



Beth Shalom Weekly Update

Thursday, November 24, 2022 to Wednesday, November 30, 2022

Hazzan Lance H. Tapper, Hon DMus Shabbat Parashat Toledot

Shabbat Service November 25, 2022 - 7:30 p.m.

SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday Evening 7:30 pm

SYNAGOGUE OFFICE HOURS

The Beth Shalom office will now be open on Wednesdays and Fridays. Erica will work from home on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Our office phone and email will continue to be attended to Tuesdays through Fridays.

9:00a-4:00p Tuesday-Friday
562.941.8744
bswoffice@verizon.net

YAHREZEIT

Rita Rubin
in memory of mother
Yetta Gnessin

Mark Handler and Debora Davis
in memory of uncle
Irwin Handler

Pauline Kuhn
in memory of husband
Bernard Kuhn

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

Samuel Gonzales - Nov. 24
Klara Wein - Nov. 25
Evelyn Litwin - Nov. 30

Clergy Schedule

Virtual Services: www.facebook.com/bethshalomofwhittier

**Services and events are once again open to in person attendance with proof of vaccination and a mask. Services will continue to broadcast on Facebook simultaneously for those who cannot attend in person.*

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

December 2--7:25 pm--Prelude; 7:30 pm Service--Hazzan Lance and Ty Woodward

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

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

December 23--Shabbat Hanukkah--6:55pm--Prelude; 7:00 pm Service--Shabbat Hanukkah Service in the sanctuary--Hazzan Lance and Ty Woodward

Summarizing 15 Years--and Millennia

Torah Portion: Toldot
Torah Reading: Genesis 25:19 - 28:9
Haftarah Reading: 1 Samuels 20:18 - 42

By Rabbi Ilana Berehbaum Grinblat, posted on June 28, 2015

A college friend of mine recently found me on Facebook. We hadn't spoken to each other since graduation, but I was happy to hear from him. Since we had been out of touch for so long, he began by summarizing the last 15 years of his life. In a few bullet-pointed sentences, he concisely explained how he had started a Ph.D. program, left to work in the corporate world and married and had a child. I was surprised how such a long period of time could be encapsulated so succinctly, and I did my best to describe my adulthood in a few brief sentences.

On reflection, I realized that the past decade of my life could be summarized in just one sentence - a verse from this week's Torah portion, [Genesis 25:22](#). This verse describes Rebecca's experience of being pregnant: "*And the children struggled together inside her; and she said, - If so, why this me? And she went to inquire of God.*"

This week's Torah parasha *Toldot* (Generations) tells the story of Rebecca and Isaac becoming parents. The parasha explains that Rebecca and Isaac had struggled with infertility. However, once they conceived, Rebecca found that pregnancy was much harder than she had anticipated. She was in a great deal of pain and called out to God. Her fragmented question:

(Continued on page 2)

2022 Jewish Book Festival see flyer on page 3.

Beth Shalom Services: We are now open for in person services. Vaccinated people with proof may attend in person. Masks are required in accordance with the current LA County Public Health Dept. guidelines. All others may watch on our Facebook page, **Beth Shalom of Whittier**. When there is a livestream taking place, you can click on it and watch. If you are not yet comfortable coming to services in person, please tune in virtually and feel free to leave a message of greeting to others who are watching.

Directions for viewing livestream services: If you are a current Facebook subscriber, you need only to go to our Facebook page, **Beth Shalom of Whittier**, to view these announcements and videos. If you are not a current Facebook subscriber, you need to go to www.facebook.com and sign up with a username and password and then you can access our page at that point. Always log in 5 minutes ahead of the video start time.

Rose Hills Cemetery Plots: If you want to do your family the mitzvah of pre-planning, please call the office. They can give you information as to what gravesites are available and what steps to take to secure your plot(s). Plots are \$3500 each.

Book Club: The next Book Club will be meeting on Tuesday, December 6, at 12:30 pm. to read and discuss "The Bookwoman's Daughter" by Kim Michael Richardson. Everyone is welcome to join even if only to listen.

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

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

"if, so, why this me?" indicated the depth of her anguish. Her question was an existential one; she longed to understand her place in the world.

Rebecca sought God, who then responded to her in turn. Until this point in the Torah, God had spoken to other people, but Rebecca was the first person to take the initiative to address God directly and prompt God to answer.

God told Rebecca that she was pregnant with twins, and that these children would each lead a future nation. In responding, God didn't remove Rebecca's pain but helped her see the bigger picture by imparting significance to her suffering. God reminded her that her life - and her current pain - was a part of something larger, and this purpose gave her strength to endure.

