

DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?

RABBI MICHAEL GOTLIEB

Do you believe in miracles? Do you pray for them, live your life around them? 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 do in fact exist.

Whether you believe in miracles or not, if you hold to the biblical belief 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. Of course one need not believe in God for human based miracles to occur. Bear in mind, human flight; antibiotics, cures to dreaded diseases; music; technology; literature and so forth are human based miracles.

From a religious, God based perspective, we need to actively and conscientiously engage with God to bring about miracles. The historic holiday of Hanukkah is an example of that divine [miraculous] partnership between us and our Creator.

After the Maccabees' military victory, the defiled Temple in Jerusalem was restored to its original sacred splendor. 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 determination of a handful of Jews; a handful of Jews who actively and conscientiously engaged with God to successfully bring about a miracle of epic proportions.

So important was the Maccabees' decision to take up arms, had they not, the Hellenists' would have prevailed. The upshot? No resistance to the Greek-Syrians, no reestablishment of the Temple, no Judaism or Jewish People; no monotheism as we've come to understand and embrace it—no miracle.

This month as we light our Hanukkah candelabras, let its warm glow remind and inspire us to continuously engage in God's world; to entertain the notion that we are God's partners in bringing about certain miracles. By doing so, we reconfirm our bond with the divine. A bond, that by itself, is miraculous. Happy Hanukkah.

IN THIS EDITION...



KM rides for the Jewish Federation

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TOUR DE SUMMER CAMPS



CANTOR SAMUEL COHEN

On October 25th, KM went for a ride! This is the 3rd consecutive year in which a group of bike riders rode out of Brandeis Bardin for the Tour De Summer Camps fundraising event. The bike ride raises money to help send Jewish children to Jewish summer camp. Last year, the ride sponsored 1500 children to go to summer camp!

I remember as a child going to camp and it was something I anticipated for 6 months ahead with excitement; it had a great influence on my life. This is the reason why I have ridden for this event for the past 3 years, since it's inception.

This year, the KM community became one of the top contributors, raising over \$8000. Outstanding! Kol Hakavod! On behalf of the riding team, I want to thank all of you who sponsored us. We all had a great time riding and hopefully the children who will go to summer camp with the help of KM, will have a fun and meaningful summer.

The KM team riders were: Michael Belman, Michael Bono, Franklin Cox, Israel Coutin, Joel Krischer, Sharon Krischer, Kathie Rose, Marc Sniderman, and Moshe Teitelbaum.



See you on the road!

FROM THE RITUAL COMMITTEE

DENNIS GURA, On behalf of the Ritual Committee

Somewhat hidden away after the daily *Amidah* in our *Siddur Sim Shalom* are the penitential prayers, the *Tachanun*. The word derives from the root *ch-n-n*, to show favor, to be gracious, to forgive. In this series of prayers, as individuals we repent daily for our failings. The traditional concept of sin is outmoded or a strange and difficult idea to most of us. And since most liberal Jews do not engage in daily prayer, the *Tachanun* and its text are generally unfamiliar.

This extended prayer section is quite instructive, both to historical Jewish self-perception and the rabbinic dynamic that united the individual and the community. Large doses of Jewish guilt surface at the top, when one was enjoined to lay down one's head, as if crying, and recite "Compassionate and gracious One, I have sinned before You. Lord, full of compassion, have compassion on me and accept my plea."

Psalm 6 is recited, other supplications offered, mercy requested, repeatedly for both the individual and the community.

Following these cries to the heavens, heads are raised and the following declaration recited, or often sang, with a peculiar and moving wistfulness:

Shomer Israel, Guardian of the people Israel, guard the remnant of Israel

And let not Israel perish, those who say: Sh'ma Yisrael.

Shomer Goy Achad, Guardian of the unique people, guard the remnant of that people And let not that people perish who proclaim: The Lord of God, the Lord is One.

Shomer Goy Kadosh, Guardian of a holy people, guard the remnant of the holy people And let not the holy people perish who repeat: Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord.

This structure replicates the *Kedushah*, the third prayer of the *Amidah* which embeds the mystical vision of the prophets in the *minyan*-required, collective praise of the One. Here, however, the praise is restated as a plea. Here an exercise in the religious imagination, mystically unifying praise and plea, pray and despair, hope and faith.

Given the events of these past months, and the concern we all share for our brethren in *Eretz* Israel, now might be a time for a heart-felt recitation of *Shomer* Israel. May the Holy One guard us all, and guard our fellows and all worthy citizens of the State of Israel.

