

## Letter From Our Rabbi

### That Was The Jewish Year That Was

Dear Haverim,

The year 2011 was full of interesting events and personalities in the areas of politics, religion and culture. As Ben Gurion once said: "We Jews cannot live in the past, but the past must live in us." So, let's look back as we move into the future.

In political news, President Obama became the first President to observe "Jewish American Heritage Month" at the White House and, later in the year, he hosted a large Hanukkah celebration with 550 guests. Guests ranged from establishment figures to those from "J Street," and from Elie Wiesel to Yeshiva University's a capella web sensation "The Maccabeats."

**At Pesach, the President, once again, hosted a White House Seder, after which Jimmy Kimmel quipped: "Last night, President Obama celebrated the annual White House Seder. This morning, Donald Trump asked to see his Bar Mitzvah certificate!"**

On a more serious note, there were obvious personal and political tensions between Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Obama, so both the Anti-Defamation League and the American Jewish Committee asked the Democratic and Republican parties to agree to a "National Pledge for Unity on Israel," lest Israel become a divisive issue in the 2012 campaign.

**Ironically, US-Israel military cooperation was at an all-time high, as repeatedly expressed by Israel's President Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Ehud Barak. Both praised President Obama lavishly, but Prime Minister Netanyahu was still worried about being pushed on the Israeli-Palestinian issue, so he took advantage of a joint session of Congress to implicitly scold President Obama.** Still, Israel was glad that the United States refused to support Palestinian statehood at the UN, that it intervened with Egypt to rescue Israeli Embassy officials and that it criticized those from the academic community and others who questioned the value of Israel as a strategic asset for America. (Dov Zackheim, a top Reagan and Bush Defense Department official, a Romney adviser and a committed Jew, recently wrote that "the winds are

Rabbi Arnold Rachlis



changing and Israel needs to get in line with Washington's geo-strategic interests." His words were echoed by former Secretary of Defense Gates and his successor, Leon Panetta.)

**The White House invited 170 representatives of Jewish social justice organizations (including Mazon) to a policy briefing and appointed Dan Shapiro to be the new US Ambassador to Israel.** Shapiro, who is fluent in Hebrew and Arabic, previously served as the Senior Director for Middle East/North African Affairs at the National Security Council.

Although a number of people knew that President Obama's half-brother, Mark Ndesandjo, was Jewish (the son of Barack, Sr. and his third wife, an American Jew), few were aware that Valerie Jarrett, one of the President's closest friends and advisers and his Assistant for Intergovernmental Affairs also has Jewish ancestry, as she revealed in an interview.

Last year, the President appointed a number of new Jewish ambassadors – (my friend) Alan Solomont to Spain and Norm Eisen

to his mother's home country, the Czech Republic, where the former Nazi headquarters serves as the Ambassador's residence, with a kosher kitchen and a mezuzah on the door.

At the site of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Monument, President Obama (along with Elie Wiesel) placed a wreath and declared: "I will always be there for Israel." **When the President visited England, he was escorted into Parliament, flanked by the Speaker of the House of Commons John Bercow (Conservative) and the Speaker of the House of Lords Helene Hayman (Labour) – both Jews. Of course, Ed Miliband is the leader of the Labour Party. He and his brother David – his opponent for the leadership of the party – are the sons of Polish Jews who came to England after fleeing the Holocaust. In addition, their father taught at Brandeis University where his sons gained a life-long love of America.**

In the category of "you can't have too many Bernsteins in an administration," Jarrod Bernstein became President Obama's Jewish liaison, while Jared Bernstein continued to be one of the administration's top economists, working primarily with the Vice President. (Mazel tov to Vice President Joe Biden

Inside this Issue			
Rabbi's Letter	1-3	Religious School	18
President's Letter	4	Pre-School	19
Upcoming Dates	5-10	Contributions	22-24
Monthly Calendar	11	Supporters	26

whose daughter Ashley became engaged to Dr. Howard Klein, an otolaryngologist, last year.)

In Congress, Rep. Barney Frank organized 39 Democrats and Senator John McCain who called upon our government to free Jonathan Pollard, convicted of espionage for Israel in 1987. **Rep. Eric Cantor continued to be the highest ranking Jewish political figure in American history as Majority Leader.**

**Rep. Gabby Giffords, one of the most beloved members of Congress, was tragically shot in an assassination attempt and spent the year trying to recover. In her own synagogue and in synagogues across the country, her name was invoked weekly for a refua shelema. Her best friend in Congress, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, became Chair of the Democratic National Committee and Rep. Anthony Wiener resigned after lewd photos, that he sent out, appeared on the web.** (Wiener was outed by another Jew, conservative blogger Andrew Breitbart and was offered scant comfort by Reverend Albert Mohler, President of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, who publicly urged Rep. Wiener to accept Jesus "since there is no effective treatment for sin but Jesus Christ.")

**Republican Jewish support and money mostly went to Governor Romney (except in the case of Sheldon Adelson, casino mogul of Las Vegas, who gave \$5 million to Newt Gingrich, followed by another \$5 million from Adelson's wife) and, while public opinion polls showed that 1/4 to 1/3 of all Americans won't vote for a Mormon, Republican Jewish voters generally favored him.** Ron Paul's opposition to foreign aid and the extreme evangelical positions of some of the other candidates made many Jewish Republicans uncomfortable.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg campaigned successfully for marriage equality in New York State, declaring that "near equality is not equality" for gay and lesbian couples. In Los Angeles, at least four Jewish politicians have shown interest in running for mayor in 2013 – County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, City Council President Eric Garcetti, City Council member Jan Perry, (an African-American Jew by choice), and businessman Austin Beutner. In Congress, because of redistricting, two popular Representatives with similar liberal records – Howard Berman and Brad Sherman – decided to run against each other in the primary, thus potentially splitting the finances and votes of the (Jewish) "Westside machine."

In San Francisco, a proposed ballot measure to ban circumcision was stopped. The campaign degenerated into anti-Semitism when a comic book was distributed depicting a blond heroic "Foreskin Man" battling a bearded black-hatted Jew holding a bloody blade.

Former White House correspondent Helen Thomas followed her 2010 comment that "Jews should get the hell out of Palestine" with a 2011 declaration that "Jews weren't persecuted in Europe after the Holocaust."

The State Department, in its annual Human Rights Report, issued by Assistant Secretary of State Michael Posner, listed abuses in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza

and criticized both Israelis and Palestinians. In Israel, the issues were the mistreatment of Arab citizens, non-Orthodox Jews, foreign workers and asylum seekers as well as the excessive use of force by soldiers and the police. Shockingly, an Israeli company, Ofer Brothers, violated the US sanctions law by providing Iran with a tanker.

**There was gratitude around the world when Gilad Shalit was released by Hamas, after five years, in a thousand-for-one prisoner exchange. Less well known, because the Jewish community and his family asked the press to keep it quiet, was that Josh Fattal, who had been held captive in Iran for twenty-six months as one of three hikers who crossed the border accidentally, is Jewish.** Israeli-American law student, Ilan Grapel, arrested in Cairo during the Arab Spring and charged with spying, was also released after American intervention in exchange for twenty-five Egyptian prisoners in Israel. Sadly, Alan Gross in Cuba, Warren Weinstein, kidnapped by Al Qaeda and the Taliban in Pakistan, and Robert Levinson in Iran remain in captivity.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, who had hoped to run for President of France (against President Nicolas Sarkozy, grandson of Greek Jews), had his campaign derailed by a sexual abuse arrest in New York.

**In religious news, the Orthodox community ran the spectrum of "the good, the bad and the ugly."** The good: Yeshiva University awarded its first doctorate in Talmud to a woman, Shana Schick, and Uri L'Tzedek, a social action group, protested unfair labor practices in the kosher food distribution industry. The bad: Hasidim insisted on separate seating for men and women on New York City buses, that travelled to their neighborhoods in Brooklyn, even for non-Jewish women. A violation of civil rights, it was challenged by non-Orthodox Jewish lawyers. The ugly: In the city of New Square, in Rockland County, New York, Skverer Hasidim violently attacked those who wouldn't pray at their synagogue, because they wanted to attend another (Orthodox) synagogue. Arson was also committed. **In addition, the Brooklyn District Attorney reported eighty-five cases of child sexual abuse by the Orthodox community. The number was probably higher, according to authorities, since many Orthodox authorities have asked their followers not to go to the police, but only to rabbinical authorities.** The Kabbalah Centre, an international New Age organization that teaches Jewish mysticism, lost one of its most visible members, Madonna, after it was sued by the government for fraud.

Among the liberal movements, reorganization was the name of the game. The Conservative movement has decreased in size dramatically over the past two decades and discussed "rebranding" itself by reaching out to the sixty non-synagogue independent minyanim across the country to join them in discarding the term "congregations" for "Kehillot/sacred communities." With its philosophy unclear, its population aging and its

*(Continued on p. 3)*

affiliation expenses too demanding, many of its synagogues rebelled. While the Reform and Reconstructionist movements grew, they also consolidated their internal organizations.

**Yom Kippur services had interesting moments last year, both at Kol Nidre services at “Occupy Wall Street” and when Paul McCartney attended his new wife Nancy Shevell’s synagogue. (McCartney’s first wife, Linda, was also Jewish.) Occupy LA had a Sukkah and Occupy DC held Torah study.**

Christian ketubot/wedding contracts were big last year – 10% of the business for some companies. Especially among evangelicals, who are interested in the Jewish roots of Christianity and Christian Zionism, ketubot have become, along with Christian Seders and Kabbalah study, the newest form of “cultural improvisation.”

**A Gallup poll revealed that 80% of American Muslims and 78% of American Jews support a two-state solution.** Seventy percent of American Jews also believe that most American Muslims don’t sympathize with Al Qaeda – the highest rating for any American religious group other than Muslims.

The introduction of a more traditional Catholic liturgy by Pope Benedict XVI was of concern to Jewish theologians because, along with other measures, it added to a retreat from the religious pluralism of the Vatican II reforms of fifty years ago. The liturgy was rewritten to proclaim the sole truth of Catholicism over other faiths and the Church also limited interfaith worship. (The joke circulating among liberal Catholics last year was: “What’s the difference between a liturgist and a terrorist?” At least, you can negotiate with a terrorist.)

Next month, I’ll focus on Jewish cultural news, from Pulitzer and Nobel prizes to sports, movies, television and music. Culturally, 2011 was quite a Jewish year.

B’shalom,



Rabbi Arnold Rachlis

## RABBI RACHLIS TO SPEAK AT THE PACIFICA INSTITUTE

The Pacifica Institute, a Turkish-Muslim group that has shared interfaith events at University Synagogue, has invited Rabbi Rachlis to speak on Thursday, March 1, on the topic “Varieties of Judaism Today.” Dinner is at 6:15 p.m. and Rabbi Rachlis will speak at approximately 7:00 p.m.

If you would like to attend, please contact the Pacifica Institute at (949) 679-9339, 17851 Sky Park Circle, Suite #C, Irvine.

Sunday, April 8, 6:00 p.m.

University Synagogue’s Congregational Seder led by Rabbi Rachlis and Cantor Braier.

Watch your Ha Makor and website for upcoming details!

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### MAZEL TOV TO:

-  Amir and Marina Kahana on the birth of their daughter, Coral Leah
-  Zev Gollis on his USA Maccabi soccer team winning the silver medal in Brazil
-  Michael Rachlis who won big on NBC’s new quiz show “Who’s Still Standing”
-  Heather Dubrow who will be starring in the 7<sup>th</sup> season of “The Real Housewives of Orange County” beginning on Feb. 7 on *Bravo*

## Letter From Our President

University Synagogue has lost two of our leaders and mensches in Lou Wiener and Victor Klein. Lou's life was featured in the December Hamakor. We treasured Lou's warmth and humanity.

