



Beth Shalom Weekly Update

Thursday, March 27, 2025 to Wednesday, April 2, 2025
Hazzan Lance H. Tapper, Hon DMus Torah Portion Pekudei

Shabbat Service - March 28, 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

Yahrzeit

Joel Golden
in memory of mother
Bobbie Golden

Ann Kanahele
in memory of sister-in-law
Arlene Berry

Sidney & Sandra Paul
in memory of
Mary Torren Paul -
mother of Sidney
Rhea B Seagull -
cousin of Sandra

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 Anniversary

Jordan & Karla Eres
April 2
3 years

Clergy Schedule

Virtual Services: 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.*

March 28--7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm Service--Hazzan Lance and Ty

April 4--7:30 pm Service--Rabbi Ken

April 11--7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm Service--Hazzan Lance and Ty

April 12--**Erev Pesah/First Seder--6:25 pm--Prelude; 6:30 pm Service--**Sanctuary--Hazzan Lance and Ty (all are invited); Seder in Fellowship Hall (reserved guests only!)--Hazzan Lance and Ty

April 18--**Erev End of Pesah Service--7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm Service--**Hazzan Lance and Ty

April 19--**Shabbat Morning Pesah Yizkor Service--9:25 am--Prelude; 9:30 am--Service--**Hazzan Lance and Aryell Cohen

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

Shabbat HaChodesh

By Daniel Glassman, posted April 2, 2024

Pesach is just around the corner. More than any other of our annual celebrations, Pesach makes me feel connected to Judaism. I believe I get some of that feeling during the retelling of our Passover story while another part I can say is ascribed to the time we (normally) spend with family and friends during the Seder. But if there is one thing that stands out to me as the epitome of Pesach (and Jewish connection), it has to be the food! During Pesach we nibble on sheets of matzo, munch on scoops of charoses and horseradish, slurp up some matzo ball soup, and gobble up gefilte fish. The food surrounding our Passover celebration and our Jewish heritage speaks volumes about who we are. What other culture can you think of that grinds up three outcast fish with bones and all, balls them, pickles them, and serves them with such glee? I admit I am from a younger generation that looks at food like gefilte fish with a bit of disdain, but after tasting the scrumptious mixture, I realize that this food means a lot more than just some odd dish that Grandma meticulously prepares and force-feeds us until we burst.

Jews as a group are very different from other people in that we do not share a common nationality. Jews live in all corners of the earth. In living in different countries, people had different food at their disposal. Dishes from various countries with different ingredients are all still Jewish. What linked all of these

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: Our next book is "The Glassmaker" by Tracy Chevalier. It is a charming fable at once a love story that skips through six centuries, and also a love song to the timeless craft of glass-making. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 15th, at 1:00pm. Message Michelle for details.

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

PayPal Donations: Paypal donations welcome: bswoffice@verizon.net

SAVE THE DATE

**Pesach Service and Seder
April 12th.**
See flyer on page 3.

**Shabbat Pesach Service
and Yizkor.**
April 18th and 19th.
See flyer on page 4.

people together was a common religion, which holds laws regarding food. Some of the laws speak about not mixing meat and dairy products, while others specify which meat is kosher and which isn't. Judaism dictates what and how people eat. We learn in this week's Parsha, Sh'mini, that God tells Moses and Aaron to instruct the Israelites about which foods are permitted and which ones are forbidden. A small list including animals with split hooves that chew their cud and all that live in water that have fins and scales are deemed okay by God. The list of forbidden foods is much more detailed highlighting swine, birds of prey, and lizards. There is also mention of not eating or touching the body of an animal that has died of natural causes. Anything that touches the animal should be washed and be considered unclean until sundown. Pottery should even be destroyed and its contents discarded. Moses tells the people that these rules have been given to them that may be holy before God.

I have heard several responses to why Jews follow the laws of Kashrut. There is a group of people who say we must follow the laws as they are written in the Torah. Some people say it is for health reasons while others claim it's preparation for more spiritual connection or health. Rabbi Moshe Luzzatto (also known as the Ramchal) points out that the dietary laws are a way of preventing Jews from abandoning their faith. Since eating is a constant activity, a natural process, observing kashrut will become a constant reminder of unique values, traditions, and obligations of Jewish living. Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan adds to Ramchal's conclusion acknowledging that dietary laws have the power to preserve the Jewish people. He is quoted saying that kashrut "is particularly effective in lending Jewish atmosphere to the home, which, in the Diaspora, is our last-ditch defense against the inroads of assimilation." In Kaplan's view, the benefit of kashrut is neither medical nor symbolic but is an effective means of Jewish survival.

This brings me back to Pesach. We are preparing for this holiday, which remembers our exodus from Egypt. Everything throughout the Seder is used to remind us that we need to pass on our traditions and beliefs including the food that we eat. It's important to remember that these teachable moments make an everlasting impact on the way we live our daily lives. Maybe keeping kosher is more challenging to some than others but knowing that it connects us to all the other people reading from the Haggadah every spring is really a pretty impressive thing.

See flyers on pages 3 and 4.

BETH SHALOM OF WHITTIER INVITES YOU TO



OUR FIRST NIGHT PESAH SERVICE AND SEDER

**HAZZAN LANCE H TAPPER, HON DMUS, OFFICIATING
TY WOODWARD, ACCOMPANIST**

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025

**AT
FIRST FRIENDS**

**PESAH PRELUDE AND SERVICE FOR ALL
BEGINS @6:25 PM IN THE SANCTUARY
FOLLOWED BY THE SEDER IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
FOR RESERVED GUESTS**

**THE PRELUDE AND SERVICE ONLY WILL ALSO BE STREAMED
ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE: BETH SHALOM OF WHITTIER**

RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST FOR THE SEDER

**PLEASE EMAIL AT bswoffice@verizon.net OR
CALL THE TEMPLE OFFICE AT (562) 941-8744**

**THE SEDER IS COMPLIMENTARY FOR MEMBERS PLUS ONE GUEST
NON-MEMBERS OR ADDITONAL GUESTS \$75/PERSON, PREPAID BY THE RSVP DATE**

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS APRIL 1, BY 3:00PM

BETH SHALOM OF WHITTIER
INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE WITH US

SHABBAT PESAH YIZKOR



SHABBAT END OF PESAH SERVICE

Friday, April 18—Pesah Organ Prelude—7:25 pm, Service—7:30 pm

TY WOODWARD, ORGANIST

SHABBAT MORNING PESAH YIZKOR SERVICE

Saturday, April 19—Pesah Organ Prelude—9:25 am, Service—9:30 am

ARYELL COHEN, ORGANIST

HAZZAN LANCE H TAPPER, HON DMUS, OFFICIATING

**BOTH SERVICES WILL BE HELD IN PERSON AT FIRST FRIENDS
AND SIMULTANEOUSLY STREAMED ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE:
BETH SHALOM OF WHITTIER**