

It's Often the Smallest Gestures

BY RABBI MICHAEL GOTLIEB

To help stem the downward spiral away from Jewish religious life and affiliation (a phenomenon that has been occurring long before the Covid-19 pandemic), we must reevaluate Jewish life from a host of different angles.

One suggestion/action-point I advocated during my Yom Kippur address this year, is the need to create warm, joy-filled and inspiring Jewish memories for our children (grown children included), grandchildren, nieces & nephews, and our friend's children (acknowledging not all of us have children).

One impressionable childhood memory I recall occurred during Hanukkah. We initially lived in Oak Park, Michigan later moving to Southfield (both suburbs of Detroit), and then on to San Diego.

I was roughly 8 years old. Never will I forget the image of our Hanukkah menorah placed on a windowsill up against a December, wintry cold window. The warmth emitted from the candles glowing indoors caused the window to completely fog up; it literally became opaque. Funny, I don't remember any of the toys I might have received that year, but I distinctly remember the brightly lit menorah next to the freezing cold window.

Two concrete suggestions to consider:

- 1) Find fellow adults with whom you share a similar approach to Judaism and Jewish practice. Have regularly held Shabbat and holiday meals in a setting that's welcoming and uplifting; one filled with passionate discussion and celebration. Children of every age know Judaism's important when they see committed adults taking it seriously.
- 2) Fill your house with quality Jewish books (notwithstanding the general shift away from hardbound books) and art. When the next generation of children/young-adults see beautiful Judaica (Israeli art in particular is exquisite), along with Jewish books filled with cogent ideas and explanations alongside secular art and books, that too makes a statement of the importance Judaism plays in the home.

As committed Jews, we can help create favorable Jewish memories that will remain with the next generation throughout their lives. That noble task is personal and based on individualized interactions. Heaven knows, it's often the smallest gestures that can have the most transformative and lasting impact. May it be so....

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!

YOM HULEDET SAMEACH

Gary Andrew
Svetlana Averbukh
Ron Barnett
Rabbi Haim Dov Beliak
Beverly Bienstock
Mitchell Blake
Michel Bron
Celeste Erdley

Cande Friedman
Karla Gardner
Elliot Goldberg
Bryce Gross
Ann Harris
Ann Hayman
Paul Hoffman
Andrew Hurwitz

Area Kramarsky
Evan Krantz
Jonathan Moses
Sonia Sabban
Laurie Samson
Shaina Shapiro
Patricia Solomon
Sharon Steiglitz

Jaden Steiglitz
Joanne Trempala
Lloyd Wagner
Roselynn Wolfberg
Randy Ziegler
Lou Zucker
Julia Weinberg Zwitman

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Welcome to the KM Family!

THE STEINHARDTS



Even though Simon, Bram and Solly have never set foot inside KM, it still feels like coming home. That's because Rachel attended religious school and was Bat Mitzvah'd there in the 90s (you may remember her parents, Marty and Norma Rosmarin). If you see her, please let her know what's new since she went off to college back in 2000.

Fast forward 20 years--Rachel and family just moved from the Hancock Park area to Santa Monica. Simon--originally from Chevy Chase, Maryland -- works in advertising and Rachel works in market research. Their two boys, Bram (6, in 1st grade) and Solly (4, in preschool) can't get enough of the beach, and are eager to invite new friends over to hang out in their treehouse.

THE SALIMANS



Hello - we are Lisa and Scott Saliman and we joined KM this new year. We moved to Pacific Palisades in 2018 from Encino and are enjoying the cooler weather and being close to the beach. Scott works for Rand in Santa Monica, which was the impetus for our move, and Lisa continues to work for a CPA firm in Woodland Hills, so a lovely commute through Topanga Canyon every day.

We have three young adult children -- Shayna, who is in New York and just started a masters program in International Affairs at Columbia; Mara, who is living here with us and working for The Jewish Federation while taking prerequisites to enter a masters program in Speech Pathology; and Aaron who is in his senior year at UC Berkeley studying Environmental Economic Policy and Sustainability.

KM seems to have much to offer in terms of community and we are looking forward to attending events, joining a havurah and meeting new people.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



CELEBRATING A MILESTONE!

Mazel Tov to Brian and Eileen Cohen on 25 years of marriage!

