



# Beth Shalom Weekly Update

Thursday, October 7, 2021 to Wednesday, October 13, 2021  
Hazzan Lance H. Tapper Shabbat Parashat Noah

Shabbat Service—Friday, October 8, 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](mailto:bswoffice@verizon.net)

## Yahrzeit

Paul Jaffe  
in memory of father  
Ben Jaffe

Myra Becker  
in memory of uncle  
Moses Bell

Anita Horowitz  
in memory of son  
Stephen Horowitz

Jay Devore  
in memory of father  
Milton Devore

Robert Rubin  
in memory of mother  
Doris Rubin

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](https://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 8-- 7:30 pm Service** Rabbi Kenneth Milhander **Note:** Services will be in person only - services will not be broadcasted on Facebook.

**October 15-- 7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm Service** Hazzan Lance and Ty Woodward

**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

## 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.

We are happy to announce that **Rabbi Milhander** will be on the bima this week. We will not be able to broadcast the service on Facebook because of technical issues. If you are comfortable with coming in person, keeping in mind that we will all be vaccinated, masked and socially distanced, please do so. It would be great to give him a special welcome and have an in-person minyan. The question of the week is which of his guitars will he be playing??

## Some Thoughts on Parashat Noah

**Torah Reading: Genesis 6:9 - 11:32**  
**Haftarah Reading: Isaiah 66:1 - 24, 23**  
**Parashat Noah**

By: Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson, posted on February 16, 2018/5778

I've struggled to write this Dvar Torah. When times are tough, I find no comfort in complaint, and am instead silenced. Raised by British immigrants to the United States, who were themselves raised by Polish and Lithuanian immigrants to England, I was taught to "keep calm and carry on."

One of my favorite books is Charles Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities. This masterpiece deals with events of the French Revolution of 1789. Here is an excerpt from the famous first paragraph:

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness... it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair... in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only."

**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](https://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:** Our next book is "Letters for Emily" by Camron Wright. We are meeting at Michelle's house on Wednesday, October 13th at 12:30, with a Zoom for those unable to attend in person. As usual we bring our own lunch and our hostess provides drinks and dessert. Everyone is welcome. Come even if you have not read the book. Call either Michelle or Myra for further information.

**Tribute Cards:** To send a Tribute Card, please contact Michelle Hess. Her e-mail is: [michelleh3532@gmail.com](mailto:michelleh3532@gmail.com)

**PayPal Donations:** Paypal donations welcome: [bswoffice@verizon.net](mailto:bswoffice@verizon.net)

**Simcha Sharing:** Let us know about your Simcha's. Let the office know of your good news and we will share it in the next weekly. Weddings ★ Births

## Birthdays

Christine Grijalva—October 5  
Dorothy Wiener—October 10  
Rick Bertz—October 12  
Mina Cano - October 12  
Arlene Norton—October 12

Sound familiar? We too live in confusing times, and I hear many people saying that they don't remember a worse time. In a nation of remarkable prosperity and opportunity, we are experiencing natural disasters and horrific interpersonal behavior. We are at war at home with words, and abroad with weapons. What can one person do?

This week's parashah sees two terribly traumatic events occur to humankind: the flood and the dispersion. Seeing the wickedness of humankind, God regrets the decision to create people in the first place, and decides to destroy life on earth. Luckily for all of us, Noah finds favor in God's eyes, and so he and his family are spared from the destruction of the flood. And just a couple of chapters after the no doubt shocked and stunned Noah must be urged out of the ark, his descendants gather together and decide to "make a name" for themselves by building a big tower "with its top in the sky" ([Gen. 11:3-4](#)). They are able to cooperate in this project because they all speak the same language and agree on a plan. But as a result, they become the Generation of the Dispersion, when God confounds their speech so that they no longer understand each other, and scatters them over the face of the earth.

To go back to Dickens, one can imagine members of the Generation of the Dispersion saying to each other: Wow, things haven't been this bad since the time of the Generation of the Flood! And, if they were lucky enough to say this to someone who still spoke the same language, the other was likely to agree that things were as bad as they could be.

Commentators ask the question: Why did God destroy almost all life on Earth during the flood, yet spare the generation that built the tower? Was their wickedness any less?

In his commentary on [Genesis 11:9](#), Rashi (who lived in the Middle Ages and knew the threat of Crusades) teaches us that in the generation of the flood, people behaved wickedly with each other. They robbed each other and quarreled, and for these reasons they were destroyed. In contrast, although the generation of the tower tried to war against God, there was love and friendship between people. This teaches us, says Rashi, that conflict is hateful and peace is great. Even though people rebelled against God, they were spared because they were kind to each other.

There is a lesson for us in Rashi's commentary, and something to be learned from considering our current situation in light of our parashah and human and Jewish history. Like Rashi, we know what we need to do to ensure better times. Like every generation from the creation of humankind, we know how hard it is.

May God bless us and keep us, and help us to increase kindness and cooperation in God's world. 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.