

THE VOICE

News & Events from Kehillat Ma'arav

NOVEMBER
2015

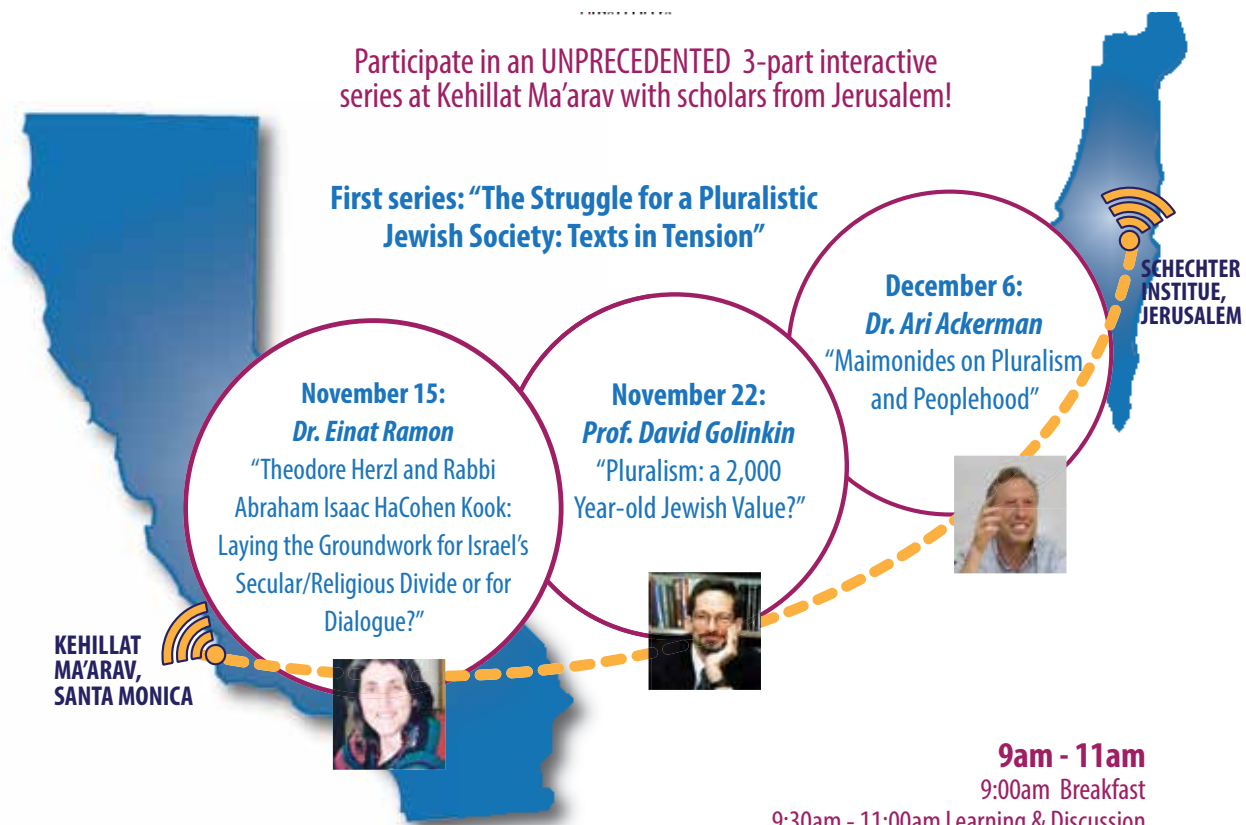
HESHVAN/
KISLEV 5776

SUNDAY MORNINGS LIVE

Take a class in Israel without leaving Santa Monica!

LIVE STREAMING INTERACTIVE JUDAIC
CLASSES DIRECT FROM JERUSALEM'S
SCHECHTER INSTITUTE

Participate in an UNPRECEDENTED 3-part interactive series at Kehillat Ma'arav with scholars from Jerusalem!



9am - 11am

9:00am Breakfast

9:30am - 11:00am Learning & Discussion

ALL CLASSES HELD AT KEHILLAT MA'ARAV.
CALL OR EMAIL THE SYNAGOGUE TO REGISTER!

All inclusive Program: 3 Classes (11/15, 11/22, 12/6) - Learning materials - Breakfast \$36 (Members) \$50 (Non-members)

IN THIS EDITION...



