



Our Mishpacha



HAZZAN'S NOTES

The summer is upon us and while I will be away on my summer vacation for the first half of July, Cantor Oreen Zeitlin will officiate and be available for life cycle events. Cantor Zeitlin is a well-respected member of the clergy and Cantorate and her accomplishments both as a clergyperson and voice instructor are renown in the Jewish world. Our accompanist, Mark Peterson, will be accompanying Cantor Zeitlin for her services with us.

Beginning with services, when I return, July 20, we will have a new prayer book in the pews for Shabbat evenings, festivals, and weekday services. It is called *Siddur Hadash*. It is the Weekday, Shabbat, and Festival book that is related to our High Holyday prayer book (Mahzor) *Mahzor Hadash*. It has the same texts and readings from *Likrat Shabbat* (the evening service book we currently use) but adds the festival morning services and the afternoon and evening services for weekdays (which were in the other book we have used, *Sim Shalom*) all in one book. Thus, it is an all-inclusive prayer book that will replace both our aging *Likrat Shabbat* and *Sim Shalom* prayer books in one book with texts and readings you are already familiar with and enjoy. These prayer books come to us from our large sister flagship congregation in Chicago, Anshe Emet, and will reduce the number of times we move prayer books around in the pews for the future. And, rest assured, we will still use our current High Holyday prayer book, *Mahzor Hadash*, for many years to come on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur!

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Hazzan's Notes *(Continued)*

On Saturday, July 21, I will officiate at our annual commemoration of the black fast known as **Tisha B'Av**. The service will begin at 8:00 pm in the sanctuary and will include a short Havdalah, weekday evening service, and then the recitation of sections of the *Book of Lamentations (Eicha)* and the famous dirge (kinah), *Eli Tziyon*. All are invited to attend this solemn service dressed in dark colors and no leather where we remember the terrible things that happened to our people with the destruction of the First and Second Temples and the holocaust.

On July 28, we will continue our monthly series of **Siddur Kol Shalom** services where we know that you enjoy celebrating Shabbat morning together with an abbreviated traditional service format. This service has now become a model for other congregations to make the Shabbat morning service more accessible to their congregations.

We know that even though it is summer, you will want to come and partake in our summer set of services and enjoy Shabbat and the remembrance of Tisha B'Av together as one cohesive community.

HAZZAN LANCE H TAPPER



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 this month.

Our 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, 562-941-8744.

Printed copies are also available in our lobby.

\$18 per year for non-members.

The editor welcomes comments and suggestions.

This is *Our Mishpacha* !





JULY SERVICE SCHEDULE



- July 6— **Erev Shabbat**. Cantor Oreen Zeitlin and Mark Peterson
- July 13— **Erev Shabbat**. Cantor Oreen Zeitlin and Mark Peterson
- July 14— **Lay Study Session**—Shmuel Gonzales and Sam Pearlman
9:00 am—**Breakfast**; 9:45 am—**Torah Study**
- July 20— **Erev Shabbat**. Hazzan Lance and Mark Peterson
- July 21— **Tisha B'Av Service**—Hazzan Lance
- July 27— **Erev Shabbat**. Hazzan Lance and Mark Peterson
- July 28— **Siddur Kol Shalom**—Hazzan Lance and Mark Peterson
9:00 am—**Breakfast**; 9:45 am— **Torah Service**



From your President:

Our new Board is ready to go and anxious to make this year even better than last. We welcome back most of our former Board members and welcome new member Joann Eres and returning member Alita Sevin.

We are working to re-invigorate our event programming. We will have some events on week-days for people who are available, considering that a large proportion of our congregants are retired. Our first event will be a movie with popcorn and snacks. The first movie will be **Woman in Gold**, starring Helen Mirren. It is a very good movie with Jewish content and done with humor. We will show this movie on Thursday, July 12th at 1:00 pm. We will have time to discuss the movie or just shmooze afterwards. It will be a good way to get together, relax and enjoy visiting with each other.



Plans are on the drawing board for making this a bi-weekly occurrence with different themes. We will play Bingo some weeks, have educational discussions some weeks and have lunch with maybe card and board games on other weeks.

If you have any suggestions as to what you would like to do on an afternoon, please call the office or me and give us your suggestions.

We will also be planning some Sunday excursions. Thoughts for now are museums, plays, etc. We will be carpooling to help those folks who need rides.

See you there,

LILA HELD

MONTH OF TAMMUZ / 5778 / JULY 2018

MAIMONIDES (1135-1204 C.E.)

