



Our Mishpacha



HAZZAN'S NOTES

As we continue into the summer, we begin our approach to the High Holyday season. On Sunday, August 19 at 10:00 am, I will be conducting a pre-High Holyday symposium on the important prayers and melodies of the High Holyday season. You will be privileged that morning to see and hear special audio and video clips that highlight these important parts of our High Holydays. I know you will want to attend. Please see the special flyer in this Mishpacha and let us know you will be attending this event by August 14.

Our Selihot service will take place on Saturday night, September 1 beginning with a dessert reception in the social hall at 6:30 pm and the Havdalah and Selihot service taking place at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary. I will officiate together with our choir, the Beth Shalom Singers, accompanied and directed by our own, Mark Peterson using a new Selihot booklet
(Continued on next page)

Hazzan's Notes *(Continued)*

specially prepared for our congregation. This will be a wonderful prelude in word and in song for our High Holyday season.

I hope you will want to attend both of these upcoming events and take part in our preparation for these high holydays which may be the last we have in our current building.

HAZZAN LANCE H TAPPER

Candle Lighting Times

August 3 7:32pm

August 10 7:25pm

August 17 7:17pm

August 24 7:09pm

August 31 7:00pm



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* !





AUGUST SERVICE SCHEDULE



August 3— **Erev Shabbat**. Hazzan Lance and Mark Peterson

August 10— **Erev Shabbat**. Hazzan Lance and Mark Peterson

August 11— **Lay Study Session**—Shmuel Gonzales and Sam Pearlman
9:00 am—**Breakfast**; 9:45 am—**Torah Study**

August 17— **Erev Shabbat**. Hazzan Lance and Mark Peterson

August 24—**Erev Shabbat**. Hazzan Lance and Mark Peterson

August 25— **Siddur Kol Shalom**—Hazzan Lance and Mark Peterson
9:00 am—**Breakfast**; 9:45 am— **Torah Service**

August 31—**Erev Shabbat**. Hazzan Lance and Mark Peterson



MONTH OF AV-ELUL / 5778 / AUGUST 2018

THE WORKS OF MAIMONIDES (1135-1204 C.E.)

The numerous writings of Maimonides started at the age of 16 with the *Millot ha-Higgayon (Treaties on Logical Terminology)*. This was a study of terms employed in logic and metaphysics. It was written in Arabic, as was his "Essay on the Calendar" (*Ma'amar haEibur*).

His first major work started at the age of 2 It was his commentary on the Mishnah, *Kitab al-Siraj*, also composed in Arabic. The mishna is a compendium of decisions in Jewish law that dates from our earliest times to the third century. In this work Maimonides clarified individual phrases and their words. He cited relevant information in archeology, theology, and science. The works most important features are the essays dealing with the general philosophical issues of the Mishna. One of these essays summarizes the teachings of Judaism in a creed called the Thirteen Articles of Faith. These are in most siddurim and recited after the morning service on Weekdays. They are a straight forward listing of what most Jews believe, that G-d and Torah are the foundation of Judaism and we await the coming of the Messiah.



He finished his commentary on the Mishna at the age of 33 and began work on the code of Jewish law. This took another ten years to complete and bears the title of the "Mishna Torah" ("The Torah Reviewed"). It is written in Hebrew and offers an in-depth systemization of all Jewish law and doctrine. He wrote two more works on Jewish law: "The Book of Precepts" in Arabic for the ordinary Jews: and "The Laws of Jerusalem," a digest of the laws in the Jerusalem Talmud written in Hebrew.

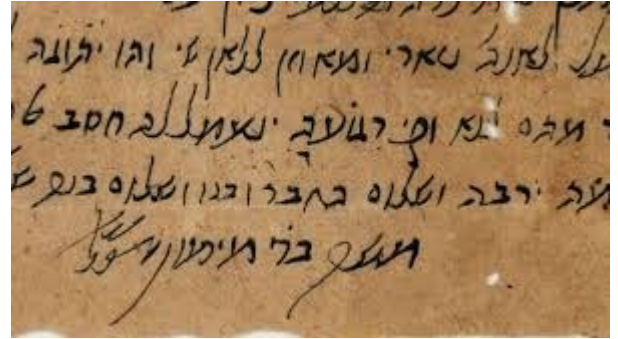
His next major work, "The Guide for the Perplexed" began in 1175 and took 15 years to complete. It is a classic in religious philosophy that is a plea for a more

(Continued on next page)

Maimonides *(Continued)*

rational philosophy of Judaism. It was written in Arabic and later translated into Hebrew, Latin and most other European languages. This work constituted a major contribution to mankind's accommodation between science, philosophy, and religion. Concisely, it has a marked influence on the history of religious thought.