NextGen enjoyed a Sukkah Soirée with Rabbi and Jill Gotlieb.

PAGE 3



KADIMA kicks off the year at Mulligan's Fun Center!

PAGE 5



Learn about the life of Mickey Marcus at the next Men's Club event.

PAGE 6

THE FUTURE IS HERE



RABBI MICHAEL GOTLIEB

If someone handed you a catalogue of classes from a renowned institute of higher learning and said: "Choose whatever course interests you." My guess, you'd jump at the opportunity. Effectively, that's what happened to our congregation. The Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, a fabulous academy of pluralistic, advanced Jewish learning

based in Jerusalem handed us such a catalogue.

With access to modern technology, we can now offer a virtual, live and interactive class taught by some of the Schechter Institutes most gifted faculty without having to leave Santa Monica. These are not pre-recorded lectures. It's as if the teacher's with us in person, even though he or she's broadcasting from Schechter's Bet Midrash in Israel.

Beginning with three Sunday mornings, November 15th, 22nd, and December 6th we'll enjoy a festive breakfast starting at 9:00 am. Class follows at 9:30 am—which will last about 50 minutes—concluded with a brief question and answer period; all finished by 11:00 am. The classes will take place in our sanctuary, and all the materials required are provided. The cost for the three-part series is \$36, all-inclusive. Everyone is welcome. The cost of the series for non-members is \$50.

Our first presenter on November 15th tackles the topic: "The Struggle for a Pluralistic Jewish Society: Texts in Tension." Dr. Einat Ramon will guide us through some of the struggles inherent to pre-

State Israel. Selected readings from Herzl and Rav Kook provide an historical and philosophical backdrop, all of which raises existential questions that still challenge the Jewish Nation State and world Jewry.

One week later on the 22nd of November, our teacher and former scholar in residence at KM, Rabbi, Professor and Schechter President, David Golinkin, addresses our gathering. His topic: "Pluralism: a 2,000 Year-old Jewish Value?" Emphasis placed on the title's question mark. Rabbi Golinkin is one of the greats of our day. He will examine and challenge Orthodoxy's claim that there is only one way to be authentically Jewish.

Rounding out our virtual, live three-part series, we'll hear from Dr. Ari Ackerman. "Maimonides on Pluralism and Peoplehood" is his topic. The lecture will explore the nature of Jewish faith and the meaning of being Jewish from a universal perspective.

These classes represent the future. Offsite learning, led by great instructors, presented via a live-feed is going to be increasingly more available. For us here at Kehillat Ma'arav, I sincerely hope they'll provide a firm foundation upon which we'll establish an in-depth, quality adult-education program. With the mutual support of Jerusalem's Schechter Institute, the possibilities are endless. Come out and support this educational series, you'll be glad—and enriched—that you did.

MOVING FORWARD



JOEL KRISCHER, President

Some semi-related thoughts.

Synagogues on the road.

When traveling to areas that are new to us, Sharon and I like to find time to visit synagogues. And so it came

to pass that on our first visit to Savannah, Georgia we found a true gem, Congregation Mickve Israel. Georgia was the last of the 13 original colonies, founded in 1733. In July of that year, the second ship from London to the new colony included 42 Jews, all but eight of them Sephardic. They brought with them a Torah made of deerskin (possibly the oldest Torah still in use in the US). The congregation sent a congratulatory letter to President Washington upon his election, which the President answered; the first Presidential letter sent to a Jewish congregation. A synagogue was first built in 1820 in the Historic District of Savannah, and after a fire, rebuilding and renovations, grew to the impressive structure it is today; architecturally it resembles a church, both inside (pews and stained glass windows) and out, and it houses its own museum. Yet even a synagogue of this stature never stops its fundraising

efforts. So we bought some stuff in the gift shop as we left. Which brings us to

Our own fundraising efforts

Our own annual fundraising efforts continue. We are doing well, but we need to keep doing better. As this goes to press, we have pledges from 102 families for 175. We still have a ways to go to get to our goals of 100% participation and \$225,000. So if you haven't made your pledge, please do so soon. And if you are able, become one of our major "angels."

