



MALIBU JEWISH CENTER
& SYNAGOGUE

The Seabreeze

Winter 2023/5784

MJCS Year In Review



May 5, 2023 - MJCS Board of Directors @Groundbreaking Ceremony: Future Campus



President's Message

Dear Members & Friends,

Under Rabbi Cantor Marcelo's spiritual guidance, and with the help of our outstanding Clergy Team, MJCS continues to go from strength to strength!

After a busy summer with record attendance at Shabbat on the Beach, our beautiful High Holy Days services generated a ton of positive feedback from Members. The momentum carried through to our First Fridays program, which combines an in-person Kabbalat Shabbat in the main sanctuary with food and fun. It's great to see Members of all ages at services. Speaking of all ages, enrollment in the Religious School is strong and our Hand-in-Hand program continues to change the lives of young people with diverse needs. Of course, we have plenty of events for adults too. Sisterhood is as busy as ever and Adult Education, which includes the popular Waking up to Jewish Ethics class, has rapidly expanded with evening discussions that provide important insights into the increasing challenges confronting Jews in Israel and here in the US.

Other good things are happening. You may see new faces around MJCS. That's because membership is growing at double-digits, faster than it has in years.

But most exciting is the building project. Demolition of the trailers and land grading is expected to begin in the spring, after the rainy season. In preparation, the Religious School has moved to Malibu Pacific Church. Once we close our campus, religious services will also move to Malibu Pacific and the office will move to space we've secured on Civic Center Way. When complete, our new campus will attract dozens of new member families and meet our needs for generations. Through the generosity of one of our Members, MJCS is on a path to finally becoming the Jewish center that was envisioned from the start.

I look forward to seeing you at services or at one of our many MJCS activities.

L'Shalom

Jonathan Goldstein
President

The MJCS Future Campus



New School Admin Building



New Chapel Entry Courtyard



New Chapel Interior



Rabbi Cantor Marcelo Gindlin

AM ISRAEL CHAI

As we close out the Year 2023 and get ready to enter into 2024, we do so perhaps with trepidation. The year 2023 was an impactful one across the globe, with international crises, wars and natural disasters.

We are on high alert.

Through conflict, through suffering and through disasters, the people of Israel stay strong and united in spirit despite these unprecedented challenges.

While many hoped that in the 'post-Covid' era we would settle into a new normal, life for many of us is anything but normal.

We continue to witness hate speech, acts of antisemitism, misinformation, bias in the media, and violence plaguing the world around us.

Jews are being targeted and attacked around the world, with riots and demonstrations calling for the death of the Jewish people.

We are hurting. We are outraged. We are frightened.

How did we respond? What could we have done and do as a Jewish community?

Rabbi Nachman once said, "*Kol ha-olam kulo gesher tsar me'od; v'ha-ikar lo lefacheyd klal*".

"The entire world is a very narrow bridge; but the most important thing is not to fear."

Another answer comes from the Talmud; "*Im ein achshav eimata*". If it is not now, then, when is the right time?

Never again, is NOW.

MJCS showed up. Saying together "*Hinenu*"- "here we are."

We conducted a Healing Service with other clergy members of Malibu in support of the victims of the attacks. We had a direct conversation with Anchor Emily Frances, twice since October 7th. On November 5th, thanks to the help of our member Steven Nichols, we had a conversation with the Deputy Regional Director of the Anti-Defamation League. On Friday night November 10th we had a special guest from the Israeli Consulate who brought chills to our bodies and empowered us with moving remarks.

On December 3rd we had a wonderful class about the history of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, I want us to be informed and educated as a community in order to inspire others. We are responsible for becoming more ethical than the society in which we grew up.

Let us continue experiencing and building MJCS. We are with you. You are with us and MJCS unites us.

During times of uncertainty, we work together as one. It is hope that will carry us through- hope for the present day and hope for the future before us. How beautiful it is that even in these challenging times, we can experience this- celebrating Judaism as a true and loving force- an amazing congregation who proudly stands as one – united...with the light of God within us.

Od Lo Avda Tikvateinu -- Our Hope is Not Yet Lost- that one day we'll be able to live as a free nation in our land -- the land of Zion and Jerusalem.

Am Yisrael Chai! -- The nation of Israel lives!

Our community is growing stronger.

It is an honor to be your Rabbi Cantor.