Rebecca went *lidrosh* "to inquire" or seek God. This verb is the root of the later word *midrash* (which means the interpretation of Torah). Rebecca's quest serves as a paradigm for the process of Torah study, which seeks to gain an understanding from God of our life's purpose.

Like Rebecca, I too found child-rearing more difficult than anticipated. This experience prompted me to question my place in the world and reassess my priorities. Through the vehicle of Torah, I turned to God for answers and discovered new meaning in life. This insight doesn't remove the struggles of raising children but imparts a sense of fulfillment. Rebecca's verse captures the spiritual journey of parenting.

The verse also encapsulates the spiritual quest of the Jewish people since Rebecca's time. Throughout the generations, the Jewish people have found life *far* more challenging than we anticipated. In crises, we turned to God and asked repeatedly, "If so, why this me?" Through Torah, we sought and seek our purpose. In turn, God doesn't remove our suffering but reminds us that our actions have ultimate significance. This understanding has given our people the strength to persevere through the ages.

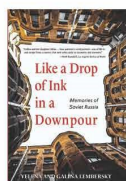
As it turns out, summarizing a decade or five millennia is easier than it seems. Only one sentence is needed: "*The children struggled within her, and she said, 'if so, why this me' and went to inquire of God...*" The rest is history.

Scroll down to see flyer on pages 3.

Memorial Plaques: We have brought all of the memorial plaques into our office, from the storage unit. If you would like a family member's plaque, please contact the office and let us know the name on the plaque. We will find it and arrange for you to pick it up. If you know of anyone who might have had loved one's plaques on our memorial board, please let them know that they are available to be picked up.

2022 JEWISH BOOK FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 23 - DECEMBER 10



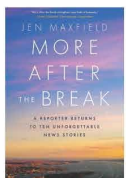
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23

10:00 A.M.

YELENA LEMBERSKY

Like a Drop of Ink in a Downpour

Temple Shalom of Ontario



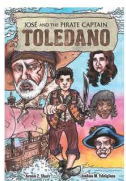
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25

7:30 P.M.

JEN MAXFIELD

More After the Break

On Zoom



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

3:00 P.M.

JOSHUA EDELGLASS & ARNON SHORR

José and the Pirate Captain Toledano

On Zoom



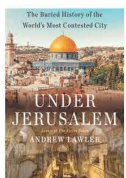
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

7:30 P.M.

BENEDETTA JASMINE GUETTA

Cooking alla Giudia

Temple Beth David



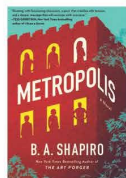
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

4:00 P.M.

ANDREW LAWLER

Under Jerusalem

Temple Ami Shalom



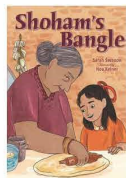
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

10:00 A.M.

B.A. SHAPIRO

Metropolis

Altadena Town & Country Club



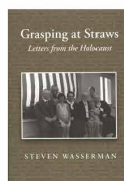
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

10:00 A.M.

SARAH SASSOON

Shoham's Bangle

On Zoom | Watch party at Jewish Federation



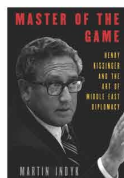
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

4:00 P.M.

STEVEN WASSERMAN

Grasping at Straws

University of La Verne



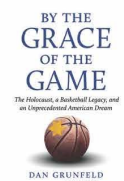
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

7:30 P.M.

MARTIN INDYK

Master of the Game

On Zoom



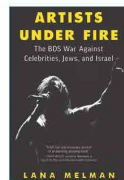
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19

7:30 P.M.

DAN GRUNFELD

By the Grace of the Game

Temple Beth Israel of Pomona



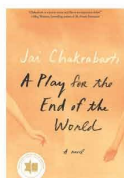
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

7:30 P.M.

LANA MELMAN

Artists Under Fire

Monrovia Public Library



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

4:00 P.M.

JAI CHAKRABARTI

A Play for the End of the World

Temple Sinai of Glendale



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

7:30 P.M.

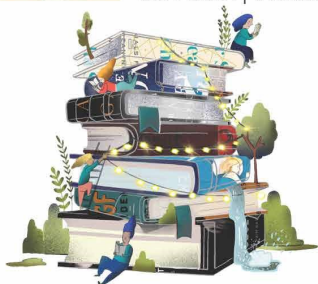
DAVID SIPRESS

What's So Funny?

Pasadena Jewish Temple & Center

**ALL IN-PERSON EVENTS WILL ALSO BE
AVAILABLE VIA ZOOM**

To register, visit www.jewishsgpv.org



114A W. Lime Ave. | Monrovia, CA 91016
626.445.0810 | www.jewishsgpv.org