I write as yesterday we paid tribute to Victor Klein in a well-deserved moving service and funeral. Our sanctuary was overflowing as Victor's impacts on his family and the community were eloquently recounted. I had the honor of serving with Victor on your Board of Directors. Victor was engaged on our Board and always had the interest of University Synagogue foremost in his heart. His talent for and interest in communication with congregants was legendary. Victor's integrity, passion and sound judgment were appreciated by all of us.

Both Lou and Victor loved University Synagogue and we tried to return the love. They both adored their wives, Myra and Barbara, and we do too. We will honor Lou's and Victor's memories as we go forward. We respected, admired and liked them both.

***In recognition of their generous support of our Synagogue, the Religious School has been named in honor of Dr. Gary and Florence Feldman.***

As a follow-up to previous columns, I am pleased to inform you that we have entered into a three-year lease with the Center for Spiritual Living Church. The lease covers a portion of our premises on Sundays from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (with exception of our High Holidays and the Trial). The lease is part of our continuing effort to be fiscally responsible.

The third annual Trial will be held on Sunday, February 26, 2012, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in our sanctuary. This year's Trial will be the People v. Jacob and Rebecca. The Trial will feature Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, Professor Laurie Levenson and Justice William Bedsworth. Our panelists will be Rabbi Arnold Rachlis and Rabbi Emily Feigenson.

I am also pleased to report that an additional wheelchair ramp has been installed in front of our building. The ramp was constructed thanks to the generosity of Women's Connection; Terry and Toni McDonald; and to many donors who made contributions for this purpose at the 2011 Gala.

This year's Gala promises to be very special in celebration of our 25th Anniversary. The Gala will be held on May 12, 2012, at the Island Hotel. Please plan to attend.

I close this month's column in memory of our blessed and beloved Lou Wiener and Victor Klein.

B'Shalom,



Richard Fybel



Richard Fybel

### Save the Date!

University Synagogue's 25<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Gala

Saturday evening, May 12, 2012

Honoring University Synagogue Members  
UCI Law School Dean Erwin Chemerinsky  
and Past Presidents

Marc Alexander and

Lisa Metzger

**JW4 - our Men's Group  
(Women are Welcome!)  
Wednesday, February 22  
12:00, Noon**



**Join US, and guest speaker Frank Van Nostrand, Public Affairs Specialist for the Social Security Administration and recognized expert in Medicare and Social Security, and get "The Inside Scoop on Medicare."**

Bring a dairy lunch, if you wish. For more information, contact Larry Robinow at [larnric@cox.net](mailto:larnric@cox.net).

## February Dates

### Wednesday, February 1

7:00 p.m. The 22nd Annual Orange County International Jewish Film Festival, sponsored by University Synagogue, will feature "Nickey's Family," followed by a discussion with film professor and writer Dr. Michael Berlin, at the Regal-Westpark 8 Cinemas, 3735 Alton Parkway, Irvine. See the flyer for more information.

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Jewish, Alive and American second semester with Carol Richmond

### Thursday, February 2

10:00 a.m. Women's Connection Bridge Club.  
RSVP to Shelly at ekallick@aol.com.

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Adult Education – Issues In Medical Ethics And Policy: A Study Group of Current Literature For Health And Allied Professionals, Patients And Families with coordinators Dr. Miriam Piven Cotler, Dr. Marc Richmond and Dr. Ken Bell. These discussions are open to everyone. Whether as professionals or patients, we all struggle to do the "right thing" when faced with medical decisions. Technologies, financing, research, and related political pressures influence the opinions of the general public, patients, their families, professionals and politicians - each of whom is looking to discern what the ethical response should be in a particular circumstance. Please join us in discussing a variety of these issues. Reading material will be distributed before class. **RSVP to Sue Penn at spenn@universitiesynagogue.org.**

### Friday, February 3

6:00 p.m. Tu B'Shvat Family Potluck Vegetarian Seder for all ages led by Rabbi Rachlis and Cantor Braier. **RSVP to Pam at pam@universitiesynagogue.org to either sign up to bring a dish to the dinner or pay \$10 per person.** Participate in one of Judaism's most enjoyable celebrations. This environmental Seder, based on Kabbala, celebrates the earth's bounty in which we focus on our connection to nature and the pleasure of eating a variety of fruit.

### Saturday, February 4

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Services, led by Rabbi Rachlis and Cantor Braier, during which Dylan Jamner, son of Larry Jamner and Margaret Schneider, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Everyone is invited to the service and the kiddush that follows.

### Sunday, February 5

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. The 22nd Annual Orange County International Jewish Film Festival, sponsored by University Synagogue, will feature "Restoration" at the Regal-Westpark 8 Cinemas, 3735 Alton Parkway, Irvine. See the flyer for more information. (8:30 a.m. bagel breakfast, compliments of Shirley's Bagels; 9:30 a.m. film, followed by a discussion with film professor and writer Dr. Michael Berlin) **RSVP.**

### Monday, February 6

4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Cantor Braier's Bar/Bat Mitzvah class

5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Religious School Hebrew Enrichment

5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Adult Education: Yoga class (Social Hall), taught by Lynn Friedman

6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Adult Education: Yoga class (Social Hall), taught by Lynn Friedman

6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Adult Education: Tai Chi/Stress Management class, taught by Lloyd Sargeant

7:15 – 9:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

### Tuesday, February 7

12:00 – 1:15 p.m., Lunch and Learn: The Book of Genesis, taught by Rabbi Rachlis, who will continue to teach the formative myths and stories of our tradition, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob, Rachel and Leah, and Joseph and his brothers. The fifty short chapters of Genesis are the foundational text of Western civilization and continue to shape Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The text will be handed out at each class. Bring a dairy lunch if you wish; drinks will be provided. **RSVP to Sue Penn at spenn@universitiesynagogue.org.**

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Adult Education: Torah Study and Selected Books of the Bible with Michele Walot. **RSVP to Sue Penn at spenn@universitiesynagogue.org.**

### Wednesday, February 8

7:00 p.m. Jewish, Alive and American with Carol Richmond

7:00 p.m. Women's Connection Evening Book Club. Reading material: "In The Garden of Beasts" by Erik Larson. **RSVP to Vivian at vdatlas@gmail.com.**

### Thursday, February 9

10:00 a.m. Women's Connection Bridge Club.  
RSVP to Shelly at ekallick@aol.com.

### Friday, February 10

8:00 p.m. "Renaissance and Renewal" will be Rabbi Rachlis' topic when he reports on his annual Renaissance "Think Tank" retreat attended by a group of fascinating scholars, artists,

politicians, business people and journalists. Also, we will celebrate the ufruf of Joshua Altman, son of Howard and Cheryl Altman, and Cheryl O'Donoghue, and all couples celebrating wedding anniversaries this month will be honored.

### Sunday, February 12

**Women's Connection Members' Skirball Tour and Lunch, featuring a private docent tour of the exhibit entitled "Women Hold Up Half The Sky."** Limited seating is available. Cost: \$60 per person which includes bus transportation, admittance and lunch at the museum. For information, please contact Sherry Clark at sherry20911@msn.com or call (714) 964-8710.

**1:00 p.m. Women's Connection Movie Group.** RSVP to Debbie at dgross33@cox.net.

### Monday, February 13

**4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Cantor Braier's Bar/Bat Mitzvah class**

**6:00 p.m. Adult Education: Yoga class, taught by Lynn Friedman**

**6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Adult Education: Tai Chi/Stress Management class, taught by Lloyd Sargeant**

**7:15 – 9:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal**

### Wednesday, February 15

**11:45 a.m. Women's Connection "Lunch And Learn With Rabbi Rachlis"**

**12:15 p.m. Rabbi Rachlis will speak on the topic of "Forgiveness."** Open to everyone. Cost: \$7 per person at the door and includes a light lunch. RSVP to office@universitiesynagogue.org.

**7:00 p.m. Jewish, Alive and American with Carol Richmond**

### Thursday, February 16

**10:00 a.m. Women's Connection Bridge Club.** RSVP to Shelly at ekallick@aol.com.

**10:00 a.m. Women's Connection Daytime Book Club.** RSVP to Sandy Levine at slevine@socal.rr.com.

### Friday, February 17

#### Synaplex Shabbat Alive

**5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat services with singing, dancing and Torah marching led by Rabbi Rachlis and Cantor Braier with storytelling by Pre-School Director Heidi Kahn.**

**6:00 p.m. Shabbat Dinner For All Ages, catered by Sofia of TGIS.** Menu: Braised lamb shank, garlic mashed potatoes, carrots, asparagus, green salad with balsamic vinaigrette dressing, fruit, assorted cookies and brownies for dessert and chicken tenders for children. **For those who RSVP by Mon., Feb. 13, the cost is:** Adults: \$18, Children 3-12 years old: \$9. Free for children age 2 and under. **For RSVPs**

**received Feb. 14 and Feb. 15, the cost will be:** Adults \$20, Children 3-12 years old: \$11.

**7:00 – 8:15 p.m. "Shabbat Alive" For All Ages. Shabbat Alive is our jazz and pop service with a combo of musicians led by Rabbi Rachlis and Cantor Braier. All children and adults with birthdays this month will be honored. Our Shabbat Alive musicians are sponsored by David and Evelyn Simon.**

**8:15 p.m. Former CIA agent Valerie Plame will**



**speak about her haunting betrayal by the government as described in the book and film "Fair Game."** Valerie Plame Wilson, former covert CIA agent, and her husband, Joseph Wilson, a former U.S. ambassador, sued Vice President Dick Cheney, his former top aide "Scooter" Libby, and presidential adviser Karl Rove, claiming that they had conspired to destroy her career by leaking her identity to the media. Wilson discredited the claim that Saddam Hussein was pursuing a nuclear weapons program by seeking to obtain uranium from Niger. Shortly after Wilson publicized his views, columnist Robert Novak identified Plame Wilson as a CIA agent. Plame will also speak about her Jewish roots. **Our speaker is sponsored by Tom and Andra Ellington.**

**8:15 – 8:45 p.m. Children's Fun Oneg Shabbat with our Education Director Sue Penn in the social hall.**

**8:45 – 9:15 p.m. Babysitting in Room 117**

**9:15 p.m. Oneg Shabbat for everyone.**

### Tuesday, February 21

**7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Adult Education: Baroque Art and Architecture In Rome: From St. Peter's Basilica To The Jewish Ghetto taught by UCI Art Historian, Professor Lyle Massey.** RSVP to Sue Penn at spenn@universitiesynagogue.org.

**7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Adult Education: Torah Study and Selected Books of the Bible with Michele Walot.** RSVP to Sue Penn at spenn@universitiesynagogue.org.

**7:00 p.m. Adult Education: Global Menschlichkeit, facilitated by Lynn Friedman, Anita Mishook and Clarita Karlin.** This film course is about contemporary political, moral and ethical issues currently facing our society, how others have approached these issues and how we can attempt to build a better world together. **The documentary, "The Harmonists,"** will be screened and followed by a guided discussion led by Marc Alexander. RSVP to Sue Penn at spenn@universitiesynagogue.org. **University Synagogue member Marc Alexander will lead a discussion following the film.**

**Wednesday, February 22**

12:00 noon, JW4, our Men's Group (Women are welcome!) with guest speaker Frank Van Nostrand, Public Affairs Specialist for the Social Security Administration and recognized expert in Medicare and Social Security, will speak on the topic "*The Inside Scoop on Medicare.*" Bring a dairy lunch, if you wish. For more information, contact Larry Robinow at [larnric@cox.net](mailto:larnric@cox.net).

