



## From Our Rabbi: Avoiding “Weatherproofing”

“*Weatherproofing means . . . finding the cracks and flaws of life, and either trying to fix them, or at least point them out to others.*”

With all the drafty cold weather lately, I’m reminded of a vignette that appears in Richard Carlson’s book: *Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff* entitled, “Avoid Weatherproofing.” There is a practical, even spiritual message in his allegoric insight. His observation is timely from the standpoint of our winter weather; timeless from the standpoint of our daily interactions with family and friends, and with one another. So, in our endless pursuit of becoming more human, more religiously minded—less petty souls—I quote extensively from his work in this month’s edition of *The Voice*.

Just as we can weatherproof a home for the winter by looking for cracks, leaks, and imperfections, we can also weatherproof our relationships, even our lives, by doing the very same thing. Essentially, weatherproofing means that you are on the careful lookout for what needs to be fixed or repaired. It’s finding the cracks and flaws of life, and either trying to fix them, or at least point them out to others.

Not only does this tendency alienate you from other people, it makes you feel bad, too. It encourages you to think about what’s *wrong* with everything and everyone—what you don’t like. So, rather than appreciating our relationships and our lives, weatherproofing encourages us to end up thinking that life isn’t all it’s cracked up to be. Nothing is ever good enough the way it is.

Obviously, an occasional comment, constructive criticism, or helpful guidance isn’t cause for alarm. I have to say, however, that in the course of working with hundreds of couples over the years, I’ve met very few people who

didn’t feel that they were weatherproofed at times by their partner. Occasional harmless comments have an insidious tendency to become a way of looking at life. When you are weatherproofing another human being, it says nothing about them—but it does define you as someone who needs to be critical.

Whether you have a tendency to weatherproof your relationships, certain aspects of your life, or both, what you need to do is write off weatherproofing as a bad idea. As the habit creeps into your thinking, catch yourself and seal your lips. The less often you weatherproof your partner or your friends, the more you’ll notice how super your life really is.

Let’s face it, for many of us, trying to “weatherproof” others so as to have them fit into our description of what an ideal person ought to be is common. To help prevent “weatherproofing,” be mindful of the second law in the 10 Commandments. It implores us against worshipping other gods. More than anything, it takes into consideration the possibility that we might think of ourselves as God; as if to suggest everything and everyone must comply with our own individual standards and sensitivities. As such, “weatherproofing” becomes a device to essentially “Lord” over others.

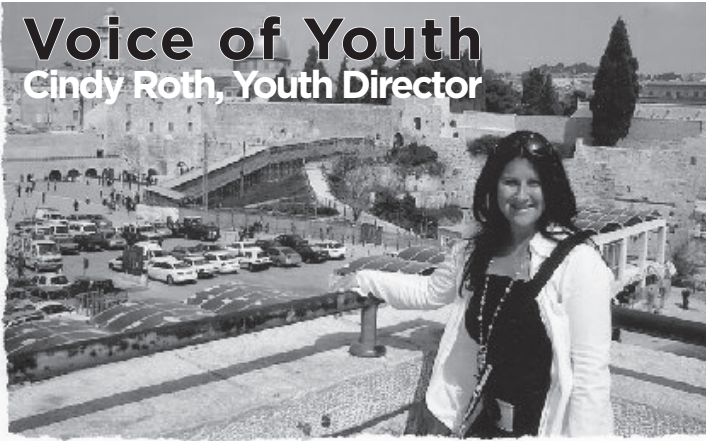
The problem is, as Carlson points out, it isolates you from friends and family, stealing from you the joys of life. “Weatherproofing” will do nothing more than make you unhappy and worse, ungodly. So, as the drafty cold weather continues, weatherproof your house—your doors, your walls and windows—but make sure you are ever vigilant to stop there and that you go no farther.

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***The problem is weatherproofing isolates you from friends and family, stealing from you the joys of life.***

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## Voice of Youth Cindy Roth, Youth Director



What a nice way to finish out our year with the creation of our new Youth Board! As you may have heard several kids offered to represent the rest of our student body, and choose positions such as Membership Chair, Retreat Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Communications chair, Social Action Chair, and Event Planners. There is always room for more volunteers, be sure to contact me at [cdxla@aol.com](mailto:cdxla@aol.com) if you have an interested teenager who wants to make a difference. These board members were installed into their positions during the Camp Ramah Religious School Retreat.

Some of the activities they voted upon for future events where as follows: Visits to the Huntington Library, Universal Studios, Pirate Times, Rock Climbing, and Surfing Lessons. Laser Tag, Sky High Sports, and Night Ice Skating in Culver City which several kids already attended in January. Our older teens have been invited to go to Paintball on Sunday March 11th with Temple Beth Am, and have a Gym Night coming up on February 25.

We had a nice mystery movie event in December where the kids chose to see "New Years Eve," then we all joined the Rabbi and the rest of the KM Congregants to light the Menorah and sing Chanukah songs followed by a lovely Italian dinner.

In February, we met with our synagogues own Joshua Gottlieb to help the youth build a website and create their own itouch apps. It's the wave of the newest generation, be sure not to miss it!

Finally we are looking forward to our Purim Celebration on Wednesday, March 7 when the youth will also be involved in some of the extraordinary planning which is already taking place. Hope to see you there!

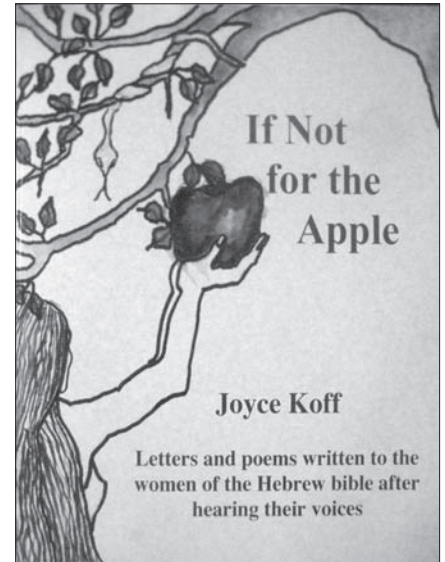
## If Not For the Apple

When I was a little girl I imagined I was Cinderella. When I grew up I imagined that I would meet Prince Charming, and live happily ever after. But, life is not so easy for women. Life is a series of struggles that help us identify ourselves, learn about our strengths and help us evolve. This was the introduction Joyce Koff gave at our recent Sisterhood meeting at which time Joyce read from her newly published book, "If Not for the Apple." The book was published especially for this meeting and is currently ONLY available to members of Kehillat Ma'arav.

