

Temple Beth El Bulletin

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Phone:
(805) 928-2118
Email: TempleBethEl@verizon.net

Website:
<http://www.TBESantamaria.com>
The Bulletin is emailed for free to Members and Friends of TBE.

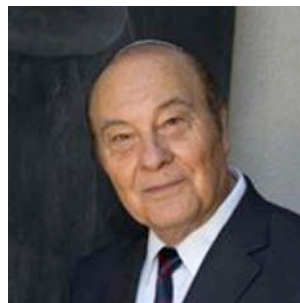
Street address: 1501 E. Alvin Ave., Santa Maria, CA 93454
Mailing address: P.O. Box 5217, Santa Maria, CA 93456

Rabbi's Message ~ Dov Gottesfeld

GRATEFUL FOR BEING CHOSEN

I would like to suggest that on this coming Thanksgiving Day human beings should be grateful for something they've probably never been specifically grateful for before – grateful for being chosen to be born on the planet earth. The belief – that whoever was born on earth was chosen to be born - has been lurking for centuries, primarily by the numerous religions. It was a belief based on superstition. However, that belief was endorsed in the last few years as true – scientifically. You'll find one of quite a few published scientific articles in the following link:

(<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-5092821/Fussy-eggs-choose-sperms-best-genes.html>)



Dov Gottesfeld

What a great honor and privilege it is for every human being to be born on planet earth. Therefore, let's be grateful on this coming Thanksgiving that we humans were chosen to experience the incredible phenomenon of existence, and the sensations of the sublime awareness that we are here and now in body and soul in the physical universe – even for the short duration of time and space that our bodies will occupy and endure in the cosmic elements.



Let's be grateful that we were born on a planet situated in a friendly and so far reliable solar system,

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November Schedule of Services:

Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld (November 1st)
Potluck at 6 PM
Lori Meltzer-Sutton (November 8th)
Anita Friedman (November 15th)
Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld (November 22nd)
Potluck at 6 PM
Andi Portney (November 29th)

Educational Activities:

Intermediate Conversational Hebrew
(Tuesdays at 6 PM)

Library is open at all congregation functions

Etz Chaim Religious School (Saturdays at 10 AM)

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which is situated within the habitable zone (pic. in green) of the Milky Way Galaxy. A planet that provides sustenance to keep us humans alive for generations - provided we don't destroy it (and rumor has it that not only do we have the technology, but that we also have the means in place to do it - if we are careless). So, let's be grateful to our small planet, which we call our home, and name it EARTH. Its diameter is only 12,756 miles. Its circumference is only 24,901.461 miles, which makes the surface area of Earth about 197 million square miles of which about 71 percent is covered by water and 29 percent by land.

Earth is 92.96 million miles away from the sun, a distance which keeps humans mostly warm, but doesn't bake or grill us. Let's also be grateful that Earth spins only 1000 miles per hour and completes its rotation in 24 hours, which enable us to experience sunrises and sunsets with all their glory. And we don't even feel the spinning, because all of the motions are almost completely constant. Could you imagine what would have happened to us if the spinning were erratic? And also let's be grateful that our planet orbits the sun year after year with almost the same precision of 365.256 days, travelling 584 million miles in an elliptic pattern to enable us to have various seasons to celebrate and appreciate. We should not forget to also be grateful to our solar system which travels at an average speed of 514,000 miles per hour within its trajectory around the galactic center of the Milky Way.



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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, November 12th AND every 2nd Tuesday each month!

Remember to write TBE your menu order form!

Board of Directors 2019-2020

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Suzanne Levy, slevy93455@gmail.com>

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Executive Secretary:

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Michael Sachs, mjs1526@aol.com

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Ken Wolf, kennethlwolf94720@gmail.com
& Sid Goldstein

Education:

Amber Medina, amedinacasa@gmail.com.

