



# AHAVAT TORAH

One Torah, Many Teachers, One Community  
www.ahavatorahcongregation.org

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Charles Hamrell MD

**December 17, 2011**  
**9-9.45 AM Mussar Ethics Study:**  
**page 107 Honor: Do we have a judgmental frame of mind?**  
**10 AM-12.30 PM Shabbat Service**



When Judah saw her, he thought her to be a harlot; because she had covered her face. Genesis 38:15

**Torah Portion: Vayeshev Genesis 37:1- 40:23**  
**Chanter: Rena Jaffe**  
**Cantor: Gary Levine**  
**D'var Torah: Susan Nanus**

**UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED, ALL SERVICES AND OTHER TEMPLE EVENTS ARE HELD AT VILLAGE LUTHERAN CHURCH, 343 CHURCH LANE, LOS ANGELES 90049**

In consideration of our members and guests who suffer from allergies, please refrain from wearing even small amounts of perfume, cologne, scented lotions and hair products during services and other temple activities.

# Rabbi's Message



*" ... and Joseph brought evil tales about them to their father" 37:2.*

Rashi explains that any evil Joseph saw in his brothers, the sons of Leah, he would tell his father: 1) that they ate limbs from living animals, 2) that they demeaned the sons of the handmaids by calling them slaves, and 3) that they were suspected of illicit sexual relationships. For these three tales & lies he was punished: 1) for telling that they slaughtered a kid 2) about calling the handmaids slaves, "Joseph was sold as a slave, and 3) concerning the illicit sexual relationship, Putifar, his master's wife tore a piece of his dress off of Joseph." Rashi continues explaining "tales about them, as "gossip, slander, whatever evil he could tell about them he told. It is like making the lips of the sleeping speak."

What do we learn from this?

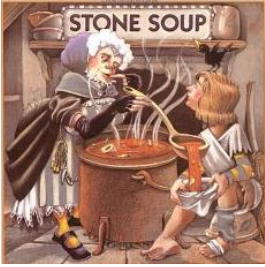
God blessed us with the powerful tool of speech. Some of our early rabbis said that Joseph's evil report to Jacob regarding his brothers was one of the causes that brought about the enslavement in Egypt. The Talmud teaches us that when a person gossips, it is as if he kills three people: the one who says it, the one who listens, and the subject of the gossip.

Someone who puts another person to shame is even worse than the gossiper. We learn from this week's Torah portion that Tamar was almost killed, yet she did not reveal Judah's name and put him to shame in public. The Hafetz Haim teaches that most of the confessions we do on Yom Kippur are related to verbal sins. "For any moment when a person closes his mouth, and refrains from saying what was on his mind, he will merit to benefit from the Hidden Light."

Before the Amidah section in our morning prayer service there is a line, "May you open my lips so I may declare your glory." May we not only declare God's glory, but see the glory of God in every person we meet. With this insight we can well understand what King Solomon writes in Proverbs (18:21): "Death and life is in the power of the tongue." May we use the power of our speech to create world, and not destroy it."

May we create a fence around our words, so we may never come to hurt another. May we find many opportunities to express our love and care for the other. May we be a source of blessing and not gossip in our circle of life.

# SOCIAL ACTION



The next Children's Institute activity will be **THIS Saturday, December 17, from 2-5 PM.**

It will be a fun event. We will be baking Christmas cookies with the families and children, making Stone soup, reading Stone Soup, and making garlands. We are inviting Children's Institute families and AT members to bring a variety of vegetarian soup ingredients. Please contact Laurel if you have cookie cutters, cookie sheets or cookie decorating equipment we can use. We will be carpooling from Ahavat Torah after a quick lunch, or meet us there at 2 PM. Come celebrate the holidays by bringing joy to families in need.

## Come to Washington D.C. with the JWW Advocacy Delegation February 28 – March 1, 2012



Raise your voice against genocide.  
Demand improved protection for women.



FIGHT GENOCIDE  
DO NOT STAND IDLY BY

Details at <http://www.jewishworldwatch.org/takeaction/events/hear-her-voice>



We gratefully acknowledge the following donations by

### Plant a Tree Donations by Shoshi & Izydor Wilchfort for

Erin Sims & Family – on the passing of Nacho  
Mrs. Norma Mazure & Family—on the passing of Ed Mazure  
Dr. & Mrs. Jonathan Troper – on your Wedding  
Arlene Rosenblatt—for your fabulous volunteer work  
Rabbi Miriam—for all you do and all you are

### Yahrzeit Donation by Renee Schwartz

In memory of Philip Schwartz

### Donation by Marge Brownstein

Grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

# ANAVAT TORAH HANUKKAH PARTY



Thursday, December 22, 2011

Starts 6:30 PM in AT Social Hall



**Bring your family. Invite your friends, and your own hanukkiyah**

Spin the dreidl

Light the hanukkiyah

Nosh on festive foods

Put On Your Dancing Shoes

We'll have live music for listening and dancing

Be a Silent Auction winner



\$15 per person, children under 10, no charge

Please R.S.V.P. to Blanche Moss 310-271-4042 or [moimoss@aol.com](mailto:moimoss@aol.com)

## MEMBER NEWS



Mazel tov to Val and Lenny Eule on the birth of their granddaughter, Lena Rose. May God continue to bless you, and your whole family with many blessed days like now. May God's blessings be upon Caron, David and sweet Lena for a life, filled with good health, love and happiness. Amen. Rabbi Miriam



Join Julie this Friday evening

לְפָנֶיךָ יְיָ דָוִדִי לְקִרְאָת כַּלָּה, פְּנֵי שַׁבָּת נִקְבְּלָה

שַׁבָּת שְׁלוֹם

# SHABBAT FARBRENGEN

**Friday, December 16, 2011**


8:00 p.m.  
Kabbalat Shabbat & Festive Oneg

*"An Evening of  
Jewish Comedy"*

Starring Comedians  
Monica Piper & Wendy Hammers

Special Guests  
**The VBS Choir Under the Direction of  
Dr. Noreen Green**

Led by  
Cantor Herschel Fox

 15739 Ventura Boulevard | Encino, CA 91436  
(818) 788-6000 | [www.vbs.org](http://www.vbs.org)



Twenty two of us celebrated the *Sheva Brahot* of Debra and Jonathan at Rabbi Miriam & Dr. Chuck's home. The evening was filled with warm, loving feelings, good food, music, and prayer.

## DECEMBER CALENDAR

Thursday, 15	11:45 – 2 PM	Lunch and learn at Rabbi Miriam's home
Saturday, 17	9 – 9:45 AM	Mussar Ethics Study with Rabbi
	10 AM – 12:30 PM	Shabbat services followed by Social Action Committee meeting
Thursday, 22	11:45 – 2 PM	Lunch and learn at Rabbi Miriam's home
Thursday, 22	6:00 – 10:00PM	Hanukkah Party
Saturday, 24	9 – 9:45 AM	Mussar Ethics Study with Rabbi
	10 AM – 12:30 PM	Shabbat services followed by lunch
Thursday, 29	11:45 – 2 PM	Lunch and learn at Rabbi Miriam's home
Saturday, 31	9 – 9:45 AM	Mussar Ethics Study with Rabbi
	10 AM – 12:30 PM	Shabbat services

Contact Arlene for information & RSVP'S [arsid@aol.com](mailto:arsid@aol.com) or call (310) 429-6817

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