Beth Shalom of Whittier

Conservative Progressive Judaism

April 2017 Nisan/lyyar 5777



Our Mishpacha

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A Note from the Rabbi,

There is a story about a guest in a hotel who calls the front desk to complain about the piano player in the next room who doesn't stop "banging on the piano all day." The hotel manager responds: "I wish I could help you but I don't dare! That pianist is rehearsing for his concert tonight in the Symphony Hall." The hotel guest immediately calls friends, inviting them over to listen...

Sometimes all it takes to get through the day is a change in attitude. Changing our attitude, our point of view and openness can enrich not just our day but also our lives, reducing stress and opening new channels of communication, while increasing productivity, personal growth and achievements.

This month we are celebrating Passover with a community Seder and few weekday services. On Friday night, April 28 at BSW, we will share Shabbat services with our friends from Temple Ner Tamid, highlighting Yom Ha'atzma'ut (=|srael's |ndependence Day).

Also this month, we continue with our series of Conversation with the Rabbi over lunch. This event is open to all members of BSW and their friends!

Please be sure to join us for all of these fabulous events.



Happy Passover!

Your Rabbi,

)snat



Invites you, your family, & your friends for

2nd Night Pesah Seder

Rabbi Cantor Osnat Margalith

Hazzan Lance H. Japper

Пиєзday, April 11, 2017 6:00 рт

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 March 30, 2017



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Hazzan's Notes

Pesah will be a unique celebration this month since both the First Day service and the Second Seder, both of which we will celebrate, take place on Eileen Baptista's and my birthdays—April 11! We know that you will want to help both of us celebrate as we all celebrate our Festival of Freedom. The morning service will take place at 9:30 am with the Rabbi and myself joined by Mark Peterson who will accompany this beautiful service which includes that wonderful arrangement for the Prayer for Dew—Tal, written by Hazzan Meir

Finkelstein. The evening Seder will begin at 6:00 pm with the Rabbi, Mark and myself as we celebrate together this most auspicious time and enjoy the food of this special festival.

Pesah Yizkor will take place on Monday, April 17 at 9:30 am with the Rabbi and I leading the service which includes the Torah reading going across the Reed Sea and the Yizkor Memorial prayers.

Friday, April 28, we will hold a special joint service with Temple Ner Tamid at our synagogue in honor of Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day. Rabbi Osnat and myself will be joined by Rabbi Dany and Cantor Ken with Mark Peterson and their organist, Norberto Guinaldo, accompanying a beautiful Shabbat service in honor of this celebration. The music of the service will include Israeli composers. I will highlight the current composer I have introduced to all of you, who you enjoy, Oran Eldor. I will sing his wonderful Lecha Dodi and Hashkiveinu that so many of you have commented you enjoy. Plan to be there at 7:30 pm for this special joint event.

-- Hazzan Lance H. Tapper

A Special Thank You

On behalf of the entire Beth Shalom congregation, THANK YOU to Lila Held for coordinating and each of the volunteers who made this year's Shalach Manot Project which so far has raised \$2,687



Beth Shalom of Whittier Special Festival Morning Service

1st Day of Pesah

Tuesday, April 11, 2017 9:30 a.m.

Beth Shalom invites you to a Special Festival Morning service. Tuesday, April 11, 2017, 9:30 am. First Day of Pesah (Passover). Rabbi Osnat Margalith and Hazzan Lance H. Tapper will officiate accompanied by Mark Peterson.

During this service, the Hazzan will sing the Beth Shalom premiere of Hazzan Meir Finkelstein's *Tal* (Prayer for Dew). This prayer is only chanted once a year at this service. This newly composed piece highlights the drama, majesty, and poetry of the text through the beauty of modern popular musical composition styles prevalent in today's musical theater productions.

You will want to attend and hear this thrilling new liturgical prayer.



