



UNIVERSITY
SYNAGOGUE
Connect. Engage. Discover.

The Torch

January 4, 2017 • 6 Tevet 5777



HAPPY NEW YEAR

This Week

Friday, 1/6

7:30 pm
Shabbat Service - [Student Rabbi Rob Friedman](#) will speak.

Bethrothal Blessing:
Shira Berenson & Aaron Feinstein

Saturday, 1/7

9 am
Hevrah Torah

9 am
Tot Shabbat AM - Best Playdate Ever!
with Rabbi Simonds

Mazal Tov



University Synagogue's Sisterhood, for winning the 2016 Eleanor Kretzer Kavod Awards for Excellence in Advancement of Judaism for their program "[The Whys of Shabbat - A Creative Service](#)"

Alana Levitt, ECLC's Assistant Director, who will be participating in The First 36 Project, a groundbreaking pilot program developed by the Simms/Mann Institute, BJE (Builders of Jewish Education), and

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!

Heroes Among US, March 16, 2017

Lisabeth Lobenthal Executive Director

Happy New Year to all. If 2017 is anything like 2016, it promises to be a wonderful year at University Synagogue.

Celebrating our Heroes is just one thing to look forward to. We have the honor of acknowledging Rabbi Simonds' 10 years of service to this community and saluting a lifetime of commitment by Dr. Barry Silverman.



We're shaking things up just a bit this year. We have moved the venue to the Riviera Country Club where a beautiful view can be enjoyed by all. Instead of a classic sit-down dinner, we will offer stations with a sit-down dessert and program. Not to worry; there will a wonderful variety of foods to eat and plenty of chairs available for your comfort.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles.

[Film producer channels Jewish values in fight against Alzheimer's disease](#)

Zichronam Livrachah



Jackie Banchik, wife of our Past President Howard Banchik.

Lee "Bud" Friedman, father of Linda (Jim) Lippman.

Judy Wolf, wife of Frank Wolf z"l.



Robert (Rob) Friedman is a third-year Rabbinical Student at Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles. Born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, Rob moved to Nashville, Tennessee to attend Vanderbilt University and major in Jewish Studies and History. After graduating, he attended the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York City for a Master's in Hebrew Bible. From there, he made the decision to become a Reform Rabbi. In March, Rob was sworn into the US Navy as a Chaplain Candidate, and he recently completed his first stage of military training. Rob currently teaches 7th grade in the University Synagogue religious school.

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

One thing that will not change is the fabulous offerings of our silent auction. Experiences and items will abound. We'll start the bidding a week prior to the event so register early and start watching those bidders.

Just a note: apologies for the error in the sponsorship forms-the \$3,600 level entitles you to 2 tickets and an ad in our tribute book. Look for the correct sponsorship levels in the invitation that will be mailed at the end of January.

The gala is our largest fundraiser of the year. Your support is gratefully appreciated. Even if you are not able to attend, please consider supporting the event. A donation of tickets allows those who are unable to afford the event to attend and share a lively evening with the community.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

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:

Our 8th graders were in Israel for the Federation's School Twinning Program.

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.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW UNIVERSITY SYNAGOGUE FAMILY MEMBERS!



Marta Abrams Miller and Bryan Miller
 Stephanie Abrams
 Simon and Maral Ahdoot
 Dan and Cheryl Arzewski
 Christine Atkins and Alexander Klein
 Dr. Benjamin and Dr. Saraleen Basseri
 Jonathan and Sonya Brenner
 Melissa and Kyle Breslow
 Kevin and Farnaz Cohen
 Dr. Shahin and Janet Ebrahimi
 Rod Fani
 Jonathan Fielding
 Bobby and Lynn Fields
 David and Neda Ghadoushi
 Erin Goldfarb
 Daniel Goldstein and Nami Yamamoto-Goldstein
 Shelly Gross
 Daniel Haas and Jamie Bernstein Haas
 Ely and Brittney Hakimian
 Abbey Herman
 Dafna Hopenstand and Jonas Green
 Debra Horwits and Liam Weir
 Sara and Ronen Isaac
 Lital and Dov Joachimowicz
 Paul Kanyuk and Jennifer White
 Betsy and Jeffrey Kapur
 Dr. Houman and Rozalin Kashani
 Shervin Khodabandeh and Sepideh Rabiei
 David and Ilyse Levine
 David Lindner
 David and Diana Makkabi
 Andrew Marsala II and Anne Marsala
 Leo Asher Matian
 Maggie and Hnedel Maximore
 Tim and Natasha McCaffrey
 Don Mehrabi and Dolia Yomtoob
 Simon and Sharon Mendelson
 Barry and Wendy Meyer
 Jonathan and Anne Nadel
 David and Desiree Nazarian
 David and Shirley Nikfarjam
 John Pismenny and Eliana Umansky
 Ben Pouladian and Edith Javaherian Pouladian
 Eugene and Elena Pushin
 Alex and Camille Rapaport



Los Angeles Lecture Series: Micah Goodman on Jan 22, 2017

David and Carrie Ring
Timothy and Simona Rundle
Teddy and Ellen Schwarzman
Sioh and Miranda Shamsian
Dr. Violetta Siyanov and Ruben Simkhayev
Daniel Sloan
Susan and Alan Tivoli
Elaheh and Omid Torkian
Howard and Suzanne Weisberg
Rachel and Jonathan Zucker



Shalom Hartman Institute of North America presents

VISIONS FOR A SHARED SOCIETY: THE "TRIBES" OF ISRAEL

SYNAGOGUE COLLABORATIVE LECTURE SERIES

What are the core values of some of the "tribes" that comprise Israel today?

How does a divided people build a shared society?

What are the challenges and the possibilities for building a Jewish and Democratic Israel?

November 13, 2016
Sunday, 4 pm
Leo Baeck Temple



YEHUDA KURTZER

December 11, 2016
Sunday, 4 pm
Stephen S. Wise Temple



TAL BECKER

January 22, 2017
Sunday, 3 pm
Valley Beth Shalom



MICAH GOODMAN

March 5, 2017
Sunday, 4 pm
Temple Beth Am



ELANA STEIN HAIN

All lectures are free for members of sponsoring organizations

Non-members: Series pass \$75 / Individual lectures \$20

Free for University Synagogue members.

[Click here to register.](#)

For more information and updates on what's happening at University Synagogue,
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