# Temple Beth El Bulletín



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# Rabbi's Message - Dov Gottesfeld

Shalom to everyone:

The Flawless Harmony Between The Heart And The Brain

The Seventh Day of Passover Haftarah is from the book of II Samuel 22:1-51. "It describes the song King David composed in his old age, echoing the weekly Torah reading, where Moses delivers his parting words to the Jewish nation in song form. David's song expresses gratitude to G-d for saving him from all his enemies. He starts with the famous words, "The L-rd is my rock and my fortress." He goes on to describe the pain and hardships he encountered and reiterates that he always turned to G-d in his moments of distress. He recounts *G-d's* reaction to those who tormented him: "The Lord thundered from heaven; and the Most High gave forth His voice. And He sent out arrows and He



**Dov Gottesfeld** 

scattered them, lightning and He discomfited them. . . I have pursued my enemies and have destroyed them; never turning back until they were consumed." The King attributes his salvation to his uprightness in following G-d's ways: "The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands He recompensed me..." The song ends with David's expression of thankfulness: "Therefore I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the nations, and to Your name I will sing praises. He gives great salvation to His king, and He performs kindness to His anointed; to David and to his seed, forevermore." © Copyright, Chabad.org. (edited)

Who were those "enemies", which King David referred to in his old age, one should wonder? Scrutinizing the descriptive poetic verses, they depict more the manner and images which God communicated to the Israelites when delivering the Torah in the Sinai desert. Perhaps, just perhaps those "enemies" King David is referring to are his "bad inclinations", his ego, to whom he

### **April Schedule of Services:**

Diane Borad-Mirken (April 2nd) Josué Medrano (April 9th) Anita Friedman (April 16th) Diane Borad-Mirken (April 23rd) Rabbi Gottesfeld (April 30th)

#### **Educational Activities**

Adult conversational Hebrew on Tuesdays at 6 PM on Zoom

Etz Chaim Children's Religious School on Saturdays at 9:30-10 AM

had surrendered, which as a result brought a grim end to his kingdom. Perhaps the poem is about his life long struggle to smash his dark side to expose the light within him.

What does King David represent? "David is described in the Hebrew Bible as king of the United Monarchy of Israel and Judah. ... David is honored in the prophetic literature as an ideal king and the forefather of a future Messiah, and many psalms are ascribed to him." (Internet source)

What can we learn from David in the Bible? "David is chosen to be king because he has what Saul does not: a heart for God. 1 Samuel 13:14 says the Lord "sought out a man after his own heart" to be king, and Saul simply was not this man. ... The first lesson we learn from David's life is the importance of cultivating a heart for God above all else." (Internet source) What does the Bible say about King David? The Bible calls David "a man after God's own heart" twice. The first time was by Samuel who anointed him as backslider King Saul's successor, "But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart" (1 Sam. 13:14, NKJV). (Internet source)

Why was King David so special to God? "There are many answers that could be given that would not be wrong: David was courageous, he was passionate for the Lord, he was obedient to the Lord, he was a worshipper of God, he was repentant when he sinned, he had great character, and he had a zeal for building the Lord a house." (Internet source)

Did King David have any iniquities? In fact, David personally acknowledged his sins, saying, "my iniquities are gone over my head; as a heavy burden they weigh too much for me" (Ps 38:4). He also wrote, "For evils beyond number have surrounded me; my iniquities have overtaken me, so that I am not able to see; they are more numerous than the hairs of my head, and my heart has failed me." (Ps 40:12) Among David's recorded sins, the most offensive was his adulterous affair with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband, Uriah. (2 Sam 11:1-17) Scripture tells us that David had slept with Bathsheba and had her husband, Uriah, killed; and "the thing that David had done was evil in the sight of the LORD." (2 Sam 11:27)

What is commendable about David is that he handled his sin in a biblical manner by confessing it and seeking the Lord's forgiveness. Concerning Uriah and Bathsheba, David said, "I have sinned against the LORD." (2 Sam 12:13; read Psalm 51 for the longer version of David's confession) And

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## Board of Directors 2020-2021

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# Vice President's Column - Gary Epstein



