

# Temple Beth El Bulletin

VOLUME 52, No. 8  
JANUARY 2021  
TEVET/SHEVAT 5781



The Temple Beth El Bulletin is published monthly according to the Gregorian calendar.

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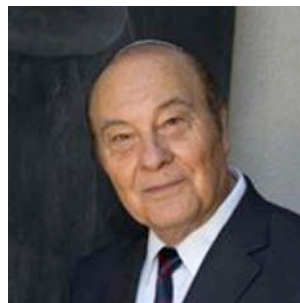
## Rabbi's Message ~ Dov Gottesfeld

### THERE ENDS A YEAR AND ITS MALEDICTIONS...

Shalom to all.

There are eleven cultures and their ramified branches, which do not celebrate their New Year on January 1st. For example: many states in India celebrate the New Year on April 14 and 15; Sri Lanka celebrates on April 14. Many South East Asia countries celebrate their New Year in February, and the Marwari and Gujarati, ethnic cultures - also in India - celebrate their New Year on October 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Jewish People celebrate their New Year in September (the date varies, depending on when the first day of the month of Tishrey in the Jewish Calendar falls) in the Gregorian calendar. For example: in the year 2020, the first of Tishrey fell on September 19<sup>th</sup>; in the year 1914, the first of Tishrey fell on September 21<sup>st</sup>, and in the year 2023



**Dov Gottesfeld**

the Jewish New Year will fall on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

There should be a dilemma for those individuals or families who immigrated from other cultures, which did not celebrate their New Year on January 1st. Should they abandon or ignore their traditional New Year, in lieu of that of the hosting culture, or vise-versa - not celebrating the new New Year at all. And if they chose to celebrate both New Years, regardless, should their discernment be the same, or should they differentiate between the two New Years, and give unique insight to each one.

As a native Israeli, I recall celebrating the "Secular" New Year (the Gregorian date) in Israel. This event was called "Silvester". Yet, it had very little to do with celebrating a New Year for its own sake. It was just a reason to party, since Rosh Hashanah was considered as the "official" New Year. If you ask the average Israeli for the etymology of "Silvester", I doubt that you would get the correct answer.

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### January Schedule of Services:

Josue Medrano (January 1st)  
Rabbi Gottesfeld (January 8th)  
Diane Borad-Mirken (January 15th)  
Anita Friedman (January 22nd)  
? (January 29th)

### Educational Activities

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

## Continued from Page 1

Here is a quote from an article on the Internet:

In the early 1930s, Jewish immigrants from Austria and Germany, fleeing the rise of Nazism, brought with them a more cosmopolitan lifestyle. This included a formal way of dressing and speaking, punctuality, summer afternoon tea dances, and winter *Silvestertag* parties.

There was backlash from the Orthodox Jewish establishment and from the Jewish intelligentsia, who felt that these parties were not in keeping with good Zionist values. Jews also shied away from the German name for New Year's Eve, "Silvester," as "Saint Sylvester's Day" honored third century Pope Sylvester I, considered by Jews to have been an anti-Semite. (<https://www.israel21c.org/celebrating-silvester-aka-the-secular-new-year-in-israel/>)

The dilemma of how an immigrant to the United States should handle his two New Years celebrations had been on my mind when I decided to remain in the United States at the end of my graduate studies - (Well, there was also a smart and pretty young woman involved in that decision). I was aware at that time that I hadn't been the first Jewish person to wrestle with that issue. In 586 B.C.E., after the destruction of Jerusalem and the first Temple, by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylonia, the elite members of the Jewish community, who had been forced into exile to Babylonia faced a similar dilemma. Only their dilemma was more complex; they were reluctant to celebrate their own Jewish New Year on that foreign land for fear of harassment by the local natives.

Their best solution, and a very practical one, which they came up with, has been lingering till our time ever since. They simply moved the Jewish New Year, which they had celebrated annually until then, in the month of Nisan (which since the Exodus from Egypt was designated by God as be their first month of the year) to the month of Tishrey, (the 7th month on their calendar, but the 1st month of the Babylonian calendar, in which they celebrated their New Year. That way, the Jews "pretended" to celebrate together with the local people, yet in their own particular culture.

After the Jews returned from the exile in Babylonia 70 years later, and a few other times throughout Jewish history, attempts were made to restore the Jewish calendar back to its original format, but they all failed.