COME JOIN US







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



<u>NISAN</u>

The Hebrew word *Nisan* means *bud*. In Israel and in our Southern California, spring is in full bloom. The first harvest of the year is ready to come in. Nisan is the first month of the Jewish calendar. It is the month of the Passover – *Pesach* – season, which this year of



5777/2017 occurs on 10 April (First Seder) through 18 April. The eighth and final day of Pesach is associated with the ultimate redemption through Moshiach and our fervent hope for its imminent arrival.

Concisely, we experience freedom. Our houses are thoroughly cleaned, we eat unleavened bread (matzos), and we relive the going out of Egypt with our Seders. It is as if it's we ourselves who rush out on the full moon of Nisan and pass the experience on to our children. This liberation is celebrated yearly during Nisan, the spring season.

It is the time of year when fresh winds pass through our world. Jews again learn the where, who, when, and what we are. We remember ourselves as part of a great people whom G-d placed on this earth to be a guiding light to all people. In essence, we are a significant part of life reborn in a birth that brings us out of ourselves.

Nisan is also the month of Omer. This is the 49-day period from the Second Seder of Pesach that celebrates the sprouting grain. [Leviticus 23:15-17] Traditionally, our people harvested a sheaf on the first day of Omer (April 10, 2017) and baked it as bread on the last day (May 30, 2017). This is also the eve of Shavuot, the celebration of first fruits, the Covenant, and our gift of the Torah from G-d. Tradition tells us that the Omer connects us to a journey through all 49 attributes of collecting a harvest that nourishes our people.

In Nisan the earth becomes warm and hosts both rain and sunshine. It is the rebirth of our spring season. It is then that we honor G-d's Divine Presence as he buds our earth to her full glory.

Sam Pearlman

April Clergy Schedule

Date	Time	Clergy on Bima	Service
April 1	9:45a	Hazzan Lance	Torah Service
April 7	7:30p	Rabbi Osnat & BSW Musicians	Kaballat Shabbat
April 8	9:45a	Rabbi Osnat	Torah Study
April 11	9:30a	Rabbi Osnat and Hazzan Lance	Pesah 1st Day Service
April 11	6:00p	Rabbi Osnat and Hazzan Lance	Pesah 2nd Seder
April 14	7:30p	Hazzan Lance and Mark Peterson	Shabbat Hol Hamoed Pesah
April 15	9:45a	Hazzan Lance	Shabbat Hol Hamoed Pesah
April 17	9:30a	Rabbi Osnat and Hazzan Lance	Pesah Yizkor
April 21	7:30p	Hazzan Lance and Mark Peterson	Kaballat Shabbat
April 22	9:45a	Hazzan Lance	Torah Service
April 28	7:30p	Rabbis Osnat & Dany, Hazzan Lance & Cantor Ken	Yom Ha'atzmaut with Ner Tamid at Beth Shalom of Whittier
April 29	9:45a	Hazzan Lance	Torah Service

Beth Shalom of Whittier & Temple Ner Tamid Celebrate Yom Ha'atzma'ut, Israel's Independence Day

Friday, April 28, 2017 7:30 p.m. at Beth Shalom of Whittier

Rabbi Osnat and Hazzan Lance will be joined by Rabbi Dany and Cantor Ken with Mark Peterson and their organist,
Norberto Guinaldo, accompanying a beautiful Shabbat service in honor of this celebration.

The music of the service will include Israeli composers. Hazzan Lance will highlight and sing Oran Eldor's Lecha Dodi and Hashkiveinu. Rabbi Osnat will deliver a Sermon-in-Song-Israel's history through modern poems and songs.

Plan to be there at 7:30 pm for this special joint event.



COME JOIN US



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D'var Torah from the General Meeting at Beth Shalom of Whittier, by Shmuel Gonzales

[At Sunday morning's special meeting of the congregation of Beth Shalom of Whittier, a motion was made by the Board of Trustees of Beth Shalom, to sell the building and close the synagogue as of June 2018. The reasons given for this motion was our declining attendance and ongoing financial problems. While the motion did not pass and we are exploring alternatives, this existential crisis remains. This was my Torah lesson presented before the meeting, that I hope we can find inspiration in.]

