



UNIVERSITY
SYNAGOGUE
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THE TORCH

One more day until the live auction
8 more days until the gala

Bid from anywhere in the world starting TOMORROW!
Click here to register.

March , 2017 | 3 Adar 5777

This Week

Friday, 3/10
7:30 pm
Shabbat Service

Saturday, 3/11
9 am
Hevrah Torah

Sunday, 3/12
11 am
Purim Megillah Reading

Faithfully Yours: Rabbi Morley T. Feinstein Purim's Message

I spoke about Queen Esther during a recent Shabbat assembly with ECLC, and one boy asked me-is this story true? Like many stories in the Bible, Esther and Mordecai is a true story...but not one we can prove through archeology or historical records. And yet, at this time in our country, with the rise of anti-semitic attacks, threatening calls to Jewish institutions, and cemetery desecrations, it may be the most historically Jewish of stories. Over and over again, just as the Jews of Shushan lived among the non-Jewish population, rose to prominent positions in society, maintained their Jewish identities in the face of assimilation and hatred, thrived as a community, and faced anti-Jewish hatred, so too are we in a similar position today.

I wonder what tone of voice Mordecai used to tell Esther, "Do not imagine that you, of all the Jews, will escape with your life by being in the king's palace. On the contrary, if you keep silent in this crisis, relief and deliverance will come to the Jews from another quarter, while you and your father's house will perish." Was he angry, stern, pleading, crying, admonishing? Mordecai pushed on: "And who knows, perhaps you have attained to royal position for just such a crisis." (Esther 4:13-14) It's in the hands of the Jewish people to survive, for God is not mentioned in the book. Mordecai does not wait for God to perform another miracle...he acts when revolutionary behavior is required. He does not wait idly by for lightning bolts or other supernatural signs. People take the initiative in a world where God motivates and inspires, but righteous acts are in the hands of brave and courageous souls.

How do we celebrate these events? We share our joy with those in need, and bring treats to friends and family. We remember our pluck in resisting the tidal forces that would have us drown, and lift up the bravery of our ancestors in every generation. We show our gratitude by caring for the poor, and act on behalf of justice in doing our share to make a better world.

To shield our children from the pain and pressure of threatened extermination we camouflage the holiday's striking message behind costumes, noisemakers, and glee. Things aren't the way they usually are at Synagogue. We dispense with solemnity and put on all sorts of disguises. We use Jewish humor to help us endure. We laugh. We sing. We make merry. We eat hamantaschen. Life is still good, and we will survive.

Heroes Among US Gala Countdown

Only **8 days** to go before our annual Heroes Among US Gala on Thursday, **March 16th** at the beautiful Riviera Country Club. We are honoring two of our esteemed leaders: Rabbi Joel Simonds in celebration of his 10 year anniversary at University Synagogue, and Dr. Barry Silverman for his dedication and support of our synagogue community. Below please find details about the event including how to register for the **incredible online silent auction** and how to purchase tickets.

This is our largest fundraiser of the year. Proceeds provide scholarships and allow us to offer all the wonderful programs and services we have here at University Synagogue. If you are unable to attend, you can lend your support by participating in the auction (**see mobile bidding info below**), making a donation via the auction website, or sending a special tribute to our honorees via our insert in the Tribute book.

We encourage our Synagogue community to come together to make this an extra special event!

Thanks so much.

Your Co-Chairs,
Abbi Hertz
Holly Leff-Pressman

Mobile Bidding

Our auction bidding will be done on your mobile phones. For those of you who don't have smart phones, there will be iPads available with people to assist. In order to get a bidding number, you must register on-line with your payment and billing information. The auction will close at approximately 8:30-exact time will be announced. Winning bidders may collect their items at the end of the evening. For those unable to attend the Gala, you can register for the auction and participate in real time through your mobile device. **The auction is going live this Thursday the 9th.** If you haven't registered, it's not too late and you can bid from anywhere in the world. [Click here!](#)



Mazal Tov

Dane Elkins, son of Debra and Brett Elkins, gold medal winner at the USA Racquetball National Championships.

Michael Tuchin, recipient of the Harvey L. Silbert Torch of Learning Award, from the American Friends of the Hebrew University.