Maimonides – Rabbi Moses ben Maimon (רַמְבַּם בֶּן-מִימון), also known among Jews and the rest of the world as the **RaMBaM** (רַמְבַּם). He is one of the highly famous of all Jewish commentators and analysts of our Jewish spiritual faith. This brilliant man was born in Cordoba, Spain on March 30, 1135. His legacy is that of: Master Talmudist, renowned physician, acclaimed author and esteemed philosophy.



After his bar mitzvah in 1148 Cordoba was captured by a fanatical Islamic sect, the *Almohads*. The Jewish community faced the grim choice of submitting to Islam or leaving. Praying in their home, the Maimons disguising their ways, living in Cordoba for 11 years. In that time the Rambam completed his education in Judaic studies, science and medicine.

When double existence became overbearing the family left Spain in 1159 and traveled: first to Fez in Morocco; then to Palestine, a place with little opportunity; and then to Cairo, Egypt, where Jews could practice their faith.

As a result of his father's death and a brother who died in a shipwreck with the family fortune, the Rambam became the sole support of his family. He took advantage of his medical studies and became a physician. There the Rambam developed such success that he became the

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Maimonides *(Continued)*

court physician to the Sultan. The Sultan was Saladin, the famous Muslim military leader who equaled or destroyed the crusaders time and time again. Through his friendship with Saladin and his son Al-Afdal he continued a private practice and lectured his fellow physicians at the state hospital. Simultaneously, he became the head of the Jewish community. There he taught in public and helped Jews with personal and communal problems.



The Rambam Synagogue in Cairo, Egypt, built in the 10th century; before and after it's restoration in 2010, by the Egyptian Antiquities authorities.

Oh yes! Maimonides married late in life. He was the father of a son Abraham, who was to make his mark, on his own, in Jewish scholarship.

In the next issue the Rambam's works and principles will be identified. His writings are numerous and started at the age of 16 with "Treaties on Logical Terminology" and "Essay on the Calendar." It ended with his death in Cairo on December 13, 1204 at the age of 69. He lived during the years of the years of the Crusades, a tragic time for Jews. May he rest in peace.

~Sam Pearlman

The Mesopotamian Roots of the Names of the Jewish Summer Months

In the month of July we find ourselves going into the height of summer. We are passing from the month of Tammuz and transitioning into the month of Av.

And I can't help but think of what it would have been like for our ancient ancestors in the far east during these summer months. Though in some ways, things are a bit more similar and familiar than most of us ever consider. Recently, Hazzan Lance touched on this topic, and it has stuck with me ever since. So let us review this interesting history about the Jewish calendar

First, let us consider the names of these months. For example, the month of Tammuz; it is the name of an ancient pagan Babylonian deity. In the east this and other months are named after their old gods, in the same way that the peoples of the west did in correspondence to their ancient deities.

In the Babylonian tradition, the first month after the summer solstice was dedicated to the ancient shepherd god Tammuz; he is the main consort to Inanna – also known as Ishtar. In the blistering summer months, when the summer grasses would die from the heat, the god Tammuz would be mourned, in a season that was understood to be his descent into the underworld for six months. This is similar to the stories of Persephone in Greece and Ra/Osiris in Egypt.

The story of Tammuz was very familiar to our ancient ancestors, much to the distress of the prophets, who noted of this mourning theme even in the land of Israel and is recorded in the Bible, in the book of Ezekiel:

“Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the Lord’s house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz. Then he said to me, ‘Have you seen this, O son of man? turn yet again, and you shall see greater abominations than these!’” – Ezekiel 8:14-15

To this day Tammuz is the name of this summer month for many cultures in the Levant. For instance, in Turkey the month of July is named Temmuz; which is Arabic in derivation, but drawn from its Aramaic source in this Babylon mythology.

And also inspired by the Babylonian tradition, is the Jewish month of Av, the only month that is not named in the bible. It is mentioned as such in the Talmud, going all the way back to the 3rd century.

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Now why would the Jewish people who are notorious for shunning idolatry retain these names? The truth is that prior to this the Hebrew tradition didn't really have names for the months; each of the months were originally referred by number: example; the first month, the second month. In the same manner as the Hebrew days of the week; first day, second day.

However, along the way the Jewish culture intersects with other infamous cultures. And it is therefore correct to state that in the Jewish communities the world over we have tended to absorb and assimilate elements of these cultures around us into our traditions.

This is certainly one of those cases here. Though the connection is even more deep than that.

