



THE TORCH

October 11, 2017 | 21 Tishrei 5778

This Week

Friday, 10/13

7:30 pm

Shabbat Evening Service

Saturday, 10/14

9:00 am

Hevrah Torah

9:00 am

Tot Shabbat AM - Best Playdate Ever!

9:00 am

Torah Off the Beaten Path (Temescal Canyon)

5:00 pm

Shabbat Service celebrating Paris Gingold becoming a Bat Mitzvah



Faithfully Yours Rabbi Feinstein's Kol Nidre Sermon on Civility

.... "You shall not stand idly by the blood of your neighbor," the book of Leviticus teaches. We must speak out when mean, vicious, or cruel language is used against others. When we stand up against hateful speech and bigotry, we bring civility back to our nation. When we simply let it go, we become accomplices to *Lashon HaRa*. We need to reclaim decency and honor and kindness, word by word, sentence by sentence. It starts here with us, especially on this Night of Atonement. After all, *Kol Nidre* is about oaths, vows, the words we speak, and so is the *Al Het* Confessional, about the wrong way we have chosen to use our language.

We seek atonement for the harsh and mean words we have uttered.

200 years ago, a Hassidic rabbi from Kotzk, Menachem Mendel, understood both how to express oneself, and how to be thoughtful in one's words. "Not all that is thought should be said, not all that is said should be written, not all that is written should be published, not all that is published should be read." How true. And how vital if we are to raise the level of civility in our time and in our lives. Words matter. Jokes matter. FB posts and Twitter matter. Elevator banter matters. Comments matter. Asides in conversation matter. Emails and texts matter. Our tradition teaches us about *Lashon HaRa*, that we should not gossip, tell tall tales, or slander another. If we do so, it is as if we have murdered the person-or at least his or her reputation.

The servant of Rabban Gamliel, Tevi, was commanded to go to the market to select the best food. He chose tongue. When he was asked to purchase the worst food in the market, he also selected tongue. Rabban Gamliel asked him, "Why did you choose tongue twice?" The non-Jewish servant responded: "Both good and bad come from it. When the tongue is good, there is nothing better. But when the tongue is bad, there is nothing worse." What a lesson to remind ourselves about the power of speech!

We need to watch our own language as well. We can't suffer a racist or sexist or anti-Semitic joke, and we must delete the words *goyim*, *JAP*, *shiksa*, *shegetz* and *shvartza* from our vocabulary as well. When they're used in a derogatory manner they do not show our respect for people who are like us or who are different from us. And if we're all God's children our speech must become elevated, and thus display our reverence for God.

Sisterhood, recipient of the Gold 2018 Or Ami "Light of My People" award. The Sisterhood's program *A Celebration of Reform Judaism Around the World* was selected for this honor by the Women of Reform Judaism. They will be recognized at the WRJ Fried Leadership Conference in Nashville, TN.



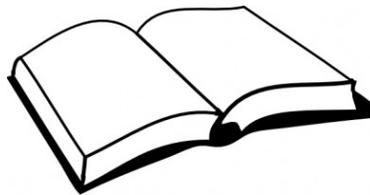
Bat Mitzvah Spotlight: Paris Gingold

Paris is the daughter of **Renée and Stephen Gingold**.

School: Le Lycée Francais de Los Angeles

Spiritual Highlight Being able to share this milestone with my family and friends.

Tzedakah Project I participated in a dance performance at a senior center and at an event honoring Holocaust survivors. I also have and will continue to harvest fruit and vegetables in the UNISYN garden for the food bank at St. Joseph's Center.



University Synagogue Membership Directory

A membership directory is a wonderful way to reach out, connect and stay in touch. University Synagogue will be creating one within the next few months.

We plan to include pictures so people can put faces to names when we see each other around the synagogue. Please email your favorite photo to our Engagement Coordinator, Emilie Leder at Eleder@unisyn.org.

We want to respect your privacy. This directory is for the **private non-commercial use of the members of University Synagogue only**. If you do not wish to have your information listed, please let us know by contacting Emilie at the above email. If we do not hear from you, we will presume it is o.k. to print your information which will include, name, address, phone number and email. We're looking forward to connecting.

TORAH OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Experience torah, prayer and spirituality
while out on the trail with Cantor Shapiro.

Appropriate for singles, couples and families.

October 14 at 9:00 a.m.
Temescal Canyon Loop

Join Cantor Shapiro for a Shabbat morning hike and Torah experience! Enjoy nature and God's creation with old and new friends. We will give and receive blessings and chant from the scroll. No experience with Torah or hiking necessary!