L'Chayim, Lesimchah uleshalom

Rabbi Cantor Marcelo

The MJCS Clergy Team

MJCS is blessed to have a fabulous and diverse Clergy team to support both our community and our Senior Rabbi, Rabbi Cantor Marcelo Gindlin. As you can see, they have all been busy this year!



**Rabbi Emerita
Judith HaLevy**

The term “retirement” has yet to be embraced by our very own Rabbi Emerita, Rabbi Judith HaLevy. In spite of her move to Santa Fe in 2017, Rabbi Judith continues to remain connected to our community, showing up to be part of Shabbat on the Beach this summer, participating in Rabbi Cantor’s Installation Ceremony, and waking up every Thursday morning to teach the weekly Jewish Ethics class via zoom. In addition, this year Rabbi Judith once again led a Sisterhood Spiritual Retreat for 20 members of the Sisterhood at Serra Retreat here in Malibu. Rabbi Judith continues to redefine what it means to be retired!



Rabbi Bill Kaplan

During Shabbat on the Beach services and our *Tu B'Shevat* Seder, Rabbi Bill shares his love of nature with our community. This year in addition to weekly Shabbat Zoom sessions, he joined Rabbi Cantor on the *bima* for our return to in person High Holy Days Services and for our First Friday Shabbat evenings. Rabbi Bill has also been instrumental in guiding our 7th grade religious school class through the process of their B’Nai Mitzvah.



**Rabbi Dr.
Janet Madden**

If you participate in our weekly Torah Study, then you know Rabbi Dr. Janet Madden. Torah Study meets Saturday mornings, proving an opportunity to participate in the world's oldest book club. Judaism teaches that "everything is in it" and for thousands of years, Jews have gathered to share our insights into this ancient and always-relevant text. No prior knowledge or experience is required--everyone is welcome to join in the life-long journey of exploration that Torah study offers.



**Chaplain
Ruth Belonsky**

Chaplain Ruth Belonsky joins Rabbi Cantor Marcelo each Saturday morning, both on zoom and in person for the monthly Healing Service. Chaplain Ruth is also an integral part of our High Holy Days orchestra, joining the other musicians with her violin. During High Holy Days services this year, Chaplain Ruth came to the rescue and read torah at the last minute.



Executive Director

As we approach the final weeks of 2023, most of us are considering our year-end charitable giving. For IRA owners who are 70½ or older, one of the easiest ways to make a charitable donation and get a tax break is by making a qualified charitable distribution from a traditional IRA. For 2023, you can transfer up to \$100,000 directly from your traditional IRA to MJCS. If you have more than one IRA, the \$100,000 cap applies per account owner, not per IRA. Only transfers from your IRA directly to MJCS are considered qualified charitable distributions. Most IRA custodians will require you to fill out a form requesting a payout to MJCS. The custodian will then either send a check directly to MJCS or make a check out and send it to you to mail. It's always best to give us a heads up if the check is being sent from the custodian. Don't wait until the last minute in 2023 to do a qualified charitable distribution. It can take some time for the money to go from the IRA, particularly if an investment needs to be sold for cash. MJCS must receive the money by Dec. 31 for your contribution to count for this year. If you have questions, please consult with your tax advisor.

I take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very Happy and Healthy 2024.

Al Welland
Executive Director



Editor's Note

What an amazing year filled with such a sense of community! It's been wonderful to see so many faces at all of our events and activities. Putting everything together is always a labor of love, and I am so grateful to all of our volunteers who consistently make my job easier. We have many things planned for the new year. Keep an eye out for emails regarding all of our exciting programs in 2024.

If you are interested in helping out at one of our upcoming events, please reach out to me in the office - it's a great way to connect with other members.

With gratitude-
Jennifer Herrguth



MJCS Religious School

Religious School meets Tuesdays @Malibu Pacific Church from 4:00-6:35pm

Shalom members,

Each year I say how blessed we are to have such a wonderful team of educators and this year is no different. Our teachers have embraced our new (temporary) space, at Malibu Pacific Church. Every Tuesday we make the space our own by creating an ambience of Judaism through posters, bulletin boards, signs and *ruach* (spirit). We transform the space for our students and create a beautiful learning environment.

We are thrilled to have our new and returning students here at Religious School and see that our parents are engaged in our school - joining us for *tfillah* (prayer), staying for *kinus* (community learning), and spreading the word to their friends who have come to join us.

