



# The Messenger



A SHALOM BAYIT PUBLICATION – February 2014 – Adari 5774

Web site – Congregationshalombayit.com

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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.)*

**February Birthdays**

Ruth Axelrad – 02/15, Richard Genson – 02/16, Doreen Levin – 02/23, Fred Weinberg – 02/28

**February Anniversaries**

Barry & Claudia Schwartz – 02/11/68

**February Yahrzeit**

Sarah Sunderland Sister of Rachel Axelrad – Robert G. Axelrad – Husband of Ruth Axelrad,  
Ann Darling – Mother of Lean Darling, Leo Berntein – Father of Leslie Diamond,  
Philip Watkins – Brother of Joan Frost, Margaret Watkins – Mother of Joan Frost,  
Samual Berman – Uncle of Hannah Riceberg, Clara Sattinger – Grandmother of Carol Sherman,  
Freda Cohen – Mother of Hannah Riceberg, Michael Cohen – Father of Hannah Riceberg,  
Rochelle Brown - Sister of Hannah Riceberg, Glen Shapiro – Son-in-law of Carol Sherman,  
Morris Shulkin – Father-in-law of Sandra Shulkin, David Globe – Uncle of Ilene Kaplan,  
Ben Kaplin – Father of Ilene Kaplan, Clarice Kaplan – Mother of Ilene Kaplan, Harriet Nathan – Aunt of Ilene Kaplan

**Do you know why Jewish divorces coast so much money? Some say, it's because they're worth it.**

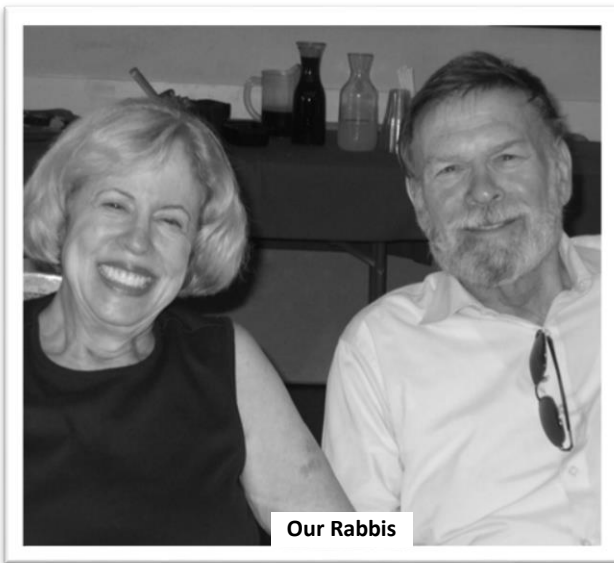
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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR SPIRITUAL LEADERS, THE RABBIS

What's on your Jewish calendar?

All of us keep a calendar. Sometimes it's on the wall. Some of us have it on our computers or on our smart phones. We keep track of many things—doctors' appointments, birthdays, anniversaries. Some of the days recall memories—our own wedding anniversaries or the dates on which a loved one passed from this earth—the “Yahrtzeit” date.

As Jews, we live in both the secular civilization as well as in the traditions of Judaism. You can keep track of the Jewish calendar if you have one of the paper “Jewish Calendars” available free at services. If your calendar is electronic, you can find Jewish calendar entries at the website *hebc.com* and you can download them directly into your digital calendar.



Our Rabbis

When you look in your Jewish calendar for January you'll find a special day -- January 16. It is the 15th day in the Jewish month of Sh'vat. Using letters to represent numbers, it is called “Tu B'shvat”. This holiday has been on the Jewish calendar for more than 2000 years and it is widely known as the “New Year for the Trees”.

Why do we need a New Year for the Trees, you may ask? Tu B'shvat isn't mentioned as a holiday in the Torah, but the Torah created the need for it. We are told in Leviticus chapter 19 verses 23-25, that fruit from trees may not be eaten during their first three years, and in their fourth year the fruit is to be donated to the temple. Most of us don't pay attention to these ancient biblical laws. But our ancestors in Israel did, and Orthodox Jews still do. So the question was how old is a tree?

We can't really define the birth date of a tree as we do for a person. So the rabbis who wrote the Talmud, about 2000 years ago solved the problem. They ruled that every tree has the same birthday and it is on Tu B'shvat!

For us, the legalistic reasons of the holiday are long gone. But, we can take a time once a year to be grateful for trees. We can focus on the gifts of fruit and nuts which are easily available to us. We can stop to enjoy the shade, the greenery, and the flowers that fill our daily lives. We can renew our commitment to ecology and the need for “Tikkun Olam”, to perfecting the world we live in.

If you were with us at the Shabbat services on January 17, you remember that the Oneg featured a few tasty treats which are “fruit of the tree”. We each enjoyed a piece of fruit or a nut from a tree, and said the blessing-

If you weren't there, or even if you were, it is always good to pause when we eat something from a tree, to think about the many blessings we receive, and to say the appropriate blessing. For tree fruit and nuts, the blessing is: “Baruch atah Adonai, eloheinu melech ha olam, borei p'ri ha etz. We are grateful to you, our God, sovereign of the universe; you are the one who creates the fruit of the tree”.

