

Temple Beth El Bulletin

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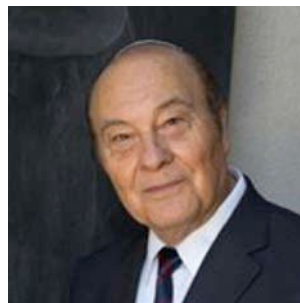
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Rabbi's Message ~ Dov Gottesfeld

SAY: "Pleeease?????", PLEASE!

That's how parents teach their children to be polite individuals when asking for material things they cannot get for themselves, for one reason or another. But what if the parent consents to give the child what they're asking for? That approach doesn't always work for all children. The best example that comes to mind was given in one of "The Adams Family" episodes when the young daughter asked one of her parents to pass her the salt during a family meal: "Give me the salt," said the girl. The mother leaned over, and responded to her daughter quietly and politely asking her: "And what else do you say, dear?" The daughter responded: "Now!"

In modern Hebrew the word *please* is 'bevakashah' (בבקשה), which in Hebrew means "in (at) your request". But in biblical Hebrew the word for 'bevakashah' was "Nah", or "Anah" (אנא - נא), which had a pleading undertone of a submissive individual who had reached the end of his rope.



Dov Gottesfeld

Upon hearing from God that he had already designated Joshua to lead the people into the Promised Land, Moses entreats God to let him – at least – cross the Jordan River for the purpose of just seeing (or experiencing) the land, and the mountains, before he dies. Sometime later in Deuteronomy chapter 3, Moses opens up to the Israelites, and reveals in detail the conversation he had had with God regarding this matter.

23 I entreated the Lord at that time, saying, ר מאל אוהדת עבה והילאן נחתאוכנ

25 Pray let me cross over and see the good land that is on the other side of the Jordan, this good mountain and the Lebanon." תא האראא ניהרבאכה
ן נבלוזה זה בושהר ההן דריהר בעפר שאה בושהן ראה

Moses also revealed to the Israelites that God had become *annoyed* with him, telling him to never bring up the subject ever again.

WOW. After enduring all the desert's hardship, the responsibilities, and especially the hassles he had had from God's chosen people for forty long years, to hear those harsh words from his superior was a hard thing to swallow, I trust.

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August Schedule of Services (on Zoom):

Josue Medrano (August 7th)
Anita Friedman (August 14th)
Rabbi Gottesfeld (August 21st)
Diane Borad-Mirken (August 28th)

Educational Activities:

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

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Therefore, I was not surprised when Moses pointed his finger at the Israelites, blaming them for the severe punishment he had received from God. At first it seemed that by doing so Moses lowered himself down to the level of the Israelite people who accused him of bringing them into the desert to die because of a lack of food and water, among other things. Moses, which at that point had nothing else to lose, couldn't care less and just pointed his finger back at them to make them feel guilty. That obvious observation did not coincide with Moses's persona. It was totally out of character for him to point a finger at others, in order to deflect from his wrong doing without assuming any responsibility for his action.

In order to find his factual motive we need to look at his conduct from the bigger picture to appreciate Moses' uncharacteristic approach.

Until the moment in which Moses entreated God on his own behalf, Moses had used the word "Na" only when addressing God years before, when God was planning retribution against those Israelites who had broken His laws, and Moses pleaded to God to forgive them. In most cases, God listened to Moses' pleadings and forgave them. But when pleading to God on his own behalf, not for complete clemency, but just for a short tour of the Promised Land before he died, Moses was being denied.

At this point everyone's feelings are hurt. God still feels hurt, as he had said to Moses and Aaron after Moses hit the rock: "... because you did not believe me to sanctify me in the eyes of the people of Israel." Moses feels hurt by God's ruling, and blamed the Israelites for his punishment, and the Israelites felt bad for blaming Moses for all the inconveniences they incurred in the Sinai desert.

Moses realized that God meant business when punishing him. Only the people who believed in God and stuck to his laws would be permitted to cross the Jordan River and step onto the Promised Land. As it is written: "But you who held fast to the Lord your God are alive every one of you this day." (Deuteronomy 4:4).

Moses apparently realized that he, and his brother Aaron who had died earlier and also did not get to enter the Promised Land, had never asked for God's forgiveness for hitting the rock, instead of speaking to the rock. Therefore he decided to re-educate those who were about to enter the Promised Land about the laws of the Torah in order to make sure that they understood how to use them: "You shall not add to the word which I command you, neither shall you diminish anything from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you." (Deuteronomy 4:2). Moses taught them the laws, while retelling the story of God's awesomeness. That was Moses' way of apologizing to God, and asking for his forgiveness on the twilight of his life.

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Vice President's Column – Gary Epstein



Dear Members of TBE,

At the August 4th Board meeting we discussed the planning for the coming High Holidays (September 18 – September 28). The first question was brand new this year: **Where will we observe the High Holidays?** We've been watching the course that the COVID-19 Pandemic has been following in California and across the country. We try to appraise the situation from month to month and check the recommendations of the County of Santa Barbara's Health department. The Board gave the Planning Committee the Go-Ahead signal to plan for the observation of this solemn holiday on Zoom. The planning Committee consists of Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld, Anita Friedman, Diane Borad-Mirken, and myself. We will give instructions for listening by telephone for those not equipped for using the internet. We're working on how to keep things as familiar to the congregation as possible like using as our Machzor, the Gates of Repentance. We will ask again for those who want the honor of reading out loud various passages in the book.

