

Beth Shalom Weekly Update

Thursday, November 14, 2024 to Wednesday, November 20, 2024
Hazzan Lance H. Tapper, Hon DMus Torah Portion Vayera

Shabbat Service - November 15, 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

Yahrzeit

Mona Di Natale
in memory of grandmother
Sarah Lifshitz

Jeffrey Kolnick
in memory of grandfather
Max Kolnick

Richrd Lahser
in memory of
Ethel Lipshitz

Revekah Martinez
in memory of grandmother
Delfina Pinto

Bernard Roseman
in memory of brother
Eugene Roseman

Hazzan Lance H Tapper
in memory of grandfather
Al Silvers

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.

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 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

We Plant Seeds

Torah Reading: Genesis 18:1-22:24

Haftarah Reading: 2 Kings 4:1-37

Torah Portion: Vayeira

By Rabbi Adam Greenwald, posted on October 22, 2018

Before God leveled the twin-sin-cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, God revealed the divine judgment to Abraham. Perhaps surprisingly for God, Abraham does not respond by meekly accept the decree. Quite the opposite, he instead initiates a lengthy debate on behalf of the doomed cities. Over and over he demands that God be absolutely sure that the innocent not be wiped out together with the guilty. In one of the most eloquent protests in history, Abraham cries out: "Will not the Judge of all the Earth act with Justice?!" (Gen. 18:25).

Abraham's challenge eventually fails, and the cities are indeed destroyed. However, the Jewish tradition is unstinting in its praise of his "holy chutzpah." Our Sages see Abraham's willingness to protest as a sign of the depth of his moral sensitivity and one of the reasons that he is fit to be the patriarch of our people.

Elie Wiesel, one of modern Judaism's true prophetic figures, tells a beautiful story that suggests that Abraham was not the first person to engage in a protest outside of Sodom. In his intriguing re-telling of the tale, there was another morally courageous soul who had once tried to save the cities.

"Long before Abraham came along, there was a certain man, who used to stand outside the gates of Sodom and cry out against it. Day after day, year after year, the man would stand there, all by himself, pleading and demanding that the people change their ways.

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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Upcoming Events

Fiddler on the Roof

See flyer on page 3.

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 4.

Once, after many years, a delegation came to the man and demanded to know what he was still doing there-- hadn't he realized that his protests would not change anything? The man replied: "I came to Sodom to try to change them-- and I have long since realized that that won't happen. However, I must keep trying, because if I leave, they will have changed me."

Protest is exhausting work – not so much, because it is tiring to hold a sign or march down a street. Instead, protest is exhausting because the results are almost never immediately apparent. Change often comes at a glacial pace, and quite often society's problems get worse long before they get better. The spiritual work of protest is a matter cultivating audacious hope, of believing that there is something valuable about standing up for what's right even when it feels like nobody is listening. It's about refusing to be a bystander in the face of injustice – if we cannot solve the problem, then at very least we can start by not being part of the problem.

This month, the Catholic Church canonized as a saint one of my heroes – Father Oscar Romero. Father Romero was the Archbishop of San Salvador, and was a tireless advocate for the poor and oppressed in his country. On March 24, 1980, he was assassinated while saying the mass at the order of the Salvadorian regime. One of the most famous prayers that he wrote addresses the fundamental challenge of speaking out even when (especially when) you know that complete change will not happen in your lifetime:

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for God's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

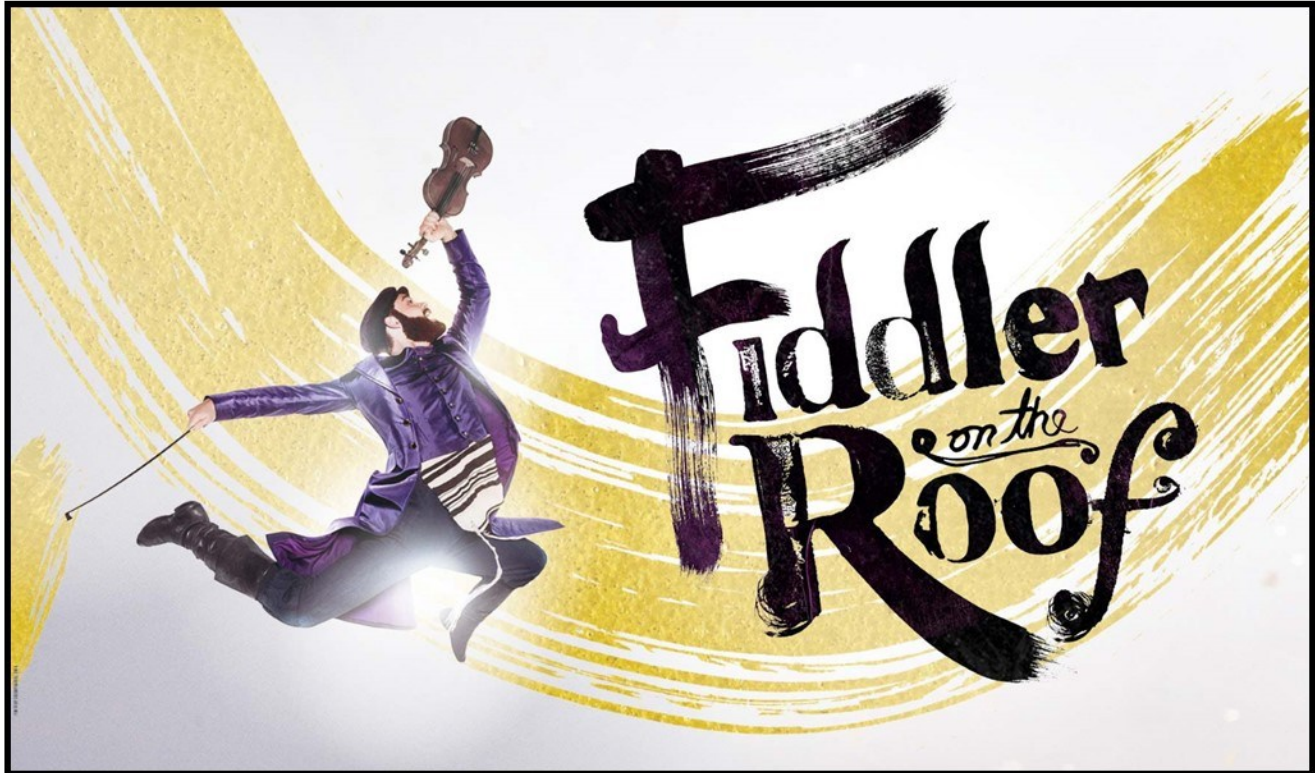
We are prophets of a future not our own.

May we be inspired to speak our truth, to stand up for justice, even from the Master of the World. Our accomplishments may not always be immediately visible, but may we be strengthened by the faith that the seeds we plant will ultimately flourish in a new world that is waiting to be born.

See flyers on pages 3 - 4.



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**