



Beth Shalom Weekly Update

Thursday, June 1, 2023 to Wednesday, June 7, 2023
Hazzan Lance H. Tapper, Hon DMus Shabbat Parashat Naso

Shabbat Service June 2, 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

YAHREZEIT

Joel Golden
in memory of grandfather
Aaron Freedman

Ruth Koh
in memory of father
Herbert Koh

Lila Held
in memory of nephew
David Kuperstein

Sandra Paul
in memory of father
Morris Lehman

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.*

June 2--7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm Service---Hazzan Lance and Ty Woodward

June 9--7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm Service---Hazzan Lance and Ty Woodward

June 16--7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm Service---Hazzan Lance and Ty Woodward

June 23--7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm Service---Hazzan Lance and Ty Woodward

June 30--7:30 pm Service---Rabbi Kenneth Milhander

July 7--7:30 pm Service---Rabbi Kenneth Milhander

Have You Seen My Alps

Torah Reading: Numbers 4:21 - 7:89
Haftarah Reading: Judges 13:2 - 25Ra
Torah Portion: Naso

By Rabbi Adam Greenwald, posted on June 11, 2019

A story is told of Rabbi Sampson Raphael Hirsch (Germany, 1808-1888), the intellectual giant behind the founding of contemporary Orthodox Judaism: It is said that late in his life, the old rabbi surprised his students by scheduling himself a long trip to Switzerland. When they inquired about why he insisted on making such a journey, he replied:

"Soon, I will stand before the Almighty. I will be held answerable to many questions. But, what will I say when I am asked, 'Shimson, my son, it is true you did many mitzvot, but did you also remember to see My Alps?'"

The Jewish tradition indeed contains within it many rules – foods that we are told to abstain from eating, activities that are not to be done on Shabbat and holidays, and other ways in which we are supposed to limit ourselves in the name of a larger holiness. Yet, it would be wrong to characterize Judaism as an ascetic tradition. Quite the opposite – ours is a community that is taught to celebrate life and to bless the beauty and bounty of this world. With very few exceptions in our 3,000-year religious history we have had no monastic ideal; in fact, the Sages of the Talmud had harsh words for those who chose to remove themselves from the ordinary pleasures of daily life.

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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 will be reading "Radical Then, Radical Now" by Jonathan Sacks, the former Chief Rabbi of Britain and the Commonwealth, on Tuesday, June 20th at 12:30 pm. Tuesday, July 18th we will be reading "Syrian Sunset" by Howard Kaplan at 11:00 am. For August we will be reading "The Authenticity Project" by Claire Pooley. Date TBD. Happy Reading

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

Tribute Cards To send a Tribute Card, please contact Michelle Hess. Her e-mail is: michelleh3532@gmail.com

Happy Birthday

Revekah Martinez—June 1
Joel Chester—June 2
Miriam Brookfield—June 4
Jo Ann Golden—June 5
Joel Golden—June 6

Happy Anniversary

Joel & Diane Chester
June 4—11 years

This attitude in particular comes to play concerning a peculiar category of religious vows described in this week's Torah portion – the vow of the nazir. A nazirite was a person who elected to undertake a period of self-denial, avoiding wine and cutting their hair, abstaining from mourning rites, even if they were to lose a close member of their family. At the conclusion of the nazirite's vow, they were instructed to bring a sin offering to the Temple (Number 6:10-11), before resuming ordinary life.

The Rabbis ask, why does the Torah specify that the nazirite must bring a "sin" offering? In what way were they suspected of having sinned? The answer: the act of asceticism itself is a sin, as the Talmud states: "Is it not enough what the Torah has forbidden you that you wish to forbid yourself more things?" (Jerusalem Talmud, [Nedarim 9:1](#)). Maimonides echoes this sentiment in his comment on the verse in Ecclesiastes: "Be not over-righteous" (7:6), stating: "No one should, by vow or oath, forbid themselves that which has otherwise been permitted" (Mishneh Torah, Deot 3:1). On the basis of this overwhelming attitude of disdain for voluntary self-denial, the institution the nazir vow vanished from Jewish life nearly two millennia ago.

We often find so-called religious voices equating pleasure with sin, and denouncing things of "this world" as unholy distractions from "the next." Yet, this is not the normative approach of the Jewish tradition. Instead, we are called upon to offer blessings while standing at the seashore and upon seeing a rainbow, to feast and dance at the myriad celebrations that punctuate our calendar, and to make sure – if we haven't visited them yet – to get a look at God's Alps. When our time comes, we don't want to have visited this world without having taken the time to catch that magnificent view.

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.