As I mentioned above, our dilemma, as Jews, regardless whether the majority of us were born here or not, we are still considered a minority – with all the issues that come with that. Yet, we shouldn't let it affect or deter us from who we really are, and our place among the family of earthlings.

Therefore, I would suggest that on the Jewish New Year our discernment should be to focus on our relationship with one another, with ourselves and with our moral and value interpretations of G-d's laws.

## Continued on Page 5

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# Vice President's Column – Gary Epstein



At long last the horrendous year of 2020 has come to an end!! Now, with two vaccines having been perfected, 2021 is promising to be a blessed year of recovery. Let's never forget how much we are truly in debt to science. In the early 1950s we finally learned how genetics works at the molecular level with the determination of the structure of DNA and later on scientists learned how other molecular structures like messenger RNA (mRNA) function. mRNA recently figured into the scheme employed by our two new vaccines Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna. It looks like those of us above the age of 74 are going to be given high priority. Back in 1918 the Spanish Flu killed about 675,000 Americans and there was no vaccine. In 2020 COVID-19 has so far killed 344,000 Americans but fortunately we're confident that we won't have to face the grim approach to herd immunity because of these vaccines. However, we need to keep uppermost in our minds that the big difference that the vaccines will make depends upon enough of us taking the opportunity to get ourselves vaccinated. Congratulations to Rabbi Gottesfeld who got his Moderna vaccination on December 31st.

The government of the State of California and the Counties of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo have extended the Stay-at-Home directive and the Wear Face Masks Outside the Home until late January. This means that among other houses of worship, Temple Beth El will remain closed. We do have a re-opening planning committee, however, which held its first meeting on Zoom on December 3rd. We are representing all the stakeholders of the temple which include the TBE members, the TBE Board, the Brotherhood, the Sisterhood, the Etz Chayim children's religious school, and the Redeemer Church. The committee members are Paul Goldiner, Ken Wolf, Amber Medina, Abby Lassen, Keith Mougeotte, and myself. Keith is a very well-informed and accomplished planner, a definite asset to the committee. We will do our best to follow all the regulations that will protect the people who come to the temple from the corona virus.

Our annual Hanukkah party shifted to Zoom for a virtual celebration. We sang songs and even competed in a Hanukkah quiz run by Diane. We lighted our Hanukkah menorahs, and held our raffle. The Grand Prize of \$300 worth of scrip was won by Josué Medrano, the mosaic mirror created by Libby Denenberg was won by Sharon Gottesfeld, the Asian quilt made by Anne Kaver was won by Andi Portney, the lap quilt also made by Anne Kaver was won by Diane Borad-Mirken, the table runner made by Linda Edell was won by Robert Juarez, the book "A Vanished World" by Roman Vishniac was won by Sam Burg, and the book "The Jewish World History and Culture of the Jewish People" was won by Donna Eschen who donated it to our temple library. There is a screenshot of the participants in our Hanukkah party in this bulletin on Page 6. (Notice that the virtual events on our computer screens show us people's faces all the time. That is quite remarkable because the seating arrangements at in-person events have you seeing the backs of people's heads much of the time. At the Brotherhood seminar meetings (also on Zoom) you see the faces not only of the locals but also brothers in remote locations: Paul Goldiner in New York and JP Villedrouin in Virginia.)

News from the JCC of SLO: This year there will be a virtual Jewish Film Festival in SLO January 7th to January 28th:

To view the SLO Jewish Film Festival website, click here: [Welcome | SLO Jewish Film Festival \(slojff.com\)](https://www.slojff.com/).

To purchase tickets, click here: [Tickets | SLO Jewish Film Festival \(slojff.com\)](https://www.slojff.com/).

To view films that might be interesting, click here: [Films | SLO Jewish Film Festival \(slojff.com\)](https://www.slojff.com/).

Here's one event that has special relevance to our temple in Santa Maria: "For our final evening (January 28) of the SLO Jewish Film Festival, Rabbi Micah Hyman will take us on a journey through the history and restoration of the Czech Torah Scrolls. The 200 year-old Torahs from Czechoslovakia were rescued from the Holocaust. Rabbi Hyman was amazed to learn one of the sacred Czech Torahs can be found at Temple Beth El in Santa Maria."

Good news!! We are getting a sculpture from Beth Emeth Synagogue in Larchmont, New York. Story on Page 7.

