



The Messenger



A SHALOM BAYIT PUBLICATION – April 2014 – Nissan 5774

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Only During March and April 2014 notify Kay Ross (951) 845-3070 of any errors or omissions in the following information. A correction will be published in the next issue of our bulletin.)

April Birthdays

Barry Schwartz – 4/03; Judith Margolis – 4/04; Paul Goldstein – 4/18; Ed Newman – 4/21

April Anniversaries

Randy Forney & Fred Weinberg – 4/01; Cathy Colt & Jeff Silver – 4/10

April Yahrzeits

Harold Goldstein – Father of Paul Goldstein; May Marx – Sister of Marty Hoffman;
Jacob Liebers, DDS – Father of Larry Liebers; Rose Liebers – Mother of Larry Liebers;
Violet Fried – Sister of Larry Liebers; Blanche Glass – Sister of Larry Liebers

Havdallah – Saturday, April 5, 2014 (details inside)

No Shabbat Services in April (due to Passover)

Passover Seder – Tuesday, April 15, 2014 (details inside)

PASSOVER TRIVIA - In the Mid-1930's, Maxwell House started giving out Haggadot to clarify that coffee beans are Kosher for Passover, and thus prevent a dip in coffee sales. Distributed nearly every year since, there are now more than 50 million copies in print.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SPIRITUAL LEADERS, THE RABBIS

Purim, Passover and Purification

As you read this, we have just passed the Jewish Holiday of Purim on March 16. Purim is unusual among the Jewish Holidays in several ways. The story is not in the Torah. It is found in the Tanakh, the Jewish Bible, but it is near the back, in a section known as Ketuvim or Writings. The story is called the Book of Esther and it seems to be a satire of life in a corrupt Persian empire. It tells us that the king decided to kill all the Jews but they were saved by the courage and beauty of his Jewish queen – who nobody knew was Jewish. Most American Jews today only celebrate Purim with their young children or grandchildren at a costume party of a Purim Carnival.

But the short story is a great little read for adults. Give it a try. Esther's Uncle Mordechai learns of the plot to kill the Jews organized by the evil Haman. In preparation she, and all the Jews, fasted for three days of purification. It worked and God saved Esther and all the Jews. But the book never mentions God. We have to fill in the connection that it was God who enhanced Queen Esther's beauty and courage, and gave her the strength to risk her life. Sometimes our redemption, the miracles in our lives, comes quietly, resulting from our purity in thought and action, and without seeing God's explicit action, as in the Book of Esther.

Passover is a very different situation. The story is in The Torah. The entire book of Exodus is filled with the story of slavery in Egypt, of the escape, and of the journey through the desert where our people begin to receive the laws of Judaism. In this story, God's hand appears often and forcefully. God talks to Moses, sends down the Angel of Death, parts the Red Sea, gives the laws, and is generally an intimate and major part of the story. And today, the Passover Seder is among the most commonly observed rituals of Jewish tradition among American Jews.

There have been many books written about Passover – its history, its laws, and its spiritual significance. The basic element of the Passover observation is the elimination of "Chametz," or leavened bread and, by extension, everything which is grain or grain based, and everything that is fermented or leavened that is not specially prepared for Passover. The most obvious is to replace Chametz, leavened bread, with matzo or unleavened bread. Some of us do this for eight days, and are careful to ritually inspect the home to be sure it is all gone. Others only dispose of the leavened bread and buy a week's supply of Matzo. Some eat Matzo only for a day, and still others may observe only at the Passover Seder.

In Biblical times, a key part of Passover was the animal sacrifice in the Temple in Jerusalem. To participate, a person had to be ritually pure, and Torah gives us procedures to purify ourselves. We don't do that today, but we do purify ourselves by eating Matzo.

Why is it important to eat Matzo? Our friend and Teacher, Rabbi David Zeller, of Blessed Memory, taught that the difference between Matzo and Chametz, between unleavened bread and leavened bread, is just hot air. It is the small bubbles of hot air produced by the leavening agent that makes bread rise. When we refrain from bread for a meal, or a day, or a week, we are eliminating some of the hot air that we usually ingest.

What does it mean to purify ourselves? How can you become closer to God and closer to the best person you are capable of being? Rabbi Zeller's answer is simple and based in the Passover Rules. Get rid of the hot air inside you. You can do this symbolically on Passover by eating Matzo. And you can do it all year by being conscious of when you are really being yourself and being the best you can be, and reducing the times when you act like you are full of hot air.

If you get this before March 21, you can come to services when Rabbi Linda will be talking about how to get ready for Passover. If you get it before April 1, you still have time to sign up for the Community Passover Seder on April 15. Please join us there. We'll sing some old songs, we'll learn some new songs, we'll have a spiritual experience, and we will share a great meal.

We look forward to seeing you at the Seder on Tuesday, April 15 and at services on Friday, May 16.

Rabbi Larry and Rabbi Linda

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By now, most of you will have been contacted regarding your willingness to serve on a committee or run for office by either Carol or Ed. I do hope your response was positive, and that more of you plan to take a more active role in our small congregation. If you were not certain that this is something you wanted to do, please reconsider and give Carol or Ed a call to let them know. It's a great way to get to know your fellow members in a more personal environment.

Thanks to those of you who donated clothing for our March Mitzvah, and to those of you who helped place clothing on hangers. Both Ilene and Lauree donated stuffed animals to be brought to the Banning Police Department.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the Passover Seder.

Hannah



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CONGREGATION AND SIGN UP TO SPONSOR:

Oneg for May, June, July, October, November or December 2014
Havdallah for July, August, September, October or December 2014

We are sad to announce the passing of long-time Temple member, Judy Rosen. She died of complications from diabetes the third week in February. According to her brother, there was no memorial service for her, and her body was donated to Loma Linda, as per her wishes.

Sisterhood News



Ladies, we'll have our regular Sisterhood lunch and meeting in April even though there is no Shabbat service because of Passover. It will be on April 22nd in the Sun Lakes atrium at 11:30, as usual, so put it on your calendars. Our May meeting will be at Johnny Russo's for a program on senior safety. The program will be presented by a Beaumont Police Dept. officer and a representative from Riverside County Dept. of Public Social Services. It will be a fundraiser and open to everyone. Invite all your friends and let's have a large turnout. Watch for announcements in the Record-Gazette and a flyer in next month's Messenger.

Passover Reminder from Carol Sherman



Passover Seder – Tuesday,
April 15th – 6:00 p.m.

The Calimesa Country Club
Reservations are a MUST (see flyer enclosed) or call Carol Sherman at
(951) 769-7514

We will have a golf cart available to transport those in need from the parking lot to Dining Room
Deadline for Reservations 4/8/14



Congregation Shalom Bayit
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APRIL 2014

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 Havdallah 5:30
6	7	8 Deadline for Seder Reservations	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Passover Seder 6:00	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Sisterhood Meeting 11:30	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			