"If Not for the Apple" is a series of stories, poems and letters about Women of the Bible. Think of Rebecca who left her family to live with Abraham's family, had two sons who fought, who deceived her husband although she loved him to make Jacob our Leader. How might our future as a Jewish people been different if Esau had become our leader? How strong and sure of herself Rebecca must have been to go through with her plan. But did she suffer quietly knowing she deceived the man she loved?

A brief story introduces each woman. The stories are followed by poems and then a letter written by Joyce to each woman sharing her feelings and thoughts about what they have meant to her, what she has learned by knowing their stories. "If Not for the Apple" is for sale in the KM Gift shop for \$22. A portion of the sale of each book goes towards the KM Sisterhood programs. Additionally, our Sisterhood will now be giving a copy of "If Not for the Apple" to each young girl who becomes a Bat Mitzvah. It is the perfect time for young girl's to start knowing how to find and trust their own voice.

Prissi Cohen



## BAR MITZVAH

My name is **Adam Ganezer** and my Bar Mitzvah is **February 11**. I am in the seventh grade at Paul Revere Middle School where my favorite subjects are Science, Computer and English. I have a great love of animals and especially enjoy going to the farm at the school and interacting with all of the inhabitants. My

hope is to one day work with animals on a regular basis. I also enjoy reading and my favorite author is Christopher Paolini, writer of the Inheritance Cycle, who I had the pleasure of meeting last summer. I look forward to sharing my Bar Mitzvah with the KM community as well as my friends and relatives.



## The Cantor's Voice



“  
*For such a mega-star to come out and make a mega-stand is courageous in today's climate.*  
”

It's so easy to be anti-Israel. We see Israel discredited on university campuses, in the media, and the arts. That's why, when an Academy Award winning actress, who happens to be from Israel, stands up for her Jewish homeland, I take notice.

Natalie Portman is certainly a beautiful woman, however as far as I'm concerned, what distinguishes her from her colleagues is her inner beauty, and, particularly, her on-going support for Israel.

Portman just returned from a two-week trip to Israel, vis-

iting family and friends, and undoubtedly most important to her, showing off her brand new baby boy, who happens to be called "Aleph."

Portman spent time visiting the holiest of Jewish sites, the Kotel, in Jerusalem, and it was reported that she placed a personal prayer inside those massive stones, too.

For such a mega-star to come out and make a mega-stand is courageous in today's climate. There are other actors born in Israel who have done far less, and even speak out against Israel. Kudos to Natalie Portman. May her example be a shining light to us all.



*Are You a Jewish Parent with a Child Between Four Months and Two Years Old?*

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*Would You Like to Meet Other Hip Jewish Parents In Your Area?*

•

*Create Your Own Local Jewish Social Network, and Get All the "Likes" You and Your Child Need!*

### **Kehillat Ma'arav in Santa Monica Presents:**

#### **KM Playdates**

*Playdates specially designed for Jewish parents AND their children*

Parents join their little ones for Jewish-themed storytelling, sensory activities, and music. Children learn new skills and form their first Jewish friendships in a safe, warm, and nurturing environment, while parents get to share their parenting experiences with other Jewish parents.

### **KM Playdates Schedule**

Classes are now forming. Please contact the office for further information.

## From Our President, Brian Cohen



“Echoing in my ear as I write this is Rabbi Michael Gotlieb saying, ‘This is not a show, folks.’”

This being the season of awards—most notably the Oscars—maybe we should apply the same style to Shabbat services at KM. “And the award goes...to the best Torah readers in Sephardic and Ashkenazi tropes... to carrying the Torah through the maze of our seating configuration and reaching everyone between Ark and Bimah without the use of a GPS...and finally, a lifetime achievement award to the person exposing more than seven columns during the *Hagbah* (lifting of the Torah).” Now that’s a hard one—an achievement *and* a great mitzvah.

Echoing in my ear as I write this is Rabbi Michael Gotlieb saying, “This is not a show, folks.” He’s right—it’s not a show. Its scripture, not a script, but still, Shabbat at KM can be fun. All who participate in the service (self included) will concur

that participating in the service does require a little work but the rewards are worth the effort. When I first started chanting *Haftorah*, it seemed regardless of how much I prepared, I was very self-conscious. What would someone say if I read or sang the wrong note? The truth known, nothing happens except a feeling of satisfaction and camaraderie from the ‘*Yasha koach’s*.

I thoroughly enjoy it when at the rabbi’s urging, congregants add insight to the parsha, or when others who are there for a *Yahrzeit* share poignant or humorous reflections about their loved ones. Some might be there more for the Oneg, but for the pleasure of kibitzing and deepening friendships. The buzz in the room and the length of time it takes to clear everyone out each week makes it clear to me that as KM continues on; Shabbat services will continue to be a collective effort and a collective pleasure.

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## From Our Ritual Committee

*Tu B’Shevat sederim* have become quite common over the past 40 years or so in non-orthodox synagogues. Once a rare, arcane, abstract, *kabbalistic* exercise, appropriate only for the initiated adepts of Jewish mysticism, the *Tu B’Shevat seder* has been co-opted and transformed in American Jewish religious life.

Political Zionism, ultimately a very practical endeavor, had previously claimed *Tu B’Shevat* for itself, identifying this “new year of trees” in the entire package of “reclaiming the land” of Eretz Israel. The Jewish National Fund blue *pushke* boxes were, in the Zionist imagination, a concrete expression of *Tu B’Shevat*. Put in the extra coin, plant a tree in Galilee. As Americans became more environmental conscious, and the environmental movement created observances reflecting its concerns (for example, Earth Day, noted since 1970), American Jewry creatively adapted an old rite for a new issue.

The *Tu B’Shevat seder* is rooted in the mystical-kabbalistic circles of 16th century Safed that coalesced around Rabbi Isaac Luria, called Ha-Ari (The Lion, based on an acronym of Elohi Rabbi Isaac—the Godly Rabbi Isaac—or Ashkenaz Rabbi Isaac, the sources differ). Ha-Ari is generally credited with restating, revitalizing and popularizing kabbalah, and in the course of doing so, affected virtually all of Jewish life and liturgy.