Our first-ever Virtual Community Passover Seder took place on March 28th on Zoom. Seeing your faces (page 7) I felt as if we were all together in person. We had between 20 and 30 people show up. It was nice hearing children singing the Ma Nishtana and asking the four questions. It was also nice hearing their parents provide the answers. Rabbi Gottesfeld reiterated the meanings of the ritual items on the Seder plate and the Matzah. He called on readers to voice the traditional questions that the four different kinds of children ask about the meaning of the Passover service. Twelve volunteers took the parts in a story of a family following Moses in the escape from Egypt. Then the Ten Plagues and Dayeinu in English. Diane sang Dayeinu in Hebrew. We showed a video of Paul Robeson singing the spiritual song, "When Israel was in Egypt land..." (Thank you to Dove Okonina, our technical Zoom advisor.) We sang "Chad Gadya" and finally "Who Knows One?" Then the Seder reached the point where the families would sign off and proceed to their dining rooms for the meal where the 3rd and 4th cups of wine would be consumed along with the food and remaining parts of the service. Last year we were forced to cancel our community Passover service in the midst of our preparation for it. This year we were determined to reach the point where we can together say again, "Next Year in Jerusalem!" And – hopefully – we also say, "Next Year in Our Own Temple Beth El!"

At the April Board meeting, it was decided to try holding our April 16th Shabbat service at the temple instead of on Zoom. Anita will lead the service. Lately, we have only three active Lay Shabbat leaders: Anita, Diane, and Josué. Fortunately, all three have received their Covid vaccinations.

Another thing that was decided at the April Board meeting: Our Annual Spring Membership meeting will take place on Sunday, May 23rd, at 3:00 pm. That's when we have the election of officers and directors for the coming year which begins on Tuesday, June 1st, 2021. The chairperson of the Nominating Committee is Diane Borad-Mirken. Please contact her if you would like to serve on the Board of Directors.

At this time it's appropriate to make some remarks about the current state of the struggle against the corona virus. We currently have three vaccines against the virus and we also have variants of the virus spreading around the world and our country. There is literally a race going on between them. On the one hand, if enough people get vaccinated the resultant herd immunity can snuff out the virus. How much is enough? Experts are estimating between 70% and 90%. Right now (April 6th) almost 70% of the US Population has still not received even a first dose. 20% are fully vaccinated. How will this race turn out? It's too early to tell; the jury is still out.

On the other hand, new variants are evolving and some are spreading faster (i.e., more contagious) than the original version and/or are more deadly. The variant that's currently rising the fastest is called B.1.1.7 and is prevalent in Michigan. It originally spread from Great Britain. Other variants came from Brazil, South Africa, New York, and Los Angeles. If we are slow on reaching herd immunity then more variants are likely to appear. There is a growing progress in the rate of vaccinations but there is also resistance to getting vaccinated (for various reasons) and there is premature abandonment of safeguards like mask wearing and social distancing in hopes of opening up the economy.

In Santa Barbara County the age for eligibility for vaccination has been lowered on April 5th to 16 and nation-wide the federal government has promised to lower the age of eligibility to 18 on April 19th. Our temple and other houses of worship have been directed by the State of California and Santa Barbara County to do what we can to protect our congregants from the virus. This is why we at TBE will mandate the wearing of masks and distancing among other things. We have a Covid Committee which is trying to conform with these requirements. Hopefully, we can bless the wine, the Shabbat, and pre-cut portions of the Challah. But desserts will have to wait. Please, please get yourselves vaccinated.

-Gary, VP of TBE

# Bulletin Briefs

#### **April Birthdays**

- Sid GoldstienMarsha EpsteinRaul Medina
- Caleb Medina
- 17 Cesar Vidales22 David Goldstien
- 28 Sheryl Brunk

#### **Donations**

Andi and Jeff Portney

In memory of Jen Oser Carsel by Judith Klinger

In memory of Corinne Bernstein:

David and Linda Goldstien Shaina Semiatin and Anjuli Uhlig Donna Eschen and Greg Villegas Boots and Seymour Hersh Suzanne and Ron Levy Maia and Steve Lewis Andi and Jeff Portney Michael and Barbara Sachs

#### **Brotherhood**

The Temple Beth El Brotherhood meets on the first Sunday of the month, which this month was April 4<sup>th</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.

