

FEBRUARY  
2018

# THE VOICE

ELUL/TISHREI  
5777/5778

*Monthly Bulletin of Kehillat Ma'arav*

Fundraising Raffle:  
\$3600 Grand Prize!!!

Tickets \$50  
Double  
Matched!



**G** GENERAL AUDIENCES   
All Ages Admitted

## THE "ROCKY HORA" PURIM SCHPIEL

**PURIM SCHPIEL**

**Wednesday, February 28**

**5:30pm**

An Interactive Megillah Experience

Entertainment for all ages

Dairy Dinner

\$10 per person

"Time warp"  
from  
Mordechai's  
Shushan to  
KM's  
Sanctuary!

Come  
dressed in  
traditional  
Purim  
costumes.

# FORGIVE, WHEN POSSIBLE

## RABBI MICHAEL GOTLIEB

AS PUBLISHED IN THE *LA TIMES* ON JANUARY 1, 2018

The current flood of sexual harassment allegations have toppled — deservedly — high-powered businessmen, accomplished actors and seasoned politicians. One aspect of legitimately bringing sexual harassers to light, however, has been overlooked: The ability to forgive genuinely repentant wrongdoers.

It's perhaps unusual that a Jew, let alone a rabbi, would quote Christian Scripture, but the message found in Matthew 6:14 couldn't be more relevant: "If you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."

Granted, life doesn't always lend itself to a theological quid pro quo. Forgive and be forgiven, offer an apology and be absolved won't work under all circumstances, even when the apology is genuinely tendered.

Some transgressions are morally unpardonable. Murder is chief among them for the simple reason that the victim is not alive to grant forgiveness. Preying on a minor, especially a very young child, is an irredeemable act. Never again can a child's innocence be restored. The psychological harm caused is devastating. Rape and irreversible bodily damage are other examples. The physical and emotional scars usually remain for a lifetime.

That said, not all unwelcome carnal advances are equal to rape or pedophilia. How a victim reacts to any kind of sexual abuse or harassment is personal. What

might prove to be unforgivable and endlessly traumatic to one may be forgivable to another.

The current rush to assign the same degree of seriousness to every accusation is troubling. It is morally confusing and intellectually narrow. It cheapens what are clearly the most aggressive and disturbing accusations of sexual misconduct. We're in trouble if we can no longer distinguish between an unwelcome touch, kiss or suggestive comment — as unacceptable as they are — and far more severe sexual indiscretions.



This lack of nuance undermines our shared spiritual and human duty to forgive. We are reaching a point where we can't permit even less serious transgressors to offer an honest apology and receive pardon. Lesser misconduct, in which the offender is deeply ashamed and sincerely repentant, eager never again to repeat his past behavior, should be forgiven. Such miscreants don't deserve unending shame and public disgrace.

In my religious tradition, Yom Kippur is a day filled with fasting and introspection, 24 hours dedicated to requesting and granting forgiveness. The message

of the Day of Atonement is timeless: Those wishing forgiveness for the forgivable wrongs they've committed have the potential to be pardoned.

Consistent with Jewish thought, neither God nor any other intermediary can reconcile a wrong on the perpetrator's behalf. The person who carried out the misdeed must seek absolution from the aggrieved party.

Releasing others from their trespass is often as difficult as atoning and seeking pardon. Holding back forgiveness is emotionally empowering. It's the reverse of being dominated, of being made to feel vulnerable. When the roles are upended, the person who refuses to forgive is no longer the victim; the one held in contempt is.

Men of status and influence have taken advantage of untold numbers of women. They thought they could get away with their abusive behavior, or worse, they didn't even consider it abuse. To the women who suffered in silence, a desire for revenge is a visceral, understandable reaction.

Granting forgiveness, when possible, is not the same as forgetting the incident. No one should expect a victim of sexual harassment to forget the outrage inflicted on her. Neither should the reformed harasser forget his earlier behavior. By remembering, we grow and, ideally, improve. By analyzing past deeds, we can amend our ways and become more decent.