I don't know when this Pandemic will be over, but I suspect we're past the halfway point. Please be careful to keep your social distance from others and wear a face mask when you're out and about. Let's look forward to greeting one another in our newly renovated temple. Happy New Year to all.

-Gary, VP of TBE



The Regional Stay Home Order has been extended to January 21<sup>st</sup> and will probably be extended again. The same goes for wearing facemasks. This instructs Californians to stay at home as much as possible to limit the mixing with other households that can lead to COVID-19 spread. It allows access to (and travel for) critical services and allows outdoor activities to preserve Californians' physical and mental health. This limited closure will help stop the surge and prevent overwhelming regional ICU capacity.

In any region that triggers a Regional Stay Home Order because it drops below 15% ICU capacity, the following sectors must close:

- Indoor and outdoor playgrounds
- Indoor recreational facilities
- Hair salons and barbershops
- Personal care services
- Museums, zoos, and aquariums
- Movie theaters
- Wineries
- Bars, breweries, and distilleries
- Family entertainment centers
- Cardrooms and satellite wagering
- Limited services
- Live audience sports
- Amusement parks

The following sectors will have additional modifications in addition to 100% masking and physical distancing:

- **Outdoor recreational facilities:** Allow outdoor operation only without any food, drink or alcohol sales. Additionally, overnight stays at campgrounds will not be permitted.
- **Retail:** Allow indoor operation at 20% capacity with entrance metering and no eating or drinking in the stores. Additionally, special hours should be instituted for seniors and others with chronic conditions or compromised immune systems.
- **Shopping centers:** Allow indoor operation at 20% capacity with entrance metering and no eating or drinking in the stores. Additionally, special hours should be instituted for seniors and others with chronic conditions or compromised immune systems.
- **Hotels and lodging:** Allow to open for critical infrastructure support only.
- **Restaurants:** Allow only for take-out, pick-up, or delivery.
- **Offices:** Allow remote only except for critical infrastructure sectors where remote working is not possible.
- **Places of worship and political expression:** Allow outdoor services only.
- **Entertainment production including professional sports:** Allow operation without live audiences. Additionally, testing protocol and "bubbles" are highly encouraged.  
The following sectors are allowed to remain open when a remote option is not possible with appropriate infectious disease preventative measures including 100% masking and physical distancing:

- Critical infrastructure • Schools
- Non-urgent medical and dental care

## Zoom by telephone

We are conducting Shabbat 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 an eleven digit number. Some of you may also be asked for the passcode which is TBE123.
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. If you get a busy signal there are alternate phone numbers that you can use:

346 248 7799  
253 215 8782  
312 626 6799  
646 558 8656  
301 715 8592

TBE is now able to accept payments via Paypal on our website: [tbesantamaria.com](http://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, [levy93455@gmail.com](mailto:levy93455@gmail.com) or 805-934-0477.

## Continued from Page 2

During the “Secular” New Year our discernment should be our relationship, commitment, and our responsibilities to all people in our community, our state and our country. And as a country, all of us together must make sure that whatever our “output” is will benefit all earthlings in order to make sure that earthling life continues to persist, be preserved, and will continue to strive on the planet earth uninterrupted.

That is why, when a unique, and an infrequent situation – like a New Year – occurs, Jews say the following blessing, as an acknowledgement of the realization of our having the ability to maintain awareness of the existence of the universe for everyone to live on.

### She-He-Che-Ya-Nu

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהַגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמְנָהּ הַזֶּה.

Ba-ruch a-ta A-do-Nai e-lo-hei-nu me-lech ha-o-lam, she-he-che-ya-nu ve-ki-ye-ma-nu ve-hi-gi-a-nu laz-man ha-zeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this moment.

Another Jewish blessing during the Jewish New Year is:

“הִתְוַכַּרְבוּ הַנֶּשֶׁ לַחַת הַיְתוּלְלִקוּ הַנֶּשֶׁ הַלַּכְתָּ”

“There ends a year and its maledictions and a new one begins with its blessings”

One should wonder: If indeed –according to that blessing every “new year begins with its blessings”, at what point in time do those blessings end up becoming “maledictions”, which continue to linger until the end of the year?

There is one explanation I can perceive. As part of the preparation for being warranted those precious Jewish New Year’s blessings, a cleansing ritual must precede during the 12th month of the previous year, where an individual, earnestly, seeks the forgiveness of those he/she had hurt, and forgives all those who had hurt him/her. In addition, that individual must pledge to himself not to repeat those hurtful acts to anyone else, by acknowledging that all earthlings are equal – wherever they are, whoever they are, and whatever they are.

