



# Bulletin

May 1, 2018 | 16 Iyyar 5778

VOLUME 72 NUMBER 8

## FROM RABBI HAYON



This month, our congregation begins a new fiscal year, welcomes new members to the Board of Trustees, and installs new leadership on the governance committees whose hard work guides our congregation in its sacred mission.

*As one presidential term concludes, another begins, and I am very excited about the fact that our congregation will benefit from incoming president Rodney Roth's energy, optimism and commitment.*

At the same time, we offer our gratitude to those Trustees and committee leaders whose terms have now concluded. I am especially thankful to departing president Jeff Basen-Engquist, whose tireless dedication – and most especially, his friendship – have meant a great deal to me during the two years of his term. Jeff's devotion to Congregation Emanu El resulted in many significant advances in the congregation's fiscal and professional well-being and a sharpening of its moral vision.

As one presidential term concludes, another begins, and I am very excited about the fact that our congregation will benefit from incoming president Rodney Roth's energy, optimism and commitment. I hope that all of you will

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## Diane Puschett To Be Honored as Congregant of the Year



The 2018 Ernest Krautkopf Congregant of the Year award will be bestowed upon Diane Puschett on **Thursday, May 10th**. The dinner begins at **6:30 p.m.** with an appetizer reception beforehand.

Diane has made a significant impact in the various roles she has served in for not only the congregation, but also for our Sisterhood since she arrived in Houston from Temple Sinai and Touro Synagogue in her beloved New Orleans following the impact of Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

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## Leadership Shabbat

Friday, May 4th

On **Friday, May 4th at 6:00 p.m.**, Congregation Emanu El will celebrate the beginning of a new year of lay leadership.

Leadership Shabbat has annually served as the Congregation's opportunity to install the Board of Trustees and those volunteers who serve as lay leaders of the Temple's auxiliaries. The Board of Trustees were elected at the Annual Meeting held on Tuesday, April 17th.

Over the years, this special Shabbat also served as an opportunity for congregants to recognize our school faculty members from the Becker Early Childhood Center and Helfman Religious School who have reached special milestones. This year, Becker honored their teachers at the Family Shabbat Experience in April while Helfman recognized its recipients during its weekly T'filah services.

Please join us for this Shabbat and a festive Oneg Shabbat in honor of all those being recognized following the service.

## WORSHIP SERVICES

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### Daily

6:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday

### Shabbat Emor, Leviticus 21:1 – 24:23

Friday, May 4th

6:00 p.m., Leadership Shabbat, Barish Sanctuary

### Saturday, May 5th

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel

### Shabbat B'har – B'chukotai, Leviticus 25:1 – 26:2/26:3 – 27:34

Friday, May 11th

6:00 p.m., Kabbalat Shabbat, Proler Chapel

### Saturday, May 12th

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel

### Shabbat B'midbar, Numbers 1:1 – 4:20

Friday, May 18th

6:00 p.m., Kabbalat Shabbat, Proler Chapel

### Saturday, May 19th

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel

6:00 p.m., Confirmation/Shavuot Service, Barish Sanctuary

### Sunday, May 20th

10:30 a.m., Shavuot Festival Service & Yizkor, Proler Chapel

### Shabbat Naso, Numbers 4:21-7:89

Friday, May 25th

6:00 p.m., Kabbalat Shabbat, Proler Chapel

### Saturday, May 26th

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel

### Shabbat B'haalot'cha, Numbers 8:1-12:16

Friday, June 1st

5:45 p.m., Tot Shabbat Dinner, Feld Hall

6:00 p.m., Kabbalat Shabbat, Proler Chapel

Special D'var Torah by Michelle Blumenthal, Hebrew Union College (HUC) student & Emanu El alum

6:30 p.m., Tot Shabbat, Oshman Multi-Purpose Room

### Saturday, June 2nd

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Barish Sanctuary

Bat Mitzvah of **Bethany Lew**, daughter of Ronnie Kurtin & Gary Lew

### Shabbat Sh'lach L'cha, Numbers 13:1 – 15:41

Friday, June 8th

6:00 p.m., Kabbalat Shabbat, Proler Chapel

### Saturday, June 9th

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel

REMINDER: All Friday night Shabbat services are video streamed on EmanuElHouston.org in addition to our Emanu El Facebook page and Roku channel. Saturday morning services featuring a B'nai Mitzvah are streamed on the Emanu El website and Roku channel.

