

FEBRUARY 2022

KEHILLAT MA'ARAV'S
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

My

KM
VOICE

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE...

MY KM:
TERI LEWIS

MAZEL TOV:
"IT'S A GIRL!"

IN MEMORY OF
SYLVAIN BERNSTEIN
MORRIS GARDNER

**THANKS
FOR YOUR
DONATIONS!**

Cover photo: Paul and Sue Hoffman at Mitzvah Day

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY, LITTLE ONE!



Sasha Rachel Selvin

Sasha was born on Tuesday, January 25, and is the granddaughter of Marsha and Laurie (Phillip) Furst. The baby girl is the daughter of their daughter, Samantha, and her husband, Michael Selvin.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

YOM HULEDET SAMEACH!

Emanuel Baker
Lolly Bennett
Rachel Berg
Carol Bowman
Fran Cohen
Judy Eber
Brianna Ebrahemi
Talya Ebrahemi

Lee Friedman
Michael Frisch
Faina Gelman
Joel Glaser
Marian Goldsmith
Rabbi Michael Gotlieb
Wayne Grody
Brana Hall

Isabella Hezghiayan
Kim Israel
Orit Lippman
Rhonda Rubin
Charles Allen Seltzer
Abby Shapiro
Izzy Shapiro
Joel Strom

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

MAZEL TOV!

**Elliot Goldberg &
Fernanda Gray**

25th anniversary

**Andrew Hurwitz &
Ariella Er-Kohen**

15th anniversary

**Noah & Andrea
Jussim**

23rd anniversary

**Charles Louy &
Jeanne Weiss**

35th anniversary

MY KM: WHY I BELONG

TERI LEWIS



"...people want to include you."

Twenty-seven years ago, Teri Lewis was living and working in New York and attending a modern Orthodox synagogue when she felt moved to convert to Judaism. "I did a full Orthodox conversion because I didn't want to hear later on that I wasn't really Jewish," she shares.

Several years ago, a life change brought her back to Southern California. Teri's mom had passed away and her father's health was failing. Teri moved in with him for the last two years of his life and hadn't yet found a local synagogue when a friend invited her to Kehillat Ma'arav. "I went to a few services and really liked it," she says.

What Teri liked was how friendly the synagogue felt. The people, including the Rabbi and Cantor, are warm, friendly, inclusive and easy going. "I've gotten the feeling that people want to include you," she says. "You have to be willing to be included, but people extend a hand and reach out. They say, 'We're doing this...are you interested?'"

ASK THE KM STAFF!

Q: "Hey, Kate—How did you end up working in the Jewish community?"



Kate Flanagan, Executive Director

As you can guess, I get this question a lot—Flanagan isn't exactly a Jewish name, after all. The short answer is: dumb luck. I was in my early twenties and a friend, who had been the administrative manager of a Religious School in my hometown (suburban Boston), was leaving her post to move out of state. Her boss, the Education Director, looked to fill the position first on a referral basis, and so my dear friend threw my hat into the ring. I remember thinking to myself, "I know four Jewish holidays and a handful of Yiddish slang—I will never get this job." Two days later, I was giving my notice to my corporate job and getting ready to start a new position at Temple Emanuel.

This coming July will mark my 18th year in the synagogue world—spanning three states, four amazing congregations, and a rich and meaningful education in Judaism and communal service. I literally have dozens of Jewish mothers and fathers—texting, calling, emailing—all making sure I'm well fed, following up on the results of my last physical, cheering me on throughout my academic pursuits, and

gently asking me why I don't call more often. Name another Irish gal that can say that?! It's a beautiful gift that I never could have imagined, and I am grateful for it every day.

My Papa Tommy (1920–2008) was a devout Catholic and deeply involved in congregational life and charity work. He used to pray that his Katie Girl would become a nun; he jokingly wished this of all of his granddaughters. Though I very much strayed from that path (!), I remember how proud he was of me when I took that first Jewish job at Temple Emanuel. He found a true sense of satisfaction and joy in my serving a religious community and finding the same comfort, fulfillment, and sense of purpose that he, too, had found in his own congregational family. I smile thinking about it now, and how he would be tickled to see how far I've come since those early days.