At the heart of *kabbalah* lies the penultimate religious question: How does a perfect, omniscient, omnipotent God create an imperfect, flawed universe? The metaphoric answer is complicated, and for the most of us, pretty obscure—something on the order of a cosmic “accident-by-design” so as to allow for

free will and human expression. Thus the mystical task is set: repair the spiritual universe, in the guise of “*tikkun olam*”, and return creation to its pristine, original state. The *Tu B’Shevat seder* of the Safed mystics in Ha-Ari’s circle sought to rectify a damaged universe, by gathering together the metaphysical shards of the divine vessels shattered at the moment of creation.

That *sedar* was part metaphor, part mystical experience and part magic. With the proper intentions, the proper mystical *kavvanah*, a walnut, for example, was more than “just” a wonder of creation. Its four quarters embedded the four letters of God’s ineffable name, in the interpretation of the 17th century seder text, *Etz Pri Hadar*.

The tree itself is a common metaphor in many mystical traditions, and certainly is powerful in our Jewish one: we have the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil from Genesis, and of course Torah itself is the Tree of Life. In *Kabbalah*, a tree is rarely just a tree.

But we live, as a famed *kabbalist* once commented, in a material world. The spiritualized trees of Safed became the planted groves of the JNF, and now a symbol of our collective concerns about the well-being of the planet. It isn’t our great-grandparent’s grandparent’s *tikkun olam*, but it is one that we can live with, expropriate and enjoy. Mix the wine, bless the fruit, and live with God’s goodness, as poorly grasped as it is, in this world. And hope for the best in the next one.

Dennis Gura  
on behalf of the Ritual Committee

# February 2012

## Shevat / Adar I 5772

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> 7-8:30 p.m. KM Choir	<b>2</b> 3:30-5 p.m. Rabbi's Bible Study 6:30-10 p.m. Introduction to Judaism with Rabbi Gottlieb	<b>3</b> 3-4 p.m. KM Kids 5:07 p.m. Candle Lighting 6:30-7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services	<b>4</b> 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Shabbat in 3D, Tu B'Shevat Seder 3D 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Shabbat Services 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Shabbat Club 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Tot Shabbat 7-10 p.m. USY Lounge Night
<b>5</b> 9-10 a.m. Education Committee mtg. 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Religious School Grades 2-7 11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Youth Commission mtg. 12:30-3 p.m. Kadima Activity	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 3:45-6:30 p.m. Religious School 2-7 Grades 4-6 p.m. Religious School K/1 Class	<b>8</b> <b>Tu B'Shevat</b> 7-8:30 p.m. KM Choir	<b>9</b> 3:30-5 p.m. Rabbi's Bible Study 6:30-10 p.m. Introduction to Judaism with Rabbi Gottlieb	<b>10</b> 3-4 p.m. KM Kids 5:14 p.m. Candle Lighting	<b>11</b> 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Shabbat Services 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Shabbat Club 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Tot Shabbat Adam Ganezer Bar Mitzvah
<b>12</b> 12-3 p.m. USY Hike (off-site)	<b>13</b> 4-6 p.m. Ways and Means Committee mtg. 6:30-8 p.m. Membership Committee mtg. 7-8:30 p.m. Men's Club mtg.	<b>14</b> 3:45-6:30 p.m. Religious School 2-7 Grades 4-6 p.m. Religious School K/1 Class	<b>15</b> 6:30-7:30 p.m. Executive Board mtg. 7-8:30 p.m. KM Choir 7:30-9 p.m. Board of Trustees mtg.	<b>16</b> 3:30-5 p.m. Rabbi's Bible Study 6:30-10 p.m. Introduction to Judaism with Rabbi Gottlieb	<b>17</b> 3-4 p.m. KM Kids 5:20 p.m. Candle Lighting	<b>18</b> 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Shabbat Services 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Shabbat Club 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Tot Shabbat
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>President's Day</b> Office Closed	<b>21</b> 3:45-6:30 p.m. Religious School 2-7 Grades 4-6 p.m. Religious School K/1 Class	<b>22</b> 7-8:30 p.m. KM Choir	<b>23</b> 3:30-5 p.m. Rabbi's Bible Study 6:30-10 p.m. Introduction to Judaism with Rabbi Gottlieb	<b>24</b> Depart for Camp Ramah 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Book Club 3-4 p.m. KM Kids 5:27 p.m. Candle Lighting	<b>25</b> 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Shabbat Services 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Shabbat Club 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Tot Shabbat
<b>26</b> Return From Ramah 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Parent/Teacher Conferences 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Young Couples Group Jewish LA Tour	<b>27</b> 6:30-8:30 p.m. Sisterhood mtg.	<b>28</b> 3:45-6:30 p.m. Religious School 2-7 Grades 4-6 p.m. Religious School K/1 Class 6:30-7 p.m. KM Café	<b>29</b> 7-8:30 p.m. KM Choir	<div data-bbox="933 1432 1534 1969" data-label="Complex-Block"> <h2 style="text-align: center;">KM Needs You!</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Any non board member interested in serving on the KM Board of Trustees Nominating Committee for our 2012-13 term, please contact President Brian Cohen or Executive Director Kathie Rose.</p>  </div>		
<div data-bbox="97 1696 917 1969" data-label="Complex-Block"> <h2 style="text-align: center;">Shabbat Club</h2> <p>Shabbat Club meets each Saturday morning from 10 a.m.-noon. Designed for students in grades 2-6, children have an opportunity to study Torah, play games, perform skits based on the weekly Torah reading, and of course: enjoy a snack! Come out and see what you've been missing.</p> </div>						



# Religious School and Youth Doings

Manny Baker  
V.P. Education

## Cannes-Ukah

**M**y wife and I decided to take a winter vacation in Belgium and France this year, starting in Brussels, then to Paris, and finishing the vacation in Cannes, France. Nobody from California in their right mind goes to a cold climate for a non-skiing vacation, so we had to finish our vacation in the warmer, sunny French Riviera to thaw out. Well, it warmed up during the day to very comfortable temperatures, but chilled down enough at night to remind us that we were still pretty far from the tropics.

The point of this is not to present a meteorological treatise on France and Belgium. The important point is that the latter part of the vacation, while we were in Cannes, coincided with the first few days of Chanukah.

During one of those days, we drove to Monaco. It was my first experience driving in France, and it was made especially more harrowing because of the twisting, narrow, and steep roads and streets of Monaco. And navigating the roundabouts with impatient, discourteous French drivers during rush hour in the evening didn't help any. By the time we got back to the hotel, I was badly in the need of a "liquid confidence-restorer."

