

# The Messenger

A SHALOM BAYIT PUBLICATION – March 2013 – Adar, Nisan 5773

Web site – Congregationshalombayit.com

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## Birthdays:-

Steve Benoff, March 12 – Ilene Kaplan, March 1 – Sara Rubin, March 28 – Carol Sherman, March 21

*Should we inadvertently omit an important date of yours, please contact the editor of the Messenger. A correction will be published in the next issue of the letter.*

## A message from our Spiritual Leader



With Haman and Hamentachen behind us, we look ahead to Moses, Pharaoh, & Matzah! There are so many themes, both personal and communal, that surface as we celebrate Pesach and our redemption story.

I am excited and truly looking forward to sharing the second Seder with all of you on Tuesday March 26<sup>th</sup>! Pesach is called "z'man heyruteinu," the season of our freedom. Jews were freed from mental as well as physical slavery. Freed from Egypt (Mitzrayim), each year I ask myself, "from what Mitzrayim do I personally need to free myself this year and what is my responsibility to the world and other people who live in their own Mitzrayim?"

This year I turn to you and ask you the same questions. Think about this as we approach our Seder together. Just as we all have our own Mitzrayim, we also have plagues. Can you look at those plagues differently this year? Do you have new ones? Have you been able to rid yourself of old ones?

How about within your community? Have you been an active participant in helping improve upon your community's plagues?

Preparation is the theme of the weeks and days leading up to *Pesach*. Every speck of hametz (yeast or leaven) must be removed from the house in the days before sitting down to the *Seder* table. Traditional Judaism interprets hametz as someone's evil inclinations! What a great time to rid ourselves of our own personal "hametz." This might include arrogance, judgment, lack of empathy, short sightedness, and much more. As slaves we had no choice but to be self-denying. After liberation, we had to freely choose to humble ourselves! Just some food for thought. Now keep in mind, just as food and drink were commanded to be plentiful at Purim, Pesach is no different. While it's not commanded, a wonderful meal and retelling is expected and we will enjoy both together on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

Just as it states in Exodus that God will do 4 things: **Bring** us out of slavery, **deliver** us from bondage, **redeem** us with an outstretched hand and great judgments, & **take** you to be My people as Your God...I too hope to infuse in you, your friends and family enough excitement to BRING you to our Shalom Bayit Seder, DELIVER a fabulous Seder full of fun and participation, REDEEM you with songs and stories, and TAKE you to a place free from your own personal plagues and hametz for the evening.

For those who will be joining us for our wonderful second night Seder, please bring a set of your Shabbat candlesticks from home - I will provide the candles.

Also, if you have a favorite memory from a Seder past, please email it to me at cag123@me.com Looking forward to seeing you all on Saturday, March 2nd for our pot luck Havdalah! While I would love to tell you my topic for that evening, it remains a mystery! *Curious?* You'll have to come and find out!

B'shalom,

Cathy

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## Sisterhood

Ten women of the Sisterhood met for a very lively meeting in January.

Cathy Colt is creating a large wall hanging which she brought to the meeting to show us. It's beautiful! When completed, it will be used as a fundraiser. In its background is a large tree. Leaves will be placed on and around the tree to memorialize or honor our loved ones. We ooh'd and aah'd over its beauty and some placed preliminary orders for their leaves. The cost of each leaf will be \$18 for temple members and \$25 for non-members. It's a work of art and you're going to love it and want to be included when you see it!

As usual, we will meet at 11:30 a.m. in the Sun Lakes atrium on the Tuesday following our Shabbat service. It's always a good time of relaxing, catching up, and enjoying each other's company.



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## From our President

We are sorry to announce that Alicia Benatuil has passed away from natural causes. She would have been 90 years old on February 23. We will miss her. She leaves behind her daughter, Grace Posalski, grandchildren Rebecca and Kevin, and great-grandson, Trevor.



We had no response to my plea for people to serve our congregation in whatever capacity you feel comfortable. Please give it some thought and contact me (951-769-3678) if you are interested in serving on any of our many committees. Hope you are planning to join us for our second night Seder on March 26th. Although the food might be the same, this will be our first Passover with Cathy Gordon and I'm sure we will enjoy her service.

Whatever your plans may be, a Happy and Healthy Passover to you all.

