



Our Mishpacha



HAZZAN'S NOTES

As Shavuot has passed, the Jewish calendar now points us to summer. Vacations and institutes tantalize our brains and create time to refresh and enjoy.

This month I will be attending my annual Cantors Assembly Convention, this year in West Palm Beach, Florida. There are many issues on the docket this year including remembrances of the great Ernst Block and his *Sacred Service* composed for Congregation Emanuel in San Francisco which was commissioned by my late great colleague, Cantor Rubin Rinder. We will delve into the issue of the Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukkot and their waning appeal in a 21st century world. We will also look seriously at one of the most interesting services of the year, Neilah, the service that closes Yom Kippur. And, the inevitable clergy business occurs each year as we plan for the coming year. I will be gone from June 1 through 7 and will give my annual report on the convention at services on June 8. You will want to attend to find out what new ideas are percolating in the Jewish communities throughout our country.

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Hazzan's Notes *(Continued)*

This month will also bring time to reflect on all we do in our community. As we start to look toward new beginnings in a new place, our congregation and community ever work together to keep Judaism alive in this part of the San Gabriel Valley. Wherever we go and whatever we do will reflect on a community that brings together its values for the betterment of humanity. It takes a “village” to make it all work and we have that here at Beth Shalom.

HAZZAN LANCE H. TAPPER

General Membership Meeting

We are quickly coming upon the time for our annual general membership meeting for congregation Beth Shalom of Whittier. Do watch your mailbox for official notices, which will be sent out on May 21.

The meeting will be held on **June 3 at 10 a.m.** At this meeting we will be discussing important matters related to our synagogue, and also electing the new slate of officers. All members are encouraged to attend. The meeting will be followed with a continental breakfast.



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* !





JUNE SERVICE SCHEDULE



June 1—Hazzan Toby Schwartz and Mark Peterson

June 8—Hazzan Lance and Mark Peterson

June 9—9:00 am—Breakfast; 9:45 am—
Siddur Kol Shalom—Hazzan Lance and Mark Peterson

June 15—Hazzan Lance and Mark Peterson

June 22—Hazzan Lance and Mark Peterson

June 23—9:00 am—Breakfast; 9:45 am—
Lay Study Session—Shmuel Gonzales and Sam Pearlman

June 29—Hazzan Lance and Mark Peterson



MONTH OF SIVAN / 5778 / JUNE 2018

Yizkor is the memorial service for the souls of the deceased parents and relatives. The name means “May He remember.” He is G-d and Yizkor is the first word of the prayer. Many of those who recite Yizkor find it to be emotionally moving and that it had the strength to lift spiritually the souls of our departed.

The prayer is predicated on the Jewish concept of the souls being immortal. It encourages us to reflect and act as self-improvement in remembrance of our deceased’s memory.

The following four holidays are when Yizkor is said:

1. Yom Kippur
2. Pesach (the last day)
3. Shavuot (the second day)
4. Shemini Atzeret (a separate holiday at the end of Succos). It is recited here rather than on Simchas Torah because joy works at the opposite of solemn prayer. Of interest, in Israel there is one day less of Yom Tov, Yizkor is recited on the seventh day of Pesach and the one day of Shavuot; Shemini Atzeret and Simchas Torah are said on the same day in Israel.

Before saying Yizkor proper, we at Beth Shalom recite biblical verses that concentrate on our lives and after-lives (i.e. “man’s days are like a shadow passing by” - Psalms 144:4; “G-d will redeem my soul from the depths” - Psalm 49:16, etc.) These verses are followed by saying Psalm 91 (“*Yoshev Ba’seis*”) whose theme is that G-d is the refuge of mankind. After these reading Yizkor is started.

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Sivan (Continued)

In the Yizkor prayer we ask G-d to consider our relatives and include them in the “bond of life” in paradise alongside the Patriarchs, Matriarchs and other departed righteous. In exchange for this we commit to donate charity on their behalf. Yizkor is for one’s parents, but it may be recited for other relatives. There is space for this where you can insert their names. The Ashekenzic practice is to recite the name as the departed son or daughter of (their father’s name), other communities may use the name of the deceased mother. Following the above there are also verses for victims of the Holocaust and other martyrs.



