



UNIVERSITY
SYNAGOGUE
Connect. Engage. Discover.

THE TORCH

June 28, 2017 | 4 Tamuz 5777

This Week

Friday, 6/30

7:30 pm

Shabbat Under the Stars

Saturday, 7/1

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.



Why Membership?

Lisabeth Lobenthal

Executive Director

The staff of University Synagogue was recently hosted to a wonderful, fun Appreciation Lunch by our Women of Reform Judaism/Sisterhood. We kicked off the afternoon with two icebreakers when we really got to know one another.

These ice breakers always make my eyebrows rise. You never really know what interesting woman you might be sitting next to. My son is 22 which demographic

I'm in. I find us all, myself included, labeling people and making assumptions based on what life phase others are in. Preschool parents, Religious School families, Singles, Silver Generation, Sisterhood; all of those labels make me think I know something about someone. And...I am always wrong. In these cases, I love being wrong. I remind myself constantly that you never really know someone's life experience until you've sat at a table with them and shared stories.

This might not seem relevant to membership renewal time, but in fact, it is exactly why we choose to be a part of this incredible community. We all initially choose to connect for a different reason. Sometimes, it is because it's time for Preschool or Religious School. Sometimes it is so we can join a Havurah, enjoy services, share our happy times and have a community to care for us during challenges. University Synagogue has it all.

As you take a look at your membership forms and think about the 2017-18 year, know that we are here for you for all of the above reasons and more. Our thriving, exciting schools will embrace and teach your children about our rich history and create lifelong friendships. Our Havurot will create a circle of friends to share all of life's milestones. Our clergy will be there for you to celebrate simchas. And, should a sad occasion arise, our entire family will stand with you and care for you.

Whether you're a single, a school parent, a chapter 2'er, Brentwood Havurah, Sisterhood member or in our Silver Generation, you are a part of our Unisyn family. We have an exciting, meaningful year planned and we can't wait to create stories together.

L'shalom,
Lisabeth

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.



Have kids or grand kids who love a good book? Sign your family up for PJ Library, the community of 170,000 kids who get - for FREE, each month - books that make Jewish stories, values, and traditions come to life.

Once you subscribe to PJ Library, your family will receive these gifts:

- a new book delivered to your child every month
- bonus family activities in the mail and online
- opportunities to connect with other PJ Library families near you.

[Sign up now!](#)



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 or (310) 472-1255.

Mazal Tov

Gia Gershon-Friedberg, who was honored at the Asian Pacific American Dispute Resolution Center Sixteenth Annual Nairobi Award Dinner. Gia is the daughter of Jordan Friedberg and Janine Gershon.

Bonnie Kebre, on the birth of her grandson, Liam Solomon Kebre, to parents Dustin and Tara. Congratulations to big brother Nolan as well.

Rabbi Stanley M. Davids on the publication of *The Fragile Dialogue: New Voices in Liberal Zionism*. Click [here](#) to pre-order. (Pre-order Code: 88.33056)

Israel has become one of the most polarizing forces in the North American Jewish community in recent years. Political differences, geo-political challenges, religious divisiveness, socio-economic policies, gender issues, interpretations of the democratic nature of Israel, the use and abuse of power and divergent visions as to the nature of the connections among the Land of Israel, the State of Israel, the People of Israel, the Torah of Israel, and the God of Israel all play a role in the communal disunity around the approach to Zionism.

This collection brings together a multiplicity of Reform or liberal perspectives on Zionism. The essays in this book wrestle with and attempt to reframe the challenges of being a liberal Zionist in the 21st century. While some of the essays are in profound disagreement with others in this volume, as a whole, they create the basis for an important and challenging conversation about being a liberal Zionist in today's day and age.

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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