



## Our Mishpacha

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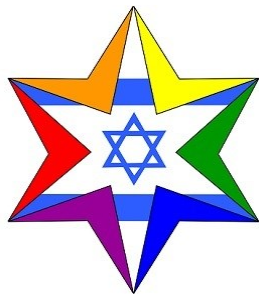
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Everyone is Welcome

### Hazzan's Notes



Dear Friends,

This month we conclude the reading of the book of *Bereshit* (Genesis) and begin the reading of the book of *Shemot* (Exodus). The stories of the patriarchs and matriarchs and their progeny conclude on a high note with the ascension of Joseph to the position of Vizier in Egypt in charge of making sure Egypt can withstand the coming famine and be able to maintain the population with food and supplies necessary for life. He is the most lauded Hebrew in the pre-Israelite nation burgeoning in Egypt.

In *Shemot* we begin the odyssey of Moses and his ascension from the vassal Hebrew community in Egypt to Prince and status. Moses then begins his process of knowledge and understanding toward prophecy and leadership of the Hebrew community known as the Israelites. Moses is beset with issue after issue in his quest for equality for the Israelites in Egypt. At every turn he faces setback after setback and yet, slowly, slowly, change begins to happen and eventually, as we know, the Israelites will leave Egypt back to their new homeland in Canaan.

We hope that in this new secular New Year of 2025, we will see change and peace come to our people in Israel as it did in biblical times and hope that future hostilities can be mitigated as much as possible.

*Hazzan Lance H. Tapper, Hon DMus*

## From our President

Hello Everyone,

Wow, what a month! I hope your month was full and happy.

Beth Shalom of Whittier was bustling and busy with a fun and informative Lunch & Learn and a great Chanukah dinner and service with brisket, latkes and gift bags.

Personally, I started the month off with a weekday cruise for a getaway/recharging and then my grandchildren, Jordan and Karla, joined me on the cruise for the weekend, which was lots of fun!

I had a family Chanukah party and attended Chanukah and Christmas celebrations with friends and family as well as a combination party to celebrate both holidays. My daughter Joann and her fiancé Rudy throw a Christmukah party every year so everyone can be together and just enjoy the season.

January should be interesting as well. Hazzan Lance is going on a short vacation and then to a conference. Rabbi Ken will be conducting services and playing his guitar and I am looking forward to seeing him on the first and last Fridays. We are really blessed to have two such wonderful clergy. They are very different but both inspirational and enjoyable.

We will be having another Lunch & Learn on January 25<sup>th</sup>. It will be about "Jewish foods" and why they are considered that. There will be samples, so please rsvp on time so Michelle will know how much food to prepare!

Love and best wishes to all. It was great to see so many of you in person at the Chanukah dinner!

Shalom

Lila

### BOOK CLUB NEWS

Our next book club meeting will be Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 1:00pm.

The book will be, "Making it So". It is an autobiography by Patrick Stewart, otherwise known as Captain Picard on Star Trek.

For more information contact Michelle.

We are continuing to meet on Zoom.  
Everyone is welcome to join in our discussion.

Happy Reading Everyone.





# Beth Shalom of Whittier

## Lunch & Learn

**What are Jewish Foods and why are they considered Jewish?**

Hazzan Lance will provide a detailed origin/historical perspective on foods we consider Jewish and Why. Michelle Hess will provide opportunities to actually taste some of these foods during/after the presentation

Join your Beth Shalom friends for an afternoon of informative discussion and a light lunch.

**Saturday, January 25, 2025 ★ 12:00 – 2:00 PM**

**RSVP's are required,**

**absolutely no reservations after January 15th,**

**by email: [bswoffice@verizon.net](mailto:bswoffice@verizon.net) or**

**by phone: 562.941.8744**

## Chanukkah

**Laws and Customs** The Chanukkah festival, which is observed for eight days, begins on the 25th day of the “Kislev” month. The word Chanukkah is composed of two parts, “Chanu” which means “they camped” referring to the victory of the Maccabees over the Syrian Greeks, and “Kah” are the letters “Raf” and “hei” which together mean 25th. This holiday is also known as the “Feast of Lights” and the “Feast of Dedication”.

Of all our holidays in the year, “Chanukkah” is the only one that we are told to publicize. I was taught to celebrate Jew and non-Jew alike, for two reasons. The first is the victory of the Maccabees (priests) over the Greeks and the second is the miracle of the cruse of oil that burned for eight days when it only had the capacity to burn for one.

