



# Beth Shalom Weekly Update

Thursday, April 24, 2025 to Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Hazzan Lance H. Tapper, Hon DMus Parashat

Shabbat Service - April 25, 2025 - 7:30 p.m.

## SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday Evening 7:30 pm

## SYNAGOGUE OFFICE HOURS

Erica will work from home Tuesday - Friday, 10:00a-4:00p. The Beth Shalom office will now be open by appointment only. Our office phone and email will continue to be attended to during office hours.

10:00a-4:00p Tuesday-Friday

562.941.8744

[bswoffice@verizon.net](mailto:bswoffice@verizon.net)

## Yahrzeit

Hope Greenwood  
in memory of husband  
John Greenwood

Ann Kanahele  
in memory of father  
Wes Berry

Arlene Norton  
in memory of husband  
Marty Norton

If you know of someone who is ill, had surgery, or just needs a call now and then, please let us know so we can reach out. Thank you.

## Happy Birthday

Raquel Covarrubias  
4/24  
Madelon Alpert-Herman  
4/26  
Michelle Hess  
April 30

## Clergy Schedule

Virtual Services: [www.facebook.com/bethshalomofwhittier](https://www.facebook.com/bethshalomofwhittier)

*\*Services and events are once again open to in person. Services will continue to broadcast on Facebook simultaneously for those who cannot attend in person.*

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

May 2--7:30 pm Service--Rabbi Ken

May 9--7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm Service--Hazzan Lance and Ty

May 16--7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm Service--Hazzan Lance and Ty

May 23--7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm Service--Hazzan Lance and Ty

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

## Wine, Wisdom, and Wonder

Torah Reading: Leviticus 9:1 – 11:47

Haftarah Reading: Ezekiel 36:16 – 38

Parashat Shemini

By Rabbi Cheryl Peretz, posted on March 28, 2019

Judaism is a religion of faith. It is also a religion of behavior – and not just in contemporary times, but in ancient days and everlasting. In this week's Torah portion, Shemini, the Torah says: "And the Lord spoke to Aaron, saying: Drink no wine or other intoxicants, you or your sons, when you enter the Tent of Meeting, that you may not die. This is a law for all time throughout the ages, for you must distinguish between the sacred and the profane, and between the unclean and the clean, and you must teach the Israelites all the laws which the Lord has imparted to them through Moses." ([Leviticus 10:8-11](#))

In a world where so many use wine and intoxicants to self-medicate and/or to obliterate reality, this warning is certainly worth consideration. Yet, we Jews regularly sanctify Shabbat and holidays with wine. Thus, commentators are quick to point out that this passage is not meant as an absolute wine prohibition. Notice the exact wording.... Wine and intoxicant are forbidden to the priests in carrying out their priestly duties because of the possible effect it might have on their mental acuity, a necessary part of their responsibilities. More, specifically, it comes as a warning against drinking such that it perverts the ability to make the distinctions to achieve holiness.

We tend to think of the differences between sacred and profane, (ritually) purity and (ritually) impurity (better

## Service Attendance

If you are not a member, coming with a member or known to someone who will be at the service, please call the office before coming to any of our services. We do have security guards at all of our services and events.

**Beth Shalom Services:** We are open for in person services. If you are not yet comfortable coming to services in person, please tune in virtually by visiting our Facebook page, **Beth Shalom of Whittier**. When there is a livestream taking place, you can click on it and watch.

**Book Club:** The next book will be on Wednesday, May 18th at 1:00 p.m.

**Simcha Sharing** Let the office know of your good news and we will share it in the next weekly. Weddings ★ Births

**Tribute Cards** To send a Tribute Card, please contact Michelle Hess.

Her e-mail is:

[michelleh3532@gmail.com](mailto:michelleh3532@gmail.com)

**PayPal Donations:** Paypal donations welcome: [bswoffice@verizon.net](mailto:bswoffice@verizon.net)

## SAVE THE DATE

Movie & Discussion  
May 3

See flyer on page 3.

translations of the words 'clean' and 'unclean') as dichotomous realms, raising the goal to rid ourselves of every day as the anti-sacred. In reality, however, they are not polar opposites nor are they of different substance. There is no magic that makes something of and for God.

In Hebrew the word for between is *bein*, from the same Hebrew root which forms the word *binah*, the wisdom of discernment. Human development depends on making *havdalah*, a separation, using clear awareness and distinction to recognize that which is sacred and that which is not.

So, we look at two similar things and acknowledge that, despite their similarity, they are intended to be differentiated and held apart. As was taught by our rabbis, "If there is no data (discriminating intelligence), how can there be *havdalah*?" (Talmud Yerushalmi) That which is holy, set apart for God, is distinguished in mind, word, and deed. So too is it intrinsically bound in the ordinary, every day. It is we who transform every day into the service of God through words, through deeds/ritual, and through intentional setting aside and separating.

So, we both use wine to sanctify and avoid overusing it. In the balance lies life as lived; in the middle between the poles lies God and Godliness. And, to that, we should indeed raise our glasses to say *l'chaim*.

**See flyer on page 3.**

**Beth Shalom of Whittier Presents  
a Documentary Movie and Discussion**



**October 8** is a documentary on the emergence of anti-Semitism on college campuses, in social media and on the streets since October 7, 2023, when Hamas attacked Israel. It also delves into how Hamas manipulated the media.

Director: Wendy Sachs  
Writers: Nimrod Erez, Inbal B. Lessner, and Wendy Sachs  
Stars: Debra Messing, Michael Rapaport, and Noa Tishby

**Saturday, May 3, 2025 - 12:00 p.m.**

**Light refreshments will be served.**

**All are welcome with a reservation and security check prior to entering.**

**RSVP, by April 24th:**

**by email: [bswoffice@verizon.net](mailto:bswoffice@verizon.net) or by phone: 562.941.8744**

**Location: First Friends Fellowship Hall  
13205 Philadelphia Street  
Whittier 90601**