

# The Clarion



## Temple B'nai Emet

1975 Potrero Grande Drive Unit E  
Monterey Park, California 91755  
(626) 545-2053

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Tammuz – Av 5785

Spiritual Leader Michael Feldman

July 2025

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### FROM OUR SPIRITUAL LEADER

If you were to envision someone at synagogue trying to get you to come to services more often, I doubt the picture would look appealing. Not that there is anything wrong with telling you why it is important to connect to God and community. (If there is, I am definitely in trouble!) But I wonder how often one might read or listen to an attendance appeal and infer a bit too much Jewish guilt. How often might one of us help you feel as though, by not coming to synagogue, that you are doing something just plain wrong?

What if I told you that your reasons for not showing up might be perfectly valid, even righteous?

No, I am not referring to health reasons, great difficulties, or a conflict with extraordinary life circumstances. I would hope we all know better than to feel guilty about something so obviously understandable. (Plus, our inner Jewish mothers, tissue boxes and chicken soups at the ready, would certainly insist on taking care of family and health first!)

Rather, I am talking about broader concerns that might prevent one from coming to services *at all*. How many of us wonder what we really get out of communal prayer? Or Jewish liturgy in any form? Are we supposed to pray because God hears our prayers, answers them, and makes the world a better place for our having shown up to services? And what do prayers even mean? Why center our prayers on Hebrew words when we mostly speak English, Spanish, or other languages? Even looking at a translation, do the ancient concepts in our *siddurim*, our prayer books, even have relevance to our lives today? Isn't it disingenuous to call out in God's name without really appreciating what you are saying?

I can address *some* of the above with the beauty of what our community already has. First, we are enormously blessed with a congregation as warm as any I could imagine. Multiple backgrounds and perspectives come together in a place where we spiritually and emotionally support each other and learn from each other. Many of those that show up for most services struggle with the meanings of the words. But they take comfort in engaging in sacred rituals because they provide connection to our legacies and to each other. The questions and discussions on Torah and other readings are rich and enlightening. And when (all too frequently) we are concerned for the ill of our community or for troubling events in the U.S., Israel, or elsewhere in the world, we have a respectful place to come together.

All that said, there are far more answers and many more reasons and ways to connect to our services and community. It is high time we explore them.

I will begin with the central piece that we've been talking about: The Miller Introduction to Judaism classes, in affiliation with the American Jewish University. All the most fundamental subjects of our

## FROM OUR SPIRITUAL LEADER CONT....

religion are covered in this incredible learning, such as why we care about the Sabbath and holidays, how our legacy evolved from Biblical to Rabbinic to Modern understandings of our history and religious code, how we reckon with our faith in a post-Holocaust world, what the many Jewish approaches to prayer are (or can be), and so much more.

This is a high-quality, weekly, 18-session course the synagogue must pay an affiliate fee for and that normally costs several hundred dollars for each attendee. To make it accessible to everyone in the community, and to help others come to our synagogue, we are keeping costs down to \$100 for each TBE member family and \$175 for non-member families. That works out to be less than \$10 per class. Classes will be held every Sunday at 9:00am, usually by Zoom for everyone's convenience, but will include three or four sessions held in person so that we can connect more personally, and especially to facilitate learning of a physical, emotional, or liturgical nature.

We are offering these classes because we are interested not only in giving you more reasons to come to services, but also in helping you connect with Judaism in your home and throughout your life. If you have been sitting on the sidelines, spending money on dues and donations and reading these newsletters or emails, just *knowing* that there is something about our collective religious identity worth preserving, but not able to connect to it personally to your satisfaction, this is the perfect opportunity to bridge that divide. And for those of you that have been fully engaged, that may have much knowledge and Jewish learning, trust me, there is much more to appreciate. I attended this course in my twenties after growing up in Orthodox full time day schools from preschool to high school and it still opened my eyes as to what Judaism could be.