## FROM RABBI HAYON *continued from page 1*

have the opportunity to connect with him face-to-face and hear about his hopes and vision for Emanu El; I am certain that you will leave the encounter energized and inspired.

The beginning of a new presidential term provides an excellent opportunity to reflect on the Torah's lessons about leadership. The prime example of a communal leader in the Bible is, of course, Moses, who is remembered both for his prophetic insight and his political acumen in motivating his people and mobilizing them along their journey to the Promised Land. Soon after he accepts the mission with which he has been tasked by God, he realizes that he will be unable to lead the entire Israelite community singlehandedly; the people is simply far too large for him to oversee effectively. Fortunately, Moses' father-in-law Jethro is on hand to offer some advice. The *Book of Exodus* recounts Jethro's counsel to Moses:

*"The task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone. [Instead,] seek out, from among the people, capable individuals who fear God, trustworthy people who spurn ill-gotten gain. . . . Make it easier for yourself by letting them share the burden with you."*  
(Exodus 18:17-22)

The choice to appoint a council of communal leaders to share the workload was originally a simple tactical decision by Moses. However, the strategy of delegating responsibility to others soon provides him with the realization that a structure of shared collaborative leadership can yield enormous blessing. Years later, reflecting on his experiences of leading his people through the wilderness, Moses returns to his council of lay leaders, and he shares with them his insight that the decision to widen the circle of communal leadership resulted in unexpected benefits to the entire people:

*"I had said to you, 'I cannot bear this burden by myself,' and now ADONAI your God has multiplied you until you have become as numerous as the stars in the sky. May ADONAI, the God of your ancestors, increase your numbers a thousandfold, and bless you as God has promised!"*  
(Deuteronomy 1:9-11)

After spending years walking through the wilderness with his people, Moses comes to realize a valuable truth about communal leadership: Broadening and diversifying the number of people who hold leadership stakes in a community is more than just smart management; the work of leadership bears abundant fruit both to the organization and to the leaders. Just as Moses observed, capable and trustworthy people who share the burden and the opportunity of leading their community will, through their labor and their love, bring great blessings to the community they serve and also, in turn, to themselves. I am so thankful to the many members of our congregation who have stepped forward into leadership roles over the years. If you are not yet among them, I encourage you to consider doing so, so that our historic congregation may benefit from the insight, experience and blessing that you can offer.

### Memorial Plaques

Our vendor has indicated that they anticipate a turn-around time of as long as three months for memorial plaques due to the influx of memorial plaque requests that they receive prior to the High Holy Days from synagogues across the country.

In order to ensure that your loved ones' plaque is placed on the walls of the Barish Sanctuary in time for this year's High Holy Days, which begin in early September, we are asking that you purchase a plaque **by the close of business on Friday, June 8th**. For more information, contact Alisha Klapholz at (713) 529-5771, ext. 213.

### Book of Memory

Those seeking to participate in this year's *Book of Memory* should find the *Book of Memory* form in this edition of the *Bulletin*. A similar form will also be available in the June and July editions of the *Bulletin*. In-conjunction with the *Book of Memory* being available in the May

edition of the *Bulletin*, sign-up will also be available **online beginning on Tuesday, May 1st**.

This year's deadline for the *Book of Memory* for the Congregation will be on **Wednesday, August 2nd**.

### High Holy Day Book Nameplates

This coming year will be the second in which we have utilized *Mishkan NaNefesh*, the Reform Movement's new prayer books for the High Holy Days. The books based on the post-High Holy Day survey were very well received.

Congregants have an opportunity to dedicate individual volumes (or sets) in honor or in memory of those who are dear to us. Information on purchasing nameplates can be found online at [EmanuElHouston.org](http://EmanuElHouston.org) or by calling the synagogue at (713) 529-5771. To insure that the nameplates are in the books ahead of the High Holy Days, we ask that you return your form or fill it out **online by Friday, August 17th**.

### In Need of ASL Interpreter for High Holy Days? Let Us Know!

To ensure those who are hard of hearing are able to enjoy and participate in our beautiful High Holy Day services, the Brotherhood will be generously providing closed captioning for all non-youth and children services in the Barish Sanctuary. If you or a loved one are in need of an ASL interpreter please contact JoAnne at the synagogue at (713) 529-5771 or [JoAnneK@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:JoAnneK@emanuelhouston.org) **by Friday, August 4th** in order to insure these services are available.