7:00 p.m. The 22nd Annual Orange County International Jewish Film Festival, sponsored by University Synagogue, will feature "The Debt," followed by a discussion with film professor and writer Dr. Michael Berlin, at the Regal-Westpark 8 Cinemas, 3735 Alton Parkway, Irvine. See the flyer for more information.

7:00 p.m. Jewish, Alive and American with Carol Richmond

**Thursday, February 23**

10:00 a.m. Women's Connection Bridge Club.

RSVP to Shelly at [ekallick@aol.com](mailto:ekallick@aol.com).

6:30 p.m. Women's Connection Cooking Group Event at "The Savory Spice Shop" in Corona del Mar. If you are interested, please contact Carolyn Paulter at [caramaxb@yahoo.com](mailto:caramaxb@yahoo.com) or Carole Finkelstein at [carolelf10@yahoo.com](mailto:carolelf10@yahoo.com). Space for this event is limited.

**Friday, February 24**

Shabbat Dinner With Friends. Here's an opportunity to share a potluck meal with your fellow University Synagogue members, to make new friendships and celebrate Shabbat. RSVP to the synagogue office.

**Sunday, February 26**

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. "Adventures In Jewish Education" at a local camp. Parents are encouraged to stay for the Family service led by Rabbi Rachlis and Cantor Braier at 9:00 a.m. For more information on this exciting program, please contact our Education Director Sue Penn at [spenn@universitiesynagogue.org](mailto:spenn@universitiesynagogue.org).

1:00 p.m. – "The People vs. Rebecca And Jacob: A Trial" with University Synagogue member and UCI Law School Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, Loyola Law School Professor Laurie Levenson and Justice William Bedsworth. Following the verdict, there will be a lively discussion on timeless and timely moral, ethical and philosophical themes with Rabbi Arnold Rachlis and Rabbi Emily Feigenson answering your questions.

The Trial is presented by University Synagogue and American Jewish University and is sponsored by Dr. Miriam Piven Cotler.

**Monday, February 27**

5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Religious School Hebrew Enrichment

5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Adult Education: Yoga class (Social Hall), taught by Lynn Friedman

6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Adult Education: Yoga class (Social Hall), taught by Lynn Friedman

6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Adult Education; Tai Chi/Stress Management class, taught by Lloyd Sargeant

7:15 – 9:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

**Wednesday, February 29**

7:00 p.m. Jewish, Alive and American with Carol Richmond

*Coming In March*

**Thursday, March 1**

10:00 a.m. Women's Connection Bridge Club.

RSVP to Shelly at [ekallick@aol.com](mailto:ekallick@aol.com).

**Friday, March 2**

8:00 p.m. "Sexual Intrigue, Political Stupidity and the Axis of Evil: Analyzing The Megilla of Esther" will be Rabbi Rachlis' topic at services as he deconstructs and reconstructs the Book of Esther on the Shabbat before Purim. Be prepared for the hidden and not-so-hidden humor of the Book and its psychologically and spiritually cathartic meaning.

**Saturday, March 3**

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Bar/Bat Mitzvah Workshop for 2013 families with Rabbi Rachlis (and for 2012 families who missed their workshop last year or for anyone who wants a review). **RSVP.**

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Adult Education: "Jewish Body Language and the Language of Prayer" Workshop will be led by Rabbi Rachlis and Cantor Braier. Learn the structure, body language and melodies of Shabbat services. Open to the entire congregation, but year 2013 Bar/Bat Mitzvah students and their families are required to attend. **RSVP.**

**Monday, March 5**

5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Religious School Hebrew Enrichment

5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Adult Education: Yoga class (Social Hall), taught by Lynn Friedman

6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Adult Education: Yoga class (Library), taught by Lynn Friedman

**6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Adult Education: Tai Chi/Stress Management class, taught by Lloyd Sargeant.** Learn how to manage your stress response by incorporating a combination of eastern and western techniques which include Tai Chi, Qigong, conscious breathing, guided meditations and other real-time strategies for reducing the habitual stress response. Please wear flat shoes and comfortable clothing. Cost: \$5 per class. RSVP to Sue Penn at [spenn@universitiesynagogue.org](mailto:spenn@universitiesynagogue.org).

**6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Adult Education: Beginners Hebrew with instructor Barbara Colitz.** This is an ideal way to learn how to follow synagogue services, keep up with your children's Religious School education or simply enhance your own Jewish knowledge. Eight 1 hour sessions for beginners and those who need a refresher. Cost: \$80; Minimum number of students: 8. RSVP to Sue Penn at [spenn@universitiesynagogue.org](mailto:spenn@universitiesynagogue.org).

**7:15 – 9:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal**

**Tuesday, March 6**

**12:00 – 1:15 p.m., Lunch and Learn: The Book of Genesis, taught by Rabbi Rachlis, who will continue to teach the formative myths and stories of our tradition, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob, Rachel and Leah, and Joseph and his brothers.** The fifty short chapters of Genesis are the foundational text of Western civilization and continue to shape Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The text will be handed out at each class. Bring a dairy lunch if you wish; drinks will be provided. **RSVP to Sue Penn at [spenn@universitiesynagogue.org](mailto:spenn@universitiesynagogue.org).**

**7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Adult Education: Torah Study and Selected Books of the Bible with Michele Walot.** RSVP to Sue Penn at [spenn@universitiesynagogue.org](mailto:spenn@universitiesynagogue.org).

**Wednesday, March 7**

**12:30 p.m. Pre-School Purim Parade**

**4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Purim Carnival For All Ages.** Dress in costumes, win prizes, join the fun, listen to music, play games, eat hamantashen and food will be available for purchase!

**5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Purim Services for all ages and Megillah reading led by Rabbi Rachlis and Cantor Braier.** Wear costumes, whirl groggers, eat hamantashen, hear the Megillah and a Klezmer band and tell jokes.

**6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Purim Carnival For All Ages.** Dress in costumes, win prizes, join the fun, listen to music, play games, eat hamantashen and food will be available for purchase!

**Thursday, March 8, 10:00 a.m. Women's Connection Bridge Club.** RSVP to Shelly at

[ekallick@aol.com](mailto:ekallick@aol.com).

**Friday, March 9**

**8:00 p.m. "The Torah Portion That Has Everything" will be Rabbi Rachlis' topic at Shabbat services when he discusses "Ki Tisa" which describes an economically egalitarian society, health and holiness, the Golden Calf, seeing God face-to-face, Moses' "horns" and the alternative, esoteric Ten Commandments.** All those celebrating anniversaries this month will be honored and our choir will sing.

**Saturday, March 10**

**10:00 a.m. Shabbat Services, led by Rabbi Rachlis and Cantor Braier, during which Griffin Knutson, son of Dana and Robyn Knutson, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah.** Everyone is invited to the service and the kiddush that follows.

**Sunday, March 11**

**10:15 – 11:15 a.m. Confirmation Class with Rabbi Rachlis**

**1:00 p.m. Women's Connection Movie Group.** RSVP to Debbie at [dgross33@cox.net](mailto:dgross33@cox.net).

**Monday, March 12**

**5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Religious School Hebrew Enrichment**

**5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Adult Education: Yoga class (Social Hall), taught by Lynn Friedman**

**6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Adult Education: Yoga class (Library), taught by Lynn Friedman**

**6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Adult Education: Tai Chi/Stress Management class, taught by Lloyd Sargeant.** RSVP to Sue Penn at [spenn@universitiesynagogue.org](mailto:spenn@universitiesynagogue.org).

**6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Adult Education: Beginners Hebrew, taught by instructor Barbara Colitz.**

**Wednesday, March 14**

**7:00 p.m. The 22nd Annual Orange County International Jewish Film Festival, sponsored by University Synagogue, will feature "Sarah's Key," followed by a discussion with film professor and writer Dr. Michael Berlin, at the Regal-Westpark 8 Cinemas, 3735 Alton Parkway, Irvine. See the flyer for more information. RSVP.**

**7:00 p.m. Jewish, Alive and American with Carol Richmond**

**7:00 p.m. Women's Connection Evening Book Club.** Reading material: "Zookeeper's Wife" by Diane Ackerman. RSVP to Vivian at [vdatlas@gmail.com](mailto:vdatlas@gmail.com).

**Thursday, March 15**

**10:00 a.m. Women's Connection Bridge Club.**

RSVP to Shelly at ekallick@aol.com.

**10:00 a.m. Women's Connection Daytime Book Club.** RSVP to Sandy Levine at slevine@socal.rr.com.

**7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Adult Education: Issues In Medical Ethics And Policy: A Study Group Of Current Literature For Health And Allied Professionals, Patients and Families, facilitated by Drs. Miriam Piven Cotler, Marc Richmond and Ken Bell.** Whether as professionals or patients, we all struggle to do the "right thing" when faced with medical decisions. Technologies, financing, research, and related political pressures influence the opinions of the general public, patients, their families, professionals and politicians - each of whom is looking to discern what the ethical response should be in a particular circumstance. Please join us in discussing a variety of these issues. Readings will be distributed before class. RSVP to Sue Penn at spenn@universitiesynagogue.org.

**Friday, March 16**

**8:00 p.m. Shabbat services led by Rabbi Rachlis and Cantor Braier during which Ruthe Gluckson and Jeffrey Briar will present the spiritual and health benefits of "Laughter Yoga."**

**Sunday, March 18**

**9:00 a.m. School-wide Pesach Seder led by Rabbi Rachlis and Cantor Braier at the Adventures In Jewish Education camp.**

**8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. The 22nd Annual Orange County International Jewish Film Festival, sponsored by University Synagogue, will feature "Mabul" at the Regal-Westpark 8 Cinemas, 3735 Alton Parkway, Irvine. See the flyer for more information. RSVP.**

**10:15 – 11:15 a.m. Confirmation Class with Rabbi Rachlis at AJE camp**

**Monday, March 19**

**5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Religious School Hebrew Enrichment**

**5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Adult Education: Yoga class (Social Hall), taught by Lynn Friedman**

**6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Adult Education: Yoga class (Library), taught by Lynn Friedman**

**6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Adult Education: Tai Chi/Stress Management class, taught by Lloyd Sargeant.** RSVP to Sue Penn at spenn@universitiesynagogue.org.

**6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Adult Education: Beginners Hebrew, taught by instructor Barbara Colitz.**

**7:15 – 9:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal**

**Tuesday, March 20**

**7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Adult Education: Baroque Art and Architecture In Rome: From St. Peter's Basilica To The Jewish Ghetto taught by UCI Art Historian, Professor Lyle Massey.** RSVP to Sue Penn at spenn@universitiesynagogue.org.

**7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Adult Education: Torah Study and Selected Books of the Bible with Michele Walot.** RSVP to Sue Penn at spenn@universitiesynagogue.org.

**7:00 p.m. Adult Education: Global Menschlichkeit, facilitated by Lynn Friedman, Anita Mishook and Clarita Karlin.** This film course is about contemporary political, moral and ethical issues currently facing our society, how others have approached these issues and how we can attempt to build a better world together. **The documentary, "Unlikely Heroes,"** will be screened and followed by a guided discussion. RSVP to Sue Penn at spenn@universitiesynagogue.org.

