



Beth Shalom Weekly Update

Thursday, May 19, 2022 to Wednesday, May 25, 2022
Hazzan Lance H. Tapper, Hon DMus Shabbat Parashat Behar

Shabbat Services May 20, 2022 - 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

YAHARZEIT

Jeffrey Kolnick
in memory of grandfather
William Cutler

Ellen Singer
in memory of father
Stanley Feldman

Sherman Esterson
in memory of father
Abe Esterson

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.

Happy Birthday

Steve Baptista—May 20
Irving Bartikofsky—May 25
Susan Rubin—May 25

Celebrate Shavuot, June 4th - see flyer on page 2.

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.*

May 20-- 7:25 pm--Prelude, 7:30 pm service--Hazzan Lance and Ty Woodward

May 27-- 7:25 pm--Prelude, 7:30 pm service--Hazzan Lance and Ty Woodward

June 3-- 7:25 pm--Prelude, 7:30 pm service--Hazzan Lance and Ty Woodward

June 4--*Erev Shavuot Yizkor*--Prelude 7:55 pm, Service 8:00 pm--Hazzan Lance and Ty Woodward

June 10-- 7:25 pm--Prelude, 7:30 pm service--Hazzan Lance and Ty Woodward

June 17-- 7:25 pm--Prelude, 7:30 pm service--Hazzan Lance and Ty Woodward

June 24-- 7:25 pm--Prelude, 7:30 pm service--Hazzan Lance and Ty Woodward

“Parsha to the Point”

Torah Reading: Leviticus 25:1 - 26:2

Haftarah Reading: Jeremiah 32:6 - 27

By Rabbi David Stav, posted 5776

If someone were to ask me what the most “socially conscious” Torah portion is, I wouldn't hesitate for a moment with the response. If there is one part of the Torah that deals methodically and intensively with social issues, it is Parshat Behar.

The portion reviews the laws of Shmittah (Sabbatical Year), when all field crops and fruits are left fallow, available to all. It also details the laws of the Yovel (Jubilee Year), in which lands are restored to their original owners and slaves return home after many years of hard work that kept them from their families. The text addresses times of hardship that people are likely to face, and explains how we are to cope with them.

Later in the portion, the Torah commands us to conduct business fairly:

And when you make a sale to your fellow Jew or make a purchase from the hand of your fellow Jew, you shall not wrong one another (“al tonu ish et achiv”). (Vayikra / [Leviticus 25:14](#))

The Torah repeats this commandment twice in the same chapter, in verses 14 and 17 (“v'lo tonu ish et amito”), leading our sages to attach two different meanings to the Hebrew word hona'ah. The simple denotation of the prohibition of hona'ah is that we are to refrain from being fraudulent when

Beth Shalom Services: We are now open for in person services. Vaccinated people with proof may attend in person. Masks are required in accordance with the current LA County Public Health Dept. guidelines. 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. If you are not yet comfortable coming to services in person, please tune in virtually and feel free to leave a message of greeting to others who are watching.

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 next meeting of the Beth Shalom Book Group is Tuesday, June 14 at **1:00 pm** (please note time change). The book is “The Immortalists” by Chloe Benjamin. Happy reading everyone.

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

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

conducting business. We may not sell damaged goods, or pass off used or damaged goods as new ones.

However, our sages added one more meaning to this commandment – that we are not allowed to wrong one another, and they provided several examples to ensure that we fully understand them: if a person asks us where a particular product can be bought, we are prohibited from misleading him and sending him to the wrong place. We are also not allowed to feign interest in a product, creating the pretense that we were planning to buy it (this is because of the disappointment caused to the seller ([Tractate Bava Metzia 48b](#))).

The prohibition of wronging others is one of the more challenging prohibitions in the Torah. It is easy to identify with the idea that murder, rape or theft are despicable acts that have no place in civil society, but it is much harder to internalize that wronging others in apparently minor ways can destroy the fabric of society to a similar extent.

It is rare for people to resort to a life of violent crime. Most people are not affected by such behavior. Our quality of life is much more affected by those small pangs of sorrow that we cause to our neighbors or friends, be they close or distant. This can happen anywhere and anytime: when we curse other drivers as we seek a parking spot in a packed parking lot, when we skip others in line at the supermarket, or when teenagers make noise late at night in the middle of a quiet and calm neighborhood.

The very Torah portion in which the Holy One Blessed Be He attempts to educate us about the fundamentals of a proper social order is where He also reminds us that before we embark on our quest to heal the world – or to attack tycoons, employment agencies, those who exploit workers and others – we ought to look for things that need fixing in our own backyard, such as how we treat our spouses, our children, and our neighbors.

All of Israeli society feels sick to its stomach when it hears of brutal murders, like the case of the fatal stabbing of a man who had merely asked a noisy group of people to be a bit quieter, so that his daughter could fall asleep. We are understandably horrified when we hear of meaningless killing, but it doesn't take us too long to disregard the backdrop – the noise itself, something that prevented neighbors from sleeping. We have assumed that making noise is acceptable, even if it prevents others from sleeping. We have grown used to the fact that this happens, and when it does, we apathetically mutter: "Well, that's how teenagers are today, and there's nothing that can be done about it!".

The great lesson that Hillel taught a non-Jew who wanted to convert was "do not do to your fellow man what you wouldn't want done to yourself" ([Tractate Shabbat 31a](#)). The rest of the Torah is comprised of interpretations of this principle and methods of implementing it.

Our children are no worse than us. They can and want to receive the messages we have to convey, as long as we convey them clearly and calmly, and as long as we practice what we preach. So let us eliminate fraud in any form, and let us banish deceit and sorrow.

[Translated from the Hebrew by Ilan Yavor]

PLEASE JOIN
BETH SHALOM OF WHITTIER
In Celebrating
The Festival of SHAVUOT



SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2022

SHAVUOT ORGAN PRELUDE 7:55 PM
SERVICE INCLUDING YIZKOR 8:00 PM

IN THE MEETING HOUSE AT FIRST FRIENDS
13205 Philadelphia Street, Whittier

HAZZAN LANCE H TAPPER, HON DMUS, OFFICIATING
TY WOODWARD, ORGANIST

THE PRELUDE AND SERVICE WILL ALSO BE BROADCAST
ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE: BETH SHALOM OF WHITTIER