



Students gearing up for some Krav Maga.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?

Do you believe in miracles? Do you pray for them, live your life based on them? When you think about it, believing in miracles should be second nature to us Jews. That we have existed and thrived for as long as we have indicates to me at least, miracles exist. Or, better yet, the fact we Jews continue to exist, and continue to contribute to the welfare of the world, might actually be a proof for God's existence.

All that aside, if we hold to the biblical description that human beings are made in God's image then all of us have the potential to become God's partner in bringing about miracles. Furthermore, if we believe we can bring about miracles—the invention of human flight; the discovery of antibiotics; the pursuit of cures for dreaded diseases; music; math; technology; literature and so forth,

IN THIS EDITION...



Our solidarity mission to Israel has concluded. Details and pictures inside! PAGE 3 then, by logical extension, we should not depend solely on God's grace.

How we choose to engage, how we allocate our resources, and the choices we make are all-important factors in our lives and the lives around us. The operative word is *engage*. We need to engage in the effort, along with God, to bring about miracles. A joke is told of a person who constantly prays to God to win the lottery. After months of wishing and praying, God finally appears to the person and says, "I understand you want to win the lottery, but don't you first have to buy a ticket?"

The historic holiday of Hanukkah, at its core, is an example of the divine [miraculous] partnership between God and us. After the Maccabees' military victory, the defiled Temple in Jerusalem was restored to its original sacred glory. The rededication of the Temple, along with the miracle that has come to define Hanukkah (the rabbinic story of a container of oil lasting eight days) would have been impossible had it not been for the unrelenting determination of a handful of Jews who simply engaged.

So important was their engagement, had they not engaged, the Hellenists would have prevailed. The upshot? No resistance to the Greek-Syrians, no reestablishment of the Temple, no Judaism and Jewish People—no miracle.

So, as we light our Hanukkah candelabras this month, let their fiery glow remind and inspire us to engage in God's world. By doing so, we reconfirm our partnership with the divine, a partnership that supports and encourages us to bring about miracles on our own.





CANDLE LIGHTING at the Promenade

Tuesday, December 16th Hanukkiah Candle Lighting: 6:30pm

Dinner: 7:00pm

Welcome the first night of Hanukkah together as we participate in the community candlelighting at the Promenade. Enjoy dinner after the ceremony as we usher in the holiday (cost and location to be announced).

CHUTZPAH



MANNY BAKER, President

On November 3, 2014, the Supreme Court heard arguments concerning the right of an American citizen, 12-year old Menachem Zivotofsky, to list his place of birth as Jerusalem, Israel, on his US passport. Somehow, the notion that Jerusalem was identified as part of Israel raised alarms with the State Department, and they denied the request. The Zivotofskys sued and lost. The decision was appealed, but upheld by the DC Circuit Court. A further appeal was made

to the Supreme Court, and the case was heard on November 3. The decision is likely to come down in 2015, and the *LA Times* reported on November 4 that the conservative justices appeared favorable to the Zivotofsky appeal, while the liberal judges supported the administration. The wild card apparently will be Justice Kennedy. Incidentally, the three Jewish justices appeared to be sympathetic to the government's case, and not to Zivotofsky.

An editorial in the *LA Times* on November 3 raised some interesting issues. The State Department denied the request saying that the administration did not want to allow it since it would in effect grant status to Jerusalem, which is still on the table with respect to negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. Further, the argument went, recognizing capitals was within the purview of the president, and if the president chose at this point in time not to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital (as previous presidents

had done), that was his constitutional right, even if Congress had passed laws urging the recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

There is no question that the president has the authority to grant recognition to a state; however, I question whether the president or prime minister of any country has the authority to define what city another country declares as its capital. That seems to amount to an inordinate amount of chutzpah. UN Resolution 181 which partitioned the Palestine mandate into Jewish and Arab countries established that there should be an "international regime" for Jerusalem. The Arabs rejected the partition plan. The moment the British mandate ended, and the State of Israel came into existence, the Arab nations attacked, and the War of Independence began. When truce was declared, the Old City was in Jordanian hands, and the New City was in Israeli hands. Separate governments were established, and the "international regime" never came into existence. The world seemed satisfied with a divided city and separate governmental entities. This remained unchanged until the Six Day War, when Israel captured the Old City from Jordan and declared the entire city as Israel's.