### Exciting New Advertising Opportunity Launches In This *Bulletin*

Looking for a new way to get the word out about your business? Beginning this May, the Temple *Bulletin* will host ads in a tasteful way, displayed at the rear of our monthly communication.

The Temple *Bulletin* is sent to over 1,750 families, to our various partner organizations in the community, displayed on our Emanu El website and available in our facility to the many guests who frequent our building.

Companies and organizations can purchase a one-time ad or find savings in their purchase by committing to multiple months. The proceeds of these ads will help off-set the cost of the Temple *Bulletin* and other synagogue communications.

Interested in purchasing an ad or acquiring a rate sheet? Contact David Lamden at (713) 529-5771, ext. 221 or [DavidL@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:DavidL@emanuelhouston.org).

### Our clergy want to know . . .

If you or a loved one is sick or hospitalized please let us know.

Contact the synagogue at (713) 529-5771, so that our rabbis can reach out and visit and be a source of strength and support.

Visiting the sick and praying for those who are ill are important and meaningful mitzvot.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### President's Report 2018 presented to the Annual Meeting of April 17, 2018

Report delivered by Jeff Basen-Engquist at the congregation's Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 17.

#### My Leadership Prayer

*I need strength, humility, courage, patience.  
Strength to control my passions,  
humility to assess my own worth,  
courage to rise above defeats,  
patience to cleanse myself of imperfections.  
And wisdom: to learn and live by our sacred teachings.  
Let me not be discouraged by my failings.  
Let me take heart from all that is good and noble in my  
character.  
Keep me from falling victim to cynicism.  
Teach me sincerity and enthusiasm.  
Endow me with perception and courage,  
that I may serve others with compassion and love.*

*Mishkan T'filah, p. 336; Adapted from Robert I. Kahn*

This has been a very consequential two-year term. In addition to regular Board business, the primary function of which is fiscal oversight, it has involved completing matters that had been pending such as our conversion to the Standard Commitment "dues" model, implementing virtually all of our Governance plan, completing the review and rewriting of our bylaws, analyzing our roof and HVAC system and developing a plan for replacement of both, and, of course, Hurricane Harvey.

At the Board retreat in August 2016, Rabbi Hayon proposed and the Board adopted the following Mission Statement: "Congregation Emanu El will have a visible and consequential impact on Houston's moral and spiritual, cultural and intellectual life." My goals were to reflect the mission in our Board and committee work, to maintain fiscal health and enhance our financial future, to implement the Governance Plan passed by the Board three summers ago, to reinvigorate and diversify our committees with seasoned or new leadership and broader committee membership, and to coordinate Board and staff efforts through the Executive Director. The mission and those priorities are reflected in this report.

Let me begin with the heart of our mission, our spiritual leadership, our clergy. Rabbi Hayon is a magnificent teacher, partner, and, personally, Rabbi. I had the honor of leading a great team in the search for our Senior Rabbi. I am very proud of the way we conducted ourselves and of the outcome. Rabbi Hayon's commitment to our congregation runs deep and is demonstrated in his vision for our future, his leadership of his outstanding team, and in the myriad ways he and our clergy teach us, spiritually guide us, and reach out to us. I thank you, Rabbi Hayon, for being my collaborator, guide and friend.

I gladly note that Rabbi Silk, Rabbi Fixler, Cantor Simmons and Rabbi Emeritus Walter, each of their own merit, embrace their roles and perpetuate the warm and inspiring environment that has its roots in our history.

Many volunteer hours were spent to fill out this corps group. Thank you to each of you who were involved in searches and welcoming events.

Next, I will discuss our financial footing. Endowment Board Chair Rodney Roth and that Board completed that bylaws revision and have begun regularly thanking and informing our named fund donors about their investment in our future. Rodney has expanded the membership and relevant experience of the Board. The new donor brochure and revised web listing have been implemented. The contributions from the funds have a major impact each year on our budget. Thank you to Rodney and the Endowment Fund Board for their leadership. Thank you to each of you who have contributed to these funds.

