



**UNIVERSITY
SYNAGOGUE**
Connect. Engage. Discover.

The Torch

February 8, 2017 • 12 Sh'vat 5777



2017 Heroes Among US

gala

honoring:

Rabbi Joel T. Simonds
Dr. Barry Silverman

March 16, 2017
Riviera Country Club

[Click here to RSVP.](#)

Please note that our clergy and staff will not be able to access emails from Friday, February 10 until Saturday, February 11. If there is an emergency, please call (310) 859-2182.

This Week

Friday, 2/10

5:30 pm

Early Shabbat Evening Service

7:30 pm

L'Dorot Habim featuring music of Michael Isaacson (Stephen Wise Temple)

Saturday, 2/11

9 am

Hevrah Torah

9 am

Torah Off The Beaten Path with Cantor Shapiro (Will Rogers State Park)

9 am

Tot Shabbat AM - Best Playdate Ever! with Rabbi Simonds

Join us this Friday as we unite with five other Los Angeles congregations for a rare adventure in Jewish Music

by Michael Isaacson

Ladorot Habaim - For Generations To Come - contains twenty-three newly composed settings that, like *L'Maasei V'reisheet*, the service composed for the new millennium, are realized with musical instrumental synthesis, along with solo acoustic instruments and percussion and meant to be performed to a standardized prerecorded accompaniment track that compliments live singing voices. Each participating congregation received the score and accompaniment tracks as well as one hundred fully produced performance CDs to aid in the teaching of the service and to fully recoup the buy-in cost. This service differs from the previous one by adult participation, the sophistication of its vocabulary - Quartal harmony, four tonic writing and other extensions, and stylistic resonances of popular forms previously not called upon. Its compositional engine is having the words dictate the rhythm, prosody, and treatment of each musical setting. Finally, following the advice of my book *Music as Midrash - What Makes Music Jewish?* I try to offer a fresh musical midrash to each section of the liturgy through its unique musical setting. As in previous services, I choose to interweave easily remembered melodies side-by-side more through-composed approaches. Informed eclecticism marks the prevailing musical style of our time and of this work.

I'm so excited that Cantor Shapiro and the University Synagogue musical forces conducted by Susan Rosenstein will be performing with over 100 combined choral singers from Stephen Wise Temple, Leo Baeck Temple, Temple Judea, and Temple Emanuel of Beverly Hills at Stephen Wise Temple at 7:30. Please come join us. It will be an experience of a lifetime that you'll long remember....and please come over afterwards and let us

TORAH OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Experience torah, prayer and spirituality while out on the trail with Cantor Shapiro.

Appropriate for singles, couples and families.

February 11 at 9:00 a.m.
at Will Rogers State Beach

Seeing Beyond the Blackberries



By: Rabbi Stanley M. Davids

There is a wondrous cultural center/restaurant in Jaffa that is known as Na Laga'at (Please Touch!). It houses a theater in which performances are carried out by actors who are blind and deaf; a café in which deaf waiters communicate with customers through sign language; and "Blackout," a restaurant that is absolutely and totally pitch black, in which the waiters are blind, and in which customers must intensify their senses of taste and touch and smell in order to enjoy their meals. Na La-Ga'at provides incredible experiences to all who are interested in expanding their understanding of the very nature of what it means to encounter the world in which we live.

How precious it is to be able to see, to perceive colors, to discern distances, to reflect upon facial expressions, to marvel at the infinite varieties of differences and similarities in all aspects of the physical universe. To be able to compare and contrast. To absorb a key aspect of the vocabulary of human emotions. To avoid danger even as we are beckoned toward safer places. [Click here to read full article.](#)

Report by Julia Weinstein, WRJ VP of Advocacy, Marketing Communications



After The Women's March: Now What?

Reprinted from WRJ Weekly Digest, February 3, 2017

On January 21st, well over three million people participated in a Women's March in cities and towns, large and small, throughout the US. Some researchers estimate that the number of marchers is between 3.3 and 5.2 million. That means that one out of every 100 Americans, or at the high estimate, one out of every sixty Americans, marched that day in support of women's rights. [Many more marched in Canada and in other countries around the world.](#)

know how you enjoyed it. See you at **Stephen Wise Temple on Friday, February 10, at 7:30 pm.**

To read Michael Isaacson's full reflection, [click here](#).

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 this upcoming date: **FEBRUARY 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.



LUNCH MAKING FOR DAYBREAK WOMEN'S HOMELESS SHELTER OPPC



Lunch making for Daybreak Women's Homeless Shelter OPPC in Santa Monica continues on Sundays once a month. Sack lunches are prepared by our Synagogue Volunteers, hopefully YOU, and delivered to Daybreak.