The next event will be on Saturday, October 14 at 9:00 a.m. Please arrive at 8:45 a.m. to allow for parking. This month's hike will be at Temescal Canyon Loop.

Meet at the trail head between 8:45-9 am, and we will start hiking at 9. The hiking trail begins at Temescal Gateway Park: 15601 Sunset Blvd (Sunset & Temescal). Either park on Temescal for free or park inside for a fee. (Usually \$7). As you head into the canyon you will reach a series of buildings that are part of a conference center. There are restrooms here as well as an information kiosk. Meet at the trail head by the brown sign.

We will see you there!



Rabbi Stanley Davids to Teach Monthly Hartman Institute Class

iEngage 4: Milestones and Meanings

What is real in contemporary Israeli culture, politics, and religion? What has happened in the 100 years since the Balfour Declaration? How has Israel changed since the Six-Day War?

Each session will feature one of the Shalom Hartman Institute scholars in a 20 minute video followed by a wide open discussion led by Rabbi Stanley Davids. Scholars include Donniel Hartman, Yossi Klein HaLevi, and Micah Goodman. Our first class will be on Tuesday evening, **November 7th, 7-8:15 PM** in the **Beit Midrash, Weinstein Family Library**. Other sessions will be on November 28th, December 19th, January 23rd, February 13th, March 13th, April 10th, and May 8th. Seating is limited. RSVP to Sue Share at Sshare@unisyn.org.

STEPHEN
WISE TEMPLE

Prayer Vigil for America's Future
Monday, October 16 at 7:00 p.m.



Stephen Wise Temple is proud to host and join with religious leaders and their congregations as well civic leaders for a Westside interfaith vigil in support of the American values of tolerance, pluralism, and security for immigrants.

Join us as we celebrate the deep respect we have for each other and honor multiple paths to God, spirituality, and meaning. This special evening will honor our belief that the commandment to "love your neighbor as yourself" is core to our faiths, as our traditions call us to: "do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with God."

- Choirs from multiple congregations will sing.
- Clergy will offer brief prayers of solidarity and hope.
- Civic leaders will show their commitment to our shared American values and their continued realization in our communal life.

Participants and Co-sponsors include:

- Stephen Wise Temple
- IKAR
- Leo Baeck Temple
- Temple Beth Hillel
- University Synagogue
- Faithful Central Bible Church
- Reform CA
- LA Voice
- MAJIC and New Ground
- Wise Readers to Leaders
- AJC Los Angeles
- Additional participants

Please arrive early to pass through security.

Location: Stephen Wise Temple, 15500 Stephen S. Wise Drive, Los Angeles, 90077

For information email: Rstern@wisela.org.

Monkeys in Sukkah with Rabbi Feinstein



~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 US Veterans

Please contact Cantor Shapiro, as we would like your input as we plan to honor our veterans during Shabbat services on Veteran's Day Weekend. cantorshapiro@unisynd.org



MAVENS



Join us for an evening of music and friends. Our very own MAVENS* will entertain you with music of the 60s, 70s, and 80s. Hear your friends sing and JAM!

Dessert provided. Cash bar.

NOV 11
8 - 11 PM

Entry cost: \$90

Sponsorships available.

*formerly the Jewbies.

RSVP

Caring for Hurricane Survivors

To all those facing challenges as we begin 5778, especially from hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, we join together in praying for peace, wholeness, and health for everyone. The best way to help those in need of assistance is to donate to these organizations which are providing relief in the impacted areas:

- [Jewish Federations of North America 2017 Hurricane Relief Fund](#)
- [NECHAMA: A Jewish Response to Disaster](#)
- [Hispanic Federation .org](#)
- [voicesforpuertorico.com.](#)
- <http://www.israaid.co.il/donate>



Hurricane Relief: A Thank You

Thank you to Hillcrest Country Club and their generous members who assisted in our effort to help the victims of Hurricane Harvey.

University Synagogue mailed \$1,200 in gift cards as a result of our joint appeal.

Thank you for being partners in Tikkun Olam.

Mitzvah Corps: We're Here For You!

The University Synagogue Mitzvah Corps wants you to know that we're here, and we care! Dedicated to serving our fellow congregants as they encounter major life cycle events, we will gladly send a welcome gift to a new baby, and provide support for ill or mourning congregants and their families (delivering a hot meal, completing a minyan, running an errand, etc.).

If you're in need of some TLC from the Mitzvah Corps, please just inform any clergy member or the synagogue office. We'd also love to have you join us as a volunteer — the demands are few and the rewards are plentiful! Please contact Susan Wieder at sdwieder@mac.com.