Robert & Tamara Bernstein
24th anniversary

Brian & Eileen Cohen
25th anniversary

Jonathan & Fran Cohen
36th anniversary

Barry Smith & Lauren Levine
20th anniversary

Mark Hirschberg & Brenda Ligorsky
22nd anniversary

Andrew & Tally Lippman
21st anniversary

Rabbi Michael & Roz Menitoff
41st anniversary

Brian & Lori Papernik
28th anniversary

Michael & Darcy Savoy
31st anniversary

Avraham & Anat Shemesh
20th anniversary

MY KM: WHY WE BELONG

MICHEL AND JACOLYN BRON

Sometimes you're just in the right place in the right time. That's what happened when Michel and Jacolyn moved to Santa Monica two months before they got married. They were looking for a Rabbi to marry them and came across Kehillat Ma'arav. "It was the perfect storm in terms of the location and the synagogue being Conservative—it was a good fit for us," Jacolyn shares. After they married, they took advantage of the free one-year synagogue membership. They've since been members for another eight and continue to find things they love about their Jewish home. "Everyone is very welcoming," Jacolyn says. "We have enjoyed the events, high holidays and inclusivity of it all. And, of course, it's so close by as well!"

"Everyone is very welcoming..."

This couple also found that they could quickly and easily get involved. Jacolyn has served for several years on the Membership Committee and is currently Membership VP. She also tapped into her marketing background to help with the recent website refresh. "At other, larger synagogues, it might take a while to get to know people and what the synagogue is all about," she says, "but for us, we welcome new members with open arms and say, 'Let's go!'"



JOIN KM IN SOCIAL ACTION!



Supporting Afghan Refugees

In Partnership with Jewish Family Services of San Diego

Carole Yellen, Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships for the Jewish Family Services of San Diego, shared this information on their work to resettle Afghan refugees. They are associated with HIAS in their campaign.

Jewish Family Services San Diego is actively assisting Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) recipients from Afghanistan. For over 100 years, JFS has been one of the primary refugee resettlement agencies in San Diego. We have already resettled 74 individuals (17 families) with SIVs from Afghanistan since August 6. Our staff and volunteers will remain at-the-ready to accept more families in the coming days, weeks, and months. As the situation is changing almost daily, we are updating www.jfssd.org/afghanrefugees to provide our community with the latest information and opportunities. That is a great link to share!

How can KM help?

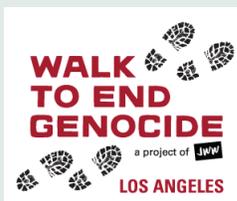
Financial Donations: Right now, the most impactful way to show support is to make a monetary gift which will help to fund the tremendous number of additional resources that are needed to welcome refugees with compassion and dignity.

Please visit the JFS website to donate directly to Jewish Family Services San Diego to assist in the resettlement of Afghan refugees. A contribution of any amount would be put to good use.

Thank you in advance for any assistance you provide.

OTHER UPCOMING PROJECTS THIS FALL:

Jewish World Watch:
Walk to End Genocide



Interfaith Thanksgiving
Food Drive



Chanukah Angels
Gift Drive



IDEAS? Please let us know. If you have an organization or social action project you would like to bring to Kehillat Ma'arav and the broader community, contact Deb Berenbach, Social Action Chair, at laknitter@verizon.net.

LET'S EAT!

Pumpkin Challah

Recipe modified and provided by Judy Blake

A cinnamon spicy pumpkin flavored challah for fall!

You can make one bigger challah, or 2-3 smaller challot.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 package active dry yeast (about 2 1/4 tsp)
- 1/2 cup warm water about 110 degrees F
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar plus 1 teaspoon
- 1 cup pumpkin puree (15 oz. can)
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
(OR 1/2 tsp nutmeg, 1/4 tsp allspice, 1/8 tsp ginger, Pinch cloves)
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 2 eggs: 1 egg yolk for the dough whisked and 1 egg yolk for the glaze
- 4 3/4 to 5 cups of bread flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- Pumpkin seeds poppy seeds, sesame seeds, etc for garnish
(Optional additions for the dough: Raisins; Mini parve chocolate chips)

INSTRUCTIONS

Let's start with the yeast! Place it in a large mixing bowl for a stand mixer and whisk with warm water and 1 teaspoon sugar (that helps activate the yeast). Let yeast stand until it foams and puffs up, about 10 minutes. If it doesn't get foamy, your yeast is bad or the water wasn't the right temperature, so try again!