Our Investment Committee, led by Mark Brookner, continues to have outstanding performance against the market with our Endowment Funds. This group serves a vital function. Thank you all.

For the last two years, Elyse Kalmans has Chaired our Legacy Campaign, conducted as part of the Houston Jewish Community Foundation and Grinspoon Foundation's area-wide program, seeking to inspire the creation of new funds. She and the Task Force led the most successful effort in Houston in their first year and continue to engage new prospects and solidify new commitments. All the while, other funds are being established and enlarged. I encourage everyone to reach out to Elyse, a committee member (Rabbi Walter, Myra Lipper, Jeri Amundsen, or Michael Rubenstein) or a Rabbi to explore how you can pave the way for our future financial stability.

Our conversion to the Standard Commitment model of membership is underway. I first appointed a Task Force to review the plan created almost five years ago under Mark Brookner's leadership. The Board agreed with their conclusion to go forward with the change. A second Task Force, led by Rebecca Lunstroth and Rebecca Miller, worked with Executive Director David Lamden to present the change plan to the Board and, following its approval, develop the letters and brochures we received. To date almost one-third of the commitment forms for 2018-19 have been received. On balance, commitment levels are increasing.

Looking forward, the Board of Trustees contracted with Sterling Associates, an experienced and well-respected local firm that provides fundraising, marketing, communications, research services and management consulting to nonprofit organizations. Our team of volunteers and staff are working with them to create a plan for a significant fundraising campaign. Work on the plan began in January and should be completed in June.

Finally, I must thank the congregation for its generosity in donating to our funds for support of congregants



through the Clergy's Good Works Fund and to the Temple Fund for repairs to our facility. Apart from some work at the cemetery, we covered our repairs and continue to support congregants in need because of Harvey.

With respect to governance, our committees have been especially busy this year. I want to take a few minutes to review some of their accomplishments. Our newly re-established Personnel Committee began its work almost two years ago. With members chosen primarily for their legal and personnel expertise, the committee has proven to be an invaluable resource in certain personnel matters. The committee has provided regular evaluations, presented to the Executive Committee and Board, of Executive Director David Lamden and Senior Rabbi Hayon. This year the group also has focused on writing a Personnel Handbook for the congregation and is working with Helfman and Becker staff to create specialized addenda for their use. This work should wrap-up in the next few months.

The Helfman Religious School Committee has renewed spirit under the leadership of Melissa Carson and Burton Manne. One only needed to witness the recent Purim Carnival to see the fruits of their labors. Additionally, the committee has been collaborating with our wonderful new Director of Congregational Learning, Stefani Carlson, to assist her and to engage parents of students. Thank you to Melissa, Burton and the committee. I also want to acknowledge the creativity and energy of Jamie Aaron and our clergy, particularly Rabbi Fixler, in working with our youth and young families.

Similarly, our Becker Early Childhood Education Committee, led by Past President Gary Blumberg and Jessica Segal, has broadened its membership and worked with Director Paula Katz to maintain this highly respected and successful program.

On the other end of the spectrum, Executive Committee member Laurie Lee saw a need and went to work developing a Senior Member Engagement Plan. We hope to see that brought forward very soon.

I must mention one last committee, Building, Grounds & Security. The overall committee met the challenges of Hurricane Harvey head on. Tireless volunteer Shel Vedlitz coordinated and oversaw most of the \$200,000 in repairs, working with Committee Chair Bruce Lessey, Matt Pasternak, Beau Pollock and numerous others, including our Executive Director and maintenance staff. I also want to acknowledge our clergy and staff who showed up, stayed late, and then did some more to keep the doors open and take care of the needs of our congregants and the community. I cannot thank you enough.

The Security Task Force, led by Lenny Holzband and Rachel Gutow-Ellis, worked with David Lamden, Jason Plotkin, Stephanie Kamion and others to finalize the traffic pattern as it was intended to operate, to bolster campus security, and to create the extremely informative materials we received to make the

conversion as smooth as possible. Additionally, Executive Director David Lamden, who fashions himself as tech savvy (and is), has updated our technical security capabilities. Program Director Jason Plotkin continues working with our professional security team to keep them informed and performing at their best.

One related innovation, our first Leadership Academy will be held in late April to inform new Board members and prepare others identified principally through the nominations process for committee and other leadership positions.