After the Yizkor prayer of “(Ke)el Malei Rachamim” (“G-d, full of compassion”) is said. There is an all purpose prayer that is recited at the burial and unveiling and part of the Shabbos mincha service prior to the deceased’s Yahrtzeit. The prayer “Av haRachamim” (“Father of Compassion”), is then recited on most Sabbaths. A surprise to me is that Kaddish is not part of the Yizkor service.

It is ironic that shuls become crowded for Yizkor as a prayer can be said without a minyan. There is nothing wrong with many people who are not part of the local community coming to Beth Shalom for Yizkor. It’s actually wonderful that these people willingly come on behalf of relatives who are deceased. It is as a catalyst for their present and future generations to attend shul in remembrance for the deceased! On the other hand of one cannot make to shul, Yizkor should be recited in the privacy of one’s home.

~Sam Pearlman

Spring Turns to Summer

In this month of June we find ourselves standing in a time of transition, both in the seasons and also in the procession of the Jewish religious cycle. We exit another season of religious observances, and synagogue life begins to slow down for the summer.



In the Spring months since Passover we have been celebrating *Aviv*, spring. Which began with us commemorating Pesach, the season of our liberation from Egypt.

And then seven weeks later we celebrated the giving of the Torah on Shavuot, which is the full blossoming and glory of the Jewish experience; many of you might fondly remember this from your childhood, decorating

the sanctuary of the synagogue with flowers for Shavuot, as this is common in many traditions and communities, for this very reason.

The revelation of the Torah at Shavuot is the pinnacle of the Jewish experience; it is the height of our joy. This is the height of our season, as well as the peak our story arc. Though as with all good stories, there is a descending action; usually met with disaster or conflict. Which moves the story towards addressing that crisis, and bringing the narrative together for a meaningful resolution.

As we come out Shavuot we remember Moses coming down from the peak of Mt. Sinai. And that is where we find ourselves in our Jewish calendar at this time; coming out of the pleasantness of spring, and now moving into the summer months.

In the month of June we be going into the first of the summer months, the month of Tammuz.

Now as many recall. Tammuz is a rather unique month, in that it contains no Jewish holidays to celebrate. And so in terms of religion, like the season our religious calendar becomes dry, and even it even becomes a bit depressing for a while in our Torah cycle.

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Notice that after Shavuot, we also begin to encounter some really difficult Torah portions. We have Shelach, which recounts the lying of the spies. We have Korach, which begins the story of rebellion in the Israelite camp. We also have other ominous ones like Balak, which is about the attempted cursing of the Israelites by Bilam and Baalak.

As we end our civil month of June this year, we find ourselves at the *Tzom Tammuz* – the fast of Tammuz. The day of fasting which commemorates when the *Shnei Luchot haBrit* – the two stone tablets — were broken by Moses, as a result of the creation of the Golden Calf idol.

And from there, our religious cycle further continues in its descent. Beginning with the *Three Weeks*, which is a time of semi-mourning until we reach the major fasting and mourning day of *Tisha B'Av*; the most tragic day in the Jewish calendar; which commemorates the destruction of the two Temples in Jerusalem, as well as other paramount Jewish tragedies which are observed on that day.

The Jewish tradition does this for a very special reason. As the Chassidic maxim goes: "Every descent is for the sake of a future ascent."

In the month of Sivan we find ourselves at the ultimate peak of inspiration at Mt. Sinai; and then in Tammuz and Av, we experience loss of that ideal. As we recall the Torah tablets being broken, and in the shadow of observing the destruction of the holy temples, we are then forced to recognize a spiritual sense of loss which these themes evoke.

Annually as we go through this procession in Summer, we feel this descent. It's not just a break in the season intended to be just some sort of summer vacation from having too much religious observance. It has a real purposefulness to it. We allow ourselves to feel this sense of loss, in order to evoke a deep sense of spiritual longing inside our souls; so that we want to return to spiritual devotion.

This was all masterfully themed by the rabbis of long ago, to evoke this sense of loss and longing which is essential in order for us to really appreciate the coming ascent; the awesomeness and spiritual intimacy of the High Holy Days to come.

~ *Shmuel Gonzales*

June Birthdays

<i>Jo Ann Golden</i>	<i>June 5</i>
<i>Joel Golden</i>	<i>June 6</i>
<i>Christina Singer</i>	<i>June 14</i>
<i>Mark Singer</i>	<i>June 18</i>
<i>Barry Neville</i>	<i>June 29</i>



We also want to congratulate the family of Steve and Eileen Baptista on the birth of their grandson, Steven Blake, son of their daughter Katie, born this passed month on May 17th.



