

The Jewish Observer^(sm)

Los Angeles

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COMMUNITY NEWS

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COMMUNITY

RABBI HAMRELL HONORED BY COUNCILMAN ZEV YAROSLAVSKY



Rabbi Miriam E. Hamrell

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This award was granted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles for, "Ten years of service as a motivational leader, teacher and founder of Ahavat Torah synagogue" and signed by Zev Yaroslavsky.

She holds the unique and distinguished honor of being the first and only Israeli born and raised woman to head an American Jewish congregation for the past ten years. Her life story reads as a fascinating journey through a great variety of spiritual and cultural expressions of contemporary Jewish life.

She is a leading personality, spokesperson and ethicist for the Jewish community, served in the Israeli Defense Forces and has counseled, taught and inspired numerous women with her prison work.

This year, Rabbi Miriam celebrates her tenth year of service in the rabbinate as a motivational leader and teacher whose spoken messages express a unique wisdom. Her activist approach reflects both her deep and personal concern for the spiritual and material welfare of every Jew, to support the State of Israel and to nurture a vibrant Jewish future in dialogue with interfaith communities.

She is the founding Rabbi of Ahavat Torah congregation, a warm and spiritual Jewish community in Brentwood where each person's presence is acknowledged and valued.

ZIMMER CHILDREN'S MUSEUM TO HOST 9TH ANNUAL ART SHOW

COMMUNITY

STREISAND TO RECEIVE HONORARY PH.D. FROM HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM



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The honorary doctorate will be presented to Ms. Streisand in recognition of her professional achievements, outstanding humanitarianism, leadership in the realm of human and civil rights, and dedication to Israel and the Jewish people.

Professor Menahem Ben-Sasson, president of the Hebrew University, stated: "Barbra Streisand's transcendent talent is matched by her passionate concern for equality and opportunity for people of every gender and background. Equally important, her love of Israel and her Jewish heritage are reflected in so many aspects of her life and career. We are deeply proud to honor an individual who exemplifies these values which we at the Hebrew University share and uphold."

A proponent of education, Ms. Streisand established the Emanuel Streisand Building for Jewish Studies on the University's Mount Scopus campus in 1984. She dedicated the building in memory of her beloved father, Emanuel, whom she praised as "a teacher, scholar and religious man who devoted himself to education."

Referring to her 1983 award-winning movie, "Yentl," in which she played the role of a young woman who enters a yeshiva disguised as a man in order to study Talmud, Ms. Streisand said she was pleased that women could now "pursue Jewish studies without having to disguise themselves as men." The film, which she directed, produced, and co-wrote, had its Israeli premiere in 1984 under the sponsorship of The Israel Friends of The Hebrew University. Ms. Streisand visited Israel for the dedication and film premiere accompanied by a delegation from the West Coast chapter of American Friends of The Hebrew University (AFHU).

During 2011, Ms. Streisand appeared in a program on behalf of the welfare of soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces; the event raised 12 million dollars and brought attention to a vital cause.

Ms. Streisand's multi-dimensional career has kept her at the forefront of the entertainment industry for decades. Born to a Jewish family in Brooklyn in 1942, she lost her father when she was just a child. While still in her teens, the Erasmus High School honors student launched her career as a singer by initially winning a singing

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They give sculpture, paintings, photographs, mixed media masterpieces, and they give of themselves. These artists give generously and enthusiastically each year, donating art to benefit the Zimmer's youth development program, youTHink.

The museum will also host a special fun-filled family opening of the show on Sunday, May 5 from 2-4 pm. Synthia SAINT JAMES, one of this year's participating artists and a children's book author and illustrator, will lead children in art exploration as they make their very own USPS stamps inspired by her art.

All artwork is for sale. All of the proceeds from the exhibit and sale go to support the Zimmer's youth development program youTHink, which helps 3,000 students annually utilize the power of art to foster critical thinking about contemporary issues and empowers them to find and use their voices to take action for positive social change. youTHink's School Services provide art/education lessons in California's public schools, along with professional development opportunities for teachers. youTHink's Youth Services provide meaningful leadership and community involvement opportunities for middle and high school youth beyond the classroom.