This true man for most situations wrote a number of minor works that deal with then current problems that affected the Jewish community. He kept extensive correspondence with scholars, students and civic leaders. The following are among his minor, that provide important reading: 1) Epistle to Yemen (Iggeret ha-Teman), 2) Letter on Apostasy (Iggeret ha-Shemad), 3) Letter on Astrology (Iggeret le-Qahal Marsilia), or literally the "Letter to the community of Marseilles."



Signature of Rabbi Moses Ben Maimon.

He also wrote various works concerning medicine. These included a popular miscellany of health rules which he dictated to his patron and protector, the sultan Al-Afdal. According to medicinal historians his medicinal writings are not antiquated. In fact they are astonishingly modern in tone and content.

This extraordinary man complained, as most humans do, that the pressure of his duties robbed him of peace and undermined his health.

Like all flesh, he passed away away in the year 1204 at the age of 69. He is buried in Tiberias, Israel, where his grave continues to be a shrine drawing large numbers of visitors.

Significance

Maimonides came to be recognized as a pillar of the traditional Jewish faith – his

~Sam Pearlman

Bingo Volunteers / Thanks to the Singers Luncheon



Because our Bingo program at Beth Shalom ended on June 24th, it was a bittersweet chance to get the people who have worked Bingo over the years together to eat and reminisce. It was a great opportunity to honor the Singers for all their work and dedication. Bingo has been a tremendous help in sustaining Beth Shalom through the years and it all started with John Singer, “Mr. Bingo”. The Singer family has continued his legacy and Mark, Maggie, Eunice and Christine have worked tirelessly over the past years. Our heartfelt thanks to them.



Having so many past and present Bingo volunteers together was great fun. Many funny stories were told about things that happened at Bingo. We took the time to remember and thank those volunteers who are no longer with us but did so much work for Bingo over time. We honored the memory of Bonnie Neville, our VP of Bingo who recently passed away.

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Listening to some of the stories about the “old days” was great. I especially laughed at Alita Sevin’s recall of her first week as a manager with John not being there. During that night, 1 person threw up, there were 3 spills and she spent most of the evening with a mop in her hands. I always joked about the fact that rising to the position of Manager really meant that you had to learn how to fill the toilet paper and paper towel holders and mop the floors! Such is the life of a Volunteer! We had people there who volunteered by staffing the kitchen and working all the various jobs in the past, as well as those who volunteered up to the last night of Bingo. We appreciate them all.



All in all, it was a great time of good food and fellowship.

The pharmacist who couldn't throw anything away

BY Edmon J. Rodman

In the years before Obamacare, health insurance and even penicillin, there was a health care provider of a more personal and community-based kind — the corner mom-and-pop drugstore where you could buy a cure for whatever ailed you.

Feeling nervous and dyspeptic? Buy a roll of Carter's Little Nerve Pills. Feet hurt? Try the bunion plasters. Irregularity? Then a tin of Cocomint Laxatives might make you right as rain. And if you needed a prescription filled and someone to confide in about aches and pains, then you could go to Colonial Drug in Highland Park, an establishment owned by pharmacist George A. Simmons, Jewish immigrant from Latvia.



In the 1920s, Simmons' drugstore, a converted bank building at the corner of Pasadena Avenue

(now North Figueroa) and Avenue 57, was a place of spotless black-and-white tiled floors, wood-and-glass display cabinets packed with bottles, boxes and tins of patent medicines, many of which contained alcohol and some even cocaine. Along one side was a long marble counter where you could be served an ice cream soda.

Although **Colonial Drug** closed in 1942 (Simmons opened a new store on West Adams Boulevard), it has re-emerged through the persistence of the Simmons family and a unique arrangement with a local museum. The drugstore now is located in the [Heritage Square Museum](#), a collection of mostly late-19th-century structures north of downtown, just off the 110 Freeway. A visitor can examine the same ointments, tonics, salts and powders that Simmons was buying and selling, along with a collection of more than 80,000 pharmaceutical-related items that Simmons acquired throughout his career.

