



Our Mishpacha

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Everyone is welcome.



Hazzan's Notes



Dear Friends,

As we are now firmly ensconced in winter and are finishing the book of Genesis and moving into the book of Exodus in our weekly readings of the Torah, we find ourselves being immersed again in the Moses story and how he, who was a stutterer, became our people's leader.

Our understanding of this complex man gives us pause to reflect upon how we lead our lives. Do we lead with our best foot forward knowing we may trip and fall along the way (as did Moses) to find our best path or do we follow what everyone wants us to follow. Are we blinded by what is going on around us and not following what our heart and mind tell us needs to be our path to lead our lives and be our own shining light to those in our sphere? These are the complex set of ideas and emotions that the Torah presents to us this month.

At the end of the month, we read our people's liberation from bondage and their path toward freedom and free expression. The way is set forward, and our path becomes clear. Back is not a way forward. Only forward motion allows us to see clearly what we must do. Our goal must be to be a light for ourselves and those around us. Our lights shine brightly and give hope and meaning to the world fraught with challenges we must face and meet each day.

Hazzan Lance H. Tapper, Hon DMus

From our President

Hi Everyone,

I hope you all had a Happy Hanukkah. Our Beth Shalom of Whittier (BSW) dinner, party and service went great! We had nearly double the number of people as last year. The food was excellent and everyone enjoyed the gift bags. It was a beautiful thing to watch the large Hanukkiah being lit during the service and listen to Hazzan Lance's inspirational words.

I personally am exhausted from all the holiday parties! The day after the BSW party I had almost 30 people at my house for our family Latke Hanukkah party. I am happy to say that several of the younger generations are taking over the cooking with only a bit of oversight from me. They are also taking over the cleaning, which is fantastic! Joann did set-up and organizing. One of my cousins always brings a turkey and this year my son Bob cooked the brisket with my grandson Ben helping and doing the slicing (which is always the hardest part for me). Ben and Jordan made the latkes. Joey, who you all know from his broadcasting of the Friday night services, was in charge of setting up chairs and games in the back yard. Not to leave him out, his brother Matt assisted with set up and take down of anything heavy. Daniel ate lots of turkey and lit the electric hanukkiah.

In case you don't know it, I have a Corn Hole reputation to uphold. I entered a corn hole tournament on a cruise a few years ago. The MC was throwing the bean bags to each person but carefully handed it to me when it was my turn. It was as if he thought I wouldn't be able to catch it! I got up and threw it into the hole on the first try. I accepted my medal to a round of surprised applause. He won't underestimate me again!!

This month we are trying something different. Rabbi Ken will be doing a Havdalah Service on Saturday Jan 17th. We will have dinner first and then the Havdalah Service with the Rabbi explaining the service and the reasons behind it and symbols used during the service.

The dinner will be Italian from Lascari's. I'm sure that it will be a very enjoyable evening. The flyer with details are in this Mishpacha and the Weekly Newsletter. There is no charge for the meal but we do need RSVPs so we know how much to order.

Shalom
Lila

BOOK CLUB NEWS

The next book that we are reading is called, "And the Mountains Echoed" by Khalil Hosseini.

The book is a work of historical fiction that examines the factors that lead to and reverberate from one action: a poor family sells their youngest daughter to a wealthy couple in Kabul. Set in Afghanistan, the novel spans over 50 years and four generations.

We are meeting on Wednesday, January 21st at 1:00pm.