Add veggie oil, 1 beaten egg, salt, pumpkin, spices and 4 cups of bread flour and mix it in my kitchen aid with a bread hook...mixing on #2 (low) for approx. 10min. and slowly adding more flour-stopping and feeling the dough that it isn't super sticky.

Then, using the whisk attachment for the stand mixer, mix in the remaining sugar, pumpkin, oil, vanilla, 1 egg and 1 egg yolk into the yeast mixture. Then add spices and combine and gradually add 3 cups flour and salt and either with a hook attachment using an electric mixer on medium speed or a spoon and your hands until combined. Knead for about 5-10 minutes, adding flour as necessary. Dough should be sticky, and finish kneading by hand on a counter until dough is smooth. Dough will get less sticky as you knead. Dough should be soft, smooth and slightly tacky.

Place the dough in a bowl greased with oil and cover. Let dough ferment in a warm place until it has at least doubled in size, about 2-3 hours. I let the dough rise on my counter with a tea cloth over it.

Now, time to braid! Place the dough on a lightly floured surface and punch down. Divide the dough in half or thirds depending on how many loaves you prefer to make.

(*I divided mine into 3 sections with different flavor options:)

1- plain pumpkin challah

1- added raisins to the dough for a raisin pumpkin challah

1-added mini-parve chocolate chips to the dough

Divide each section into three equal pieces, and stretch out into three strands. Secure the three strands at one end and braid until you reach the other end, then tuck the other pieces underneath the challah to secure. Repeat with other half.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Carefully place the loaves on two parchment lined baking sheets, cover lightly with plastic wrap, ferment another 45 minutes or so until it's light and fluffy looking (exact proofing timing for challah will depend on environmental conditions.)

(I only do a second proof for as long as it takes to heat my oven after I finish braiding and brushing a beaten egg on it to make the challah shine and also hold on the seeds if you choose to put them on.)

Combine the last egg yolk with 1/2 tablespoon of water and brush generously over challah. Repeat to have two coats and sprinkle with seeds. Bake for 30-35 minutes, or until golden brown and with an internal temperature of 190 degrees F, rotating pans halfway through. (Flip around and switch rack position.) If the challot start to brown too fast, cover with foil until done.

**Note from Judy. This challah was very moist and good. My family thought it should have a more pumpkin taste. They thought the raisins helped bring out the taste more. In the future, I would consider adding a little more spice and a few more raisins. Experiment and have fun!*

DONATIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS

HIGH HOLIDAY FUND

A donation for High Holiday Bima Flowers: Judy and Manny Baker, Beverly and Bernie Bienstock, Marian and Charley Goldsmith, Marsha Lewin Latiner and Forrest Latiner, Minda and Jeffrey Salberg

Karla and Richard Chernick

Daniella Geller

Sanford Kaplan

In honor of

Andrea and Noah Jussim, by Loana and Sandy Rosenblatt

In memory of

Siles Bazerman, father of Danny Bazerman, by Danny Bazerman

B'NAI MITZVAH FUND

In memory of

David Oberman, husband of Susan Oberman, by Kate Flanagan and Chris Falone

GENERAL FUND

Mazel Tov to

Susie and Marc Yuré on the birth of their granddaughter, by Halina and Alan Alter, Judy and Manny Baker, Lolly Bennett, Beverly and Bernie Bienstock, Judy and Mitch Blake, Marian and Charley Goldsmith, Karen Gottlieb, Sharon and Joel Krischer, the Rosenblatt family, Laurie and Gary Samson, Suzanne Schweitzer, Susan and Alan Sperling, Stan Ziegler

A speedy recovery to

Elliot Goldberg, by Marla Rubin and David Shapendonk

Deborah Kennel, by Beverly and Bernie Bienstock, Marla Rubin and David Shapendonk

