



Our Mishpacha

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A Note From the Rabbi,

In January and February we usually turn our attention to the women of our community, traditionally honoring them at Sisterhood Shabbat.

The women of Beth Shalom sisterhood need no introduction. They are the ones who make many of our events flow smoothly, usually with the added nourishment of food as they shop and cook, set up and clean up. What will Oneg Shabbat look like without the attention to cakes and sweets of the sisterhood? Another example of the way Beth Shalom benefits from sisterhood activities is of course the gift shop and its proceeds, which support much of what goes on in our synagogue. Sisterhood's mark is just a wonderful part of Beth Shalom.

This year sisterhood Shabbat coincided with the Torah reading on the Exodus from Egypt, which brought to mind the saying of the ancient sages of Talmud and Midrash: "In the merit of the righteous women our ancestors were redeemed from Egypt."

There are many stories in Torah and Midrash on Miriam, Yocheved, Pharaoh's daughter (Batya), Shifra and Pu'ah (midwives) - all women associated with the time of slavery and redemption in Egypt; all center on women who stood up to the hardships of slavery and the spiritual despair that accompanies the punishing physical existence. The women, according to our tradition, play an important role throughout that period, their actions filled with faith and hope that a better future is sure to come, a time when they and their families will witness Divine salvation.

A wonderful story that illustrates this point provides an answer to a question that comes up from reading the Torah description of the Israelites rejoicing after they crossed the Reed Sea. Moses and the men sing a song unto God, but Miriam and the women's song is accompanied by tambourines. And we might wonder, where did these tambourines come from, in the middle of the Exodus?... The Midrash story explains that the women were so confident of God's redemption from slavery, that they packed tambourines in case they will have to sing and dance, rejoicing in their salvation.

We at Beth Shalom are fortunate that sisterhood continues the tradition, and in the merit of our righteous women, our community continues to thrive.

Your Rabbi,
Osnat



Everyone is Welcome

CELEBRATIONS

February Birthdays

<i>Yvette Pollack</i>	2/1/2016
<i>Charles Held</i>	2/6/2016
<i>Marifyn Near</i>	2/21/2016
<i>David E. Weiss</i>	2/22/2016
<i>Dorothy Rubin</i>	2/28/2016



February Anniversaries

<i>Charles & Lila Held</i>	2/1/2016	57th anniversary
<i>Lynda Bruce & Anne Lesser</i>	2/14/2016	26th anniversary



Beth Shalom of Whittier

Wishes you all

Happy Birthday And Happy Anniversary



Donations of Kosher Manischewitz wine would be greatly appreciated!



Hazzan's Notes

As Midwinter is upon us, I reflect upon the fact that the good we do in the world is consistently paying forward all that it can from generation to generation. The struggles for peoplehood we read in these sections of the Torah this month remind us that on the other side we have always been a lamp unto the feet of all who deem appropriate to learn from us.

The chill in the air, the rain on the ground, the warmth of our homes and hearths are all signs that we need to remind ourselves again and again what we learn from our traditions and struggles. May this month further bring us knowledge and insight into all that we do and all that we prepare to continue in our lives to ever bring us toward the constant beauty of the world.

- - Hazzan Lance H. Tapper

Cold Weather Shelter

As most of you know, Beth Shalom of Whittier hosted the homeless at the East Whittier United Methodist Church December 21 - 28 as part of the Whittier Area Interfaith Council's Cold Weather Shelter Program. In the past we've served 40 guests a night. This year our numbers grew to 46, with three times as many women as we've seen in the past. Fortunately, for the first time in several years, there were no children. Over one hundred of us served 644 meals.

Because of our small numbers in Beth Shalom we are dependent upon and grateful for the help we receive from so many people in the greater community. We have volunteers coming from as far away as Rancho Palos Verdes, Long Beach, and Huntington Beach.