Mahon Schechter – LIVE from Jerusalem

We are so proud to be hosting an exclusive series of live (did we mention these are LIVE?) lectures from Jerusalem with the Schechter Institutes (Mahon Schechter) (<http://www.schechter.edu/>). These are going to be both substantively and technologically awesome. The first lecture will be at KM on Sunday, November 15, 2015 from 9 to 11 am (Los Angeles time). The topic that day will be "Theodore Herzl and Rabbi Abraham Isaac HaCohen Kook: Laying the Groundwork for Israel's Secular/Religious Divide or for Dialogue?" We will start with a light (bagels and coffee or similar) breakfast at 9:00, with the program starting promptly at 9:30, followed by the opportunity for live discussion with our lecturer, and then by some discussion "just among ourselves." Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity. Members \$36 ; Non-members \$50.

NOT THE SAME OLD



CANTOR SAMUEL COHEN

WOW!! Now we can take a long deep breath as we emerge from an amazing month of incredible holidays. I already wrote about the High holidays in my last article, but I must say that Sukkot was just as special. Singing Hallel at every service, shaking the Lulav/Etrog, sharing the Sukkah with family and friends; what a joy!

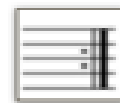
On Shmini Atzetret we sang a special prayer for rain. This melody is only sung twice a year. Once on Shmini Atzeret, when we ask for rain, and once on the second day of Pesach, as the summer is approaching and we pray for dew. (Incidentally, it was interesting that this year on the night of Shmini Atzeret, it actually rained.) I really love this melody as it is the combination of joy and prayer in a very special mode and I fondly remember my grandfather and father leading this service with the very same melody.

The Holidays concluded with the wonderful Simchat Torah celebration. We danced with the Torah and we sang and read from the last chapter. The following morning, we started to read the Torah from the beginning all over again.

In my September article I asked, "Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur again?" Every year comes around and it's the same prayers and songs, but how is this coming year going to be different? I have the same question about Simchat Torah. We complete the reading of the Torah every year and then immediately start over. How is this year's cycle of Torah reading going to be different and inspiring? In what way is it going to enhance our lives this coming year?

As you may know by now, I like to try to connect/explain my point to/with a musical note. So here it goes... I'm sure there are many of you who know how to read sheet music. But even if you don't know how to read music, you will find letters (dynamic

indicators) like P, PP - MF, F all over, or you will see a repeat bar that looks like this.



The repeat bar means that there are a given number of bars of music that one will repeat when singing. A key rule when singing a repeat phrase of music is using the dynamics, ie, P, PP - MF, F. This means that one needs to change/vary the phrase the second time around. This would be accomplished by singing it softer or louder than the first time. Dynamics are what makes the song sound musical from beginning to end even though one may repeat a section several times.

So too in the coming new year's cycle of weekly Torah reading, even though it is a repeat, we need to use the dynamics that will change and vary for each repetition. In music, each dynamic letter stands for a different word:

P stands for Piano

M stands for Mezzo

F Stands for Forte.

Perhaps when it comes to the reading and study of the Torah, these dynamic letters can be explained like so:

P - Personalize

M - Modernize

F - Focus

By using these dynamics (variations), one creates their own variation of the melody, leading to a personalized song. So too with the Torah when we read it again each year, week after week, by adding the dynamics (variations) we are able to enhance our lives both physically and spiritually. It will help us create an amazing melody based on Jewish tradition full of life, love and song.

NEXT GEN

CINDY ROTH, Events Coordinator

On the heels of our most recent event, The Next Gen Sukkah Soirée, we are so thrilled with the participation of our Religious School families. The term "Next Gen" is vague because it truly represents a wide demographic including parents of PJ Library, KM Kids, and Our Religious School parents. Whether you realize it or not, you are our *Next Generation*. We are excited that 20 people joined us in the Sukkah of Rabbi Gotlieb, and his forever amazing wife, Jill. We are grateful for their generosity in hosting us after a crazy, busy week of Jewish holidays. If you missed it, join us for our next exciting event, "School Night Out", a Mystery Bus Ride on Saturday, November 7th, 6:30 - 10:00. For \$36 per couple we will whisk you away on a surprise adventure with other Next Gen and Religious School parents. Save your seat by calling the office! In case you have to miss it, there will be a Latke Vodka in your future this December. Email Cindy Roth at events@km-synagogue.org for more information and to join the planning committee.



