



Our Mishpacha

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A Note from the Rabbi,

December is the time for celebrating Hanukkah, the eight-day festival of lights that begins in the evening of the 25 of Kislev, Saturday night, December 24, and ends in the evening of Sunday, January 1st.

Hanukkah celebrates the military victory of the Maccabees, who rebelled against the Syrian Greeks who wanted the Jews to assimilate to the Greek way of life.

The Syrian Greek empire controlled the Jerusalem Temple. After the victory of the rebels, they rededicated the Temple and lit the sacred lamps. Here is a description from 2 Maccabees: "It is also the festival of the kindling of the fire. For when our ancestors were being taken (into exile), the pious priests of that day took some of the fire on the altar and hid it, so that the place remained unknown to anyone. Many years later, Nehemiah sent the descendants of the priests who had hidden the fire to get it... They could find only muddy water. He ordered them to draw some water and sprinkle the water on the wood and offerings... the sun, which had been clouded over, came out and shone on it, and a great blaze was kindled."

This is the time to enjoy Hanukkah foods such as latkes [fried potato pancakes] and sufganiot [red-jelly stuffed doughnuts]; Hanukkah games with S'vivon [dreidel - a spinning top engraved with the Hebrew letters nun, gimme, hei and shin, an acronym for "a great miracle happened there"]; and of course giving Hanukkah gelt - gifts or money to young children.

Wishing you Chag Urim Same'ach - a very happy festival of lights.

Your Rabbi,
Osnat



Everyone is Welcome

Beth Shalom of Whittier Contingent Hears Speaker from Madagascar



On November 16 some of us braved the freeways to attend a presentation by Elysha Netsarh at Cal State University Northridge. Elysha, a plant biology researcher and teacher from Madagascar, shared her story of the process that led to her formal Orthodox conversion in May 2016 along with 120 members of her community.

Many people living on this island, a former French colony, off the coast of East Africa share an oral tradition of having Jewish roots dating back to Solomon. We've heard stories of the "lost tribes" of Israel, but theirs is

bolstered by a study of Malagasy, their language which contains elements of Ancient Egyptian, Arabic, Syrian, and Hebrew.

Fluent in three languages, Elysha is in the process of preparing a Hebrew-Malagasy prayer book and Chumash. She leads a women's chevra (partnered) study group on Jewish texts and hopes to establish a Hebrew school for children in the future. After the presentation our Whittier group feasted on deli at Brent's, a real treat for us.



Mandel Bread Fundraiser

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Hazzan's Notes

We celebrate again our festival of rededication and renewal at the end of this month with Hanukkah. It is a testament to what our forbearers did to insure Judaism continued long after them. We celebrate this joyous holiday with great love of the lights and all they bring this dark time of the year and of course, the *latkes*, which use that oil that was meant to keep the eternal light going in the temple.

This year let us also dedicate ourselves to helping others deal with this sometimes very difficult time of the year. I know that with my mother's passing, the end of this secular year has taken on a new sense of urgency and meaning that it did not have before in my mind. I feel it is important that we help those who may struggle to make it through this time of the year because of issues they face.

I hope we all enjoy the time we spend together with each other and others near and dear to us. Hold them close, love, hug, and kiss them. Remember, they are the most important treasure we have in our lives.

-- Hazzan Lance H. Tapper

BOOK CLUB NEWS

Beth Shalom's Book Group is continuing to meet monthly. On **December 13th**, the ladies are going out to lunch. Instead of reading and discussion only one book, everyone is reading a different book, so we will have many books to talk about.

In January, on the 10th of the month, we will be meeting at Michelle's and reading Tess Gerritsen's "Playing With Fire". "Playing with Fire" is a mystery with an interesting twist. This was one of the 2015 JBF authors. Tess Gerritsen is best known as the author of Rizzoli & Isles.

As always, we meet at 12:30 pm and bring our own lunches. Our gracious hostess provides yummy dessert and drinks.

Contact Myra for additional information



Honoring Elie Wiesel



I wanted to let you know about the United State House of Representatives' recent action to honor the late Elie Wiesel.

At the tender age of 15, Elie Wiesel witnessed the darkest side of humanity while held in the Nazi death camps of Auschwitz and Buchenwald. Rather than retreating from the world out of fear and despair, Elie became the clarion voice calling all of us to remember and to learn from the Holocaust.

He devoted his life to championing the rights of oppressed minorities around the world because, as he stated, "I must do something with my life. It is too serious to play games with anymore, because in my place, someone else could have been saved."