**Rule of Antiochus** The Greek ruler Antiochus did not want to destroy the Jewish people; he wanted to destroy their religion. He would never have tried to convert the Jews had he not been reassured by the priests of Israel that Judaism no longer held first place in their hearts. The priests told him that the Jews were only waiting for him to place a Greek idol in the Temple.

**Rebellion** There was one priestly family that did not think as the ungodly priest; it was the family of the Hasmoneans, or Maccabees as they were later called. Mattathias and five sons knew it was wrong to forsake their religion. They knew that Jews had sinned greatly in adopting customs of the Greeks which were contrary to Jewish beliefs. When an altar was put in the market place in the town of Modin for sacrifice to the Greek god, and Mattathias was the first to be approached.

Though, all the nations that are under the king’s dominion obey him, and all fall away from the religion of their fathers, he said, “yet will I and my sons walk according to the ways of our fathers.” When one of the Jews stepped out from the crowd that had gathered in the market place, to sacrifice to the Greek god Mattathias killed him, together with the king’s officers who stood there.

“Whoever is for G-d follow me”, he shouted, and he and his sons fled to the mountains. There he raised a small army and planned to free the Jews from the Greek influence and the rule of Antiochus. The Jews won great victories under the leadership of Judah Maccabees who replaced his aged father and the sons returned to Jerusalem.

When the Maccabees saw the Temple desecrated by Greek idols, their hearts bled, they did not lose courage and replaced the old vessels with new ones. As a final touch, they had to light the Menorah.

By law the “Menorah” was to be kept burning in the Temple continuously. Oil that was initially prepared was used to insure its purity. This oil was put into containers that were marked with the seal of the High Priest. When the Maccabees searched for the oil, they found a small cruse which contained only enough oil for one day. They put it into the Menorah and hoped for the best. In the meantime they prepared new oil. The process took eight days. To their surprise, the oil in the Menorah, lasted miraculously for eight days. They rededicated the Temple on the 25th day of Kislev in the year 165 B.C.E.

Not only did the Jews win a victory over Antiochus, but more over, they won a victory over themselves. It took a Mattathias to teach them that the right way is the way of the Torah, as only the Torah can preserve our Jewish people. Our Sages tell us to display their Chanukkah “menorahs” at the window to remind all to see the Chanukkah story. In the present this display shows all who see it that we are proud of our Jewish heritage.

**The Menorah** We light and display each night, a model “menorah” of remembrance of the Chanukkah holiday. We begin with one candle and add one candle each night, bringing it to a total of eight candles on the eighth night of the holiday. The “menorah” is lit by a special lighting candle called a “shamash”. It is positioned a little higher in the “menorah” to show that it is not part of the Chanukkah candles. The candles are put into the menorah from right to left. The candle on the extreme right is put in on the first night. Each night a new candle is added on that side. In lighting the “menorah”, however, we go from left to right. The newest candle is first lit and followed by the second newest and so on.

*Continued on page 5.*

*Continued from page 4.*

The “menorah” should be lit in the evening after the “Ma’ariv” service. The candles should burn for at least half an hour. At their lighting the entire families presents are necessary to witness the “Mitzvah”. On the first night of Chanukkah the following three blessings are recited before lighting the candles: The first blessing indicates the fulfillment of the “mitzvah”, the second thanks G-d for enabling us to reach this holiday in health and happiness. After the first night only the first two blessings are recited. Each household must light its own “menorah”.

On Friday eve, the Chanukkah “menorah” must be lit before the Sabbath candles. Had the Sabbath candles been lit first, it would not have been permissible to light the Chanukkah candles, since the Sabbath would have already been officially accepted. On Sabbath night the “Havdalah” is recited to officially end the Sabbath and then the menorah is lit.

**Additional Prayers** On Chanukkah a special prayer is added to the “Shmoneh Esrei” thanking G-d for the miracles he performed for our ancestors at that time. It is also included in the “Grace After Meals” that is called “Al Hanissim”. In addition to this prayer the “Hallel” is recited during the “Shacharis” service every day of Chanukkah. The Torah is also read in the synagogue after the “Shacharis” service.