Many thanks to Scott and Cindy Held for working with Jo Ann on the Christmas presents for our guests – tee shirts, sweat shirts, socks, hats, gloves, towels, rain ponchos and personal care items presented in a duffle bag.

We will be honoring all of our volunteers and donors at an Oneg Shabbat following Shabbat services Friday night, February 5, 2016.

Beth Shalom Volunteers & Donors

Steve & Eileen Baptista	David Farias	Joel & JoAnn Golden	Ann Kanahele
Eddie Maldonado	Ian Nevares	Bonnie & Barry Neville	Sid & Sandra Paul
Claire Rademacher	Victoria Salti	Lisa & Miguelito Sandoval	Jacqueline Starkman
Rita & Bob Rubin	Hope Greenwood	Charles & Lila Held	Jeffery Kolnick & Rosa Tock
Joel Kudler	Joseph & Barbara Lebovitz	Christel Mergruen & Max Cutler	Arlene Norton
Preston Rosser	Alita Sevin	Norma Shreiber	Bernie Starkman
Klara Wein	David & Myra Weiss	Eileen Wiseman	Rabbi & Avi Margalith

February Yahrzeit Observances

Beloved Departed	Observed by	Relationship
Adele Tapper	Hazzan Lance H Tapper	Aunt
Anna Marks	Hazzan Lance H Tapper	Aunt's Mother
Bella Rubins	Susan Lieberman	Grandmother of Susan
Diane Graham	Richard & Michelle Hess	Cousin of Michelle
Esther Friedman	Richard & Michelle Hess	Aunt of Michelle
George Becker	Myra Becker	Father-in-Law
Gordon Tapper	Hazzan Lance H Tapper	Uncle
Jennie Beckelman	Myra Becker	Grandmother
Joseph Kuperstein	Charles & Lila Held	Father of Lila
Larry Bierman	Arlene Bierman	Husband
Morris Aronowitz	Susan Lieberman	Grandfather
Pauline Morzinsky	Richard & Michelle Hess	Grandmother of Michelle
Rose Minnie Morzinsky	Richard & Michelle Hess	Mother of Michelle
Seymour Brickel	Charles & Lila Held	Uncle of Lila
Anna Barnett	Yahrzeit Board	Beth Shalom of Whittier
Daniel Braidman	Yahrzeit Board	Beth Shalom of Whittier
Henry Brickel	Yahrzeit Board	Beth Shalom of Whittier
Max Eison	Yahrzeit Board	Beth Shalom of Whittier
Morris Klein	Yahrzeit Board	Beth Shalom of Whittier
William M. Lyons	Yahrzeit Board	Beth Shalom of Whittier
Isidore Pinck	Yahrzeit Board	Beth Shalom of Whittier
Abraham Slater	Yahrzeit Board	Beth Shalom of Whittier
Bertha Snitzer	Yahrzeit Board	Beth Shalom of Whittier
Arthur Unger	Yahrzeit Board	Beth Shalom of Whittier

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.

Yahrzeit Donations

Name	Beloved Departed	Relationship
Myra Becker	Pauline Newman	Aunt
Myra Becker	Lou Binke	Uncle
Maxine Berkowitz	Pearl DeMase	Mother of Hope Greenwood
Christel Megruen	Siegbert Mergruen	Husband
Sid & Sandra Paul	Harry Paul	Father of Sid
Sid & Sandra Paul	Evelyn Resnick	Sister of Sid
Sid & Sandra Paul	Bertha Paul	Step-Mother of Sid
Jerome Hacker	Oscar Hacker	Father
Dorothy Rubin	Abraham Rubin	Husband
Richard & Michelle Hess	Leigh Hess	Father of Richard
Fred Blankstein	Mordechai (Max) Bernstein	Father
Jordan & Yvette Pollack	Meyer Foreman	Father of Yvette
Jordan & Yvette Pollack	William Pollack	Father of Jordan
Eileen Wiseman	Pearl DeMase	Mother of Hope Greenwood



OUR RELIGIOUS CONNECTION

SOURCES OF HALAKHAH



Halakhah is embodied in three sources: from the Torah; from laws instituted by the rabbis; and from long-standing customs. All of these are referred to as mitzvah (Commandment; plural, mitzvot). All mitzvot are binding, though there are differences in the way they are employed.