We also need to consider our shared roots, and that the Jewish people are at their origins a Mesopotamian people, for our father Abraham himself had come from Mesopotamia. Our ancient traditions hearken back to the customs of the ancient Babylonian world from which we came thousands of years ago.

And it is also to Babylon which the Jewish people also later taken in exile and there rebuilt our culture – after our homeland and Holy Temples were left in ruins – more than once in our long history.

All that to say, that even though the odd names are something that is almost forgotten to us, because their distant origins are so obscure to us at this point in history, they do, however, remain as historical artifacts which are a testament to our ancient Mesopotamian roots.

Though the case can also be made that in some ways the ancient theme of mourning in the near-east during these months is even more relevant in our Jewish tradition today, all these ages later.

As we go in to the month of July we begin immediately with **Tzom Tammuz**; the fast on the 17th day of the month of Tammuz, which commemorates the day of the breaching of the walls of Jerusalem, and beginning of the end for Solomon's Temple. This day also begins the period of the Three Weeks; which culminates in the mournful day of **Tisha b'Av** – the fast day of the Ninth of Av, when according to legend, both of the Temples in Jerusalem were destroyed; though it also is connected by Sephardim to the Inquisition, and by Askenazim to the events of the holocaust.

Our ancient Mesopotamian origins has handed down to us this tradition of mourning in the summer season, and still this season has remained relevant to us to this day. For the more recent historical reasons mentioned above and many other calamitous reasons as well, this period of the summer is still ever solemnly regarded as a time of reflective mourning for the Jewish people, even to this very age.

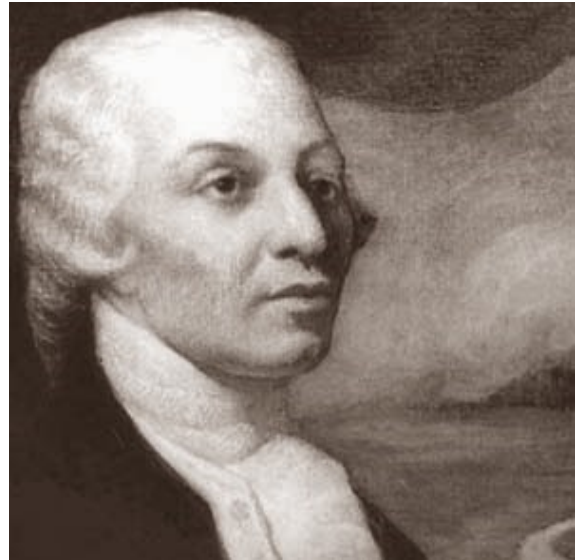
~Shmuel Gonzales

Haym Salomon: American Revolutionary Broker

Haym Salomon played a significant role in saving the newly established United States from financial ruin and was a prominent part of Jewish community affairs.

By [Michael Feldberg](#)

In the pantheon of American Jewish heroes, Haym Salomon (1740-1785) has attained legendary status. His life was brief and tumultuous, but his impact on the American imagination was great. The U.S. Postal Service issued a stamp hailing Salomon as a "Financial Hero of the American Revolution." A monument to Salomon, George Washington, and Robert Morris graces East Wacker Drive in Chicago, and Beverly Hills, California, is home to an organization called the American Jewish Patriots and Friends of Haym Salomon.



Haym Salomon (1740-1785) - A member of the "Sons of Liberty," and financier of the revolution.

However, Salomon's life was not all triumph. A successful financier in the early 1780s, he died in 1785 leaving a wife and four young children with debts larger than his estate. When his son petitioned Congress to recover money he claimed his father was owed by the government, various committees refused to recognize the family's claims. In 1936, Congress did vote to erect a monument to Salomon in the District of Columbia, but funds for the actual construction were never appropriated.



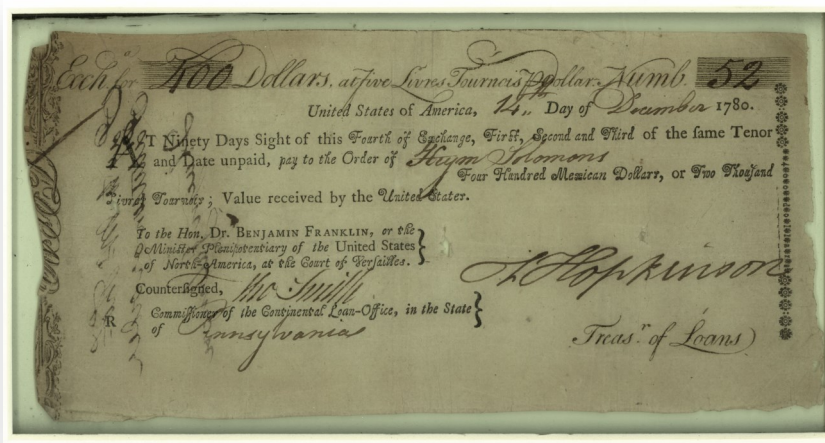
Born in Lissa, Poland, in 1740, [born into a Sephardic family, which had immigrated from Portugal], Salomon spent several years moving around Western Europe and England, developing fluency in several languages that served him well for the remainder of his life. Reaching New York City in 1772, he swiftly established himself as a successful merchant and dealer in foreign

