

## From the Office of the President . . .



Kirk Gliebe

Ever get a bit frustrated by life? Do you ever find yourself envious of friends or colleagues who seem to be able to handle life's bumps just a little better than you? Now that we are starting the new Jewish year of 5776, it's a good time to consider implementing a new mindset. A few years back I read of a study conducted by Duke University on "Peace of Mind," just for the purpose of trying to figure this out. The results of the study contained the following nine factors

which, when applied to one's life, are most likely to contribute to emotional and mental stability:

- 1 The absence of suspicion and resentment (*Nursing a grudge was a major factor in unhappiness.*)
- 2 Living in the present and the future (*Much unhappiness stems from an unwholesome preoccupation with one's past mistakes and failures.*)
- 3 Not wasting time and energy fighting conditions you cannot change (*Learn to choose your life battles wisely.*)
- 4 Cooperating with life, instead of trying either to demolish it or run away from it
- 5 Forcing yourself to be outgoing with others, instead of retreating within during periods of stress

- 6 Refusing to pity yourself or seek self-justification in easy alibis that make you appear "noble" to yourself and others
- 7 Cultivating the old-fashioned virtues of love, honor, loyalty and thriftiness
- 8 Not expecting too much of yourself (*When there is a wide gap between the standards you set for yourself and your actual achievement, unhappiness is inevitable. If you cannot improve your performance, try lowering the demands instead.*)
- 9 Find something bigger than yourself in which to believe (*Self-centered, egotistical, materialistic people scored lowest in the study for measuring happiness.*)

I personally find a great deal of practical advice in this study, but more important to me is the ultimate peace of mind that comes from knowing God and following him!

Rav Shaul writes in Romans 5:1 that our acceptance of Messiah's sacrifice for our sins has brought us into the position of being at peace with God. In Philippians 4:5-7 he reminds us of God's concern for us to live peacefully with him despite our daily needs and personal trials.

**Why worry when we can pray? Know that God is big enough to know what's best for you! L'Shanah Tovah!**

*Forward for Messiah, Rabbi Kirk Gliebe • UMJC President*

# UMJC NEWS

Uniting and Strengthening Jewish Congregations

that Honor Yeshua the Messiah of Israel

איחוד וחיזוק

QUARTERLY • FALL 2015

## Also in this Issue

- **Conference 2016**  
From Strength to Strength
- **Sukkot, Messiah and the World to Come!**  
Surprising Imagery
- **K20 Next Generation**  
Rabbi Robert Bloch  
Handed the Reins
- **From the Office of the President**  
Thoughts—and Hope—for the New Year
- **Lifetime Service Award Goes to...**

## A Madrikh Milestone

A *Madrikh* or *Madrikhah* (feminine form) is a man or woman who has been educated and equipped to take on a leadership role within the Messianic Jewish community—serving, or preparing to serve, as an elder, cantor, teacher, Torah reader, or leader of any kind. The UMJC Credentials Committee has outlined an advanced 10-course curriculum that includes theology, Bible survey, training in speaking, and practical courses in spirituality and Jewish life. Candidates must also be recognized by rabbinic leaders as individuals of integrity and true spiritual calling.

This summer at the UMJC Business Meeting, the *Madrikh* program reached a double milestone.

**MILESTONE ONE** Our first two women candidates received *Madrikhah* certification; Sharon (Shari) Rubinstein of Beth Yeshua, Sacramento, and Karen Worstell of Beit HaShofar, Seattle. Shari has been an educator for over 40 years, both in the public and private sectors, and Director of Children's Ministries in her congregation for over 20 years. Karen is a chaplain fellow in palliative care at the VA medical center in Portland, Oregon.

**MILESTONE TWO** Four leaders have completed the UMJC Russian-language leadership program and are the first of this group to receive *Madrikh* certification: Mira Gracheva, Shulamit and Boris Goldin, and Kirill Polonskiy. Mira and Kirill both lead UMJC-affiliated congregations in Moscow, and Kirill has been the local liaison and coordinator for *Madrikh* classes offered there. Shulamit leads UMJC member congregation Beit Hased El, in Hollywood, Florida, and Boris, her husband, is the key coordinator for the Russian-language Messianic Jewish program. (See <http://umjc.org/umjc-goes-to-russia/>.)

In addition, at this year's business meeting, Mark Shulman was endorsed as a Military Chaplain. The UMJC is the only group recognized by the US military to provide Messianic Jewish chaplains for our armed services.

**Congratulations to Shari and Karen, Mira, Shulamit, Boris and Kirill, and Mark Shulman!**



## LEADERSHIP ENRICHMENT 2016

Every winter the UMJC sponsors Leadership Enrichment—a low-cost, intensive equipping experience for leadership teams from our member congregations. The 2016 conference will take place in Dallas, January 31 through February 2.

Todd Westphal and Troy Wallace of El Shaddai congregation, Frederick, MD (pictured below), will discuss eldership—what it is, how it operates, and how to create a successful and effective eldership team.

