



# The Messenger



A SHALOM BAYIT PUBLICATION – August, 2013 – Av/Elul 5773

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*(Please notify Marty Hoffman ((951)769-3830) of any errors or omissions in the following information. A correction will be published in the next issue of our bulletin.)*

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**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

Sandra Shukin – 19, Joan Rifkin – 23, Sandy Zwick - 26  
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**AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

Hal & Shirley Barsh – 8, Steve & Martha Benoff – 29  
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**AUGUST YARZEITS**

Alexander Minky – Father of Robin Adams, Eileen Law – Daughter of Shirley & Abe Berzon,  
Erica Feigenbaum – Daughter of Lauree Feigenbaum, Janis Wulfe – Sister of Lauree Fiegenbaum,  
Sarah Globe – Aunt of Ilene Kaplan, Harry Kaplan – Grandfather of Ilene Kaplan,  
Mimmie Kaplan – Grandmother of Ilene Kaplan, Louis Smith – Grandfather of Ilene Kaplan,  
Charles Smith – Uncle of Ilene Kaplan, Sam Smith – Uncle of Ilene Kaplan, Samual Krupsaw – Father of Ken Krupsaw,  
Bernard Leven – Husband of Doreen Leven, Mildred Carmen – Mother of Joan Rifkin,  
Jennie Logan – Mother of Sandra Shulkin.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR "OUTGOING" SPIRITUAL ADVISOR



Alas, and sadly for me, this is my last "letter" to you. I suppose I could select a topic that is controversial. Why not? I won't be back! I could go political, talk about racial profiling, Treyvon Martin, Republicans vs Democrats, Palestinian rights vs a "free" Israel...I could think of lots of possibilities on the controversial spectrum to discuss here. After all, at this point, you can't fire me!

I say this all in jest, of course.

In truth, I will miss all of you tremendously and feel very torn about saying L'hitraot. (see you soon) and goodbye. So, I've decided to select a different topic for my farewell newsletter and this is the topic of membership. I suppose this might be a controversial topic to some of you as well!

Depending on the type, membership can take on many meanings. I have a gym membership, REI membership, Vons and Ralph card memberships, too many organizational memberships to mention here, a Kaiser membership and the list goes on. As you can see from this list, my use of or involvement in these memberships vary quite a bit. Some are free, require little involvement,

and some require no involvement at all. Others offer me discounts, coupons, and early bird shopping opportunities.

Then there are the ones that offer me more. These are the memberships that involve me in my community, whatever that community might be. Perhaps it's a community of shared political values, or a spiritual community, or a community of friends near or far, or a non profit group doing great things. These memberships offer me a very different kind of support. These memberships, all of which I do pay for, share a certain cause or purpose. Some big, some very small. Some cost \$10 a year, others over \$2000 a year. What is their cause or purpose?

For me, the answer is support, shared values, caring, friendship, interesting program opportunities, good citizenship, and the list goes on and on. Why would I, living on a challenging and limited income, write a check for membership to Shalom Bayit upon my departure? The answer is simple, really simple. I believe in Shalom Bayit and what this "membership" brings to Banning. I support, with my membership to Shalom Bayit, something I believe in - YOUR COMMUNITY and all of you.

If you cannot afford full membership, donate by contributing in a smaller amount or in a different way. Stay involved. Support the members who keep this small but caring group vibrant. Sponsor a Havdallah or an Oneg. Or, donate in honor or memory of a friend or loved one. Yes! I'm pushing you, and I hope gently but with conviction! Banning needs Shalom Bayit and so do you! I will continue my membership in support of all of you.

As you welcome Rabbis Linda & Larry Seidman, I know you are in very good hands. I feel confident that this community will move forward in strength and commitment.

See you all for our last evening together at Havdalah on Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

B'Shalom,

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR "INCOMING" RABBIS

It was a pleasure meeting so many of you in June and July. We are looking forward to celebrating Shabbat and the Jewish holidays with you.



At the last Shabbat service we shared a little about our backgrounds and the story of how we went from rockets to rabbinics. There is also a brief bio in this issue of the newsletter.

Today we would like to talk about our approach to Judaism.