IN THE HOME STRETCH



JOEL KRISCHER, President

It's official; we are in the home stretch of 2015. How is that possible?

This is my favorite time of year, for a couple of reasons. First, Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday because, for Americans, it is deeply

meaningful and even spiritual in a universal sense, without being tied to any religion (and, well, let's face it, through both school and work, it meant a long holiday weekend). And with that holiday over and with Hanukkah and Christmas in front of us, the general mood of people just seems to be a little sunnier, more uplifted, more energetic. Collectively, for many of us, it is a time to be thankful, to spend time with family and to share with those that are less fortunate.

In that latter regard, we had another wonderful Thanksgiving interfaith breakfast with our friends from Brentwood Presbyterian Church and a heartening community-wide response to our Hanukkah Gift Drive for Chai Lifeline Hanukkah Angels. Our thanks and congratulations to all of you who made these events so successful and meaningful. Once again, we can all be proud of our community's response.

We can all also be proud of our ongoing pilot lecture series with live video lectures from Mahon Schechter in Jerusalem. The attendance for the first two installments was robust and was matched by the substantive quality of both the lectures and the audience participation that followed. The final installment of our first series is December 6. (Dr. Ari Ackerman will speak about Maimonides on Pluralism and Peoplehood, examining "Maimonides' innovative approach to the question of the relationship between Jews and other nations and the nature of Jewish peoplehood." If you could not make the first two, you owe it to yourself not to miss the final installment.

Lastly, the end of the year also brings us to the end of the tax year (at least for most of us). Our annual fundraising efforts continue (well, they never really end), and while we are doing very well, we have still not met our goals of 100% participation (we are at 42%) and \$225,000 raised (we're at \$179,000). So if you haven't made/paid your pledge, please do so this month. And if you are able, become one of our major "angels."

MEMBERSHIP

Susie Yuré, Vice President of Membership

WELCOMING OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

We were so delighted to recognize our new 2015/6 members for a group aliyah on November 21, 2015 at Shabbat Services. Rabbi Gotlieb and Cantor Cohen blessed these congregants, officially welcoming them into our community. Representatives of each family shared a few words about what brought them to KM and the Membership Committee presented them with a gift. In the next few months, this column will be devoted to introducing all of our new members.

SUSAN and BERNIE BRONSTEIN have always been committed to synagogue life. Susan is already a member of the KM Social Action Committee, focusing on Jewish World Watch. Susan and Bernie enjoy participating in activities as a couple and are regulars on Shabbat, when they enjoy the multi-generational environment. Bernie, originally from Texas, was a systems engineer at Northrup and continues to enjoy classical music, folk dancing and exercise. Susan, who loves crocheting and travel, came from a military family, ending up in L.A. after high school, landing a job as a medical transcriber. The Bronsteins have been married 31 years and have 2 sons.

CONNIE and MARK GOLDBERG traveled from Western Massachusetts to San Diego and ultimately, after retirement, moved to Los Angeles to be near their daughter and grandkids. They enjoy attending services and adult education at Kehillat Ma'arav. The Goldbergs like everything about our shul including Rabbi, Cantor, and our friendly community. Connie was a nurse and now enjoys hiking and reading. Mark was a CPA and loves getting his exercise from golf and swimming. However, at the top of their list of activities is spending time with their two grandchildren.

JONI and STEVE WEINBERG, both native to Los Angeles, found KM online the same day as our August membership community event, attended and were delighted with the energy, activities and school! Steve, a veterinarian, is the owner of 911 Vets House Calls, does emergency house calls for animals and runs his West L.A. clinic. Joni has a new business, Style Meet, meeting clients at various stores or bringing clothes to you for affordable wardrobe styling. The Weinberg family also includes Zack, a high-schooler who plays piano and drums, and Avery, who performs musical theatre and attends KM's Religious School.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATE



SHARONE WEIZMAN, Director of Education

Shalom Chaverim,

The excitement and energy in our school continues... Our second Ohr L'Olam event at Adat Shalom was a tremendous success. Our day of learning was structured around the principles of *Tzedakah* and how we can

implement Maimonides 8 levels of Tzedakah into our lives while performing acts of Gemillut Chasadim throughout the year. Dov Rosenblatt and Yafit Josephson helped to facilitate the program while our students rotated to three stations. With Yafit they learned about Maimonides eight levels of Tzedakah through interactive activities, drama and role playing; with Dov they worked as a community to build a Tzedakah tower and participate in the great debates of Rabbi Akiba and Tinnius Rufus; while in my station, our students experienced what their parents go through every day in having to make difficult choices in deciding which Tzedakah organizations to support and allocate their funds. We shared three stories which represented different Tzedakah projects and each student was charged with deciding where to allocate their dollar of *Tzedakah* that they were asked to bring in for the day. In the end our collective Tzedakah dollars did go to the three selected causes but the most money went to Israel Free Loan Agency which represents Maimonides highest level of giving. We closed our activity with playing Family Feud

Upcoming Religious School Dates to Mark!