Jeff Weinrach, PhD, of Adonai Roi chavurah in Albuquerque (pictured with his wife, Clare), will lead the main seminar on **Measuring for Results**, a strategy to get results that are in alignment with your congregation's vision and goals.

Leadership Enrichment 2016 features modest cost, professional content, and plenty of time to enjoy each other's company, as well as to learn together. Just \$60.00 for the first registrant and \$35.00 for additional members of the same congregation—meals included. Bring your entire leadership team!

**REGISTRATION:** [Regonline.com/LE2016](http://Regonline.com/LE2016)

**HOTEL:** Doubletree Hotel Dallas/Richardson  
1981 North Central Expressway  
Richardson, Texas 75080 | (972) 808-5312  
Special UMJC rate of \$99.00 includes up to 2 free breakfasts daily, per room.



# UMJC

איחוד וחיזוק

## FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

UMJC International Conference | July 13-16, 2016 | Ontario, California



## K20: The Next Generation

The UMJC Kehilah 2020 initiative, or K20, was launched in 2010 with the slogan "Focusing on Future Leadership." With the help of UMJC supporters, K20 seeks to identify, recruit, and equip new leaders, and help them find a place of service within a Messianic Jewish congregation, ensuring that the historic Jewish movement for Messiah Yeshua will continue to thrive and grow.

Under the visionary leadership of Rabbi Tony Eaton, in its first five years, K20 provided over \$90,000 in matching internship grants to 12 different young men and women, two of whom are currently in the program. Four others are in active congregational leadership and one is enrolled in a Master's degree program in Jewish ministry. In addition, K20 has provided \$23,618 in academic scholarships to 15 young men and women, who are currently serving in our community as congregational leaders, cantors, youth leaders, and more. (Rabbi Tony is shown in this photo with scholarship recipient and recent MJTI cantorial graduate China Mabee.)

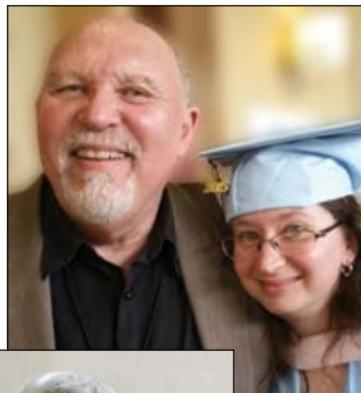
Rabbi Eaton completed his term this summer and, at their annual business meeting, the UMJC delegates approved Rabbi Robert Bloch as new K20 chair. Robert says, "I'm honored and thankful to receive such an assignment. I hope to take K20 to another level of raising up new leaders to lead the Messianic Jewish community of the future. I look forward to working with the K20 team to set clear goals and produce results that will benefit all of our UMJC congregations."

Congratulations to Rabbi Robert, and deepest thanks to Rabbi Tony Eaton for his dedicated leadership over the past five years.

Your financial support is vital to the K20 initiative. Contribute online at:

[www.umjc.org/k20-initiative/](http://www.umjc.org/k20-initiative/) or by check, marked "K20" to:

UMJC, 529 Jefferson St. NE • Albuquerque, NM 87108.

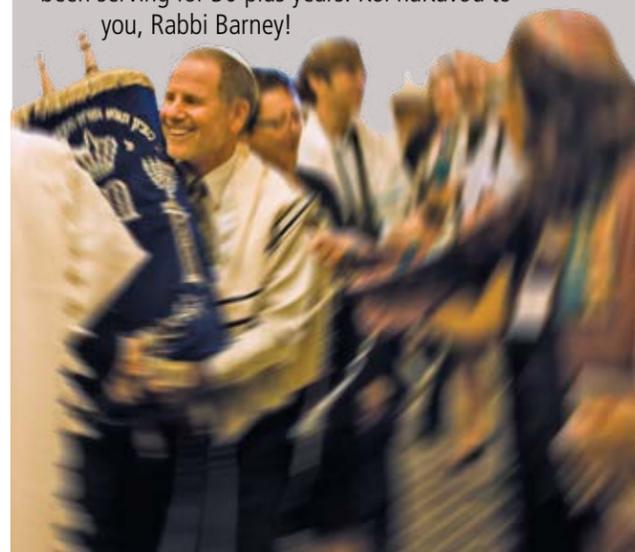


## Barney Kasdan Receives Lifetime and Service Award

Known as the surfing Rabbi, Barney Kasdan, leader of Kehilat Ariel Synagogue, San Diego, is the recipient of the 2015 UMJC President's Lifetime Sacrifice and Service Award, on July 17 at the annual conference.

A past president of the Union for four years, he is the current Chair of the UMJC Credentials Committee, which guides applicants toward fulfillment of requirements for licensing and ordination. He has also held positions in the Union as Secretary, Vice President, and Western Regional Director. Additionally, he has impacted the broader world through his writings. He is the author of four books, including a commentary on Matthew and his most recent book: *A Messianic Commentary: Rabbi Paul Enlightens the Ephesians on Walking with Messiah Yeshua*.