securities. Striking up an acquaintance with Alexander MacDougall, leader of the New York Sons of Liberty, Salomon became active in the
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patriot cause. When war broke out in 1776, Salomon got a contract to supply American troops in central New York. In 1777, he married Rachel Franks, whose brother Isaac was a lieutenant colonel on George Washington's staff. Their [ketubah](#) (marriage contract) resides at the American Jewish Historical Society.

In the wake of a fire that destroyed much of New York City, British occupation forces arrested and imprisoned Salomon. He gained release because the British hoped to use his language skills to communicate with their German mercenaries. Instead, Salomon covertly encouraged



the Hessians to desert. Arrested again in early 1778 for espionage and sabotage, Salomon had his property confiscated. A drum-head court martial sentenced him to hang. Salomon escaped — probably with the help of other Sons of Liberty — and fled penniless to Philadelphia. His wife and child joined him soon afterward.

In Philadelphia, Salomon resumed his brokerage business. The French minister appointed him paymaster general of the French forces fighting for the American cause. The Dutch and Spanish governments also engaged him to sell the securities that supported their loans to the Continental Congress.

In 1781, Congress established the Office of Finance to save the United States from fiscal ruin. Salomon allied himself with Superintendent of Finance William Morris, and became one of the most effective brokers of bills of exchange to meet federal government expenses. Salomon also personally advanced funds to members of the Continental Congress and other federal officers, charging interest and commissions well below the market rates. James Madison confessed that "I have for some time ... been a pensioner on the favor of Haym Salomon, a Jew broker."

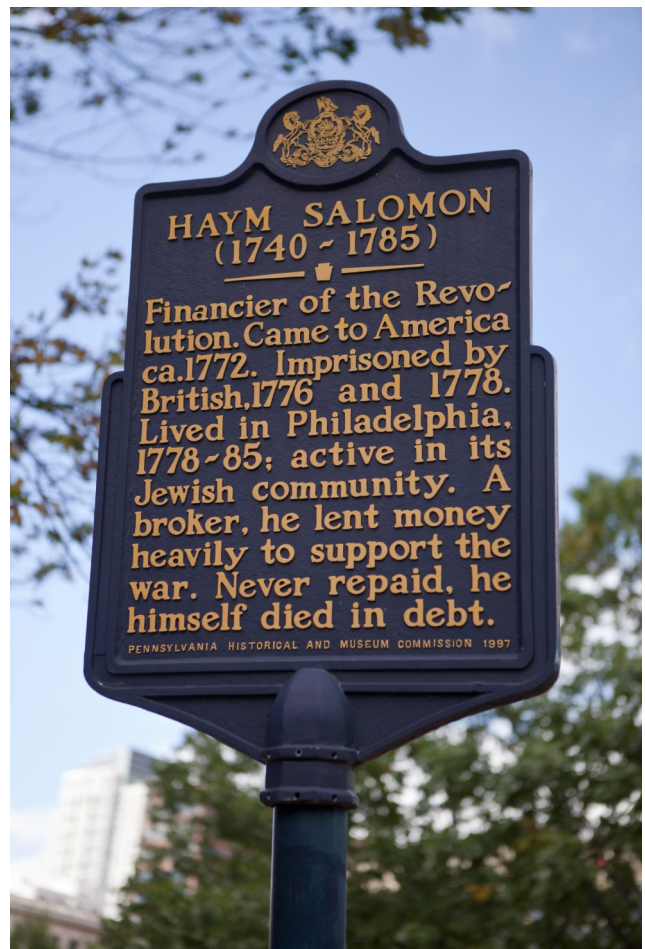
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While supporting the national cause, Salomon also played a prominent role in the Philadelphia and national Jewish community affairs. He served as a member of the governing council of Philadelphia's Congregation Mikveh Israel. He was treasurer of Philadelphia's Society for Indigent Travelers, and participated in the nation's first known [Rabbinic Court](#) of Arbitration. Salomon helped lead the successful fight to repeal the test oath that barred Jews and other non-Christians from holding public office in Pennsylvania.

