

## THE TORCH

September 6, 2017 | 15 Elul 5777

### This Week

**Friday, 9/8**  
**7:30 pm**  
Shabbat Service

**Saturday, 9/9**  
**9:00 am**  
Hevrah Torah

**9:00 am**  
Tot Shabbat AM - Best Playdate Ever!

**5:00 pm**  
Shabbat service celebrating Ellia Torkian  
becoming a Bat Mitzvah



### Welcoming the Stranger Jessie Shamout

As we prepare to enter a new and wonderful year in Religious School, I've been thinking a lot about our theme: *kehillah kedoshah*, a holy community. This year, our students will be learning all the ways in which we can make our community holy, how we connect to one another, new ways to link our families together, and how to support each other. We will be joined by so many new students: our entire kindergarten class as well as several students in our upper grades. We have an obligation to show them and their families how special they are and how eager we are to welcome them. It may not be easy for those who are new. They may feel like strangers in our building if they've never been here before. The Torah tells us no less than 36 times that we are to be aware of our treatment of the stranger: "you know the feelings of a stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Exodus 23:9). This commandment is repeated more than any other commandment, more than the commandment of loving God or keeping the Sabbath.

So how do we welcome the stranger? How do we teach our children to welcome the stranger? All of us have a memory (maybe pushed deep down) when we felt uninvited, unwelcomed, or uncomfortable walking into a new setting. We've all been there. And hopefully we all have a memory of a time when we were welcomed with open arms and accepted right away. This is what we hope for when it comes to our children – that none of them will have that uninvited feeling. And if we want them to feel invited, we need to show them they have a place here. It is our obligation to show them that Judaism welcomes the stranger, and no one should feel excluded or left out. It will take all of us to create this holy community, and all of us have a place in it.

### Bat Mitzvah Spotlight: Ellia Torkian



Ellia is the daughter of **Behrooz Torkian and Adrienne Youdim**.

**School:** Paul Revere Middle School

**Tzedakah Project:** My mitzvah project is dedicated to the SOVA food pantry. I organized a friends and family volunteer day at the warehouse, and have asked guests to bring in one canned food that will be donated to the organization.

**HIGH HOLY DAYS COUNTDOWN: SAVE THESE KEY DAYS!**



## 2 weeks until High Holy Days

While we're enjoying summer, it's hard to believe that the High Holy Days are just around the corner! Now is the time to:

- Renew your Membership and get your HHD tickets
- Register for Religious School
- Register for ECLC

### HIGH HOLY DAYS EVENTS & SERVICES 2017 | 5778

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

##### 7:00pm - Standing At The Gates: A Community S'lichot Experience

*The Rabbis, Cantors and Choirs of Five Congregations join together for Food, Music, Study and Prayers of Forgiveness* Wilshire Boulevard Temple (3663 Wilshire Boulevard Los Angeles, 90010)

#### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

7:30pm - Erev Rosh Hashanah Services (Sanctuary)

7:30pm - Brentwood Havurah Services (Chapel)

#### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

8:30am - Rosh Hashanah Tot Service

10:30am - Rosh Hashanah Morning Services

3:15pm - Tashlich on the Beach (Will Rogers Beach, Lifeguard Station 15)

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

7:30pm - Kol Nidre Services (Sanctuary)

7:30pm - Brentwood Havurah Services (Chapel)

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

8:30am - Yom Kippur Tot Service

10:30am - Yom Kippur Morning Service

1:00pm - Sacred Jewish Music Meditation with award-winning composer and world-music artist Yuval Ron. *Experience contemplative music played on the biblical lute, the Oud, for a personal time of prayer, meditation, and inner exploration on the holy day of Yom Kippur.*

2:30pm - Yom Kippur Afternoon, Yizkor, Ne'ilah Services

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#### Programming for Youth

##### Preschool through K

Our High Holy Day Tot services are just for you!