We went to the hotel bar, and sat at a table facing the windows that looked out into the open front court of the adjacent building. What occurred next made the whole trip worthwhile. We saw a huge menorah at the entrance to the building next door. Some men were scurrying about, setting the menorah into place, as well as setting up a large screen for showing video. A crowd began to gather. We quickly finished our beers, ran upstairs to get our coats (and a hat for me), and went next door to take part in the candle lighting which was about to take place. As it turned out, it was being conducted by Chabad (yes, there's a Chabad in Cannes, and as it turns out, in quite a number of places in France). Before we left to join them, we had watched the crowd gather and begin to grow. And it was quite a crowd. I'd be hard pressed to estimate it, but I'd bet it was easily well over 100 people, and possibly around 200 people. You can't imagine the feeling at seeing so many Jews turning out on a chilly winter's night to celebrate the third night of Chanukah in a country that is overwhelmed by its Arab population, the vast majority of which is virulently anti-Semitic. Arabs are a presence in vast numbers in Paris, and I would hardly call their numbers in Cannes as trivial, either. Yet, in spite of numerous acts of Arab violence and vandalism against Jews in France, and France's continual history of anti-Semitism, these Jews (and my wife and I) had no qualms about openly and publicly celebrating the 3rd night of Chanukah.

And what a celebration it was. There were the obligatory speeches at the beginning, some of them thanking the mayor and his staff (as best I could tell from an extremely limited knowledge of French—everything said at the ceremony was

in French). This was followed by two videos about Chabad and their role in Jewish life in Cannes. Finally, the candles were lit, the brachot recited (by *everyone* in the gathering *from memory*), and Maoz Tsur sung (by *everyone* in the gathering *from memory*). Other songs followed and a few people began spontaneously dancing the hora (men and women separately, of course). While this was going on, they were passing around *beignets* (instead of doughnuts). Everybody was having a good time, and no one was leaving to go home.

What was even more amazing is the extent of Jewish life in Cannes. It wasn't just the sheer number of people who participated. The videos (and the attendance) showed a large membership. I asked one of the locals about how big the congregation was. He said it was comprised of 800 families! The videos showed a number of members physically working on building the shul. It was built by their own hands. But the piece de resistance was the Hebrew School, its enrollment, and what the children are learning. Jewish children were reading Hebrew and reading from the siddur at an early age. And it appeared as if they understood what they were reading.

In general, this was an involved community, and a very actively involved one at that. To see this crowd of fellow Jews joyfully and publicly celebrating Chanukah was an experience to remember, and one worthy of sharing.

### REMINDER

We are always looking for feedback about our education programs, and we look for that feedback not only from the parents of kids in the Religious School but from other members of the congregation, as well. The Religious School serves the needs of the KM community as a whole. In addition, we want to know if there is interest in adult education, and if so, what kind of courses you'd like to have. Please send your comments to us at [km-education@hotmail.com](mailto:km-education@hotmail.com).

### Pick up the Phone or Send Us an E-mail

To assure that clergy make visits to congregants in the hospital, extended care facilities and hospices, please contact the office at Kehillat Ma'arav: (310) 829-0566 or email us at [office@km-synagogue.org](mailto:office@km-synagogue.org). In an effort to comply with the new patient privacy laws, health-care facilities may not release the names of their patients, so it is imperative that you provide the name of the member, the facility name, patient's room number, length of anticipated stay, your relationship to the patient and a number where you can be reached if further information is needed. Share the happy news too—we might not know about a marriage, birth or other *simcha* unless you tell us!

## THE 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GEORGE AND FLORENCE EBER MEMORIAL LECTURE PRESENTS:

### Dr. Ziony Zevit: “THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: THE? TEN? COMMANDMENTS?”

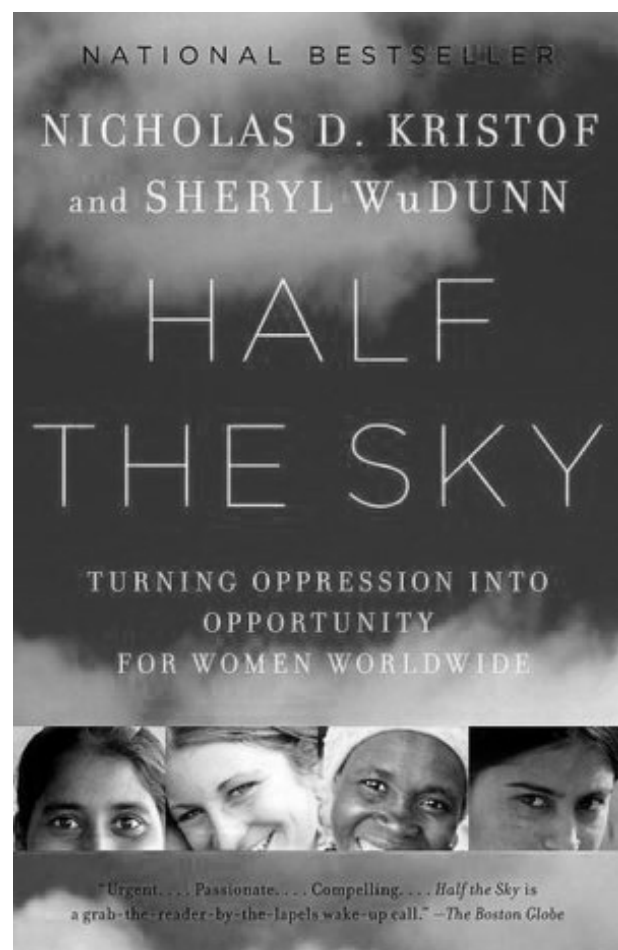
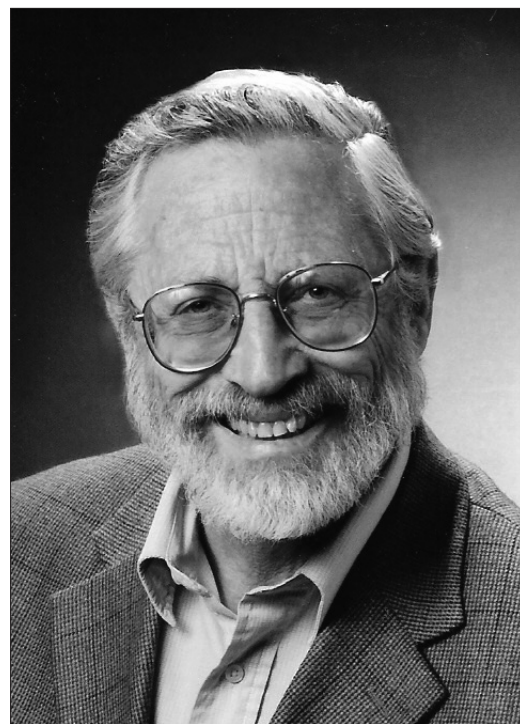
**SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 10 A.M.**

Endowed by the George and Florence Eber Memorial Lecture, this event is **FREE** and open to the community.