This week we are completing *Shemot* (The Book of Exodus), with the double readings of Parshat Vayaykel-Pekudei. Both of these parashiot that we read this week are ironically about the people being gathered together.

In Vayakhel the topic is Moses called the people together, to make the Mishkan, the mobile sanctuary in the desert and all its sacred objects. And then in Parshat Pekudei, the people are being gathered together again as they have just completed the work on the *Mishkan* – the Tabernacle sanctuary which they were so generous to create.

In the fourth *aliya* we read that after the people made everything, "now they brought the *Mishkan* to Moses, the tent and all its furnishings..." (Exodus 39:33) Everything, all the items, including the items to be housed inside. They are all accounted for as they are brought before Moses in this fourth Torah reading.

Now that these items are completed, the objects and the people are blessed, as our text states:

"Vayar Moshe et-kol-hamelachah vehineh asu otah ka'asher tzivah Hashem ken asu vayevarech otam Moshe. / Moses saw all the work and behold, they done it; just as the L-rd commanded, so they had done it. So Moses blessed them." - Exodus 39:43

Now we need to ask ourselves a question. Who is he blessing? The people, the ritual objects, or the people who made the ritual objects? Our rabbis heavily debate this.

Just notice the phrasing, it seems mightily apparent that Moses was blessing the furnishings of the Mishkan. The people had made them just so, and now he blessed them – the items of the Mishkan.

However, many of our rabbis contend that this finishing blessing is primarily for the people, and not necessarily for the items themselves. The people made good in actualizing the vision of the Mishkan as delivered through Moses, so he blessed them.

Their reason for seeing it this way is because this type of application of "vayevarech" is quite often used for people. From the beginning of the Torah, the phrase "vayevarech otam" is used in relation to people and living things; otam means them, them people. After man and woman were created, we see that G-d blessed the people. Our Torah reads, "vayevarech otam elohim vayomer lachem elohim peru urevu umil'u et-haretz / And G-d blessed them; and G-d said unto them: 'Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth..." (Genesis 1:28) The "them" is the people, not the objects.

Now just for a minute, I want to hit on that topic of sacred space. Making space for G-d in our lives. In fact that is what the whole point of this *Mishkan* is for, in order that people make a dwelling place for G-d. As commanded, "Let them make me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them (*veshachan'ti beto-cham*)." (Exodus 25:8) It is these very words written on this wall of dedication created by our founders in the social hall.

Continued on page 9

Relationship

Father of Steve

Wife of Abdon

Mother-in-Law

Mother of Fred

Step-Father

Father of Joel Sister of Lila

April Yahrzeit Observances

Dearly Departed Observed By

Baptista, Charles Baptista, Eileen & Steve

Barembaum, Rebecca Barembaum, Abdon & Lenore

Becker, Minnie Becker, Myra

Blankstein, Lena Blankstein, Fred & Berkowitz, Maxine

Schwartz, Joseph Fuchs, Agnes

Golden, Bernard Golden, Joel & Jo Ann Kanian, Sandra Held, Charles & Lila

Sandler, Edward Hess, Richard & Michelle Uncle of Michelle

Sandler, Jacob Hess, Richard & Michelle Grandfather of Michelle Berry, J. Wesley Kanahele, Ann Father

Berry, Phil Kanahele, Ann Uncle

Aronowitz, Dora Lieberman, Susan Grandmother of Susan

Norton, Marty Norton, Arlene Husband

Lehman, AnnPaul, Sidney & SandraMother of SandraRubin, DavidSandoval, Lisa & MiguelGrandfather of LisaRubin, FlorenceSandoval, Lisa & MiguelGrandmother of Lisa