##### Grades 1-3

Children in grades 1 - 3 are invited to join us for a program in ECLC. We will have some activities, play time, snack and an age-appropriate High Holy Day service including hearing the shofar! This program is available at **morning services only**.

##### Grades 4-6

Children in grades 4 - 6 are welcome to join us on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur mornings in the Gray Family chapel for an age-appropriate service. Our service will run concurrently with the main service up until the time the Torah is brought out. We will then bring all the children back to the sanctuary where they can meet their parents and sit with them for the remainder of the morning. These services are available during morning services only.

##### Grade 7-12

We expect our Bar/Bat Mitzvah students and those who have become B'nai Mitzvah to join us in the congregational service.

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#### Book of Remembrance

We are preparing for our annual Yizkor Memorial Book, which will be distributed to the Congregation on Yom Kippur afternoon. In order to help us prepare this book, we urge you to submit names to us as quickly as possible. The deadline to turn in the form is **September 6, 2017**. The form was mailed out but can also be found on our [High Holy Day page](#) at our website.

For questions, please contact Sue Share at [sshare@unisyn.org](mailto:sshare@unisyn.org).

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#### SISTERHOOD: SWEETEN THE NEW YEAR WITH A GIFT OF HONEY

Wish your family and friends Shana Tova by sending them a gift of honey for a Sweet New Year.

Each gift jar contains 8 ounces of delicious golden certified pure Kosher honey and your personalized gift card. Order and pay online and your gift of honey will be on its way to your friends and families. It's that easy!

Our Special Price: \$12.00 per jar (includes shipping within the U.S.)

Please Note: The price on the website is marked \$25.00. Our special price of \$12.00 will be applied at check out after you enter the coupon code **sisterhood310**.

All proceeds will benefit Sisterhood's special projects. Online orders need to be placed by **TODAY** to guarantee delivery by Rosh Hashanah 2017. [Click here to order!](#)

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## High Holy Day Usher and Greeters

The High Holy Days are upon us and you can make a difference. We're looking for warm and welcoming ushers and greeters to help make the experience wonderful for all. If you're interested in helping, please contact our head usher, Barry Sikov at [insurer9@aol.com](mailto:insurer9@aol.com) or (310) 476-9720.



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### Sukkot

If you would like to complete the mitzvah of shaking the Lulav in the Sukkah, and would like to purchase your own set of Lulav and Etrog, please [fill out the form](#) and submit to Bonnie Kebre, [bkebre@unisyn.org](mailto:bkebre@unisyn.org) by Monday, September 25th.

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# An Introduction to Judaism

If you give us 18 nights,  
we'll give you four thousand years.

Taught by Cantor Jay Frailich at University Synagogue  
Sunday mornings beginning October 15.

Discover what could be meaningful to you in liberal Judaism. Engage with Jewish values, celebrations, spirituality, and community in an 18-week **Introduction to Judaism** class taught through a Reform lens.

[Registration](#) is now open!

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## Saving the Yazidi from Genocide: Coming To The Aid Of The Persecuted

*A Crucial Conversation*

The Yazidi people are in the third year of a sexual and military slavery that is part of a genocide perpetrated by so-called ISIS. Among other groups, the Israeli NGO IsraAid and the Yazidi NGO Yazda work hard to raise consciousness and provide for Yazidi rescue and relief.

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Join us for this crucial conversation presented in partnership with the Los Angeles Jewish Journal.

Featuring:

Yotam Polizer, Co-Chief Executive Officer, IsraAID  
Haider Elias, President, Yazda  
Rabbi Pam Frydman, Coordinator, Beyond Genocide Campaign



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**Sunday, September 17, 9:30 am**  
**University Synagogue**  
**11960 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90049**

Co-sponsors: University Synagogue; Kehillat Israel Reconstructionist Congregation of Pacific Palisades; Loyola Marymount University Jewish Studies Program; Board of Rabbis of Southern California; IsraAID; Yazda; Board of Rabbis of Northern California Beyond Genocide Campaign; Temple Akiba

(Childcare will be provided.)