He operated within the context of a society, and an age, that considered all Jews as [Shylocks](#) (the villainous Jewish moneylender in Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice") and money grubbers. In 1784, writing as "A Jew Broker," Salomon protested charges that Jewish merchants were profiteering. Salomon thought it unjust that such charges were "cast so indiscriminately on the Jews of this city at large . . . for the faults of a few." His impassioned defense of his fellow Jews brought him national approbation.

Within five years of his arrival in Philadelphia, Salomon advanced from penniless fugitive to respected businessman, philanthropist and defender of his people. He risked his fortune, pledged his good name and credit on behalf of the Revolution, and stood up for religious liberty. Despite financial setbacks at the end of his life, Salomon's name is forever linked to the idealism and success of the American Revolution, and to the contributions Jews have made to the cause of American freedom.



Chapters in American Jewish History are provided by the American Jewish Historical Society, collecting, preserving, fostering scholarship and providing access to the continuity of Jewish life in America for more than 350 years (and counting). Visit www.ajhs.org.

July Birthdays

Lynda Bruce	July 2
Hope Greenwood	July 9
Barbara Lebovitz	July 9
Lila Held	July 10
Joseph Lebovitz	July 16
Howard Brookfield	July 28



*Happy
Anniversary*



July Anniversaries

Mark and Maggie Singer July 24

Beth Shalom of Whittier

Wishes you all

a very Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary!

Yahrzeits, Remembrances for the Month

Morris Beckelman	Grandfather of Myra Becker
Sol Beckerman	Remembered by Myra Becker
Ida Froman	Mother of Yvette Pollack
Leon Morzinsky	Father of Michelle Hess
Ida Ninberg	Aunt of Myra Becker
Jean Pollack	Mother of Joran Pollack
Madelaine Starkman	Wife of Bernard, Mother David, and Grandmother of Jacqueline Starkman

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.



זכרונם ליברכה



STRUGGLING TO GET BY?
Your Jewish community is here to support you

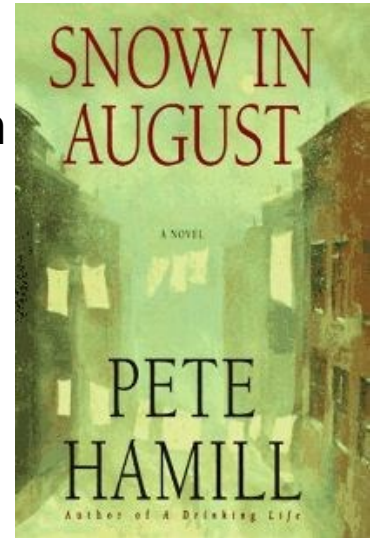
 **JEWISH FEDERATION**
OF THE GREATER SAN GABRIEL
AND POMONA VALLEYS

Call the Jewish Federation's
Jewish Counseling Referral Network
626.445.0810 x 314

Book Group News



On Tuesday, **July 10th** at 12:30pm, we are meeting at Ann's. The book is *Snow in August* by Pete Hamill. "In 1940's Brooklyn, friendship between an 11-year-old Irish Catholic boy and an elderly Jewish rabbi might seem as unlikely as, well, snow in August. The relationship between young Michael Devlin and Rabbi Judah Hirsch is only one of the many miracles large and small contained in this warm, and delightful book by Pete Hamill. I read this book a few years ago and liked it then. I am now eagerly looking forward to reading it again. A book to make a person smile.



As always, everyone is welcome to join us. Bring a dairy brown bag lunch, and our hostess will provide dessert and drink, and the group provides warm and lively discussion.

If you have any questions, please call.

~Myra Weiss

Candle Lighting Times

July 6	7:48 p.m.	July 13	7:46 p.m.
July 20	7:42 p.m.	July 27	7:38 p.m.



Brain Train

Train your brain by keeping it active!



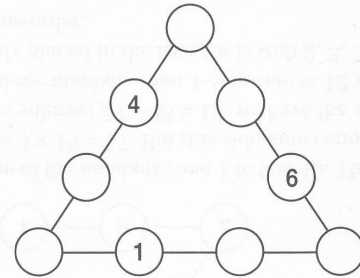
BOXED MIX

Unscramble the five words and enter them into the grid in some order so that the same words read across and down. One letter has been placed to get you started.