We can never know the extent to which anyone is genuinely repentant. But here are three possible indicators of a transformed soul. The offender acts differently in a later, similar situation. His apology doesn't rationalize or explain away past behavior. He willingly seeks psychological or moral-religious help.

We are witnessing a watershed cultural moment. Women — and

men — who have been sexually victimized are silent no more. Their public stories are forewarning others and bringing to justice abusers.

These individuals are brave indeed. But braver still are those who can forgive their tormentors, under circumstances that justify it. Doing so teaches us all about the indomitability of the human spirit, a spirit pliable enough to move on

and, when warranted, powerful enough to forgive.

*Michael Gotlieb is the rabbi at Kehillat Ma'arav, the Westside Congregation, in Santa Monica.*

## WAIT...THERE'S MORE!

**JOEL KRISCHER, PRESIDENT**

February, of course, is the month that football fans go into, and baseball fans come out of, hibernation. In Jewish festival life it means that Purim (Wednesday, February 28) and Pesach (first Seder Friday night, March 30) are right around the proverbial corner. And in synagogue life, it is time for us to think about finishing the current fiscal year strong and getting up a running start on our next fiscal year. We have a lot of fun, celebration and work ahead of us.

Synagogue governance:

**Nominating Committee.** Our Nominating Committee is responsible for selecting our slate of officers and trustees, and it must have at least four (4) members who are not on the current Board. If you are interested in being on the nominating committee (which will start meeting in the next several weeks) and/or in serving on the Board itself (starting in July), please contact, Manny Baker, Kathie Rose or me.

**Board Membership.** Board membership is a great way to learn how we do the things we do and to influence our collective future direction. The time commitment is manageable and the rewards are more than worth the effort, especially if you have never served on it in the past. If you are interested, let one or more of us know.

Finances:

**Purim:** Purim has traditionally been one of our most best and most entertaining events. So buy (and sell to your friends) lots of raffle tickets and plan on joining us for the reading of the Megillah, for great food, drink and dancing and (drumroll, please) raising money. In short, participate, contribute and have a blast.

**Annual Appeal:** We need to do better. We have raised less than half of our \$200,000 goal, and our participation rate is also less than half (both number down from last year). We really need to get to 100% on both fronts. Everybody needs to give something. Even if it is only double or triple Chai, please give something.

**Generations Endowment:** We are off to a great start; as this goes to press we have pledges of over \$900,000 towards our goal of \$4 million, from just over 50 families. To those of you who have pledged, thank you. To those of you who have not yet done so, please find it in your heart and your budget to help secure our wonderful community for future Generations. Feel free to contact Bernie Bienstock, Sharon Krischer or Kathie Rose for more information.

**Miscellany:** Our day-to-day giving is part of our life's blood. So go shopping in our gift shop. Sponsor a Shabbat Kiddush to commemorate a special occasion. Buy a memorial plaque. Make a tribute for any reason. Or add a leaf to our Tree of Life (now much more visibly located in the sanctuary). Anything and everything helps.



# GEORGE AND FLORENCE EBER MEMORIAL LECTURE

Presentation by



## Rabbi Aaron Lerner

**"The Present and Future of Jewish Life,  
Learning and Israel on Campus"**

Over the past five years at Hillel at UCLA, Rabbi Aaron Lerner has helped expand Hillel's leadership training program to include approximately 150 student leaders who reach nearly 1,700 Jewish students every year at UCLA. He has also played a key role in Israel advocacy and education on campus and in the national arena.

A Wexner Graduate Fellow, Aaron received ordination from Yeshivat Chovevei Torah with an emphasis in education. Prior to entering the world of education, Aaron worked for more than a decade in commercial real estate finance after graduating from USC's Marshall School of Business.

