

The Pomegranate



JANUARY 2012

Published monthly by Temple Etz Rimon, a Reform Congregation in Carlsbad, California — Rabbi Karen Sherman
Temple Etz Rimon 2020 Chestnut Avenue, Carlsbad, CA 92008-2715 760-929-9503 info@templeetzrimon.org www.templeetzrimon.org

SHABBAT SHIRA – A SHABBAT OF SONG

You don't have to sing, but you will want to. On January 13, we will celebrate *Shabbat Shira*, a Shabbat of Song. This special Shabbat is so named because the week's *parasha* (Torah portion) includes *Shirat Ha-Yam*, the song the Israelites sang after crossing the Sea of Reeds. The Israelites celebrated their freedom from slavery and praised God with words of gratitude and praise: "*Mi chamocho ba-elim Adonai* - who is like You, Adonai, among the gods that are worshiped?"

Just as they celebrated with song, so do we sing each year as we read this portion. The Song of the Sea opens with words that praise God for saving our people and for protecting us from our enemies: "I will sing to *Adonai*, for *Adonai* has triumphed gloriously; horse and driver have been hurled into the sea." The portion closes with our

declaration of God's eternal power: "*Adonai* will reign forever and ever." We read these words and we sing our own songs of gratitude and praise.

This year at Temple Etz Rimon, our Shabbat Shira will be especially musical. We will welcome Cantor Deborah Bard who will lead our service with Rabbi Sherman and will share with us her sermon in song. Cantor Bard became an invested cantor in 1985, and she currently serves as Cantor Emerita at K.A.M. Isaiah Israel Congregation in Chicago. She also has performed in theatres, churches and museums in New York City and Chicago. We have waited a long time to welcome her to our congregation, and we are thrilled that she is finally coming. On this Shabbat of Song, we know she will inspire us to pray, celebrate, and sing.

INTERFAITH SHELTER NETWORK FEBRUARY 12-26

Once again, we will assist Pilgrim Church when it hosts The Interfaith Shelter Network. The Network is a program of the Ecumenical Council of San Diego that has been providing shelter and assistance to people in need for more than 20 years.

The dates of the Shelter are Sunday, February 12, through Sunday morning, February 26. Set-up is Saturday, February 11. Break-down is Sunday, February 26.

Some of the services provided are shelter, a warm dinner, breakfast, and a sack lunch.

Mary MacGillis, from Pilgrim Church, will be at services the evening of Friday, January 13, to discuss the Shelter and

provide an opportunity for Etz Rimon members to select shifts. We particularly need volunteers to help with set-up on Saturday morning, February 11.

Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- ❖ setting-up Pilgrim Hall
- ❖ nightly dinners
- ❖ nightly overnight hosts (two adults)
- ❖ Saturday and Sunday breakfasts
- ❖ laundry
- ❖ taking down the shelter and clean-up

If you have questions about the program or would like to volunteer, please contact **Mary MacGillis** of Pilgrim Church or **Marilyn Clement**.

SPOTLIGHT ON SAM



Sam will be called to the Torah as a *Bar Mitzvah* on Saturday, January 21, and will join the Jewish community as a young man. He looks forward to being called to the Torah for his first time.

Sam is a 7th grader at Calavera Hills Middle School where he enjoys playing his saxophone in the band and is a member of the Lego Robotics Team. He also enjoys playing piano, playing soccer, running, and tennis.

For his mitzvah project, Sam is collecting toiletries for the Veterans Village of San Diego winter shelter. Sam has a strong connection with military members and values their service.

His mom, dad, brother, and sister are very excited about this day and hope you can come and share this special occasion.

THE POMEGRANATE

FROM OUR RABBI

By Rabbi Karen Sherman

THE BEAUTY AND POWER OF PSALMS

When I was 16 years old, I got my first job working at a stationery store owned by my aunt. When things got dull, as they often did in the mall at 8:00 at night, I would read the greeting cards just for entertainment. Perusing the cards written for every occasion from sympathy to congratulations, I wondered what it would be like to work for a company like Hallmark. I imagined dozens of writers sitting in a quiet room somewhere, composing beautiful poetry to express feelings that were not necessarily their own. Those writers could express the love of a husband for his wife on their first wedding anniversary, the concern of a woman for her friend in the hospital, or the pride of a man at the birth of his grandson.