Mitzvot D'Oroita: Commandments from the Torah

At the heart of Halakhah are the unchangeable 613 Commandments that G-d gave to our Jewish people in the Torah. Some of them are clear, explicit, such as "Thou shalt not murder" or "You shall write words of Torah on the doorposts of your house." Others are more implicit, as to recite grace after meals, which is inferred from "and you will eat and be satisfied and bless the L-rd your G-d." Some can only be ascertained by deductive reasoning. For example, a man shall not commit incest with his daughter. This is deduced from the commandment not to commit incest with his daughter's daughter (his granddaughter).

Some of the mitzvot overlap. For example, there is a commandment to rest on Shabbat and a commandment not to do work on Shabbat.

The 613 mitzvot can be divided into 248 "positive" and 365 "negative" mitzvot. Positive mitzvot are commandments to do something, such as to honor one's father and mother (mitzvot asch). Negative mitzvot (mitzvot lo ta'asch) are opposite, such as the commandment not to murder. Many of the 613 mitzvot cannot be observed due to the absence of our Temple (sacrifices and offerings relating to a theocratic state and its king and system of justice), agricultural laws that apply only within the State of Israel, and certain laws that apply to Kohanim or Levites. Rabbi Israel Meir Karov, a 19th/20th century scholar, identified 77 positive and 134 negative mitzvot which can be observed outside of Israel.

Mitzvot D'Rabbanan: Laws Instituted by Rabbis

A gezeirah is a word from the root Gimel-Zayen-Reish, meaning to cut off or to separate. It is a law instituted by the rabbis to prevent accidentally violating a Torah mitzvah. It is a fence around the Torah. For example, the Torah commands us not to work on Shabbat, but a gezeirah commands us not to even handle one implement used to perform work (a pencil, money, a hammer, etc.). Why? Because someone using the implement is forgetting the Shabbat. A takhanah is a rule that is unrelated to biblical laws created by the rabbis for the public welfare. For example, the practice of public Torah readings every Monday and Thursday, instituted by the prophet Ezra (See Book 23 of our writings). The "mitzvah" to light candles on Chanukkah is also a takhanah. The word is derived from the root Tav-Ouf-Nun, meaning to fix, to remedy, or to repair. It is the same root as in "takhun olam," repairing the world, or making the world a better place. This is an important concept in all branches of Judaism.

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

An interesting takhanot that was instituted around the year 1000 C.E. by Rabbunu Gershon Me'or Ha-Golah (a man of the Great Assembly) concerns marriage. It prohibited polygamy, a practice clearly permitted by Torah and the Talmud. This takhanah was accepted by Ashkenazic Jews, who lived in various Christian countries where polygamy was not permitted; however, it was not accepted by Sephardic Jews, who lived in Islamic countries where men were allowed four wives.

Minhag: Customs

A Minhag is a custom that developed for worthy religious reasons and has continued long enough to become a binding religious practice. For example, the second extra day of holidays was originally instituted as a gezeirah, so that people outside of Israel and the Temple area would not violate the holiday's mitzvot. The rabbis considered ending the practice, but continued it as a Minhag. As a result, the practice of observing an extra day had developed for a worthy religious reason and has become customary.

It is important to understand that Minhag "customs" are a binding part of Halakhah. The word Minhag is also used in a lesser sense according to the Jewish communities of Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox. For example, it may be the Minhag in one synagogue to stand while reciting a certain prayer, such as the Oleynu, which proclaims G-d as the Supreme King of the Universe. In another synagogue, it is the Minhag to sit during that prayer. I generally recommend that a person follow their own personal or community Minhag as much as possible. When visiting another Jewish community, do as the community practices, to avoid discomfort or embarrassment.

