



UNIVERSITY
SYNAGOGUE
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THE TORCH

March 29, 2017 | 2 Nisan 5777

This Week

Friday, 3/31

7:30 pm

Shabbat Service.

Guest Scott Siegler will discuss: *Media in the Age of President Trump*

Saturday, 4/1

9 am

Hevrah Torah

9 am

Torah Off the Beaten Path at Will Rogers State Beach - Bring a picnic lunch!



Media in the Age of President Trump

with Scott Siegler



Mr. Siegler graduated from Union College with a BA degree in Philosophy and English Literature. He holds a MA degree from the University of Toronto and received an MFA at Brandeis in Theatre Arts and began to write and produce films. His career took him to NBC, then Vice President of drama at CBS, Director of Creative Affairs at Warner Brothers. He is currently Chairman of the Washington, DC-based Center for Public Integrity (CPI) and is on the board of the Shorenstein Center for media and politics, based at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

University Synagogue

11960 Sunset Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90049

Friday, March 31 at 7:30 pm

Moving from Slavery to the Promised Land

Jessica Shamout

Now that we are officially at the start of spring, my thoughts automatically turn to Passover. We will sit at our seder table retelling the story we have told for thousands of years and remind ourselves of the bitterness of slavery our people endured. I ask our students to think about slavery that exists all around them today – not just with the obvious injustices they see daily in their communities or on the news, but to ponder the question, “what are you a slave to?”

When I ask myself this question, I instantly look down at my phone: text messages, social media posts, email threads, Instagram likes – I am a slave to that little device. Our teens are no different; they constantly check their phones to text peers and seek validation from strangers on the other side of a screen.

This Passover, we are hosting Israeli teens as part of the Federation’s School Twinning Program. In December, we traveled to Tel Aviv and were hosted by Israeli families, and now it is our turn to open our homes to them. Watching our teens come together is simply amazing. Immediately, the phones are put away (except for the occasional group selfie) and they talk, laugh, hug, dance, hold hands and enjoy each other’s company. They share food and stories, and at the end of the trip, they will be devastated when they say goodbye. They will keep in touch and suddenly that little instrument that they are so drawn to becomes a way to connect deeper with their friends on the other side of the globe. They have moved out of the slavery of electronic devices and into the Promised Land of strong global Jewish relationships. Come and meet our Israeli twins on Friday, April 14 for Shabbat services!



Dr. Michael Isaacson to Receive Honorary Doctorate From Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

Dr. Michael Isaacson, one of the most prolific and accomplished American Jewish composers of our time, will receive the Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR), for extraordinary contributions to contemporary Jewish liturgical music. The ceremony will take place at HUC-JIR’s Graduation on Tuesday, May 4, 2017 at Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York. [Click here to read full article.](#)

Join us!

CHAPTER 2

BOWLING NIGHT

Bowling at Bowlmor Santa Monica
Sunday, April 2nd
from 6 - 8 PM

\$75 per person.

Includes bowling, bowling shoes, light dinner, soda/ice tea, and one drink ticket for beer or wine. Four people per lane and unlimited bowling for two hours.

A graphic illustration for a bowling night event. It features a light green background with several white bowling pins scattered around. One red bowling ball is positioned in the bottom right corner. The text is centered and uses a mix of white and red colors for emphasis.

[Click here to RSVP!](#)

Mazal Tov

Maggie Lena, daughter of Bonnie and David Lena on her awarded offensive MVP 2016-2017 for Samohi Girls' Varsity soccer.

Doris and Bob Ruvelson, on their granddaughter Anya becoming Bat Mitzvah. Anya is the daughter of Mark and Reeba Ruvelson.

Loren Scott, on receiving the 2016 Teacher-in-Politics Award.



COOK WITH US & MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLES' LIVES

We are now booking for this upcoming date: **May 17th** from **5:30 to 7:30 pm**. (Cloverfield Service Center in Santa Monica)

Our theme is "5 Ingredients for \$5 Dollars Or Less", and the meals have been delicious. Email [Susan Corwin](#) or [Ellen Dorros](#) for more information and to secure a date.

Community Calendar

Sunday, April 2

The Jewish Federation Good Deeds Day

Join the Jewish Federation for an annual tradition that started in Israel with the simple idea that even the smallest of positive actions empowers each of us to change the world for the better.

[Click here to volunteer.](#)

Wednesday, April 5, 8 - 10 am

"Coffee With A Cop" Q&A Session

All are invited for a cup of coffee and Q&A session at Brentwood area's "Coffee With A Cop" at the Coral Tree Cafe with Police Officer Brian Espin.
Location: Coral Tree Cafe

Sunday, April 16, 11 am - 4 pm

Passover in the Park

Come celebrate Passover at the Brandeis-Bardin Campus in Simi Valley with activities. Admission includes Kosher for Passover lunch. \$5 for Toddlers (up to age 3), \$10 for Kids (4-12), \$15 for 13+/Adults. To see the flyer, [click here.](#)

Photos of the Week!

Rebecca Madnick, Ellen Dorros, Susan Corwin, and Suzy Giambattista volunteering at the Life Skills Cooking Workshop!



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

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