



Beth Shalom Weekly Update

Thursday, November 7, 2024 to Wednesday, November 13, 2024
Hazzan Lance H. Tapper, Hon DMus Torah Portion Lech Lecha

[Shabbat Service - November 8, 2024 - 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

YAHRTZEIT

Jay Devore
in memory of father
Milton Devore

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.

Upcoming Events

Kristallnacht Remembrance Service
See flyer on page 3.

Fiddler on the Roof
See flyer on page 4.

NOTE: We have filled the reservations for all of our tickets to Fiddler on November 16.

However we will take names for a waiting list in case of cancellations.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
See flyer on page 5.

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.*

November 8--7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm Service--Kristallnacht

Remembrance Service--Hazzan Lance and Ty

November 15--7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm Service--Hazzan Lance and Ty

November 22--7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm Service--Hazzan Lance and Ty

November 24--3:00 pm--WACA Thanksgiving Celebration at First

Friends--Hazzan Lance and Aryell Cohen

November 29--7:30 pm Service--Rabbi Ken

Would You Recommend This Book to Your Friends

Torah Reading: Genesis 12:1-17:27
Haftarah Reading: Isaiah 40 ;27-41 ;16
Torah Portion: Lech Lecha

By Rabbi Edward Feinstein, posted on October 7, 2013

I love Jewish books. I attribute this to my fourth grade Hebrew School teacher who regularly banished me to the synagogue library. I wasn't a bad kid. But after a full day of "regular school," Hebrew School provided the ideal environment to meet and mix. So after being scolded three times: "*Sheket, Yitzhak, Sheket!*" I would find myself in the synagogue library...where I learned to love Jewish books.

Once, the teacher caught me on the way out the door.

"Yitzhak, go to the Library!" she shouted, "But I want you to do something there...write a book report."

"Ok. A book report. I can do that. Any particular book?"

"Yes," she smiled with conspiratorial glee, "write a book report....about the Bible."

"The Bible?!! How can I write a book report about the Bible?!"

"It's a book, right? Then you can write a book report about it."

So off to the Library I went. I found a copy of the Torah, took a piece of paper and a pencil and began my book report.

Title - The Torah. So far, so good. Author - uh oh. Just write, Unknown. Publisher - Jewish Publication Society. Describe the book: What is the setting? Who are the main characters? What is the plot? And finally, the all-important, Would you recommend this book to your friends?

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: TBD - Please check back.

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

Birthday/Anniversary

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The Setting, the Main Characters, especially, the Plot. I've thought about these questions a great deal since the fourth grade. Does the Bible have setting, character, plot? Does the Bible, have a narrative arc? Does it tell a story? We don't typically read the Bible that way. We read for individual nuggets of wisdom. We read a Biblical story, or a weekly portion, or a particular law. We don't read the Bible for the totality of its narrative. What is the Bible's story?

The Bible is a drama in three acts:

Act One. The Bible's central character is a God who dreams of a world of blessing. God creates a world and it is good. God wants a partner to share and care for this world. So God creates the human being. And God creates a remarkable place for this new human creature, a Garden in Eden. The Garden is the epitome of God's dreams -- a place of perfection, oneness, peace. But in this place of perfection, the human is not content. Something is missing. This human creature, God discovers, is unique - the human being craves freedom. Unlike every other creature, the character of the human being is not fixed by nature. To be human is to be a self-creating being.

To achieve their humanity, man and woman disobey the God who created them. Bewildered and disappointed, God expels them from the Garden.

Outside the Garden, humans turn further away from God's dream, descending from disobedience to murder and violence until God gives up on the world altogether and decides to destroy it all. Just then, God's eye catches sight of one man, a man with moral potential. God finds Noah, *ish tzadik*. God decides to start again.

Act Two. If God couldn't create a suitable partner, perhaps God can choose one - choose a man committed to sharing the divine dream. But Noah disappoints God as well, and his children turn from God, filling the world with corruption, and again God is disappointed. With all God's power, God couldn't create a partner, God couldn't choose a partner. Perhaps, God can teach a man to share the divine dream.

Act Three.

The LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your native land and from your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great.

Be a blessing!

³I will bless those who bless you, and curse those who curse you;

And blessed in you will be all the families of the earth."

God's curriculum: Take a man and remove him from his culture. Strip him of his identity, his power, position, patrimony. Remake him into a vessel of divine blessing. Be a blessing. Bring blessing to all the families of the earth. God doesn't say: "Be a blessing to Me." God doesn't demand Abram's reverence, worship or submission. God invites Abram: Be my partner. Share blessing with all the families of humanity.

Is this charge to Abram an expression of Jewish particularism or Jewish universalism? The answer is yes to both, because Jewish identity defies those categories. From the beginning of our collective existence we were charged to bring blessing to the world. Our identity is distinctive - we are a people, but a people described by our obligation to the "families of the earth." To be a Jew is to embrace both. The project begins with Abram and Sarah. It has yet to see its fulfillment.

Would you recommend this book to your friends?

See flyers on pages 3 - 5.