The impact of Elie Wiesel's life cannot be overstated. He was a beacon calling all of us to remembrance, and calling us to action. For this reason, the House of Representatives, with the support of Edward R. Royce, 39th District of California, passed House Resolution 810. This resolution expresses the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the life and work of Elie Wiesel in promoting human rights, peace, and Holocaust remembrance.

This exceptional man's wisdom is needed now more than ever. The House of Representatives honor his memory by committing to continue his work, to preserve the memory of those who perished in the Holocaust, to protect oppressed minorities that face other genocidal campaigns, and to promote the eternal values of peace, tolerance, and understanding for future generations.

Sam Pearlman



Happy Hanukkah
From
Beth Shalom of Whittier





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It's Party Time

Bingo

Desserts

Everyone is Invited!
Sisterhood Hanukkah Party
December 22, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Play Hanukkah Bingo
Left-Right Gift Exchange
Opportunity Basket Drawing

Games



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be recreated but not to this
exact look...From \$125*



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can be recreated*

Thank You for Your Donations

We are thankful for the support of Beth Shalom, from its members and friends

Agnes Fuchs

Myra Becker

Alita Sevin

Cold Weather Shelter

Hope Greenwood

Joel Kudler

Joseph & Barbara Lebovitz

Arlene Norton

Thank You—Oneg Donations



Rita Rubin

Agnes Fuchs

Klara Wein Bonnie & Barry Neville

Joel Kudler

Marcos Salti

David Moriel

- Rita Rubin

December Clergy Schedule / Candle Lighting Times

Date	Time	Clergy on Bima	Service	Candles
December 2	7:30 p	Hazzan Lance	Kaballat Shabbat	4:24 p
December 3	9:45 a	Hazzan Lance	Parashat Toldot	
December 9	7:30 p	Hazzan Lance	Kaballat Shabbat	4:25 p
December 10	9:45 a	Hazzan Lance	Siddur Kol Shalom	
December 16	7:30 p	Hazzan Lance	Kaballat Shabbat	4:27 p
December 17	9:45 a	Hazzan Lance	Parashat Vayishlach	
December 23	7:30 p	Rabbi Osnat	Kaballat Shabbat	4:30 p
December 24	9:45 a	Rabbi Osnat	T Study Parashat Vayeshev	
December 30	7:30 p	Rabbi Osnat & Hazzan Lance	Shabbat Hanukkah	4:35 p
December 31	9:45 a	Hazzan Lance	S.Hanukkah & Parashat Miketz	

December Yahrzeit Observances

Beloved Departed	Observed by	Relationship
Baptista, Dorothy	Baptista, Eileen & Steve	Mother of Steve
Bell, Bella	Becker, Myra	Grandmother
Binke, Lou	Becker, Myra	Uncle
Brookfield, Adolph	Brookfield, Howard	Father
Diamondstein, Joseph	Beth Shalom of Whittier	
Fruchtman, Anna Rose	Beth Shalom of Whittier	
Goodstein, Gail	Rubin, Robert & Rita	Sister of Rita
Gordon, Shirley Unger	Beth Shalom of Whittier	
Jacobson, David	Jacobson Family	Husband of Karen
Jacobson, Molly	Jacobson Family	Mother-In-Law of Karen
Kleinberg, Edna	Beth Shalom of Whittier	
Kudler, Sondra Janet	Kudler, Joel I.	Wife
Leiboff, Isaac	Greenwood, Hope	Father
Martinez, Nancy	Martinez, Rebecca	Sister of Rebecca
Morzinsky, Emmanuel	Hess, Richard & Michelle	Uncle of Michelle
Pollack, William	Pollack, Jordan & Yvette	Father of Jordan
Schneiderman, Molly	Beth Shalom of Whittier	Wife of Alan
Shuman, Lee	Fuchs, Agnes	Mother
Singer, John	Singer, Mark & Maggie	Father
Singer, John	Singer, Eunice	Husband
Smith, Shael	Jacobson Family	Cousin of Karen
Smolowitz, Sam	Rubin, Dorothy	Father
Ward, Joseph	Beth Shalom of Whittier	
Winett, Arnold	Norton, Arlene	Brother

Yahrzeit Donations

Yetta Gnessin	Rubin, Robert & Rita	Mother of Rita
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In Memoriam

In Memory of Dorothy Tapper—Alita Sevin


In Memory of Abe Michlin—Myra Weiss

In Memory of Gabor Fuchs—Agnes Fuchs

We honor the memory of our loved ones who have departed this earth as we kindle the Yahrzeit candle in remembrance. May their memory endure as an eternal blessing.