But we are *not* stopping there:

1) I will be recording a few video lessons to introduce some basic concepts of prayer. This will include a discussion on the Shema—our most ancient of prayers, and a foundational mantra for our beliefs. What does it really mean? Why do we say it so frequently and so centrally? How does reciting it actually give us benefit? In fact, I will not wait for the Miller classes to begin to launch this: if you are reading this article from a hard copy of the Clarion, the first lesson should hopefully already be up on the website. (A huge shoutout here to Sara Loaiza and Ara Najarian for their incredible work on that website! Check it out, please!)

2) I will also be giving lessons on how we handle the central prohibition against “taking God’s Name in vain.” What does that really mean? How do we approach prayer and our religious lives in general without fully knowing what we are saying or doing? Is that even okay? How do we balance respect for the Divine with our need to engage in our inherently imperfect (human) way? I will also invite thoughts from all of you about our various struggles with genuine religious connection.

3) In connection with the broad Jewish education supplied by the Miller classes, I plan to teach specific liturgy and conduct weekday (probably Sunday) prayer groups wherein we both pray and discuss what the prayers mean to us. This will likely be a multimedia endeavor, continuing the video format above as well as incorporating discussions and prayers over Zoom and some minyanim in person. As beautiful as Sabbath services can be, weekday services have the ultimate liturgical means of channeling our most burning worldly desires.

4) And we are looking to schedule Hebrew classes! Everything from the basics of the Hebrew alphabet to decoding and reading. Prayers can theoretically be in any language, but there are very good reasons why we prioritize the language of our ancestors. No translation is perfect, and the beauty of the Hebrew words (and the music that goes along with them) just cannot be captured the same way by English or Spanish. Don’t worry, nobody is expected to give up on translation entirely! But consider this your opportunity to connect more deeply with the basic building blocks of our liturgy and holiest texts.

## FROM OUR SPIRITUAL LEADER CONT....

And more to come, God-willing. Did you miss getting a chance to read from the Torah or lead prayer for your Bat or Bar Mitzvah? Then come to the liturgy and Hebrew learning and we will add classes for the musical and memory skills you need to celebrate in the best of ways! Do you want to learn more about Rabbinic scholarship and what all those super religious folk are fascinated about all day in Yeshiva? Then come to the Miller classes and we will thereafter select a tractate of Talmud to pour through! Do you want to get a religious debate rather than political partisanship on Israel or any number of “hot” topics? Come learn the basics with us and then we can really go deep, with all the warmth of our wonderful community.

Jewish learning will always feel potentially unlimited. And that’s a beautiful thing. But it doesn’t have to always feel emotionally overwhelming. The learning initiatives I outline above are designed to provide you with enough to feel connected, to help you find meaning in our prayers and our legacy, and to encourage you to ask for more. Wondering, “What’s in it for me?” is okay too. You *should* have opportunities for personal satisfaction, support, guidance, pleasure, and other means of enriching your life as a result of participating in religious endeavors.

To answer an earlier question with a bit of a non-answer: whether or how God answers prayer is heavily debated. But most Jewish liturgical scholars and philosophers (and myself) agree that even the act of prayer, especially informed by a serious attempt at understanding the richness of Jewish liturgy, has enormous potential for our mental and spiritual health, even practical direction for our daily tasks, all independent from direct Divine response.

And, yes, ultimately, these learning opportunities are not just for each of us as individuals, but also for the synagogue as a whole. It is no secret that TBE has struggled to have a minyan (quorum of ten for formal congregational prayer) for quite a while now. Yes, we need more people to come, including but not limited to more of the folk that receive this newsletter. But trying to get people to just show up, divorced from any personal sense of meaning or connection, is morally and spiritually bereft and is ultimately unsustainable.

So, I ask that you give real meaning a shot. Participate in as much learning as you can. Tell us more about what you need or about your own struggles. And I hope that you will then find reason, for your community *and* for yourself, to come to more services. If not, hey at least you learned, maybe questioned. It doesn’t get more Jewish than that.

Michael Feldman

## President's Message

I hope this reaches everyone in good health.

I want to thank the Temple member family who were generous to purchase our brand-new computer. Our computer was over 10 years old, and Microsoft will stop supporting and updating it in a couple of months. This new computer is very necessary for the Temple to function in a very efficient manner.