So, while the short answer to this question is "dumb luck," the more thoughtful—and truthful—answer is perhaps this one: immense good fortune.

THE DAVID OBERMAN MEMORIAL LECTURE FUND



We are honored to announce:

The David Oberman Memorial Lecture Fund--an ongoing, living tribute to our beloved synagogue member, David Oberman. David died of cancer in September 2021 after having lived with dignity, distinction and goodness.

He loved to learn; he loved to share what he learned. Kehillat Ma'arav was vital to him. David served on our board, he participated regularly in KM's services and activities. He taught classes and gave D'verei Torah. His love for, and understanding of, fine Scotch was one of his many, light-hearted interests he shared with us all.

With the graciousness of David's mother, Deedy and his wife, Susan, the Obermans have provided the financial means to establish this meaningful homage. Beginning in April, and taught by David's dear friend, and gifted teacher, Neal Schnall, the David Oberman Annual Memorial Lecture Series will include five sessions, all held on Sunday mornings from 10 AM--11:30 AM on Zoom April 10, 24 & May 1, 15, & 22 (more information to follow).

Should you wish to contribute to the David Oberman Memorial Lecture Fund, please contact Kate Flanagan, Executive Director, at kateflanagan@km-synagogue.org.

Thank you, Deedy and Susan; God bless you; God bless the precious memory of David Oberman.

Sacher Torte Cheesecake

Recipe suggested by Barbara Goldstone

INGREDIENTS:

1 package chocolate cake mix (moist chocolate fudge preferred)

1/3 cup butter or margarine, softened

1 egg

2 - 8 ounce packages cream cheese, softened

2 eggs

3/4 cup sugar

1 tablespoon vanilla

2 cups sour cream

1/4 cup sugar

1 cup apricot preserves

1 can apricot halves, well drained

2 tablespoons chopped pecans (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

Pre-heat Oven to 350*.

Beat cake mix, butter and 1 egg on low speed until crumbly. Press lightly into a greased 9 x 13 inch pan.

Beat cream cheese, 2 eggs, 3/4 cup sugar and vanilla until smooth and fluffy. Spread over cake mixture and bake until set about 20-25 minutes.

Mix sour cream with 1/4 cup sugar until smooth. Spread over cheesecake while still warm, then cool.

Warm apricot preserves just until melted. Spread over sour cream. Garnish with apricot halves (and nuts if desired).

Cover and refrigerate about 8 hours.

DONATIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

A donation by

Eric and JoJo Fleiss

In honor of

Marsha and Laurie Furst on the birth of their granddaughter, Remi Margot Night, by Sue and Paul Hoffman, Laurie and Gary Samson, Stan Ziegler

Minda and Jeffrey Salberg on the birth of their granddaughter, Claire Vivian Gaster, by Karen Gottlieb