**Havdalah Sponsors:** Please keep in mind that, although we no longer require members to defray the cost of our spiritual leader for Havdalahs, it is still possible (and welcome) for you to sponsor a Havdalah with a donation. If you wish, you will be honoured by being called up during the Havdalah Service to light the candle, etc. A sign-up sheet will be available at the Shabat and at the Havdalah Services. Our membership has decreased and therefore, so has our bank balance.

Hanna

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### HAVDALAH SERVICE

The Havdalah service for March is on **Saturday, the 2nd at 5:30 pm**. It is a “**pot luck**” dinner. Be sure to **call Carol Sherman (951-769-7514)** and let her know what you will be bringing. The cost for the Havdalah is \$2.00 pp for members and \$7.00 pp for non-members, to help defray the room rental charge. The Temple will pick up the shortfall, as usual.

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### RELIGIOUS PRACTICES

**Here is the Shabbat services calendar for March through June as selected by our spiritual leader, Cathy Gordon:-**

March: Passover - April: Yom Hashoah, Israel Independence Day - May: Mothers Day - June: Fathers Day.

#### **THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THE ONEG SPONSORS THROUGH SEPTEMBER, 2013.**

March: Adele Kiefer, Kay Ross, Ilene Kaplan, Carol Sherman, April: Cathy Colt, Paul Goldstein - May: Paul Goldstein, Martha & Steve Benoff – June: Ken Krupsaw, Carol Sherman – July: Marty & Sandy Hoffman, Bill & Sandy Zwick – August Laurie Feigenbaum – September Hannah Riceberg.

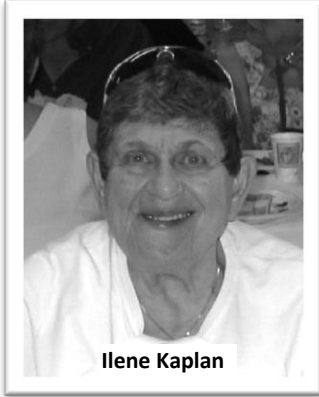
Please call Carol Sherman 769-7514 if you want to honor someone by being one of the sponsors for an Oneg.



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### WAYS AND MEANS

Our “Day at Chili’s” fund raiser will be repeated on Thursday, June 20, 2013. Bring you friends, relatives, neighbours and anyone else you can. It is important to support these fun raisers. Our treasury is sorely in need of funds. We will also have a fund raiser at Wendy’s in the near future. Standby for details.



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, Ilene Kaplan (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.

Another big thank you to the temple members and their friends who participate in the 50-50 drawings at the havdalah services. The temple really appreciates the donations.

Ilene

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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!



**SAVE THIS DATE: Palm Springs Follies** outing will be on **Thursday, May 2, 2013.**

The headliner will be the smash hit singer, **Lesley Gore**. We are going to the matinee performance and need to be in our seats by 1:00 p.m. The price will be \$57.00 pp. Enjoy the street fair following the show if you wish.

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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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## HELPING OUR MILITARY.

Save the used postage stamps from letters you receive. Cut them off of the envelopes, leaving about 1/2" 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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## PASSOVER 2013

The Temple Shalom Bayit Passover Service will be held at the Calimessa Country club, as it was last year.

For the first time we will have Cathy Gordon, our new Spiritual Leader perform the service. Cathy has a special program planned for us. Judging from Cathy's past programs, it will be a wonderful experience.

As usual it will be held on the second night of Passover. The date is: **Tuesday, March 26, 2013, at 6:00 pm.**

The cost is **\$35.00** per person for members, \$15.00 pp for children 13 years old or younger and **\$40.00** for guests. Send your reservation form and cheque to:- **Carol Sherman, 505 Sandpiper Street, Banning, CA 92220.**

See the inclosed flyer and reservation form for more information. Be sure to fill out and send in the reservation form before the **March 20<sup>th</sup> deadline.** Reserve early, especially if you want to make up a table with your friends.

Call Carol Sherman if you have any questions. (951)769-7514.

## SHABAT SERVICE and PURIM, AS TOLD BY CATHY GORDON



The lovely Queen Esther



Mordechai (sort of)



The dastardly



The entire cast, rolled into one (as played by Cathy).