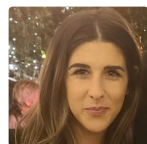
Our teachers are truly the best! They are skilled to teach every aspect of their subject matter with enthusiasm at grade-appropriate levels. Hebrew script in our classrooms has been a great success and the kids are reading (and writing) better than ever! Thank you to Anat for piloting this with our 4th grade students last year. Anat also teaches Jewish life cycle and stories from the Torah. Gil is continuing the Hebrew writing in 5th grade and takes an exciting approach to Jewish History - always exploring new materials to keep our students engaged. Miriam teaches our K-1 and will be the teacher of our pre-school class piloting in January. Miriam focuses on *mitzvot* (good deeds) and teaches a holistic class of everything Jewish! Tamara's 2-3rd grade class is focusing on *middot* (manners) and is learning all about the synagogue. All classes learn about Jewish holidays and have time set aside for learning Hebrew.

Janet Ettenger has taken our 7th grade to another level with her passion for Jewish values in action. Janet guides our students to find their own passion for their *Bnai Mitzvah* project, while teaching values from the Torah. Rabbi Cantor, thank you for your uplifting spirit in guiding us in *tfilla* (prayer) each day, including songs of our past and present and your continued dedication in preparing each and every one of our students for their *Bnai Mitzvah*.

On a final note, following the October 7th massacre in Israel, we created a safe space for our students to ask questions, engage in conversation, and learn about the events through the lens of *achdut* (unity) and resilience. We continue to designate one room for our students to speak openly with one of our teachers. Our school is, and will always be, a safe space for dialogue and understanding.

I'd like to invite our members to join us any Tuesday to see our teachers in action and to spread the word of our invaluable school. Please reach out to me, Michelle Geft, at mgeft@mjcs.org with any questions.

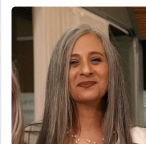
With humble gratitude,
Michelle Geft
Religious School Director
6th Grade Teacher



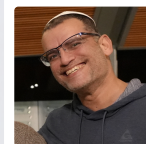
Miriam Kay - K/1



Tamara Leider
2nd & 3rd Grade



Anat Golan
4th Grade



Gil Ramot
5th Grade



Janet Ettenger
7th Grade

Religious School Fun!



B'NAI MITZVAH



Skyler & Lexington Hakim
5/20/2023



Liam Haas
6/10/2023



Eli Graulich
7/22/2023



Jacob Childress
08/19/2023



Jax Rydell
9/30/2023



Eden Flachs
10/21/2023

MJCS Sisterhood

Lori Gray, Sisterhood President

llwwranch@aol.com



Sisterhood hopes you're enjoying tonight's yummy latkes (made from the heart along with a great group of Jewish mamas). Whether it's serving our local MJCS community, or helping those in need in our greater community (several members joined our day of service last spring at the Downtown Women's Center) your Sisterhood is active, involved and invites you to join us. And we have fun too! Our annual retreat with Rabbi Judith is one of our highlights where we learn more about our beautiful heritage through art and personal reflection. And we always end dancing to the rhythms of our soul. Our bookclub is another way we come together to discuss great books, while enjoying delicious food and wine when we meet in person (zoom options available too). We're working on ways to further help our Israeli local community during this difficult time while engaging in dialogue to strengthen our core values. SOS = Sisterhood, Outreach, Support - join us! Email Lori Gray on more ways to get involved llwwranch@aol.com



Hand in Hand

Rabbi Cantor Marcelo, Janet Ettenger & Lisa Szilagyi

Hand in Hand meets Thursdays @4-5pm via zoom

Website: www.handinhandconnect.org

Hand and Hand continues to grow and get stronger through increased programming and community connections. In addition to meeting weekly on Zoom every Thursday we also meet in person every month for Sunday Fundays. We are most excited to be partnering with Pepperdine University for many of these in-person Sundays, exploring what the campus and its programming have to offer, while also offering onsite community service opportunities for their students. In October we had a docent-led tour of the Weisman Art Gallery, and along with our Pepperdine student volunteers, we created beautiful art inspired by the exhibit. In November the Pepperdine Art Club hosted us for a holiday event and we made cards for veterans. We have lots of plans for the coming year and welcome you to join us!



Groundbreaking Ceremony

On Friday, May 5th, 2023, the Malibu Jewish Center & Synagogue ceremoniously broke ground to mark the construction of our new campus. Our leadership and Clergy celebrated this momentous occasion with members of the congregation and representatives from the community. We honored our builders past and present, including members of our Board of Directors, our teaching staff and our generous donors. The ceremony included performances by the MJCS Choir and our High Holy Days Shofar blower.