For more info contact Michelle





Havdalah Service



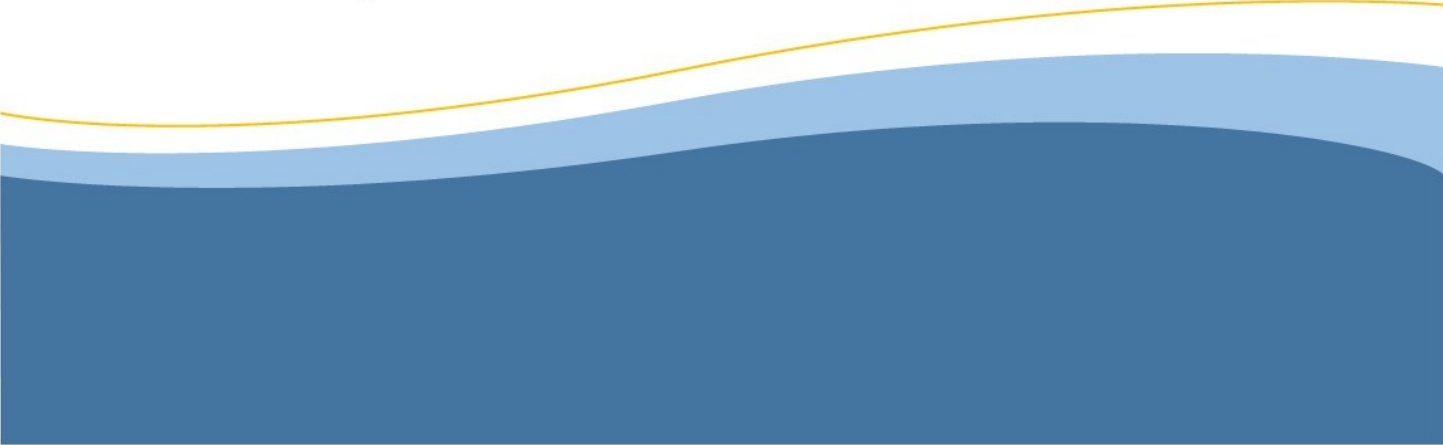
and Dinner

Join Rabbi Ken and your Beth Shalom family for a Havdalah service followed by dinner.

Rabbi Ken will talk about the meaning of the Havdalah service, why we do it and the ritual items used.

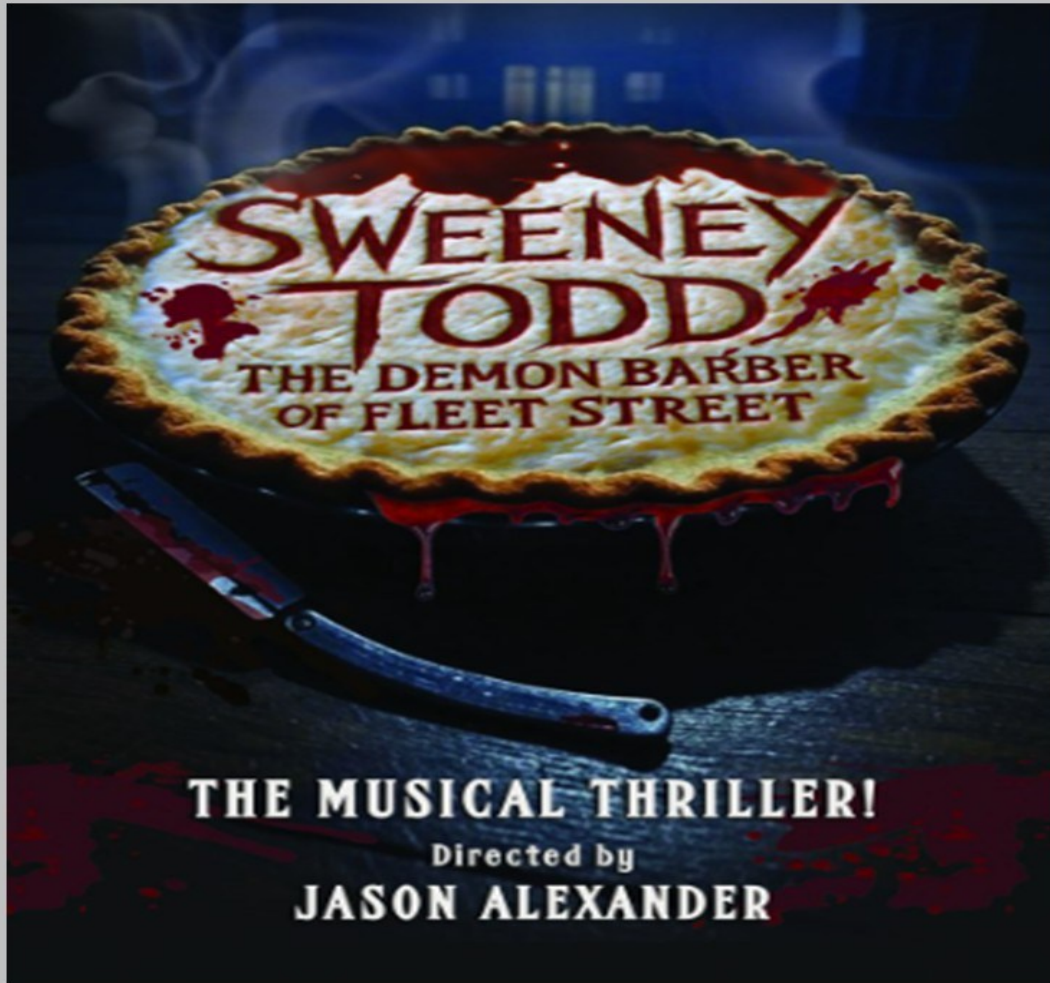
*Saturday, January 17th, 6:00 p.m.
RSVP no later than January 12th.*

Everyone is welcome. There is no charge.