Miller, Sharon Tapper Tapper, Hazzan Lance H Cousin

Biegel, LeoBeth Shalom of WhittierMemorial BoardFreedman, JoeBeth Shalom of WhittierMemorial BoardFriedman, RachaelBeth Shalom of WhittierMemorial Board

Jesilow, Theodore Daniel Beth Shalom of Whittier Memorial Board Korduner, Bernard Beth Shalom of Whittier Memorial Board Kraus, Milton Aaron Beth Shalom of Whittier Memorial Board Liberman, William Beth Shalom of Whittier Memorial Board Lieberman, Anna Beth Shalom of Whittier Memorial Board

Marovitz, Aaron Beth Shalom of Whittier Memorial Board
Novak, Miriam Wiener Beth Shalom of Whittier Memorial Board

Novak, Miriam Wiener Beth Shalom of Whittier Memorial Board Pinck, Mary Beth Shalom of Whittier Memorial Board Popick, Flora Prog, Bessie Beth Shalom of Whittier Memorial Board Beth Shalom of Whittier Memorial Board Roy, Murray A. Sarkin, Abraham Beth Shalom of Whittier Memorial Board

Storm, Maurice Beth Shalom of Whittier Memorial Board Taisch, Dennis Alan Beth Shalom of Whittier Memorial Board

Weiss, Etta Huberfeld Beth Shalom of Whittier Memorial Board

Weiss, Harry Beth Shalom of Whittier Memorial Board Werner, Sarah Beth Shalom of Whittier Memorial Board

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

Dear Departed Observed By Relationship
Jennie Beckelman Myra Becker Grandmother

Socorro Torres Mina Cano & Hermalindo Vinces Grandmother of Mina

Ethel Chesler Joel & Diane Chesler Mother

Rose Minnie Morzinsky Richard & Michelle Hess Mother of Michelle Diane Graham Richard & Michelle Hess Cousin of Michelle Esther Friedman Richard & Michelle Hess Aunt of Michelle

Pauline Morzinsky Richard & Michelle Hess Grandmother of Michelle

Abe Small Dorothy Rubin Brother

Joseph Held Miriam Held Husband

Fay Goldberg Evelyn Goldberg Brunelle Mother

Lena Blankstein Fred Blankstein Mother

Joseph Held Scott & Cindy Held Father of Scott

D'var Torah from the General Meeting at Beth Shalom of Whittier, by Shmuel Gonzales

Continued from page 7

Though we must consider this as well, our Jewish understanding of the Divine is that G-d is beyond any understanding or representation. Nothing created, in fact not even all of creation, would be able to contain G-d's type of raw energy. G-d is just that awesome and transcendent.

So why are they doing this here in these parashiot one might ask? Though we actually don't need to ponder too much. We act like what the Israelites were doing here is so strange and weird, making this *Mishkan*. When in reality they were just doing what we do today to build sacred space, taking ordinary things of a mundane nature, and then make something holy and extra-ordinary out of them. By taking what they had and making a *mitzvah* out of it, the Israelites elevated their possessions and raw materials to a level of sacredness that wasn't there for them before. And likewise we try to do that for ourselves in our times.

Though Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks calls our attention back to the human element over the physical relics: "Let them make a sanctuary for Me, and I will dwell **IN** them' – not 'in it' but 'IN THEM' — not in the building but its builders, not in wood and metal, bricks or stone, but in those who build and those who worship. It is not objects, buildings, or places that are holy-in-themselves. Only acts of heart and mind can endow them with holiness." [emphasis on IN; to show how the Rabbi is directing our attention to his understanding of the ;athe beit in this phrase.]

G-d does not just ask us to make Him a place to dwell with us, but to **dwell within** us. G-d is not One to merely dwell in objects, He is manifesting in us through the creative acts which we dedicate to His service. In our handiwork we are able to create things of holiness and sanctity. We are able to make sacred space in ourselves, and through toil actualize it as a physical reality as well. The more we create, the more presence of the Divine we have in our lives.