Dr. Ziony Zevit, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of Biblical Literature and Northwest Semitic Languages Professor of Bible at AJU and UCLA

Prior to joining AJU's faculty, Dr. Zevit taught at the University of Haifa, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and U.C. Berkeley. He also participated in archaeological excavations at Tel Lachish and at Tel Dan.

In 1987, Dr. Zevit was designated the first Avraham Biran Fellow in Biblical Archaeology at the Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology in Jerusalem. He has been awarded fellowships by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Lady Davis Fellowship Trust, and the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation (2003); in 2004, he was awarded the Frank Moore Cross Award by the American Schools of Oriental Research for substantial publications in Near Eastern and Eastern Mediterranean epigraphy, texts, and traditions.



## Come For This Private Tour at the Skirball

*Half the Sky*, by noted journalists Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for journalism. This best-selling book is a passionate call to arms against the oppression of women around the globe—a cause which the authors call the “central moral challenge” of our time. The Skirball museum with the support of the authors has created a compelling exhibit based on the book, supplemented by additional art work and text, including a component on Los Angeles. As people of conscience, we Jews should be proud that it was one of our own local Jewish museums that have taken the initiative in spreading the message of the authors by means of this ground-breaking exhibit.

Debby Kennel has arranged for a private tour of the exhibit by one of the Skirball docents at **1:30 PM on Sunday, February 12**. The cost is \$7 per person, irrespective of Skirball membership, and also enables the attendees to see any other exhibit in the museum as well, with the exception of Noah's Ark. There is a maximum of 25 people for the tour. Please RSVP by February 8, and bring \$7 IN CASH and arrive at the museum by 1:15 on February 12, so we can complete the financial transactions before 1:30. If anyone is interested in an on-site 11:45 lunch before the tour, please contact Debby by Wednesday, February 8 so she can arrange reservations at Zeidler's Café. Debby can be reached preferably at [kennel@humnet.ucla.edu](mailto:kennel@humnet.ucla.edu), or by phone at 310-476-6804.

# A Few Words from Kehillat Ma'arav's Membership Committee

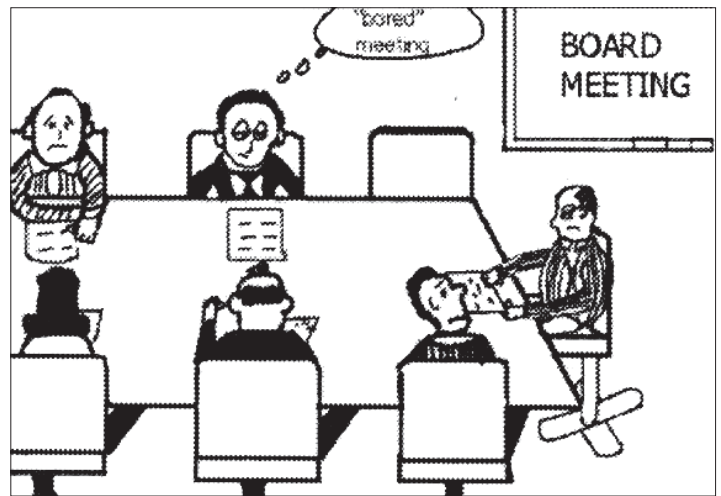
**Help Wanted:** Kehillat Ma'arav seeks motivated, committed, supportive, energetic, creative, collaborative individuals to fill Board of Trustee vacancies.

**Job Description:** On a monthly basis allow your mind to wander during lengthy discussions over trivial matters; aggravate yourself while others pontificate about their pet peeves and humdrum interests; watch your blood boil as inconsiderate colleagues expound on self-serving subjects; and fume when Board decisions disagree with your own preferences.

**Compensation:** None. However, bring your checkbook as the hat is occasionally passed around.

**Benefits:** *Change the course of history, literally!* Frustrating as Board participation may seem (hint: the job description above is an exaggeration), it carries with it significant responsibilities. The Board controls the purse strings and decides where synagogue priorities lie. It determines allocations for facilities, staffing, education, services and outreach. Equally important, the Board determines affiliation. Years ago the KM Board opted to associate our shul with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. As a result, we support the Ramah movement, USY, Women's League, Men's Club, Mercaz USA and the Masorti Movement in Israel. Through these organizations KM's sphere of influence is both national and international. The KM Board would also decide if we were to join forces with a neighboring congregation.

To be sure, KM is on firm ground. Our USCJ affiliation has been in effect for more than three decades and is not about to change. Though merger discussions have taken place in the past, the result has always been the same—maintain the status quo.



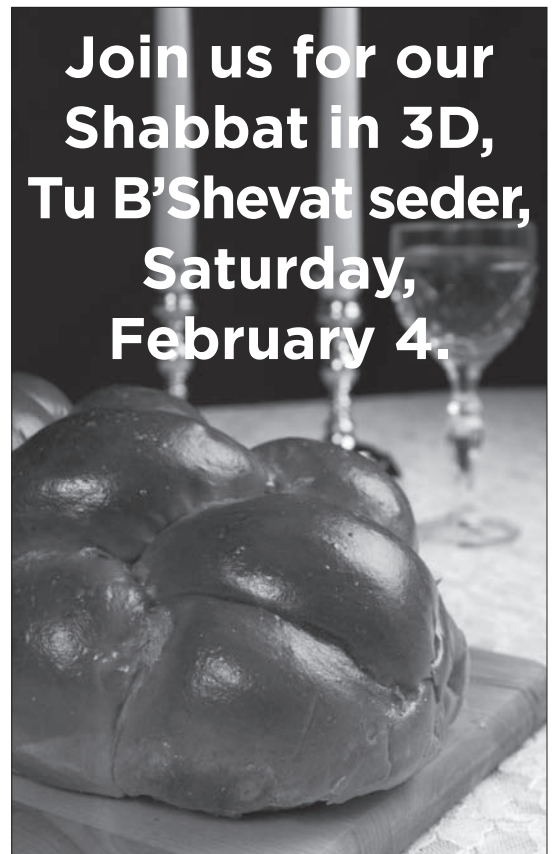
Today there are no mergers under consideration. That doesn't mean that the Board doesn't face critical decisions. With nearly three hundred member units, KM requires sound management and rational leadership. That's where you come in.