Good news on the renovation projects: The interior projects have all been completed: New carpeting and newly painted walls. (See photos of the Sanctuary in this Bulletin.) Cesar Vidales installed new microphones, so no more buzzing. The landscape project has been ongoing for about two years - Weeds and ivy have been pulled, an electrician will install lights by the sidewalk, then the sprinklers will be put in. Weed Lock and bark, which will cost about \$4,000, will be laid before it is landscaped with drought resistant plants. Thank you Sid Goldstien & Ken Wolf for your leadership. And thank you Cesar Vidales.

More good news on Security: On June 30th we received word that Temple Beth El has been awarded a security grant in the amount of \$100,000. Thank you Suzanne Levy for seeing this through. What will we be doing to make the temple safer? (1) Replace the chain link fence with an 8-ft tall cinder block wall (recommended by the SMPD), (2) Control the access through the front door by requiring those who want to enter to be buzzed in, (3) Install panic bars on the other doors, (4) Install two additional security cameras, and (5) Hire security guards for Temple events. We are in the process of getting two bids for each of the various projects listed, e.g. a wall, front doors, cameras.

I have been keeping an eye on the developing understanding of the nature of this new virus – the Coronavirus – and how it spreads as well as the latest efforts to control it. Some of these investigators' findings are preliminary and haven't yet been duplicated by other investigators which normally happens before their evidence is published in peer-reviewed scientific journals, but I think it's okay to share a few of these findings with you readers in the hope that you'll keep up with the news. One finding seems to relate to young people between the ages of 10 and 19: They are carriers and spreaders of the COVID-19 disease although their symptoms are often less noticeable than in older people or even absent. Another development is about the virus-containing "droplets" coming from infected people when they exhale (or cough, sneeze, or talk). These "droplets" are really of two kinds: droplets and aerosols. The diameters of aerosols are less than 10 microns (a micron is a millionth of a meter) and droplets have greater diameters. The six foot distance rule (social distancing) pertains to the droplets as they fall to the floor because of gravity. However, the aerosols stay in the air. The issue of whether you can be infected by viruses in aerosols has not yet been resolved. To rid a closed room of unwanted aerosols it is not enough to turn on a fan. The room must be open to allow fresh air to enter from the outside and exit from the room as well. Also, there is a development that has been proposed to increase the efficiency of testing. This involves mixing the (saliva) samples from four people and testing the mixture for viruses. If no viruses are found then all four people are pronounced "negative" which is good and so one test has replaced four tests.

-Gary, VP of TBE

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The question to be asked now is: What is the takeaway, or the lesson to be learned from that story for both – those Jews who follow God's Laws, and those who live by their own interpretations of God's laws? Each one of us will have a unique answer. Everyone will definitely come up with their own answer – depending on how they view themselves as individuals among the family of humanity.

My takeaway is that 'entreating' is not a negative attitude if requested on behalf of others, or to benefit someone else who is in need. Yet, entreating for yourself, might yield pettiness, disrespect, and even contempt. Something to think about.

Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld

[Copy editor's note: It was the fault of Marsha's old PDF software that got the Hebrew letters in the Rabbi's column appearing in a backward order for Hebrew. Those of you who noticed get a Gold Star. If you ask Gary, he will be happy to send you the correct Hebrew, but not the Gold Star.]

Zoom by telephone

We are conducting services on the internet 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 (called "the Host") what the code number (called the meeting ID) is for the particular meeting that you want to join. It will be an eleven digit number.
2. Second, you have to 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 the pound sign (#)"
4. That's all you have to do. The host will let you into the meeting.
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 phone. 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.

Try it at the next Shabbat service (7:30 pm). It's good to know that you can do this even when you're away from home.

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.

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.

Bulletin Briefs

August Anniversaries

16 Sherry & Manning Semiatin

August Birthdays

1 Bill Sutton
4 Lori Meltzer-Sutton
5 Michael Sales
8 Bill Mirken
10 Marjorie Schwartz
12 Dove Okonina
13 Michael Sachs
15 Krystina Brunk
21 Liz Basurto
22 Adina Sales
29 Mindy Downum
29 Sofia Gelpi

Donations:

Sofia Ramirez-Gelpi
Oceana Heath
In honor of Sid Goldstien & Ken Wolf
for their tireless efforts on behalf of our
temple
by Diane Borad-Mirken
In honor of Amber Medina & Nakiah
Burns for their on-going efforts on
behalf of our temple
by Diane Borad-Mirken
Michael & Sheila Sales

Brotherhood

The Temple Beth El Brotherhood normally meets the first Sunday of the month, which this month was August 2nd. 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 for our seminar. Any responses will be emailed to the rest for comment or interest. So please let us know if you are interested in attending our Zoom meetings and Gary will send you an invitation (with the link).