The opening reception is on Thursday, April 25 from 6-9pm and will feature jazz performance by Oswald Bernard, typewriter performance art by Zach Houston, and refreshments. The reception is free.

**JEWISH WAR VETS TO HOLD 20TH ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY
EVENT AT GROMAN EDEN MORTUARY**

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"It is important that Jewish Americans have the opportunity to be recognized for their acts of bravery in defense of our nation," said Anthony Lampe, general manager of Groman Eden Mortuary. "We are honored that so many of our community members join with us to honor and remember those brave American heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation."

The event will include a keynote presentation, readings and a special tribute to Jewish American veterans as the community gathers to remember the sacrifice many veterans made protecting our freedoms. The event will take place at 11500 Sepulveda Blvd, Mission Hills, 91345. Light refreshments will be provided following the event.

For information on the Memorial Day ceremony or about Groman Eden Mortuary, please call 800-522-4875.

Groman Eden Mortuary (FD#1070) in Mission Hills, Calif. is a proud Dignity Memorial provider serving the Jewish community of greater Los Angeles. The Dignity Memorial network of more than 1,800 funeral, cremation and cemetery service providers is North America's most trusted resource for funeral and memorialization services. Dignity Memorial providers offer an unmatched combination of products and locations serving families with care, integrity, respect and service excellence.

contest. At age 19, Ms. Streisand had her Broadway debut, and in 1962, made her debut album, which quickly became the top-selling record by a female vocalist in the United States.

By age 28, Ms. Streisand had already earned five of the entertainment industry's most prestigious awards: the Grammy, Oscar, Tony, Emmy and Golden Globe, making her an icon of American culture and an international favorite. Among her myriad accolades, she received an Oscar for Best Actress (Funny Girl, 1968), and for composing the music for Best Original Song (Evergreen, 1976). During her career, she has been honored by the Directors Guild of America and received the National Medal of Arts from President Bill Clinton, the Peabody Award, the American Film Institute's Lifetime Achievement Award, the Cecil B. DeMille Award for Lifetime Achievement and Kennedy Center Honors. The internationally recognized artist received France's Legion of Honour from President Nicolas Sarkozy. Additionally, Ms. Streisand is an author and photographer known for her critically acclaimed book, "My Passion for Design."

Ms. Streisand has been long admired for her civic activism and philanthropic leadership. Her commitment is reflected in the work of The Streisand Foundation, which is dedicated to fostering women's equality and health, protecting human and civil rights, advancing the needs of at-risk children in society and preserving the environment. Often donating the proceeds from her performances on behalf of important causes, Ms. Streisand has been a leading spokesperson and fund-raiser for AIDS research and treatment; she received the 1992 Commitment to Life Award from the AIDS Project Los Angeles. In 1989, she established a chair in Environmental Science at the Environmental Defense Fund, with a focus on global climate change, and later funded the participation of the organization's top scientists at the Global Warming World Summit in Kyoto. She was also a leading contributor to the William Jefferson Clinton Climate Change Initiative. Ms. Streisand has been a driving force behind the Women's Heart Center at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, which renamed the center in her honor, The Barbra Streisand Women's Heart Center.

Ms. Streisand holds an Honorary Doctorate in Arts and Humanities from Brandeis University (1995). A forceful advocate for social justice, she received The Humanitarian Award from the Human Rights Campaign and was awarded the ACLU Bill of Rights Award from the American Civil Liberties Union for her defense of U.S. constitutional rights.

Ranked among the top academic and research institutions worldwide, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is Israel's leading university and premier research institution. Serving 23,000 students from 70 countries, the Hebrew University produces a third of Israel's civilian research and is ranked 12th worldwide in biotechnology patent filings and commercial development. Faculty and alumni of the Hebrew University have won seven Nobel Prizes and a Fields Medal in the last decade. The Hebrew University was founded in 1918 by visionaries including Albert Einstein, Sigmund Freud, Martin Buber and Chaim Weizmann. It is located on three campuses in Jerusalem and a fourth in Rehovot.

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