I find it strange that any country states that it has the right to dictate where a sovereign nation establishes its capital. Would the question arise if this were a country other than Israel? I sometimes wonder.

THE RIGHT PLUGIN



CANTOR SAMUEL COHEN

Recently, we had a Bar Mitzvah at KM and the celebrant asked, "Why become Bar Mitzvah with a service when one automatically becomes Bar Mitzvah just by turning 12 or 13?" The student then went on to explain what it meant to him to become a Bar Mitzvah. This got me thinking: why did I become a cantor? Why does a lawyer become a lawyer, a doctor a doctor? Did I become a cantor because my father was a cantor or my grandfathers were both cantors? Because my two older

brothers are cantors? Surely it is not only because of my family history?

About two years ago, the Cantor's Assembly gathered 100 cantors together and traveled to Poland and Israel, documenting the entire trip. This led to the creation of "100 Voices: A Journey Home," and if you have not seen this documentary, I highly recommend that you take a look. The group first goes to Auschwitz, where they sing and pray in memory of the souls lost in the Holocaust. The cantors then travel to Israel and proceed to sing throughout the entire country. Watching these cantors singing wherever they were reminded me of why I am a cantor. I express my connection to Judaism and my roots in the most profound way—through the depths of music. Music is able to reach somewhere deep in the soul, and singing in a synagogue or a holy place only heightens the experience and strengthens this connection.

I mention this because as I prepared for last month's trip to Israel with the KM community, several thoughts were spinning in my head, including, of course, excitement. I lived in the north of Israel for two years when I was 18 and 19 and have returned a few times to visit, but I have not been back to Israel in the last ten years. Ten years is a long time and many things can change in that time. I know how much I have changed in the past 10 years, and I couldn't imagine how much Israel had changed since I was last there, especially with the tech boom and the past war, Protective Edge. I was so excited to see the growth and development! That said, I am happy to report that the strong-natured personalities of the people of Israel are one thing that have certainly not changed much (thank God).

As I packed, I was gathering my electronics together: iPod Nano, iPad, iPhone, laptop, etc (as it is impossible to live without any of those for ten days), when I realized that I would not be able to charge a single one of them in Israel as I did not have the right plug adaptor. I have all the high tech gadgets one could want, with all the wires, but the wrong plug. Without the right plug, I had no charge, no juice, no life. For me, music is my plug adaptor; it is the cross-country, multilingual, multicultural adjustor. It is the way people who have nothing in common can connect, grow, become friends, and give juice/life to each other. This is why I became a cantor—to plug in!

Through my long-awaited reconnection with Erezt Yisrael, the Holy Land, I found the right adaptor. I hope to continue to be reconnected and granted new juice/life as I continue to sing for many years to come.

LCOME

Welcome to our newest members, whom we will honor on December 13, 2014 at a New Member Shabbat. They will have a group Aliyah and receive a special blessing that morning. Join us for services at 9:30am followed by a Kiddush Luncheon, where you will have the opportunity to meet and greet them. We are delighted that the following members have joined our community:

| Morley & Deborah Berenbach | Harvey Kern & Ann Hayman | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| Susan Bernstein Rahel Bogale and Family | Dave Klevens, Cheryl Lorenzo and family | | |
| Oscar Bolanos, Dana Hagooli and family | Daniel and Michelle Levi and family | | |
| Alan and Jami Castel and family | Jacqueline Markus-Elgrably and Moshe Ayal | | |
| Melodee Eva-Zacchara & Cody Powers | Elgrably and family | | |
| Vadim Eydel and family | Jennifer Merrow Emma Ramey | | |
| Homa Harounian Mark Hirschberg, Brenda Ligorsky and family | David Shapendonk & Marla Rubin | | |
| | lan & Julie Slater and family | | |

