



UNIVERSITY
SYNAGOGUE
Connect. Engage. Discover.

THE TORCH

July 26, 2017 | 3 Av 5777

This Week
Friday, 7/28
7:30 pm
Shabbat Under the Stars

Saturday, 7/29
9:00 am
Hevrah Torah



High Holy Days 5778/2017

Thank you for your continued support! If you have renewed your membership or recently joined our congregation, your High Holy Day tickets and parking decals will be sent in the mail on August 9th.



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.

[Registration](#) is now **open!**

Synagogue Etiquette

*Edited from a post by Rabbi Denise Eger, Kol Ami
Immediate Past President, Central Conference of American Rabbis*

If you belong to synagogue or if you don't there are so many unwritten rules. Synagogues are sometimes referred to by the Yiddish term—Shul which in the German means School. And every synagogue, temple or shul is unique. Ok, they share some things in common. They have some kind of holy ark—where a Torah scroll is kept. They likely have a prayer book known also as a siddur (unless it is for the High Holy Days then it is called a machzor). Most have classrooms for learning. Some will have special programs for early childhood or nursery school, but not all. Many congregations will have a rabbi. Some both a rabbi and a cantor. Large congregations will have multiple rabbis and cantors. But there are some communities that can't support even one clergy person. And that is one of the things that makes Judaism unique. Lay people can lead worship and teach. Unlike the Catholic Church where only priests can perform the sacraments. There is nothing in Judaism that a non-ordained Jew cannot do!

Most congregations finance themselves with a combination of dues, fees, voluntary offerings and fundraising. Some congregations are now experimenting by getting rid of the dues model and going to a completely voluntary offering. But in either case support for the institutions requires generosity of resources.

In congregations where dues are still the main financial support for the congregation there is either a set fee to become a member or a percentage of income often at 2 or 2.5 percent. Membership in the synagogue is something to be proud of. It goes beyond money. Membership is a foundation of Jewish life—supporting the ongoing engagement of Jews with Judaism. Membership in a synagogue enables the Jewish people to thrive through engagement with Learning, celebration, the arts, and most importantly one another. The synagogue is a place where Jews and their families can build relationships with each other! In an era when most people don't even know their neighbors, this is so important.

But now to the some of the unwritten rules of synagogue.

It is customary to put on a kippah or yarmulka when you come into the Temple. Even if you might not normally wear one in your day to day—when you come into the synagogue most likely there are a stack of head coverings. This goes to both men and women. It is a sign of respect that in the holy place you cover your head.

It is customary that if you observed a yarzeit or the rabbi or cantor officiated at a lifecycle event for your family that you make an extra donation to the synagogue. Judaism believes strongly in the power of tzedakah (philanthropy). When we recite the El Maleh Rachamim prayer at a funeral or memorial service the words of the prayer challenge us to give tzedakah in memory of the deceased! If you are observing the yarzeit of someone in your family, or you asked the rabbi to come help you hang the mezzuzah, or she officiated at the baby naming of your grandchild, make an extra donation to the Rabbi's or Cantor's Discretionary Fund, as a way of saying thank you.

If someone dies in the congregation, it is customary to make a small donation in their memory to the temple. The Synagogue will send a note to the family to let them know of your kindness in their loved one's memory. You should also try to attend the funeral and shiva (The week-long memorial period at the home of a mourner). Helping to make the minyan (the prayer quorum) necessary for the mourners to recite the Kaddish prayer is a wonderful show of support and caring for a fellow congregant! You don't have to be close to the deceased or to the mourner. You don't even have to know them. This is what temple members do for one another.

When someone is ill. Many congregations will create a meal train. Even if you don't know the person you have a bond already. You are part of the same synagogue community. This is how we help each other in times of sorrow or difficulty.

And in times of joy as well. Show up at the B'nai Mitzvah services. They are not meant to be private affairs. It is a coming of age of the young person in the context of the Jewish community and specifically the synagogue community. Everyone should rejoice in the youth of a synagogue. The Bar or Bat Mitzvah is the next generation and when we celebrate that as a temple community, we go a long way to help sustain the Jewish people! You don't have to know the parents or grandparents or the child. But you share a bond together with that family. All are part of the Temple community!

Being a part of a synagogue community can be enriching and rewarding through the relationships that are built. It is a place like no other. It is sacred place of sacred learning and sacred relationships. And it is so necessary in these cruel and rough times to have a place that helps to elevate our souls. That is what the synagogue can do. But it takes us being there to help bring about that sanctity and spirit. I hope you will add yours.

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25

5:30pm - Annual Shabbat BBQ and Open House

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

8:30am - Rosh Hashanah Service for Families with Young Children
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 Service for Families with Young Children
10:30am - Yom Kippur Morning Service
2:30pm - Yom Kippur Afternoon, Yizkor, Ne'ilah Services

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.

Zichronam Livrachah

Eve R. Ferkel, mother of Dr. Richard (Michelle) Ferkel and grandmother of Dr. Eric (Rachel) Ferkel and Megan (Greg) Earhart.



BABY CLASS NOW OPEN AGE 6-12 MONTHS

ECLC's Caterpillar class is back! Babies ages 6-12 months may be enrolled in our newly revitalized Caterpillar class, taught by ECLC Assistant Director Alana Levitt. On Thursday afternoons during our summer camp, we sing songs, spend time discussing an article, or chat about a child development concept. We enjoy interaction as parents while the babies play. The class has been an excellent way to invite new families into our preschool program as well as involve younger siblings while their brother or sister is in our ECLC Mini-Camp this summer.

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.

~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



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!

Emilie Leder at ELeder@unisyn.org if you are interested!

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.

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Amazon donates.

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





On Sunday, August 13, join the Jewish community of the Greater Los Angeles area at Dodger Stadium for our Annual Jewish Community Day. Join your congregation, family and friends as the Dodgers matchup against the San Diego Padres.

This special event ticket package includes a ticket to the game and a Dodgers' Jewish Community Day cap. The first 12,000 ticketed kids 14 and under in attendance will also receive Kids Back-to-School backpack.*



*This special event ticket package must be purchased from this link. Third-party purchases will not include the item. **Sun, Aug 13 @1:10 PM PDT**

[Click here to buy tickets.](#)

[Click here to view pricing.](#)

University Synagogue | 11960 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90049

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