Words like these have the power to both elevate one's spirit and console one's heart and no words can do this better than the words in the Book of Psalms. While Hallmark greeting cards may be good at expressing emotions we cannot easily put into words ourselves, the words of our psalms express our deepest longings to be heard. David L. Lieber (of blessed memory) was Professor of Bible and President Emeritus of American Jewish University when he wrote: "The Book of Psalms, arguably the most beautiful collection of religious prayer poetry ever compiled, is second only to the Torah in its impact on the Jewish heart, mind and spirit." These prayers/poems give voice to our deepest feelings of joy and sorrow, ecstasy and despair, hope and fear, anxiety, rage, grief and pain. The words, as the emotions, are timeless and therefore relevant even today.

The authorship of the Psalms is not known for certain. Modern scholars believe priests or Levites who worked in the Temple composed the psalms, probably over many centuries. However, according to Jewish tradition, King David the "sweet singer of Israel" deserves credit for these beautiful lyrics. Some even say that Adam was the first composer, followed by Abraham and even Moses.

Regardless of authorship, most Jews agree that the words themselves are sacred and represent our collective human history and experience. The Psalms connect us to all people who have ever felt these emotions and were healed by these same words. As long as there is life and death, peace and violence, illness and struggle, love and loss and longing, then there will be a need to express ourselves. The words of the psalms give us a way to do that, and with the psalms we will always be able to find the right words at the right times. They can ease our loneliness and help us to recognize that others feel the same way we do.

Sometimes, we feel a desperate need to be heard, and Psalm 130 eloquently expresses that need:

Out of the depths I call to You *Adonai*—O hear my voice.
Let Your ears truly hear the sound of my plea.

During difficult times, we might struggle for courage, and Psalm 27 expresses that struggle:

Adonai is my light and my help, who should I fear?
Adonai is my source of strength, who can frighten me?

Often, we are not in need of anything but stand breathless gazing at a snow-covered mountain, a beautiful sunset, or the birth of a child. In these moments, we are at a loss for words to express our sense of wonder. Psalm 104 helps give voice to that emotion:

I am in awe and amazement at God's creations—
How great are Your works, *Adonai*, You made everything
with such wisdom!

When the emotions are there but we can't find the words to express ourselves, the psalms give us a language. They offer us comfort when we are grieving, they give us strength to move forward, and they provide solace when we feel alone. They give us yet another path toward intimacy with God and our tradition.

While we can turn to the Book of Psalms any time we need the comfort they provide, our tradition offers opportunities to bring them into our days, our weeks, and our Jewish calendar year. We can find a different psalm for each day of the week in our daily *siddur* (prayerbook). For the most sacred day of the week, our *siddur* contains a whole series of psalms; there are some to welcome Shabbat on Friday nights, and others to introduce the prayer service on Saturday morning. Holidays like Hanukkah and the three pilgrimage festivals (Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot) have their own special psalms of victory and celebration, and we even sing some of them on Rosh Chodesh, the first day of each new month. During Elul, the month preceding the High Holy Days, special psalms of faith help prepare us for this period of soul searching.

Probably the most well known psalm is included in a funeral service and again during a *shiva minyan*, the service that takes place at home following a funeral. The words of Psalm 23 are familiar to many, offering words of comfort and consolation during these most difficult of times:

Eternal One, You are my shepherd, I shall not want. You make me lie down in green pastures, You lead me beside still waters. You restore my soul, You guide me in the paths of righteousness for Your name's sake. Even when I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; with rod and staff You comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; my cup is overflowing. Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in Your house forever.

Regardless of the day of the week, the holiday, or the occasion, we don't simply read the words of the Psalms—we pray them, we sing them, we shout them, we cry them out! We offer them in a way that mirrors the true emotion the words are trying to express. We offer them not just from our minds to our lips, but from our hearts and souls straight to God.

On January 11 at 7:00 pm, we will join together to learning more about the Psalms and delve deeper into their meaning and power.

THE POMEGRANATE

GETTING INVOLVED AT TEMPLE ETZ RIMON

MONTHLY *MITZVAH* PROJECT:

The Mitzvah/Terumah committee is still developing a list of monthly projects for the coming year. If you would like to join the committee, are willing to take responsibility for one month's project, or even just want to offer ideas or help with one project, contact mitzvah@templeetZRimon.org or get in touch with Barbara Browne.

THE COATS JUST KEPT ON COMING!

Thank you again to all who brought coats for our recent Mitzvah project. Barbara Browne continued to receive donations well into December. In the end we collected more than 120 coats!

JANUARY MITZVAH PROJECT

This month we are asking that congregants take advantage of the many January White Sales to help us by contributing white towels and wash cloths for local shelters. Our donations will enable the shelters to provide clean, fresh bath linens to the temporary shelter residents and also allow those residents to take the towels with them when they leave the shelter. Contact Barbara Browne for more information.