In next month's *Mishpacha*, the difference between Torah law and rabbinic law will be discussed. Til then, attend synagogue services and continue to support Beth Shalom and the teachings of our Rabbi and Hazzan.

Shalom, Sam Pearlman

Thank You to All Who Participated in Our 2016 Sisterhood Shabbat Services

The Women's League theme, *Nat' ah Kareem - She plants a vineyard*, from *Eishet Chayil, A Woman of Valor*, exemplifies the women of Beth Shalom whose creative and purposeful endeavors have, indeed, planted a vineyard for the future with commitment, and productivity.

Conversational Spanish Lessons at Beth Shalom of Whittier

Tired of not being able to understand conversations around you? Embarrassed by having lived in Southern California for years and having your knowledge of Spanish limited to ordering in a restaurant? Mina Cano, a member of our congregation, has taught conversational Spanish previously and now is volunteering to teach us. If you are interested, contact Rita Rubin.

Classes will be held at BSW on Wednesdays at 6:00pm beginning January 13, 2016.

Epic Chef's Dinner

Our notices announced that the January 23rd dinner at the Rubins' home would be "epic" and that it was. Moshe Basson, chef and owner of Eucalyptus restaurant in Jerusalem, is world famous for his cuisine based on foods eaten for millennia in Israel and its environs. Chef Basson is an authority on herbs and edible wild plants indigenous to this region, using them liberally in his cooking. He has brought the message of local food to the world, winning several food competitions and was nominated for an honorary "Slow Food" prize. Chef Basson has been invited to cook in such diverse places as Mexico City; Melbourne, Australia; France; London; Italy; Disney World; and Kansas. He is also a member of "Chefs for Peace", an organization of Jewish, Christian and Moslem chefs from Jerusalem committed to coexistence through food.

Twenty-three of us started the evening with cava (Spanish sparkling wine),



then had za'atar (fresh coriander) pesto on crackers. That was followed by one amuse bouche of shakshuka (egg, tomato, and red pepper) and another of vegan ceviche made with kohlrabi. We were then seated for a dinner of: biblical lentil soup, figs stuffed with chicken in tamarind sauce, fire roasted eggplant in tahini and pomegranate syrup, tabbouleh salad with pomegranate seeds and fresh herbs, vegetarian couscous topped with lamb and Jerusalem artichoke stew, and the piece de resistance -- chicken maklubah. Dessert was quinces poached in red wine, served two ways. The white wines were Spanish albarinos, and French entre deux mers. The few people insisting on red wine had California merlot. Moshe made a delicious herbal tea using ingredients from the Rubins' garden, although some people preferred to stick with the more familiar coffee.

For those of us in attendance being served such a dinner by a world-renowned chef was a once-in-a lifetime experience.

Many thanks are owed to Avi and Rabbi Osnat for all of the effort they put into making this evening possible.

---Rita Rubin

Great Decisions 2016

Whittier's Annual Great Decisions discussion groups
8-week series begins on January 19, 2016

The topics this year:

Middle East alliances
The Rise of ISIS
The future of Kurdistan
Immigration
The Koreas
The United Nations
Climate Change
Cuba and the U.S.

Morning group: Tuesdays, January 19 through March 8 at 10:00
a.m. First Friends Church, 13205 Philadelphia St., Whittier.

Evening group: Tuesdays, January 19 and 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Hillcrest Congregational Church,
2000 West Rd., La Habra Heights.

Tuesdays, January 2, through March 8, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

Beth Shalom of Whittier, 14564 Hawes St., Whittier
(Parking lot 14545 Mulberry Dr.)

Books with reference material prepared by the Foreign Policy
Association will be available in early January 2016 for \$20.00.