In memory of

Edward Baker, brother of Manny Baker, by Manny and Judy Baker

Hy Baker, brother of Manny Baker, by Manny and Judy Baker

William Barnard, husband of Sara Barnard, by Sara Barnard

Fern Bienstock, mother of Bernie Bienstock, by Bernie and Beverly Bienstock

Lillyan Borin, mother of Lynda Moses, by Lynda and Donald Moses

Harry Cohen, grandfather of Beverly Bienstock, by Beverly and Bernie Bienstock,

Clara Davidson, aunt of Judy Baker, by Judy and Manny Baker

Morris Davidson, uncle of Judy Baker, by Judy and Manny Baker

Bobbie Eisenstadt, sister of Harvey Kern, by Harvey Kern and Ann Hyman

Nancy Foran, sister of Paul Hoffman, by Paul and Sue Hoffman

Gladys Francis, mother-in-law of Suzanne Schweitzer, by Suzanne Schweitzer

Harold Glick, father of Susan Bronstein, by Susan and Bernie Bronstein

Jack Goldin, father of Sharon Janks, by Sharon and Leon Janks

Florence Grody, mother of Wayne Grody, by Wayne and Gaylen Grody

Morris Halfon, father of Laurie Samson, by Laurie and Gary Samson

Mimi Harris, aunt of Karen Gottlieb, by Karen Gottlieb

Beatrice Horwitz, mother of Susie Yuré , by Susie and Marc Yuré

Morris Horwitz, father of Susie Yuré, by Susie and Marc Yuré

Barnet Katz, grandfather of Beverly Bienstock, by Beverly and Bernie Bienstock

Eva Kramer, mother of Dorine Kramer, by Dorine Kramer and Nicholas Mitchell

Sylvia Laufer, mother of Bernard Laufer, by Bernard Laufer

Daniel Madden, nephew of Judy and Manny Baker, by Judy and Manny Baker

Claire Maibaum, grandmother of Matthew Maibaum, by Matthew Maibaum

Bernard Marcus, father of Judy Baker, by Judy and Manny Baker

Bertha Marcus, stepmother of Judy Baker, by Judy and Manny Baker

Gloria Matzer, mother of Simone Matzer, by Simone Matzer and Lloyd Wagner

Leonard Mitchell, father of Nicholas Mitchell, by Nicholas Mitchell and Dorine Kramer

Abe Moses, father of Donald Moses, by Donald and Lynda Moses

Harvey Night, father of Allan Night, by Allan Night

Max Norman, father of Michael Norman, by Michael Norman and Susan Greenberg Norman

David Oberman, husband of Susan Oberman, by Andrea and Noah Jussim

Dorothy Margaret Ogron, grandmother of Jordan Ogron, by Eileen and Lew Goldberg

Raffi Sabban, husband of Sonia Sabban, by Sonia Sabban

Audrey Lou Sagerman, mother of Nancy Pearl, by Judy and Manny Baker, Beverly and Bernie Bienstock, Judy and Mitch Blake, Susan and Bernie Bronstein, Marian and Charley Goldsmith, Sue and Paul Hoffman, Andrea and Noah Jussim, Gloria and Ellis Kirschenbaum

Samuel Schweitzer, father-in-law of Suzanne Schweitzer, by Suzanne Schweitzer

Peter Schwartz, brother of Eileen Cohen, by Judy and Manny Baker, Beverly and Bernie Bienstock, Susan and Bernie Bronstein, Marian and Charley Goldsmith, Karen Gottlieb, Sue and Paul Hoffman, Gloria and Ellis Kirschenbaum, Ellis Rosenblatt, Loana and Sandy Rosenblatt, Laurie and Gary Samson

Yehudit Soltz, mother-in-law of Michael Wyte, by Michael Wyte

Irene Thompson, grandmother of Kim Israel, by Kim and Larry Israel

Thomas Vedres, husband of Shelly Vedres, by Judy and Manny Baker, Lolly Bennett, Beverly and Bernie Bienstock, Marian and Charley Goldsmith, Karen Gottlieb, Sue and Paul Hoffman, Andrea and Noah Jussim, Stan Ziegler