(Pestalozzistrasse Synagogue—Berlin, Germany)

Beth Shalom of Whittier

presents

A Special Shabbat Evening Service

in conjunction and cooperation with the

PESTALOZZISTRASSE SYNAGOGUE OF BERLIN, GERMANY

featuring the liturgy and music of the Berlin Jewish Community

in remembrance of Kristallnacht

Friday, November 8, 2024

Prelude: 7:25 pm; 7:30 pm Service

JOIN US IN PERSON IN OUR SANCTUARY AT:

FIRST FRIENDS—13205 PHILADELPHIA ST, WHITTIER, CA 90601

(Those who are not members must register ahead with our synagogue office at 562-941-8744 and will be subject to a security check when they arrive)

**OR WATCH THE LIVE BROADCAST ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE:
Beth Shalom of Whittier**

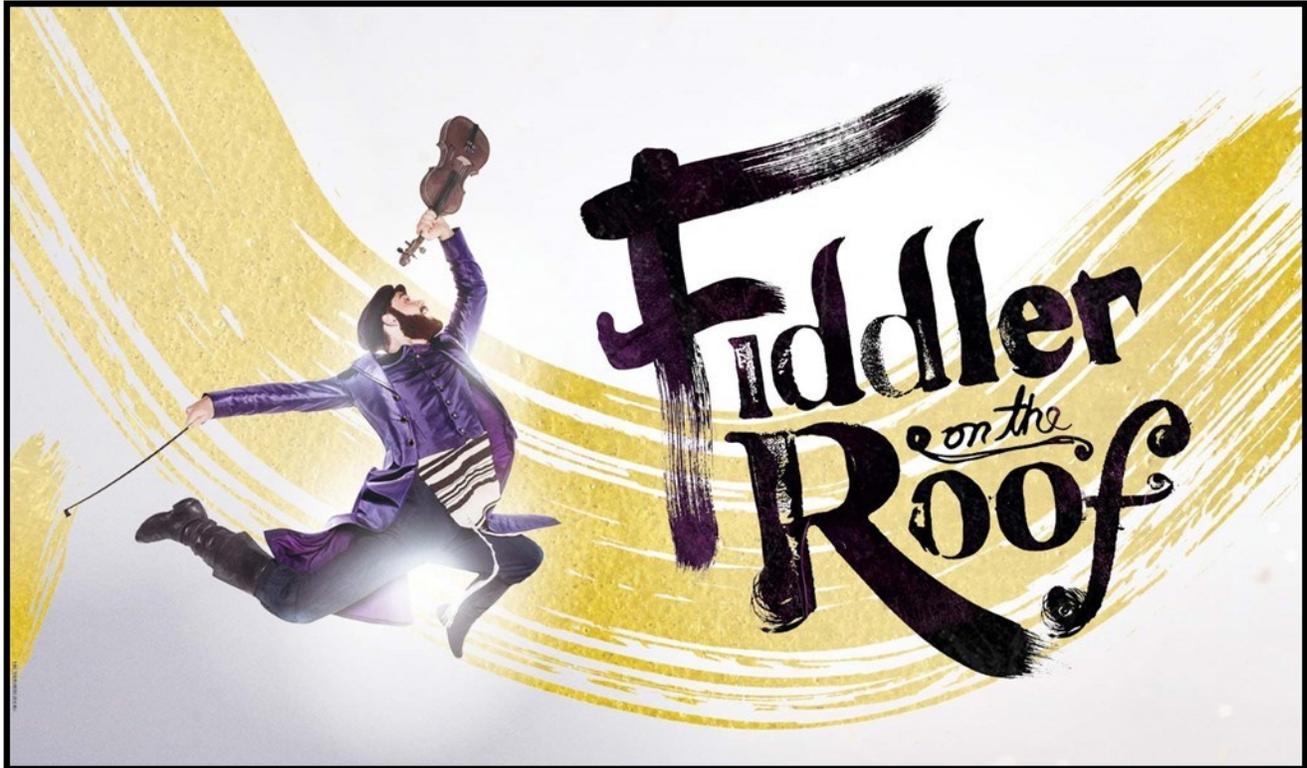
A Special Oneg will be served following the service in our foyer

Officiants:

*Hazzan Lance H. Tapper, Hon DMus, SPIRITUAL LEADER
Ty Woodward, ORGANIST*



BETH SHALOM OF WHITTIER PRESENTS



**Join your Beth Shalom friends and family for
an afternoon at the theatre!**

Saturday, November 16, 2024 ★ 2:00 p.m.

La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts
14900 La Mirada Boulevard, La Mirada 90638

There are a limited number of tickets, reserve yours today by
calling or emailing the Temple office.

Tickets are free for MEMBERS ONLY plus one guest.
We do not have any extra tickets for sale.

Tickets can be picked up at the office during regular office hours.
Let the office know if you need transportation.

bswoffice@verizon.net ★ (562) 941-8744

**UNITED IN GRATITUDE:
ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH**

Thanksgiving Celebration

COMBINED CHOIR, SOLOISTS AND COMMUNITY
SINGING



NOVEMBER 24, 2024, 3:00 PM
BRING CANNED FOOD OFFERING

**First Friends Church
13205 Philadelphia St
Whittier, CA 90601**

**Hosted by First Friends Church a Quaker meeting, Beth Shalom of Whittier,
Whittier Bilingual Seventh Day Adventist Church
A collaboration of the Whittier Area Clergy Association and Music Directors**