**Wednesday, March 21**

**7:00 p.m. Jewish, Alive and American with Carol Richmond**

**Thursday, March 22**

**10:00 a.m. Women's Connection Bridge Club.**

RSVP to Shelly at ekallick@aol.com.

**Friday, March 23**

**Synaplex Shabbat Alive**

**5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat services with singing, dancing and Torah marching led by Rabbi Rachlis and Cantor Braier with storytelling by Pre-School Director Heidi Kahn.**

**6:00 p.m. Shabbat Dinner For All Ages, catered by Sofia of TGIS. RSVP.**

**7:00 p.m. "Shabbat Alive" For All Ages. Shabbat**



**Alive is our jazz and pop service with a combo of musicians led by Rabbi Rachlis and Cantor Braier. All children and adults with birthdays this month will be honored and our Religious School children, Grades PK-2, will perform. Logan Reinhardt, son of Kevin and Marni Reinhardt and grandson of Mark Bregman and Susan Keller, will be named. Our Shabbat Alive musicians are sponsored by David and Evelyn Simon.**

**8:15 p.m. Chapman University Law School Dean Tom Campbell will speak on "Is Progress Possible Across Ideological Lines?"** Tom Campbell is the Dean of Chapman University School of Law, a former five-term Republican United States Congressman from California and a former professor at Stanford Law School. He will address several recent controversial issues,

including the debt ceiling and the budget of the State of California and how Congress and the California Legislature operate on a personal basis. "Is progress possible across ideological divides and can the good of the country replace partisan advantage?" Dean Campbell previously served as the Director of Finance for the State of California as well as in the California State Senate and as a White House Fellow in Washington, D.C. He is often described by his supporters as the kind of politician who most closely reflects the views of California's voters - "an intellectual...a social liberal and a free market champion."

**8:15 – 8:45 p.m. Children's Fun Oneg Shabbat with our Education Director Sue Penn in the social hall.**

**8:45 – 9:15 p.m. Babysitting in Rm. 117**

**9:15 p.m. Oneg Shabbat for everyone**

**Saturday, March 24**

**10:00 a.m. Shabbat Services, led by Rabbi Rachlis and Cantor Braier, during which Alex Conte, son of John and Nicole Conte, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Everyone is invited to the service and the kiddush that follows.**

**Sunday, March 25**

**8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. The 22nd Annual Orange County International Jewish Film Festival, sponsored by University Synagogue, will feature "Sholem Aleichem": Laughing In The Darkness at the Regal-Westpark 8 Cinemas, 3735 Alton Parkway, Irvine. See the flyer for more information. RSVP.**

**Monday, March 26**

**5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Religious School Hebrew Enrichment**

**5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Adult Education: Yoga class (Social Hall), taught by Lynn Friedman**

**6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Adult Education: Yoga class (Library), taught by Lynn Friedman**

**6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Adult Education: Tai Chi/Stress Management class, taught by Lloyd Sargeant. RSVP to Sue Penn at [spenn@universitiesynagogue.org](mailto:spenn@universitiesynagogue.org).**

**7:15 – 9:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal**

**Tuesday, March 27**

**6:00 p.m. Women's Connection Seder evening for mothers, grandmothers, sisters and daughters, featuring ceremonial foods and a woman's Haggadah that tells the Passover story from a woman's point of view. RSVP to Sherry Clark at [sherry20911@msn.com](mailto:sherry20911@msn.com) or (714) 964-8710.**

**Wednesday, March 28**

**12:00 noon, JW4, our Men's Group. Enjoy speakers, discussion groups and study aspects of Reconstructionist Judaism in a very informal atmosphere. Bring a dairy lunch, if you wish. Please RSVP to [office@universitiesynagogue.org](mailto:office@universitiesynagogue.org) or for more information, contact Larry Robinow at [larnric@cox.net](mailto:larnric@cox.net).**

**7:00 p.m. The 22nd Annual Orange County International Jewish Film Festival, sponsored by University Synagogue, will feature "Mahler On The Couch," followed by a discussion with film professor and writer Dr. Michael Berlin, at the Regal-Westpark 8 Cinemas, 3735 Alton Parkway, Irvine. See the flyer for more information. RSVP.**

**7:00 p.m. Jewish, Alive and American with Carol Richmond.**

**Thursday, March 29**

**10:00 a.m. Women's Connection Bridge Club.**

RSVP to Shelly at [ekallick@aol.com](mailto:ekallick@aol.com).

**Friday, March 30**

**8:00 p.m. Shabbat services led by Rabbi Rachlis and Cantor Braier during which Fred Kramer, Executive Director of Jewish World Watch, will speak on his trip to the Congo. We will also honor our Bereavement Committee volunteers.**

**Saturday, March 31**

**10:00 a.m. Shabbat Services, led by Rabbi Rachlis and Cantor Braier, during which Natasha Keces, daughter of Matthew and Tammy Keces, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Everyone is invited to the service and the kiddush that follows.**

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*Please Note: Dates and times may change after printing. Please refer to our website for any new activities or revised information - [www.universitiesynagogue.org](http://www.universitiesynagogue.org).*

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## UNIVERSITY SYNAGOGUE SPEAKERS – 2012



**Former CIA agent Valerie Plame will speak about her haunting betrayal by the government as described in the book and film “Fair Game”**

**Friday, February 17, 8:15 p.m. (“Shabbat Alive” services at 7:00 p.m.)**

**Valerie Plame Wilson**, former covert CIA agent, and her husband, **Joseph Wilson**, a former U.S. ambassador, sued Vice President Dick Cheney, his former top aide “Scooter” Libby, and presidential adviser Karl Rove, claiming that they had conspired to destroy Plame Wilson's career by leaking her identity to the media. Wilson discredited the claim that Saddam Hussein was pursuing a nuclear weapons program by seeking to obtain uranium from Niger. Shortly after Wilson publicized his views, columnist Robert Novak identified Plame Wilson as a CIA agent. **Valerie Plame is sponsored by Tom and Andra Ellingson.**



**Chapman University Law School Dean Tom Campbell will speak on “Is Progress Possible Across Ideological Lines?”**

**Friday, March 23, 8:15 p.m. (“Shabbat Alive” services at 7:00 p.m.)**

**Tom Campbell** is the Dean of Chapman University School of Law, a former five-term Republican United States Congressman from California, a former professor at Stanford Law School, a former dean of the Haas School of Business and a former professor of business administration at the University of California, Berkeley. He will address several recent controversial issues, including the debt ceiling and the budget of the State of California and how Congress and the California Legislature operate on a personal basis. “Is progress possible across ideological divides and can the good of the country replace partisan advantage?” Dean Campbell previously served as the Director of Finance for the State of California as well as in the California State Senate and as a White House Fellow in Washington, D.C. He is often described by his supporters as the kind of politician who most closely reflects the views of California's voters - “an intellectual...a social liberal and a free market champion.”



**University Synagogue President, Justice Richard D. Fybel, will speak on “The Absence of Judicial Ethics and Impartiality: The German Legal System, 1933-1945”**  
**Friday, April 20, 8:00 p.m. (Yom HaShoah services)**

**Richard D. Fybel**, Associate Justice, California Court of Appeal, Fourth District, Division Three (Santa Ana); Chair since 2004 of the California Supreme Court 's Advisory Committee on the Code of Judicial Ethics; Co-teaches seminar on “The Holocaust, Genocide and the Law” at Chapman Law School; 2005 Alumnus of the Year of the UCLA School of Law for Community and Public Service; Member of the Board of Visitors of Chapman's Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education; Founder of the Ruth and Ernest Fybel Endowed Fund for Literature of Children of the Holocaust at the Samuelli Memorial Library; and Co-editor of “National Security, Civil Liberties and the War on Terror” (Prometheus Books 2011).



**Author Jonathan Kirsch will speak on his recent book “The Grand Inquisitor’s Manual: A History Of Terror In the Name Of God”**

**Friday, April 27, 8:15 p.m. (“Shabbat Alive” services at 7:00 p.m.)**

**Jonathan Kirsch** is the author of *The Grand Inquisitor’s Manual: A History of Terror in the Name of God*, focusing on the Inquisition and how the “inquisitorial toolkit” has been put to use by authoritarian leaders in the past and in our own time, ranging from Nazi Germany and Stalinist Russia to the Salem witch trials, the Hollywood blacklist and the war on terror.

Kirsch is also a longtime book reviewer for the *Los Angeles Times*, a guest commentator and broadcaster for NPR affiliates KCRW-FM and KPCC-FM in Southern California, an Adjunct Professor on the faculty of New York University, and an attorney specializing in publishing law and intellectual property in Los Angeles. **Mr. Kirsch is co-sponsored by Tom and Andra Ellingson and Irvine United Congregational Church.**



**Pitzer College Professor Phil Zuckerman will speak on**

**"Goodness and Godlessness"**

**Friday, May 25, 8:15 p.m. ("Shabbat Alive" services at 7:00 p.m.)**

**Professor Zuckerman**, who grew up as a Reconstructionist, is a Professor of Sociology and secular studies at Pitzer College in Claremont, CA and the author of a number of books on secularism and its values, including "Atheism And Secularity," "Faith No More" and "Society Without God." He will discuss what we know sociologically about non-religious people and non-religious cultures. Based on his research among secular people, his thesis will be simple: religious faith is not necessary for a good, healthy society or a good, meaningful life. **Professor Zuckerman is co-sponsored by Tom and Andra Ellingson and Irvine United Congregational Church.**



**USC Professor Josh Kun will speak on his recent book**

**"And You Shall Know Us By The Trail Of Our Vinyl: The Jewish Past As Told By The Records We've Loved And Lost"**

**Friday, June 15, 8:15 p.m. ("Shabbat Alive" services at 7:00 p.m.)**

**Professor Kun** will speak about his new book, "And You Shall Know Us By The Trail Of Our Vinyl," examining Jewish influences on American music as well as the influence of African-, Latin, pop and Broadway music on Jewish music in an entertaining presentation along with lots of musical excerpts. Director of The Popular Music Project at USC Annenberg's Norman Lear Center and author of "*Bagels, Bongos and Yiddish Mambos*," Dr. Kun was the driving force behind the recent Skirball Museum exhibit based on the title of his book. Founder of Reboot Stereophonic, a record label dedicated to excavating lost treasures of Jewish-American music, he has been prominently featured in a variety of media from The New York Times and The Village Voice to NPR and MTV Espanol. **Professor Kun is sponsored by Tom and Andra Ellingson.**



**Comedian, author and musician David Zasloff will present, for all ages,**

**"Shofar Palooza: A Hysterical, Historical Musical Celebration of Judaism"**

**Friday, August 17, 8:15 p.m. ("Shabbat Alive" services at 7:00 p.m.)**

**David Zasloff**, called the "Victor Borge of the shofar," is a stand-up comedian who has performed in a wide variety of venues around the world. He is also a master musician and jazz vocalist who plays seven instruments, one of them being the shofar. Known as "the most interesting Shofar blower in the world," he is the only person who plays, on the shofar, *The Flight of the Bumble Bee* and other popular songs, including *Summertime*, *Old Man River*, songs from *West Side Story*, *The Star Spangled Banner* and *Hava Nagila*. He's received rave reviews, describing him "as a bolt of greased lightning," "an entertainer and showman par excellence," "intelligent and witty" and "one of the great performers of our time." **Mr. Zasloff is sponsored by Tom and Andra Ellingson.**

## DEDICATE A CHAIR IN OUR SANCTUARY

Honor a loved one or friend with a permanent dedication of a chai for \$10,000 in the University Synagogue Sanctuary. Here's an opportunity to be sure your family and friends' names live on in our sanctuary – honor or remember someone you love and help our synagogue at the same time!