We want also to thank Alan Pearlman from Membership Management, which is the company who helps us with all our technical issues, which allows us to perform all the temple business on the computer. Alan spent 2 days transferring our files and folders and adapting them to the new computer. His help was immeasurable.

I also want to thank Elvia Aespuro for making Father's Day a little special by ordering boutonnieres for all fathers in attendance at services on Saturday. We also celebrated Jeanette Dickman's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was very special for everyone in attendance to be part of her birthday celebration. Jeanette is a long-time member of the Temple and the Board.

If you would like to be informed as to what is happening in our Jewish Community and you want to participate in our Jewish Community reach out to our San Gabriel Pomona Valley Federation and get on their mailing list. Contact Karen Galeana at [Kgaleana@jewishsgpv.org](mailto:Kgaleana@jewishsgpv.org). If you give them your email address, they will send you information through JLIFE magazine which will inform you about everything going on in our community.

July 4<sup>th</sup> is approaching soon. It is a time for all of us to remember what the Declaration of Independence means to us all.

Ricardo Aespuro

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### REMINDER

Temple B'nai Emet's Website is up and running. If you have not had a chance to view it, please do so at [templebnaiemet.org](http://templebnaiemet.org). Many thanks to Temple members Sara Loaiza and Ara Najarian, for putting it together.

## THANK YOU WITH A DONATION

Jon and I would like to thank our temple family for all their tributes, prayers and good wishes for Jon's recovery and good health. It has not been an easy time for Jon and his family and we appreciate all the support we have received. Please continue to pray for his recovery.

The Olesen family

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## MINYON THANKS

Thanks to the following for their generous donations for saying Kaddish-El Moley Rachamim on yorzeit for their beloved ones and prayers for the sick. Also, if needed, the Minyan will say Kaddish for the first year for a donation of \$150.00. If anything is needed from the Minyan, please do not hesitate to call the Temple Office (626) 545-2053.

Lila Gordon

In memory of David Gordon

## **TEMPLE B'NAI EMET TRIBUTE FUND....**

Send a thoughtful card to a friend or relative for all occasions.

ALL contributions Further the support of our Temple. Tributes are **\$3.00. WE NEED AND WELCOME YOUR SUPPORT....** Call the Temple office **(626) 545-2053.**

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

Tova Rosenbaum – on her many scholastic accomplishments in High School and being accepted to UCLA. From Alison and David Gostlin.

Jeanette Dickman – on her 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday. From Judi Tefft, Sandy and Jon Olesen, Rachel Wu.

### **GET WELL WISHES TO:**

Jon Olesen – Thinking of you. From Alison and David Gostlin.

Lillian Gordon – From Jeanette Dickman, Joel and Judith Perez and Family.

Ryan Cook – From Jeanette Dickman

### **CONDOLENCES TO:**

Stacy Feldman – on the loss of her beloved Mother Gail. From Judi Tefft.

Sherri Stinson and Family – on the loss of her beloved Mother Patsy Frederiksen. From Alison and David Gostlin, Sandy and Jon Olesen.

Bob Frederiksen - on the loss of his beloved Mother Patsy Frederiksen. From Alison and David Gostlin, Sandy and Jon Olesen.

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I want to thank everyone at TBE who helped celebrate my 95<sup>th</sup> birthday in June. All the best for the coming years.

Jeanette Dickman

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# CONTRIBUTIONS

## **Yahrzeits**

Mrs. Arlene Blake  
In memory of Ida Cohen  
Esther Herschberg  
and Elle Liebman  
Mrs. Judi Tefft  
In memory of Jake Smith  
Gail Feuerstein  
In memory of Seymour Harris  
Mr. and Mrs. Sean Olesen  
In memory of Ruben Green  
Mrs. Marion Barsky  
In memory of Phyllis Stone  
Mrs. Nina Barsky  
In memory of Sonia Barsky  
and Harry Prager  
Mr. Marc Maretsky  
In memory of Sanford "Sandy" Maretsky  
Mrs. Arlene Blake  
In memory of Jerry Herschberg  
Mr. Wesley Markenson  
In memory of Harry Markenson  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Applebaum  
In memory of Abraham Richman  
Mrs. Judi Tefft  
In memory of Gertrude Smith  
and Aaron Rosenzweig  
Mr. and Mrs. Jon Olesen  
In memory of Ruth Frolove  
Mr. and Mrs. David Gostlin  
In memory of Ruth Frolove  
Susan Spitzer  
In memory of Karl Spitzer