Judaism is an amazing religion that accommodates a very diverse range of ideas, practices and teachings. Actually, that is what makes Judaism so exciting—the learning is never done. We are, by training, analytical—so we encourage you to think and question. But, **Rabbis Larry & Linda Seidman** of course, we are also deeply spiritual and Jewish. We believe in the power of Jewish practice and Jewish traditions.

We've studied a lot of things in a many different places. In addition to making numerous trips throughout the world, we have lectured to college students on spirituality in Nepal and studied in India and Israel. We have been Jewish representatives on an interfaith mission to Turkey, where we participated in traditional Turkish marriage festivities (in celebration of our wedding anniversary). The list goes on and we look forward to sharing these experiences with you.

As we explore this broad expanse of knowledge together, we will be bringing teachings and stories from the experiences we have been blessed to have over the years. Working in the jails and with the sheriffs and probation departments has provided intriguing insights, where “the rubber meets the road.”

The next Shabbat service, August 16, will be the last one before we meet together to observe Rosh Hashanah, beginning on the evening of Wednesday, Sept 4. The ten days after that, the High Holy Days, the Days of Awe, are set aside in Jewish tradition as a time to reflect on our actions in the prior year, and a time for each of us to focus on our plans and prayers for the year to come.

Now is not too soon to start thinking about what we liked and didn't like in the Jewish year of 5773, the year coming to an end, and what tools we will use to guide ourselves in 5774. One of the tools to consider is “Tashlich”, a traditional practice that has been making resurgence in modern Jewish communities. On Aug 16, Rabbi Linda will share a very moving experience that occurred in jail—how one inmate used Tashlich to move on with his life.

We are looking forward to sharing this Shabbat with you, discussing Tashlich, and experiencing the whole Jewish year together with you and all our new friends at Congregation Shalom Bayit.

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



I was pleased to welcome our new rabbis to Congregation Shalom Bayit at the Shabbat Service on July 19th. They are a husband and wife team, Rabbi Linda Seidman, and Rabbi Larry Seidman. They prefer to be addressed as Rabbi Larry and Rabbi Linda.

Here is a little background for those of you who may not have been present on the 19th and/or those who may want to retain their website information.

Rabbi Larry and Rabbi Linda are both ordained rabbis. They received “Smicha” from the Academy for Jewish Religion, California, in Los Angeles. This is one of the few transdenominational Jewish seminaries in the United States. Their training prepared them to serve the diverse beliefs and practices of the Jewish people, under a wide variety of conditions. They usually work together as a team in leading services and that is their plan for serving us.

Before becoming rabbis, both of the rabbis had careers in Aerospace engineering. They both retired from The Boeing Company. Rabbi Larry was a Senior Manager in technology, and Linda was a Program Manager. Their

backgrounds make them both analytical and spiritual. They are passionate about Judaism, and also recognize that every member of Shalom Bayit is an individual with unique needs and attitudes towards Judaism.

Rabbis Larry and Linda participate in numerous activities in the broader Jewish community. They both serve as Community Rabbis for the Jewish Federation and Family Services of Orange County. They visit inmates in jail and officiate at weddings and funerals. They work with hospice and visit people at the end of their lives. Rabbi Linda serves as a chaplain to the professional staffs of the Orange County Sheriff's Department and of the Orange County Probation Department. Rabbi Larry writes and speaks in a variety of settings. He is currently particularly interested in the prehistoric roots of religion.

You can learn more about the thinking and activities of Rabbi Larry on his website [www.RationalRabbi.com](http://www.RationalRabbi.com). If you use Facebook, you might want to visit his page: [Facebook.com/RabbiLarrySeidman](https://www.facebook.com/RabbiLarrySeidman) and "like" it.

The Wall Street Journal recently wrote an article titled "Two Flight Paths to Rabbi School" about our rabbis. You can find that here: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304058404577494853458151614.html>.

Rabbi Linda was one of the women featured in a recent article in "Orange County Jewish Life." Its online here; <http://www.ocjewishlife.com/site/balance-of-power/>

Rabbi Larry and Rabbi Linda are looking forward to meeting all of you and "doing Jewish" together. You are always welcome to contact them by email at: [TheRabbis@Seidman.net](mailto:TheRabbis@Seidman.net).