CELEBRATIONS

December Birthdays



Lucy Kleinberg	12/5/2016
David Starkman	12/11/2016
Alita Sevin	12/14/2016
Jordan Pollack	12/20/2016
Jacqueline Starkman	12/20/2016
Robert Rubin	12/21/2016
Barbara Landau	12/22/2016
Deborah Miranda	12/28/2016

December Anniversary


Alita & Jim Sevin 12/7/2016 31st Anniversary

*Beth Shalom of Whittier
wishes you all a very Happy Birthday &
Happy Anniversary*

Cold Weather Shelter 2016

This year we will be preparing meals for the Cold Weather Shelter from dinner December 19 through Breakfast December 26. We will be at East Whittier United Methodist Church on Cole Road as usual; however, in order to standardize the scheduling for the shelter, we will be changing the times of our shifts. Breakfast will be from 5:00 A.M. to 7:00 A.M. as usual, but dinner will be from 5:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. The overnight shift will be from 9:00 P.M. to 5:00 A.M. to following day. If you would like to volunteer for any of these shifts, please contact Rita at 562 943-3335 or rita.rubin943@gmail.com. Of course, we will also be accepting donations.

December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <u>Rosh Chodesh Kislev</u>	2 4:24p Candle 7:30 p Kaballat Shabbat w Hazzan Lance	3 9:00 a Breakfast <u>Parashat Toldot</u> w Hazzan Lance 9:45 a
4 Bingo 6:00 p	5 Daily Minyan 2:30	6	7 Spanish Class 6:00 p	8 Daily Minyan 2:30	9 4:25p Candle 7:30 p Kaballat Shabbat w Hazzan Lance	10 <u>Parashat Vayetzai</u> 9:00 a Breakfast 9:45 a Siddur Kol Shalom w Hazzan Lance
11 Bowling w BSW Puente Hills Bowl 12:00—2:00 p Bingo 6:00 p	12] Daily Minyan 2:30	13 Applebee's Fundraiser 11:00 a to midnight Book Club Lunch at Applebee's La Habra	14 Spanish Class 6:00 p	15 Daily Minyan 2:30 Board Meeting 7:00 p	16 4:27p Candle 7:30 p Kaballat Shabbat w Hazzan Lance	17 9:00 a Breakfast <u>Parashat Vayishlach</u> w Hazzan Lance 9:45 a
18 Bingo 6:00 p	19 Daily Minyan 2:30	20	21 Spanish Class 6:00 p	22 Daily Minyan 2:30 7:00 p Sisterhood Hanukkah Party	23 4:30p Candle 7:30 p Kaballat Shabbat w Rabbi Osnat	24 9:00 a Breakfast <u>Parashat Vayeshev</u> Study w Rabbi Osnat 9:45 a <u>Hanukkah 1</u>
25 <u>Hanukkah 2</u> Bingo 6:00 p	26 <u>Hanukkah 3</u> Daily Minyan 2:30	27 <u>Hanukkah 4</u>	28 <u>Hanukkah 5</u> Sisterhood Board Meeting 1:00 p Spanish Class 6:00 p	29 <u>Hanukkah 6</u> Daily Minyan 2:30	30 <u>Hanukkah 7</u> 7:30 p Shabbat Hanukkah w Rabbi Osnat & Hazzan Lance	31 9:00 a Breakfast Shabbat Hanukkah w Hazzan Lance 9:45 a <u>Hanukkah 8</u>

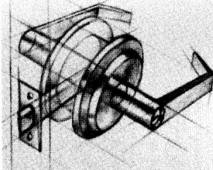
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The Mishpacha is published monthly, on or before the first of the month. If you want an announcement or article to appear in the next issue, the submission deadline is **December 20th**. The Mishpacha is sent on-line to those members and friends of Beth Shalom. If you wish a printed copy mailed to you, please call the office. Printed copies are also available in the lobby of Beth Shalom. The cost is \$18 per year for non-members. The editor welcomes comments, articles, and suggestions. Email Steve at sbap27@aol.com.

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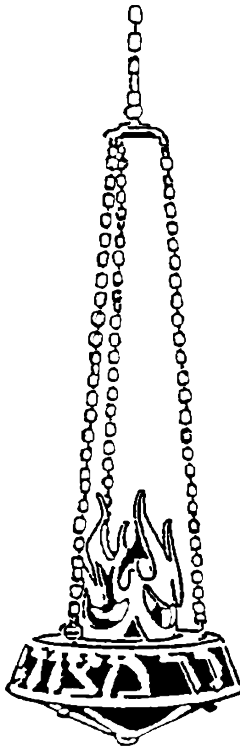
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