STAND IN ISRAEL

KATHIE ROSE, Executive Director

To stand with Israel in Israel is an honor. To do it with your community is a true gift. From November 9-18, I, along with Rabbi Gotlieb, Cantor Cohen, and our Youth Director, Cindy Roth, shared an incredible, enriching, joyful, and educating time with fellow travelers from KM and beyond: Lucy and Alan Fein, Rabbi Richard and Sharon Hammerman, Rabbi Mark and Risa Hyman, Rabbi Barry and Judy Kenter, Joel Krischer, Gail Neiman, Carmella and Nissan Pardo, and David Wilzig. Together, we traveled from south to north, starting in Tel Aviv for two nights, heading north to the welcoming Conservative Kibbutz Hannaton, spending the night in Kfar Blum, viewing the intersection of Israel, Lebanon, and Syria, and then ascending to Jerusalem for four nights, including Shabbat.

In between, we experienced Old Jaffa and the Rabin Center, and toured Atlit, a British detention center for refugees. We saw (and sang) at the remarkable excavation city of Beit Shean. We shopped at the Naot Shoe Factory where they were happy to see us and drank at a winery in the beautiful north. In the south, we had lunch Delivering care packages made by KM and toured a school where the children sang and danced and the shelters had flowers painted on them. We spent time with the young deputy mayor of Sderot and overlooked Gaza.

Highlights of the trip included a visit to an army base in Ashkelon where we met with young IDF soldiers and presented them with gifts from our religious school as well as hip clothing for the women. A double rainbow made it even more special. They were so appreciative that if the delivery was all we did, it would have been enough. I can't wait to return.



Waste water treatment plant



students to soliders



Visiting Beit Shean

YOUTH & NEXT GEN

CINDY ROTH, Youth Director and Event Coordinator

aclima Chi-Ya! We had a wonderful time at our recent Kadima Krav Maga event. Instructor Jarrett Arthur led a discussion on how to protect and defend oneself before the kids got down to practicing. An hour wasn't enough! Enjoy a few pictures of our kids hard at work.



NexHen

A few people have been asking why the Next Gen can't have an event that *doesn't* revolve around alcohol. I don't know...is that even possible? We've had wine tastings, a tasty chocolate and wine pairing, and then there were Appletinis for Rosh Hashanah followed by "Scotch, Cigars, and Simcha." "Cindy, What would be the spirit to finish out 2014?" I'm glad you asked, because the answer, of course, is vodka. Do you think someone in our group must come from Russian decent? (Whoops, that would be me.)

Mark your calendars for Thursday, December 18th at 8:00 pm. We'll meet in the Tiki Bar of The Canal Club Venice for our in Hanukkah Event: Vodka and Latkes. \$36 per couple, call 310-829-0566 to RSVP. Feel free to come early and treat yourself to dinner at the Canal Club before the event!



MEN'S CLUB EVENTS STEPHEN SHAPIRO, Men's Club President

UPCOMING EVENTS: Monday, January 12 at 8:00 pm is our Annual General Planning Meeting. All are invited to attend and encouraged to participate.

There will be No Men's Club Meeting in December. Our next event will be on Monday January 26, 2015 at 7pm, featuring music and a presentation: "Jewish Composers, Part 3," with Julie Metz.

PAST EVENTS: "Classical Music at the Synagogue" featured the music of Frederic Chopin and Henryk Wieniawski with Pianist Diana Volman and Violinist Ludmila Adzhemova (pictured right), who brilliantly performed the technically demanding pieces.

Thank you for joining us last month for a showing of the documentary "As Seen Through These Eyes," with the film's Director and Producer Hilary Helstein, Executive Director of the Los Angeles Jewish Film Festival. The film is narrated by Maya Angelou and documents the art of survivors of the Holocaust with images and interviews. The event was well attended and informative.