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATE



SHARONE WEIZMAN, Director of Education

Shalom Chaverim,

We are very excited about our schools quick growth and are looking forward to inviting even more students, families and members to our ever-growing KM family. Part of our success is due to our phenomenal and committed team of teachers and assistants. Please join me in officially welcoming some of our newest additions to our KM family: Jeremy Szczepanski, one of our 6th/7th Grade Judaica and Hebrew teachers, is a Ziegler 5th year student and brings his creative talent and energy to our team; Livya Howard-Yashar, is one of our Hebrew specialists, Kadima advisors and musicians, who brings multiple dimensions and energy to our team; Francess Tiger, is a celebrated and renowned Judaica artist in the Los Angeles community, who brings in-depth talent and Judaica exposure through the arts; and we are pleased to welcome back Dov Rosenblatt as our Music and T'fillah specialist, who brings with him not only his talents but his love and connection to our kids. Our talented faculty makes Jewish learning in each of our classrooms meaningful, fun and engaging. Additionally, I would like to thank our Religious School assistant, Chantal Hakakeyan and our teacher assistants for their hard work and dedication which supports our schools overall success. If you have not yet had a chance to see our Religious School in action, we invite you to be our guests to experience our energetic and growing school.

Our newly invigorated Education Committee headed up by

Wendy Woodhall, Allison Goldberger and Richard Krop has been drawing in close to 20 participants each month. The groups' new-found positive energy and support is very much appreciated and celebrated.

On September 20th we launched our first Ohr L'Olam and Mitzvah Program with 50 participants! We rolled up our sleeves, got busy gleaning and picking grapefruit in honor of Sukkot. Teaming up with Food Forward, our group of gleaners collected over 6,120 lbs of grapefruit which was delivered to SOVA and other organizations who feed the hungry. Our journey for learning about Sukkot continued one week later with our Family Sukkot program at KM which brought together over 60 students and parents, learning about Sukkot with lively discussions, experiential and interactive learning stations, followed by a pot luck lunch in our Sukkah. Please join me in thanking our parents for all their involvement and support in helping to make these two programs a tremendous success and for celebrating and learning about Sukkot with us and for bringing their delicious family treasures to our Sukkah party.

Our next Ohr L'Olam event is right around the corner and I am looking forward to reporting about it next month. As a teaser, will be meeting at Adat Shalom and learning about 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 at Adat Shalom and in the Greater Los Angeles community.



Pot Luck Lunch in the Sukkah!



KM Religious School in action!



KADIMA

SHARONE WEIZMAN, Director of Youth Programming

Kadima! *Kadima* means - Forward, Let's Go! That's exactly what we did for our Kick-off event. We moved forward to Mulligan's Family Fun Center in Torrance. We left KM with 8 carpools filled with 9 parents, 28 Kadima participants and 5 Kadima staff and advisors including Yafit, Livya, Jadine, Chantal and myself. We enjoyed Go-Karts, Laser Tag, Bumper Cars, Rock Climbing, Paddle Boats, Mini Golf, Batting Cages, Arcade Games and more. We reserved two tables for a pizza lunch and plenty of parent schmoozing and fun! We're looking Forward to celebrating many more Kadima events this year with our students and families.



A JOYFUL TIME OF YEAR



MASHA SAVITZ, Head of Early Childhood & Arts Programs

Tishrei at KM was full of joyful experiences for our early childhood *chevre*. Infants, toddlers, preschoolers, kindergarten and first graders were offered many opportunities for gathering with friends for holiday celebrations and activities.

K1 painted a beautiful Jonah and the Whale mural in marine colors hanging in our class room to get us ready for the *yamim noraim*.



During High Holidays at the Olympic Collection, childcare was available during all service times under the gentle and watchful eye of our babysitter, Shir Aviram with lot of toys and puzzles on hand to keep all our attendees happy and safe.

Myrna Sokoloff led structured programming with snackivities, art projects, prayers and storytelling. Everyone learned the three calls of the shofar as we mastered shofar blowing on the colorful plastic shofars that the children received and got to take home. PJ Library decorated the sukkah with racing flags that we hung up while everyone enjoyed Shabbat dinner together in our sukkah.