ALL are welcome to help with this activity. Sisterhood is generously sponsoring this program. Please contact Suzy (suzy4433@aol.com or 310-850-4566) if you are interested in this Tikkun Olam activity.

UPCOMING DATE:
February 26 at 9:00 am
University Synagogue Kitchen

Community Calendar

Wednesday, February 8, 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

UCLA Y&S Nazarian Center for Israel Studies: Law, Culture and Collective Identity: Palestinian-Arabs and Jews in Israeli Law and Society

University of Haifa Professor Gad Barzilai will discuss the interactions between Jewish and Palestinian identities and the heated debates on law and society within the global context.

[Click here to RSVP](#)

Location: UCLA School of Law

Saturday, February 11, 2 pm

Reading of Mark Weston's play, "The Life and Adventures of James P. Beckwourth"

In celebration of Black History Month, Actor Arnold Weiss will perform a dramatic reading of Mark Weston's play, "The Life and Adventures of James P. Beckwourth," at the Kaufman Brentwood Branch Library. Beckwourth (1798-1866) was a fur trader, mountaineer, scout, author and explorer. Admission is free. For information, call 310-575-8273.

Monday, February 13, 7:30 pm - 9:15 pm

Building Communities and Reimagining Jewish Life

Please join in welcoming Rabbi Rick Jacobs, URJ President for a Community wide gathering. As congregational leaders and members, you have a critical voice in shaping the Reform Jewish community. This will be your opportunity to hear Rabbi Jacobs discuss current issues pertinent both locally and abroad. You will have a chance to share your thoughts and ask questions. [Click here to RSVP](#).

I marched with family members and with the Religious Action Center (RAC) in Washington. The crowds were huge, truly awesome in size. Even more awesome was that we only saw peace and friendship, loving kindness and acceptance - not one word of conflict, anger or discord - in those great, huge, diverse crowds. [Click here to read full article](#).

Photos of the Week:

Many thanks to Sisterhood for making a difference in the lives of our students!



Camp Day at Religious School!



ECLC would like to thank Nicole and Rod Fani for hosting our Paint & Sip Partybook event. Parents enjoyed a beautiful evening with wine and cheese, painting and great company. Nicole went above and beyond and made every parent feel like a VIP Artist! In one evening, we raised \$1,000 and each got to take home a great souvenir from the evening: a one of a kind work of art!



Location: Temple Beth Hillel in Valley Village, CA

Sunday, February 26

Jewish Federation Volunteer Day

Make a difference in our community in five meaningful ways and at locations throughout Los Angeles when you volunteer as a part of the Jewish Federation's Community Service Day. Choose from several ways to give back. [Click here to RSVP.](#)

Wednesday nights, March 1, 7-8:30 pm

New Bereishit Session: Creating Jewish Marriages From the Beginning

For newly engaged or married couples to explore the ways to integrate aspects of Judaism, Jewish values and traditions into their marriages, while socializing with other couples. This program is open to ALL couples looking to infuse Judaism into their marriage! Questions? Email Rabbi Ashley [here](#).

For more information, go to www.bereishitjewishmarriage.com

Sunday, March 5, 2017, 4 PM

Shalom Hartman Institute presents: Visions For A Shared Society: The "Tribes" of Israel

What are the core values of some of the "tribes" that comprise Israel today? How does a divident people build a shared society? What are the challenges and the possibilities for building a Jewish and Democratic Israel? All lectures are free for members of University Synagogue.

[Click here to register.](#)

Location: Temple Beth Am

March 17 - 19

West Coast Party Jr.

6th-8th Graders are invited to the best party in the West! For a two night retreat, these kids will get to reunite and meet new friends, dream about how to make the world a better place, play sports and create art, enjoy a magical camp Shabbat, and discover the fun of Jewish camping and NFTY678 - teen-powered regional youth groups. Registration beings Monday, February 6th at 9 a.m. Cost: \$250 (earlybird) | \$300 (ends 3/10)

[Click here for more info.](#)

Location: Camp Newman in Santa Rosa

JVS Scholarship Program

Do you need help paying for your education? Apply for a JVS Scholarship! College scholarships are available from \$500 to \$5,000. Online Application Period: January 1 - March 5, 2017. [Click here to view the flyer.](#)

Partners In Peace: An Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue

with Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger and Ali Abu Awwad

March 19, 2017 - 5:15 p.m.

Leo Baeck Temple

1300 North Sepulveda Blvd.

Los Angeles, CA 90049



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



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[Click here for more information or to register!](#)