HANUKKAH LITURGY

DENNIS GURA, Ritual Committee

Our Hanukkah liturgy is pretty sparse. In our 3-times daily prayers, we insert two paragraphs, one thanking God for the victory of the Hasmoneans, the other recounted the various miracles that happened "in those days, at this time." The formal home service consists of the two blessings prior to lighting the candle, a brief paragraph after ("These lights we kindle to recall the wondrous triumphs..."), then a bit of the medieval piyyut, Ma'oz Tsur.

Our rabbinic forbearers were ambivalent about the Hasmoneans. The absence of any formal text in the Bible about them demonstrates this. A number of "Books of the Maccabees" were included in the Septuagint, the Bible used in the Greek speaking Jewish diaspora until the end of the 2nd century CE or so, before the Rabbis determined the final form of our canon.

In this process of closing the canon, the original Hebrew language "1st Book of Maccabees" was lost, and only transmitted in Greek in the Christian Bible.



But a good story cannot be ignored, regardless of how uncomfortable the Rabbis might have been with the original "Book of Maccabees". In his mid-century American Siddur, Phillip Birnbaum added to the Hanukah service "Megillat Antiochos". This text, which we have from Yemenite Jewry, has a disputed history; there appears to be a 9th century Arabic translation of an Aramaic original. In the Birnbaum Siddur, this short history of the Hasmonean rebellion precedes the miracle of the oil in the Temple, and closes with:

"From that time on the Greek government was stripped of its renown. The Hasmoneans and their descendants ruled for two hundred and six years.... And so the Jews everywhere observe this festival for eight days.... These days, instituted by the priests, Levites and sages of Temple times, shall be celebrated by their descendants forever."

Happy Hanukah, and have some latkes!

GIFT SHOP

We have great collections of Menorahs and candles and beautiful gifts for celebrating Shabbat and other joyful occasions.

Not only do we have a large collection of mezzuzot, but as a special service, we sell Kosher parchments at cost.

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Our students working on their Ohr L'Olam project, making care packages and writing notes for Israeli soliders to be hand-delivered during our solidarity misson to Israel.

PARENT & ME



MASHA SAVITZ Head of Early Childhood & Arts Programs

What do a green caterpillar tunnel, a multi-colored plastic blow up swimming pool filled with plastic balls, and a neon parachute have in common? Fun at our Parent and Me program, lead by Jenna Rubin, as part

of KM's burgeoning early childhood offerings!

Jenna Rubin comes to us with a great deal of experience, passion, and credentials. She combines a commitment to Jewish education with a love for working with young children and their families. Jenna has been Director at My Sunshine Center, Program Coordinator at Gan Israel Preschool, and Director of Nursery School at B'nai Tikvah Congregation, taking time in between jobs to start her own family, with a daughter and a toddler son.

She received her MA in Education from the Fingerhut School of Education as well as a B. Lit. in Hebrew Letters after graduating from UC, Santa Barbara with a BA in Religious Studies.

Jenna is eager to share her expertise and enthusiasm with us as we welcome her and her family to our community.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATE



SHARONE WEIZMAN, Director of Education

Shalom Chaverim! November was another great month for our Religious School students and families. We celebrated our first "Religious School Shabbat B'yachad-Together as One" program on Friday, November 21st. Our family service was filled with the joys of Shabbat and welcoming in the Sabbath Queen with music, song, stories and dance! Our Shabbat festivities continued by candlelight with a Shabbat

dinner that lit up the entire Social Hall. We would like to thank all our Religious School teachers for preparing our students to lead their families with T'fillot and songs. A special thank you to two of our teachers, Phil Rubinstein and Marcos Cohen, for their "ruach" and musical accompaniment! In addition we would like to thank Brock Pollock and Jeremy Zwang-Weissman who joined in with additional guitars and percussions to further enhance the night with bonus music and energy!

We look forward to celebrating our next "Shabbat B'yachad -Together as One" morning program on Saturday, December 6th. The morning will begin with students and parents singing morning T'fillot in the back classrooms, followed by parents joining the main service while students help to lead aspects of the service with our rabbi and cantor. Then our students will rotate through various Shabbat activities, lead the closing services with Cantor Cohen and Rabbi Gotlieb, and join the rest of the KM community for Shabbat lunch. Parents, please remember that our students are expected to attend at least one Shabbat a month as part of their Religious School experience, which engages the entire family in lifelong learning.