For our community-wide celebration of Simchat Torah, our children decorated a gigantic Torah, with its silver cardboard breast plate and matching 2-foot silver painted *yad*. Upon completion, the congregation and children danced around our creation during the last *hakafot*.



It was a wonderful Tishrei season!

FROM THE RITUAL COMMITTEE

DENNIS GURA, On behalf of the Ritual Committee

Many think that the original Thanksgiving might have been self-consciously modeled on our holiday of Sukkot. While pilgrim settlers of Massachusetts would certainly have framed their own experience with a biblical lens, the story is probably apocryphal. However, General Washington, during the American Revolution, and President Lincoln, during what might be considered a second American Revolution, both invoked the wanderings of the wilderness, and proclaimed a national day of Thanksgiving. Thus, in that light, it might be helpful to review our own daily thanksgiving prayers, as embedded by the rabbinic dictum in the *Amida*:

"We thank you, for you are our God and the God of our ancestors, forever. Rock of our lives, Shield of our salvation, you are the One, from generation to generation. We thank you and tell of your praises, regarding our lives, which are in your hands; regarding our souls, which are entrusted to you; regarding your miracles which are with us every day; and regarding your wonders and favors, which are with us every moment, evening, morning, and noon. You are good, for your compassion is never-ending. You are compassionate, for your kindnesses never cease. Our hope has always been in you.

For all these things, we bless and exalt your name, our Sovereign, constantly and forever. All living things will acknowledge and thank you, and they will praise your name in truth, God, who saves and helps us. Selah. Blessed are you, Adonai. Your essence is goodness, and it is a pleasure to give thanks to You." (Translation by R. Debra Orenstein at http://www.rabbidebra.com/modim_anachnu_lach.html) Notice the three part formula in the first paragraph: we give thanks for our lives, our souls, and God's miracles that surround us evening, morning, and night. So how much more the pleasure than to thank the One when we sit down on Thanksgiving night. Each morsel, and each laugh, its own miracle. May our own lives reflect the compassion and kindness for which we here thank God.

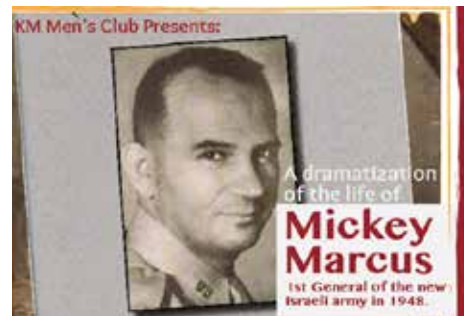


And, while we are at it, thanks to: Dennis Gura, Matt Maibaum, Sandy Rosenblatt, Michel Bron, Lou Zucker, (Not Pictured): Barbara Goldstone, Rita Schreiber, and Deborah Berenbach for building and decorating our community's sukkah.

MEN'S CLUB EVENTS

STEPHEN SHAPIRO, Men's Club President

RECENT EVENT: On Sunday evening, October 11, 2015 at 7 pm, KM was treated to a Jazz Concert by the Leon Wesley Sextet of Altadena, Ca. The instrumentation included a flugelhorn, trumpet, baritone horn and a rhythm section of piano/guitar, bass and drums creating unique jazz music.



UPCOMING EVENT:

On Monday evening, November 16, 2015 at 7 pm, performer Arnold Weiss will stage a dramatization of the life of Mickey Marcus. After a distinguished career in military & public service in the US, at the request of David Ben-Gurion, Marcus became the first General of the new Israeli army in 1948. What follows will be the story of this great American who came out of retirement and volunteered himself to build the incredibly successful Israeli military. Please mark your calendars. Refreshments will be served. Suggested Donation: \$5.

MEMBERSHIP

Susie Yuré, VP Membership

ENHANCE YOUR KM EXPERIENCE

What comes in all shapes and sizes of families, couples or individuals, promotes friendships and makes Judaism come alive? For those of you who already belong to one, you know that it is a *Havurah* (derives from "haver" meaning friend). It is a smaller group of members who gather socially to celebrate Jewish holidays, study, attend events and support each other. There is no limit to the variety or frequency of activities as each Havurah plans its own. Here are several congregant testimonials as to the benefits of their participation.