December 4th-6th - Camp Ramah Weekend December 13th – Ohr L'Olam Day January 24th - Ohr L'Olam Day utilizing *Gemillut Chasadim*. Our next Ohr L'Olam program will focus on *Bikkur Cholim* and giving in conjunction with Thanksgiving and Hanukkah. Our school is leading a community-wide Chai Lifeline Hanukkah Angels program collecting gifts for children with life threatening illnesses in time for Hanukkah. More to come next month about that program!

Last year our Religious School implemented a new Shabbat B'Yachad initiative to bring Religious School students and families together to experience and celebrate Shabbat as one. Our first Kabbalat Shabbat B'Yachad for this year, brought together over 100 students and families welcoming in the Sabbath Queen with music, song, stories, *Toledot* play led by our students and dance. Our students and families were led with *"Ruach"* by our Cantor, Neomi and Livya. Guest guitarist, Asher Levy, joined Livya on drums, while our outstanding Religious School faculty led our parents, students and families in song and dance! Our festivities continued by candlelight with a Shabbat dinner that lit up the entire Social Hall.

Once again, our 3rd- 7th Grade Religious School students will pack their bags and head-off to Camp Ramah together. Livya Howard-Yashar, Chantal Hakakeyan and I will be joining our 22 Religious School students with other congregational schools for a weekend filled with fun and learning for an unforgettable weekend. Get ready...pack your bags and come have fun!



Dancing with Sareet and Livya

Ohr L'Olam Tzedakah program





Drama Chug with Yafit



Shabbat B'Yachad play

KADIMA

SHARONE WEIZMAN, Director of Youth Programming

Kadima! *Kadima* means - Forward, Let's Go! We are looking 'forward' to our second Kadima event for the year. We will be heading to Bowlero – Disco Bowling Alley in Mar Vista with Retro Bowling, Music, DJs, Pool Tables, Air Hockey, Foosball, Arcade Games and more... We already have a terrific response from our Kadimaneks and look forward to reporting about it next month and sharing pictures! We also have ice skating lined up for January 10th and stay tuned- we will also be going to Camp Ramah again in January for a fun-filled Shabbaton with our Kadimaneks in Ojai.

Upcoming Kadima Dates to Mark!

January 10th – Kadima Ice Skating January 29-31st – Kadima Camp Ramah Shabbaton

KM EVENTS



We are a busy synagogue with continuous great events happening. We are thrilled to have Cindy Roth take on an additional role of Events Coordinator on behalf of the KM Community. Cindy's ability to plan,

prepare, and execute the many events we have at KM will enhance our growing community and increase the opportunities we share together. If anyone is interested in joining the events planning committee please call the office or email Cindy Roth at events@km-synagogue.org for more information.

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GROWING IN NUMBERS



MASHA SAVITZ, Head of Early Childhood & Arts Programs

Although the K1 classroom is always bustling with activity, this year, with 11 students, is perhaps our record enrollment, at least recent history.

The breakdown of demographics between new members and returning members, boys to girls, is a fairly even split. The Kindergartners outnumber first graders by 7. An interesting

fact about this year's class is that out of our 11 students, we have 3 sets of twins!

We are so fortunate to have Michelle Morovati as a new assistant in the class. With a pleasant smile, she helps in so many ways with a watchful eye and extra pair of hands.

While we are a diverse bunch, we can agree on many things: we love to put together the aleph bet puzzles, learn new Hebrew letters and words, especially practicing with colored chalk on the side walk, story time, decorating the bulletin boards for holidays, learning Torah stories and making art projects. Please check out the huge collaborative Noah's Ark hanging in the entrance.



Please come visit and say hello. We love to share what we are learning!