Our next meeting will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00AM. So please let me know if you are interested in attending our Zoom meetings and I will send you an invitation.

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, April 13<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

<a href="http://Smile.Amazon.com">http://Smile.Amazon.com</a> . Amazon will donate directly to TBE. To do this, go into smile.amazon.com

<a href="http://smile.amazon.com">http://smile.amazon.com</a> . 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 <a href="http://tbesantamaria.com">http://tbesantamaria.com</a>

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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upon his confession, the prophet Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has taken away your sin; you shall not die." (2 Sam 12:13) Here we see God's grace and government at work; for though David was forgiven and restored to fellowship with God, there were still consequences for his actions and the Lord dispensed judgment upon David and Bathsheba. (2 Sam 12:14-18) (https://thinkingonscripture.com<https://thinkingonscripture.com>)

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What can we take away as 21st Century Earthlings? (... and I am talking about all those who really and truly open their eyes and minds and decide to care about themselves, their loved ones, the families of all Earthlings, and the planet Earth.)

- 1. From a biblical point of view we can understand that even in ancient times Earthlings came to realize that no one – yes – no one (and I am referring to all Earthlings) is perfect. Indeed Genesis indicates it from the start. After, "Noah's Flood," in which God drowned the entire world. God regretted destroying humanity when he confessed the following: "And Noah built an altar to the Lord, and he took of all the clean animals and of all the clean fowl and brought up burnt offerings on the altar. And the Lord smelled the pleasant aroma, and the Lord said to Himself, "I will no longer curse the earth because of man, for the inclination of man's heart is bad from his youth, and I will no longer smite all living things as I have done." (Genesis 8:20-21) I have no doubt that every single one of you dear readers – those who had come across before, or those who are reading that statement for the first time: "the inclination of man's heart is bad from his youth" are wondering what those who had written it in the name of God had in mind. After all - "the Lord said to Himself" - not to Noah.
- 2. From the present time's point of view Earthlings' "bad inclinations" changed definition and it is called: "Ego." The following are a few definition of "Ego":
- A. "A person's sense of self-esteem or self-importance." (Internet definition)
- B. "The "I" or self of any person; a person as thinking, feeling, and willing, and distinguishing itself from the selves of others and from objects of its thought. ... egotism; conceit; self-importance." (Internet definition)
- C. By definition, an ego is a person's sense of self-esteem or self-importance. To have an ego is essential to our very makeup. It will define who we are and how we connect with others. Ego becomes an issue when it becomes overpowering. Everyone has an ego, whether big or small.

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## Zoom by telephone

We are conducting 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 for us 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

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How can one tell if an Earthling has a "Good Inclination" or a "Good Ego," or a "Bad Inclination" and a "Bad Ego?" How do they manifest themselves? According to the Bible, an Earthling would be able to distinguish between the two by not looking into his own "Exterior", or other Earthling's exteriors, but by looking "into" his own heart, or other Earthling's hearts – Just as God does.

For example: When Yishai, brought his sons before the prophet Samuel to select a king from among them, Samuel noticed Elisha who, apparently was tall and handsome, and thought that he would be anointed king. However, God told him: "6 And it was, that when they came, and he saw Eliab, that he said, "Surely, before the Lord is His anointed." 7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7)

An Earthling cannot look into another Earthling's heart, but can still judge if this or that Earthling has "a good heart" or a "bad heart." How can they know? Obviously, they can by the other Earthling's behavior, mannerism, communication, and deeds. Yet, in the privacy of that Earthling's home, he or she could display their bad inclinations, and egos by terrorizing and abusing their families. A good inclination or a good ego overpowers the bad inclination or the bad ego when there is a flawless harmony between the heart and the brain. The bad inclination manifests itself, and overpowers the individual when there is no such flawless harmony between the two. That disruption occurs when an individual Earthling places stumbling stones (bad thoughts, violent actions) into the natural process to disturb the smooth flow of the current. Therefore, there is a need for a constant and relentless effort to subdue that bad inclination or bad ego.