BETH SHALOM OF WHITTIER PRESENTS



**Join your Beth Shalom friends and family for
an afternoon at the theatre!**

Saturday, January 31, 2026 ★ 2:00 p.m.

La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts
14900 La Mirada Boulevard, La Mirada 90638

There are a limited number of tickets, reserve yours today by
calling or emailing the Temple office.

Tickets are free for MEMBERS ONLY plus one guest.

We do not have any extra tickets for sale.

Tickets can be picked up at the office during regular office hours.

Let the office know if you need transportation.

bswoffice@verizon.net ★ (562) 941-8744

BETH SHALOM OF WHITTIER LUNCH AND LEARN



THE JEWISH TRADITIONS OF LOVE AND SEX

Hazzan Lance will take us on a journey into the Jewish traditions of love and sex through the texts of the Shulhan Arukh (the manual of Jewish traditions and customs). Join us for this fascinating deep dive into our religion's thoughts and feelings on this subject.

WHEN
Saturday,
February 14th
12:00 p.m.

RSVP BY
Thursday,
February 6th
at 2:00 p.m.

By email:
bswoffice@verizon.net
Or by phone:
562.941.8744

Mezuzah

The “Mezuzah” is a reminder that it is taken from the Torah in the same paragraph as the “Tephillin”. “And you shall write them upon the doorposts of your home / house and upon your gates. What we learn from this paragraph / sentence is that it is taken from the Torah. The laws of this paragraph / sentence should be written on our doorposts as follows:

1. The belief that there is only one G-d.
2. To love G-d with all your heart, soul, and might.
3. That these words of G-d be upon our heart.
4. That we teach these words to our children.
5. That we discuss and speak of these words in our homes when we are traveling, when we are awake and when we go to bed.
6. That we put these words upon our arms and between our eyes.
7. That we write these words upon our doorposts and gates.

A sofeir, “scribe”, writes this paragraph which contains all these laws, on a piece of parchment. He uses the Torah script which is a bit different from our regular script. This piece of parchment is rolled up in an oblong case. The case is then attached to the doorpost. Now we have fulfilled the commandment properly.

Laws of the Mezuzah

1. It is a commandment to put a Mezuzah upon every doorpost of every room except the bathroom. If a room has many doors, each door must have a Mezuzah.
2. If a court, a Jewish city or province is surrounded by a gate the gate must have a “Mezuzah”.
3. The Mezuzah is put upon the right side of the entrance. It is put upon the upper third of the doorpost. When we put on the “Mezuzah”, we recite a special blessing honoring the name of G-d, who has commanded us to put it up. The “Mezuzah” should be put closer to the outside of the doorpost and it should be slanted with the top pointing inward.
4. If one moves from home and knows that a Jew will be moving in after he/she moves do not remove the “Mezuzah”. He/she may leave it as a gift or ask the new tenant to buy it.
5. It has been a custom to touch the “Mezuzah” and kiss the hand when we enter or leave a house. In this way we can always be reminded of the right way of life.

A thought just came to my mind. What a wonderful effect these laws could have upon our lives, if everyone were to follow them. We would probably be blessed with everlasting peace.

Shalom,
Sam Pearlman

Clergy Schedule

Current policy for Beth Shalom Services: We are open as usual to members, former members and anyone who is known to our Board of Directors. Any major events will require pre-registration and/or tickets. We will continue to have security guards on the premises and reserve the right to inspect any bags or purses. All others may watch on our Youtube page, <https://www.youtube.com/@BethShalomofWhittier>.

January 2--7:30 pm--Rabbi Ken

January 9--7:25 pm--Hazzan Lance and Ty

January 16--7:30 pm--Rabbi Ken

January 17--6:00pm--**Havdalah and Dinner program**--Rabbi Ken

January 23--7:25 pm--Hazzan Lance and Ty

January 30--7:25 pm--Hazzan Lance and Ty

Happy Birthday

Susan Lieberman	January 19
Jay Weinschenker	January 31

Anniversary

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This is Our Mishpacha

Our Mishpacha is published monthly, on or near the first of the month.