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6 THE VOICE DECEMBER 2015

TRIBUTES (as of November 18th, 2015)

In Honor of

HOLLY STROM'S BIRTHDAY
by Mitch Silberman

• HAL ERDLEY'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

by Marian and Charley Goldsmith, the Goldstone family, Brana and Ron Hall, Mimi Klein, the Muller family, Shirley Strom, Jack and Linda Topal, Judy and Lou Zucker

SID MELTZNER'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

by Beverly and Bernie Bienstock, Marian and Charley Goldsmith, the Goldstone family, Brana and Ron Hall, Mimi Klein, the Muller family, Susan and Richard Ross, Suzanne and Stuart Schweitzer, Shirley Strom, Susan and Randy Ziegler, Julie and Jordon Ziegler, Judy and Lou Zucker

Mazel Tov to

MICHELE AND MARAT VOLMAN'S WEDDING by Diana Volman

• SUE AND PAUL HOFFMAN

on the birth of their grandson, by Beverly and Bernie Bienstock, Judy and Manny Baker, Judy and Mitch Blake, Mimi Klein, Susan and Richard Ross, Suzanne and Stuart Schweitzer, Linda and Jack Topal, Susie and Marc Yure'

Thank You to

The KM Men's Club for their donation to the B'nai Mitzvah Program

In Memory of

• BEN BENNETT,

husband of Lolly Bennett, by Lolly Bennett

• ANNA BRAUMRING,

grandmother of Holly Strom, by Holly and Joel Strom

• JACK BLOOM,

father of Marlene Bernstein, by Marlene and Stuart Bernstein

MAZEL TOV TO

Sue and Paul Hoffman on the birth of their grandson, Thursday, November 5.

• SARAH BLOOM,

Mother of Marlene Bernstein, by Marlene and Stuart Bernstein

• ANNY CRONHEIM,

grandmother of Linda Zwang-Weissman, by Linda and Barry Zwang-Weissman

• MILTON EIDELBERG,

uncle of Lori Papernik, by Lori and Brian Papernik

- RENA EPSTEIN, mother of Shirley Strom and grandmother of Joel Strom, by Shirley Strom, Joel and Holly Strom
- SELMA GREENBERG, grandmother of Sharon Krischer, by Sharon and Joel Krischer
- GERALD HAYMAN, father of Ann Hayman, by Ann Hayman
- AL ISRAEL, FATHER OF LARRY ISRAEL, by Larry and Kim Israel
- META KATZ,
- sister of Gail Neiman, by Gail Neiman
- BABY KRANZ, daughter of Judy Baker, by Judy and Manny Baker
- JACK KERN, father of Harvey Kern, by Harvey Kern

 ALEX LOWENTHAL, brother-in-law of Shirley Strom and uncle of Joel Strom, by Shirley Strom, Joel and Holly Strom

• MORRIS MEADOW,

father of Brana Hall, by Brana and Ron Hall

• FAYE MUTAL,

grandmother of Larry Israel, by Larry and Kim Israel • BERNARD NEIMAN,

father-in-law of Gail Neiman, by Gail Neiman

• ELSA GOTTESMAN NEIMAN, mother-in-law of Gail Neiman, by Gail Neiman

 SCOTT MITCHEL OLKEN, son of Elaine and Sherwin Olken, by Elaine and Sherwin Olken

• RUTH TURETSKY,

mother of Carol Turetsky, by Carol Turetsky

• FRANCES URWITZ,

mother of Suzanne Schweitzer, by Suzanne and Stuart Schweitzer

JERRY ROGOWAY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of

Sid Meltzner's 90th birthday, by Elaine Albert

PRAYERBOOK FUND

In honor of

Hal Erdley's 90th birthday, by Sandy and Stan Ziegler

Sid Meltzner's 90th birthday, by Susie and Marc Yuré

Sid Meltzner's 90th birthday, by Sandy and Stan Ziegler

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

A donation by

Marian and Charley Goldsmith

CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND

A donation by

Marian and Charley Goldsmith

OUR CONDOLENCES

On the passing of Sharlene Lauretz, Thursday evening, November 19.

MEN'S CLUB SPONSORED EVENTS

STEPHEN SHAPIRO, Men's Club President

RECENT EVENT:

On Monday evening, November 16, 2015 at 7 pm, performer Arnold Weiss staged a dramatization of the life of US Army Colonel Mickey Marcus who became first General of the highly successful new Israeli army in 1948.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

WORLD WAR 1 - On Monday, December 7, at 7:00 pm Matt Maibaum, Steve Shapiro, & Ira Fistell will talk about lesser known aspects of World War 1 including medical advances gained from the war, & why the war did not achieve its goal to end all wars despite the death of approximately 9 million combatants and 7 million civilians. Suggested donation \$5. RSVP to KM Office.