Rabbi Barney teaches for Messianic Jewish Theological Institute, is active in a California rabbis group, and finds time for full-time devotion to his synagogue where he, along with his wife, Liz, has been serving for 30 plus years. *Kol haKavod to you, Rabbi Barney!*



## Welcome, New Members!

UMJC delegates affirmed two congregations as new member at their July meeting in Hunt Valley, Maryland: Beit Hessed, Dusseldorf, Germany, led by Dima Siroy, and Beit Hased El, Hollywood, Florida, led by Shulamit Goldin. Shulamit, along with her husband, Boris, was among those who received *Madrikh* certification this summer. (see front-page story).

*The UMJC is proud to welcome Beit Hessed and Beit Hased El into the family!*



## Sukkot, Messiah and the World to Come

Rabbi Joshua Brumbach,  
UMB President • [messianicbelievers.org](http://messianicbelievers.org)

There is an interesting prayer that one traditionally recites at the end of Sukkot:

*May it be Your will, HaShem our God and the God of our ancestors, that just as I have fulfilled [the mitzvah] and dwelled in this sukkah, so*

*may I merit in the coming year to dwell in the sukkah of the skin of Leviathan. Next year in Jerusalem! (Artscroll, p. 725)*

The end of this prayer may seem jarring, but it is actually a reference to the Messianic Age. Leviathan is a monstrous fish, created on the 5th day of Creation (Gen. 1:21) and referenced numerous places in Scripture. According to the Talmud (*Bava Batra* 74b), Leviathan will be slain and its flesh will be served at the Messianic banquet for the righteous, and its skin will be used to cover the banquet place. When one understands this imagery, the prayer takes on a whole new dimension.

The sukkah is a reminder of our human frailty and mortality. When dwelling in the sukkah, we find ourselves exposed to the elements, eating our meals without certain familiar comforts, and spending time in a shelter that at any moment could be brought down by weather. Like the sukkah, our earthly bodies are also temporary dwelling places that at any time could be brought down. This reality forces us to recognize our dependence upon HaShem, who daily causes us to live.

But a sukkah carries even greater imagery in both biblical and rabbinic thought. Jewish tradition has long understood the connections between Sukkot, Messiah, and the Messianic Age. That is why the image of a sukkah is used multiple times throughout our prayers and is even used as an image for Messiah himself!

For example, in the evening service, at the end of a prayer called *Hashkivenu*, we pray:

*Spread over us Your sukkah of peace. Blessed are You, Adonai, who spreads a sukkah of peace over us, over all your people Israel, and over Jerusalem.*

According to Zechariah 14, the Haftarah reading for the first two days of Sukkot, in the Messianic Age all the nations will be gathered together in Jerusalem at Sukkot to worship the one true God. That is why Sukkot is also known as *Chag Ha'Asif*—the Festival of Ingathering.

God's desire to reconcile humanity back to himself is mirrored most vividly in the festival of Sukkot because God's desire has always

been macro—to reach all of humanity, beginning with Israel. That is why the Jewish people are called to be *Or I'Goyim*—a Light to the Nations. It is also why seventy bulls were offered as sacrifices during Sukkot, corresponding to each of the seventy nations of the world (mentioned in Gen. 10). Because, according to our rabbis, this was a prophetic act of intercession for the nations.

The imagery of a sukkah is also used as an allusion to Messiah. In *Birkat HaMazon*, the blessing after the meals, we add a special line during the festival of Sukkot:

*The Merciful One, He will raise up for us the fallen sukkah of David.*

What is the "fallen Sukkah of David?" Most commentators (*Targum, Maharal, Malbim*) understand this phrase from Amos 9:11 to refer to the rejuvenated Davidic dynasty. The Talmud, playing on the word for "fallen" (*nafal*), even refers to the Messiah as a *Bar Nafli*, the fallen son:

*R. Nachman said to R. Isaac: "Have you heard when Bar Nafli will come?" "Who is Bar Nafli?" he asked. "Messiah", he answered. "Do you call the Messiah Bar Nafli?" "Yes", he responded, as it is written, "on that day I will raise up the fallen sukkah of David." (Sanhedrin 96b-97a)*

According to the *Maharal* of Prague, the Davidic line cast as a sukkah and not as a house is a precise and purposeful formulation—for the sukkah's flimsiness allows it to be rebuilt.

This allusion to resurrection fits perfectly with our own Messianic Jewish understanding of Messiah. When we pray this line in *Birkat HaMazon* we can, and should, understand this reference Messianically (and in doing so we are in good company).

Using the imagery of a sukkah in reference to the Messiah is not unique to rabbinic tradition. In fact, this is precisely the imagery behind the Greek of John 1:14:

*For the Word became flesh and tabernacled (or sukkah-ed) among us, and we beheld his Shechinah.*

The Greek word used is *skeno'o*, which literally means to "tabernacle" or "to dwell." Therefore, the image of the *sukkah* is not restricted only to Sukkot, but rather because of its powerful allusions, is also used to refer to the Messianic Age, Messiah, and the presence of HaShem dwelling among us.

As we celebrate Sukkot this year, let's keep this imagery in mind. And by doing so, I pray we will all experience a taste of the World to Come!

# UMB

*Welcoming Messiah Home*

אנו קוראים