**SUNDAY,  
FEBRUARY 25**

*Enjoy*  
**BRUNCH at KM**  
**10:00am**

*Learn*  
from the **LECTURE**  
**11:00am**

*Participate*  
in the Q & A  
**Following  
the Lecture**



Endowed by the George and Florence Eber Memorial Fund  
**Please RSVP to the KM Office.**  
**Open to the Community Without Charge.**

KM MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CLUB SPECIAL EVENT

*Comedian*  
**ERIC GOLUB**

**"Jewish Lunacy: 6000  
Years of Tradition, Pride  
& Stories as told by  
someone who missed  
the first 5,960 years"**



**Monday, February 26 7pm**

Jewish Lunacy looks back on six millenia of Jewish history, presenting it as the history of a family by telling it through the reminiscences of Eric, who calls himself the Tygrrrr Express. He grew up hearing stories of heartbreaking pain, insightful wisdom, & side-slapping humor from Jewish relatives and the elders in Long Island, N.Y. where he grew up. Jewish Lunacy tells the stories that 6000 years full of tradition & pride have given as gifts to be passed on to others.

Donation \$5 Please RSVP to the KM office.

# SHABBAT IN "3-D"

Presentation by Cantor Melanie Fine  
**Saturday, February 24**  
**9:30am**



## JEWISH HIDDEN FIGURES

THREE WOMEN AND THE WAR THAT COULDN'T SILENCE THEM

A Talk with Cantor Melanie Fine  
 B.A. Chemistry Cornell University,  
 M.S.M. Jewish Theological Seminary  
 Founder of RocketGirls.com

## ANNIVERSARIES *Mazel Tov!*

We celebrate the milestones of our community members!

Michael and Allison Goldberger  
*26th anniversary*

Elliot Goldberg and Fernanda Gray  
*21st anniversary*

Noah and Andrea Jussim  
*19th anniversary*

Irv and Gail Rosenfeld  
*42nd anniversary*

Charles Louy and Jeanne Weiss  
*31st anniversary*

Darryl Marks and Kris Yu  
*2nd anniversary*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>FEBRUARY 2018</b> <b>SHEVAT/ADAR 5778</b>				<b>1</b>  <b>12:00pm</b> Rabbi's Lunch n' Learn  <b>6:30pm</b> Intro to Judaism	<b>2</b>  <b>5:07pm</b> Candle Lighting <b>5:00pm</b> PJ Library <b>6:30pm</b> Shabbat Services	<b>3</b>  <b>9:30am</b> Shabbat Services <b>11:00am</b> Shabbat Unplugged <b>11:00am</b> Tot Shabbat
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  <b>3:45pm</b> RS 2-7 <b>4:00pm</b> RS K-1  <b>7:15pm</b> KM Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  <b>12:00pm</b> Rabbi's Lunch n' Learn  <b>6:30pm</b> Intro to Judaism	<b>9</b>  <b>5:14pm</b> Candle Lighting  <b>5:45pm</b> Shabbat B'yachad	<b>10</b>  <b>9:30am</b> Shabbat Services <b>11:00am</b> Shabbat Unplugged <b>11:00am</b> Tot Shabbat
<b>11</b> <b>9:00am</b> RS 2-7  <b>12:30pm</b> Kadima	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  <b>3:45pm</b> RS 2-7 <b>4:00pm</b> RS K-1 <b>7:15pm</b> KM Choir	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>12:00pm</b> Rabbi's Lunch n' Learn  <b>6:30pm</b> Intro to Judaism	<b>16</b>  <b>5:21pm</b> Candle Lighting	<b>17</b>  <b>9:30am</b> Shabbat Services <b>11:00am</b> Shabbat Unplugged <b>11:00am</b> Tot Shabbat
<b>18</b>  <b>9:00am</b> Parent/Teacher conferences	<b>19</b> <b>PRESIDENTS' DAY</b>	<b>20</b>  <b>3:45pm</b> RS 2-7 <b>4:00pm</b> RS K-1  <b>5:30pm</b> Purim "In-House" Community event	<b>21</b> <b>3:00pm</b> Life Cycle Comm Mtg <b>6:15pm</b> Exec Comm Mtg <b>7:15pm</b> KM Choir <b>7:30pm</b> Board of Trustees Mtg	<b>22</b>  <b>12:00pm</b> Rabbi's Lunch n' Learn  <b>6:30pm</b> Intro to Judaism	<b>23</b>  <b>5:27pm</b> Candle Lighting	<b>24</b> <b>9:30am</b> Shabbat Services - Shabbat in "3-D" - Cantor Melanie Fine <b>11:00am</b> Shabbat Unplugged <b>11:00am</b> Tot Shabbat
<b>25</b>  <b>10:00am</b> Eber Memorial Lecture  <b>5:30pm</b> Westside Chai	<b>26</b> <b>11:00am</b> Yiddish Class  <b>7:00pm</b> Men's & Women's Club Event - Eric Golub	<b>27</b>  <b>7:15pm</b> KM Choir	<b>28</b>  <b>3:45pm</b> RS 2-7 <b>4:00pm</b> RS K-1  <b>5:30pm</b> PURIM CELEBRATION	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR CONGREGANTS!