Our beautiful synagogue building offers many permanent dedication opportunities for displaying your name or your family's name. We have the Honor Roll for Building Campaign pledges/contributions of \$5,000 or more and other dedications in the building for pledges/contributions of \$10,000 or more. To explore dedication opportunities, please contact Hinda Beral at [hberal@cox.net](mailto:hberal@cox.net) or the synagogue office at 949.553.3535 to obtain an order form.

# THE PEOPLE VS. JACOB AND REBECCA: A TRIAL

Sunday, February 26, 2012 from 1:00 -- 3:30 p.m.

## University Synagogue

3400 Michelson Drive, Irvine

REPRESENTING JACOB AND REBECCA: ERWIN CHEMERINSKY, DEAN, UCI LAW SCHOOL

REPRESENTING THE PEOPLE: LAURIE LEVENSON, PROFESSOR, LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL

JUDGE: THE HONORABLE WILLIAM BEDSWORTH, CALIFORNIA COURT OF APPEAL

JURY: WE, THE AUDIENCE



Dean Erwin Chemerinsky   Professor Laurie Levenson   Justice W. Bedsworth   Rabbi Arnold Rachlis   Rabbi Emily Feigenson

Who needs "Reality TV"? Not US. There's no need when you've got the greatest dysfunctional family scripted right in the Torah. Try keeping up with Isaac's sons. Isaac, abused by his half-brother and nearly murdered by his father, and now is "snookered" by his wife, Rebecca, and son, Jacob. This is truly a "Crime of the Centuries." After obtaining Esau's birthright, Jacob will later be known as Israel and an entire people will bear his name. Are all later generations tainted by Rebecca and Jacob's actions? Where is the justice? YOU get to decide.

Witness as the charges are brought against mother and son in an extraordinary afternoon of learning and live courtroom dramatics as we grapple with eternally relevant issues of Jewish ethics and morality. Enter the "courtroom," then listen as esteemed legal minds Erwin Chemerinsky and Laurie Levenson argue the case in front of the Honorable Justice William Bedsworth. Then, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, cast your votes. After submission of the "evidence," there will be a lively discussion on timeless and timely moral, ethical and philosophical themes featuring Rabbi Arnold Rachlis and Rabbi Emily Feigenson answering your questions.

**PRESENTED BY UNIVERSITY SYNAGOGUE AND AMERICAN JEWISH UNIVERSITY**

### TICKETS:

***Fax reservation form to 949.553.4034 or scan to [office@universitiesynagogue.org](mailto:office@universitiesynagogue.org).***

***For program information, call 949.553.3535.***

\_\_\_\_\_ \$125 Best Reserved Seats, Patron Program Credit and Post-Event Reception

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Best Reserved Seats

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 54 Reserved Seats

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 36 General Admission (unreserved)

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check or Credit Card

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card (MC/Visa/Discover) # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Synagogue (If not U.S.) \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsored by Dr. Miriam Piven Cotler**

*MCLE sponsored by Jones Day. Jones Day certifies that this activity has been approved for MCLE credit by the State Bar of California in the amount of 2.50 hours of credit, including 1.0 hour ethics credit.*

*Jones Day is a State of California MCLE approved provider.*



## *Sunday Films*

*Sunday mornings, February 5, March 18 & 25  
Westpark 8 Cinemas—3735 Alton Parkway, Irvine  
Bagel breakfast from 8:30 a.m., film at 9:30 a.m.  
Presented by screenwriter and psychologist  
Dr. Michael Berlin,  
followed by a lively audience discussion*

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### **RESTORATION – Sunday, February 5**



This is a story of an old fashioned wood restorer who is lost after his partner of forty years passes away. Fidelman is as broken down as the shop he runs in an old section of Tel Aviv. Since the death of his wife and growing distance from his son Noah, Fidelman seems to have little connection to the world beyond the sawdust of his workplace. This film was a prize winner at the Sundance Film Festival. (Hebrew with English subtitles)

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### **MABUL – Sunday, March 18**



Everything is complicated in Yoni's life. He's almost 13, truly gifted, but physically undeveloped and he struggles daily to grow up before his upcoming Bar Mitzvah. He sells his homework in order to secretly buy a bodybuilding wonder powder which does nothing. A week before the ceremony his autistic brother Tomer, 17, hidden for years in a hostel that is now shut down, returns home and it shakes up not only Yoni's life, but the unstable foundation of his entire family. (Hebrew with English subtitles)

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### **“SHOLEM ALEICHEM” LAUGHING IN THE DARKNESS - Sunday, March 25**



Sholem Aleichem” was Yiddish's greatest writer and he is best known today for an English language theatrical version of his work, “Fiddler On The Roof.” More than that, some of the people who revere him the most understand him the least. Says Kenneth Turan of the Los Angeles Times, “This is a documentary not to be missed.” (English)



## *Wednesday Films*

*Wednesday evenings,*

*February 1 & 22, March 14 & 28*

*Westpark 8 Cinemas—3735 Alton Parkway, Irvine*

*Film at 7:00 p.m.*

*Presented by screenwriter and psychologist Dr. Michael Berlin,  
followed by a lively audience discussion*

### **NICKEY'S FAMILY— Wednesday, February 1**



“Nickey’s Family “ tells the story of Nickolas Winton, the nearly forgotten Englishman, who organized the rescue of 669 Czech and Slovak children just before the outbreak of World War II. Winton, now 102 years old, did not speak of these events with anyone for more than half a century. His exploits would have probably been forgotten if his wife, fifty years later, hadn’t found a suitcase in the attic, full of documents and transport plans. He has been knighted by Queen Elizabeth and honored by the U.S. House of Representatives. (English)

### **THE DEBT — Wednesday, February 22**



“The Debt” is bristling with dangers, both corporeal and cerebral. This is a superbly crafted espionage thriller packed with Israeli-Nazi score settling. Starring Helen Mirren, Jessica Chastain and Sam Worthington. (English)

### **SARAH'S KEY — Wednesday, March 14**



“Sarah’s Key” is more powerful than you expect, for it is an emotional detective story based on an international bestseller by Titiana De Rosnay. Its Holocaust - connected story goes back and forth between moments of strength and failure. You won’t believe the compelling events that happen. (French and German with English subtitles)

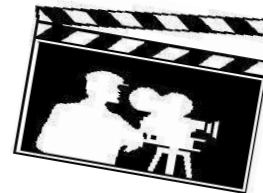
### **MAHLER ON THE COUCH — Wednesday, March 28**



This German film brings us the story of the great Austrian composer and opera director Gustav Mahler and the couch belongs to none other than Sigmund Freud. The Maestro seeks out the father of psychoanalysis because he is seemingly paranoid over the marital betrayal of his wife Alma. She has fallen for Walter Gropins, who eventually will be a founder of the famous Bauhaus school and one of the founders of modern architecture. (German and French with English subtitles)



*The 22nd Annual Orange County International*  
**Jewish Film Festival 2012**



**Sunday mornings, February 5, March 18 & 25**

8:30 a.m. Bagel Breakfast, film at 9:30 a.m. presented by screenwriter and psychologist Dr. Michael Berlin, followed by a lively audience discussion.

**Wednesday nights, February 1 & 22, March 14 & 28**

Film at 7:00 p.m. presented by screenwriter and psychologist Dr. Michael Berlin, followed by a lively audience discussion.

**Customize your own series - Mark any 5 of the films below.**

**Sunday films**

Restoration \_\_\_\_\_ 2/05  
 Mabul \_\_\_\_\_ 3/18  
 Sholem Aleichem \_\_\_\_\_ 3/25

**Wednesday films**

Nickey's Family \_\_\_\_\_ 2/01  
 The Debt \_\_\_\_\_ 2/22  
 Sarah's Key \_\_\_\_\_ 3/14  
 Mahler On The Couch \_\_\_\_\_ 3/28

**TICKET ORDER INFORMATION**

**Customize Your Own Series** \_\_\_\_\_ \$90 (Mark any 5 of the films above)

**Individual Tickets** \_\_\_\_\_ \$20, order in advance (\$25 at the door)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please print)

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Synagogue** \_\_\_\_\_

**Credit Card:** Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Card Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ Exp.: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail or fax to University Synagogue  
 3400 Michelson, Irvine, CA 92612 -  
 Phone: (949) 553-3535 -Fax: 949-553-4034  
 Scan to office@universitiesynagogue.org

For more information, call (949) 553-3535 or  
 Email: office@universitiesynagogue.org



## Religious School

### Confirmation

University Synagogue Religious School is excited to announce our brand new, innovative Confirmation program. This program will now take place on Sunday mornings during Religious School making it more accessible to parents and students alike. Our Madrichim will participate in this program during their regular education time.

The curriculum will consist of Jewish Ethics and Comparative Judaism led by Rabbi Rachlis, current "hot topics" as they pertain to the contemporary Jewish teenager taught by Lisa Grajewski, MA, and selections from the "Sacred Values" and "Tough Choices" curricula which address issues like sex, substance abuse, peer pressure and teen violence led by our Education Director, Sue Penn.

Each one of our Madrichim will participate in this expanded Confirmation program. High School students who are not part of the Madrich program may still participate in the Confirmation component of the program.

Students who are Madrichim, but who have already been Confirmed, will still participate in the education component of the program – but not in the ceremony. No previously presented material will be duplicated.

The Rabbi will be meeting with both parents and students on Sunday, March 11, 2012 from 10.15 – 11.15 a.m. Other meetings between the students and the Rabbi will take place on March 18, April

29 and May 6 from 10.15 – 11.15 a.m. On Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> there will be a rehearsal for all students going through the Confirmation ceremony from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. This includes any student in 10<sup>th</sup> grade or above who has not yet been confirmed. Our Confirmation ceremony will take place at our Shavuot service on Saturday, May 26, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. Please RSVP to [Spenn@universitiesynagogue.org](mailto:Spenn@universitiesynagogue.org) that your student will participate in this ceremony by February 6, 2012.

If your student is currently enrolled in the Madrich Program, you do not have to register him/her for Confirmation; they will automatically be enrolled in the program. However, if you have a teenager who is not a Madrich but would like to participate in the program, please contact me at [Spenn@universitiesynagogue.org](mailto:Spenn@universitiesynagogue.org).

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

B'shalom,  
Sue Penn



Sue Penn



## Celebrate Purim!

### Purim Services

Wednesday, March 7

6:00 p.m. Purim Services for all ages and Megillah reading led by Rabbi Rachlis and Cantor Braier. Wear costumes, whirl groggers eat hamantashen, hear the Megillah and tell jokes.



### Purim Carnival

Wednesday, March 7

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Purim Carnival for all ages! Come dressed in costume, play games on the game truck, win prizes, enjoy the costumes and eat hamantashen!

Food will be available for purchase at the carnival

## Pre-School

### Fun And Festive February

On Tu B'Shevat, the birthday of the trees, we will be planting new plants in our playground garden. Parents are encouraged to purchase plants for the children to plant. We have a very inviting garden filled with rosemary, mint, oregano, chives, parsley, basil, zucchini, nasturtiums and pepper plants. We love to share so, when you tour the Pre-School, we will happily cut some fresh herbs for you to enjoy.

I will soon happily lead the Pre-School Tu B'Shevat Seders as children taste different fruit and mix white and red grape juice to depict the changing of the seasons.