We look forward to celebrating Hanukah with you this year on Tuesday, December 16th. We will have Hanukkah festivities during Religious School and then school will end early at 5:45pm so our children can go to the Hanukkah Candle Lighting at the Promenade. Our children will help light the Hanukkiah and lead the blessings and songs. Following the Promenade candle lighting, everyone is invited to join us for dinner.

During our Back-To-School morning our students and families participated in a wonderful Ohr L'Olam project writing letters to IDF soldiers, decorating toothpaste containers, and packing packages for the soldiers, which were hand-delivered this month to Israel.

Please enjoy these pictures of our KM Religious School students!

Mark Your Calendars!

- Saturday, December, 6th: Inter-generational Shabbat morning service, program, and lunch
- Tuesday, December, 16th: Hanukkah Promenade Candle Lighting and Dinner RS (3:45pm-5:45pm) Candle lighting at 6:30pm, dinner at 7:00pm)

KISLEV/TEVET 5775

DECEMBER 2014

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| NOVEMBER 30 | 1 | 2 3:45pm Religious School | З 7:15pm КМ Choir | 4 9:30am Parent & Me 12:00pm Lunch & Learn w/ Rabbi 6:30pm Intro to Judaism Class 7:30pm Investment Comm. Mtg | 5 4:26pm Candle Lighting 5:00pm PJ Library 6:30pm Shabbat Services | 6 9:30am Shabbat Services 11:00am Shabbat Unplugged & Tot Shabbat |
| 7 | 8 6:30pm Membership Comm. Mtg | 9 3:45pm Religious School | 10 7:15pm KM Choir | 11 9:30am Parent & Me 12:00pm Lunch & Learn w/ Rabbi 6:30pm Intro to Judaism Class 7:00pm JNET | 12 4:27pm Candle Lighting | 13 9:30am New Member Shabbat Services 11:00am Shabbat Unplugged & Tot Shabbat |
| 14 9:00am Religious School 12:30pm Kadima Event | 15 | 16 FIRST CANDLE Sid5pm Religious School 6:30 Candle Lighting at the Promenade and dinner | 17 HANUKKAH Exec. Board. Mtg. 7:15pm KM Choir 7:30pm Board of Trustees Mtg. | 18 HANUKKAH 9:30am Parent & Me 12:00pm Lunch & Learn w/ Rabbi 6:30pm Intro to Judaism Class 8:00pm NextGen Vodka & Latke | 19 HANUKKAH 4:30pm Candle Lighting | 20 HANUKKAH 9:30am Shabbat Services 11:00am Shabbat Club & Tot Shabbat |
| 21 HANUKKAH | 22 HANUKKAH | 23 HANUKKAH | 24 HANUKKAH 7:15pm KM Choir | 25 CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED | 26 4:34pm Candle Lighting | 27 9:30am Shabbat Services 11:00am Shabbat Unplugged & Tot Shabbat |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | Shabbat Club Fun & interactive services for kids grades 2-6 <i>Tot Shabbat</i> Energetic services for kids | <i>PJ Library</i> Books, crafts, and dinner for preschool-aged kids on the 1st Friday of every month. | Parent & Me Bond with your baby through art, music, and movement. |

Happy Birthday!