The following are steppingstones to accomplish such endeavor to avoid that toxic Ego that will ruin an Earthling's life: (https://medium.com/thrive-global/25-ways-to-kill-the-toxic-ego-that-will-ruin-your-life) - (edited)

- 1. Focus on the effort not the outcome. Doing your best is what matters. Focus on that. External rewards are just extra.
- 2. Choose purpose over passion. Passion runs hot and burns out, while people with purpose think of it as passion combined with reason are more dedicated and have control over their direction.
- 3. Shun the comfort of talking and face the work. As creative [individuals], we need to shut up and get to work. To face the void despite the pain of doing so.
- 4. Kill your pride before you lose your head. You cannot let early pride lead you astray. You must remind yourself every day how much work is left to be done, not how much you have done. You must remember that humility is the antidote to pride.
- 5. Stop telling yourself a story there is no grand narrative. When you achieve any sort of success, you might think that success in the future is just the natural and expected next part of the story. This is a straightforward path to failure by getting too cocky and overconfident. Focus on the present moment, not the story.
- 6. Learn to manage (yourself and others). It is gratifying to be the micromanaging egotistical boss at the center of everything but that is not how organizations grow and succeed. That is not how you can grow as a person either.
- 7. Forget credit and recognition. When we are starting out in our pursuits, we need to make an effort to trade short-term gratification for a long-term payoff. Submit under people who are already successful, learn, and absorb everything you can. Forget credit.
- 8. Connect with nature and the universe at large. There is no ego standing beneath the giant redwoods or on the edge of a cliff or next to the crashing waves of the ocean.
- 9. Choose alive time over dead time. [Remember! You cannot purchase a lost moment in your life at any amount.
- 10. When you find yourself in a hole stop digging. "Act with fortitude and honor," Have the courage to make a full stop." Our ego screams and rattles when it is wounded. We will then do anything to get out of trouble. Stop. Do not make things worse. Do not dig yourself further. Make a plan.
- 11. Leave your entitlement at the door. You can claim only that which you earn and create.

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12. Get out of your own head. Cut through that haze with courage and live with the tangible and real, no matter how uncomfortable.

13. Choose love. Martin Luther King understood that hate is like an "eroding acid that eats away the best and the objective center of your life." Hatred is when ego turns a minor insult into a massive sore and it lashes out. However, pause and ask: Has hatred and lashing out ever helped anyone with anything? Do not let it eat at you — choose love. Yes, love. See how much better you feel.

14. Paranoia creates things to be paranoid about. "He who indulges empty fears earns himself real fears," wrote Seneca, who as a political adviser witnessed destructive paranoia at the highest levels. If you let ego think that everyone is out to get you, you will seem weak...and then people will really try to take advantage of you. Be strong, confident and forgiving.

15. Always stay a student. Put yourself in rooms where you are the least knowledgeable person. Observe and learn. That uncomfortable feeling, that defensiveness that you feel when your most deeply held assumptions are challenged? Do it deliberately. Let it humble you. Remember how the physicist John Wheeler put it, "As our island of knowledge grows, so does the shore of our ignorance."

16. No one can degrade you. — They degrade themselves. Ego is sensitive about slights, insults and not getting their due. This is a waste of time. The soul that is within me no man can degrade.

Behold! Just let your bad inclinations, or ego flow in flawless harmony between your heart and the brain, and be amazed of the incredible outcome from which you will benefit.

With blessings for good health

## Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld

April 07, 2021



Screenshot from Zoom Passover Seder on March 28th, 2021

## Camp Shoreshim 2021 Registration is NOW Open!

The JCC is thrilled to host its 10th summer of Camp Shoreshim! We welcome you and your family to our 10th year of camp, and our Ancient Hebrew Village. This will be a summer to remember!

Camp Shoreshim hosts campers who are ready to be dropped off for the day - ages 3 and up. We welcome families of all orientations, ethnicities, backgrounds, and religions.

Sign up for Camp Shoreshim here:

https://www.jccslo.com/camp-

shoreshim.html<https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.jccslo.com%2Fcamp-

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We understand the value of the camp experience for young children and strive to include everyone who wants to participate. In that spirit, we offer camp scholarships. Please contact our Jewish Family Services (jfs@jccslo.com) for scholarship information and we will work with you.

We are pleased to offer the following discounts - but please, just one promo code per family.

Promo Codes:

Earlybird (before April 15th) - 10% off registration.

