much like the layers of an onion where each layer functions similarly - from the smallest particle to the largest mass, but in its own exclusive and unique way - I turned to look into our human physiological body. I wanted to understand why the human body often rejects organ transplants, and what has been done by the medical and scientific experts to stop that rejection. I trust that my findings will put me on the right track, which will lead me to "translate" them into ethical, moral, and compassionate elements which will suppress their rejection of those "unwelcomed human beings".

### Transplant Rejection and Treatment in Bullet Points:

A. "Transplant rejection is a process in which a transplant recipient's **immune system** attacks the transplanted organ or tissue to protect it from substances that may be harmful, such as germs, poisons, and sometimes, cancer cells.

B. These harmful substances have proteins called **antigens** <<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002224.htm>> coating their surfaces. As soon as these antigens enter the body, the immune system recognizes that they are not from that person's body and that they are "foreign" and attacks them.

C. Doctors use **medicines to suppress the recipient's immune system**. The goal is to prevent the immune system from attacking the newly transplanted organ when the organ is not closely matched. If these medicines are not used, the body will almost always launch an immune response and destroy the foreign tissue.

D Symptoms: Taking those "miracle medicines" may cause various types of reactions - positive ones, and negative ones. Stubborn ego may play a big role in that.

E Treatment: A person should not give up, but increase his/her learning and experimenting in order to overcome his/her negative inclinations.

F Outlook (prognosis): Keeping eyes on the goal require a life-long commitment of constant learning. The goal is quite simple: Be a part of the family of Man, and where you can't find a decent human being, you be the decent human being, and teach others to be likewise.

Like the body's natural inclination is to reject a foreign implant at first, with the help from medicine the body will often accept it. Likewise, men should not reject those different than themselves.

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# President's Column ~ Suzanne Levy



**Suzanne Levy**

I am wondering what if I was to do a survey of who we all volunteer for outside the Temple, what the results would be. I expect it to be amazing. I already know we volunteer at the homeless shelter, food bank, hospital, hospice, and other wonderful, worthwhile organizations. If I were to turn the volunteer hours at the Temple alone into dollars, it would probably be more money than our dues bring in. There are two concepts that are central to Judaism, "tzedakah" and "tikkum olam", "charity" and "healing the world." We are grateful for all you have done, all you are doing, and all you will do to help the Temple and our community.

With that in mind, there are two specific events I'd like to mention. The local hospice is looking for volunteers. There are three days of training. If you'd like more information please contact me and I will forward the email to you. There is also an organization called Serve Santa Maria, which twice a year does projects within our community such as cleaning graffiti, repairing structures, and clearing landscape. In fact, they will be helping Temple Beth El on Saturday, May 4, to clear away the ivy and juniper in front of the building. You can help that day with the yard work or by providing refreshments for the 40-50 people we expect to be working. I'll give you more information when the date gets closer.

For those of you who are able, continue your acts of charity and healing. For those of you who have served for many years, we thank you. You are all really appreciated.

Suzanne

## **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. This month the fundraiser is on February 12th. 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](http://www.jaffacafe.us)

Bring your family and friends to Jaffa Cafe on Tuesday, January 8th AND every 2nd Tuesday each month!

Remember to write TBE your menu order form!

See you on February 12th!

# 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

From Bernice Gaon for a capital project TBD  
From Jaffa Café (second Tuesdays TBE benefit)  
From Mr and Mrs Roger Flocken  
From Frank Young and Anita Friedman  
For the TBE Saturday School from Diane Borad-Mirken  
In honor of Gary Epstein and Anita Friedman from Diane Borad-Mirken  
In memory of Rita Portney by Suzanne and Ron Levy  
From Myra Wapner  
From Seymour and Boots Hersh

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In the Torah, Leviticus: 25:35 admonishes man "And if your brother has become poor and his means fail with you, then you shall relieve him, though he may be a stranger, or a sojourner, that he may live with you".

Remember: "How good and pleasant it is to dwell together in unity.

