

THE TORCH

August 30, 2017 | 8 Elul 5777

This Week

Friday, 9/1
6:30 pm
Family Shabbat

Saturday, 9/2
9:00 am
Hevrah Torah

Hurricane Harvey

We are all struck by the floods in Houston and many of us are feeling helpless.

Our Reform Jewish Camp near Waco, Texas, Greene Family Camp, has opened its doors for families needing shelter as well as offering the provisions for those in need. Here's how to help people of any and all religions who will take refuge there. They have food and supplies for now. They are requesting **gift cards** to Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, or H-E-B to distribute to displaced families who need basic necessities and help rebuilding their lives.

You can send the gift cards (of any amount) to:
URJ Greene Family Camp (1192 Smith Ln Bruceville, TX 76630)
You can also email online gift cards to gfc@urj.org

There will be a huge need for donations. The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston has created a website to begin collecting funds that will be so urgently needed. http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0012yIzX6v60sDhy5O9jH6XlzdqeQLbAWcvHDU1gx0rwFO6YedjXxhR4W8ifarF3s9jS33VMWMKTDY0_h31BJWL-qm2WjRWLIXFaV3F-7ZxZgJGl3PqICcL30nQPkWFF6rOW8mIA4dX_ut0EK-RbsIFQ==&c=c4f-VUOHUTQPAhBB1YHwtVo-rtMDFiP6ZjfAqpAN8VUjNIXeHnOJhw==&ch=ggeUayrvuCsfc3A8JmAAo_BjukcaMDwQcS Emm_JGeZITatbZPalTzw==



New Jewish Music at Our Holy Days

Cantor Kerith Spencer-Shapiro

University Synagogue is proud to announce the premiere of a new composition commissioned specifically for this year's High Holy Days. The piece will be premiered during our Kol Nidre Service and will feature our choir and our chamber ensemble. I am delighted to continue to commission works for the synagogue, following in the footsteps of our Cantor Emeritus, Jay Frailich, who was a trailblazer in this area. The text chosen, *Uv'chein Tein Kavod** comes from our liturgy.

Our featured composer, Stephen Cohn, is internationally recognized for his music for the concert stage, feature films and television. Here's what Stephen had to say about creating this composition:



After meeting with Cantor Shapiro to discuss music for Uv'chein, she invited me to a Shabbat Zimrah Service. This is where my inspiration for setting the prayer began. I could feel the music at Zimrah opening my heart and making it inviting for me to embrace the message of humanity and love. The words for Uv'chein are asking for guidance to move us out of the darkness of hate, ignorance and arrogance and beckoning us to become one with the spirit of

this enlightenment. My intention with the music is to open hearts and minds to this wonderful possibility, as I feel that nothing is more relevant to healing the divisions in our current culture. And so, it is with loving gratitude for this opportunity to contribute to this spirit that I offer musical support for Uv'chein.

Stephen Cohn's works have been performed and recorded by orchestras and chamber music ensembles in the United States and Europe including: Red Cedar Chamber Music, Arditti Quartet, Kansas City Symphony, Prague Philharmonic, Chroma String Quartet, Eclipse Quartet, Palomar, and Midnight Winds. Commissioned works have been performed in Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, Fort Worth, Tempe, Rome, Brussels, Ceret, Passau, Berlin, Orihuela, China and Prague. His works have been favorably reviewed in the LA Times and Huffington Post. Recordings are on Warner Bros., Motown, A&M Records, Columbia Records and Albany Records. He has received an Emmy Award for "Outstanding Achievement in Music", and his scores have been part of films which include: Lily Tomlin, Joanne Woodward, Kathleen Quinlan, Colleen Dewhurst, William Shatner and Wallace Shawn. He will be Composer in Residence for Red Cedar Chamber Music 2018, 19. Stephen will join us at University Synagogue for the High Holy Days.

May our expressions of our faith in music and prayer bring us ever closer to achieving the world that is a "vision bright with joy".