If you want an article or announcement to appear in the next issue, the submission deadline is the 20th of the month prior.

Our Mishpacha is sent on-line to the members of Beth Shalom with computers.

If you wish a printed copy mailed to you, please call the office (562) 941-8744.

Printed copies are also available in our lobby. \$18.00 per year for non-members.

The editor welcomes comments and suggestions. bswoffice@verizon.com

Candle Lighting Times

January 2 - 4:38
 January 9 - 4:44
 January 16 - 4:51
 January 23 - 4:58
 January 30 - 5:04



Tribute Cards

To send a Tribute Card in honor or in memory of someone, please contact Michelle Hess with your request at michelleh3532@gmail.com

General Fund Donations

Myra Becker – loved ones on Mi Shebeirach list

Yahrzeit Donations

Remembered by	Beloved Departed	Relationship
Michelle Hess	Emmanuel Morzinsky	Uncle
David Weiss	Rose Weiss	Mother
Myra Becker	Ruth Beck	Mother
	Bella Bell	Grandmother
	Lou Binke	Uncle
	Pauline Newman	Aunt

HOW TO VIEW BETH SHALOM OF WHITTIER ON YOUTUBE

Beth Shalom of Whittier will be moving its service broadcasts from Facebook to YouTube beginning with the broadcast of services on **May 9, 2025, at 7:25 pm**. Here are the simple steps to view services from Beth Shalom of Whittier on YouTube starting that date:

You do not have to sign up or subscribe to YouTube to watch our livestream services or videos on it!

On any computer browser, type in the top search bar: <https://www.youtube.com/@BethShalomofWhittier> then hit Enter on your keyboard. That will take you to Beth Shalom of Whittier's You Tube Channel!

The first video icon there on our video channel will be the one you want to click on and watch. We will generally have a video icon set at least 20 minutes ahead of the service broadcast time and it will begin at the noted time (7:25 pm, 9:25 am, etc.). You can click on that icon and wait for the video to start.

Chat Feature on YouTube

Should you wish to use the chat feature on a YouTube livestream, you must have a Gmail email address and password and sign into YouTube at the top right of the YouTube screen where it says **sign-in**. If you do not have a Gmail address, you can create one by clicking on that sign-in at the top right of the YouTube first page and following their instructions. Then each time you watch a livestream you can sign into YouTube and the chat feature will be on the right side of the video you are watching.

Yahrzeit

Observed By	Dear Departed	Relationship
Hazzan Lance H Tapper	Gary Tapper	Cousin
	Harold Louis Tapper	Grandfather
	Esther D Tapper	Grandmother
	Dr. L. E. Tapper	Father
Miriam Brookfield	Willy Fleischmann	Father
	Dora Fleischmann	Mother
Myra Becker	Pauline Newman	Aunt
	Dorothy Rubin	
Michelle Hess	Julius Schwartz	Uncle
	Leigh Hess	Father-in-Law
Mina Cano	Socorro Torres	Grandmother
David E. Weiss	Elliot Weiss	Father
Susan Lieberman	Max Moskowitz	Uncle
	Etta Arnold	Mother
	Samuel Rubins	Grandfather
Mark Hardie	Nathaniel Bridgette	Uncle
Sidney Paul	Bertha Paul	Step-Mother
	Evelyn Resnick	Sister
	Harry Paul	Father
Klara Wein	Meir Millteanu	Father
Oliver Rubenstein	Norman Lundquist	Grandfather
Eugene Jaffee	Sol Jaffee	Son

Yahrzeit Observed by Beth Shalom of Whittier

Dear Departed		
Manuel Klasky	Helen Fleischman	Naftali Saleweizek
Ida Brooks Fink	Brina Bressler	Louis Freedman
Beatrice Unger Snow	Ruth Becker	Freda Cipes
Rebecca Wiener	Sophie Carnow	Joseph Unger
Jordan Pollack	Sylvia Squier	Esther Rosen
Julia Morris		

Tevet - Shevat 5786

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 7:30p Shabbat Service	3 14 Tevet Parashat Vayechi
4	5	6	7	8	9 7:30p Shabbat Service	10 21 Tevet Parashat Shemot
11	12	13	14	15 7:00p Board Meeting	16 7:30p Shabbat Service	17 28 Tevet Parashat Va'era 6:00p Havdalah Service & Dinner
18	19	20	21 1:00p Book Club Meeting	22	23 7:30p Shabbat Service	24 6 Shevat Parashat Bo
25	26	27	28	29	30	31