

The Messenger

A SHALOM BAYIT PUBLICATION – May 2012 – Iyar - Sivan 5772

Web site – Congregationshalombayit.com

Articles for "The Messenger" must be in the hands of the publisher by the 15th of the month to be included in the next issue of the news letter.

How Do You Count?

The period between Passover and Shavuot is known as the *Sefirah* --- which means literally "the counting period." Beginning with the second day of Passover, Jews count forty-nine days and on the fiftieth day the festival of Shavuot is proclaimed. The counting ritual is very exact, and it is the obligation of each person to participate in the counting ceremony. This ritual emphasizes the importance of counting each moment and each person as infinitely precious.

Another counting process that drew much attention recently was the census in the United States. Among the more interesting census stories was that of a census-taker who asked a mother the number of children in the family. The mother paused, then ticked them off: "Well, there is Logan and Aiden and....." The interviewer rudely interrupted her with, "Never mind the names, I just want the number!"

The mother protested indignantly, "They haven't got numbers, Mister----every one of them has a name!"

Just as a name distinguishes a person, so does his personality make him unique. Each individual counts in his own right and is not just a number. This is an important Jewish value, for Judaism believes that man is not a mere cipher in a statistical column, but counts as a soul---precious, irreplaceable, and unique.

It again resolves itself into the impressive statement from Henrietta Szold: "Thou art the man." Upon thee everything depends. Thou canst create a world, thou canst destroy it.

Henrietta Szold was a U.S. Jewish Zionist leader and founder of the Hadassah Woman's Organization and one of eight daughters of a Baltimore rabbi.

B'shalom,
Rabbi HARV



Ways and Means

The response to our "Eat & Meet" at Chili's was wonderful. We received some much needed funds for our treasury. It was so successful that we are going to repeat the event in July and in November. Watch this publication for the dates.

Please continue to save recyclable plastic bottles and aluminum cans. Give them to, or call, Ilene Kaplan when you have some to donate. You may also bring them to the Friday night service or the Havdalah.

The KFC fund raiser has been extended until the end of May. Take a form with you when you go, and give it to the order taker. Our temple will get a percentage of the net profits of our purchases.

Helping our military.

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

Sisterhood

The next sisterhood meeting is on May, 22, 2012. As usual it will be held at the Sun Lakes Atrium in the main club house. It is a wonderful, relaxing way to get together with the women of our temple and spend some time “schmoozing” and enjoying each other’s company.

The sisterhood needs someone to keep track of the scrip for the markets in our area. If you would like to help the temple out, call Ilene Kaplan.

The passover service this year was excellent. As usual, Rabbi Harv kept all of us interested and entertained during the entire affair. There were 55 people in attendance. There were many guests present as well as congregation members. Next year, let’s do it again.

Birthdays

Steve Benoff May 30

Anniversaries

Marty & Sandy Hoffman May 22

Yahrzeits

Beatrice Benatuil Daughter of Alicia Benatuil

Barbara Goldstein Wife of Paul Goldstein

Rose Bossin Mother of Sandy Hoffman

Shirley Kabert Sister of Ilene Kaplan

Bonnie Salak Cousin of Ilene Kaplan

Violet Liebers Sister of Larry Liebers

Treasurer

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News Letter

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Rabbi

Harvey Block – E-mail: Rabbiharv@dc.rr.co

Our temple is always on the lookout for new members. If you know of anyone who would like to join us, please call Cathy Colt and let her know.

I always start a diet on the same day – tomorrow.

Please bring non-perishable food items to the Friday night or the Havdalah services, for the church’s food bank. Leave them in the receptacle in the kitchen or ask a board member where to place them. The church appreciates the donations and will distribute the items to needy families.

The church always includes a notice of our Friday night services in all of their newspaper advertising.

Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a huge beer belly and still think they look sexy.

Behind every successful man is a woman. Behind the fall of every successful man is often woman, but not necessarily the same one.

A clear conscience can often be attributed to a faulty memory.

Our next Havdalah will be held on Cinco de Mayo, May 5th, at the usual location in the Lutheran church on Wilson Avenue in Banning. It will be a catered affair, catered by Skip Thomas. The cost is \$12.00 for members and \$14.00 for guests. This price includes the room rental fee. Call Carol Sherman to reserve your spot.

The June Havdalah will be an ever popular pot luck affair. More details in the next news letter.

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Friday night services, April 20, 2012