He shouldn’t be surprised if at the end of the year, upon beginning to say that blessing that individual might stop momentarily and say to him/herself. “Actually, it wasn’t a bad year after all. Not bad at all.”

With good wishes to all in 2021.

Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld

January 2, 2021

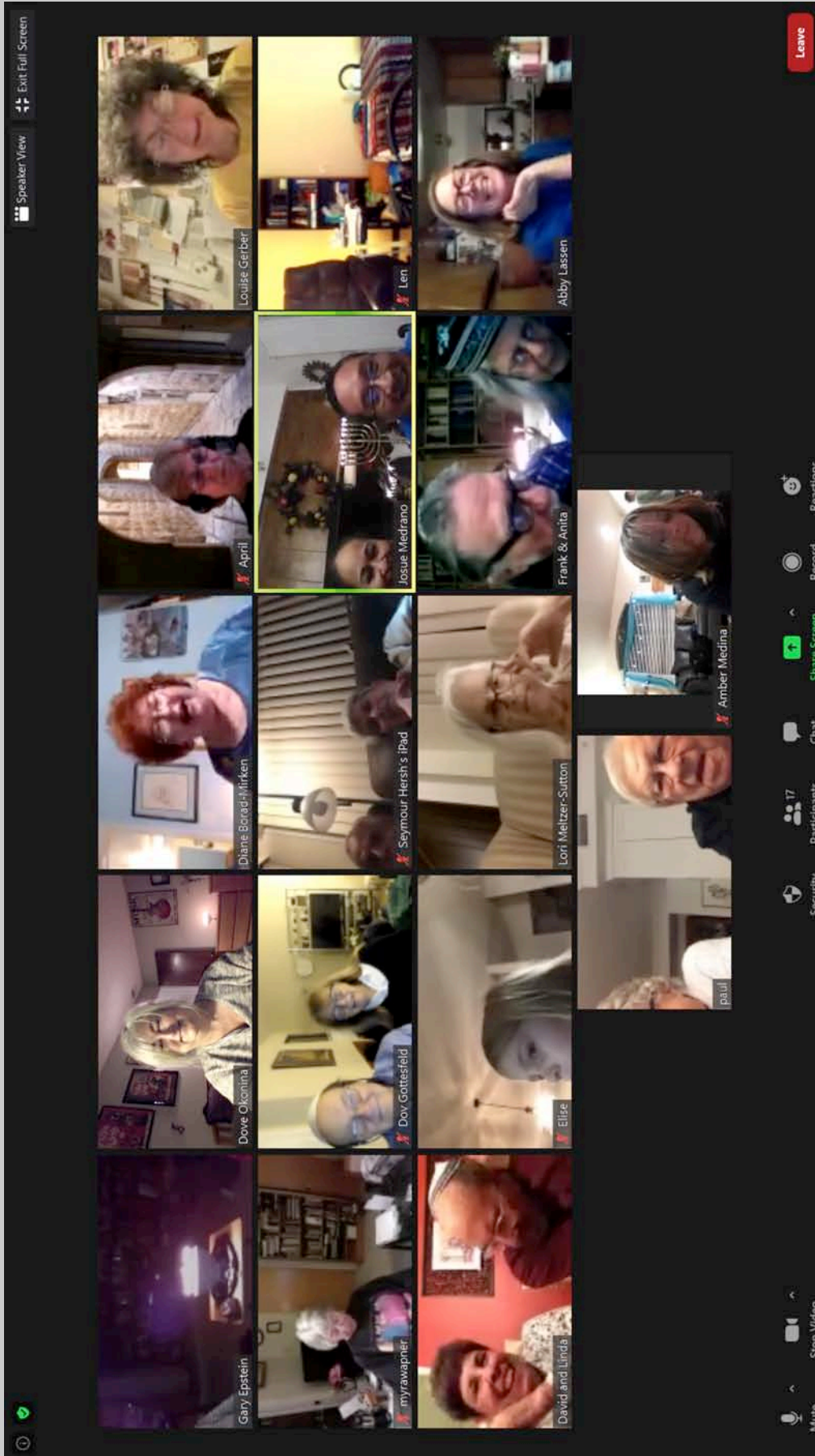
## 2021 SLO Jewish Film Festival January 7–28, 2021

The 2021 San Luis Obispo Jewish Film Festival is going virtual this year. Diversity and Harmony is the theme with a selection of short, narrative, and documentary films that showcase varied expressions of the Jewish experience from around the world. Three of the films celebrate the healing and unifying power of music and all the films convey a positive message of understanding through storytelling. Visit <http://www.slojff.com> for the Festival line-up.