Author Deborah Sherrell will visit the Pre-School and read her book "Baby Lauren and Theodore." This is a story about a tree and ties in beautifully with our Tu B'Shevat theme.

Our Campout in Tent City, where the social hall is transformed into a campground for the day, is on Monday, February 13. Children arrive in pajamas and have a breakfast of pancakes and hot chocolate around a faux campfire. The children play in all the tents that have been set up like a village, using flashlights to add to the adventure. This is a highlight of the Pre-School year!

Pre-School Parent Education Night on Wednesday, February 15 hosts Hayley Goldberg and her topic "Problem Solved."



Heidi Kahn

Conference Day for Parents is also on February 15. Parent conferences are held in the social hall.

We are proud to be Americans, and will celebrate our presidents at the Presidents' Day Assembly on Friday, February 17 from 9:15 - 9:30am. Everyone is welcome to attend. This is a presentation by our two Pre-Kindergarten classes.

Summer camp and fall registration is now open. We are happy to announce our new Transitional Kindergarten class beginning this fall. This class is for children who would benefit from an extra year of Pre-School before entering kindergarten. Please contact me for more information about this and all our programs.

To register for the summer or fall, or to schedule a tour, please contact me at [hkahn@universitiesynagogue.org](mailto:hkahn@universitiesynagogue.org) or 949-553-3535, X 242.

Happy February!

B'shalom,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heidi Kahn".

Heidi Kahn



## Can You Use a Mitzvah?

If you are a member and have a health problem or other emergency, the Mitzvah Committee can lend a hand. We can visit after a hospitalization, bring a meal, run errands, or call to provide support. You can arrange for this help by calling the office at 949.553.3535.

## Tikkun Olam - Together We Can Repair the World

University Synagogue ended 2011 with a highly successful Hanukkah Gift Drive. Gift cards for Jewish Federation and Family Services provided a warm holiday season to over a dozen families. Thanks to our wonderful synagogue members, children and adults were able to purchase needed items, such as gas and groceries, warm clothes, and a few special items for Hanukkah. We received a gracious letter of thanks from the staff of Jewish Federation and Family Services. Our thanks goes out, in turn, to Sam Kaplan and his team for heading this event.

The Hanukkah Gift Drive also raised money for our internal fund, US CARES. Over the last year, we gave out almost all the money raised in our 2010 Hanukkah Gift Drive for the fund. Money has gone to assist our own members and their families in many ways, including critical assistance with maintaining Jewish identity and affiliation with our synagogue, helping with groceries, and even with gas money. The US CARES fund will again be able to help our families in 2012 with support from our synagogue. As one member said, "You have no idea how much this help means to me and my children."



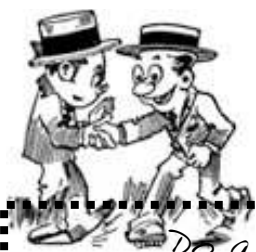
In January, we began helping the Orange Coast Interfaith Shelter (OCIS) to rehabilitate one of its apartments. OCIS takes in homeless families, helps them to find work, obtain affordable childcare, save money, and get back on their feet. Several University Synagogue members are on the OCIS Board. Our committee, headed by Wilma Nishball and Kathe Katz, has a list of what items are still needed for the apartment. The list is updated and in the synagogue's e-blast. We appreciate all the contributions to date.

OCIS also benefitted from a generous donation by the Orange County Jewish Film Festival, headed by Gene Alterman. Trader Joe's sponsors the festival with a \$100 food donation. This year, the food went to OCIS.

In March we will have the opportunity to volunteer at the Someone Cares Soup Kitchen. We will also have Janice Reznik, President of Jewish World Watch, speaking on her recent trip to Congo at Shabbat services, Friday, March 30. Please plan to participate in both events.

Our March meeting will be held off-site on Sunday, March 22 at 10AM. Everyone is welcome to attend and help with a single event or all of our events. Please contact Anita Mishook ([amishook@cox.net](mailto:amishook@cox.net)) or Jerri Kaplan ([jkkaplan@cox.net](mailto:jkkaplan@cox.net)) for more information.

B'shalom,  
*Jerri Kaplan &  
 Anita Mishook*



*Do a Mitzvah! Introduce a Friend to University Synagogue!*

We'll send out a wonderful introductory packet of information to any of your friends who you think may be interested in membership, just exploring Judaism or connecting with their Jewish roots. Send your referrals to the office.

Please send information to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address, City, and Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Referred By: \_\_\_\_\_

## New Books Column

Julia Gelfand (jgelfand@uci.edu)

Readers have inquired about how successful is a Jewish-themed book in the marketplace. The answer is not easy but the following data has been reported indicating for comparison, *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo* sold 2,400,000 hardback copies and 3,685,000 paperbacks in 2010 and the most successful "Jewish book" in 2010 was ***The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story*** by Diane Ackerman which sold a total of 105,000 copies.

I have also had requests to note which books are available as eBooks to read on a Kindle or other reading devices. Increasingly, new books are released in multiple formats, print, audio and digitally, but older titles often have eBook versions subsequently released. Since this is a "new books column" I suggest that you consult Amazon, using the [US link](#) and check every so often the availability of the format you prefer for specific titles. Fiction titles tend to be released for Kindle readers first.

### **Dissent: Jewish and Christian Mystics in Eastern Europe**

By Glenn Dynner, ed.

Wayne State University Press, 2011; ISBN: 978-0814335178

This title contains essays on the two forms of mystics' links, parallels, and mutual influences in the early modern era, Frommann's *Commentary on Luke* and the *Christianizing of Kabbalah*.

### **The Men's Section: Orthodox Jewish Men in an Egalitarian World**

By Elana Maryles Sztokman

Brandeis University Press, 2011; ISBN: 9781611680799

This book draws on interviews in the United States, Israel and Australia for a study of orthodox men who attend "partnership" synagogues that are reforming male and female roles in the Orthodox world.

### **The Memory of Pain: Women's Testimonies of the Holocaust**

By Camila Loew

Rodopi, 2011; ISBN: 978-9042034211

A study of Holocaust-related writings by Charlotte Delbo, Margarete Buber-Neumann, Ruth Kluger and Marguerite Duras.

### **City of Rogues and Schnorrers: Russia's Jews and the Myth of Old Odessa**

By Jarrod Tanny

Indiana University Press, 2011; ISBN: 9780253223289

"Traces the emergence, development, and persistence of the myth of Odessa as both Garden of Eden and Gomorrah, a unique Russian/Soviet city that promised its residents easy money and all pleasures of the flesh.... A joy to read -- well crafted, cogently argued, and compellingly written."



### **Lily Renee, Escape Artist: From Holocaust Survivor to Comic Book Pioneer**

By Trina Robbins

Graphic Universe, 2011; ISBN: 9780761381143

"This graphic biography, illustrated in a retro comic book style that befits its subject, describes the life of Lily Renee Wilhelm, a Jewish kindertransport refugee who became a graphic artist of superwomen comic books in New York. Raised in a well-off family in Vienna in the 1930s, Lily saw her idyllic childhood descend into one of prejudice, tragedy, Kristallnacht and, finally, escape. This is a smart little biography that will appeal to history buffs, comic book fans and anyone who likes a gutsy pioneering heroine."

### **Today I Am a Woman: Stories of Bat Mitzvah Around the World**

By Barbara Vinick and Shulamit Reinharz, eds.

Indiana University Press, 2011; ISBN: 9780253356932

We may think we know the history of the first Bat Mitzvah as Judith Kaplan, daughter of Rabbi Mordechai Kaplan, founder of the Reconstructionist movement had hers in 1922. However the American experience of the bat mitzvah may be the earliest one but this book "will surprise [readers] with its fascinating array of compelling accounts of what it meant for Jewish girls to come of age [everywhere]. The editors scoured the globe to find powerful, varied, and moving depictions of bat mitzvah in the contemporary Jewish world. This is a rich resource for anyone interested in understanding religious diversity, folk practices, and cultural creativity through the lens of gender."

### **Precious Objects: Diamonds, Family and a Way of Life**

By Alicia Oltuski

Scribners, 2011; ISBN: 9781416545125

This first book offers insight and drama into Oltuski's tale of being a part of a family diamond dynasty. "...an insider's look at the history, business, and society behind one of the world's most coveted natural resources, providing an unforgettable backstage pass to an extraordinary and timeless show."

## Contributions

### RABBI RACHLIS' DISCRETIONARY FUND

(For donations to this fund, please make your checks payable to Rabbi Rachlis' Discretionary Fund.)

#### Lewis and Vivian Atlas

- Refua shelema (get well wishes) to Elaine Kleinman
- In memory of Ken Gordon's cousin

#### Joel and Helen Bergenfeld

- In memory of Herman Bergenfeld

#### Lois Daniels

- In memory of her husband, David Daniels

#### Gary and Christine Goldhammer

- In honor of Alex's Bat Mitzvah

#### Ruth Mayer

- In appreciation to Rabbi Rachlis for officiating at Hardy's memorial service

#### Gordon and Jeanne Mintz

- In memory of their friend, Lou Wiener
- In memory of their friend, Fred Wiener
- In memory of Gordon's mother, Fay Mintz
- In memory of Gordon's sister, Shirley Dorfman
- In memory of Jeanne's mother, Rose Berkowitz
- In memory of Jeanne's sister, Rosalind Berkowitz
- In memory of Jeanne's brother, Sidney Berke

#### Shirley Altman-Paul

- In memory of her daughter, Sharon Perrault

#### Arkady and Ella Serebryannik

- In memory of Dmitry Kushner

#### Harry and Gail Spatz

- In memory of Victor Klein

#### Sherman and Beth Spitz

- In memory of Bob Lawrence

#### Sol and Bunny Zechter

- Condolences to Natalye and Howard Black on the death of their son-in-law, Robert Lawrence
- Condolences to Barbara Klein on the death of her husband, Victor Klein

### CANTOR BRAIER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

#### Gary and Christine Goldhammer

- In honor of Alex's Bat Mitzvah

#### Harold and Fritz Goldberg

- In memory of Helen Krasnow

### GENERAL FUND

#### Rabbi Arnold Rachlis and

#### Cantor Ruti Braier

- Mazel tov to Amir and Marina Kahana on the birth of their daughter, Coral Leah
- Refua shelema to Marcia Friedman
- Refua shelema to Lois Goren
- Refua shelema to Nancy Lander
- Refua shelema to Larry and Linda Lewin's daughter-in-law, Tammy Golden
- Condolences to Rabbi Marc Dworkin on the death of his mother, Ruth Dworkin
- Condolences to Sandie Hempling on the death of her father, Abe Medress
- Condolences to Barbara Klein on the death of her husband, Victor Klein
- Condolences to David Lilien on the death of his father, Sam Lilien
- Condolences to Dovi Penn on the death of his uncle, Shaul Penn
- Condolences to Arie Shen on the death of his father, Moshe Shen

#### Estelle Altman

- Deepest sympathy to Sandie Hempling

#### Hal and Hinda Beral

- In memory of Hardy Mayer

#### Dr. Neil and Susan Bershad

- In honor of Marsha Gandin's mom, Gertie Noskin's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday
- In loving memory of Robert Lawrence, son-in-law of Howard and Natalye Black
- In loving memory of Richard Gandin
- In loving memory of Mark Glassman

#### Howard and Natalye Black

- Love and condolences to Myra Wiener and family on the passing of her dear Lou
- Condolences to Sandie Hempling on the passing of her father, Abe Medress

