



# Beth Shalom Weekly Update

Thursday, June 19, 2025 to Wednesday, June 25, 2025  
Hazzan Lance H. Tapper, Hon DMus Parashat Shlach Lecha

Shabbat Service - June 20, 2025 - 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](mailto:bswoffice@verizon.net)

## Yahrzeit

Joel Golden  
in memory of grandfather  
Isadore Golden

Michelle Hess  
in memory of father  
Leon Morzinsky

Myra Becker  
in memory of aunt  
Ida Ninberg

Bernard & David Starkman  
in memory of wife/mother  
Madelaine Starkman

Hazzan Lance H Tapper  
in memory of uncle  
Donald D Tapper

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.

## LIVE SERVICES

Beth Shalom of Whittier has moved its service broadcasts from Facebook to YouTube. Please see page 2 of this newsletter for details and instructions.

## Clergy Schedule

**Virtual Services:** <https://www.youtube.com/@BethShalomofWhittier>  
\*Services and events are once again open to in person. Services will continue to broadcast on YouTube simultaneously for those who cannot attend in person.

**June 20--7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm Service--Hazzan Lance and Ty**

**June 27--7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm Service--Hazzan Lance and Ty**

**July 4--7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm Service--Hazzan Lance and Ty**

**July 11--7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm Service--Hazzan Lance and Ty**

## Determining Who is Deserving

Torah Reading: Numbers 13:1 - 15:41  
Haftarah Reading: Joshua 2:1 - 24  
Parashat Shlach

By Rabbi Gabriel Botnik, posted on June 9, 2018

According to the Fortune 500, 72% of CEOs are white men. And yet, white men make up just 38% of the U.S. population. And 58% of CEOs are over six feet tall, while only 14.5% of the population can boast such stature. Meanwhile, less than 5% of CEOs are female and only 2 (that's 2 individuals, not 2%) are women of color.

How is it that tall, white men seem to secure such prominence in our society? (Full disclosure: the author is another six-foot-two-inch, white male.) Why do we allow ourselves to buy into the idea that someone is more deserving of our attention, trust, and confidence due to their gender, race, orientation, or ability? What can we do to counter this inclination and make space for all those of equal or greater worth who would otherwise be overlooked?

This week's Haftarah is a starting point in our search for an answer.

Coming from the Book of Joshua, the Haftarah tells the story of how the Israelites defeated the city of Jericho. But the victory didn't come from an Israelite hero like Joshua or Caleb. Victory didn't even come at the hands of a typical "hero." Rather, victory was handed to the Israelites by a female prostitute named Rachab, an individual whose status in society was so marginalized that she literally dwelled in the outer wall of the city.

## 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 YouTube page, <https://www.youtube.com/@BethShalomofWhittier>. When there is a livestream taking place, you can click on it and watch.

**Book Club:** Our next book club meeting will be on Tuesday, July 15th, at 1:00pm. The book will be "La Rose" by Louise Erdrich. The book is about a man who accidentally kills his friends child while hunting, and in an act of atonement, gives his own son, La Rose, to the grieving parents to raise. This deeply moving novel explores the aftermath of this tragedy. All are welcome. Contact Michelle with any questions.

**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](mailto:michelleh3532@gmail.com)

## Happy Birthday

Robert Held - June 19

## Happy Anniversary

Russ & Delaine Shane  
June 20 - 32 years

Sidney & Sandra Paul  
June 22 - 73 years

As much as these two stories beg us to consider the contributions of those who are more readily overlooked by society – they're just a small sampling of what our tradition offers. Joseph was the discarded runt of the litter, but he rose to prominence and saved his family from famine. Moses was a shepherd with a (likely) speech impediment, and yet he led the Israelites to freedom. David, a descendant of a Moabite convert, not only defeated the literal Goliath, but is said to be the forbearer of the Messiah – a Messiah whom the Talmud tells us will be found among the lepers sitting at the gates of Jerusalem (Sanhedrin 98a).

A prostitute, the youngest child, someone with a disability, the descendant of a convert – all of these are people who would usually be overlooked and not garner the attention they deserved, and yet, without them, our ancestors would have starved, remained enslaved, or fallen at their opponents' swords.

The Jewish tradition, therefore, is rooted in the miraculous ability of those, who would otherwise be ignored, to change the course of history through their actions. Maybe it's time we start reminding ourselves of this. How would it affect us if we consider Moses' disability when we remember his greatness? Or when we think about, discuss, or visit Israel that it never would have become our homeland if it weren't for Rachav? Or when we anticipate the coming of Elijah at Passover Seder, Havdallah, or a Brit Milah, we remember that he will be accompanied by the type of person many would simply step over and ignore?

If we take the time to consider the full picture of our tradition and not focus solely on the "heroic" aspects about which we were taught as children, then maybe we'll start to see our world differently and focus our attention on those whose actions and words are truly worthy of attention – regardless of appearance, gender, race, orientation, and ability.

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## HOW TO VIEW **BETH SHALOM OF WHITTIER** ON **YOUTUBE**

Beth Shalom of Whittier has moved its service broadcasts from Facebook to YouTube beginning with the broadcast of services on **May 9, 2025, at 7:25 pm**. Here are the simple steps to view services from Beth Shalom of Whittier on YouTube starting that date:

You do not have to sign up or subscribe to YouTube to watch our livestream services or videos on it!

On any computer browser, type in the top search bar: <https://www.youtube.com/@BethShalomofWhittier>

then hit Enter on your keyboard. That will take you to Beth Shalom of Whittier's You Tube Channel!

The first video icon there on our video channel will be the one you want to click on and watch. We will generally have a video icon set at least 20 minutes ahead of the service broadcast time and it will begin at the noted time (7:25 pm, 9:25 am, etc.). You can click on that icon and wait for the video to start.

### **Chat Feature on YouTube**

Should you wish to use the chat feature on a YouTube livestream, you must have a Gmail email address and password and sign into YouTube at the top right of the YouTube screen where it says **sign-in**. If you do not have a Gmail address, you can create one by clicking on that sign-in at the top right of the YouTube first page and following their instructions. Then each time you watch a livestream you can sign into YouTube and the chat feature will be on the right side of the video you are watching.