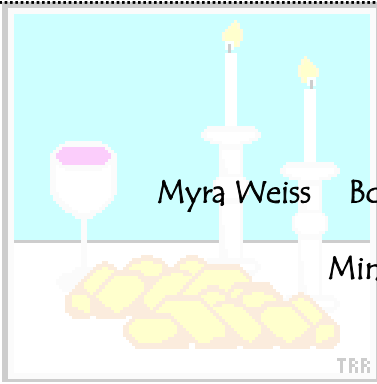
For more information or to purchase a book, contact:

John Beynon at 562-309-5041 (beynonjohn@ymail.com) or

Brian Bise at 562-692-8018 (brianbise@gmail.com)

CO-SPONSORS

United Nations Association-Whittier
Hillcrest Congregational Church
First Friends Church
Beth Shalom of Whittier



Thank You

For your contributions to our Oneg Shabbats!!

Myra Weiss

Bonnie & Barry Neville

Norma Shreiber

Klara Wein

Mina Cano

Hermelindo Vences

Joel Chesler

– Rita Rubin

Thank You for Your Donations

We have lots of folks to thank for their support of Beth Shalom and its members.

Rebecca Martinez & Manuel Beltran

Myra & Don Ford

Katherine & Jake Sapiro

Lynn Alice Briggs-Cantu

Jerry & Sally Romotsky

Hope Greenwood

Sisterhood

Barack Obama Mandela

Lucy Kleinberg

Dottie Rubin

Welcome New Members

Lynn Alice Briggs-Cantu

David Moriel

Jerry & Barbara Landau

Steve & Eileen Baptista

Proudly announce the birth of their first grandchild

Joseph Austin De Jaifre

Born January 17, 2016

Save the Date: Sisterhood Fashion Show—March 3, 2016



Beth Shalom of Whittier

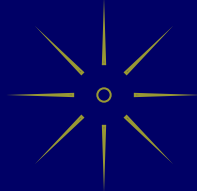
Invites you, your family, & your friends for



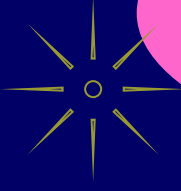
1st Night Pesach Seder

Rabbi Cantor Osnat Margalith

Hazzan Lance H. Tapper



Friday, April 22, 2015 6:00 pm



Beth Shalom of Whittier

14564 Hawes Street, Whittier 90604

KOSHER CHICKEN DINNER

Catered by Panache

\$50 for adult members , \$25 children age 5 to 13

Please RSVP with payment by April 15, 2016





You are invited to the

2016 Annual Women's Forum

"Women Who Make A Difference"

Celebrate the Special Women of our Jewish Community



Beth Shalom of Whittier

will be honoring

Claire Rademacher



Thursday, March 31, 2016

9:15 am

Doubletree Hotel, Monrovia

Keynote Speaker – Dr. Ron Wolfson

Ron Wolfson is a visionary Jewish educator whose enthusiasm for bringing Judaism alive in homes and synagogues has shaped his work in the community. He is the author most recently of *Relational Judaism: Using the Power of Relationships to Transform the Jewish Community*. Ron is currently the Fingerhut Professor of Education at the American Jewish University in Los Angeles.

Congratulate a Women's Forum Honoree in the event program with a single line tribute @ \$18 or more.

Deadline: March 16

For more information, please contact Marilyn Weintraub at

(626) 445-0810, x 304 or mweintraub@jewishsgpv.org

Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel & Pomona Valleys



Kol Shalom

"The Voice of Beth Shalom"



Join Hazzan Lance
Shabbat Morning Siddur Kol Shalom
on February 27, 2016 9:45am

Join Hazzan Lance on February 27th for the Shabbat Morning Siddur, *Kol Shalom*, The Voice of Beth Shalom. The entire community is invited to breakfast at 9:00 am followed by the service featuring this Siddur at 9:45 am.

This service encapsulates the essence of the traditional Shabbat morning service reframed into a shorter time span with a Torah reading, discussion, and lots of participation through readings and accompanied singing that reflect both traditional and some contemporary traditional style themes.