Through our skills and creativity, we make a space for the Presence of G-d to dwell with and with-in us.

As we complete this book of the Torah and as we continue to move forward in our sacred journey together, let us be strengthened by these words: "Chazak, chazak v'nitchazek! Be strong, be strong and may we be strengthened!"

CELEBRATIONS April Birthdays

Eileen Baptista	4/11/2017
Hazzan Lance	4/11/2017
Ann Kanahele	4/14/2017
Bernard Starkman	4/17/2017
Anne Lesser	4/21/2017
Madelon Alpert-Herman	4/26/2017
Michelle Hess	4/30/2017

April Anniversaries

David & Myra Weiss	4/10/2017	52nd anniversary
Barry & Bonnie Neville	4/15/2017	45th anniversary
Lisa & Miguel Sandoval	4/18/2017	20th anniversary

Beth Shalom of Whittier
Wishes everyone a very Happy Birthday &
Happy Anniversary

Mandel Bread Fundraiser

The Mandel Bread by Rita Rubin that you know and love from Oneg Shabbats

1/2 pound (about 12 of varying sizes)...\$10.00, 1 pound (about 24 of varying sizes)....\$18.00

Chocolate chip, walnut or almond

Place your order with Rita Rubin (562) 943-3335



Thank You for Your Donations

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

For Beth Shalom

Christina Cortez Applebee's Joel & JoAnn Golden Fred Blankstein

Jeffrey Kolnick & Rosa Tock in Memory of Lea Kolnick Myra Becker

Shalach Manot

Eleanor Richman Abdon & Lenore Barembaum Irv Bartikofsky

Myra Becker

Fred Blankstein & Maxine Berkowitz

Isabel Paz

Mina Cano & Hermalindo Vences

Joel & Diane Chesler

Joel & JoAnn Golden

Christine Grijalva

Kathleen King

Arlene Norton

Bernard Starkman Klara Wein Dorothy Weiner Eileen Wiseman

In Honor of Hope Greenwood—Woman Who Makes a Difference

Eileen Wiseman

Cold Weather Shelter

Jeffrey Kolnick & Rosa Tock In Memory of Lea Kolnick





Thank You—Oneg Donations

Eunice Singer

Rabbi Osnat

Scott Held

- Rita Rubin

Happy Passover from Beth Shalom of Whittier

Lunch with Rabbi Osnat

Everyone brought their 'brown bag' lunch and we had a lovely afternoon with thirteen women sitting around a table schmoozing with each other and the Rabbi. We ate and we chatted about family, about friends, about Purim, and about our various travels. We even munched goodies and drinks provided by our hostess.

Rabbi shared adventures and experiences from her Viet Nam trip. Did you know that crickets are kosher. You don't even have to Kasher them. So how would you like your crickets -- steamed? fried? Apparently crickets are good source of protein, and might be a wave of the future.

Rabbi visited a silkworm factory, a historical museum of the Viet Nam war (from the Viet Nam perspective), an Arbnb among other experiences. They loved the people and the culture. It was a good trip. She and Avi are looking forward to returning soon.

Everyone is looking forward to another Lunch and Schmooze. Hope we see you.

Myra

BOOK CLUB NEWS

The next meeting of Beth Shalom's Book Group will be **Tuesday, April 25**th at Sandra's house. The book is *Tangled Vines: Greed, Murder, Obsession, and an Arsonist in the Vineyards of California* by Frances Dinkelspiel.

The Los Angeles Book Review wrote: "From the explosive prologue to the very last sentence, Frances Dinkelspiel has written an utterly riveting true crime book... Unlike....the wine collectors in Tangled Vines, I cannot taste the earth, the sun, the sky, and the steady hand of the winemaker in that glass. But I know a spectacular book when I read one".

Eric Asimov, of *The New York Times* wrote "Clear and absorbing, a reminder that no matter how much beauty and poetry we may find in the glass, for many it's ultimately all about the money."