BAR MITZVAH PROJECT

Sam Clark is also continuing to collect items for his Mitzvah Project in preparation for becoming a Bar Mitzvah. He has asked for donations of toiletries for the shelter provided each winter by Veterans Village of San Diego.

Donated items for men and women that will be gratefully accepted (travel or full size) include:

- shampoo
- conditioner
- body wash
- combs and brushes
- hair gel
- toothbrushes
- toothpaste
- dental floss
- deodorant
- lip balm
- disposable razors
- shaving cream

Donations can be dropped off at any service or Camp Pomegranate session in January. If you prefer to donate cash, Sam will be glad to purchase items on your behalf.

SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood held a Hanukkah breakfast meeting on Sunday, December 4th, at Sal and Ceci's Pantry & Pie Shoppe. We enjoyed latkes made especially for us by the restaurant. Thank you to Estelle Altork and Jeanne Greene for arranging the breakfast. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, January 8th at 10:30 am at the home of Estelle Altork. Please respond to Estelle at ealtork@cox.net to be sure your name's on the gate list.



SISTERHOOD 'S MAJOR FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR

FASCINATING RHYTHM—A CONCERT OF YOUR FAVORITE BROADWAY TUNES AND MORE FEATURING THE SHOWCASE SINGERS. The group has been delighting Orange County audiences for nearly 40 years with entertaining music of Broadway show tunes and a medley of other songs. The concert will be held on Saturday evening March 24th at Pilgrim Church at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$24.00 per person. Refreshments will be available at intermission at no additional charge. For reservations see the enclosed form.

TRIBUTE CARDS

Just a reminder that Sisterhood is selling Tribute cards for \$5.00 apiece. We have Bat or Bar Mitzvah, birthday, anniversary, get well, and sympathy cards. Please make a check out to Temple Etz Rimon Sisterhood and send it to Judy Salkind.

Sisterhood wishes everyone a happy, healthy New Year.

TU B'SHEVAT SEDER, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

The mystical (and delicious!) tradition of the *Tu B'Shevat Seder* reminds us not only of Judaism's connection to nature, but also of our connection with the land of Israel. We will be celebrating the New Year of the Trees together this year with our annual *Tu B'Shevat Seder* and pot luck on Friday, February 10, at 6 pm in Pilgrim Hall.

Call or email the Temple office by Friday, February 3, to make your reservation so that we can plan for attendance. No charge for Etz Rimon members; \$5 non-members.

If your name begins with:	A-H	J-M	N-Z
Please bring:	Main Dish	Drinks	Side or Salad

THE POMEGRANATE

GETTING INVOLVED AT TEMPLE ETZ RIMON

CLERGY

RABBI KAREN SHERMAN

rabbisherman@templeetzrimon.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: KAREN LINICK

president@templeetzrimon.org

VICE PRESIDENT: LORI HELLMAN

vicepresident@templeetzrimon.org

TREASURER: JUDY SALKIND

treasurer@templeetzrimon.org

RECORDING SECRETARY: BARB HENKEL

secretary@templeetzrimon.org

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: RUBY FARBER

secretary@templeetzrimon.org

PUBLICITY CHAIR: DAVID GORDON

publicity@templeetzrimon.org

MITZVAH/TERUMAH CHAIR: BARBARA BROWNE

mitzvah@templeetzrimon.org

EDUCATION CHAIR: AVI ROSSENFELD

education@templeetzrimon.org

RITUAL & RELIGIOUS PRACTICES CHAIR: OPEN

religiouspractices@templeetzrimon.org

FACILITIES CHAIR: JON NERENBERG

facilities@templeetzrimon.org

SPECIAL EVENTS CHAIR: JULIE HARELSON

events@templeetzrimon.org

SISTERHOOD REPRESENTATIVE: JUDY SALKIND

sisterhood@templeetzrimon.org

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: JAN PORUSH

pastpresident@templeetzrimon.org

MEMBER AT LARGE: MURRAY FLECK

zelmur@sbcglobal.net

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: OPEN

PROGRAMMING CHAIR: OPEN

STAFF

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: LIZZ GOLDMAN

info@templeetzrimon.org, 760-929-9503

THE POMEGRANATE

EDITOR: DIANE PRICE-TUMA

ThePom@templeetzrimon.org

LIFELONG LEARNING



The Education Committee met in August and set a schedule of Lifelong Learning opportunities for the coming year. They listened to your comments and this year will offer morning, afternoon, evening, and weekend classes. The committee always seeks study topics. If you have something you would like to teach or something you would like to learn, contact education@templeetzrimon.org.