I want to thank Marci Weinstein, Diane Puschett and Lewis Kalmans for their leadership of Sisterhood and Brotherhood respectively. Each has assured that traditions were maintained while new things were tried. Each organization helps mark the seasons with familiar events and provide time and treasure where it's needed at Emanu El and in the community. Thank you to you and your members.

As with our clergy, having a full complement of staff not only has allowed us to maintain our traditionally high level of service to congregants, but also has created many new opportunities. I could spend a lot of time telling you about Executive Director David Lamden, but I will spare both you and him. David arrived in November of 2016 and hit the ground running a marathon. You have heard me mention his name frequently tonight. He has effectively applied his prior experience in many roles including Executive Director and his wide network formed as a leader in the National Association of Temple Administrators. His natural warmth and intelligence have supported staff and congregants. I am grateful to former Executive Director Pam Kutner for helping us bring him here.

David has reviewed staff and roles and will soon oversee some expansion and enhancement of current staff job descriptions, providing new skills and opportunities for them. Additionally, we will bring on board an Executive Director Assistant/Database Administrator. David facilitated our conversion this Spring from the woefully outdated Membership Management 2000 to the modern ShulCloud Software. This Administrator position will centralize primary data entry as well as take on basic administrative functions to free David to better lead and support both staff and the Board. There has been very little we have accomplished over the last eighteen months that David did not touch or immerse himself in. I have truly enjoyed teaming up with him and am proud of all we have accomplished together.

The Board authorized a contract with the local firm Principal, to examine and recommend branding changes. We have begun seeing them in our materials, e.g., the Bulletin and e-blasts, and soon we will see it reflected elsewhere including a modern, user friendly website.

Program Director Jason Plotkin and Membership Engagement & Development Coordinator Jill Kaplan

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT *continued from page 5*

have led a responsive renaissance in our program offerings and member involvement. Listening to congregants and studying best practices, they have supported and developed numerous age- and affinity-based groups to serve congregant needs.

Controller Laura Kocian and the accounting team continue to provide excellent support, consistently resulting in clean audits and notable customer service. I cannot mention everyone on staff but please know your work behind the scenes is greatly appreciated.

I owe one shout out to Stephanie Kamion who, over the years, has helped me no matter how hare-brained my ideas for flyers, documents, visual aids and the like. We have an amazing, dedicated and skillful staff. Please join me in thanking them.

One more item about the future. Congregation Emanu El will celebrate our 75th Anniversary during calendar year 2019. Cheryl Levy and Elyse Kalmans generously agreed to be our Event Co-Chairs. They have begun working on a plan for the year while integrating the celebration with our calendar, working with clergy and staff. Keep an eye on the Bulletin for some exciting announcements. Thank you both for stepping up for a big job. We are due for a grand celebration and I know it's in good hands.

Finally, I want to acknowledge, not by name due to time constraints, the many people who taught, questioned, sometimes badgered, encouraged and supported me from my time as a PTA volunteer to today. More than a few of you bore the brunt of my curiosity, single-mindedness, and, in some cases, absence. Thank you to the Past Presidents, so many of whom I consulted along the way.

I am especially grateful to my bride of 28 years and breadwinner, Karen Basen-Engquist, and our daughter, recent Bryn Mawr graduate, fully employed with the Posse Foundation and Helfman 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher Emma Rose. I apologize for the missed meals, especially the ones I was supposed to fix, and for filling so much of our lives with Temple business. I love you both more than ever and cannot wait to spend more time with you again.

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve this historic congregation. With a clear mission, a sound financial base and a plan to expand it, a modern governance strategy which will be supported by our proposed bylaws, diversified leadership and programming, a complete staff, and a new roof over our heads, our future is very bright. I hope you liked the audition. Shalom

**ADDENDUM:** At the Annual Meeting, the 2017-18 Annual Meeting Minutes were accepted, the 2018-18 Budget was adopted, the slate of Officers and Trustees was elected, and the Roof/HVAC Financing plan was passed. The proposed Bylaws were passed with three changes (two typos and one inadvertent omission were corrected by amendment) and three items were sent forward to the new leadership for a new Bylaws Task Force to study.

## EMANU EL AT A GLANCE THROUGH JUNE 19<sup>th</sup>

The below information contains a listing of events at Emanu El exclusive of our Temple worship and Shabbat schedule, which can be found monthly on page 2.