Emanuel Baker	Max Chaim Epstein	Daniel Hamrell	Alexandra Lewin	Joshua Smith
Ariel Beliak	Sharry Eydel	Ryan Hirschberg	Orit Lippman	Joel Strom
Jake Belnick	Daniel Felix Finn	Jeremy Horwich	Miriam Margolis	Joshua Topal
Rebecca Ann Ben-Tal	Oren Friedman	Kim Israel	Jacqueline Markus-Elgrably	Joni Weinberg
Lolly Bennett	Lee Friedman	Dena Karsenty	Noah Maurer	Jacob Winik
Rachel Berg	Michael Frisch	Dena Karsenty	Aaron Maurer	Valerie Zim
Susan Bernstein	Faina Gelman	Jeffrey Krantz	Stella Hazel Palencia	
Jeffrey Bienstock	Joel Glaser	Carrie Krischer	Gail Rosenfeld	
Lee Brannen	Darren Goldberg	Jaclyn Laufer	Rhonda Rubin	
Daniel Brook	Sarah Goldberg	Michelle Levi	Eyelle Sacher	
Sarai Coutin	Marian Goldsmith	Pearl Levi	Rita Schreiber	
Judy Eber	Rabbi Michael Gotlieb	Lauren Levine	Izzy Shapiro	
Talya Ebrahemi	Wayne Grody	Pat Levitt	Abby Shapiro	
Brianna Ebrahemi	Brana Hall	Harla Levitt	Zachary Smith	

## CONTRIBUTIONS *(as of January 30, 2018)*

### GENERAL FUND

#### In honor of

Diana Volman, happy birthday, by Stan Ziegler

The Goldstone and Rothenberg families for sponsoring Kiddush, by Geraldine Weichman

#### Speedy recovery to

Lauren Topal, daughter of Linda and Jack Topal, by Miyako and Larry Berkin, Marsha and Laurie Furst

#### Mazel Tov to

Halina and Alan Alter on the birth of their grandson, Grant Matthew Kleinman, by Marsha and Laurie Furst

Lolly Bennett on the Bar Mitzvah of her grandson, Benjamin Bennett, by Carol Bowman, Leslie Bowman, Lucille Kall, Mimi Klein

Judy and Ness Moadeb on the Bar Mitzvah of the grandson, Jay Jacob, by Judy and Manny Baker

Sharone Weizman and David Meyers on the birth of their son, Ethan Nathaniel Meyers, by Judy and Manny Baker, Eileen and Lew Goldberg, Andrea and Noah Jussim, Minda and Jeffrey Salberg, Stan Ziegler

#### In memory of

• **GESYA AVERBUKH**, grandmother of Matthew Averbukh, by Matthew and Svetlana Averbukh

