



**UNIVERSITY
SYNAGOGUE**
Connect. Engage. Discover.

The Torch

November 23, 2016 • 22 Cheshvan 5777



Save the Date:
HEROES AMONG US GALA
March 16, 2017

This Week

Friday, 11/25

Offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving

5:30 pm
Shabbat Service

Saturday, 11/26

9 am
Hevrah Torah

Sunday, 11/27

No Religious School classes

Mazal Tov



Les Abell, who received the Outstanding Philanthropist Award from the Exceptional Children's Foundation

Vicki Tashman, on the publication of her new book, Buzzy and Thomas Move into the President's House

University Synagogue along with the St. Joseph Center have teamed up to make the holidays a little brighter for those in need

It Starts with the Relationship!

Rabbi Joel T. Simonds

AME CHURCH

On Friday, October 28th members of University Synagogue in Los Angeles, along with a delegation of Rabbinical students from the Hebrew Union College, brought in the beauty of Shabbat at the Southern California convention of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The 92nd session of the Southern California Annual Conference featured the "Lay Witness Night," in which lay leaders of the church designed an extraordinary evening with the theme, "How our faith speaks at the ballot box."



Although the evening was planned and implemented by lay leaders, the relationship between University Synagogue and Ward AME church began with the clergy. Rabbi Morley Feinstein and Reverend John Cager both serve on the Los Angeles Council of Religious Leaders. Through this partnership and friendship came the strong working relationship that led to "Lay Witness Night." Julie Bank, the Vice President for Tikun Olam at University Synagogue, worked closely with lay leaders from AME to create an evening of faith, action and relationship. From communal worship to lay presentations on the various ballot measures and propositions, two communities came together to join hand-in-hand, raise our voices high, and commit to working together for justice as partners in faith and action. This is a relationship that will surely blossom.

GREEN FAITH

How do we put faith into action? It starts with our Synagogue home! Nearly two years ago Rabbi Molly Plotnik (then our rabbinical intern and now a rabbi in northern California) took the lead on helping University Synagogue receive our Green Faith Energy Shield Certification. With staff help from our own Bonnie Kebre and a team of lay leaders over the years University Synagogue is the FIRST Reform Synagogue in the Nation to be awarded the Green Faith Certificate in recognition of the many ways our building and our community cares for our environment. From energy efficient light bulbs to solar powered Eternal light; from recycling programs to zoned temperature control; from the organic garden and composting program to the recycling of materials that were used in our building construction and most importantly to the ongoing maintenance of our facility - we can be proud of our substantial contribution to our immediate and surrounding environment. We know that what makes our synagogue beautiful is connected with how we make our world a little more beautiful.



Continuing our relationship with St. Joseph Center whose mission is to provide working poor families, as well as homeless men, women, and children of all ages, with the inner resources and tools to become productive, stable and self-supporting members of the community. We have set a goal to provide their clientele with 300 gift cards for the Holidays. We have made this simple. Go to the [link](#) and with just a click you will be able to make someone's holiday brighter.

Get started by clicking on the Amazon Logo or the St. Joseph Center logo.



Annual Holiday Party at the Cloverfield Service Center 2:00 - 4:00 PM

As we have done in the past, we are asking our University Synagogue families to please donate a set or two of towels (wash cloth, face towel, bath towel) to the ladies as a holiday gift that will be given to them on **December 24th**. If you can please put them in a decorative gift bag that would be wonderful. Other toiletries being collected include travel size lotions, tooth paste, makeup, soaps, shampoos, etc. Towels can be dropped off at the Synagogue office from now until December 20th.

Community Calendar

Tuesday November 29, 6:30 - 9:00 PM

MainStage 2016 Featuring James Corden

Join hundreds of other **young adults** on November 29th for MainStage, a unique night of food, drinks, and inspiring speakers. The Federation's annual young adult fundraising event invites leading innovators and influencers to our stage to inspire, connect, and entertain. [Click here to purchase tickets.](#)

Thursday, December 8, 7:00 pm

Mizrahi Commemoration Event

SAVE THE DATE: An Untold Story: Honoring the official day of commemoration of Jewish Refugees from Arab countries and Iran. With special exhibit, guest speakers, and musical performance. [Click here for more information.](#)
Location: Sephardic Temple

Sunday, December 11

The Jewish Federation Community Service Day

Bring joy and do good this holiday season with a meaningful day of volunteering with the Federation on Sunday, December 11th! Join the community in giving back through any one of these four impactful opportunities: Hollywood Community Housing Corporation, Project Angel Food, Shemesh Organic Farm, and the Westside JCC 5K Run/Walk. [Click here to volunteer.](#)

LUNCH MAKING FOR DAYBREAK WOMEN'S HOMELESS SHELTER OPPC

Yet this Certificate is not only recognition of what we have done, it's a challenge for what we must continue to do. We must continue to earn this certificate every moment we enter this synagogue. We must change our collective culture to ensure that this certificate does not hang on a wall, but rather is inscribed on our hearts.

Below is a beginning list of community norms that can help us all earn this certificate and make our community a holy place that does not destroy God's earth.

- Turn off your car in the carpool lane on Sundays and Tuesdays to prevent further emissions in the atmosphere
- Turn off lights when exiting a room from a class, meeting or program
- Bring a mug or water bottle to all synagogue activities to prevent using disposable cups.
- Recycle, recycle, recycle
- Bring a sweater so that we can keep our temperature controlled
- Help us in our new efforts to compost
- Have your Synagogue meetings and activities on the designated days so that we can go "dark" on certain days thus reducing our energy use.
- Turn off water while washing hands and then turn back on to rinse.

Let this Green Faith Energy Shield certificate be a reminder of what we have accomplished, and a pledge that we will continue to commit ourselves as a holy community to protecting our environment.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rabbi Morley T. Feinstein



For the expanding grandeur of Creation, worlds known and unknown, galaxies beyond galaxies, filling us with awe and challenging our imaginations, we gratefully give thanks to You.

For this fragile planet earth, its times and tides, its sunsets and seasons,

For the joy of human life, its wonders and surprises, its hopes and achievements,

For human community, our common past and future hope, our oneness transcending all separation, our capacity to work for peace and justice in the midst of hostility and oppression,

For high hopes and noble causes, for faith without fanaticism, for understanding of views not shared,

For all who have labored and suffered for a fairer world, who have lived so that others might live in dignity and freedom,

For human liberties and sacred rites, for opportunities to change and grow, to affirm and choose,

We pray that we may live not by our fears but by our hopes, not only by our words but by our deeds. May our deeds, together, help us redeem the world.

Praised are You, Adonai, Your Name is Goodness, and You are worthy of thanksgiving. (adapted from *Mishkan T'filah*)

"One good cause countless good effects "



Lunch making for Daybreak Women's Homeless Shelter OPPC in Santa Monica continues **on Sundays once a month at 9:00am**. 50 Sack lunches are prepared by our Synagogue Volunteers, hopefully YOU, and delivered to Daybreak.

Please [contact Suzy](#) if you are interested in this Tikkun Olam activity.

UPCOMING DATE:

December 11: University Synagogue Kitchen



CPR Certification is a lifesaving and important action we can all take ensure our community and children are safe. For \$36, ECLC is offering a 2-hour CPR certification. Please RSVP to alevitt@unisyn.org if you'd like to join. Payment can be collected on the day-of, or you can submit payment to Alana in the ECLC office. [Click here to access the sign-up form.](#)

For more information and updates on what's happening at University Synagogue, "like" us on [Facebook!](#)



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