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, August 11th, 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 ordered some new items including Havdalah candles, beautiful Seder plates and 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



We have completed the interior renovation of the temple, which included new drapes, new carpet, and paint. Before the carpet could be laid the asbestos tile underneath had to be removed, not only in the sanctuary but also in the classrooms, libraries and rabbi's office. This was a big job but as you can see, the result is a beautiful temple. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make this happen, especially Sid Goldstien, David Goldstien, and Ken Wolf.

August Yarzheits

8/1/20	Althea Kleckner*	29	Tammuz	Mother of Barbara Sachs & Jack Kleckner
8/1/20	David Pallay*			Father of Marian Wise
8/2/20	Joseph Epstein	12	Av	Friend of Tom Geiger
8/5/20	Dana Schor			Friend of Tom Geiger, Mike Sachs & the Broekers
8/6/20	Betsy Goodman*	16	Av	Daughter of Hinda Beaman
8/7/20	Charles Wagner*			Husband of Lee Wagner
8/8/20	Bertha Baum Wolf*	18	Av	Grandmother of Kenneth L. Wolf
8/10/20	Ester Greenberg*			Mother of Maurice Greenberg
8/10/20	Leon Kessler	20	Av	Cousin of Len Akronowitz
8/13/20	Arnold Katzenstein*			Father of Dorothy Tuman
8/14/20	Harry Tuman*			Husband of Lillian Tuman, Father of Max Tuman
8/14/20	Abraham Wapner	24	Av	Father of Irwin Wapner
8/15/20	John Reese	15	Av	Father of Johanna Reese
8/17/20	Stanley Stone	27	Av	Brother of Arnold Stone
8/18/20	Elyce Kaplan	18	Av	Daughter of Mike & Anne Kaver
8/20/20	May Akronowitz	30	Av	Mother of Len Akronowitz
8/20/20	Kevin Schrager*	30	Av	Son of Dr. Michael & Georgia Schrager
8/20/20	Ruth Zuckerbraun	30	AV	Wife of Sandy, Mother of Alan, Grandmother of Sarah & Hannah
8/20/20	Lionel Semiatin			Father of Manning Semiatin
8/25/20	Shirley Berens			Friend of Gary & Marsha Epstein
8/25/20	Solomon Sussman*			
8/26/20	Dorothy Greenberg	9	Elul	Cousin of Stan Eschen
8/26/20	Alvin Minzenberg*	1	Elul	Husband of Jean, Father of Mike and Eric
8/26/20	Ivy Sheryl Pregozen*			Daughter of Herb and Lorraine Pregozen
8/27/20	William Herskovitz	7	Elul	Father of Seymour Hersh
8/28/20	Mollie Saltzberg	3	Elul	Sister-in-law of Corinne Bernstein
8/29/20	Pam Gollub	9	Elul	Niece of Myra Wapner
8/29/20	Saul Tunick*	9	Elul	Son of Marcia and Art Tunick

Months of Mourning

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	Mother of Linda and Karen Goldstien	4/15/2020
Hinda Beaman	Long-time member of TBE	6/7/2020
Adam Hill	SLO County Supervisor	8/6/2020

Calendar for August

Saturday, August 1: Rabbi Gottesfeld leads Torah discussion on Zoom (10:00 am)

also: Etz Chayim children's school on Face Book (10:00 am)

Sunday, August 2: TBE Brotherhood Seminar on Zoom (10:00 am)

Monday, August 3:

Tuesday, August 4: TBE Board meeting on Zoom (7:00 pm)

also: Adult Conversational Hebrew with Joel David on Zoom (6:00 pm)

Wednesday, August 5:

Thursday, August 6:

Friday, August 7: Josue Medrano leads Shabbat service on Zoom (7:30 pm)

Saturday, August 8: Etz Chayim Children's Shabbat Morning Prayers (9:30 – 10:00 am) on Zoom

Sunday, August 9:

Monday, August 10:

Tuesday, August 11: Adult Conversational Hebrew with Joel David on Zoom (6:00 pm)

Wednesday, August 12:

Thursday, August 13:

Friday, August 14: Anita Friedman leads Shabbat service on Zoom (7:30 pm)

Saturday, August 15: Etz Chayim Children's Havdalah & Sundown Songs (8:30 pm) on Zoom

Sunday, August 16:

Monday, August 17:

Tuesday, August 18: Adult Conversational Hebrew with Joel David on Zoom (6:00 pm)

Wednesday, August 19:

Thursday, August 20:

Friday, August 21: Rabbi Gottesfeld leads Shabbat service on Zoom (7:30 pm)

Saturday, August 22: Rabbi Gottesfeld leads Torah discussion on Zoom (10:00 am)

also: Etz Chayim Children's Shabbat Morning Prayers (9:30 – 10:00 am) on Zoom

Sunday, August 23:

Monday, August 24:

Tuesday, August 25: Adult Conversational Hebrew with Joel David on Zoom (6:00 pm)

Wednesday, August 26:

Thursday, August 27:

Friday, August 28: Diane Borad-Mirken leads Shabbat service on Zoom (7:30 pm)