



# Beth Shalom Weekly Update

Thursday, April 10, 2025 to Wednesday, April 16, 2025  
Hazzan Lance H. Tapper, Hon DMus      Torah Portion Tzav

Shabbat Service - April 11, 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

Lila Held/Joann Eres  
in memory of sister/aunt  
Sandra Kanian

Dan Franden  
in memory of  
R. Betty Randall

Michelle Hess  
in memory of  
Jacob Sandler, grandfather  
Edward Sandler, uncle

Myra Becker  
in memory of mother-in-law  
Minnie Becker

Sandra Paul  
in memory of brother-in-law  
Theodore High

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

Ann Kanahele - April 14  
Jessy Espinoza - April 16

## Clergy Schedule

Virtual Services: [www.facebook.com/bethshalomofwhittier](https://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.*

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

**April 12--Erev Pesah/First Seder--6:25 pm--Prelude; 6:30 pm Service--**Sanctuary--Hazzan Lance and Ty (all are invited); Seder in Fellowship Hall (reserved guests only!)--Hazzan Lance and Ty

**April 18--Erev End of Pesah Service--7:25 pm Prelude; 7:30 pm Service--**Hazzan Lance and Ty

**April 19--Shabbat Morning Pesah Yizkor Service--9:25 am--Prelude; 9:30 am--Service--**Hazzan Lance and Aryell Cohen

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

## Preparing for Profound Transitions

Torah Reading: Leviticus 6:1-8:36  
Haftarah Reading: Malachi 3:4-24, 23  
Pesach

By Rabbi Gabriel Botnik, posted on April 6, 2018

The Passover Seder is a moment of profound transition, when we move from being Avadim (slaves) to Benei Chorin (liberated people). Such transitions are not to be taken lightly. They require immense preparation - of body, mind, and spirit - if one wishes for them to go smoothly.

This Shabbat is Shabbat HaGadol, during which we traditionally discuss the various steps we must take to prepare for Passover. We will also be reading Parshat Tzav, in which we see the preparations for another type of profound transition, that of Aharon and his sons into their new identities as Kohanim (priests).

The first step Aharon and his sons take in this process is to put on simple, white robes (though Aharon does wear additional, ornate garments on top). These robes represent a state of purity and openness - an essential prerequisite for the remaining preparations. By donning such symbolic attire, the Kohanim show themselves that they are indeed blank slates capable of taking on a new identity.

Next, Aharon sacrifices a bull as a sin offering, which is wholly burned and not consumed by anyone. While Rashi says this animal is offered as atonement for the Golden Calf - as they are the same animal - I prefer to see this act as atonement not only for this grave sin, but for any and all

## 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 Facebook page, **Beth Shalom of Whittier**. When there is a livestream taking place, you can click on it and watch.

**Book Club:** Our next book is "The Glassmaker" by Tracy Chevalier. It is a charming fable at once a love story that skips through six centuries, and also a love song to the timeless craft of glassmaking. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 15th, at 1:00pm. Message Michelle for details.

**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)

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

## SAVE THE DATE

**Shabbat Pesach Service and Yizkor**  
**April 18th and 19th**  
See flyer on page 3.

**Movie & Discussion**  
**May 3**  
See flyer on page 4.

transgressions Aharon and his sons may have committed up to this point. The purpose therefore being to right their relationship with God and provide them with a spiritual state as pure as their garments.

The third step Aharon takes is to sacrifice a ram, which is also wholly burned and not consumed by anyone. By taking something of value and offering it fully to God, the priests here release all claims of ownership and acknowledge that everything belongs to God - that we are simply temporary custodians of the items in our possession. By taking this step, the Kohanim perform Bittul Nefesh (self-nullification), as there is no room for ego when entering into relationship with God.

Finally, after all three preliminary steps are fulfilled; Aharon offers one last sacrifice, the ram of *Milu'im* or fulfillment. Part of this sacrifice was burned on the altar for God, some was set aside for Moshe, and the rest was given to Aharon and his sons to eat. It is through this simple act of sharing a meal with God from a common sacrifice that the Spirit of God is able to enter and fill (*malei*) the Kohanim.

By fulfilling every step in this process of preparation, Aharon and his sons are able to transition successfully into their new identities - spiritual leaders to the Israelite community.

And so it is with Shabbat HaGadol. As the final Shabbat prior to the start of Passover, this is our last chance to prepare ourselves for the profound liberation that awaits us during the holiday. Each of us lives in our own Mitzrayim (Egypt, or straits), whether it be related to work, relationships, or personal matters. If we wish to be liberated from such straits and to pass over to the other side, then we must take the necessary steps to prepare ourselves before we enter into a moment of such profound transition. First, we must see ourselves as capable of taking on a new identity. Next, we must right any outstanding matters, so that we can proceed with a clear conscience. Finally, we must check our egos at the door, so we can enter into liberation with purity of intent. Only once we take such steps, will we be able to transition successfully into our new identity as Benei Chorin.

**See flyers on pages 3 and 4.**



*BETH SHALOM OF WHITTIER*  
INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE WITH US  
**SHABBAT PESAH YIZKOR**



**SHABBAT END OF PESAH SERVICE**

Friday, April 18—Pesah Organ Prelude—7:25 pm, Service—7:30 pm

**TY WOODWARD, ORGANIST**

**SHABBAT MORNING PESAH YIZKOR SERVICE**

Saturday, April 19—Pesah Organ Prelude—9:25 am, Service—9:30 am

**ARYELL COHEN, ORGANIST**

**HAZZAN LANCE H TAPPER, HON DMUS, OFFICIATING**

**BOTH SERVICES WILL BE HELD IN PERSON AT FIRST FRIENDS  
AND SIMULTANEOUSLY STREAMED ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE:  
**BETH SHALOM OF WHITTIER****



**Beth Shalom of Whittier Presents  
a Documentary Movie and Discussion**



**October 8** is a documentary on the emergence of anti-Semitism on college campuses, in social media and on the streets since October 7, 2023, when Hamas attacked Israel. It also delves into how Hamas manipulated the media.

Director: Wendy Sachs  
Writers: Nimrod Erez, Inbal B. Lessner, and Wendy Sachs  
Stars: Debra Messing, Michael Rapaport, and Noa Tishby

**Saturday, May 3, 2025 - 12:00 p.m.**

**Light refreshments will be served.**

**All are welcome with a reservation and security check prior to entering.**

**RSVP, by April 24th:**

**by email: [bswoffice@verizon.net](mailto:bswoffice@verizon.net) or by phone: 562.941.8744**

**Location: First Friends Fellowship Hall  
13205 Philadelphia Street  
Whittier 90601**