“We are delighted to continue the SLO Jewish Film Festival’s tradition in this new format. It has enabled us to expand programming, develop collaborations and outreach in new directions,” shares Co-Director Lauren Bandari. For three weeks, attendees can watch the expanded slate of films along with the intimate filmmaker conversations the audience has come to enjoy. Muara C. Johnston is back as the interviewer, and will be talking to the directors, producers and actors who are the creative force behind the movies. There is a live Kibbitz Chat Room for community building where cinephiles can share film reviews and discuss the engaging live events.”

Tickets may be purchased online here:

<https://www.slojff.com/tickets>



Screen capture from the Hanukkah party on Zoom on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020.





Karen and Mark Greene of Larchmont, New York, were guests at our Zoom Shabbat service last night (January 8th). They were members of Beth Emeth Synagogue in Larchmont New York which sold its building last June. They contacted the sculptor Robert Schenkel who made the sculpture 35 years ago for their synagogue. Paul Goldiner was instrumental in getting that sculpture for our temple.

Gary Epstein got the following email from the Sculptor who lives in Florida now. Here is what he said,

"The man who made it is Robert Schenkel, me....I am alive and living in Aventura, Florida. As a member of Beth Emeth Synagogue in Larchmont, NY, I was asked to create a memorial sculpture for that synagogue. I designed the art with six candles representing the six million who died in the Holocaust. Each candle was made out of bronze and I tried to mangle and scar each one with soot and dirt, and clumps and distortions within reason to show harsh conditions. Atop each candle is a flame shining brightly representing hope and the ability of the Jews to survive and come through the tragedy. The saying above the candles was provided by another member of the Congregation, Carl Urbant. It says, "I shall not die, but live." I'm very happy that you have expressed interest in acquiring the sculpture. I would be proud and happy to have it hang in another synagogue for people to enjoy."  
-Robert Schenkel

At the Shabbat service Rabbi Gottesfeld greeted the Greenes and gave us all a meaningful lesson about where that saying "I shall not die, but live" comes from: Psalm 118 verse 17: "I shall not die but live and proclaim the works of the Lord."

Potato Latkes with spinach  
parsely & Italian herbs



BETE'AVON



HUMMUS & TAHINI  
ENCIRCLED BY  
OLIVES, SALAD, FALAFEL & GRAPE-LEAVES



Ingredients

Traditional potato latkes

Sweet potato



From Rabbi Gottesfeld's Cooking Show on Zoom



Newly painted lines in the parking lot and the new sign for the temple.



# Bulletin Briefs

## January Anniversaries

4 Sheila & Mike Sales  
31 Marsha & Gary Epstein

## January Birthdays

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13 Tristan Romero  
15 Guillermo Aguilar  
19 Benjamin Epstein  
20 Cesar Vidales  
20 Israel Vidales  
22 Michael LeCover  
23 Johanna Reese  
24 Kimberly Goldstien  
30 Ron Levy

## Donations

Michael and Sheila Sales  
Sid and Karen Goldstien  
Guillermo and Maria Aguilar  
Al Siamon Charitable Trust

In appreciation for those providing services and activities for our congregation and the community at large from Jeff and Andi Portney

## Brotherhood

The Temple Beth El Brotherhood met the first Sunday of the month, which this month was January 3<sup>rd</sup>. While the temple is closed due to the Corona virus, we do not meet there. However, we will continue to meet virtually using Zoom. I 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 me know if you are interested in attending our Zoom meetings and I will send you an invitation. Our next meeting will be Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ladies are welcome!  
Be well,

Michael LeCover, president  
Gary Epstein, seminar coordinator

## 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 the social distancing directive is in effect. The Jaffa Café is still open for takeout. If you visit on the second Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 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. We have some new items including Havdalah candles, beautiful seder plates and gorgeous mezuzah cases. Spread the word.

Hope we will meet again before long.

Marsha Epstein

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.