Kol Tuv.  
Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld

## Content was redacted by Rabbi D.G.

\* <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-israelis-of-ethiopian-origin-plan-tel-aviv-protest-against-police-1.6892694>  
<<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-israelis-of-ethiopian-origin-plan-tel-aviv-protest-against-police-1.6892694>>  
\*\*<https://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Ethiopian-protest-in-Tel-Aviv-the-police-depicts-us-as-terrorists-579162>  
\*\*\*<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000815.htm>  
<<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000815.htm>> )

## Brotherhood

The TBE Brotherhood met on Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8:30am, at the temple. We enjoyed our usual fabulous breakfast of lox and bagels, eggs, juice, muffins and coffee followed by great conversation, which focuses primarily on current events, especially involving Israel. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. We look forward to having you join us. All Jewish men (and women) are invited to attend.

Michael LeCover

## Sisterhood

Our February meeting will take place on Tuesday February 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm, at the Jaffa Café on South Broadway. Now that this favorite restaurant also supports our temple (see the article about the Jaffa Café) we will be meeting here frequently. The food is always good, the prices moderate, and the atmosphere casual where reservations are not necessary and drop-ins are encouraged. Bring your friends. See you there.

Marsha Epstein

## TBE Fundraisers

Here are 4 ways you can support Temple Beth El simply by shopping or eating!

1. Jaffa Café in Santa Maria is donating 15% for all food purchased all day and evening, 10:30am to 8pm, on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. You can dine in or take out. Either way, TBE benefits! 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.
2. Buy Scrip (gift cards) from Mike Sachs to be used in local businesses and restaurants. The Temple receives up to 5% from these gift cards.
3. If you shop on Amazon, sign up to support Temple Beth El Santa Maria at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) (under Accounts & Lists go to Your AmazonSmile). The Temple gets 1/2% of every dollar you spend. Double dip and use Amazon Scrip as well!
4. Purchase a Tree in Israel in memory or honor of a loved one. Trees are \$18.00. Temple Beth El makes money from each tree purchased. Contact Suzanne Levy to buy a tree or for more information.



## Movie Night

Our 73rd movie is entitled, "Isle of Dogs." It will be shown at the temple on Saturday, February 23rd, at 7:30 pm. A delightful movie about what in serious life is most troubling in today's world: Deportation of some denizens from the community to exile and likely genocide. This movie, which I believe can be taken as a metaphor, takes place in the future. And – as the title suggests – the exiles consist of all the human community's dogs, from household pets to strays. The ostensible reason for this exile is some kind of unknown disease that was spreading among the dogs. The human and canine communities are depicted differently; the dogs speak perfect English and have wonderful personalities while the humans speak in some other language that we can't quite understand. Adult viewers love the dogs. One reviewer wrote that this movie "is immensely touching and fun. Yet beneath the film's whimsical surface it is not hard to detect some serious points being made about fear mongering and scape-goating that are all too timely." Another reviewer wrote, "You will thrill to the extraordinary stop-motion animation which not only makes sure each strand of fur seems tactile but lets you see the soul behind its canine characters' eyes. You may shudder at the way the movie portrays a futuristic dystopia in which, thanks to a "snout fever" epidemic, all dogs living in a fictional Japanese metropolis are banished to a broken-down quarantine area known as 'Trash Island.' And you'll chuckle at how well chosen the celebrity voices are."

The movie is 101 minutes long. Recommended donation is \$5. There will be refreshments.

## TBE Safety and Security

The temple's security committee and board have had a number of meetings since the incident in Pittsburgh last October regarding the safety and security of the temple. We have also been meeting with the Santa Maria Police Department. One of the areas that we have identified that needs to be addressed is community awareness. For example, do you know where the fire extinguishers are at the temple? To help us all, starting next month Frank Young will be writing a monthly column to make all of us more aware of security and safety at Temple Beth El.