Join us for this beautiful celebration where you will find both the comfort of tradition and learn new things about Shabbat as well.

Beth Shalom Book Club

On Tues, Feb. 9th, the book group has decided to read and discuss **"The Ice Cream Queen of Orchard Street: A Novel"** by Susan Jane Gilman. We will be meeting at Myra's at 12:30.

"With its vivid depictions of old New York City tenement life and its tale of the American ice cream business set against the backdrop of the major events of the 20th century, this rags-to-riches saga will appeal greatly to readers of American historical novels."—**Library Journal**

2016 Global Day of Jewish Learning

Sunday, March 20, 2016, Noon to 1:00 pm

Loving and Waiting: A Talmudic Perspective on

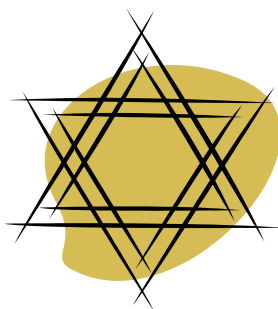
Romantic Love and Relationships

How does love feel? Many may describe a warped sense of time where everything moves quickly and yet slowly all at once. Waiting for an answer,? Waiting for a sign?

The rabbis of the Talmud had strong opinions about romantic love.

*We will explore some extreme examples of marriages portrayed in
Tractate Ketubot of the Talmud.*

Discussion led by Rabbi Osnat Margalith



Beth Shalom of Whittier

14564 Hawes Street
Whittier, CA 90604

Parking at
14545 Mulberry Drive

Phone: 562.941.8744

E-mail: bswoffice@verizon.net
www.bethshalomofwhittier.net

February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Morning Minyan 12:30a	2	3	4 Morning Minyan 12:30a	5 Rabbi Osnat & Hazzan Lance 7:30p	6 Hazzan Lance Parashat Mishpa- tim 9:45a
7	8 Morning Minyan 12:30a	9	10	11 Morning Minyan 12:30a	12 Hazzan Lance 7:30p	13 Hazzan Lance Parashat Terumah 9:45a
14	15 Morning Minyan 12:30a	16	17	18 Morning Minyan 12:30a Board Meeting 7:00p	19 Rabbi Osnat 7:30p	20 Rabbi Osnat Parashat Tetzaveh 9:45a
21	22 Morning Minyan 12:30a	23 <u>Purim Katan</u>	24 Sisterhood Meeting 1:00p	25 Morning Minyan 12:30a	26 Hazzan Lance 7:30p	27 Hazzan Lance Parashat Ki Sisa Kol Shalom 9:45a
28	29					

Clergy Schedule / Candle Lighting Time

February 5 7:30p	Kaballat Shabbat	Rabbi Osnat & Hazzan Lance	5:09p Candle Lighting
February 6 9:45a	Parashat Mishpatim	Hazzan Lance	
February 12 7:30a	Kaballat Shabbat	Hazzan Lance	5:16p
February 13 9:45p	Parashat Terumah	Hazzan Lance	
February 19 7:30p	Kaballat Shabbat	Rabbi Osnat	5:22p
February 20 9:45a	Parashat Tetzaveh	Rabbi Osnat	
February 26 7:30p	Kaballat Shabbat	Hazzan Lance	5:28p
February 27 9:45a	Parashat Ki Sisa	Hazzan Lance	
	Kol Shalom Service		

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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 March issue, the submission deadline is **February 20th**. The Mishpacha is sent on-line to those members of Beth Shalom with computers. 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.

Beth Shalom of Whittier

Friday Evening Services 7:30 p.m.

Saturday Morning Services 9:45 a.m.

Minyan Monday and Thursday Mornings 10:30 a.m.

The Judaica Shop

Beth Shalom Sisterhood

The Beth Shalom Gift Shop is open during office hours

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Sunday

Gifts for Every Occasion, for Family and Friends

Supplies for All Celebrations of the Year

