



UNIVERSITY  
SYNAGOGUE  
Connect. Engage. Discover.

# The Torch

August 17, 2016 • 13 Av 5776



## This Week

### Friday, 8/19

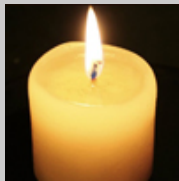
7:30 pm  
Shabbat Under the Stars

### Saturday, 8/20

9 am  
Hevrah Torah with Rabbi Davids

5 pm  
Bat Mitzvah of Chloe Kaufman

## Zichronam Livrachah



**Wayne Grossman**, cousin of Jodi (David) Yeskel

## Invite Your Friends to Join our Synagogue Community!

New Members are always welcome to become part of our Temple Family. If you know of a family or individual who might wish to learn about our Synagogue, visit us for services, or meet with our Executive Director, please contact Lisabeth Lobenthal at [Llobenthal@unisyn.org](mailto:Llobenthal@unisyn.org) or (310) 472-1255 ext. 108; or Karlene Weg at [KarleneWeg@yahoo.com](mailto:KarleneWeg@yahoo.com).

**COOK WITH US & MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLES' LIVES "LIFE SKILLS COOKING WORKSHOPS"**

## Finding the Balance

**Jessica Downey**  
Director of Jewish Education

As Cantor Shapiro discussed in the [previous Torch issue](#), we just spent the last two weeks at the URJ Camp Newman in Santa Rosa living, laughing and learning with our kids. It's awesome to be outside running around and inserting what I call TJMs or "Teachable Jewish Moments" into the hustle and bustle of the camp day. Regardless of what those moments look like, we know the plan is to instill a love of Judaism in our kids.



I've recently been thinking a lot about two important Jewish concepts: keva and kavannah. For my purposes today, keva refers to a structure, a process, or a set of fixed items, or a framework. Kavannah refers to the intention behind these processes, a way to connect the dots, and the meaning we take from them.

During my school year, it is so easy to get bogged down with the keva. I have forms to process, dates to set, emails, reminders to send, programs to organize, parents to call, rosters to print, etc. It's what one of our students aptly refers to as "stuff and things." It's action items on a list, and then check marks when those action items are completed. These items are what helps our school run smoothly, keeps our students safe and healthy when they are in the building, and ensures that we are prepared for all the events and programs happening in the school community. We need the keva to ensure a successful school year.

What camp does so well is infuse the kavannah with the keva. The Kavannah reminds us why we are doing something and how that particular item or process affects us. We're not just doing Israeli dance on Friday nights because it's on the schedule, rather we dance on Friday nights as a way to unite our community and celebrate Shabbat as a big family. We sing Modeh Ani in the morning not just because the words are important, but because it sets the tone for the day. We're reminded that God has returned our souls to our bodies to experience all the fantastic camp activities.

One of the reasons camp does this so well is that if the activity or process doesn't go precisely as planned, we have an unofficial rule to smile, take a deep breath and know that it will all be alright in the grand scheme of the summer. If a few supplies don't make it to the designated program spot, a program ends a little early, or a hike runs long, we know that this is not going to break a child's experience. We know that sometimes, even if the keva isn't perfect, the kavannah can still be present, and it's about finding the balance. It is my hope that this school year, we're able to find the balance between these two concepts to ensure our students have a fun and fulfilling time at University Synagogue.

**WITH OPCC & LAMP COMMUNITY**



**JOIN US FOR LIFE SKILLS COOKING WORKSHOPS WITH OPCC & LAMP COMMUNITY**

You don't have to be a master chef or even a good cook -- just someone looking for a great way to help our fellow community residents at OPCC. Our "Life Skills Cooking Workshops" have been incredibly fun and rewarding for everyone who has participated including families and havurahs. Our **AUGUST 24th, date is now booked**. We are now booking for: **SEPTEMBER 7TH, SEPTEMBER 28TH, and OCTOBER 19TH**. The Cooking Workshop meets from **5:30pm to 7:30pm**, at OPCC's Cloverfield Services Center in Santa Monica. Our theme is "5 Ingredients for \$5 dollars or Less" and the meals have been delicious. Our last workshop menu was created by the Goldsobel Family -- Toni, Steve, Hannah and Lucas, and included: salad with honey & mustard dressing, pasta with a homemade turkey and vegetable sauce, and fresh melon for dessert.

Our Cooking Workshops have become the residents favorite life skills class at OPCC. We are preparing, cooking and eating together. We are building community, and making a difference in peoples' lives. Please email Co-Chairs **Susan Corwin** [susan@sjclaw.com](mailto:susan@sjclaw.com) or **Ellen Dorros** [ellendoros@gmail.com](mailto:ellendoros@gmail.com), to sign up or for further information.