As mom-and-pop drugstores closed because of the Great Depression and the introduction of chain drugstores such as **Thrifty Cut Rate**, which was started by Jewish brothers Harry and Robert Borun and their brother-in-law Norman Levin in 1929, Simmons needed to find a way to stay in business. He discovered that he could bid at auction on the store's contents.

"He could buy distressed merchandise for less than from a supplier," said Dorothy "Dotty" Simmons, George's daughter-in-law. With the auctioned merchandise, he could maintain his margins, even in the face of cut-rate competition. "It helped him to stay in business," she said.

The only problem was, when he bid, he had to buy everything, including old patent medicines that were no longer moving off the shelves.

"He would box them up and put them in the basement," she said. "When I entered the family in 1946, I went to this large house in Highland Park. The basement was this huge area. We used to call it the catacombs. It absolutely blew my mind. Cartons on top of cartons, floor to ceiling. He never threw anything away."

In addition to Simmons, other Jewish families either worked in or owned Los Angeles-area pharmacies, including the Schwab brothers, known for their Sunset Boulevard location, and the parents of Rosalind Wiener Wyman, the youngest person ever elected to the Los Angeles City Council. Although not intended as a display of Jewish life, Simmons' Colonial Drug stands as a kind of museum of the life of mom-and-pop enterprise that many Jewish immigrants lived upon coming to L.A. in the 1910s and '20s.

"Family life revolved around the drugstore," said Simmons' granddaughter, Barbara Lazar. "All [four of] the sons worked there. Grandpa believed in starting by sweeping the floor and working your way up."

From the shtetl of Preili in eastern Latvia in 1895, Simmons, born Avrom Gregorovich Simmonovitch, had worked his way up, too. His father was Chasidic, the family was Yiddish-speaking, and George attended *yeshiva* through age 14.

He left Preili at 14 for Vladivostok on the Trans-Siberian Railway to apprentice to a feldsher, an unlicensed medical practitioner. Moving to Shanghai, Simmons worked for J. Llewellyn & Co., where his first job was to sell packets of opium, used for pain relief, to the local Chinese population.

By around 1909, he had become the company's senior pharmacist. While in Shanghai, he also met his future wife, Renee Begelman. With the Russian draft reaching into China for conscripts in 1916, "he left Shanghai on the first available ship," Dotty said.

Landing in Vancouver, British Columbia, Simmons crossed the border into the United States illegally and settled in Seattle in 1917, when he began working at various day jobs. Also that year, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he was assigned to the medical corps. In 1918, he was honorably discharged, and as a result of his service, earned his U.S. citizenship. Renee joined him in the U.S., and the two were married. As newlyweds, they moved to Los Angeles, where Renee's brother was living.

The 1920 census shows the family living on Cummings Street in Boyle Heights and George listing his occupation as "pharmacist" at a drug company.

"He never went to pharmacy school," Dotty said. Nevertheless, through self-study and his training and experience he passed the licensing test and, in the early 1920s, opened Colonial Drug in Highland Park.

By 1930, the Simmons family was living on Gage Street in the East L.A. community of Belvedere, a neighborhood with Russian Jews, according to the census. Around the early '30s, the family moved to Highland Park. There, George filled the basement and the garage with his bargains, then built another garage.

At the various locations of his pharmacy over the years, a group of customers the

family referred to as “pigeons,” because they flocked to George, sought him out for his supply of over-the-counter remedies that were unavailable elsewhere and for his pharmaceutical knowledge.

George died in 1974, leaving behind the contents of the catacombs.

The collection stayed in storage in the San Fernando Valley. The 1994 Northridge earthquake destroyed about a third of the collection, prompting George’s son Sidney, also a pharmacist, to inventory and photograph the remaining items.



As that work progressed, another of George’s sons, Fred, an attorney, approached the **Heritage Square Museum** with a proposal to take the collection and house it in a re-creation of Colonial Drug Store that the family would build and donate in George’s honor. The museum agreed to take the collection but balked on the building.

“It was inconsistent with the museum’s normal mission,” said Philip Simmons, Sidney and Dotty’s son, a real estate attorney and development manager, who managed the construction of the building.

By 2008, the museum came around, and a design was agreed upon: The building housing the period medicines and pharmaceuticals would be a reproduction of the original structure. As the building was under construction, the family pitched in to sort through and curate the collection, pulling out such gems as Karnak Stomach Tonic, Kuke’s Dandruff Exterminator and Ingram’s Complexion Tablets.