**Uv'chein And so in Your holiness, give Your people the gift of honor. Bless with praise those who praise You. Bless with hope those who seek You. Give Your believers a basis for faith – true happiness for the Land of Israel, true joy in Jerusalem. May the sparks of David, Your servant, soon grow bright enough for us to see a beam of light in the darkness, a promise of perfection. And so, in Your holiness, give the righteous the gift of a vision bright with joy – a world where evil has no voice and the rule of malevolence fades like wisps of smoke. Good people everywhere will celebrate the stunning sight of arrogance gone from the earth. (Mishkan HaNefesh, p. 55-56)*

HIGH HOLY DAYS COUNTDOWN: SAVE THESE KEY DAYS!



While we're enjoying summer, it's hard to believe that the High Holy Days are just around the corner! Now is the time to:

- Renew your Membership and get your HHD tickets
- Register for Religious School
- Register for ECLC

HIGH HOLY DAYS EVENTS & SERVICES 2017 | 5778

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

7:00pm - **Standing At The Gates: A Community S'lichot Experience**

The Rabbis, Cantors and Choirs of Five Congregations join together for Food, Music, Study and Prayers of Forgiveness Wilshire Boulevard Temple (3663 Wilshire Boulevard Los Angeles, 90010)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

7:30pm - Erev Rosh Hashanah Services (Sanctuary)

7:30pm - Brentwood Havurah Services (Chapel)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

8:30am - Rosh Hashanah Tot Service

10:30am - Rosh Hashanah Morning Services

3:15pm - Tashlich on the Beach (Will Rogers Beach, Lifeguard Station 15)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

7:30pm - Kol Nidre Services (Sanctuary)

7:30pm - Brentwood Havurah Services (Chapel)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

8:30am - Yom Kippur Tot Service

10:30am - Yom Kippur Morning Service

1:00pm - Sacred Jewish Music Meditation with award-winning composer and world-music artist Yuval

Ron. *Experience contemplative music played on the biblical lute, the Oud, for a personal time of prayer, meditation, and inner exploration on the holy day of Yom Kippur.*

2:30pm - Yom Kippur Afternoon, Yizkor, Ne'ilah Services

Programming for Youth Preschool through K

Our High Holy Day Tot services are just for you!

Grades 1-3

Children in grades 1 - 3 are invited to join us for a program in ECLC. We will have some activities, play time, snack and an age-appropriate High Holy Day service including hearing the shofar! This program is available at **morning services only**.

Grades 4-6

Children in grades 4 - 6 are welcome to join us on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur mornings in the Gray Family chapel for an age-appropriate service. Our service will run concurrently with the main service up until the time the Torah is brought out. We will then bring all the children back to the sanctuary where they can meet their parents and sit with them for the remainder of the morning. These services are available during morning services only.

Grade 7-12

We expect our Bar/Bat Mitzvah students and those who have become B'nai Mitzvah to join us in the congregational service.

Book of Remembrance

We are preparing for our annual Yizkor Memorial Book, which will be distributed to the Congregation on Yom Kippur afternoon. In order to help us prepare this book, we urge you to submit names to us as quickly as possible. The deadline to turn in the form is **September 6, 2017**. The form was mailed out but can also be found on our [High Holy Day page](#) at our website.

For questions, please contact Sue Share at sshare@unisyn.org.

SISTERHOOD: SWEETEN THE NEW YEAR WITH A GIFT OF HONEY

Wish your family and friends Shana Tova by sending them a gift of honey for a Sweet New Year.

Each gift jar contains 8 ounces of delicious golden certified pure Kosher honey and your personalized gift card. Order and pay online and your gift of honey will be on its way to your friends and families. It's that easy!

Our Special Price: \$12.00 per jar (includes shipping within the U.S.)

Please Note: The price on the website is marked \$25.00. Our special price of \$12.00 will be applied at check out after you enter the coupon code **sisterhood310**.

All proceeds will benefit Sisterhood's special projects. Online orders need to be placed by September 6, 2017 to guarantee delivery by Rosh Hashanah 2017. [Click here to order!](#)

An Introduction to

Judaism

If you give us 18 nights,
we'll give you four thousand years.

