



Beth Shalom Weekly Update

Thursday, June 12, 2025 to Wednesday, June 18, 2025
Hazzan Lance H. Tapper, Hon DMus Parashat Be'halot'cha

Shabbat Service - June 13, 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

Susan Lieberman
in memory of aunt
Ruth Stillman

Myra Becker
in memory of father
Daniel B Beck

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.



Jo Ann Golden - June 5

Joel Golden - June 6

Diane Chesler - June 12

Mark Hardie - June 14

Mark Singer - June 18

Clergy Schedule

Virtual Services: <https://www.youtube.com/@BethShalomofWhittier>

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

June 13--7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm Service--Hazzan Lance and Ty
June 20--7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm Service--Hazzan Lance and Ty
June 27--7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm Service--Hazzan Lance and Ty
July 4--7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm Service--Hazzan Lance and Ty
July 11--7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm Service--Hazzan Lance and Ty

Growth in the Wilderness

Torah Reading: Numbers 8:1 - 12:16
Haftarah Reading: Zechariah 2:14 - 4:7
Parashat Be'halot'cha

By Rabbi Patricia Fenton, posted on June 19, 2014

This week's parashah continues the teachings concerning the sanctuary. It discusses lighting the menorah, the observance of Pesakh Sheni for those unable to observe Passover in its proper time, laws of the first-born and the Levites, and the procedures for breaking camp and walking in the wilderness. In chapter 10:35-36, we see the beloved words from our Torah service: "And it came to pass, when the ark set forward, Moshe said: 'Rise up, Lord, and let your enemies be scattered, and let those who hate you flee before you.' And when it rested, he said: 'Return, Lord, to the ten thousand thousands of Israel.'"

Just after these lovely words, we learn that our people begin to complain. Freed from slavery, gifted with freedom, Torah and manna, they yearn for the fish, meat and good foods of Egypt. God sends them an abundance of quail, and while they are eating, they are struck by a deadly plague. This plague is traditionally seen as punishment for their ingratitude.

Our parashah concludes with the story of Miriam and Aharon speaking out against their brother Moses. God punishes Miriam with a skin disease, and she is shut out of the camp for seven days. During this time, "the people did not travel on until Miriam was readmitted" (12:16).

Why do the people wait for Miriam? Rabbinic Midrash sees this as an example of *middah keneged middah*, "measure for

LIVE SERVICES

Beth Shalom of Whittier has moved its service broadcasts from Facebook to YouTube beginning with the May 9th service. Please see page 2 of this newsletter for details and instructions.

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 YouTube page, <https://www.youtube.com/@BethShalomofWhittier>. When there is a livestream taking place, you can click on it and watch.

Book Club: Our next book club meeting will be on Tuesday, July 15th, at 1:00pm. The book will be "La Rose" by Louise Erdrich. The book is about a man who accidentally kills his friends child while hunting, and in an act of atonement, gives his own son, La Rose, to the grieving parents to raise. This deeply moving novel explores the aftermath of this tragedy. All are welcome. Contact Michelle with any questions.

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

measure," or "what goes around comes around." Just as Miriam waited by the waters of the Nile to intervene in the fate of her brother Moses (Exodus 2:4), so the people now wait for her. Because the girl Miriam waited, the adult Miriam is blessed by the people waiting for her.

But is *middah keneged middah* the only reason that the people wait for Miriam? This is the same people who had recently experienced the catastrophic results of their whining after the foods of Egypt: the plague and deaths in the wilderness, and the pain of burying their dead. They had felt the terrible power of God's wrath, and now they see God's wrath strike Miriam. Their whining after food implies their weakness, their short-sightedness and inability to see the big picture. It would make sense that they would fear that if they showed Miriam mercy, God's wrath might strike them again too.

Why, then, do the people have the courage to wait for Miriam? When reading this part of our people's story, I am reminded of Exodus 10:9. When Pharaoh gives the Israelite *men* a chance to escape Egypt, Moses rejects his offer, saying, "We will *all* go, young and old; we will go with our sons and our daughters..." And this courageous people is the People Israel I think of when I read Jeremiah 2:2: "...Thus says the Lord: I remember in your favor the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, how you followed me in the wilderness..." I like to think that God remembers us with favor because the *whole* people followed God, the old and the young, the men and the women, the sons and the daughters, and Miriam.

This is a moment of growth in the wilderness. We rebel against God and we are severely punished. We witness Miriam speak against Moses, and behold her frightening punishment. Yet, despite our weakness and our whining, we do not abandon Miriam to her punishment. We wait for her. Even Moses, whom she had allegedly wronged, waits for her. And then we all go on with our wilderness walk - together as a people. We will rebel and be punished again, but in this moment, I am proud of my people and our courage.

As we walk in this week with our freedom and our newly-gifted Torah, may the Blessed Holy One help us to appreciate our gifts and our sacred obligation to use them well. May we be blessed with the ability to see who is left out and, despite our fears, to act with courage to include them.

HOW TO VIEW BETH SHALOM OF WHITTIER ON YOUTUBE

Beth Shalom of Whittier has moved its service broadcasts from Facebook to YouTube beginning with the broadcast of services on **May 9, 2025, at 7:25 pm**. Here are the simple steps to view services from Beth Shalom of Whittier on YouTube starting that date:

You do not have to sign up or subscribe to YouTube to watch our livestream services or videos on it!

On any computer browser, type in the top search bar: <https://www.youtube.com/@BethShalomofWhittier>

then hit Enter on your keyboard. That will take you to Beth Shalom of Whittier's YouTube Channel!

The first video icon there on our video channel will be the one you want to click on and watch. We will generally have a video icon set at least 20 minutes ahead of the service broadcast time and it will begin at the noted time (7:25 pm, 9:25 am, etc.). You can click on that icon and wait for the video to start.

Chat Feature on YouTube

Should you wish to use the chat feature on a YouTube livestream, you must have a Gmail email address and password and sign into YouTube at the top right of the YouTube screen where it says **sign-in**. If you do not have a Gmail address, you can create one by clicking on that sign-in at the top right of the YouTube first page and following their instructions. Then each time you watch a livestream you can sign into YouTube and the chat feature will be on the right side of the video you are watching.