OPCC & Lamp Community are the largest providers of housing and social services on the Westside of Los Angeles County. Their Safe Haven and Daybreak Shelter provide dignity and support for homeless women, men and veterans, as well as critical services including: transitional and emergency housing, medical and mental health care, daily meals, showers, clothing, laundry, case management, obtaining permanent housing and life skills programs.



**Community Calendar**

**UNIVERSITY SYNAGOGUE EVENTS**

*Friday, August 26th, 5:30 pm*  
**Annual Shabbat BBQ & Open House**  
 Join us for our Annual Shabbat BBQ and Open House brought to you by our clergy and synagogue past-presidents! The event will be held at 5:30pm in Ruby Garden. We will be led in a special outdoor Shabbat



**This year's annual bbq bash is bigger and better than ever. Reservations will close Monday, August 22nd. Due to the nature of this event, if you can bring a picnic blanket for Ruby Garden, please do.**

**JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL**



**FRIDAY AUGUST 26TH**

**5:30 PM — SHABBAT SERVICE**  
**6:30 PM — BBQ & OPEN HOUSE**

Join us for our Annual Shabbat BBQ & Open House. We will be led in a special outdoor Shabbat service followed by a delicious bbq.

◀ Koshers burgers & dogs • Turkey chilli • Vegan options and more! ▶

Meet new members, reconnect with old friends, join our UNITY leaders, and get ready for the new year with our community. If you would like to volunteer and help us prepare for this fun evening, please email US at [info@unisyn.org](mailto:info@unisyn.org)

➔➔➔ Please **RSVP** by Monday, August 22!



Brought to you by University Synagogue and our very own fantastic past-presidents!

**Unforgettable Afternoon of Music: Violin & Cello**

service followed by a delicious dinner. Come meet new members, reconnect with old friends, join our UNITY leaders, and get ready for the new year with our community. [click here to RSVP.](#)

*Sunday, August 28, 2:00 - 5:00 pm*

### **An Unforgettable Afternoon of Music**

Join Sisterhood for an afternoon of delightful music by Dennis and Max. This event includes a private concert, light bites. Limited space. Open to all. Donation: \$75 per person. [Please click here to RSVP.](#)

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

*Sunday, August 21, 3:00 pm*

### **The Music Guild presents: Summerfest 16**

Telegraph String Quartet will perform music by Haydn, Britten, and Beethoven. Discount tickets (30%) available to members of University Synagogue. Call (310) 558-3500 or email [concerts@themusicguild.org](mailto:concerts@themusicguild.org).

*Wednesday, August 24, 6:00 pm*

### **Enemy in the Garden: Anti-Semitism in America, Fact or Fiction?**

Join author Harriet Pike in conversation with the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Rick Eaton for *Enemy in the Garden: Anti-Semitism in America, Fact or Fiction?* on August 24 in Main Library's MLK, Jr. Auditorium at 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Pike explores the theme of anti-Semitism through her book *Enemy in the Garden*, a novel of intrigue and suspense, which uncovers the anti-Semitic strain that lies just below the surface of American life in the suburbs. This program is free and all are welcome. Space is limited and on a first-arrival basis.

Location: Santa Monica Public Library (601 Santa Monica Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90401)

*Monday, September 19, 6:30 pm*

### **Freedom of Speech on College Campuses**

The Jewish Studies Program at Loyola Marymount University presents the Annual Fischmann Family Distinguished Lecture: *Freedom of Speech on College Campuses* featuring Erwin Chemerinsky. Moderated by Evan Gerstmann, Professor of Political Science, Loyola Marymount University. Erwin Chemerinsky is the founding Dean and Distinguished Professor of Law, and Raymond Pryke Professor of First Amendment Law, at the University of California, Irvine School of Law, with a joint appointment in Political Science. [Click here to register.](#)

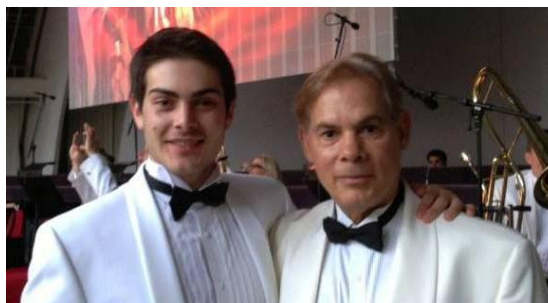
Location: Loyola Marymount University, Roski Dining Hall

To see more of our events, go to our [calendar](#) on our website!

## **Ten Minutes of Torah**

**ReformJudaism.org**  
Jewish Life in Your Life

## **Reserve your seat now - just a few left!**



You are invited to

### **AN UNFORGETTABLE AFTERNOON OF MUSIC**

We are delighted that Dennis and Max have offered to enchant us with another cello and violin concert! Their generosity will enable Sisterhood to continue its good works in the community with the funds raised from the concert.

**Sunday, August 28, 2016  
2:00 - 5:00 pm**

Please join us for the Private Concert, Light Bites, and Wine  
At the home of Suzanne Sheridan  
1411 San Remo Drive, Pacific Palisades

Donation: \$75 per person

[To make your donation and reserve your seat, please click here.](#)

Limited space. Reservations required. Open to all. Invite your friends & family to this unique event!