Mimi Klein, by Sharon and Joel Krischer, Judy and Lou Zucker

Michael Morrisette, by Stan Ziegler

Kathie Rose, by Lolly Bennett, Mimi Klein, Sharon and Joel Krischer

In memory of

Siles Bazerman, father of Danny Bazerman, by Danny Bazerman

Yetta Baker, mother of Manny Baker, by Manny and Judy Baker

Boris Feldman, father of David Feldman, by David and Alla Feldman

Selma Gordon, cousin of Lori Papernik, by Lori and Brian Papernik

Estelle Gray, mother of Beverly Bienstock, by Beverly and Bernie Bienstock

Charlotte Hoffman, mother of Gail Rosenfeld, by Gail Rosenfeld

Esther Jablon, aunt of Shelly Vedres, by Shelly and Thomas Vedres

Harry Lepold, uncle of Bernie Bienstock, by Bernie and Beverly Bienstock

Morris Meadows, father of Brana Hall, by Brana Hall

Alvin Mills, stepfather of Judy Baker, by Judy and Manny Baker

David Oberman, husband of Susan Oberman, by Halina and Alan Alter, Judy and Manny Baker, Marian and Charley Goldsmith, Karen Gottlieb, Sue and Paul Hoffman, Gloria and Ellis Kirschenbaum, Sharon and Joel Krischer, Lori and Brian Papernik, Susan and Alan Sperling, Stan Ziegler, Judy and Lou Zucker

Ilona Hamburger Racz, mother of Thomas Vedres, by Thomas and Shelly Vedres

Irv Rosenfeld, husband of Gail Rosenfeld, by Gail Rosenfeld

Hosea Soltz, father-in-law of Michael Wyte, by Michael Wyte

Rachel Somekh, mother of Carmella Pardo, by Carmella Pardo

Alan Ace Tamaroff, brother of Tammy Steinsapir, by Tammy Steinsapir

Jack Topal, husband of Linda Topal, by Linda Topal

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

KIDDUSH FUND

In memory of

Benjamin Diamant, brother of Louis Diamant, by Louis and Sandy Diamant

LIBRARY FUND

In honor of

The Holiday Children's Activities led by Masha Savitz Keys, by Susan and Alan Sperling

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

A donation

Wishing Cantor Samuel Cohen a happy and healthy birthday, by Marla Rubin and David Shapendonk

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

A donation by

Ruth Rennenberg

In memory of

Marshall Neiman, Meta Zoe Katz, Larry Cohen, Leonore Gedanken Cohen, Bernard Neiman, Elsa Gottesman, Benjamin Pomerantz, Rosella Gedanken Pomerantz, by Gail Neiman

Tatiana and Peter Waintrub, by Vadim and Elizabeth Haimsky

Yahrzeits



10/2/2021 to 10/8/2021

Rabbi Morris Baker, father of Manny Baker

Shirley Heller, remembered by the KM congregation

Goldie Kafka, mother of Sidne Erdosi

Mildred Eve Sharon, mother of Barbara Goldstone

Alex Landsberry, husband of Frances Landsberry

Rose Lippman, grandmother of Tamara Bernstein, Andrew Lippman and William Lippman