• **PHIL BAKER**, brother of Manny Baker, by Evelyn Berger, Judy and Les Eber, Eileen and Lou Goldberg, Karen Gottlieb, Andrea and Noah Jussim, Sharon and Joel Krischer, Carmella and Nissan Pardo, Fay and Neville Pimstone, Elana and Jack Roth, Minda and Jeffrey Salberg, Judy and Steve Shapiro, Susan and Alan Sperling, Susie and Marc Yure', Stan Ziegler

• **LILLYAN BORIN**, mother of Lynda Moses, by Lynda and Don Moses

• **REBECCA BORTNIK**, grandmother of Matthew Averbukh, by Matthew and Svetlana Averbukh

• **CLARA DAVIDSON**, aunt of Judy Baker, by Judy and Manny Baker

• **FLORENCE EBER**, mother of Les Eber, by Les and Judy Eber

• **GEORGE EBER**, father of Les Eber, by Les and Judy Eber

• **BOBBIE EISENSTADT**, sister of Harvey Kern, by Harvey Kern and Ann Hayman

• **MARION FISTELL**, mother of Iral Fistell, by Ira Fistell

• **ANNA FELDMAN**, mother of David Feldman, by David and Alla Feldman

• **GLADYS FRANCIS**, mother of Stuart Schweitzer, by Stuart and Suzanne Schweitzer

• **MORTON FUCHS**, father of Marta Fuchs, by Marta Fuchs

• **MORRIS GARDNER**, father of Peter Gardner, by Peter and Karla Gardner

• **SIDNEY GOULD**, father of Mark Gould, by Mark and Shelly Gould

• **MORRIS HALFON**, father of Laurie Samson, by Laurie and Gary Samson

• **BEATRICE HORWITZ**, mother of Susie Yure', by Susie and Marc Yure

• **MORRIS HORWITZ**, father of Susie Yure', by Susie and Marc Yure

• **BARNET KATZ**, grandfather of Beverly Bienstock, by Beverly and Bernie Bienstock

• **EVA KRAMER**, mother of Dorine Kramer, by Dorine Kramer and Nicholas Mitchell

• **ZELMA KRAMER**, mother of Jill Gotlieb, by Elaine Albert, Judy and Manny Baker, Balabusta Caterers, Lolly Bennett, Evelyn Berger, Miyako and Larry Berkin, Beverly and Bernie Bienstock, Judy and Les Eber, Marsha and Laurie Furst, Hannah and Phil Ganezer, Sonia and Tom Glasner, Connie and Mark Goldberg, Eileen and Lew Goldberg, Judy and Jeff Gottesman, Karen Gottlieb, Brana and Ron Hall, Sue and Paul Hoffman, Andrea and Noah Jussim, Lucille Kall, Gloria and Ellis Kirschenbaum, Mimi Klein, Sharon and Joel Krischer, Norma Laine, Marsha and Forrest Latiner, Alana and Sam Levitt, Harla and Pat Levitt, Helayne and Joe Levy, Leah Mendelson, Jack Nomberg, Elaine and Sherwin Olken, Lori Mendez and David Packer, Carmella and Nissan Pardo, Fay and Neville Pimstone, Sara and Arturo Palencia, Susan and Richard Ross, Elana and Jack Roth, Minda and Jeffrey Salberg, Laurie and Gary Samson, Judy and Steve Shapiro, Suzanne and Stuart Schweitzer, Susan and Alan Sperling, Tammy Steinsapir, Shirley Strom, Carol Turetsky, Shelly and Thomas Vedres, Susie and Marc Yure', Stan Ziegler, Judy and Lou Zucker