## **General Fund**

Anne Higa  
In honor of Shavuot  
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Dickman  
In honor of Temple B'nai Emet  
Lila Gordon  
In memory of Darryl Gordon

# YAHREZEITS

## **FRIDAY, JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>**

Max Davis	July 4-5
Hyman Fagin	July 4-5
Mervin Isaac	July 4-5
Helen Nisenshal	July 4-5
Phyllis Rabins	July 4-5
Jennie Rosenbaum	July 4-5
Benjamin Waldman	July 4-5
Rudy Chernick	July 5-6
Marilyn Hasson	July 5-6
Bessie Raskin	July 5-6
Rose Resnick	July 5-6
Isadore Slonim	July 5-6
Julia Sones	July 5-6
Zeev Wolf Dlin	July 6-7
Samuel Goldstein	July 6-7
Ruth Gottesman	July 6-7
Marjorie Ruth Homer	July 6-7
Charlotte Rosenstein	July 6-7
Veda Stambor	July 6-7
Annie Gilderman	July 7-8
Sheldon Haas	July 7-8
Bernard Kantor	July 7-8
Tillie Kolokol	July 7-8
Erma Leibovitz	July 7-8
Nathan Martz	July 7-8
Jack Newport	July 7-8
Oscar Solomon	July 7-8
Charles Wasserman	July 7-8
Pauline Dorfman	July 8-9
Louis Fishkin	July 8-9
Jacob Katz	July 8-9
Monica Levin	July 8-9
Solomon Schlossberg	July 8-9
Gail Shinn	July 8-9
Bessie Shulman	July 8-9
Stanley Weinstein	July 8-9
Abe White	July 8-9
Leon Benveniste	July 9-10
Molly Gurnick	July 9-10
Anna Kaplan	July 9-10
Sam Koster	July 9-10
Goldie Levy	July 9-10
Zelda Weiner	July 9-10
Jacob Gemovsky	July 10-11
Rebecca Knopf	July 10-11
Peter Sandler	July 10-11
Nissim David Shahon	July 10-11
Sara Wine	July 10-11

## **FRIDAY, JULY 11<sup>TH</sup>**

Rebecca Bernstein	July 11-12
Jacob Cutler	July 11-12
Solomon Eisman	July 11-12
Nat Garber	July 11-12
Sonia Jaro	July 11-12
Ella Dell	July 12-13
Anne Hiller	July 12-13
Harry Horberg	July 12-13
Mamie Isenberg	July 12-13
Sam Kinsbursky	July 12-13
Abe London	July 12-13
Sarah Shapiro	July 12-13
Stephen Cohen	July 13-14
Minnie Fleischman	July 13-14
Ari Ben Glatt Holtz	July 13-14
Harvey Magy	July 13-14
Samuel Meisner	July 13-14
Fruma Mishkin	July 13-14
Bella Palotnik	July 13-14
Douglas Tauber	July 13-14
Walter Cohen	July 14-15
David Sheldon Green	July 14-15
William "Bill" Henteleff	July 14-15
Harry Shapiro	July 14-15
Rose Dienstag	July 15-16
Dora Steinberg	July 15-16
Samuel W. Arak	July 16-17
Gussie Dickman	July 16-17
Reba L. Frank	July 16-17
Aaron Gusner	July 16-17
Dorothy Henteleff	July 16-17
Anna Kantrowitz	July 16-17
Pnina Levin	July 16-17
Edward Marks	July 16-17
Louis S. Morris	July 16-17
Jack P. Rashoff	July 16-17
Mabel Renkin	July 16-17
Oscar Rontz	July 16-17
Marcos Behar	July 17-18
Shirley Bulotsky	July 17-18
Abraham Magy	July 17-18
Albert Savitt	July 17-18
Gershon Schwartz	July 17-18