Questions? Contact Marilyn Weitz at [cmweitz@icloud.com](mailto:cmweitz@icloud.com)

## **Help New Members Feel At Home**

Remember when you first joined University Synagogue and you had a lot of questions, were unsure about where to park, how to find the information you were looking for or just felt nervous about coming to events and services alone?

We are hoping you'll share your knowledge and become a mentor so all new members have someone to call, email, or text when these questions or fears arise.

It's easy and fun to be a mentor. Just a welcome, an invitation to services, an email letting them know you're there to help is all it takes.

- *A Mentor Family is one that embodies the mitzvah of hachnasat orchim-hospitality, welcoming the guest-the very characteristic our ancestors, Sarah and Abraham are praised for. The mentor is a welcoming agent of our synagogue community.*

Would you consider being a mentor to a new member and help us keep University Synagogue the warm, loving place it has always been?

If yes, please email Emilie Leder, Engagement Coordinator at [ELeder@unisyn.org](mailto:ELeder@unisyn.org) or call at 310-472-1255. Or contact our Vice President of Membership and Outreach, Karlene Weg at [KarleneWeg@yahoo.com](mailto:KarleneWeg@yahoo.com).

Thank you for making a difference!

**NOW THROUGH THURSDAY, AUGUST 18**



Sign up to receive a one-page email each day on a topic of Jewish interest. It only takes 10 minutes a day to get started on a lifelong journey. Spend 10 minute a day - and before you know it you'll have completed 100 hours of Torah study.

**Ten Minutes of Torah - Monday**  
Reform Voices of Torah (modern Torah commentaries)

**Ten Minutes of Torah - Tuesday**  
Celebrating Jewish Arts and Culture

**Ten Minutes of Torah - Wednesday**  
Israel Connections

**Ten Minutes of Torah - Thursday**  
Reform Life, Jewish Life

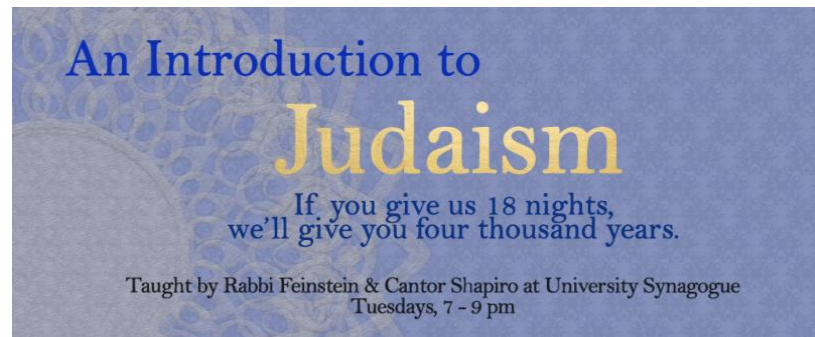
Weekly Update  
Ten Minutes of Torah and weekly news updates delivered on **Fridays**

[Click here to choose which days you would like to receive Ten Minutes of Torah.](#)



Do you love books? Rabbi Morley Feinstein and Rabbi Allen Freehling, Rabbi Emeritus, have some wonderful books that they are now offering to our community. We will make these books available for your selection until tomorrow. We will not limit the number of books you may take, but we ask that you donate to the synagogue \$36 total (double chai) by check or cash in exchange for whatever you choose. Please bring your own bags or boxes for carting away your treasures that you may find. Please understand that these books include a variety of topics, hardcover and paperbacks as well as reference books pertaining to Judaism. Open between **9:30 am and 4:30 pm**

### Introduction to Judaism Classes Begin October 18!



Registration has opened. [Click here to enroll.](#)

### Tour de Summer Camps



Help our kids go to camp! The city wide Tour de Summer Camps will be held on **Sunday, October 30**. University Synagogue has created a team led by Ralph Hattenbach ([ralphhattenbach@gmail.com](mailto:ralphhattenbach@gmail.com); (310) 486-3446).

For anyone who is interested, please call Ralph or go on the [website](#) to register for the ride and join University Synagogue's team!

The cost to register is \$45 and you can sign up for the 18, 36, 62 or 100 mile ride.

We would love to see 10+ people join our University Synagogue team and will have a pre-ride meeting or ride to review plans for that day.

[Register now](#) and join Team University Synagogue!

**Photos of the Week:  
Life Skills Cooking Workshop**

The OPCC life skills cooking workshop menu was created by the wonderful Goldsobel Family -- Toni, Steve, Hannah and Lucas, and included: salad with honey & mustard dressing, pasta with a homemade turkey and vegetable sauce, and fresh melon for dessert.



For more information and updates on what's happening at University Synagogue,  
"like" us on [Facebook](#)!



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