For information: [BeyondGenocideCampaign@gmail.com](mailto:BeyondGenocideCampaign@gmail.com), 415-261-3404.

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**Kever Avot Memorial Services**

Sunday, September 24, 2017

**10:00 AM**

Mount Sinai Hollywood Hills  
5950 Forest Lawn Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90068

**1:00 PM**

Mount Sinai Simi Valley  
6150 Mount Sinai Drive  
Simi Valley, CA 93063



Mount Sinai provides Kever Avot Services to the entire Jewish community as a way for us to come together at this time of tradition and remembrance, to remember the stories and memories that live in our hearts, and to support each other at this sacred time.

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**Mazal Tov**

**Natalie Gold**, daughter of Lisette and Mark Gold, on being selected for the Leadership Award and Scholarship by the University of California Berkeley.

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

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**Why Did You Become an Adult Bar or Bat Mitzvah?**

An author who is a member of Temple Beth Hillel in Valley Village is currently working on a book project entitled *The Modern (Not 13 Year Old's) Guide to the Adult B'nai Mitzvah*.

She wants to include a compilation of 1<sup>st</sup> hand accounts by people from across the United States who have undergone this special journey. Be sure to note the name of our congregation. If you are interested, send her your story of why you chose to undergo the process and/or your life journey which lead you to the Torah. Stories can be sent to:

Christine Machlin  
5333 Riverton Avenue, #18  
North Hollywood, California 91601  
Or Email: [christinemachlin@gmail.com](mailto:christinemachlin@gmail.com)

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*~Save the date~*

TOGETHER  
AS  
ONE:

An Interfaith Concert to  
provide aid to people  
experiencing  
homelessness.

OCT. 29  
4 PM

*Featuring the  
Yuval Ron Ensemble*



### Calling all Volunteers!

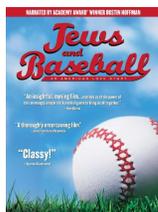
Are you looking for volunteer opportunities? We are looking for enthusiastic individuals to join our volunteer workforce! Contact Emilie Leder at [ELeder@unisyn.org](mailto:ELeder@unisyn.org) if you are interested!



### 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.



### ANNOUNCING THE NEW UNIVERSITY SYNAGOGUE FILM SOCIETY!

Synagogue members Jim Ruxin and Chuck Kahn have organized a series of films, guests and discussions. We hope to screen vintage and contemporary films related to the Jewish experience. Comedies, dramas and fascinating documentaries will offer something for everyone.

"Jews and Baseball: An American Love Story," will be on Sunday, September 24, 2017 at 10:00 AM in the Gray Family Chapel: a wonderful documentary about five Jews who helped make baseball into what the game is today. Dustin Hoffman narrates this charming and informative film that will please lifelong baseball fanatics and young novices.

The trailer is irresistible: [Jews and Baseball: An American Love Story | Willow Pond Films](#)

FREE, BUT RSVP IS A MUST. [REGISTER HERE](#).

### 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](mailto:BKebre@unisyn.org).

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### Tikkun Olam Corner



Thanks to our congregant Emily Greenberg, of Greenberg Orchards in Ojai, who regularly donates fruit to our garden efforts! With Karen Sillas, Steve Sebolsky, Renee Gingold, Nasi Cohen, and others, we are feeding fresh produce to hundreds of people a week through the food pantry at St. Joseph Center. Contact Cantor Shapiro or Julie Bank (our VP of Tikkun Olam) if you would like to be involved in our Tikkun Olam community garden. There are volunteer opportunities to get your hands in the dirt, deliver produce to St. Joseph Center, and there is a current opportunity to work with Cantor Shapiro on applying for a grant to grow our garden even more!

## Support University Synagogue.

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com),  
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)



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