#### Matthew and Jane Brenner

- Happy 95<sup>th</sup> birthday to Betty Asher

#### Thomas and Andra Ellingson

- In memory of Victor Klein
- In memory of Lou Wiener

#### Joseph and Marcia Friedman

- In memory of Myra Wiener's devoted husband, father and humanitarian

#### Jay and Fran Gale

- In memory of Natalye and Howard Black's son-in-law, Bob Lawrence

#### Alvin and Rosalie Glasky

- In memory of Lou Wiener

#### Ron and Sharon Glickman

- In loving memory of Victor Klein, dear husband of Barbara Klein
- In memory of Lou Wiener, dear husband of Myra Wiener

#### Sheldon and Janet Golden

- In honor of their son Jeff's new position as chair of Pathology at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston
- In honor of Dr. Linda Gomberg receiving her PhD in Media Psychology

#### Gary, Christine and Alexandra Goldhammer

- In memory of Victor Klein

#### Michael and Ellie Gordon

- In memory of Lou Wiener

#### Dr. David and Lois Goren

- Condolences to Barbara Klein on the death of her husband, Victor Klein

#### Dena Gutman

- With sympathy to Sandie Hempling
- Deepest sympathy to Barbara Klein on the loss of her husband, Victor Klein

#### Havurah Nagila

- In memory of Lou Wiener

#### Norm and Sandie Hempling

- Condolences to Myra Wiener on the death of her husband, Lou Wiener
- In memory of Norm's father, Ruben Hempling
- In memory of Norm's sister, Bernice Leon

#### Dan Kahn, Larry Wolfe and friends from Production Tool Supply

- In memory of Lou Wiener

#### Jacinta Kaplan

- In memory of Victor Klein

#### Sam Kaplan and Jerri Klein-Kaplan

- Congratulations to Sherry Clark! Welcome to the world of retirement.
- Wishing Elaine Kleinman a speedy recovery

**Dennis and Adelyn Klarin**

- In memory of their dear friend, Lou Wiener

**Len and Miriam Kranser**

- In loving memory of Reuben Kershaw, husband of Norma Kershaw

**Martin Krevitz**

- In memory of Lou Wiener

**David Lang and Julie Gelfand**

- In memory of Lou Wiener

**Jules Levy**

- In memory of his sister, Majorie Adler

**Marty and Sandy Luboviski**

- In memory of Lou Wiener

**Jeff and Lisa Metzger**

- Condolences to Natalye and Howard Black on the loss of their son-in-law, Bob Lawrence

**Ruth Moos**

- In memory of Victor Klein

**Shirley Morris**

- In memory of Lou Wiener

**Burt and Bobbi Pronin**

- In memory of Bobbi's father, Murray Markman

**Dr. Marc and Carol Richmond**

- In memory of Lily Bierig's father
- In memory of Reuben Kershaw, husband of Norma Kershaw
- In memory of Victor Klein, husband of Barbara Klein
- In memory of Bob Lawrence, son-in-law of Natalye and Howard Black
- In memory of Hardy Mayer, husband of Rita Mayer

**David and Geri Sandor**

- In appreciation to the University Synagogue Board of Directors and President, Richard Fybel, for their hard work and dedication to University Synagogue
- In memory of Mark Glassman
- In memory of Marsha Gandin's husband and their wonderful friend, Richard
- Heartfelt sympathy to Barbara Klein on the death of her beloved husband, Victor. We shall miss him greatly.
- In memory of Robert Lawrence, son-in-law of Natalye and Howard Black

**Dr. Chip and Sari Schreiber**

- Condolences to Natalye and Howard Black on the death of their son-in-law, Bob Lawrence
- Condolences to Laurie Black and family on the death of her husband, Bob and father of AJ, Skylar, Dustin, Seth and Maddie
- Condolences to Barbara Klein on the death of her dear husband, Victor. He will be dearly missed
- Condolences to Sandie Hempling on the death of her dear father, Abe Medress
- Condolences to Dovi Penn on the loss of his uncle, Shaul Penn

**Barbara Sloate**

- Sincere condolences to Barbara Klein and her family on the recent loss of her husband, Victor Klein
- Love and sincere condolences to Natalye and Howard Black on the loss of their son-in-law, Bob Lawrence

**Jerome and Bunny Spanier**

- In memory of Victor Klein

**Arkady and Ella Serebryannik**

- In memory of Dmitry Kushner

**John and Myra Stillman**

- Condolences to Myra Wiener on the death of her husband, Lou Wiener

**Michael Sultan**

- In memory of his father, Emanuel Sultan
- In memory of his mother, Anne Gotthardt

**Dr. Elliot and Roz Vogelfanger**

- Condolences to Barbara Klein on the passing of her loving and devoted husband, Victor. We will truly miss Victor – a special and loved friend. Our hearts go out to Barbara and her family

**BRIAN BLACK MEMORIAL MENTAL HEALTH FUND****Bret and Laura Berg**

- Their thoughts and prayers are with Natalye and Howard Black on the loss of their son-in-law, Robert Lawrence

**Neal and Karen Dem**

- Deepest condolences to Natalye and Howard Black on the death of their son-in-law, Bob

**Richard and Susan Fybel**

- In memory of Bob Lawrence

**Ron and Sharon Glickman**

- In memory of Bob Lawrence

**Howard and Susie Rothfeder**

- In memory of Natalye and Howard Black's dear "son" Bob

**Mort and Elaine Rudin**

- Sincere condolences to Natalye and Howard Black on the loss of their wonderful son-in-law, Bob

**Jerry and Debbie Stern**

- In memory of Bob Lawrence

**BUILDING FUND****Thomas and Andra Ellingson**

- In memory of Andra's father, Norman Barmash

**Jim Gilbert and Susan Orbuch and family**

- In memory of Victor Klein

**Howard and Susie Rothfeder**

- In memory of Barbara Klein's dear husband, Victor with sincere condolences

**Marcus and Pamela Weinstein**

- Victor Klein – an amazing, generous, loving man. He will be missed

**CHOIR FUND****Dr. David and Florence Shore**

- They feel so very badly about Victor; loving thoughts to Barbara Klein

**LUTZKY FUND FOR THE EDUCATION OF JEWISH CHILDREN****Mike, Nina, Anna, Charley, Hope and Andrew Daum**

- Happy birthday, happy Hanukkah, happy year to Carol Richmond

**MAZON: A JEWISH RESPONSE TO HUNGER****Rhona Fox**

- My heart goes out to Barbara Klein and her family on the passing of her dear husband, Victor Klein

**Lou Miller**

- Refua shelema to Cantor Braier
- Refua shelema to Clarita Karlin
- Condolences to Myra Wiener on the death of her husband, Lou Wiener

**Drs. Sorel and Gail Reisman**

- Condolences to Barbara Klein on the death of her husband, Victor

**Al and Suzanne Yesk**

- Deepest sympathy to Howard and Natalye Black on the death of their beloved Bob
- With heartfelt sympathy to Barbara Klein and the Klein family on the loss of their

beloved Victor; a devoted husband, father and grandfather

- In memory of Lou Wiener, beloved husband of Myra Wiener; a true mensch.
- In memory of Lily Bierig's father
- In memory of their beloved mothers, Magda Salzer and Rose Yesk

#### **OZAN FAMILY LIBRARY FUND**

##### **Brig. Gen. David Yonis**

- In memory of David's father-in-law and Robin Yonis' grandfather, Irving Abraham

#### **PRESCHOOL FUND**

##### **Sandy Bursten**

- In memory of Myra Wiener's beloved husband; Lou was a real "mensch"

##### **Larry and Sheila Dreyfuss**

- In memory of Phyllis Stone, mother of Steve Stone
- In memory of Alan and Helen Rowe, parents of Nadine Heideman

##### **Heidi Kahn**

- Condolences to Barbara Klein on the passing of her husband, Victor Klein

##### **Sam Kaplan and Jerri Klein-Kaplan**

- Condolences to Natalye and Howard Black on the passing of their son-in-law, Bob Lawrence

##### **Barbara Sloate**

- In loving memory of her dear friend, Lou Wiener

##### **University Synagogue Pre-School**

- Condolences to Melaine Wolf on the passing of her mother, Ramah Spencer

##### **Dr. Elliot and Roz Vogelfanger**

- It is with a heavy heart that they send condolences on the passing of Myra Wiener's dear husband, Lou Wiener

#### **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND**

##### **Steve and Arlene Fienberg**

- In memory of Bob Lawrence

##### **Jim Gilbert and Susan Orbuch and family**

- In memory of Lou Wiener

##### **Jerry and Judy Gilmore**

- In memory of Myra Wiener's wonderful husband, Lou

##### **Dr. Robert and Alice Mitchell**

- In memory of Alice's father, Jonas Richards

##### **Mort and Elaine Rudin**

- Deepest sympathy on the passing of Robert Lawrence, son-in-law of Natalye and Howard Black

##### **The Women's Connection**

- In memory of Natalye and Howard Black's beloved son-in-law, Robert Lawrence

##### **University Synagogue Religious School**

- Condolences to Sandie Hempling on the death of her father, Abe Medress

#### **WOMEN'S CONNECTION**

##### **Herb and Barbara Cohen**

- Best wishes and congratulations to Sherry Clark on her retirement

##### **Burt and Bobbi Pronin**

- In honor of Sherry Clark's retirement

##### **Membership Committee**

- Congratulations and mazel tov to Sherry Clark on her retirement

Welcome to our New

Members:

Shachar and Tal Gat

Ken and Dawn Royal

Michael and Veronica Sessler

David Gregory

*A Women's Connection  
Special Event!*

#### **Skirball Museum Tour FEBRUARY 12**

**A Special Invitation to Women's Connection Members** - A maximum of 30 women will be bused to the Skirball Museum on February 12 for lunch and a private docent tour of an incredible exhibit entitled, "Women Hold Up Half the Sky. Cost per person is \$60.00, which includes bus transportation, admittance to the Skirball, and lunch at the Skirball. Attendees will leave the synagogue parking lot promptly at 9:30 a.m.

Docent tour begins at 10:45 a.m. and lunch will be at noon.

To reserve your place: Email Sherry Clark at [sherry20911@msn.com](mailto:sherry20911@msn.com) OR call 714-964-8710. Checks payable to University Synagogue are to be mailed to: University Synagogue (Attn. Sherry Clark), 3400 Michelson, Irvine, CA 92612.

**RSVP with payment MUST be received prior to event date. Don't wait to make your reservation! Space is limited to 30.**

#### **Lunch and Learn FEBRUARY 15**

'Forgiveness' will be Rabbi Rachlis's topic. The Women's Connection will provide lunch and dessert for \$7.00 at 11:45 a.m. The Rabbi's discussion begins at 12:15 p.m. RSVP to the synagogue office.