Each June the congregation votes in a new Board of Trustees. In future *Voice* issues we will be seeking candidates to fill vacant Board positions. When the time comes, please give that request serious consideration. Thank you.

**Leonard M. Solomon**  
Membership Committee



**Save the Date**  
Saturday April 7  
First Day of Pesach  
Second Night  
Community Seder



**Join us for our  
Shabbat in 3D,  
Tu B'Shevat seder,  
Saturday,  
February 4.**

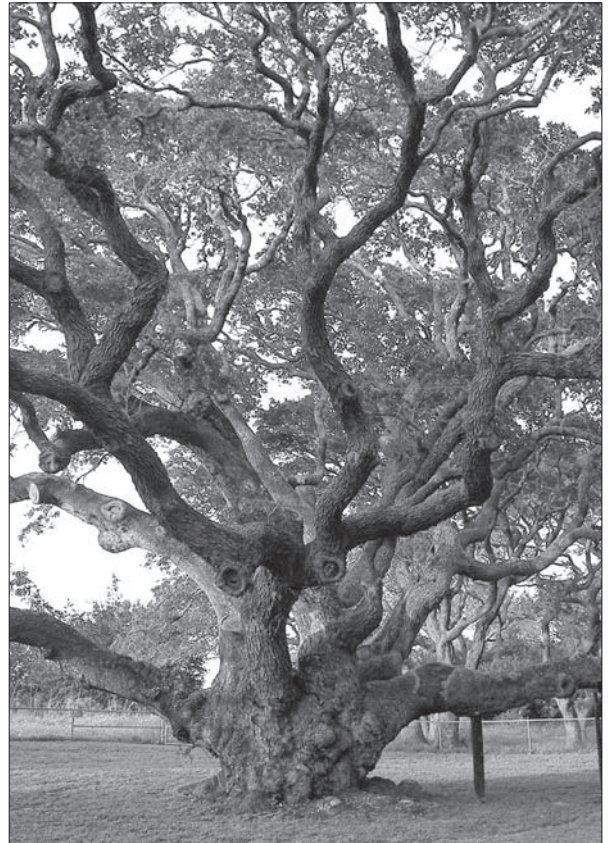
# Getting Ready For Tu B'Shevat



Mark Lazar

In anticipation and preparation for the festive holiday Tu B'Shevat, Mark Lazar engaged our religious school, Tuesday afternoon January 17, in a fun-filled interactive learning session. Mark Lazar comes to us from Jerusalem and our congregation has had a long standing warm relationship with his brother, Rabbi David Lazar, who has taught and led services over the years at KM. Mark has a gift of teaching Jewish principles through drama, thematic games and dialog. For years he taught drama at Camp Ramah in Ojai. His energy and passion was wonderfully received and we look forward to his return sometime in the near future.

Rabbi Michael Gottlieb



## Purim Comes But Once A Year . . .

The Purim Megillah  
Reading and Raffle  
will be held  
Wednesday, March 7



Raffle tickets are still only \$50 which is a small price to pay for all the fun you're going to have and all the good you're going to do! And, who knows, perhaps the GRAND PRIZE will have your name on it!

We are also looking for prizes. If you can help by donating un-used gift cards, restaurant certificates, movie passes, time shares etc. we'll have that much more! Please send you tax deductible donations to KM, attn: Sandy Rosenblatt Ways and Means VP.



## Book Club

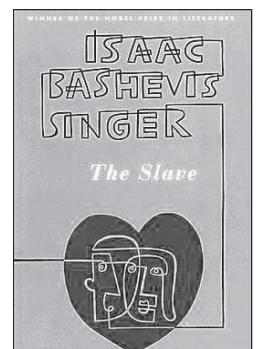
Hi Bookies,

This month our meeting will be on February 24, at our usual time of 10 a.m. Our discussion will be led by Debby. Our book will be *The Slave*, by Isaac B. Singer. SMPL has two copies, LAPL has nine copies.

### From *The New York Review of Books*

Four years after the Chmielnicki massacres of the seventeenth century, Jacob, a slave and cowherd in a Polish village high in the mountains, falls in love with Wanda, his master's daughter. Even after he is ransomed, he finds he can't live without her, and the two escape together to a distant Jewish community. Racked by his consciousness of sin in taking a Gentile wife and by the difficulties of concealing her identity, Jacob nonetheless stands firm as the violence of the era threatens to destroy the ill-fated couple. *The Slave* is a burningly radiant, intensely beautiful book. Singer is answering his age like a prophet.

See you at the meeting. Happy reading!



Rita Schreiber

# FEBRUARY TRIBUTES

## **A Speedy Recovery to**

- Elliot Schwartz by Larry and Miyako Berkin, Linda and Jack Topal and Miriam Apsel

## **In honor of**

- My niece, Brooke Baxter Foster, and my sister, Josea Kramer by Michelle Kramer

## **Mazel Tov to**

- Pat and Len Solomon on the birth of their grandson, Auriyah (Izzy) Israel Rosenfeld by Beverly and Elliot Schwartz and Suzanne & Stuart Schweitzer

## **In memory of**

- Ann Yuré, mother of Marc Yuré by Marc and Susie Yuré
- Bernard Pimstone, brother of Neville Pimstone by Neville and Fay Pimstone
- Bernard Samson, father of Gary Samson and father-in-law of Laurie Samson by Gary and Laurie Samson
- Betty Weinberger, mother of Ruth Barnett by Ruth and Ron Barnett
- David Frankel, father of Judy Gottesman by Judy and Jeff Gottesman
- Doris Posner, mother of Judy Shapiro by Judy and Stephen Shapiro
- Fannie Finn, mother of Richard Finn by Richard and Adinah Finn
- Harry Fistell, father of Ira Fistell by Ira Fistell