Taught by Cantor Jay Frailich at University Synagogue
Sunday mornings beginning October 15.

Discover what could be meaningful to you in liberal Judaism. Engage with Jewish values, celebrations, spirituality, and community in an 18-week **Introduction to Judaism** class taught through a Reform lens.

[Registration](#) is now open!

Upcoming Sisterhood Event



2017 FALL WELCOMING DINNER:

Working Together for a Better World

Each dinner guest will be given a Bag of Hope filled with food and other items which can be carried in our cars and given out to a homeless person in our neighborhood.

Special entertainment by Shelly Goldstein, a gifted comic and popular cabaret singer.

Thursday, September 7, 2017

6:00 pm, Klein Hall

\$36 per person for catered dinner

Invite your family & friends to this evening! **Open to all - men and women!**

Please RSVP by September 1st. Reservations required.

Kever Avot Memorial Services

Sunday, September 24, 2017

10:00 AM

Mount Sinai Hollywood Hills

5950 Forest Lawn Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90068

1:00 PM

Mount Sinai Simi Valley

6150 Mount Sinai Drive

Simi Valley, CA 93063



Mount Sinai provides Kever Avot Services to the entire Jewish community as a way for us to come together at this time of tradition and remembrance, to remember the stories and memories that live in our hearts, and to support each other at this sacred time.

Zichronam Livrachah

Lawrence Altman, father of Chris (Deborah) Heine.

Know of Anyone...?

We rely on our University Synagogue families, their friends and relatives, to alert us when someone is hospitalized or suffering any illness or bereavement. The Clergy would also be delighted to learn about happy events such as celebrating a birth, or any Simchah. Local hospitals do not release patient information; kindly call Sue Share, Assistant to the Clergy, at 310-472-1255, ext. 120, or email her at SShare@unisyn.org, so that our Rabbis and Cantors can better serve our congregation.

Why Did You Become an Adult Bar or Bat Mitzvah?

An author who is a member of Temple Beth Hillel in Valley Village is currently working on a book project entitled *The Modern (Not 13 Year Old's) Guide to the Adult B'nai Mitzvah*.

She wants to include a compilation of 1st hand accounts by people from across the United States who have undergone this special journey. Be sure to note the name of our congregation. If you are interested, send her your story of why you chose to undergo the process and/or your life journey which led you to the Torah. Stories can be sent to:

Christine Machlin

5333 Riverton Avenue, #18

North Hollywood, California 91601

Or Email: christinemachlin@gmail.com

~Save the date~

TOGETHER
AS
ONE:

An Interfaith Concert to
provide aid to people
experiencing
homelessness.

OCT. 29
4 PM

*Featuring the
Yuval Ron Ensemble*



Calling all Volunteers!

Are you looking for volunteer opportunities? We are looking for enthusiastic individuals to join our volunteer workforce! Contact Emilie Leder at ELeder@unisyn.org if you are interested!



Know of someone who is interested in joining US?

Maybe there's a friend who is unaffiliated and wants to be part of a dynamic community!

Send their name to Emilie Leder at ELeder@unisyn.org or (310) 472-1255.

Oneg Shabbat Sponsorships

Share your special life cycle event with the congregation on Friday night!
Birthday, Anniversary, Engagement, Auf-Ruf or Baby Naming

Click [here](#) to see the sponsorships.

For more information, please contact Bonnie Kebre at BKebre@unisyn.org.

Photos of the Week



What a wonderful Annual Shabbat BBQ we had on Friday that welcomed over 350 guests! Thanks to all of the guests who came and shared this experience with us. Extra special thank yous to Nancy and Steven Mindel and Bonnie Kebre, who helped coordinate and prepare a fantastic community event; to all the wonderful volunteers who helped make this event possible, and Whole Foods Market for providing a canopy and contributions towards the BBQ.

Support University Synagogue.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com,
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

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smile

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