*Sam Pearlman*

### **Donations**

Lila Held – Yizkor Book Fund, High Holiday Honors Fund, and Cantors Discretionary Fund

### **Yahrzeit Donations**

#### **Remembered by**

Revekah Martinez  
Bernard Starkman  
Michelle Hess  
Arlene Norton

#### **Beloved Departed**

Family Members  
Blanche Starkman  
Emmanuel Morzinsky  
Arnold Winett

#### **Relationship**

Mother  
Uncle  
Brother

## Clergy Schedule

**Current policy for Beth Shalom Services:** We are open as usual to members, former members and anyone who is known to our Board of Directors. Any major events will require pre-registration and/or tickets. We will continue to have security guards on the premises and reserve the right to inspect any bags or purses. All others may watch on our Facebook page, **Beth Shalom of Whittier**.

January 3--7:30 pm Service--Rabbi Ken

January 10--7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm--Service--Hazzan Lance and Ty

January 17-- 7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm--Service--Hazzan Lance and Ty

January 24-- 7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm--Service--Hazzan Lance and Ty

January 31--7:30 pm Service--Rabbi Ken



Suruba Wechsler	January 18
Susan Lieberman	January 19
Jay Weinschenker	January 31

## This is Our Mishpacha

**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 the month prior.**

**Our Mishpacha is sent on-line to the 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. \$18.00 per year for non-members.**

**The editor welcomes comments and suggestions. [bswoffice@verizon.com](mailto:bswoffice@verizon.com)**

## Candle Lighting Times

January 3 - 4:39
January 10 - 4:45
January 17 - 4:52
January 24 - 4:59
January 31 - 5:06



## Tribute Cards

**To send a Tribute Card in honor or in memory of someone, please contact Michelle Hess with your request at [michelleh3532@gmail.com](mailto:michelleh3532@gmail.com)**

**Yahrzeit****Observed By****Dear Departed****Relationship**

Arlene Norton

Arnold Winett

Brother

Jean Vinetsky

Mother

Steve Baptista

Dorothy Baptista

Mother

Myra Becker

Lou Binke

Uncle

Ruth Beck

Mother

Pauline Newman

Aunt

Dorothy Rubin

Mark Hilliard

Glenda Hilliard

Wife

David Weiss

Rose Weiss

Mother

Elliot Weiss

Father

Oliver Rubenstein

Doris Lundquist

Grandmother

Hope Greenwood

Pearl DeMase

Mother

Jeffrey Kolnick

Mary Kolnick

Grandmother

Millie Hock

Rose Goldberg

Mother

Russell Unger

Robert Unger

Son

Miriam Brookfield

Willy Fleischmann

Father

Dora Fleischmann

Mother

Michelle Hess

Julius Schwartz

Uncle

Leigh Hess

Father-in-Law

Mina Cano

Socorro Torres

Grandmother

Hazzan Lance H Tapper

Harold Louis Tapper

Grandfather

Esther D Tapper

Grandmother

Millie Hock

Steven Hock

Susan Lieberman

Max Moskowitz

Uncle

Etta Arnold

Mother

Samuel Rubins

Grandfather

Suruba Wechsler

Benoit Suruba

Father

Sidney Paul

Bertha Paul

Step-Mother

Evelyn Resnick

Sister

Olver Rubenstein

Norman Lundquist

Grandfather

**Yahrzeit Observed by Beth Shalom of Whittier****Dear Departed**

Anna Fruchtman

Sadie Dreyfuss

Sylvia Zober

William Kerman

Manuel Klasky

Helen Fleischman

Naftali Saleweizek

Ida Fink

Brina Bressler

Louis Freedman

Beatrice Snow

Ruth Becker

Freda Cipes

Rebecca Wiener

Sophie Carnow

Joseph Unger



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<http://www.bethshalomofwhittier.net>

### *Tevet - Shevat 5785*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 7:30p Shabbat Service	4 4 Tevet Parashat Vayigash
5	6	7	8	9	10 7:30p Shabbat Service	11 11 Tevet Parashat Vayechi
12	13	14	15	16 7:00p Board Meeting	17 7:30p Shabbat Service	18 18 Tevet Parashat Shemot
19	20	21 1:00p Book Club	22	23	24 7:30p Shabbat Service	25 25 Tevet Parashat Va'era 12:00p Lunch 'n Learn
26	27	28	29	30	31 7:30p Shabbat Service	