## **FRIDAY, JULY 18<sup>TH</sup>**

Celia Brezner	July 18-19
Sarah Handelsman	July 18-19
Zelda Horwitz	July 18-19
Elaine Jaffee	July 18-19



**FRIDAY, JULY 18<sup>TH</sup> CONT.**

Albert David Kastrul	July 18-19
Esther Rachel Lichtbach	July 18-19
Lena Quint	July 18-19
Stephen Stanley Safier	July 18-19
Paula Winer	July 18-19
Morris Hurevitch	July 19-20
Bessie Matisoff	July 19-20
Louis Saffe	July 19-20
Gittel Cywan	July 20-21
Joseph Ginsburg	July 20-21
Rose Lefkowitz	July 20-21
Libby Madenberg	July 20-21
Marie Totschek	July 20-21
Rita Steinfeld	July 20-21
Louis Laznick	July 21-22
Samuel Pinsky	July 21-22
Jennie Rappaport	July 21-22
Ernestine Lane	July 22-23
Raymond Rosenthal	July 22-23
Sophie Sheby	July 22-23
Ronald Byron Sloane	July 22-23
Henry Cherroff	July 23-24
Donald Levin	July 23-24
Sophie Weinberg	July 23-24
Howard Barsky	July 24-25
Vivian Greene	July 24-25
Millie Greenland	July 24-25

**FRIDAY, JULY 25<sup>TH</sup>**

Mordechai Esquenazi	July 25-26
Leon Moskatel	July 25-26
Phillip Nasatir	July 25-26
John Rybka	July 25-26
Riva Sunshine	July 25-26
David Becker	July 26-27
Esther Cohen	July 26-27
Lillian Finkler	July 26-27
Bernard Ginsburg	July 26-27
Sam Sherman	July 26-27
Dora Grossman	July 27-28
Avraham Markoff	July 27-28
Esther Pessah Rovero	July 27-28
Pauline Stone	July 27-28
Rose Gerson	July 28-29
Harry Gordon	July 28-29
Hyman Baron	July 29-30
Sadie Marks	July 29-30
Esther Lea Pessa	July 29-30
Jessie Bear	July 30-31
Grace Cohen	July 30-31
Frank Bricker	July 30-31
Milton Eiser	July 30-31
Israel (Mike) Finegood	July 30-31
Ruth Frolove	July 30-31



Many thanks to our Temple member family who graciously offered to purchase our new computer system after reading our appeal in last month's Clarion. We are very grateful to them.



Congratulations to Temple members Shoshana and Richard Rosenbaum on their daughter Tova's acceptance to UCLA and their daughter Maia's acceptance for an internship in Prague, Czech Republic.



# **HAPPY JULY** **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARY**

Margot Eiser	July 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Sara Loaiza	July 6 <sup>th</sup>
Elize Olesen	July 11 <sup>th</sup>
Marianne Danoff	July 15 <sup>th</sup>
Moshe Garcia	July 15 <sup>th</sup>
Laurence Bear	July 20 <sup>th</sup>
Cynthia Greene Yehezkel	July 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Naim Yehezkel	July 29 <sup>th</sup>

Nikki and Howard Applebaum July 2<sup>nd</sup>



Temple B'nai Emet  
1975 Potrero Grande Drive Unit E  
Monterey Park CA 91755

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**JULY**

4<sup>TH</sup> – Independence Day Observance **Office Closed**

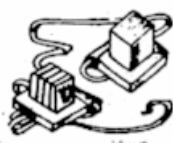
**DATED MATERIAL**

**PLEASE EXPEDITE**

President.....Ricardo Aespuro  
Spiritual Leader ..... Michael Feldman  
Office Administrator..... Valerie Cook

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**Schedule of Services**



Saturday morning services continue to be conducted through **ZOOM** and **IN PERSON** starting at **10:00 am**. If you would like to join services via **ZOOM**, contact the Temple office **(626) 545-2053** and give Val your email address. You will then receive the **LINK** to join services.

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***Candle Lighting Time***

“Beautify the Sabbath and  
Your Home”



July 4.....	7:50
July 11.....	7:48
July 18.....	7:45
July 25.....	7:41