OPCC Lunch Making at Cloverfield

October 22nd at 9:45am, we will be meeting at the Shelter (1751 Cloverfield Blvd., Santa Monica).

Religious school students designated by Mrs. Shamout will be the invited lunch makers. Parents are welcome to join us. TIKUN OLAM is our theme! We will also have a brief tour of the facility and have a chance to mingle with and get to know the residents!

There is a parking lot in back and plenty of parking on the side street.

We hope to see you there!

*Suzy Giambattista & Enid Friedman
Social Action with Sisterhood*



Film Society Screening: Marshall

The University Synagogue Film Society will screen the dramatic film "Marshall" on Sunday, October 22 at 9:30 AM in the Gray Family Chapel.

It stars Chadwick Boseman ("42") as a young Thurgood Marshall defending a black man accused of raping a white woman in suburban Connecticut in 1941.

Josh Gad plays his unwilling co-counsel, a Jewish insurance lawyer who grows passionate about the case, despite other Jews asking him to leave the case and not call attention to their community.

Kate Hudson is thoroughly convincing as the victim. And Steven K. Brown is mesmerizing as the accused. Producer Jonathan Sanger ("The Elephant Man") will be our guest.

Hope to see you at the movies!

SYNAGOGUE EVENTS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

9:00 am - Atzeret-Simchat Torah Morning Service in the Sukkah

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

7:30 pm - Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

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

9:00 am - Torah Off The Beaten Path with Cantor Shapiro

9:00 am - Hevrah Torah with Rabbi Stanley Davids

5:00 pm - Shabbat Service celebrating Paris Gingold becoming a Bat Mitzvah

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

7:30 pm - Shabbat Zimrah

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

9:00 am - Lunch making for OPCC (1751 Cloverfield Blvd., Santa Monica, 90404)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

7:30 pm - People of the Book will feature Rabbi Stanley Davids, who will discuss his new book, The Fragile Dialogue: New Voices of Liberal Zionism. Israel has quickly become one of the most polarizing forces in the North American Jewish community. In a world already much too divided, how can we approach the subject of Zionism without widening the rifts? This book wrestles with and attempts to frame the very fragile dialogue surrounding Zionism and Israel . There are many lenses through which Reform Jews approach Zionism, not only set apart by political differences but also by geographical diversity, religious divisiveness, socio-economic policies, gender issues, the use and abuse of power, and more.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

4:00 pm - **Together as One: An Interfaith Concert** to provide aid to those experiencing homelessness featuring the Yuval Ron Ensemble

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

6:30 PM - Sisterhood Hanukkah Dinner

SAVE THE DATES!

University Synagogue has many exciting events this year.

TOGETHER AS ONE

a Tzedakah concert, featuring Yuval Ron Ensemble, to support people experiencing homelessness.

**OCT.
29**

**NOV.
11**

CLUB NIGHT WITH OUR VERY OWN MAVENS

great music, food and friends

CASINO NIGHT

a lively evening with prizes, raffles, and fun

**FEB.
10**

**FEB.
25**

PURIM CARNIVAL & SPIEL

bring the whole family for a day of celebration

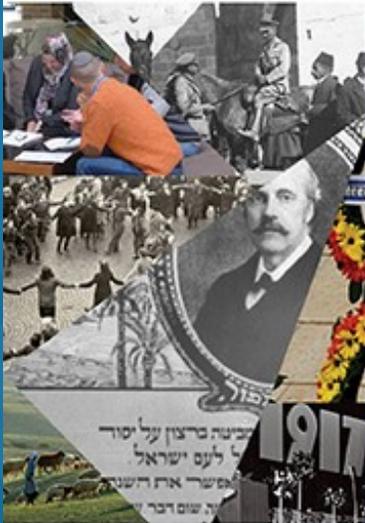
CANTOR'S CONCERT

a beautiful afternoon of song benefitting the music program

**APR.
22**



www.UniSyn.org



THE DAYENU OF ZIONISM

1917: THE IDEA OF A HOMELAND FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE

Monday, October 23, 2017 | 7:30 pm

American Jewish University, Familian Campus
15600 Mulholland Dr., Bel-Air, CA



DONNIEL HARTMAN
President,
Shalom Hartman Institute

The Balfour Declaration marks the turning point in the balance between the two pillars of Jewish collective existence: The Judaism of Being and the Judaism of Becoming.

Join us as Donniel Hartman explores how these two core principles of Jewish identity evolved with the Zionist idea of a homeland for the Jewish people, and how the shift continues to play out in modern Israel today.

\$12 per person

[Learn more and register HERE!](#)

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.



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 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 or (310) 472-1255.

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.

Support University Synagogue.

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