# January Yarzheits

1/2/21	Laurie Wikes	20	Tevet	Friend of Boots and Seymour Hersh
1/4/21	Morris Klempfner			Brother-in-law of Boots & Seymour Hersh
1/4/21	Gertrude (Trudy) Resnick*	23	Tevet	Sister of Rose Shrogin
1/4/21	Irwin Wapner*	20	Tevet	Husband of Myra
1/5/21	Lily Korklin	21	Tevet	Aunt of Michael LeCover
1/5/21	Elaine Miliman	21	Tevet	Sister of Yael Gott
1/6/21	Caroline Barnett*			Mother of Bert Barnett
1/7/21	Elsie Goldiner			Mother of Paul Goldiner
1/7/21	Cheryl Lynn Pinckard*	6	Shevat	Daughter of Terri Ellen & G. Thomas Pinkard
1/7/21	Nathan Novak	23	Tevet	Uncle of Michael Sachs
1/9/21	Tillie Kaplan	25	Tevet	A founding member of Temple Beth El
1/10/21	Louis Vincent*	26	Tevet	Grandfather of Kenneth L. Wolf
1/11/21	Rae Schklair	27	Tevet	Grandmother of Suzanne Levy
1/12/21	Maurice Lafferty			Father of Sherry Semiatin
1/12/21	Ruth Sylinski*			Wife of Contrad Sylinski
1/15/21	Morris Shulman	19	Tevet	Father of Bernice Gaon
1/15/21	Rachel Smith			Mother of Deanna Hart
1/15/21	Sol Greenberg	2	Shevat	Cousin of Stan Eschen
1/15/21	Bess Perline	2	Shevat	Sister of Irwin Wapner
1/19/21	Louis Klein*			Father of Ruth Roth
1/21/21	Edith Greenberg*			Mother of Sandra Sussman
1/22/21	Edward Allen	3	Shevat	Brother-in-law of Tom Geiger
1/22/21	Joanna (Joey) Bilow			Mother of Aaron Bilow
1/24/21	Yankel (Chester) Holstein	2	Shevat	Grandfather of Eric Berge
1/25/21	Trudy Andross*			Wife of Norman Andross
1/25/21	Al Feinblatt	14	Shevat	Friend of Gary & Marsha Epstein
1/25/21	Samuel David Kellman	21	Shevat	Grandfather of Gary Epstein
1/27/21	Marvin Morris	7	Shevat	Cousin of Seymour Hersh
1/27/21	Shirley Simon*			Sister-in-law of Nancy Evans
1/27/21	Elma Traub	14	Shevat	Aunt of Ken Wolf
1/28/21	Bert Coe	15	Shevat	Father of Andrea Coe Portney
1/29/21	Bonny LeVine	17	Shevat	Aunt of Gary Epstein
1/29/21	Norma Miller	16	Shevat	Aunt of Kenneth L. Wolf
1/31/21	Millie Kring			Wife of Ray Kring

# Months of Mourning

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
Daivon Young	Nephew of Frank Young	8/18/2020
Renee Coe	Mother of Andi Portney	8/22/2020
Ulysses Ferrer	Cousin of Josue Medrano	8/19/2020
Janice Schrager	Mother of Michael Shrager	9/8/2020
Ruth Bader Ginsburg	Justice of the Supreme Court	9/18/2020
Walter Koch	Brother of Katherine (Hersh) Koch	10/10/20
Irwin (Irv) Boxer	Friend of Gary & Marsha Epstein	10/29/20

# JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Shabbat service led by Josué Medrano on Zoom (7:30 PM)	2 Etz Chayim (9:30 AM)
3 Brotherhood Seminar (10 AM on Zoom)	4	5 TBE Board meeting (7 PM)	6	7	8 Shabbat service led by Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld on Zoom (7:30 PM)	9 Torah Discussion session with Rabbi Gottesfeld (10 AM on Zoom) Also: Etz Chayim (5:50 PM)
10	11	12	13	14	15 Shabbat service led by Diane Borad-Mirken on Zoom (7:30 PM)	16 Etz Chayim (9:30 AM)
17	18	19	20	21	22 Shabbat service led by Anita Friedman on Zoom (7:30 PM)	23 Etz Chayim (6 PM)
24	25	26	27	28	29 Shabbat service  (7:30 PM)	30 Etz Chayim (9:30 AM)
31						