Tangled Vines is Whittier Reads choice for April. To that end Whittier Reads has planned 14 events highlighting wines during the month of April. The events included movies, a talk by the Prosecutor of the Wine Warehouse Arson Case, other talks about The Art of Winemaking, as well as a dinner with the author. Many of the events are free, but tickets do need to be obtained at either of the Whittier libraries.

For more information about the Whittier Reads activities go to www.whittierplf.org. May's book is "Lilac Girls" by Martha Hall Kelly.

Myra

Lunch with Rabbi Osnat Wednesday, May 3, 2017 11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

An opportunity to exchange ideas and discuss topics that interest you while learning what Judaism has to say about them.

Enjoy a casual conversation with Beth Shalom members and Rabbi Osnat. Lunch & Desserts provided.

Wednesday, May 3, 2017 11:30 a.m.—1:30 a.m.

Klara Wein's home

Please RSVP Klara and let her know you will be joining the conversation

Come Join in the Conversation



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

Honoring Hope Greenwood Beth Shalom's Woman Who Makes a Difference



On March 23 Hope Greenwood was honored by the Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys as one of the "Women Who Make a Difference" in the Jewish community. Several members of Beth Shalom attended the event at the Courtyard Marriott in Monrovia. We enjoyed an inspirational talk by the Rev. Dr. Donna Byrns of "Friends in Deed" speaking about "The Sacred Mission of Women". We also enjoyed the lunch, either salmon or eggplant followed by a yummy custard and fresh fruit tart. **Congratulations, Hope!**



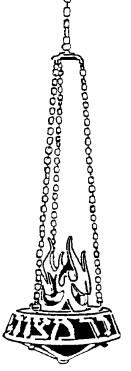
April 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Happy Passover					1 9:a Breakfast 9:45a Parsha Vayikra w Haz- zan Lance
2 Bingo 6p	3 Daily Minyan 2:30p	4	5	6 Daily Minyan 2:30p	7 7:00p Candles 7:30p Kaballat Shabbat w Rabbi Osnat & BSW Musicians	8 9:a Breakfast 9:45a Torah Study Parasha Tsav w Rabbi Osnat
9 Bingo 6p	10 7:02p Candles Daily Minyan 2:30p	11 Pesah I Service 9:3a w Rabbi Osnat & Hazzan Lance Passover Seder 6p 8:11p Candles	12 Pesah II	13 Pesah III Daily Minyan 2:30p	14 Pesah IV 7:30p Shabbat Hol Hamoed Pesah w Hazzan Lance 7:05p Candles	15 Pesah V 9:a Breakfast 9:45a Shabbat Hol Hamoed Pesah w Hazzan Lance
16 Pesah VI 7:06p Candles	17 Pesah VII Pesah Yizkor 9:30a w Rabbi Osnat & Hazan Lance Daily Minyan 2:30p	18 Pesah VIII	19	20 Daily Minyan 2:30p Board Meeting 7p	21 7:10p Candles 7:30p Kaballat Shabbat w Haz- zan Lance	9:a Breakfast 9:45a Parasha Shmini w Hazzan Lance
23 Bingo 6p	24 Daily Minyan 2:30p	25 Book Club @ Sandra's 12:30p	26 Sisterhood Board Meeting 1p	27 Daily Minyan 2:30p	28 7:16p Candles 7:30p Yom Ha a'atzmaut w TNT at BSW w Rabbis Osnat & Dany, Hazzan Lance & Cantor Ken	29 9:a Breakfast 9:45a Parasha Tazria-Metzora w Hazzan Lance
30 Bingo 6p						

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14564 Hawes Street Whittier, California 90604



Beth Shalom of Whittier

Friday Evening Services 7:30 p.m.

Saturday Morning Services 9:45 a.m.

Daily Minyan, Monday and Thursday 2:30 p.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





♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