



UNIVERSITY  
SYNAGOGUE  
Connect. Engage. Discover.

## THE TORCH

June 21, 2017 | 27 Sivan 5777

### This Week

Friday, 6/23

7:30 pm

Shabbat Under the Stars

### Saturday, 6/24

9:00 am

Hevrah Torah



### Jewish Center for Justice

Rabbi Joel Simonds

These past two years AT UNIVERSITY SYNAGOGUE have been a profound and meaningful experience. We have worked together as rabbis, cantors, lay leaders and staff to re-imagine and envision a new role of clergy, Associate Rabbi part-time.

It was an honor to be named West Coast Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism while at the same time continuing to serve as halftime Associate Rabbi. It was an even greater honor to have the trust and support of this congregational community to house the RAC's west coast office here at University Synagogue

Over these past years we have worked together to bring a greater sense of justice into this community. We have discovered the countless individuals who are unengaged and disconnected from mainstream Jewish life but still have a deep sense of a personal Judaism and strong commitment to the cause of Justice and the Land of Israel. With this in mind, starting July 5th I am leaving my position at the RAC to become the founding Executive Director of the Jewish Center for Justice (JCJ). JCJ is a non-denominational Jewish justice organization that focuses on leadership development for the next generation of Jewish activists, education and advocacy at the state and local level on core causes for the Jewish community, such as economic justice, environmental justice, and civil rights, and engagement with Israel.

We will have a special focus on teaching and training advocacy skills from a Jewish perspective to college students and those who fall in the post-college age gap. JCJ will serve as a powerful and meaningful platform for both justice and the Jewish community. JCJ will also provide opportunities for all individuals to engage at the highest level of advocacy in the pursuit of Justice.

With all that JCJ will do, one of the most exciting opportunities is that JCJ will be housed here at University Synagogue, located in room 201. We will provide many opportunities through the years for outside programming and engagement to be offered here at University Synagogue.

In this new venture I will continue to be a full clergy partner though reducing my time here to 15%. I will still be engaged on the pulpit for our High Holy Days, Tot Shabbat experiences and Brentwood Havurah. And I will be the proud parent of children both in our ECLC and our Religious School.

I look forward to this new venture in our collective relationship and please be on the lookout for a communal reception and mezuzah hanging for the Jewish Center for Justice later in the summer.

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**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](mailto:SShare@unisyn.org), so that our Rabbis and Cantors can better serve our congregation.

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The 50th Anniversary of the 1967 Israeli-Arab War  
ARZA Position Paper  
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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](mailto:ELeder@unisyn.org) or (310) 472-1255.

**Mazal Tov**

Martha and Jeff Melvoin, on their son Charlie's marriage to Paolo Fresia.

**Zichronam Livrachah**

Lita Reynolds, mother of Ellen Kent (Robert).

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

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