Benjamin Wolfsdorf, father of Lily Muller and grandfather of Paul Muller

Rachel Somekh, mother of Carmella Pardo

Irv Rosenfeld, husband of Gail Rosenfeld

Leonard Solomon, husband of Patricia Solomon

Faye Flate, mother of Norma Stein

Alan Ace Tamaroff, brother of Tammy Steinsapir

Esther Jablon, aunt of Shelly Vedres

Eva Zwang, mother of Linda Zwang-Weissman

10/9/2021 to 10/15/2021

Richard Blake, father of Mitch Blake

Jacques Elmaleh, father of Philippe Elmaleh

Selma Gordon, cousin of Lori Papernik

Estelle Gray, mother of Beverly Bienstock

George Madaras, grandfather of Area Kramarsky

Aron David Meltzner, father of Sid Meltzner

Mayim Reissman, sister of Alan Bernstein

Andrew Richter, cousin of Eileen Cohen

Siegfried Samuel, father of Cande Friedman

Everett Thiele, stepfather of Area Kramarsky

Jack Topal, husband of Linda Topal

Daniel Zwitman, husband of Julia Weinberg Zwitman

10/16/2021 to 10/22/2021

Sarah Coffman, cousin of Cindy Roth

Janet Goldberg, mother of George Goldberg

Edythe Kagan, mother of Marsha Furst

Toni Kirschenbaum, mother of Ellis Kirschenbaum

Herbert Koslow, remembered by Judy Spector

Janina Peters, mother of Joseph Peters

Rabbi Herman Savitz, father of Masha Savitz Keys

Hosea Soltz, father-in-law of Michael Wyte

Philip Ellis Sopher, uncle of Michael Sopher

Esther Weinberger, sister of Lillian Frisch

Carol Weiner, mother of Leah Mendelsohn

10/23/2021 to 10/29/2021

Anna Baumring, grandmother of Holly Strom

Lynda DeHovitz, mother of Kyle, Jacob, and Zachary DeHovitz

Benjamin Diamant, brother of Louis Diamant

Musya Gelman, mother of Boris Gelman

Isadore Goodman, father of Celeste Erdley and grandfather of Alyssa Ganezer

Jan Green, father of Jamie Green

Morris Meadows, father of Brana Hall

Ofelia O'Reilly, mother of Loana Rosenblatt

Gladys Rosenberg, sister of Shirley Strom and aunt of Elaine Behnken and Joel Strom

Zvi Rothenberg, grandfather of Baruch) Baruch Rothenberg

Celia Schwartz, grandmother of Eileen Cohen

Avraham Stern, father of Yehudit Coutin

Jeanette Wagner, mother of Lloyd Wagner

Nathan Wagner, father of Lloyd Wagner

Sandy Ziegler, wife of Stan Ziegler and mother of Randy Ziegler

IN MEMORY OF RABBI MORRIS BAKER WRITTEN BY MANNY BAKER

My father, Rabbi Morris Baker, could be termed the Swiss Army Knife of Jewish religious life. He was authorized to perform any role a Jewish religious leader could perform. My earliest coherent memories of him was when he was the rabbi of Congregation Chevre Sholem in Jeannette, PA. I was three when we moved there, and even memories of my first year in Jeannette are hazy. During his tenure there, a shul was built, a Hebrew School and a Sunday School were established, and a lot of great programs were instituted to celebrate the holidays. We had some great Purim plays. The one that stands out in memory most clearly is the one set to the music of The Mikado. Haman replaced the Lord High Executioner, and was played by my brother Hy – a fitting role for him since he was the family troublemaker. And Simchat Torah (which just ended) was the cause for a glorious party. Everyone got called to the Torah, including us kids, and none of us could wait for our turn. For a town which has a population of

16,220 people according to the 1940 census, we had a large number of Jewish families, and a lot of Jewish kids. The crowning point of the evening was the party afterward. We



brought in kosher deli from Pittsburgh, and we had a feast on salami, corned beef, and pastrami sandwiches.

It's on the High Holidays that I have my strongest images of my father. Chevre Sholem could not afford a rabbi and a chazan. So, my father (whom we called

Pop rather than Dad), was not only the rabbi, but the *chazan* and *ba'al kriyah* as well. I can still picture him walking down the aisle toward the bimah chanting the *Hineni*. Pop was an old-time *chazan*, and you would always hear that kvetch in his voice (for want of a better description). As he pleaded on behalf of the congregation in the *Hineni*, it would sound like he was crying, and I often wondered if he might actually be. The same was true of the *Untaneh Tokeph* and the Neilah service. To this day, I have a strong sense of the solemnity and seriousness of these prayers. At Neilah, I can picture the gates slowly swinging shut with the message of grab this opportunity to pray for a good year to come.

My father gave me a good grounding on what it means to be a Jew, and I am grateful for that.

Photo: Rabbi Morris Baker and his wife, Yetta Baker, on their 50th wedding anniversary.

We love seeing you in person!



Ask the Staff!

It's here! We've designed our new synagogue "kveller" to focus solely on you, our community. We're looking forward to sharing each other's stories in the best way we know how.

While most of the content will be curated by our on-staff team, we need your help! One of our key features will be "Ask Us Anything"—think of it like David Letterman's Mail Bag!—where congregants will be able to ask a question about anything they'd like, and in each issue, a member of clergy or staff will expound on that specific inquiry. So go ahead—ask us anything! Questions can be sent using the online form in the weekly, or by emailing it to communications@km-synagogue.org.

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