A N E A R
D U R R E
A S A U R
P R A Y S
P U R S U

	P				

Place the numbers 1 to 9, one per circle, so that each side of this triangle totals 19. We've started you off with the 1, 4, and 6. Can you finish the triangle?



Brain Busters

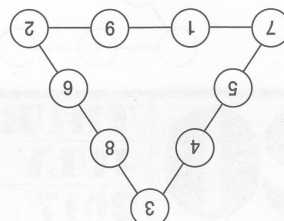
- 1) What is the National Anthem in Hawaii?
- 2) You are going on an overnight hiking trip, and you are facing north. On your right is the east. What is at your back?
- 3) The more you take, the more you leave behind. What is it?
- 4) What can you put in a barrel to make it lighter?
- 5) What do you throw out when you need it and take in when you don't?

Answer Key:

Answer:

A	U	R	A	S
U	S	U	R	P
R	U	D	E	R
A	R	E	N	A
S	P	R	A	Y

Starting hint: The sum of the numbers from 1 to 9 is 45. The sum of the three sides of the triangle is $3 \times 19 = 57$. But this side-sum counts each of the corners twice, so if we subtract $57 - 45 = 12$, we have the sum of the corners. The only way to use three numbers from 1-9 to sum to 12 without using any of the numbers already placed in the triangle is with 2, 3, 7, so these numbers are the corners in some order.



- Brain Buster Answers:
- 1) "The Star Spangled Banner."
 - 2) Probably a backpack.
 - 3) Footsteps
 - 4) Holes
 - 5) Anchors

Welcome Angela!

Please join me in welcoming **Angela Borunda** as our new Office Administrator. We were so fortunate to find her to fill our office position. Angela is not a stranger to Beth Shalom. She ran the Bingo snack bar for 2 years in 2010 – 2011. Angela's husband Ed, has been one of our security guards for High Holidays and Bingo for many years. Angela and Ed have one daughter, Michelle, who also worked the Bingo snack bar with her mom.



Angela is originally from, and still lives in, Diamond Bar, CA. She has worked in corporate business as a Manager in Customer Service for 36 years. She is very experienced in running a business office.

Please say hello and make Angela feel welcome when you have any business with the office.

New Office Hours

Please note the change of office hours.

**The office will now be open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
on Tuesday through Friday.**

Starting in the month of July the office will be closed on Monday's but open on Friday's. If you have occasion to call or stop by the office, please take a moment to say Hi to Angela, our new Office Administrator.

Donations to Beth Shalom

In the passed month we have received new copies of *Siddur Chadash*, donated to us from **Anshe Emet Synagogue** in Chicago.



And from Hazzan's Discretionary Fund, we received a new keyboard speaker as a donation. Also, Hazzan Lance personally donated a new microphone to the congregation.

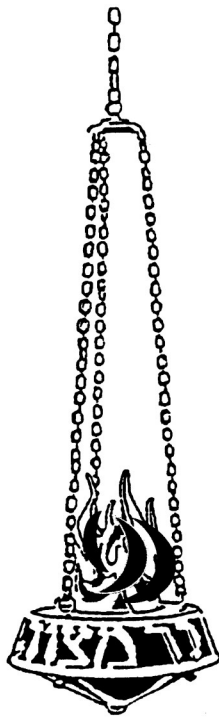
Thank you!

July 2018

Tammuz/Av 5778

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 T'zom Tammuz (Fast of Tammuz)	2	3	4  Independence Day	5 Minyan 2:30 pm	6 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm 	7 Pinchas
8	9 Minyan 2:30 pm	10 Book Club Meeting 12:30pm	11	12 Movie Day 1pm Minyan 2:30 pm	13 Rosh Chodesh Av Shabbat Service 7:30 pm 	14  Breakfast 9:00 am Lay Study Session 9:45 am Matot-Masei
15	16 Minyan 2:30 pm	17	18	19 Minyan 2:30 pm	20 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm 	21 Erev Tisha b'Av Services 8 pm Devarim
22 Tisha b'Av Fast Day	23 Minyan 2:30 pm	24	25	26 Minyan 2:30 pm	27 Tu b'Av Shabbat Service 7:30 pm 	28  Siddur Kol Shalom Breakfast 9 am Torah Service 9:45 Vaetchanan
29	30 Minyan 2:30 pm	31				



Beth Shalom of Whittier

14564 East Hawes Street
Whittier, California 90604