



The Torch

December 28, 2016 • 28 Kislev 5777



This Week

Friday, 12/30

5:30 pm
Shabbat Hanukkah Evening Service
Oneg Shabbat will include latkes and sufganiyot!

Saturday, 12/31

9 am
Hevrah Torah with Rabbinic Intern Lenette Herzog

Mazal Tov



Gia Friedberg, daughter of Janine Gershon and Jordan Friedberg, who was elected Student Body President of University High School. Gia is the UNITY co-President.

Zichronam Livrachah



Seymour Rosenthal, father of Robert (Genie) Rosenthal.

Zita Kort, mother of Lee (Jill) Kort.

Trudy Cooperman, mother of Jocelyn (Paul) Silverman and Stephanie (Jamie) Katzman.

Gift Card Challenge 2016



HEROES AMONG US



HELP WITH OUR AUCTION

The Auction Committee needs every family's help with securing donations! Please bring (or email) the [solicitation letter and donation form](#) to the businesses you patronize (restaurants, beauty salons, gyms, etc). Remember, all proceeds generated from the Auction will directly benefit children's education. Thank you so much for your help. Together we can make this happen!

Israel Shani, His Son Rami, and the Hanukkah Message

Rabbi Joel Simonds



My best friend's father (Rami Shani) was stationed in the Golan Heights during the Yom Kippur War. He was a commander in the elite Golani unit. His father (Israel Shani) was a commander in the Golani unit during the War of Independence in 1948. When Ariella and I travelled to Israel a few years ago we spent some time with Rami's father Israel. Although he was 84, Israel was as youthful as he was when he was a commander in the IDF.

Israel drove us through the hills of the Golan Heights showing us where he was stationed in 1948 and where his son was stationed in 1973. As we continued our drive I asked him to tell us about Rami's heroic acts in the Yom Kippur War. Rami didn't like to talk about his military experience in front of his children or their friends. At the moment, Israel pulled the car over and began talking to us with tears of pride in his eyes. But his story was not about the Yom Kippur War, it was about Hanukkah of that year.

Rami was still stationed in the Golan Heights with his battalion and although the War had been over for 2 months, tensions were still high. As Hanukkah descended upon the country, Rami was determined to bring light to the cold soldiers stationed in the Golan. Rami spent his day gathering Menorahs and candles from all around the north making sure that each unit had candles to light that Hanukkah. As the first night of Hanukkah began, the Heights of the Golan sparked. Not with light of artillery fire, but with the glow of Menorahs. For Israel Shani, this was the most heroic act his son could have done.

As we learn from the special Haftarah for Hanukkah from the Prophet Zechariah, "Not by might and not by power, but by My spirit."

Happy Hanukkah.

St. Joseph Center's mission is to provide working poor families, as well as homeless men, women, and children of all ages, with the inner resources and tools to become productive, stable and self-supporting members of the community. We have set a goal to provide their clientele with 360 gift cards for the Holidays. We have made this simple. Go to the [link**](#) and with just a click you will be able to make someone's holiday brighter.

****For the Safeway gift card, we encourage you to purchase as many gift cards as you are able to, but please make sure each Safeway gift card is no more than \$25 each. The recipient email is EGoldfarb@stjosephctr.org.**

COOK WITH US & MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLES' LIVES



LOOKING FOR A GREAT TIKKUN OLAM PROJECT FOR YOUR FAMILY, HAVURAH OR TEENAGER?

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/The People Concern. Our **LIFE SKILLS COOKING WORKSHOPS** are incredibly fun and rewarding. We are now booking for these dates: **JANUARY 11 & JANUARY 25**, and **FEBRUARY 8 & 22nd**.

The Cooking Workshop meets from **5:30 pm to 7:30 pm**, at the Cloverfield Services Center in Santa Monica. Our theme is "**5 Ingredients for \$5 Dollars Or Less**", and the meals have been delicious. We are preparing, cooking and eating together. We are building community, and making a difference in people's lives. Please email Susan Corwin (susan@sjclaw.com) or Ellen Dorros (ellendorros@gmail.com), for more information and to secure a date.



Photos of the Week:

The annual holiday festivities on December 24th were amazing! The music, karaoke by Gabe, delicious lunch, festive decorations - the men and women of OPCC were truly thrilled. The warm, caring exchange of friendship provided by Sisterhood and synagogue members was heartwarming! Many thanks to all who provided the towel sets, toiletries, and good cheer. It was a memorable afternoon filled with Tikun Olam!

How did the Jewish community in Rome survive for 2000 years? What is Jewish life like in present-day Berlin?

Jewish Life in Rome Through the Ages and in Berlin Today



Tuesday, January 17, 2017
7:00 pm Refreshments
7:30 pm Program

University Synagogue, 11960 Sunset Blvd. LA 90049

Dr. Daniel Stein Kokin will discuss the intriguing two thousand year history of the Jewish community in Rome and how it survived in the capital of a mighty empire and missionizing church. He will then tell of his own Jewish family living in present-day Berlin.

Dr. Stein Kokin is the 2016-2017 [Viterbi Visiting Professor in Mediterranean Jewish Studies at UCLA](#). Born and raised in West Los Angeles, he has a B.A. from University of Chicago and a Ph.D. from Harvard. He is a recipient of a fellowship from the renowned [Villa I Tatti Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies](#) in Italy. He teaches Jewish literature and culture at the University of Greifswald in Germany.

No charge. Everyone is welcome.
 Bring your family and friends.

Please RSVP by January 14 to Barbara Braunstein at 310-474-6337 or at Varya18@yahoo.com.



Photos of the Week:

The Menchells and Lederers spent a wonderful Sunday picking fruit for those in need!







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



University Synagogue | torch@unisyn.org | <http://www.unisyn.org>
11960 Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90049
(310) 472-1255