



Beth Shalom Weekly Update

Thursday, October 21, 2021 to Wednesday, October 27, 2021
Hazzan Lance H. Tapper Shabbat Parashat Vayeira

Shabbat Service—Friday, October 22, 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

YAHREITZ

Myra Weiss
in memory of father
Abe Michlin

Revekah Martinez
in memory of grandmother
Delfina Pinto

Bernard Roseman
in memory of brother
Eugene Roseman

Jeffrey Kolnick
in memory of grandfather
Max Kolnick

Richard Lasher
in memory of
Ethel Lipshitz

Hazzan Lance H Tapper
in memory of
Al Silvers - grandfather
Malvina Tapper - aunt

Liz Herrera
in memory of uncle
Humberto Ezpinoza

Millie Hock
in memory of
Dora Hock

Dan Franden
in memory of
Frances Finkelstein

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.*

October 22-- 7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm Service Hazzan Lance and Aryell Cohen

October 29-- 7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm Service Hazzan Lance and Ty Woodward

November 5-- 7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm Service Hazzan Lance and Ty Woodward

November 12-- Berlin Kristallnacht Remembrance Service
7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm Service Hazzan Lance and Ty Woodward

November 19-- 7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm Service Hazzan Lance and Ty Woodward

Covid-19 Regulation

As of now, masks are mandatory per the L.A. County Health Dept. for all indoor gatherings regardless of vaccination status.

All services are now in hybrid mode. Those with proof of vaccination and who have a mask may attend in person, all others may watch on our Facebook page.

Listen When I Talk

Torah Reading: Genesis 18:1 - 22:24

Haftarah Reading: II Kings 4:1 - 37

Parashat Vayeira

By: Rabbi Cheryl Peretz, posted on November 15, 2008/5769

Have you ever had the experience of talking to someone and in the middle of the conversation, you wonder if the other person really understands anything you are saying? Or worse yet, really cares about you or what you are saying? So often, people talk to each other; but sometimes, we don't listen. We can be distracted, half-listening, and half-thinking about something else. Rather than paying attention, we focus on how we can respond. We can be so busy formulating a response to what is being said that we miss the real message that is being sent. Or worse yet, we miss the opportunity for true connection, for growth, for meaning, in the very relationships that mean the most.

Think about this week's Torah portion, Vayera. Sarah tells Abraham: "Cast out that slave-woman (Hagar) and her son (Ishmael)". Abraham (rightfully so) is distressed as it concerns one of his two sons. God, as the narrative describes, tells Abraham "Everything that Sarah tells you, do as she says."

Do as she says – this is the translation found in many English editions of the Torah. Many will joke that herein lies the origins of the key to a successful marriage: a man need only to listen to his wife and do everything she says. But, the Etz Chaim commentary actually speaks of a more literal translation from the Hebrew. The Torah's wording is actually "*shema b'kolah*, listen to

Beth Shalom Services: All services are now in hybrid mode. Vaccinated people with proof and a mask may attend in person, 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. We encourage anyone who is not yet comfortable coming to in-person services to tune in each week and take part in our services virtually and leave messages of greeting to other who are watching. This is one way we can all stay in touch.

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 Book Club will be reading "The Girl Who Wrote in Silk" by Kelli Estes. We will be meeting at Michelle's house on Tuesday, November 16th at 4:00 pm. Please note the change in TIME. Everyone is welcome. On another note, The Pomona San Gabriel Valley Federation's Jewish Book Festival will be starting October 26th and run through November. This year's Book Festival will be virtual so everyone can attend, BUT you need to register so that you will receive the Zoom information to attend the events. Register and check out the Books & Authors at www.jewishsgpv.org.

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

Happy Birthday

Sandra Paul - October 22

her voice." In the end, Abraham does indeed do as she says and he does send Hagar and Ishmael away. So, what is the difference between 'do as she says' and 'listen to her voice'?

In his commentary on the Torah, 19th century Torah scholar Samson Raphael Hirsch explains that this phrase. *Shemah b'kolah* means: Don't only listen to her words, her demands; listen to your wife's anguish, her fear, the tone of pleading in the voice of the woman you have been married to for so many years. Imagine for a moment that you are Sarah. You have spent years married to Abraham dreaming of the family that together you will create, you've struggled to conceive during which time you stand witness to your husband building that family with someone else; and after much anguish and many years, you are able to conceive. And, in fear and anxiety and anguish, you cry out, wanting to recapture the dreams that together with your husband, you had built.

Communication – the two-way exchange of ideas, facts, thoughts or feelings – is the key to any successful relationship. The reality, as Steven Covey, author of *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, outlines, is that most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply. The failure to listen, to hear, is not just about the words that are missed but cuts to the core of the connection that exists between two people. When one person feels like another is not listening, it creates a deep abyss, a void so intense that it leaves one feeling invisible, lonely, violated. Over time, it can destroy any good parts that remain in the relationship. And, while this can happen in any relationship, it is so much more difficult in the most intimate ones, between life partners.

Abraham Ibn Hasdai, the 13th century Spanish-Hebrew poet and philosopher, whose work was published in Constantinople under the title *Ben ha-Melekh ve ha-Nazir*, poignantly reminds us of this point when he says: "People are endowed with two ears and only one tongue, so we might listen more than speak.". Only after really listening can we respond to another person, whether that person is a friend, a professional colleague, or intimate family member. Perhaps what Ibn Hasdai means to say: let one ear hear the words that are being said, and the second hear that which is not said explicitly but able to be heard.

When someone speaks to us, they do so with great purpose, meaning, and feeling. When we pause to listen and understand, we gain the insight into what is really going on. My friend and mentor, Jacob Weisberg (President of Creative Communications and author of *Does Anybody Listen? Does Anybody Care?*, to which I commend your attention), teaches that listening is about much more than just closing our mouths and keeping our ears open. As he trains so many of us – rabbis, executives, parents, and spouses – he calls attention to the fact that active listening means being truly present and focused on the person who is speaking, not on ourselves or on what we have to say. It means catering to the other person and allowing that person to share his or her thoughts. It means using our body language, eye contact, facial expressions, and verbal expressions to show we are interested and we are following the other person's speech. Think about the incredible sense of validation that comes from having someone truly listen to you when someone acknowledges your words and feelings, even if the person disagrees with what you have said.

This week, let us learn from God's words to Abraham, let us learn from Ibn Hasdai, and let us learn from my friend Jacob Weisberg. *Shema b'kolah*, listen to her voice. Listen to his voice. Listen to the words that are said and listen for that which is not. Let the people you care about know they matter; give them the gift of presence, focus on their words. Listen to the words of Sifre Devarim: "If you listen a little, you will eventually listen a great deal." And listen some more.

Shabbat Shalom

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.



Die Neue Synagoge in der Oranienburgerstrasse, Berlin
(The New Synagogue built in the 19th century on Oranienburgerstrasse in Berlin)

Beth Shalom of Whittier
presents

A special Shabbat Evening Service
featuring the liturgy and music of the Berlin Jewish Community
in remembrance of Kristallnacht

Friday, November 12, 2021
Prelude: 7:25 pm; 7:30 p.m. Service

In-Person service with vaccination proof
in the Meeting House at First Friends Church, Whittier
and also Broadcast on our Facebook page: **Beth Shalom of Whittier**

Hazzan Lance H. Tapper, SPIRITUAL LEADER
Ty Woodward, ORGANIST