*Happy
Anniversary*



June Anniversaries

<i>Jordan and Yvette Pollack</i>	<i>June 14</i>
<i>Sidney and Sandra Paul</i>	<i>June 22</i>
<i>Steven and Eileen Baptista</i>	<i>June 30</i>

Beth Shalom of Whittier

Wishes you all

a Very Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary!

Yahrzeit for the Month

Morris Beckelman	Grandfather of Myra Becker
Isadore Golden	Grandfather of Joel Golden
Ida Froman Lander	Mother of Yvette Pollack
Ines C. Lamb	Mother of Liz Herrera
Dorothy Leibowitz	Mother of Norma Shreiber
Leon Morzinsky	Father of Michelle Hess
Jean Pollack	Mother of Joran Pollack
Donald D. Tapper	Uncle of Hazzan Lance H. Tapper
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.

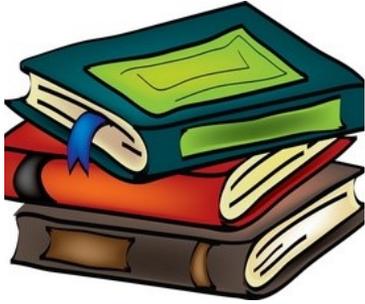


Thank You for Your Donations



Evelyn Goldberg Brunelle	In memory of Rebecca Goldberg, her grandmother
Myra Becker	In memory of Minnie Becker, her mother-in-law
Myra Becker	In memory of Martin Becker, her late husband
Sidney and Sandra Paul	In memory of Edith Gottlieb, sister of Sidney
Richard and Michelle Hess	In memory of Lillian Sandler, the grandmother of Michelle
Sidney and Sandra Paul	In memory of Morris Lehman, father of Sandra

Book Group News



The Beth Shalom Book Group is 'reading' right along. Our book for **June 19th** is "*(((Semitism)))*: *Being Jewish in America in the Age of Trump*" by Jonathan Weisman. Weisman is Deputy Washington Editor of *The New York Times* and author of the novel *No. 4 Imperial Lane*, which was a Chautauqua Prize finalist, Amazon Best Book of the Month.

The Washington Post says that *(((Semitism)))* is "Timely.. [A passionate call to arms]". The reviews continue that "It is a short, literary, powerful contemplation on how Jews are viewed in America since the election of Donald J. Trump, and how we can move forward to fight anti-Semitism." "It is the advent of Trumpian politics – its nonstop carnival of paranoia.... " We can expect lively conversation and discourse.

If you have any questions, please call.

~Myra Weiss



Candle Lighting Times

June 2	8:42 p.m.	June 9	8:46 p.m.
June 16	8:49 p.m.	June 23 & June 30	8:51 p.m.



June 2018

Sivan/Tammuz 5778

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

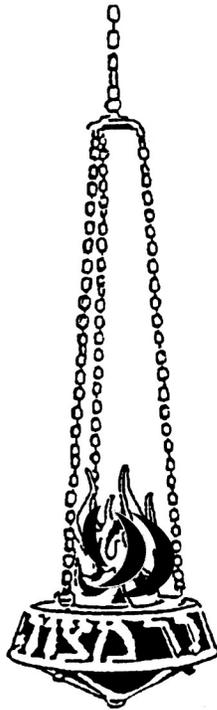
					1 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm 	2 Beha'alotcha 
3 Annual General Members Meeting 10am Bingo	4 Minyan 2:30 pm	5	6	7 Minyan 2:30 pm	8 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm 	9 Siddur Kol Shalom Torah Service 9:45 am Breakfast 9:00 am Shelach
10 Bingo	11 Minyan 2:30 pm	12	13	14 Rosh Chodesh Tammuz Minyan 2:30 pm	15 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm 	16 Korach
17 Bingo	18 Minyan 2:30 pm	19 Book Group 12:30 pm	20	21 Minyan 2:30 pm	22 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm 	23 Breakfast 9:00 am Lay Study Session 9:45 am Chukat 
24 Bingo	25 Minyan 2:30 pm	26	27	28 Minyan 2:30 pm	29 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm 	30 Balak



In Memory of Bonnie Neville

תהא נפשה צרורה בצרור החיים.
*May her soul be bound up in
the bond of life.*

Donations in her memory
made by: Arlene Norton,
Claire Rademacher and Lila
Held



Beth Shalom of Whittier

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