As a Congregation, we communicate in many different ways: this calendar is supplemented by information that can be found throughout this edition of the Temple *Bulletin*, in the weekly Shabbat program, available in your weekly Wednesday eLetter, on the Emanu El website: [www.emanuelhouston.org](http://www.emanuelhouston.org), and on our Facebook page.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(through June 19, 2018)

#### MAY

- 5/1 – Emanu Elders, 11:30 a.m.
- 5/4 – Leadership Shabbat, 6:00 p.m.
- 5/9 – Lunch & Learn: “Developing Hope Through Jewish Text & Tradition”, 12:00 p.m.
- 5/10 – Book Review: *The Two-Family House*, by Lynda Cohen Loigman, 12:30 p.m.
- 5/10 – Congregant of the Year, 6:30 p.m.
- 5/11 – Houston Jewish Singles’ Shabbat Dinner, immediately following services
- 5/14 – Gathering Place, 10:00 a.m.
- 5/15 – Kids Meals, 9:30 a.m.
- 5/18 – Becker School Graduation, 9:30 a.m.
- 5/19 – Shavuot/Confirmation, 7:00 p.m.
- 5/20 – Shavuot/Festival Service & Yizkor, 10:30 a.m.
- 5/22 – Sack Lunches for SEARCH, 9:30 a.m.

#### JUNE

- 6/1 – Tot Shabbat Dinner & Service, Dinner at 5:45 p.m. followed by service at 6:30 p.m.
- 6/1 – Emanu El Alum/HUC Student Michelle Blumenthal at Shabbat Services, 6:00 p.m.
- 6/1 – Emanu El Young Professionals Dinner with Michelle Blumenthal, 7:15 p.m.
- 6/5 – Emanu Elders, 11:30 a.m.
- 6/5 – Night at the Ballpark, 7:00 p.m. (at Minute Maid Park)
- 6/6 – Annual Summer College Student Gathering, 6:30 p.m. (at Mia’s)
- 6/11 – Gathering Place, 10:00 a.m.
- 6/14 – Work of Our Hands, 10:00 a.m.
- 6/14 – My Generation BBQ and Bingo Pot Luck, 6:00 p.m.
- 6/15 – Community Shabbat Dinner, following services (approx. 7:15 p.m.)
- 6/19 – Kids Meals, 9:30 a.m.

**NEXT BULLETIN TO BE ISSUED: TUESDAY, JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup>**

## OUR TEMPLE FAMILY

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### IN THE COMMUNITY

**Dick Brooks** earned a bronze in the 80-84 age group of the slalom and giant slalom in the “National Standard Race” in Squaw Valley, California.

**Isabelle Nuzzo** was named amongst the year’s “Most Exceptional Artists & Releases” honored at the Lincoln Center in the 16th Annual Independent Music Awards. Isabelle was selected a design winner in the category of concert photography.

**Michael Zions** was recently selected San Jose Clinic’s 2017 Volunteer of the Year. He has provided over 1,000 hours of service to patients at San Jose Clinic, which provides medical services to the uninsured.

### BIRTHS

**Rebecca Harper Barth**, daughter of Elisabeth Harper & Adam Barth; granddaughter of Ellen & R. Michael Barth; great granddaughter of Val McClintock

**Martin Cooley Nelson**, son of Elizabeth & Justin Nelson; grandson of Carol Adatto & Eric Nelson, Olivia & Tommy Cooley

**Asher Jake Rubenstein**, son of Jodi & Michael Rubenstein; grandson of Janine & Charles Pulman, Betsy Rubenstein, Jennifer & Mark Rubenstein; great-grandson of Dotty Jacobs

**Virginia Lachman Wen**, daughter of Virginia Lachman & Jeisun Wen; granddaughter of Virginia Kennedy & Larry Lachman

### DEATHS

**Henry “Hank” Bickart**, husband of Renee Bickart; father of Stephanie & Jeff Bickart and Valerie & Jay Resh; grandfather of Joshua, Bradley and Danielle Resh and Scott and Allie Bickart