- Harry Segal, grandfather of Lolly Bennett by Lolly Bennett
- Isidore Finn, father of Richard Finn by Andrea and Noah Jussim, Area and Jonathan Kramarsky, Beverly and Elliot Schwartz, Judy and Jeff Gottesman, Linda and Jack Topal, Sandy and Stan Ziegler, Sue and Paul Hoffman and Tammy Steinsapir
- Izak Silon, father of Steve Silon by Audra and Steve Silon
- Jack Bloom, father of Marlene Bernstein by Marlene and Stuart Bernstein
- Larry Silk, father of Roger Silk by Andrea and Noah Jussim, Beverly and Bernie Bienstock, Beverly and Elliot Schwartz, Judy and Manny Baker, Linda and Jack Topal, Mimi Klein, Miriam Apsel, Sandy and Stan Ziegler, Sue and Paul Hoffman and Tammy Steinsapir
- Louis Weinberger, father of Ruth Barnett by Ruth and Ron Barnett
- Marvin Kohn, brother of Stanley Kohn by Stanley Kohn
- Morris Davidson, uncle of Judy Baker by Judy and Manny Baker
- Morris Horwitz, father of Susie Yuré by Susie and Marc Yuré
- Nicholas Schwartz, husband of Erika Schwartz by Erika Schwartz
- Rose Binen, grandmother of Ruth Barnett by Ruth and Ron Barnett

- Rose Cohen, mother of Estelle Gray by Estelle Gray
- Ruth Hoffman, mother of Paul Hoffman by Paul and Sue Hoffman
- Samuel Tamaroff, father of Tammy Steinsapir by Tammy Steinsapir
- Sarah Bloom, mother of Marlene Bernstein by Marlene and Stuart Bernstein
- Seymour Kramer, father of Dorine Kramer by Dorine Kramer and Nicholas Mitchell
- Shoshana Sharafiyani, mother of Sara Sherman by Sara Sherman
- Solomon Gerber, father of Denise Gerber by Denise Gerber and Stuart Perlman
- Zelda Joy Mitchell, mother of Nicholas Mitchell by Nicholas Mitchell and Dorine Kramer

## **EBER MEMORIAL FUND**

### **A Speedy Recovery to**

- Elliot Schwartz by Les and Judy Eber

### **Thank you to**

- Sharon and Joel Krischer for the "reunion" dinner by Judy and Les Eber

## **RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

### **A Donation by**

- Lori and Ed Lasman
- Marsha and Laurie Furst

### **A Speedy Recovery to**

- Razit Bruton by Matthew Maibaum

### **In memory of**

- Richard Maibaum, father of Matthew Maibaum by Matthew Maibaum

### **Thank you to**

- Rabbi Gotlieb, for giving Lauren and Jenna their Hebrew names by Lisa and John Mukavitz
- Rabbi Gotlieb for all your care of us on the occasion of Tracey's Bat Mitzvah by Richard and Bobbi Thompson

## **CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

### **Thank you to**

- Cantor Miller for all your care of us on the occasion of Tracey's Bat Mitzvah by Bobbi and Richard Thompson

*as of January 18*

## **Men's Club**

The meeting of the Men's Club will be on Monday night, February 13 at 7 PM. Please come and help us with our future event planning.

For more information: call Herb Berger at 310-458-5565 / e-mail papaherbi@aol.com.

## **BIRTH DAYS**



Lilly Edwards  
Shira Feinberg  
Daniel Felix Finn  
Leah Fischer  
Adam Ganezer  
Jeremy Horwich  
Aaron Donald Lipp  
Valerie Sanders  
Vivian Sanders  
Sofie Shoshanah Stern

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

### **Mazel Tov to Our February Celebrants**

Herbert and Evelyn Berger, 53rd anniversary  
Cynthia Sikes and Ross Brodie, 12th anniversary  
Steve and Suzette Edwards, 7th anniversary  
Fernanda Gray and Elliot Goldberg, 15th anniversary  
Michael and Allison Goldberger, 20th anniversary  
Noah and Andrea Jussim, 13th anniversary  
Jeanne Weiss and Charles Louy, 25th anniversary  
Irv and Gail Rosenfeld, 36th anniversary  
Elliot and Beverly Schwartz, 53rd anniversary

# YAHR ZEITS

“*The memory of the  
righteous is for a blessing.*  
-Proverbs 10:7”

**Kaddish will be recited on  
February 4, 2012 for:**

*Shevat 11, 5772 (2/4/2012)*

Samuel Bortnik  
father of Rozalye  
Averbukh  
Esther Gura  
mother of Dennis Gura  
Roberta Kaplan  
aunt of Hannah Ganezer  
Meyer Simon Olken  
father of Sherwin Olken

*Shevat 12, 5772 (2/5/2012)*

Florence Albright  
aunt of Paul Levine  
Helma Halpern  
mother of Toby Brannen  
Rhia Wolfe  
mother of Lolly Bennett

*Shevat 13, 5772 (2/6/2012)*

Morris Bram  
father of Rosalyn Senkfor  
and Edith Ballonoff,  
grandfather of Lynn Beliak  
Eugene Erdley  
father of Hal Erdley,  
grandfather of Alyssa  
Ganezer

Beatrice Olifson  
stepmother of Rochelle  
Olifson

Sam Stover  
grandfather of Gaylen  
Grody

*Shevat 14, 5772 (2/7/2012)*

Rose Barnett  
mother of Ron Barnett  
Mamie Brody Cohen  
mother of Bill Cohen  
Raffi Sabban  
husband of Sonia Sabban

*Shevat 15, 5772 (2/8/2012)*

Frank Messinger  
grandfather of Rabbi  
Miriam Hamrell  
Rose Rose  
mother of Stan Rubin  
Hilda Seidel  
aunt of Stan Ziegler

*Shevat 16, 5772 (2/9/2012)*

Alfred Bono  
father of Michael Bono  
Stanley Greenberg  
uncle of Tammy  
Steinsapir  
Fannie Senkfor  
mother of Bill Senkfor  
Judith Augusta Zeff  
mother of Marcia Minsky

*Shevat 17, 5772 (2/10/2012)*

Magda Kovacs  
aunt of Thomas Vedres  
Leon Kurtz  
brother of Maurice Kurtz

Leonard Mitchell  
father of Nick Mitchell

**Kaddish will be recited on  
February 11, 2012 for:**

*Shevat 18, 5772 (2/11/2012)*

Rebecca Bortnik  
mother of Rozalye  
Averbukh  
Benjamin Brook  
father of Robert Brook  
James Leon Dubrow  
father of Miriam Cohen  
Samuel Somekh  
father of Carmella Pardo  
Leah Wolfberg  
mother of Ted Wolfberg