TOWARD FREEDOM - KM members and guests will be guided on a private tour at the California African American Museum of the photo exhibit, *Toward Freedom*, taken by acclaimed photojournalist Irene Fetik. The exhibit chronicles Ethiopian Jews establishing themselves in the environs of Israel and the United States from 1992 through 2012. RSVP with the KM office.

Meet at the museum: 600 State Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90037. Admission is free. Parking is \$10

The First World War



BIRTHDAYS (18 and Under)	ANNI	/ERSARIES ${\mathcal M}$	aŧel Lov!				
Reno Behnken Mia Bolanos thaniel Joseph Bro Lila Davis Krop	49 odie Philip a	Charles and Carol Abrai 49th Anniversary Philip and Hannah Gane 31st Anniversary		15th Anniversary		Joel and Holly Strom 25th Anniversary Sharon Pushkin and Gilbert Trester	
Noa Rae Krop Jordon Lilly Levit Justin Tyler Lewir	t Eugene n 63	e and Dorita Gotl Brd Anniversary	eb Phil and Kathie Rose 18th Anniversary		Ge	30th Anniversary Geoffrey and Wendy Woodhall	
		and Shelley Gould 3rd Anniversary		art and Suzanne Schweitzer 9th Anniversary	14th Anniversary Marc and Susan Yure' 41st Anniversary		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
DECEM 2015 KISLEV, 57	/TEVET	3:45pm Religious School 2-7 grades 4:00pm Religious School K-1	2 7:15pm KM Choir	3 Camp Ramah Weekend 12:00pm Lunch & Learn w/ Rabbi 6:30pm Intro to Judaism Class 7:30pm Investment Comm. Mtg	4 Camp Ramah Weekend <i>4:25pm Candle Lighting</i> 5:00pm PJ Library 6:30pm Shabbat Services	5 Camp Ramah Weekend 9:30am Shabbat Services 11:00am Shabbat Unplugged 11:00am Tot Shabbat	
6 Camp Ramah Weekend 9:00am Sunday Mornings Live! (Class #3) First Night of Hanukkah 6:00pm Menorah Lighting at 3rd Street Promenade	7 Hanukkah Day 1 7:00pm Men's Club Event: World War 1	8 Hanukkah Day 2 3:45pm Religious School 2-7 grades 4:00pm Religious School K-1 7:15pm KM Choir	9 Hanukkah Day 3 11:00am Men's Club Event: Toward Freedom (Offsite)	10 Hanukkah Day 4 12:00pm Lunch & Learn w/ Rabbi 6:30pm Intro to Judaism Class	11 Hanukkah Day 5 4:26pm Candle Lighting	12 Hanukkah Day 6/Rosh Chodesh Tevet 9:30am Shabbat Services 11:00am Shabbat Unplugged 11:00am Tot Shabbat 6:00pm Hanukkah Dinner Celebration @ KM	
13 Hanukkah Day 7 9:30am Religious School (@ AS) Ohr L'Olam	14 Hanukkah Day 8 7:00pm Membership Committee Meeting	15 3:45pm Religious School 2-7 grades 4:00pm Religious School K-1	6:00pm Exec. Board. Mtg. 7:15pm KM Choir 7:30pm Board of Trustees Mtg.	17 12:00pm Lunch & Learn w/ Rabbi 6:30pm Intro to Judaism Class	18 4:28pm Candle Lighting	19 9:30am Shabbat Services Shabbat B'Yachad 11:00am Shabbat Unplugged 11:00am Tot Shabbat	
20	21	22 No Religious School - Winter Break 7:15pm KM Choir	23	24	25 NATIONAL HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED 4:32pm Candle Lighting	26 9:30am Shabbat Services 11:00am Shabbat Unplugged 11:00am Tot Shabbat	
27	28	29 No Religious School - Winter Break 7:15pm KM Choir	30	31	NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED 4:37pm Candle Lighting 6:30pm Shabbat Services	2 9:30am Shabbat Services 11:00am Shabbat Unplugged 11:00am Tot Shabbat	

Rabbi

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Join Kehillat Ma'aray members and other volunteers at FICM as we serve meals and give out clothing and gifts to families in need.

FAITH IN CHRIST MINISTRY FICM, 4501 S. Western Ave Los Angeles, CA 90062

December 25th 9am - 2pm

Volunteers are needed from 9-11am to help set up and from noon-2pm to serve food.

IT'S GOING TO BE A COLD WINTER!

Suggested items: Canned goods and gently used warm clothing of all sizes.