"We did not know many people at the time of joining. It has given us a sense of belonging. It has given us many new friends."

"We've enjoyed developing friendships, know more familiar faces in synagogue and feel more attached to KM and the Jewish community. We share life cycle events and Jewish learning. We have different biases and backgrounds and we learn from the different view-points and have great discussions. We care for each other and it has enriched our lives."

"The Havurah structure makes a small congregation like KM seem even smaller (in a good, approachable way) yet more diverse. You can share social, cultural, and Jewish occasions in a casual environment."

"We are a very compatible group of members. We meet monthly and have had a number of very interesting and enjoyable programs and we have celebrated holiday events together. It has been a great and rewarding experience."

"I love the people and we really care about each other."

"Our Havurah has become close as if family. We share the holidays together and a monthly event, such as plays, movies and exhibitions at museums."

"Belonging to a Havurah is one of the most rewarding aspects of KM membership. Without family members in Los Angeles, it is especially fulfilling for me to celebrate some Jewish holidays together and attend occasional Jewish-themed events together. It has also enabled me to get to know KM members who I have seen at services over the years, but never had the chance to know as well as I would have liked."

"Our Havurah has met our expectations in looking for friendship, someone to be with when we come to services, and an extended family within our community. Our Havurah has been a wonderful addition to our lives."

"We met and have gotten to know some people who we probably would not ever have connected with otherwise and we do feel a sense of community with the group, which we enjoy."

"Joining a Havurah has been a heartwarming fast track to the very center of KM providing high quality camaraderie and connection. We highly recommend if you haven't yet joined one, that you do."

Whether you are a new or long-time member, we hope this year you will consider joining a Havurah. Contact Brana Hall at branatennis@aol.com or 310-472-9656 to learn more about this program exclusive to KM members.



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*Kehillat Ma'arav's
32nd Year!*

**THANKSGIVING
INTERFAITH
BREAKFAST & SERVICE**
with Brentwood Presbyterian Church

Thanksgiving Interfaith Breakfast

Join the KM community for a joint Thanksgiving breakfast and service with Brentwood Presbyterian Church.

Thursday, November 26 8:30am
Located this year at KM.

Family friendly event; All ages are welcome. Light breakfast followed by lovely service. This special interfaith service with Kehillat Ma'arav and Brentwood Presbyterian includes songs, prayers & reflections and is led by clergy from both congregations. Come join us!

Suggested Donation: \$4 and a can of food



THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of our donors to our Annual Campaign! Your generous support enables us to achieve our dreams.

The Talmud states: *Ayn Kemach, Ayn Torah*. Which means, if no sustenance -- financial or otherwise--no Torah. That quote ought to be amended to read: if no one takes the initiative to support the synagogue, then there is no community.

By your generosity, you have not only helped us sustain our synagogue community, you have allowed us the ability to plan and explore future educational and spiritual programs. For all that you do in order to make our synagogue shine, and by extension, make God's presence more keenly felt in this world, we thank you.

For those of you yet to join us, now is the time to make your Annual Campaign contribution!

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on her birthday, by Joel and Helayne Levy, Susan and Richard Ross
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wishing you a happy New Year, by Tammy Steinsapir
- **HELAYNE AND JOE LEVY**
on the birth of their grandson, Ari Levy, by Susan Karpel, Judy and Steve Shapiro, Tammy Steinsapir

In memory of

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brother of Michael Bono, by Michael Bono and Valerie Zim
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father of Lori Papernik, by Lori Papernik

• BENJAMIN WOLFSORF,

father of Lily Muller, by Lily Muller

• EVA ZWANG,

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

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In memory of

- **ENID KARPEL-NAGLER,**
sister of Susan Karpel, by Susan Karpel

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

A donation by

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In memory of

- **ESTELLE KARPEL**
mother of Susan Karpel, by Susan Karpel

Thank you to

Rabbi Gotlieb for your love and support during this difficult time, by Lee and Cande Friedman

Rabbi Gotlieb for your meaningful New Year sermons, by Susan and Richard Ross

CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND

In memory of

- **BERNARD KARPEL,**
father of Susan Karpel, by Susan Karpel

Thank you to

Cantor Cohen for providing us with the joy of your passionate and spirited self, by Susan and Richard Ross