Anna Wallock, grandmother of Lori Papernik, by Lori and Brian Papernik

James A. Winsberg, father of Sara Barnard, by Sara Barnard

Bernard Wolfberg, father of Ted Wolfberg, by Ted and Roselynn Wolfberg

George Wolfberg, brother of Ted Wolfberg, by Ted and Roselynn Wolfberg

Leah Wolfberg, mother of Ted Wolfberg, by Ted and Roselynn Wolfberg

Rhia Wolfe, mother of Lolly Bennett, by Lolly Bennett

Avishag Wyte, wife of Michael Wyte, by Michael Wyte

Ann Yuré, mother of Marc Yuré, by Marc and Susie Yuré

CAMP RAMAH FUND

In memory of

Naomi Louis, mother of Carol Abrams, by Carol and Chuck Abrams

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY

In memory of

Maxine Baumring, mother of Holly Strom, by Holly and Joel Strom

Bobbette Diener, mother of Marilyn Freeman, by Marilyn and Izzy Freeman

David Oberman, husband of Susan Oberman, by Scott and Rita Waldman

February 5

Gerta Witzky, aunt of Eileen Cohen
Marion Fistell, mother of Ira Fistell

Bobbette Diener, mother of Marilyn Freeman

Esther Goldstone Krumholtz, mother-in-law of Barbara Goldstone

Allan Kramer, father of Jill Gotlieb

Sol Gura, father of Dennis Gura

Claire Maibaum, grandmother of Matthew Maibaum

Jack Axelrad, father of Carole Meltzner

Harvey Night, father of Allan Night

Florence Warshawsky, grandmother of Beth Ricanati

Ziporah Bernholz, grandmother of Baruch Rothenberg

Morris Halfon, father of Laurie Samson

Stan Glotzer, brother-in-law of Stan Ziegler and uncle of Randy Ziegler

February 12

Barnet Katz, grandfather of Beverly Bienstock

Fern Bienstock, mother of Bernard Bienstock

Harry Cohen, grandfather of Beverly Bienstock

George Eber, father of Les Eber

Zoltan Erdosi, father of Thomas Erdosi

Minnie Freeman, mother of Izzy Freeman

Safra Samuel, mother of Cande Friedman

Nancy Foran, sister of Paul Hoffman

Jack Schwartz, father-in-law of Beverly Schwartz and grandfather of Andrea Jussim

Sam Wolff, father of Sharon Krischer

Lillyan Borin, mother of Lynda Moses and grandmother of Jonathan Moses

Barak Ben-Tor, son-in-law of Gail Rosenfeld

Flora Shapiro, mother of Stephen Shapiro

Esther Gross Silber, aunt of Shelly Vedres

Willard Warren, father of Stuart Warren

Charles Wendling, father of Vanessa Wendling

Eleanor Shuster, cousin of David Wilzig

Lorraine Glotzer, sister of Stan Ziegler and aunt of Randy Ziegler

Samuel Gelbart, brother-in-law of Julia Weinberg Zwitman

February 19

Daniel Madden, nephew of Judy and Manny Baker

Edward Baker, brother of Manny Baker

David Strom, husband of Shirley Strom and father of Joel Strom and Elaine Behnken

Pinchas Bron, father of Michel Bron

Sol Schiffer, father of Eileen Goldberg

Montgomery Ferar, grandfather of Jamie Green

Florence Grody mother of Wayne Grody

Carolyn Scalzo, mother-in-heart of Tamara Levenson

Geneva Manning, mother of Brad Manning

Abe Moses, father of Donald Moses and grandfather of Jonathan Moses

Ruth Posternack, aunt of Elaine Olken

Anita Rubin Peterson, mother of April Peterson

David Warshawsky, grandfather of Beth Ricanati

Norman P. O'Reilly, father of Loana Rosenblatt

Leo Thane Frazier, father of Mary Jo Wilzig

Maurice Lifchus, uncle of Judy Zucker

February 26

Efim Averbukh, father of Matt Averbukh

Howard Bram, brother of Edith Ballonoff and uncle of Lynn Beliak

Herbert Berger, husband of Evelyn Berger

Sylvain Bernstein, father of Alan Bernstein

Letitia "Letty" Flanagan, grandmother of Kate Flanagan

Morris W. Gardner, father of Peter Gardner

Jack Goldin, father of Sharon Janks

Mimi Frankel, sister of Helayne Levy

Irwin Weiner, father of Leah Mendelsohn

Isidor Muller, father-in-law of Lily Muller and grandfather of Paul Muller

Max Norman, father of Michael Norman

Evelyn (Gail) Packer, mother of David Packer

Sylvia Sacher, mother of Michael Sacher

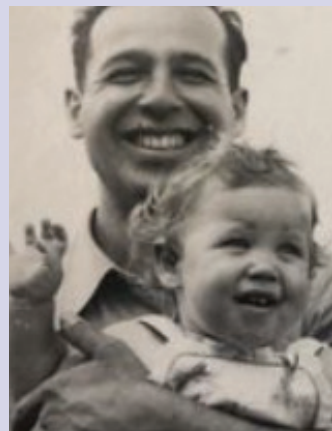
Jeffrey Bernstein, brother of Jessica Sacher