**Continued on next page**

- **HARRIET LEVITT,**  
mother of Pat Levitt, by Pat and Harla Levitt
- **BERNARD MARCUS,**  
father of Judy Baker, by Judy and Manny Baker
- **LEE MEADOWS,**  
mother of Brana Hall, by Brana and Ron Hall
- **LEONARD MITCHELL,**  
father of Nicholas Mitchell, by Nicholas Mitchell and Dorine Kramer
- **ESTHER MOADEB,**  
mother of Ness Moadeb, by Ness and Judy Moadeb
- **MEYER SIMON OLKEN,**  
father of Sherwin Olken, by Sherwin and Elaine Olken
- **BENJAMIN REFF,**  
father of Albert Reff, by Albert Reff
- **ESTHER ROSENFELD,**  
mother of Irv Rosenfeld, by Irv and Gail Rosenfeld
- **JACK SABIN,**  
father of Herbert Sabin, by Herbert Sabin
- **HENRY SALBERG,**  
father of Jeffery Salberg, by Jeffery and Minda Salberg
- **HANNAH SALLO,**  
grandmother of Rachel Berg, by Rachel Berg
- **SAMUEL SCHWEITZER,**  
father of Stuart Schweitzer, by Stuart and Suzanne Schweitzer
- **ALVIN STOVER,**  
uncle of Gaylen Grody, by Gaylen and Wayne Grody
- **SAM STOVER,**  
grandfather of Gaylen Grody, by Gaylen and Wayne Grody
- **LENA STROM,**  
mother-in-law of Shirley Strom and grandmother of Joel Strom, by Joel and Holly Strom
- **SAM WOLFF,**  
father of Sharon Krischer, by Sharon and Joel Krischer
- **DAN ZWITMAN,**  
husband of Julia Weinberg Zwitman, by Shelly and Tom Vedres
- **ANNA WALLOCK,**  
grandmother of Lori Papernik, by Lori and Brian Papernik
- **JOE WEINBERG,**  
grandfather of Don Morris, by Don Morris
- **AVISHAG WYTE,**  
wife of Michael Wyte, by Michael Wyte

Kehillat Ma'arav (KM) is a Conservative congregation serving Santa Monica, the Westside and beyond. KM is a caring, involved community striving to meet the religious, spiritual, educational, and social needs of our diverse membership. Join us Shabbat mornings for an egalitarian, traditional service. We maintain an award winning K-12 religious school as well as youth programs and continuing adult education opportunities. We invite you to experience our community and help us serve the Westside with pride and dignity.

## **CAMP RAMAH FUND**

### **In memory of**

Zelma Kramer, mother of Jill Gotlieb, by Carol and Chuck Abrams, Nancy Greystone and Jerry Pomerantz

## **PRAYER BOOK FUND**

### **In memory of**

Zelma Kramer, mother of Jill Gotlieb, by Lori and Brian Papernik

## **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

### **In memory of**

Zelma Kramer, mother of Jill Gotlieb, by Halina and Alan Alter

## **RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

### **In memory of**

Chic Lippman, mother of Tamara Bernstein, by Tamara and Robert Bernstein

Claire Maibaum, grandmother of Matthew Maibaum, by Matthew Maibaum

Zelma Kramer, mother of Jill Gotlieb, by Jean Barkin, Scott Barkin, Sherry Singer, JoJo and Eric Fleiss, Marilyn and Izzy Freedman, Laura Portney, The Moses family, Neil Schneider, Joni Trempala, Westwood Hills Congregational Church

## **CONDOLENCES TO**

Manny and Judy Baker on the passing of Phil Baker, Manny's brother, on Saturday, December 30.

Jill and Rabbi Michael Gotlieb on the passing of Jill's mother, Zelma Kramer, on Wednesday, January 3.

On the passing of Sarah Strassberg on Friday, January 12.



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[km-synagogue.org](http://km-synagogue.org)

**Rabbi**  
**Cantor**  
**Executive Director**  
**Director of Education**  
**& Youth Programming**  
**Head of Early Childhood**  
**& Arts Programs**  
**Events Coordinator**  
**Administrative Assistant**  
**Business Manager**  
**Communications**  
**Building Manager**  
**President**  
**Executive VP**

**Michael Gotlieb**  
**Samuel Cohen**  
**Kathie Rose**  
  
**Sharone Weizman**  
  
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