*Shevat 19, 5772 (2/12/2012)*

Gesya Averbukh  
remembered by Rozalye  
Averbukh

Joshua Eisenstein  
nephew of Marian and  
Charley Goldsmith

Beatrice Horwitz  
mother of Susie Yuré  
Murry Weber  
father of Sarah Weber

*Shevat 20, 5772 (2/13/2012)*

Sylvia Atkins  
sister of Rosalyn Senkfor  
and Edith Ballonoff, aunt  
of Lynn Beliak

Thelma Perlmutter  
sister inlaw of Ed Baizer

Pauline Stein  
mother of Nathaniel Stein

*Shevat 21, 5772 (2/14/2012)*

Abe Geffin  
uncle of Paul Levine  
Jack Landis  
stepfather of Sonya  
Sultan

Howard Speigel  
father of Gary Spiegel

*Shevat 22, 5772 (2/15/2012)*

Clara Davidson  
aunt of Judy Baker  
James A. Winsberg  
father of Sara Barnard

*Shevat 23, 5772 (2/16/2012)*

Ruth Glucksman  
mother of Bill Glucksman  
Maurice Shapiro  
father of Stephen Shapiro  
Yetta Simon  
mother of Gilbert Simon

*Shevat 24, 5772 (2/17/2012)*

Moses Bernholz  
stepfather of Zvi  
Rothenberg

Sarah Reva Geffin  
aunt of Paul Levine  
Leah Micmacher  
mother of Helene Kapel  
Helen Ontman  
aunt of Elaine Olken  
Ted Stone  
father of Sandy Ziegler,  
grandfather of Randy  
Ziegler

**Kaddish will be recited on  
February 18, 2012 for:**

*Shevat 25, 5772 (2/18/2012)*

Jennie Gussin  
grandmother of Amy  
Goldberg Levin  
Bernard Marcus  
father of Judy Baker  
Thanya Shulkin  
mother of Sharon  
Margolin, grandmother of  
Laura Miller  
Joan Wolfsdorf  
sister-in-law of Lily Muller,  
aunt of Paul Muller

Avishag Wyte  
wife of Michael Wyte

*Shevat 26, 5772 (2/19/2012)*

Gladys Francis  
mother of Stuart  
Schweitzer  
Gwyn Korowitz  
mother of Elaine Korowitz

Esther Rabb  
mother of Kathy Gura

Nana Rotberg  
mother of Michael  
Rotberg

Samuel Schweitzer  
father of Stuart  
Schweitzer

Anna Wallock  
grandmother of Lori  
Papernik

*Shevat 28, 5772 (2/21/2012)*

Alex Bernstein  
father of Stuart Bernstein  
Harold Kaplan  
grandfather of Hannah  
Ganezer

*Shevat 29, 5772 (2/22/2012)*

Corinne Krasner  
sister of Helayne Levy

*Shevat 30, 5772 (2/23/2012)*

Morris W. Gardner  
father of Peter Gardner  
Edna Gordon  
mother of Jan Rogoway  
Rebecca Alexandra Gura  
daughter of Dennis and  
Kathy Gura  
Henry Salberg  
father of Jeff Salberg

*Adar 1, 5772 (2/24/2012)*

Florence Eber  
mother of Les Eber

**Kaddish will be recited on  
February 25, 2012 for:**

*Adar 2, 5772 (2/25/2012)*

Herman Robbins  
father of Sandi Diamant

*Adar 3, 5772 (2/26/2012)*

Milton Golden  
father of Sharlene Lauretz  
Marilyn Jussim  
mother of Noah Jussim  
Lee Meadows  
mother of Brana Hall

*Adar 4, 5772 (2/27/2012)*

Ziporah Bernholz  
mother of Zvi Rothenberg  
Lena Strom  
mother of David Strom,  
grandmother of Elaine  
Behnken and Joel Strom

*Adar 5, 5772 (2/28/2012)*

Dorothy Andrew  
mother of Gary Andrew  
Sidney Gould  
father of Mark Gould  
Sol Gura  
father of Dennis Gura

*Adar 6, 5772 (2/29/2012)*

Marion Fistell  
mother of Ira Fistell  
Mary Lou Frazier  
mother of Mary Jo Wilzig  
Claire Maibaum  
grandmother of Matthew  
Maibaum

*Adar 7, 5772 (3/1/2012)*

Sol Goldberg  
grandfather of Amy  
Goldberg Levin

*Adar 8, 5772 (3/2/2012)*

Jack Axelrad  
father of Carole Meltzner  
Ester Mahin Davidi  
mother of Irena Gibson  
Stewart Gross  
uncle of Shelly Vedres  
Allan Kramer  
husband of Zelma Kramer,  
father of Jill Gotlieb  
Jack Sabin  
father of Fern Margolis  
and Herbert Sabin  
Maurice Senturia  
grandfather of Dan  
DeHovitz  
Minnie Wexler  
grandmother of Sandra  
Diane Sampson

## ***The KM Voice***

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<b>Executive Director</b>	Kathie Rose
<b>Youth Advisor</b>	Cindy Roth
<b>Administrative Assistant</b>	Rose Piccirilli
<b>President</b>	Brian Cohen
<b>Executive VP</b>	Manny Baker
<b>Bookkeeper/ Business Mgr.</b>	Roy Morris
<b>Editor</b>	Roy Morris

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Bill Sharpsteen**

**Kehillat Ma'arav**  
The Westside Congregation  
1715 21st Street  
Santa Monica, CA 90404



NONPROFIT  
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# **PURIM COMES BUT ONCE A YEAR . . . CELEBRATE!**

Wednesday evening, March 7, 6 p.m. the festivities begin . . . with a **NEW LOOK!!!**

We'll have a **NEW MENU** (still \$5 per person) and  
our traditional megillah reading at 7:30 pm in classroom B/C.  
We have surprises in store for you this year—don't miss out!



### **PRIZES INCLUDE**

**TWO \$1800 CASH PRIZES!**

**APPLE iPad**

**San Diego Bay Get-Away!**

**and much more!**

**plus restaurants, sporting events, movie packages**

**YOU CAN WIN! Raffle tickets are only \$50 EACH.**

*Come join us, hear the Megillah, have a great, noisy time of it and  
support our synagogue all at once.*