Sibling - 10% off each child's registration for families with multiple campers.

If you have any questions, please contact the JCC Office at 805-426-5465 or info@jccslo.com

# April Yarzheits

4/1/21	Stan Eschen*	7	Nisan	Father of Donna, Eschen
4/1/21	Juan Velasquez Jr.	21	Nisan	Cousin of Cesar Vidales
4/1/21	Miriam Barkai	19	Nisan	Friend of Lyn Meltzer
4/1/21	Annabelle Abramson	19	Nisan	Aunt of Abby Lassen
4/1/21	Marsha Miliman	19	Nisan	Sister of Yael Gott
4/3/21	Ilene Klass Klein	21	Nisan	Mother of Linda & Karen Goldstien
4/5/21	Harry Heller*			Husband of Hazel Heller
4/6/21	Henrietta Swimmer*			Mother of Annette Barnett
4/8/21	David Wall*	26	Nisan	Son of Leo and Florence Wall
4/9/21	Denise Abb	1	Nisan	Cousin of Marsha Epstein
4/9/21	Michael Ratner	11	Nisan	Cousin of Marsha Epstein
4/9/21	Karl Wolf*	27	Nisan	Grandfather of Kenneth L. Wolf
4/12/21	Conrad Sylinski*	ŕ		Husband of Ruth Sylinski
4/13/21	Joe Martin	8	Nisan	Friend of Tom Geiger
4/16/21	Cynthia A. Cohen			Daughter of Edgar Cohen
4/17/21	Paul Evans*			Brother of Ben Evans
4/17/21	Nathan Robbins*			Father of Evelyn Lubin
4/18/21	Barry Green*	24	Nissan	Husband of Phyllis Green
4/19/21	Dave Argov*			·
4/19/21	Anna Eschen			Grandmother of Donna Eschen
4/19/21	Barry Lipman*			
4/19/21	Helen Lipman*			
4/19/21	Janet Melman*			Wife of Harvey Melman
4/19/21	Zetta Rykiss			Aunt of Errin, Sari, and Abby
4/22/21	Berta Geiger	10	Iyar	Mother of Tom Geiger
4/25/21	Beverly Duel		·	Sister of Joe Friedman
4/28/21	Reisle (Rose Jane) Holstein	3	Iyar	Grandmother of Eric Berge
4/29/21	Shulamit Ben-Moshe			Mother of Ilana David
4/29/21	Avrum Goldman*			Father of Cary Goldman
				·

# Months of Mourning

Hinda Beaman	Member of TBE	6/7/2020
		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
Lawrence Levy	Cousin of Mary Goldiner	1/21/21
Paula Peyser	Cousin of Paul Goldiner	1/24/21
Mary Oliver	Friend of many at TBE	2/3/21
Corinne Bernstein	Long-time member of TBE	2/17/21

# APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 Shabbat service led by Diane Borad-Mirken on Zoom (7:30 PM)	3 Etz Chayim children's class: Shabbat Morning Prayers on Zoom (9:30-10 AM)
4 138th Brotherhood Seminar on Zoom (10 AM)	5	Adult Conversational Hebrew with Joel David on Zoom (6 PM)  TBE Board meeting on Zoom (7 PM)	7 Yom HaShoah	8	Shabbat service led by Josue Medrano on Zoom (7:30 PM)	IO Etz Chayim children's class: Havdalah & Sundown Songs on Zoom (8:10 PM)
Covid-19 Committee Meeting on Zoom (4 PM)	12	Adult Conversational Hebrew with Joel David on Zoom (6 PM)	14	15	Shabbat service led by Anita Friedman in Temple (7:30 PM)	17 Etz Chayim children's class: Shabbat Morning Prayers on Zoom (9:30-10 AM)
18	19	Adult Conversational Hebrew with Joel David on Zoom (6 PM)	21	22	Shabbat service led by Diane Borad-Mirken in Temple (7:30 PM)	24 Etz Chayim school: children's class: Havdalah & Sundown Songs on Zoom (8:20 PM)
25	26	27 Adult Conversational Hebrew with Joel David on Zoom (6 PM)	28	29	30 Shabbat service led by Rabbi Dov Gottesfeld in Temple (7:30 PM)	