Our multi-million dollar project, funded entirely by a single generous member, involves construction of 20,000 square feet for a state-of-the-art Education Center, Chapel, and Social Hall. The project was designed by the award-winning architect, David Gray (z"l), of David Lawrence Gray Architects. The new buildings will complement our existing sanctuary designed by the noted architect, Ed Niles. Once completed, our tremendous campus will be an ideal setting for prayer, learning and gathering and will make MJCS the center of Jewish life in Malibu and points beyond.



Photo Credit: Dana Rubin Photography

First Fridays

Our “First Friday” once-a-month in person Shabbat may not always fall on the first Friday of the month, but you can always count on celebrating Shabbat surrounded by the warmth of our MJCS community. Each month our beautiful Sanctuary is transformed to welcome our members for Shabbat blessings and a meaningful or entertaining program followed by a delicious Shabbat dinner. Join us for the next one - it’s a great way to get to know your community.



Tu B'Shevat Seder



Purimshpiel



Yom Ha'Atzmaut



Sukkot/Simchat Torah

Shabbat on the Beach

While beach erosion may have forced us to move our location this year, our Shabbat on the Beach experience was still magical. This summer, our record crowds shared a sense of love and community as we came together to welcome Shabbat. Each week Rabbi Cantor Marcelo & Rabbi Bill along with the “Argentinian Mafia” (and on 2 occasions Rabbi Judith!) brought us together to pray, to sing, to dance and to witness the most spectacular sunsets. Special thanks to our generous sponsors: Laurie & Robert Briskin, Ruth Flinkman-Marandy & Ben Marandy, The MJCS Sisterhood, The Ross/Nadlman Family and the Glazer Family, The Semler Family and Rebecca & Jeff Witjas.



Shabbat in the Home



Home of DeDe & John Gooden



Shabbat in the Home - Conversion Class



Home of Emily & Sheldon Lodmer



Home of Harriet & Steven Nichols



Home of Jenny & Marc Kessler



Home of Lauren & Greg Sills



Shabbat in the Home returned this year after a long hiatus, giving members the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and forge new friendships. This time honored MJCS tradition allows our members to welcome Shabbat in their homes along with Rabbi Cantor Marcelo and other member families. It is in this informal setting over a shared Shabbat meal that life long connections are made. This program is going strong thanks to the help of Board Member Jill Greenberg. Didn't get a chance to participate yet? Reach out to RabbiCantor@mjcs.org or jgreenberg@mjcs.org and let them know if you would like to be a host or a guest. Don't miss out on this time honored MJCS tradition!

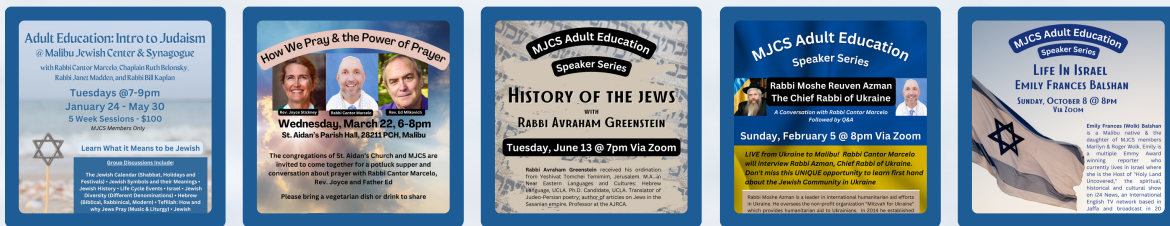
Rabbi Cantor Marcelo Installed as Senior Rabbi

On Saturday, August 26th with over 200 people in attendance, our congregation came together to celebrate our spiritual leader and teacher. Surrounded by community, Rabbi Cantor Marcelo stood under the *Chupah* supported by Rabbi Bill Kaplan, Chaplain Ruth Belonsky, Chaplain Kathy Gooze, Rabbi Rochelle Robbins and Rabbi Stan Levy. Rabbi Judith then offered a blessing, and both literally and figuratively passed the torah to Rabbi Cantor Marcelo as he became the Senior Rabbi of the Malibu Jewish Center & Synagogue. Mazel Tov to Rabbi Cantor Marcelo on this much deserved honor!