Membership:

Alyshia Iles-Brunk, brunk3@live.com

Religious Practices:

Anita Friedman & Gary Epstein

Sisterhood:

Marsha Epstein, mepstein@calpoly.edu

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Diane Borad-Mirken,
diane.boradmirken@mail.com

Sunshine Chair:

Judith Klinger, judythecutie@comcast.net

Social Action Chair:

Open

Additional Contacts:

Rabbi: Dov Gottesfeld

Bulletin Editor:

Leslie Epstein, lesliechan31@yahoo.com

Webmaster:

Joel David, jandidavid@yahoo.com

President's Column ~ Suzanne Levy



Suzanne Levy

Doesn't it seem like the Christmas decorations go on sale earlier every year? Yes, Christmas is a big commercial holiday; the retail industry depends on it. Chanukah, on the other hand, is a very minor holiday in the Jewish calendar, yet without Chanukah, there might have been no Christmas.

As you know, Chanukah is a celebration of religious freedom. Judah Maccabee led the battle against the powerful Syrian-Greek armies that would not allow the Jewish people to practice their faith. We tell the story each year of this great victory that preserved our religion.

Had the armies succeeded in stopping the Jewish people from practicing their faith by force or by exterminating all the Jews, there could not have been a child born to Jewish parents in a town of Bethlehem more than 150 years later. That event is obviously the birth of Jesus. So without Chanukah, there may have been no Christmas!

When others try to tell me that a Christmas tree is not a religious symbol and I should therefore put them up, I tell them that to me it is a symbol of a holiday that is not mine. But really what I am thinking (and don't say unless I want to tell this whole story) is that THEY should have a menorah, for that is a symbol of the holiday that provides all people the opportunity to practice the religion of their choice.

Our Fall Membership Meeting is Sunday, November 24th, at 3:00 pm.

Our yearly Temple Chanukah party is Sunday, December 29. We hope to see you there.

Bulletin Briefs

November Birthdays

4	Shayna Levy
5	Maria Aguilar
5	Kristopher Wolf
7	Jonathan Goldstien
11	Talia Epstein
14	Molly Epstein
18	Adam Sales
19	Joel David
19	Sherry Semiatin
21	Barry Sutton
23	Andi Portney
24	Rachel LeCover
30	Ken Wolf

Donations

For Security Cameras:

Renee Coe
Suzanne & Ron Levy
Abby Lassen & Michael LeCover

In memory of Lillian Klempfner from Andi and Jeff Portney

For High Holidays:

Robert and Sandra Sosinski
Martin Bultz
Myra Wapner
Tom Geiger
Gloria Ortiz
Len Akronowitz
Michael & Sheila Sales
Guillermo & Maria Aguilar
Monique Cohen
Michelle & Brian Hutton
Michael LeCover & Abby Lassen
Robin Avedesian
Gary & Marsha Epstein
Amber & Raul Medina

Brotherhood

Our November meeting was held on Sunday, November 3rd. 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. We look forward to having you join us. All Jewish men (and women) are invited to attend.

Our December meeting will be held on December 8th, the second Sunday instead of our usual first Sunday of the month meeting day, because the first Sunday in December is part of the Thanksgiving weekend, so mark your calendars.

Michael LeCover

Sisterhood

The Sisterhood will meet on Tuesday, November 12th, 6:00pm, at the Jaffa 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 Bimah on the High Holidays. We maintain the gift shop and make donations to the temple. Your support is appreciated.

Marsha Epstein

Thanks to Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld who built the High Holiday flower stands for the Bimah
A Special Thanks to Sid and David Goldstien and Ken Wolf who took down the Sukkah.

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 that takes 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

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And last, but not least, we need to be grateful to the Milky Way, which houses our solar system. The planets in our solar system revolve around the sun and the sun revolves around the center of the Milky Way galaxy. We take about 225-250 million years to revolve once around the galaxy's center. And how wide is the Milky Way? 105,700 light years.



Deuteronomy 30:15 states in the name of the creator of the Earth:

“See, I have set before you today life and good,”

The “good”, is whatever is provided for us human beings on the planet earth. Let just take care of it and be grateful that we were all chosen to witness this incredible place we call home.

Happy Thanksgiving.

Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld

Hanukkah Party

Mark your calendar: We have a date for our annual Hanukkah party: Sunday, December 29th, the last night of Hanukkah. This is our biggest event and fundraiser of the year. Volunteers (male) spend much of the day peeling, grating and frying latkes. You will bring your own main dish, table service, a dessert to share, and your own Hanukkah menorah. We supply the sour cream, applesauce, and drinks. There's singing and prizes for the little ones. What we do need are donations of prizes for our annual raffle. We already have a lovely quilt donated by Anne Kaver. If you are a “crafty” person, we would love a donation of your work. There are a number of supportive businesses, which will donate to the cause if asked. Gift certificates are welcome. There will also be a grand prize, to be announced. Your support is appreciated.

Suzanne will be at the temple starting at 3:00pm to decorate. Please let her know if you can assist.

November Yarzheits

11/1/19	Goldie Buder*			Mother of Madeline Akronowitz
11/3/19	Rabbi Abraham Raich	5	Heshvan	Rabbi at Temple Beth El
11/4/19	Alice Mae Evans*			Mother of Ben Evans
11/4/19	Rhoda Rosenblum	6	Heshvan	Aunt of Len Akronowitz
11/5/19	Morris Albert Targer*	9	Heshvan	Father of Tom Targer
11/6/19	Arthur Goldiner			Father of Paul Goldiner
11/6/19	Morris Krieger*			Father of Burton Krieger
11/13/19	Samuel Gruver	15	Heshvan	Husband of Renee Coe
11/14/19	Leah Yasskin*			Mother of Trudy Resnick
11/14/19	Mordka Berkowitz	16	Heshvan	Father of Sam Berkowitz
11/14/19	Joseph Y. Goldstien	16	Heshvan	Father of Sid & David Goldstien
11/15/19	Rose Morris	17	Heshvan	Aunt of Seymour Hersh
11/17/19	Martha Kaver*	15	Heshvan	Sister-in-law of Ann and Milton Kaver
11/18/19	Joe Cohen*			Brother of Tillie Kaplan
11/19/19	Janice Dietz	15	Kislev	Sister of Niki Eschen
11/22/19	Blanche Levy	24	Heshvan	Mother of Renee Coe
11/26/19	Stanley Jones			Father of Maia Lewis
11/26/19	Richard Wolson*			
11/27/19	Aggie Margolis			Friend of the Goldstien Families
11/27/19	Rose Shrogin*			Mother of Miriam, Aaron Shrogin
11/27/19	Marion I. Levy*	29	Heshvan	Father of Jill Targer
11/29/19	Rose Russell	16	Tevet	Wife of Mort Russell

Months of Mourning

Rita Portney	Mother of Jeff Portney	12/6/18
Sophie Fishman	Friend of Marsha & Gary Epstein	12/6/18
Elfie Morgan	Grandmother of Nakiah Burnes	12/28/18
Michael Gerber	Relative of Diane Borad-Mirken	2/15/19
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

NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Rabbi Gottesfeld leads Shabbat Shuvah service (7:30 PM) Potluck at 6 PM	2 Rabbi Gottesfeld leads Torah discussion group (10 AM) No Etz Chayim school
3 Brotherhood Breakfast (8:30 AM)	4	5 Adult Conversational Hebrew class with Joel David (6 PM) TBE Board Meeting (7 PM)	6 Feed the Homeless (5:30 PM)	7	8 Lori Meltzer- Sutton leads Shabbat service (7:30 PM)	9 Etz Chayim school 10 AM
10	11	12 Adult Conversational Hebrew class with Joel David (6 PM) Monthly TBE Fundraiser & Sisterhood Dinner Meeting (6 PM)	13	14	15 Anita Friedman leads Shabbat service (7:30 PM)	16 No Etz Chayim school
17	18	19 Adult Conversational Hebrew class with Joel David (6 PM)	20	21	22 Rabbi Gottesfeld leads Shabbat service (7:30 PM) Potluck at 6 PM	23 Rabbi Gottesfeld leads Torah discussion group (10 AM) Etz Chayim school (10 AM)
24 Fall Membership Meeting (3 PM)	25	26 Adult Conversational Hebrew class with Joel David (6 PM)	27	28	29 Andi Portney leads Shabbat service (7:30 PM)	30 Etz Chayim school (10 AM)