JANUARY 2012

The Beauty of Psalms in Biblical Literature, January 11, 7 pm, at the home of Ruth Schoen. Please register with Lizz at 760-929-9503 or info@templeetzrimon.org so she can be sure your name is on the gate list. No charge for Etz Rimon members; \$10 for non-members.

UPCOMING CLASSES

Watch here for more information about scheduled classes.

February 8, March 14, April 11, 11:30 am—

“Lunch and Learn,” Shabbat Liturgy and Leading a Shabbat Service, 3-course series

COMMUNITY CORNER

ANAT HOFFMAN

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND CIVIL RIGHTS FOR ALL ISRAELIS

Anat Hoffman, executive director of Israel Religious Action Center, the legal and advocacy arm of the Reform Movement in Israel, and Chairwoman of Women of the Wall, is coming to California. Ms. Hoffman is a major leader for social justice in Israel. As part of Congregation Beth El's Scholar-in-Residence program, she will be discussing the threat to women's rights in Israel at a time when the religious climate there has taken a turn toward the extreme. She will be in San Diego one night only, so mark your calendar now so you don't miss what will surely be an informative and timely discussion!



Thursday, February 2, 2012 at 6:30 pm

Congregation Beth El

8660 Gilman Drive

La Jolla, CA 92037

Register for this free event at cbe.org

THE POMEGRANATE

GIVING

YES, I WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE! HERE'S MY DONATION...

Last Name (Please Print)

First Name (Please Print)

Address (Please Print)

(Phone)

Date: _____ Amount of Donation: _____

PLEASE DIRECT MY DONATION TO THE FUND CHECKED BELOW:

- General Fund High Holiday Prayer Book Fund Capital Improvements
 Camp Pomegranate Camp Pomegranate Scholarship Fund Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
 Mitzvah/Terumah project (please indicate which project) _____

Donation made by: _____

In Memory of: _____

Relationship: _____

In honor of: _____

On the occasion of: _____

Speedy Recovery to: _____

Send Acknowledgement to: _____

PLEASE CUT OUT THIS FORM AND MAIL IT TO THE TEMPLE WITH YOUR CHECK.

Temple Etz Rimon 2020 Chestnut Avenue, Carlsbad, CA 92008-2715

Temple Etz Rimon is a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit corporation.

YOUR GENEROSITY IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

DO YOU NEED A RIDE?

We'd hate for anyone to miss services just because they can't get there. If you don't drive at night or have other transportation issues and would like to attend services, call the Temple at 760-929-9503. We'll do our best to put you in touch with someone who can offer you a ride.



THE POMEGRANATE

CAMP POMEGRANATE

Camp Pomegranate celebrated Hanukkah together on December 18. After the initial brief service, we all joined with Alan Alpert in singing Hanukkah songs while the parents studied with Rabbi Sherman. After the adult study session ended, parents joined their children and all of us—students, parents, teachers and madrichim—engaged in activities, including making crafts, playing games, and reading stories. We ended by saying blessings and lighting the Temple's *chanukiah* and then tasting sufganiyot and yummy latkes, made with love by a crew of parents led by President Karen Linick. A huge thank you to all the parents who brought and cooked food, came early to set up, those who helped run our activity stations, those who stayed late to help clean up, and those who came to celebrate with us. What a wonderful way to begin our holiday celebration!



PERTY

On Sunday, December 11 PERTY (Pomegranate Etz Rimon Temple Youth) had its second annual Hanukkah Party at the Cohn's house. We played many games, made edible dreidels, and ate way too many latkes! We also had our first gift exchange, which went very well. We would like to thank Sarah Cohn and her family for hosting the party at their house, and everyone who brought food and activities to the party, especially Karen Linick for the delicious latkes! We also would like to thank Emma Cohen, our Youth Advisor, for helping us plan and organize the party. We hope everybody had a wonderful Hanukkah!



THE POMEGRANATE

TEMPLE TALK CARING COMMITTEE



The Caring Committee helps Temple members on joyous and sad occasions. If you have information about your family or another member of the congregation—birth, illness, death, or other life-changing situations—send email to caring@templeetZRimon.org.