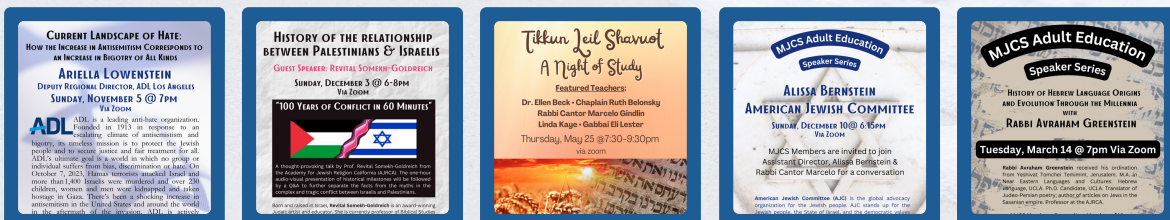
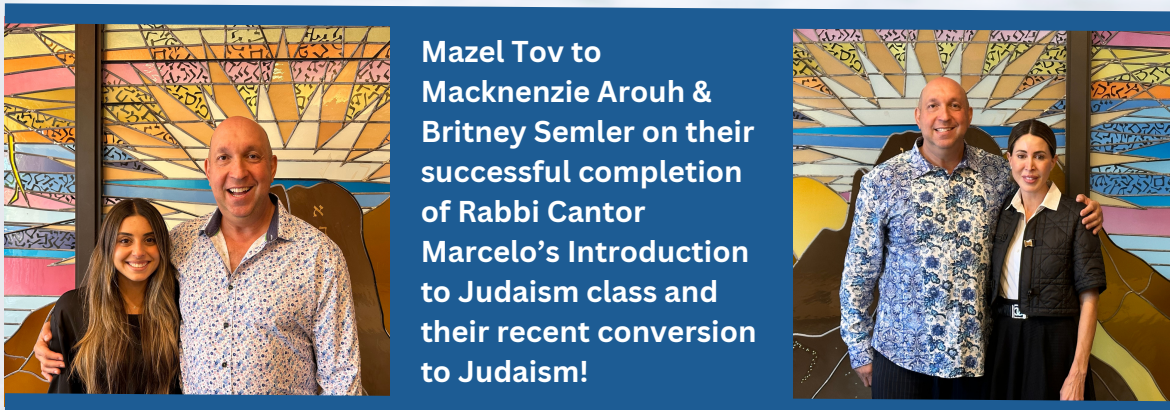


Photo Credit: Rachel Gray Photography

Adult Education



In addition to our ongoing morning ethics class, members of MJCS had access to so many wonderful educational opportunities this year. Our Adult Education classes included a Conversion Class and Intro to Judaism taught by Rabbi Cantor Marcelo, The Power of Prayer taught as a joint venture between MJCS and St. Aidan's Church and, of course, our *Tikkun Leil Shavuot* (evening of study) featuring Dr. Ellen Beck, Chaplain Ruth Belonsky, Rabbi Cantor Marcelo, Linda Kaye and Gabbai Eli Lester. Rabbi Cantor Marcelo organized a series of wonderful guest speakers who both shared their expertise and gave our members the opportunity to ask questions on a wide range of topics including the origins of the Hebrew language, the Jews in Ukraine, the situation in Israel, the rise of antisemitism and the history of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, to name a few. These classes have given our members a front row seat to learn from some of the brightest minds and scholars. Didn't get a chance to participate? New classes are in the works! Please contact Rabbi Cantor Marcelo if there is a subject you'd like to explore in 2024.



MJCS Choir



The MJCS Choir is back! If you are interested in joining, please reach out to Rabbi Cantor Marcelo.



**MALIBU JEWISH CENTER
& SYNAGOGUE**

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Rabbi Cantor Marcelo Gindlin

Rabbi Bill Kaplan

Rabbi Janet Madden

Chaplain Ruth Belonsky

Rabbi Judith HaLevy

Rabbi Emerita

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Larry Green

Jill Greenberg

Michael Salove

Karen Schoen

Al Welland,

Executive Director

Upcoming Events

January

26 Tu B'Shevat Seder

February

9 Hand in Hand Dance

16 In Person Shabbat & Dinner

March

19 Purim Carnival

22 Purim Shabbat - Megillah & Purimshpiel

April

23 Community Passover Seder

26 Passover Shabbat

28 LGBTQ Seder

May

4 Annual Dinner Dance

17 In Person Shabbat - Yom Ha'Atzmaut

June

7 Shavuot Shabbat

11 Tikkun Leil Shavuot

July

12 Shabbat on the Beach Returns

August

30 Final Shabbat on the Beach

**Subject to change*