In 2012, the Colonial Drug exhibit opened. Today, almost 100 years since the store’s opening, the family is still in the pharmacy business, with Valley Drug and Compounding in Encino.

George supported much of his extended family with his drugstore, Dotty said.

Even with his vast collection, George never undervalued the healing power of the patient. Said Philip: “He believed that the individual’s belief in the treatment was as much a part of its effectiveness as the treatment itself.”

Have an idea for a Los Angeles Jewish history story? Contact Edmon J. Rodman at edmojace@gmail.com.

Yahrzeits, Remembrances for the Month

Dora Sandler	Aunt of Michelle Hess
Leonard Wiener	Husband of Dorothy Wiener
Morey	Brother of Rita Rubin
Abraham Chesler	Father of Joel Chesler
Dr. Daniel B. Becker	Father of Myra Becker

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

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

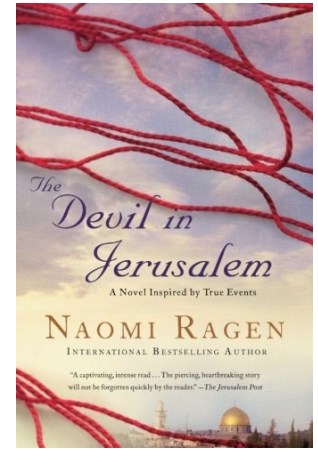
JEWISH FEDERATION
OF THE GREATER SAN GABRIEL
AND POMONA VALLEYS

Book Club News



We will be meeting at Evelyn Litwin's home on Tuesday August 21, at 12:30pm. We will be reading **"Devil in Jerusalem" by Naomi Regan.**

REMINDER: Evelyn is making lunch, so **DO NOT** bring your own food. Happy Reading Everyone.



Please bring some suggestions for September's Book.

Please contact Myra for the location.

If you have any questions, please call.

~Myra Weiss

We had a great time at Claire Rademacher's Retirement Luncheon!



It was good food, good people and a thoroughly enjoyable time. We met some of Claire's family and they are as delightful as she is! It isn't easy to say farewell (please notice that I didn't say goodbye), to someone who has been such a big part of Beth Shalom. She has been here for 12 years and we have come to regard her not only as a valuable part of our organization, but as a good friend and part of our extended family.

There were many heartfelt words spoken as we thanked Claire for her work and her friendship over the years. She received many gifts and flowers as tokens of our appreciation. Thanks to the people who helped with the luncheon, especially Jo Ann Golden for making the lovely table centerpieces and Ann Kanehele for setting up the room.

Claire has been made an honorary associate member of Beth Shalom so she can keep informed as to what we are up to and come to functions that are of interest. As Claire plans on learning to play the ukulele, we may even call upon her to play for us! We'll give her a few months to learn how to play but knowing her, she will have it mastered in record time.



Our love and best wishes go with Claire for all her future endeavors. She has been a blessing to us for the past years and we will keep in touch as friends for many more years.

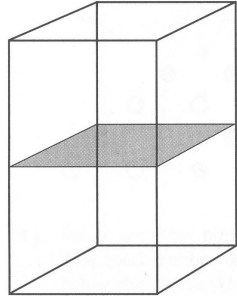
LILA HELD

Brain Train

Train your brain by keeping it active!

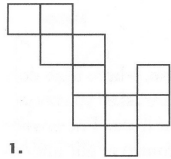


109. Below is a double-tiered cardboard configuration that is closed. (The configuration is shown here as transparent for easier viewing.)

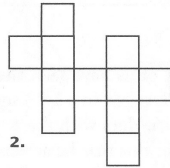


The shaded area is a single piece of cardboard

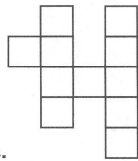
Which one of the following choices is a valid depiction of this configuration if it were to be "disassembled" enough to lie flat?



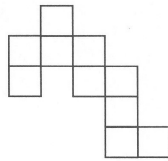
1.



2.



3.



4.