Reno Behnken Mia Bolanos Nathaniel Joseph Brodie Jessica Brown Noa Rae Krop

(Celebrants 18 & Younger) Lila Davis Krop **Bradley Samuel Levin** Justin Tyler Lewin **Skyler Ariel Steiglitz**

48th Anniversary Philip & Hannah Ganezer 30th Anniversary Eugene & Dorita Gotlieb 62nd Anniversary Mark & Shelley Gould 22nd Anniversary William & Orit Lippman 14th Anniversary Nissan & Carmella Pardo 34th Anniversary

Carol & Chuck Abrams Anniversary! 48th Anniversary Joel & Holly Strom 24th Anniversary Sharon Pushkin & Gil Trester 29th Anniversary Robert Khalilirad & Marcela Vaverkova 1st Anniversary Geoffrey & Wendy Woodhall 13th Anniversary Marc & Susan Yure' 40th Anniversary

TRIBUTES (as of November 13th)

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- CELESTE AND HAL ERDLEY on the Bat Mitzvah of their grandson, Rafael by Shirley Strom
- ELLIOT GOLDBERG on his 80th birthday by Sandy & Stan Ziégler
- LEAH MENDELSOHN on the birth of her grandson Shiv Solomon Mendelsohn by Halina & Alan Alter
- PAT SOLOMON on the Bat Mitzvah of her granddaughter, Eris by Judy and Manny Baker Karen Gottlieb Sara Sherman Sandy & Stan Ziegler
- HOLLY STROM on her birthday by Mitch Silberman

In Honor of

 MICHAEL NORMAN's birthday by Susan & Michael Norman

In Memory of

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- ESTELLE GRAY mother of Beverly Bienstock by Carol & Chuck Abrams Halina & Alan Alter Judy & Manny Baker Lolly Bennett Judy & Mitch Blake Brana & Ron Hall Sue & Paul Hoffman Mimi Klein Area & Jonathan Kramarsky Sharon & Joel Krischer Norma Laine Marsha & Forrest Latiner Tamara & Alec Levenson Leah Mendelsohn Sandy & Loana Rosenblatt Susan & Richard Ross Laurie & Gary Samson Suzanne & Stuart Schweitzer Shirley Strom Linda & Jack Topal Shelly & Thomas Vedres Susie & Marc Yure' Sandy & Stan Ziegler Judy & Lou Zucker
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- FAYE MUTAL grandmother of Larry Israel by Larry & Kim Israel
- IDA NACH mother of Rachel Tooch by Rachel Tooch
- STUART PERELMAN cousin of Ira Fistell by Linda & Jack Topal
- HOSEA SOLTZ father-in-law of Michael Wyte and grandfather of Yael and Tamar Wyte by Michael, Yael and Tamar Wyte
- BENJAMIN WOLFSDORF father of Lily Muller by Lily Muller

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 - sister of Susan Karpel by Susan Karpel

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In Honor of

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In Honor of

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In Memory of

 BERNARD KARPEL father of Susan Karpel by Susan Karpel

Thank You to

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CANTOR'S MUSICAL FUND

In Memory of

 ESTELLE KARPEL mother of Susan Karpel by Susan Karpel

CONDOLENCES TO

Beverly and Bernie Bienstock on the passing of Beverly's mother and KM member, Estelle Gray, on Sunday, November 2.

Alla Averbukh, Matt Averbukh, and Lev Lisovetsky on the passing of their mother and wife, Roza Averbukh. Roza was KM's bookkeeper and part of the KM family for many years.



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Masha Savitz Cindy Roth Rose Piccirilli Gregory Simms Maddie Ziff Carlos Perez Manny Baker Joel Krischer

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Apcoming Events at Kehillat Ma'arav MARK YOUR CALENDARS...



TODDLER PARENT & ME

Parents are invited to bring their babies and toddlers to our weekly "Parent and Me" class every Thursday at 9:30am. Bond with your baby through art, music, sensory experiences, and movement in this hour long class. Contact Masha Savitz at 310-829-0566 for more information.





NEW MEMBER SHABBAT

Shabbat Shalom! We welcome new members into our community on Saturday, December 13. We'll honor our new members with a group Aliyah and special blessing, followed by a Kiddush Luncheon in which the community will warmly welcome our newest members.

HANUKKAH CANDLE LIGHTING AND DINNER

Welcome the first night of Hanukkah with us as we participate in the community Hanukkiah Candle Lighting at the 3rd Street Promenade. Religious School will let out early so we have time to join in song and celebration together. Continue the festivities with dinner immediately following the ceremony (location to be announced).