



Beth Shalom Weekly Update

Thursday, September 28, 2023 to Wednesday, October 4, 2023
Hazzan Lance H. Tapper, Hon DMus Shabbat Parashat Sukkot

Shabbat Erev Sukkot Service - September 29, 2023 - 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

YAHREZIT

Ann Kanahale
in memory of mother
Dorothy Berry

Michelle Hess
in memory of grandfather
Hyman Morzinsky

Jeffrey Kolnick
in memory of mother
Jackie Kolnick

Lila Held and Joann Held
in memory of
grandmother/great grandmother
Anna Brickel

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.

Erev Sukkot/Erev Sh'mini Atzeret/Simchat Torah/Yizkor Services - see flyer on page 3.

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.*

September 29--Erev Shabbat Sukkot--7:25 pm Lewandowski Sukkot
Prelude; 7:30 pm Service--Hazzan Lance and Ty Woodward
October 6--Erev Sh'mini Atzeret/Simhat Torah--7:25 pm Prelude;
7:30 pm Service--Hazzan Lance and Ty Woodward
October 7--Sh'mini Atzeret/Simhat Torah/Yizkor--9:25 am Prelude;
9:30 am Service--Hazzan Lance and Aryell Cohen
October 13--7:30 pm-- Service--Rabbi Kenneth Milhander
October 20--7:25 pm--Prelude; 7:30 pm Service--Hazzan Lance and Ty Woodward
October 27-- 7:30 pm--Service--Rabbi Kenneth Milhander

The Best Jewish Holiday

Sukkot

By Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson, posted on September 20, 2021

After two days of Rosh Ha-Shanah and a day of fasting on Yom Kippur, you would think that Jews would be exhausted. Enough Judaism, already!

Yet at precisely that time, the calendar of Judaism presents a dazzling array of festivals--Sukkot, Hoshanah Rabbah, Sh'mini Atzeret, and Simhat Torah. For more than a week, we continue to celebrate one holiday after another, each with its own set of rituals, songs, and customs.

Of all the festivals, none has as any *mitzvot* (commandments) and customs associated with it than does Sukkot, the Festival of Booths. We build special huts (the *sukkah*), carry the four types of plants (the *lulav*--palm frond, *etrog*--citron, *aravah*--willow, and *hadas*--myrtle) and eat festive meals in the sukkot. Some Jews even sleep in their sukkot.

Exhausted by the holy days already behind us, and living in a culture that distrusts ritual in the first place, what can this frenetic activity mean to us?

Traditional commentators have explained the lulav and etrog in several ways:

Beth Shalom Services: We are now 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.

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: We are going to read "Code Name: Sapphire" by Pam Jenoff. We have changed the meeting date to Tuesday, Oct 10th. As usual, we meet at 12:30 on Zoom. Happy Reading Everyone!

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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According to the *Midrash Va-Yikra Rabbah*, the *etrog*, *hadas*, and *aravah* symbolize the three Patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The single *Lulav* symbolizes God. By holding the three against the *Lulav*, we act out our hope that the sacred deeds of our ancestors, the lessons learned throughout our lengthy history, will serve us well before God. Thus, *lulav* and *etrog* demonstrate our link to Jewish history throughout time.

According to *Pesikta De-Rav Kahana*, each of the plants symbolizes a different type of Jew: one who is learned in Torah and rich in good deeds, one who is learned but has performed no good deeds, one who is uneducated but active in demonstrating lovingkindness, and one who is uneducated and has not performed loving deeds. By binding all four plants together, we pray that God will also consider the entire Jewish people as a single unit, each responsible for the other, each Jew compensating for the shortcomings of the others. Thus, *lulav* and *etrog* demonstrate our unity as a people and celebrate our diversity as individuals and as religious movements within the umbrella of Judaism.

Finally, the medieval compilation *Kad ha-Kemah* asserts that each of the four species corresponds to a different human organ: the heart, the spine, the eyes, and the lips. Just as all these organs can lead a person to error and to pain, so too they can become the means for self-improvement and for elevating others. Thus, *lulav* and *etrog* demonstrate our determination to use our bodies to help other people and ourselves, to serve God, and to make the world more holy.

Each of these explanations works from the bottom up, trying to account for the details of an already established observance. Perhaps another approach would be to work from the other direction, to explain the larger picture and not worry about the details. So, for example, in *Midrash Va-Yikra Rabbah*, Rabbi Avin compares the *lulav* and the *etrog* to a scepter awarded to a victorious combatant. After returning to our synagogues in massive numbers on Rosh Ha-Shanah, after spending Ten Days of Repentance considering who we are and who we want to be, after fasting and praying on Yom Kippur, the entire Jewish people emerges energized, enriched, and motivated.

Such a transformation is indeed a victory. Carry your *lulav* and *etrog* with joy!

See flyer on page 3.

If you have taken photos at recent Beth Shalom services or events,
please share them with us by emailing a copy to the office at bswoffice@verizon.net.
Thank you.



YOU ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE WITH
BETH SHALOM OF WHITTIER

at First Friends
13205 Philadelphia St, Whittier, CA 90601

ALSO SIMULTANEOUSLY BROADCAST ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE:
BETH SHALOM OF WHITTIER

EREV SUKKOT

***SEPTEMBER 29**—Lewandowski Sukkot Prelude at 7:25 pm/Service at 7:30 pm

EREV SH'MINI ATZERET/SIMHAT TORAH

***OCTOBER 6**—Festival Prelude at 7:25 pm/Service at 7:30 pm
(including the Hakafof Processions with the Torahs and reading the end of Devarim [Deuteronomy])

SH'MINI ATZERET/SIMHAT TORAH/YIZKOR

#OCTOBER 7—Prelude at 9:25 am/Service at 9:30 am
(including the Hakafof Processions with the Torahs, ending and beginning the Torah reading cycle, Geshem [The prayer for rain], and the Yizkor Memorial Prayers)

OFFICIATING:

Hazzan Lance H Tapper, Hon DMus, Spiritual Leader
***Ty Woodward, Organist**
#Aryell Cohen, Organist