Bernard Wolfberg, father of Ted Wolfberg and father-in-law of Diane Wolfberg

SYLVAIN BERNSTEIN

Remembered by Alan Bernstein

My father, Sylvain Bernstein, was born January 10, 1915, in Oakland CA. His parents were of modest means, and active in the local Jewish community. Dad graduated from U.C. Berkeley when he was 20, working in the University Library to help support himself. He began his career as a high school teacher, before heading off to Europe to fight in the Battle of the Bulge. He married the love of his life, my mom, who had come to Los Angeles in 1940, as a Jewish immigrant from Shanghai. They were happily married 46 years, raising three kids in the San Fernando Valley. Dad taught English, literature, writing, and Music,



working 35 years for L.A. U.S.D., and later at Valley College, as a teacher and counselor. He took the family to Italy for two years, where he taught as a Fulbright Exchange professor. They retired to Santa Cruz, where he indulged his love for music, playing viola in the Santa Cruz Philharmonic Orchestra. He was greatly admired by his friends and colleagues and touched the lives of many young people. He was a kind, gentle man, who instilled in his children the love of learning and the importance of living a righteous life. He is ever in my heart.

MORRIS GARDNER

Remembered by Peter Gardner

My father was a humble, self-confident man who went further in life than could have been reasonably expected, given his modest circumstances: Born to Russian immigrants on the lower East side of NYC at the turn of the century. He was courageous, generous, honorable, shy, calm, temperate, industrious and autodidactic.

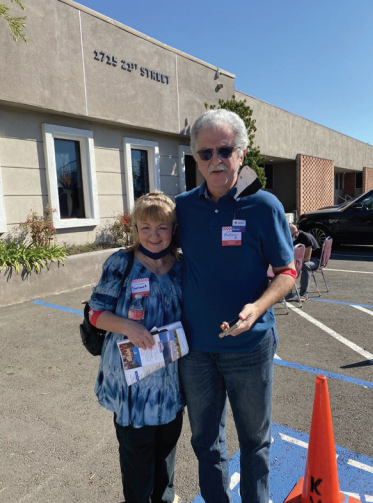
He was a man of contrasts: Most comfortable working on his weekend farm yet able to navigate the world of NYC investment banking. He acquired many manual skills- he could have earned



living as a finish carpenter, as an example- yet understood IPO's, underwriting and Fortune 500 balance sheets. He earned a high school education at night, starting at age 15 when he began working full-time, yet mastered federal securities compliance laws.

He knew he was a lucky man because he happened to have stumbled onto a lifetime career of 48 years and wife of 58 years.

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR DONATIONS ON MITZVAH DAY!



We'd love to hear from you!

Twenty Questions!

What do YOU want to know about the clergy and staff at KM? Send us your questions for a casual and comedic version of 20 Questions to be published in monthly editions of The Voice. What made Rabbi Gotlieb want to be a rabbi? How does someone named Kate Flanagan end up working at a synagogue? What is Cantor Fine's favorite piece of music? Ask away! Send your questions to Mia Schai Labowitz at communications@km-synagogue.org.

What's Your KM Story?

Tell us all about how you found Kehillat Ma'arav and what it means to you now. Family stories, b'nai mitzvah memories, any special sentiments that are tied up in the sacred and hamish community we all love so much. We want to hear from you and your fellow congregants do too. Contact Mia Schai Labowitz at communications@km-synagogue.org to participate.

KEHILLAT קהילת מערב
THE WESTSIDE CONGREGATION **MA'ARAV**

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Executive Director

Director of Education & Youth Programs

Head of Early Childhood & Arts Programs

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