- ❖ Irene Caplan is finally feeling much better. It was great to see her at services after her long absence.
- ❖ Murray Fleck is home and rehabbing his brand new hip. He'd love to hear from us, especially on the weekends.
- ❖ We send condolences to Susan Pack on the loss of her sister, Cindy Levy. Our thoughts and prayers are with Susan in her time of sorrow.

Yahrzeits

Zichronam Livracha

May their memories be a blessing.



JANUARY 6

Sherman Goldberg father of Dan Goldberg

JANUARY 13

Henry Lena Ratzeff mother of Marilyn Gordon

Jan Vinikow first wife of Larry Vinikow

Ernest Linick grandfather of Karen Linick

Rochelle Fishman mother of Shelly Richman

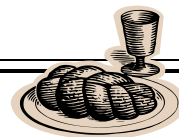
JANUARY 21

Ira Pearlman father of Richard Pearlman

Esther Linick Horwich grandmother of Karen Linick

JANUARY 27

Harold Magid father of Sharon Kroopkin



ONEG SHABBAT COMMITTEE

We always need *Oneg Shabbat* and *Kiddush* sponsors!

Host by yourself or share the work—and the joy—with a friend! To arrange a date please contact Roberta Cohen at Onegs@TempleEtZRimon.org. If you are unable to be at a service but still wish to be a sponsor you may donate \$75 to cover costs.

Thanks to the following members who have sponsored a recent *Oneg Shabbat* or *Kiddush*, or will be sponsoring one soon. which are enjoyed by all.

- ❖ Estelle Altork, in celebration of Jeanne Greene's birthday
- ❖ Jeanne Green, in celebration of her birthday!
- ❖ The Woodworth & Mullaney/Schwartz families in celebration of the consecration of our newest Camp Pomegranate campers Jennifer Woodworth, in honor of the yahrzeit of her grandfather, Geoffrey Schwartz

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The Etz Rimon family welcomes new members Sharon & Michael Kroopkin. We all look forward to getting to know you better.

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE CONTRIBUTIONS

The Temple thanks our members, their relatives and friends, and our community for donations recently received.

GENERAL FUND

Provides funds for day-to-day expenses for the ongoing operation of the Temple.

- ❖ Nathan Forrest in memory of his brother-in-law, Albert Plotkin
- ❖ Lori Hellman in memory of her brother, Jackie Hellman and her grandmother, Dorothea Spitz
- ❖ Andrea Rice in honor of her wedding being held in Israel
- ❖ Ruby Farber in memory of her father, Allan Feldman

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Provides funds for use at the discretion of the Rabbi for rabbinic, pastoral, community, and charitable purposes.

- ❖ Jeanne Greene in memory of her father, Morton Retting

THE POMEGRANATE

Temple Etz Rimon
2020 Chestnut Avenue
Carlsbad, CA 92008-2715

Return Services Requested



NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CARLSBAD, CA
PERMIT NO. 259

SHABBAT SERVICE SCHEDULE

Please note that beginning this month **all Friday evening services will be at 7:00 pm.**

Friday, January 6, 7:00 pm, discussion/text study

Friday, January 13, 7:00 pm, *Shabbat Shira*, Cantor Bard will offer a sermon in song

Saturday, January 21, 10:00 am, Sam Clark *Bar Mitzvah*

Friday, January 27, 7:00 pm, *Shabbat Service*, with Pre-Confirmation Class participation

January - February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6 7 pm <i>Shabbat Service</i> , discussion/text study	7
8 10:30 am Sisterhood 1:30-4 pm Camp Pomegranate 4:15-6 pm Pre-Confirmation	9	10	11 7 pm—The Beauty of Psalms in Biblical Literature	12	13 7 pm <i>Shabbat Service</i> , traditional sermon	14
15 1:30-4 pm Camp Pomegranate	16	17	18	19	20	21 10 am Sam Clark <i>Bar Mitzvah</i>
22 1:30-4 pm Camp Pomegranate	23	24	25 6:30 pm Board Meeting	26	27 7 pm <i>Shabbat Service</i>	28
29 1:30-4 pm Camp Pomegranate 4:15-6 pm Pre-Confirmation	30	31	FEB 1	2	3 7 pm <i>Shabbat Service</i> , discussion/text study Grade 4-6 Shabbaton	4 Grade 4-6 Shabbaton
5 1:30-4 pm Camp Pomegranate—Tu B'Shevat Celebration Grade 4-6 Shabbaton	6	7	8 11:30 am— "Lunch and Learn," Shabbat Liturgy and Leading a Shabbat Service	9	10 6 pm <i>Potluck & Tu B'Shevat Seder</i>	11 Shelter Set-up