What is kiddush? -  
Sermon topic for  
February 21, 2014.

What is this  
procedure we do  
after services on  
Friday night? How  
does it connect to  
getting married?  
What is the relation  
to the exodus from  
Egypt? What is this

## NEW MEMBERS

We are always looking for new members. Should you know of anyone who would like to join our friendly congregation, let our membership chairperson, Ed Newman [(951)769-8850] know, or bring them to a service.

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### A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Here I sit, attempting to compose a Message from the President for our February *'Messenger.'* Too bad my brain feels like mush after having been a victim of whatever virus is circulating.

Our Religious Practices Committee has been hard at work with plans for our future. Thanks to Carol, Ken, Fred, Nancy, Sara, and Cathy for their tireless efforts.

I want to remind everyone to continue to purchase leaves on our tree for life events. The tree will be a lasting memory of those events. Don't forget, you can purchase the leaves on behalf of friends, relatives, members of our little temple, or even people you may admire but have never met. Contact Cathy Colt for more information.

I plan to initiate a Change of Information Form to be used to update membership information. There are often changes in phone numbers, email addresses, etc., that are not submitted to our Membership chair to facilitate updating the roster. It will be in the March newsletter. Please cut it out, keep it until needed, and submit changes to our Membership chair.

See you all at the Souplantation & Sweet Tomatoes, 228 West Hospitality Lane, San Bernardino on February 10th from 5-8 p.m.

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I just got back from a pleasure trip. I took my mother-in-law to the airport. My wife and I went to the hotel where we spent our wedding night. Only this time I was the one who stayed in the bathroom and cried.

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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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My wife went to the beauty shop and stayed there for two hours. And that was just for an estimate.

There was a study as to why Jewish women like Chinese food so much. The conclusion was, because WON TON spelled backwards is NOT NOW.

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## CSB SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood members gathered for an enjoyable and relaxing lunch meeting at the Sun Lakes Atrium on December 24<sup>th</sup>. Home at last after several months of meeting at other locations! Carol Sherman volunteered to fill the vacant office of vice-president for the remainder of the term. Thank you, Carol! We discussed the need to have a mission statement and bylaws. Cathy Colt is chairing that endeavor. We also plan to do another program, probably in March or May. It will be a program on Senior Safety which is presented by the Beaumont Police Department in partnership with Riverside County. Stay tuned for more details.



Joan Frost

Our next meeting, January 21<sup>st</sup>, will be in the Sun Lakes main dining room, and then we'll return to the Atrium for our meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Come join us at 11:30 a.m. to enjoy each other's company and hear about future plans.

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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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### 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.

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### SHABBAT SERVICE

The Shabbat service will be on Friday, February 21, 2014 at 7:00 pm.

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### FUTURE ONEG SHABBAT SPONSORS

Sponsor's for Onegs are as follows: February, 2014 - Barry & Claudia Schwartz -- March, 2014 - Ilene Kaplan/ Kay Ross/ Carol Sherman, April -- 2014 -- Paul Goldstein/Cathy Colt & Jeff Silver -- May, 2014 -- OPEN -- June, 2014 -- OPEN -- July, 2014 -- OPEN -- August, 2014- Lauree Feigenbaum -- September, 2014 -- Hannah Riceberg -- October, 2014 -- OPEN -- November, 2014 -- Open -- December, 2014- Open.

Contact Carol Sherman (951)769-7514) to learn how to be a sponsor, and to let her know in which month or months you will sponsor the service.



Carol Sherman

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### HAVDALAH

The February 1 2014 Havdalah service will be conducted, once again, by the delightful Adrienne Swedlove. Adrienne has requested that everyone bring "Jewish" food to the Pot Luck event. There is no charge, (except for the \$2.00 room rental fee) for members. The cost for non-members will be \$5.00 plus the \$2.00 room rental fee, for a total of \$7.00.



Please call Carol Sherman, (951)769-7514) or send your reservation form (included in this mailing) & cheque to: Carol Sherman, 505 Sandpiper St. Banning, CA 92220. Be sure to stipulate which food item you will be bringing.

## FUTURE HAVDALAH SPONSORS

Sponsors for Havdalahs are:- Feb. 1st 2014 (pot luck) Jay & Leslie Diamond/Hannah Riceberg -- March 1st, 2014 – (catered) Ilene Kaplan/Carol Sherman/Sarah Rubin -- April – (pot luck) Leon & Nancy Darling/Joan Frost -- May (Catered) Steve & Martha Benoff -- June (pot luck) – Cathy Colt & Jeff Silver – July (catered) – Open – August (pot luck) – Open -- September (catered) – Open -- October (pot luck) – Open – November (catered) - Sarah Rubin -- December (pot luck) – Open. Contact or call me at:- [(951)769-7514] for details on how to become a sponsor for the open dates.