**Tu B'Shevat Seder at the temple organized by the Etz Chayim community of Temple Beth El on January 26<sup>th</sup>.**



**February 5th: Naming ceremony and celebration of Henry and Virginia Burnes' new son, Tzouri.**

## February Yarzheits

2/4/19	Doug Magnon			Friend of Tom Geiger
2/5/19	B. Jack Meltzer*	30	Shevat	Father of Lori Meltzer-Sutton
2/8/19	Leonard Friedman	3	Adar	Friend of Boots & Seymour Hersh
2/8/19	Harry Hayman	3	Adar	Friend of Boots & Seymour Hersh
2/8/19	Philip Schaefer	3	Adar	Cousin of Madeline Akronowitz
2/9/19	Cirilo Medina	6	Shevat	Father of Raul Medina
2/9/19	William Krupkin*	4	Adar	Husband of Dorothy Krupkin
2/10/19	Nathan Eschen			Father of Stan Eschen
2/10/19	Harry Mintzer	16	Shevat	Uncle of Marsha Epstein
2/10/19	Nathan Weiser			Father of Sid Weiser
2/10/19	Sadie Gollub	5	Adar	Aunt of Myra Wapner
2/10/19	L. Walter Herscovitz	5	Adar	Grandfather of Lori Meltzer-Sutton
2/11/19	Eric Lee Levinson	9	Adar	Cousin of Niki Eschen
2/11/19	Edith Zuckerman Cohen*	6	Adar	Mother of Anne Berkowitz
2/14/19	Marjorie Gross			Aunt of Abby Lassen
2/15/19	Beverly Jacobson			Cousin of Boots Hersh
2/16/19	Valerie Cohen	7	Adar	Daughter of Ed Cohen
2/16/19	Ruth Friedman	11	Adar	Mother of Arnold Stone
2/17/19	Trudy Chern*	12	Adar	Sister of Dan Davis
2/18/19	Robert L. Cohen			Father of Edgar Cohen
2/18/19	Betty Stein	13	Adar	Mother of Michael Sachs
2/18/19	Irving Struminger	13	Adar	Father of Corinne Bernstein
2/19/19	Rosemary Allen	5	Adar	Sister-in-law of Tom Geiger
2/19/19	Mort Russell*	13	Adar	Husband of Rose Russell
2/20/19	Gladys Zicherman*	20	Adar	Mother of Marsha Epstein
2/21/19	Richard Meisler			Nephew of Mike Kaver
2/22/19	Al Perlman*	17	Adar	Husband of Rosalind Perlman
2/23/19	Leah Akronowitz	18	Adar	Aunt of Len Akronowitz
2/24/19	Tibbie Meyer	19	Adar	Mother of Barry & Richard, Sister of Harry Kaplan
2/24/19	Steven Stone*	19	Adar	Son of Rita and Arnold Stone
2/25/19	Bertha Goldberg*			Mother of Susan Schwartz
2/25/19	Harold Pawlan	25	Adar	Father of Suzanne Levy
2/25/19	Elizabeth Friedman	20	Adar	Aunt of Arnold Stone
2/27/19	Sion Nasser Nourani*	22	Adar	Brother of Dan Nourani*
2/28/19	Marion A. Gabler*			Mother of Elliott Gabler

## Months of Mourning

Marsha Miliman	Sister of Yael Gott	4/4/18
Hank Schiff	Husband of Shirley Schiff	6/20/18
Vivian Trexler	Cousin of Frank Young	
Norman Stone	Friend of Marsha Epstein	8/1/18
Thelma Cary	Friend of Marsha & Gary Epstein	9/2/18
Melissa Marshall	Sister of Frank Young	10/5/18
Jack Greenberg	Former member of Temple Beth El	11/4/18
Rita Portney	Mother of Jeff Portney	12/6/18
Sophie Fishman	Friend of Marsha & Gary Epstein	12/6/18

# FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Anita Friedman leads Shabbat services (7:30 PM)	2 Etz Chayim school 10 AM
3 Brotherhood Breakfast & seminar 8:30 AM)	4	5 Adult Conversational Hebrew class with Joel David (6 PM) Baby Naming (4:30 – 6 pm) Temple Board meeting (7 PM)	6	7	8 Andi Portney leads Shabbat services (7:30 PM)	9 Etz Chayim school 10 AM
10	11	12 Adult Conversational Hebrew class with Joel David (6 PM) Sisterhood dinner meeting @ Jaffa Café (6 PM)	13	14	15 Rabbi Gottesfeld leads Shabbat services (7:30 PM)	16 Etz Chayim school 10 AM Rabbi Gottesfeld leads Torah discussion group (10 AM)
17	18	19 Adult Conversational Hebrew class with Joel David (6 PM)	20	21	22 Diane Borad- Mirken leads Shabbat services (7:30 pm)	23 Etz Chayim school 10 AM Movie Night ("Isle of Dogs") (7:30 PM)
24	25	26 Adult Conversational Hebrew class with Joel David (6 PM)	27	28		