WORD SEARCH

N I D K S I S I G L Y B A T G
 I O E R D T C C L W G Z H B N
 D E I Q A E R A H N D U G E I
 E O R T C G B E I O N Y N A K
 Z T G R A Y O K C D O F I C C
 B P E D E T A N E N Y L M H A
 P A E L A Y N R F A O V M B P
 M R L B A Y S E A L G C I A K
 N O I K A T S T I L Y N W L C
 V W F Q O G N I F R U S S L A
 P B X R P L A Y G R O U N D B
 Z L M E K I B N I A T N U O M
 X S E D A N O M E L Z Z F R V
 C R A B B I N G F I R E F L Y
 F I S H I N G B P I R T Y A D

Backpacking
 Beach Ball
 Concerts
 Crabbing
 Day Trip
 Dog Days
 Dragonfly

Firefly
 Fishing
 Ice Cream
 Kayaking
 Lemonade
 Mountain Bike
 Orientation

Playground
 School
 Surfing
 Swimming
 Thunderstorms
 Volleyball

Tricky Questions Challenge:

1. An electric train is moving north at 100mph and a wind is blowing to the west at 10mph. Which way does the smoke blow.
2. How can a man go eight days without sleep
3. Some months have 31 days, others have 30 days. How many have 28 days?

Answer Key:

1. There is no smoke with an electric train.
2. By sleeping during the night time.
3. All months have 28 days.

Answer to box challenge 109:
 The number 2 configuration.

High Holy Day Symposium

Preparation for the High Holy Days in Prayer and Song



Join Hazzan Lance Tapper for this special installment of his adult education series for **Beth Shalom of Whittier**, in which we will be learning about the liturgy and music of the High Holy Day. The presentation will include rare audio and video clips of our sacred prayers and discussion on them as well.

Refreshments will be provided.

Sunday, August 19 at 10:00am
in the **Beth Shalom of Whittier** social hall

Beth Shalom of Whittier

סליחות Selichot Service



In preparation for the High Holy Day Season 5779
Congregation Beth Shalom of Whittier invites you to our
Selichot Service; with new traditional styled Selichot booklets.

Saturday Night, September 1st, 2018

Join us for a **dessert reception** at 6:30pm in the Social Hall

Choral Selichot Service at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary

Donations are recommended

Officiating:

Hazzan Lance Tapper

Featuring:

The Beth Shalom Singers

Mark Peterson, Accompanist and Conductor

Rosh HaShanah



High Holy Days are approaching!

September 9 - Erev Rosh HaShanah - 7:30p.m.

September 10 - First Day Rosh HaShanah - 9:30a.m.

September 11 - Second Day Rosh HaShanah - 9:30a.m.

September 14 - Shabbat Shuvah - 7:30p.m.

September 18 - Kol Nidre - 6:30p.m.

September 19 - Yom Kippur - 9:30a.m.

Hazzan Lance Tapper officiating,

with the Beth Shalom Professional Choir,

and Mark Peterson, accompanist.

Beth Shalom of Whittier

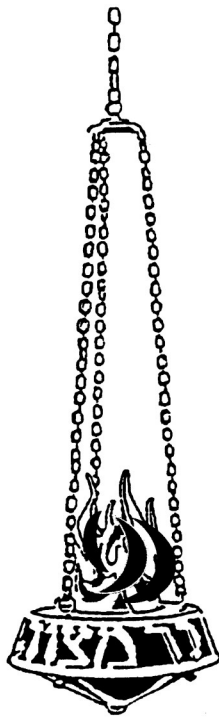
Parking: 14545 Mulberry Drive, Whittier, CA 90605 • Phone: 562-941-8744

There are no charges for services. Donations are encouraged.

August 2018

Av/Elul 5778

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1	2 Minyan 2:30 pm	3 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm 	4 Eikev
5	6 Minyan 2:30 pm	7	8	9 Minyan 2:30 pm	10 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm 	11  Breakfast 9:00 am Lay Study Session 9:45 am Re'eh
12 Rosh Chodesh Elul	13 Minyan 2:30 pm	14	15 Sisterhood Lunch	16 Minyan 2:30 pm	17 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm 	18 Shoftim
19 Adult Education "High Holiday Symposium" 10:00am	20 Minyan 2:30 pm	21 Book Club 12:30pm	22	23 Minyan 2:30 pm	24 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm 	25  Siddur Kol Shalom Breakfast 9 am Torah Service 9:45 Ki Teitzei
26	27 Minyan 2:30 pm	28	29	30 Minyan 2:30 pm	31 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm 	



Beth Shalom of Whittier

14564 East Hawes Street
Whittier, California 90604