See you all at the Congregational Meeting at 4:30 on August 3 - one hour before our Havdalah.

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The Havdalah menu will consist of a green salad, chicken Marcela, roasted tri-tip, red potatoes, green beans w/almonds, fruit salad and for desert – carrot cake. *Don't forget to get your checks in to Carol, or call her at: (769-7514) as soon as possible for the Havdalah. The price is \$12.00 for members and \$17.00 for guests.*

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### TRIBUTE CARD DONATIONS

If you wish to send a Tribute Card to family, friends, congregants, etc., and at the same time make a donation to Shalom Bayit, simply call Doreen Levin at (951)845-9288. Let her know if you are celebrating someone's birthday, anniversary, other special occasion or milestone, or sending condolences to someone, and she will send out a Tribute Card to them. You should then send a check with "Tribute Card" in the 'For' (or whatever your check shows for a notation on the bottom left) to: Congregation Shalom Bayit, 1320 W. Williams Street, Banning, California 92220. Everyone benefits!

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### FOOD FOR THE NEEDY.

Remember to bring whatever non-perishable food items you can spare for the church. The church is in need of food items for the needy families of our area. Please bring these items to the Havdalah or Shabbat services. Ask any board member where to place them.

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### FINDING NEW MEMBERS

Our temple is always looking for new members. If you know of anyone who might want to join our friendly congregation, please bring them to a Shabbat service, or call Ed Newman, ((951)769-8850) and let him know.

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### SISTERHOOD

The July meeting was held at a Thai restaurant. Everyone enjoyed the event. The next sisterhood meeting is on Tuesday, August 20, 2013. It will be held in The Lakes at 11:30 am.

This year the CSB Sisterhood has established a fundraising project. We have created a special wall hanging representing the Tree of Life. Everyone is encouraged to buy leaves that are then displayed on the hanging which is hung in the Fireside Room at Friday services and Saturday Havdalahs. Individual leaves are \$18 for temple members and \$25 for non-members. Leaves in memory of a loved one are gold and placed at the base of the tree, representing the fallen. Leaves in honor are green and attached to the tree limbs above. The money will be used by Sisterhood to support sisterhood and temple functions. For more



information or to buy leaves contact Cathy Colt at 845-6961 or via her e-mail address, cathycolt@verizon.net.

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## HELPING OUR MILITARY

Save the used postage stamps from letters you receive. Cut them off of the envelopes, leaving about ½” border around the stamp. They are used as therapy by our military hospitals. Give them to Ilene Kaplan. She will see that they get to where they are needed.



we'll go ahead with the plans.

A big THANK YOU to those who save plastic bottles and aluminum and cans for the Temple. Please continue to do so. Give them to, or call me at (951-845-0830) when you have some to donate. You may also bring them to the Friday night or the Havdalah services.

While each donation may be small, they add up to money in our treasury.

Ilene

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## FUTURE HAVDALAH SPONSORS

August: Catered - Hannah Riceberg/Marge Amstadter, September: No Havdalah, October: Catered - Marty & Sandy Hoffman/ Bill & Sandy Zwick, November: Pot luck - Cathy Colt/ Jeff Silver, December: Catered - open (in need of sponsorship) All 2014 dates are open and waiting for sponsors.  
Carol .

*The August 3<sup>rd</sup> Havdalah will be a combined catered dinner and a congregational meeting. The meeting will be held at 4:30 pm, followed by the Havdalah dinner at the usual 5:30 pm time slot.*

*It is crucial that all members of Shalom Bayit attend this meeting. We will discuss, and approve, items such as the Temple's annual budget for the coming fiscal year. Your input will be needed and appreciated.*

*It will also be an opportunity for all of us to bid Cathy Gordon a fond farewell as our spiritual leader.*

## FUTURE ONEG SHABBAT SPONSORS

August: Lauree Feingenbaum, September: High Holidays, October: Hannah Riceberg/Adele Kiefer/Marge Amstadter, November: Sandra Shulkin/ Michele Gasper, December: Jay & Leslie Diamond. All of 2014 is open For Sponsors.

Carol.

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