**TZEDAKAH OPPORTUNITIES**

Please send or fax this form to University Synagogue,  
3400 Michelson, Irvine, CA 92612; Fax (949) 553-4034, or you can make a donation  
online at [www.universitysinagogue.org/shop/donations.html](http://www.universitysinagogue.org/shop/donations.html)

*Please be generous – at the time of a simcha or a sad occasion, when honoring someone in life or memory. These tax deductible funds help us do the crucial work of sustaining and improving Jewish and general life. If you wish to endow a fund in someone’s honor or memory or for a special purpose, please call the President of University Synagogue.*

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Send card to: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if non-member): \_\_\_\_\_

**Please print name and relationship:**

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Mazel To: \_\_\_\_\_

Condolences on the death of: \_\_\_\_\_

Refua Shlema/Get well wishes to: \_\_\_\_\_

To commemorate: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate your choice of Tzedakah Fund:**

- General Fund** – for all the multifaceted activities of our active congregation.
- Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund** – a way to assist charities that the Rabbi supports, often dealing with issues of justice, peace, Jewish education and hunger. Many members give to this Fund at the time of a wedding, funeral, unveiling, naming, Bar/Bat Mitzvah. (Please make checks payable to RRDF).
- Cantor’s Fund** – for concerts and other musical enrichment programs at University Synagogue for adults and children.
- Brian Black Mental Health Memorial Fund** -to promote mental health programs at University Synagogue.
- Building Fund** - for all the important needs of our building.
- Choir Fund** – to support musical activities at services and for special programs.
- Fishman Family Concert Fund** – to underwrite concerts for University Synagogue.
- Lutzky Fund for the Education of Jewish Children** – for special events for University Synagogue children.
- Marianne Yesk Memorial Fund** – to provide funds for speakers and the Pre-School in memory of a founding member.
- Mazon** – our participation in a national effort to feed the hungry. (Please make checks payable to Mazon.)
- Ozan Family Library Fund** - established by the Beral, Dienstag and Witkin Families – a nameplate in honor or in memory of whomever you designate will be affixed to each book that we purchase.
- Prayerbook Fund** – to dedicate a Shabbat or children’s prayerbooks in someone’s honor or memory. A nameplate will be
- Pre-School Fund** – for books, education and other needed “extras” not covered by school tuition and the general budget.
- Religious School Fund** – for books, special education and other needed “extras” not covered by school tuition and the general budget.
- Simon Family Fund** – for children’s programs and to promote bonds between the generations.
- Speakers Fund** – founded by the Metzger Family - to educate people of all religious backgrounds about Jewish values and ideas by bringing speakers to University Synagogue.
- Tikkun Olam Fund** – founded by the Grossman/Swaiman Family to promote diversity and social action in our society.
- Women’s Connection**

I would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ packets of tribute cards at \$50 per packet of 5 cards I will pick up cards at services

Please mail cards to \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or Please charge by: VISA Master Card

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Supporting Members

Thank you to the following members who are participating in our Supporting Members program. Your generosity and support are deeply appreciated. If you are interested in becoming a Supporting Member, please contact the office for details.

### ELIJAH'S CIRCLE

Hal and Hinda Beral  
Louis and Myra Wiener

### CHAI TZEDAKAH

Howard and Natayle Black  
Allen and Ellie Jaffy  
Mike and Amy Morhaime  
Dr. Bernard and Roslyn Portnoy  
David and Geri Sandor

### CHAI BENEFACTORS

Dr. Gordon and Hannareta Fishman  
Daniel and Karen Frankel  
Marsha Gandin  
Dr. Alvin and Rosalie Glasky  
Sheldon and Janet Golden  
Michael and Eleanor Gordon  
Victor and Barbara Klein

Dr. Marc and Carol Richmond  
Hank and Meryl Schrimmer

Dr. David Lilien and Carolyn Stone

Dr. Mark and Leslie Van Houten

### PATRON DONORS

Lewis and Vivian Atlas  
Mark Bregman and Susan Keller  
Marsha Gandin  
Cynthia Glazer  
Dr. Todd and Cat Goldenberg  
David and Lori Hershorin  
Dr. Baruch and Jantana Kuppermann

Judith Leland  
Robert LeWinter  
Dr. Henry Louria  
Al and Sally Phillips  
Charles and Masako Popick  
Mark and Barbara Price  
Rabbi Arnold Rachlis and Cantor Ruti Braier

Dr. Michael Sultan  
Sol and Bunny Zechter  
Larry and Florence Zysman

### SUSTAINING DONORS

Jerome and Doreen Bame  
Jim and Lily Bierig  
Eric and Michelle Blum  
Peter and Carol Bregman  
Martin and Ruth Brill

Dr. Mitchell and Debra Brin  
Mark and Marcy Bruskin  
Sherry Clark

Herb and Barbara Cohen  
Naomi Cohen  
Robert and Tamara Dienstag  
Dr. Terry and Heather Dubrow  
Jeffrey and Marie Goffman  
Hal and Fritzi Goldberg

Larry and Miriam Goldberg  
Lenny and Gloria Goldenberg  
Dr. Todd and Cat Goldenberg  
Dr. Martin and Penny Grubin  
Charles Howell and Yael Karabelnik

Leonard and Laura Israel  
Marshall and Jacinta Kaplan  
Abe and Dina Karem

Dr. Andrew and Audrey Kassinove  
Robert and Gerri Kraft  
Mike and Karen Krahelski  
Nat and Sally Kurnick  
Deborah Leifer

Nancy and Jules Levy  
Rudolph and Carol Loewenstein

Jerry and Rella Lutzky  
Drs. Donald and Sari Mahon  
Bernice and William Malkin  
Richard and Giulia Merage  
Stanley and Hilda Miller  
Stan and Anita Mishook  
Dr. Robert and Alice Mitchell  
Mike and Amy Morhaime  
Dr. Bernard and Roslyn Portnoy

Jair and Alice Rochverger  
Bob and Judith Rosenberg  
Dr. Howard and Susie Rothfeder

Dr. Nathan Rynn  
Sharon Salinger  
Jeanne Sandor  
Arkady and Ella Serebryannik  
Jerry and Bunny Spanier  
John and Myra Stillman  
Drs. Daniel and Jeanne Stokols

Dr. Michael Sultan  
Jeffrey Wolff  
David and Carmen Wyle

## Generations Group

Thank you to the following members who joined our Generations Group, making a 10-year commitment of \$1,000 to University Synagogue. Your generosity and support are appreciated.

Dr. Eric Alcouloumre and Annee DellaDonna  
Alex Alpert and Carol Saltzman  
Dr. Leslie Aspis  
Lawrence and Susan Becker  
Dr. Kenneth and Roberta Bell  
Drs. Al Bennett and Rudi Berkelhamer  
Hal and Hinda Beral  
Howard and Natalye Black  
Mark Bregman and Susan Keller  
Sandy Bursten  
Robert and Dr. Joyce Pais-Chambers

Dr. Miriam Piven Cotler  
Robert and Tamara Dienstag  
Howard and Phyllis Duhan  
Dennis and Carol Eastman  
Sheldon and Anita Eisenman  
Thomas and Andra Ellingson  
Dr. Gary and Florence Feldman  
David and Julie Fishman  
Dr. Gordon and Hannareta Fishman

Richard and Susan Fybel  
Marsha Gandin  
Dr. Bernard and Phyllis Gilmore  
Dr. Alvin and Rosalie Glasky  
Cynthia Glazer  
Lawrence and Miriam Goldberg

Dr. Sheldon and Janet Golden  
Dr. Todd and Cat Goldenberg  
Richard and Marci Gollis  
Dr. Raymond and Linda Gomberg  
Michael and Eleanor Gordon  
Dr. David and Lois Goren  
Barry and Ruby Greenberg  
Harry Greenberg  
Murdoch and Nadine Heideman

Lotte Hoffman  
Gary Jackson and Dr. Linda Globerman  
David and Lori Hershorin  
Bill and Valerie Jacobs  
Allen and Ellie Jaffy  
Otto Kahn

Norma Kershaw  
Sam Kaplan and Jerri Klein-Kaplan  
Dennis and Adelyn Klarin  
Victor and Barbara Klein  
Leonard and Miriam Kranser  
Judith Leland  
Lenore Leshin  
Dr. Allan and Patricia Lewis  
Dr. David Lilien and Carolyn Stone  
Allan and Robin Lubitz  
William and Bernice Malkin  
Terry and Toni McDonald  
Katherine Merage  
Jeff and Lisa Metzger  
Stan and Anita Mishook  
Susan Orbuch and Jim Gilbert  
Al and Sally Phillips  
Leo and Sheila Pinsky  
Dr. Bernard and Roslyn Portnoy

Rabbi Arnold Rachlis and Cantor Ruti Braier  
Dr. Marc and Carol Richmond  
Nira Kozak Roston  
Ryna Rothberg  
David and Geri Sandor  
Dr. David and Linda Saperstein

Dr. Chip and Sari Schreiber  
Hank and Meryl Schrimmer  
Jeff and Linda Schulein  
Dr. David and Florence Shore  
Gary Silverman  
David and Evey Simon  
Leonard and Myrna Simon  
Jerry and Debbie Stern  
Dr. Steve and Rena Stone  
Mark and Dana Susson  
Dorothy Terman  
Jeff and Wendy Verdon  
Ira and Debbie Victor  
Dr. Elliot and Roz Vogelfanger

Pamela and Marcos Weinstein  
Lou and Myra Wiener  
Max and Marilyn Wolfsberg  
Sol and Bunny Zechter

All members are invited to join the Generations Group. We are a group of members who enjoy having fun and are treated to great activities including, but not limited to, the Rabbi's Dinner & Lecture, an entertaining cultural program with a dessert reception, unusual entertainment events, a cocktail dinner party at the Fishman's home and reserved parking for the High Holidays at the Synagogue. We hope you will call the Synagogue (949.553.3535) and join.



The mission of University Synagogue is to be a center of Reconstructionist Judaism for adults and children. Embodying a sense of community, we kindle spirituality and foster intellectual challenge while broadening the boundaries of modern Jewish life. We provide for the religious, cultural and Jewish educational needs of our members as we actively participate in building the Jewish future.

**UNIVERSITY SYNAGOGUE**

**Rabbi  
Cantor**

Arnold Rachlis  
Ruti Braier

**Educational Director  
Pre-School Director**

Sue Penn  
Heidi Kahn

**2011-2012 / 5772 Board**

**President**  
**Executive VP**  
**Treasurer**  
**Secretary**  
**Past President**  
**VP Membership**  
**VP Education**  
**VP Social Action/Tikkun Olam**  
**VP Activities**  
**VP Ways and Means**

Richard D. Fybel  
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Mike Krahelski  
Eric Blum  
Lisa Metzger  
Susie Rothfeder  
Natalye Black  
Anita Mishook  
Terry McDonald  
Mark Bregman

**Members At Large**

Hinda Beral  
Laura Berg  
Joan Carmack  
Sherry Clark  
Carol Eastman  
Andra Ellingson  
Marcy Garrett  
Ron Glickman  
Valerie Jacobs  
Dennis Klarin  
Victor Klein  
Jeri Klein-Kaplan  
Bruce Lipian  
Alice Rochverger  
Ryna Rothberg  
Len Simon



**University Synagogue has a new ramp for those needing wheelchair and scooter access or special assistance!**

*Thank you to the following for our new ramp!*

Roberta and Ken Bell  
Michelle and Eric Blum  
Andra and Tom Ellingson  
Salena and Saul Jacobs  
Len and Miriam Kranser  
Bruce and Sara Lipian

Lisa and Jeff Metzger  
Anita and Stan Mishook  
Susie and Howard Rothfeder  
David and Geri Sandor  
Debbie and Jerry Stern

University Synagogue, a Reconstructionist congregation, believes in the equality of men and women, sees God as the power within, which inspires us to strive for human fulfillment as loving and caring people, and acknowledges both the rational foundation of the Universe and the spirituality inherent in all human life. We believe that Judaism is an evolving religious civilization, which reflects peoplehood, community, history, the arts and ethics. We are a community open to all, including interfaith couples.

**Affiliated with the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation**

**THE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS THE 1ST OF EVERY MONTH**