Zichronam Livrachah

Nancy Moss, mother of Marcie (Dean) Gelfand.

David Chatlin Shabot, brother of Michael (Linda) Shabot.



ALL THINGS HEROES



Friday, March 31 at 7:30 pm "Media in the Age of President Trump" with Scott Siegler

Mr Siegler graduated, Phi Beta Kappa, from Union College with a BA degree in Philosophy and English Literature. He holds a MA degree from the University of Toronto where he studied under Prof. Marshall McLuhan. He 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, founder of Tri Star Television which merged with the older, larger Columbia Pictures Television to become Sony Television. He is currently Chairman of the Washington, DC-based Center for Public Integrity (CPI) and its offshoot the International Consortium of Investigative Journalism (ICIJ). CPI won the Pulitzer Prize last year for its series on black lung disease, and ICIJ released the global stories on tax havens and secret corporations called the Panama Papers. He is also on the board of the Shorenstein Center for media and politics, based at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

COOK WITH US & MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLES' LIVES

We are now booking for this upcoming date: **March 22** 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.



UniSyn Calendar

Community Calendar

Saturday, March 11, 1 - 3 pm

The Palms-Rancho Park Branch Library Presents: A Dialogue with American Muslims

Speakers for this event include: Imam Jihad Turk, President of Bayan Claremont School of Theology / Dr. Hadia Al Abdullah, Bayan Claremont and Occidental College / Dr. Azza Basarudin, UCLA Department of Gender Studies/ Dr. Vivian Gold, Psychologist, UCLA Department of Psychiatry

Location: Palms-Rancho Park Branch (2920 Overland Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90064)

Sunday, March 12, 11 am

Purim Megillah Reading in the Kopelson Family Sanctuary

Sunday, March 19, 5:15 pm

Partners in Peace: An Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue with Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger and Ali Abu Awwad Co-sponsored by University Synagogue

For more information, call (310) 476-2861

Location: Leo Baeck Temple (1300 North Sepulveda Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90049)

Monday, March 27, 7:00 pm

The Search for Haman is Not Over: What Keeps Jews Awake at Night in Both Israel and the United States

Join Silver Generation for this dialogue with Rabbi Stanley Davids. More details to follow.

Monday, March 27, 7:30 pm

Fighting Hate, Teaching Tolerance, Seeking Justice

Co-sponsored by University Synagogue

More info: Templeisaiah.com

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

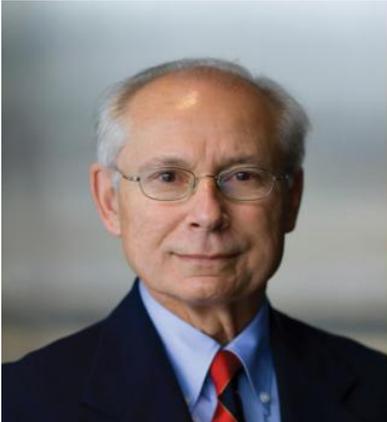
"Coffee With A Cop" at the Coral Tree Cafe. Local Police Officer Brian Espin will be covering for Officer Maria Gray while she is on leave.

Partners In Peace: An Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue

with Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger and Ali Abu Awwad
March 19, 2017 - 5:15 p.m.
Leo Baeck Temple
1300 North Sepulveda Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90049



<p>Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger</p> <p>Rabbi Schlesinger is an Orthodox Rabbi, teacher and passionate Zionist settler from Alon Shvut in the West Bank. He serves as the International Director of Roots, which he helped found at the beginning of 2014, to bring together Jewish Israelis and Palestinians, both Muslim and Christian.</p>	<p>Ali Abu Awwad</p> <p>Ali is a leading Palestinian activist teaching his countryman non-violent resistance, and reaching out to Jewish Israelis at the heart of the conflict. He has toured the world telling his riveting story of violent activism, imprisonment, bereavement, and discovery of the path of non-violent resistance and personal transformation.</p>
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TEMPLE ISAIAH
MARCH 27
7:30 P.M.
RSVP @ TEMPLEISAIAH.COM



SPLC Southern Poverty Law Center

WITH
JOSEPH J. LEVIN, JR.
SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER CO-FOUNDER

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

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