**Leon Cohen**, husband of Evelyn Cohen; father of Yvonne

& Ronny Spolane, Jan & Leslie Cohen, Adrienne Solomon, Julie & Dayne Pryor; grandfather of Stephanie & Joshua Cohen, Amy & Jacob Cohen, Suzanne Cohen, Erica Solomon, Gould & Eric Gould, Paula Solomon, Kingsley & Michael Kingsley, Adam Spolane, Rikki Spolane Veksler & Boris Veksler, Elizabeth Pryor Massey & James Massey, Marissa Pryor; great grandfather of Spencer, Lilah and Annie Cohen, Ella and Norah Gould Haley, Benjamin Kingsley

**Dahlia Edelstein Gabert**, wife of L.M. Gabert; mother of Nori Gabert, Daryl West; grandmother of Amy West and Heath West

**Lenny Katz**, son of Judith Katz and Jerold Katz; brother of Nicole & Evan Katz, Cindy & Scott Katz, Lissy Katz Bank & Joshua Bank

**Jim Lynch**, husband of Lynn Niles; father of Amy Lynch Kolflat & Erik Kolflat and Erin Bennett Lynch; grandfather of two; brother of Cynthia Lynch Sharpe and Wroe Lynch

**Elaine Newman Plotkin**, mother of Yvonne Hall and Michael Newman; step-mother of Marlene Rubin and Ronnie Plotkin; grandmother and great-grandmother of many

**Jerry Schwartz**, father of Mary Rose & Ben Schwartz, Traci & Steve Schwartz, Kim & Vince Smith; grandfather of Michael Schwartz, Lindsey Schwartz, Matthew Schwartz, Daniel Smith, David Schwartz, Brett Smith, Nicole Schwartz; brother-in-law of Doris Harris, Joyce & Aaron Schneider, Helen & Allen Lerner

**Royce Ann Sline**, wife of Melvin “Rick” Sline; mother of Daniel Sline; mother-in-law of Deanna Sline; sister of Joyce & Alfred Goodman; grandmother of Lilly, Evie and Reid Sline

**Bill Wayne**, brother of Helaine Wayne Lane & David Lane, Tanja & Eddie Wayne, Bobby Wayne; father of Hope & David Rothschild, Valerie & Benjamin Wayne, Mandy & Jake Dolan, Cassie & Andrew Gibson, Willow Tuley; grandfather of six

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## Social Action Committee & Community Family Centers

Members of the Congregation under the direction of the social action committee headed to Community Family Centers in mid-April to help at their weekly Food Fair. Each week, roughly 400 families are served and over the course of a year, two million pounds of food annually are distributed to families in Houston’s impoverished East End. To learn how to get involved with the efforts between CFC and Emanu El, contact Keith Remels at [kremels@dowgolub.com](mailto:kremels@dowgolub.com).





## Congregation Emanu El Conducts Annual Meeting, Elects New Officers & Approves Budget

A full agenda greeted attendees at the Congregation Emanu El annual meeting which occurred on Tuesday, April 17th.

**Elected to Officer positions were:** Rodney Roth, President; Jeri Amundsen, Senior Vice President; Bruce Lessey, Vice President; Greta Pliskin, Vice President; Laurie Lee, Vice President; Todd Slobin, Vice President; Stuart Gaylor, Treasurer; Ben Miller, Secretary; and Jeff Basen-Engquist, Honorary President.

Amundsen and Slobin are the new additions to the executive committee. Amundsen has previous experience on the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees, in addition to leading several committees and task forces. Elevated from the 2017-18 Board of Trustees to the Executive Committee, Slobin is in the midst of completing his tenure as chair of the Personnel Committee.

Elected to the Board of Trustees for a three-year term, expiring in 2021 are Hannah Brook, Ivy Frank, Fredi Franks, Ronnie Kurtin, Nicole Longnecker, Burton Manne, Ben Proler and Bob Schaffer.

Elected to the Board of Trustees for a one-year term, expiring in 2019 are Michael Epstein, Stephanie Gabelnick, Drew Karklin, Laura Mayer-Cyprow, Alana Pulaski and Philip Tenenbaum.

Continuing on the Board of Trustees and not requiring re-election were Marvin Barish, Sue Baum, Dawn Blitz, Helen Dreyfus, Elizabeth Krohn, Pam Lewis, Barry Lichman, Kathy Parven, Carolyn Putterman, Steven Reiner, Richard Schechter, Michael Sprung, Rachael Tobor and Lauren Vines.

In the coming weeks, individuals will be added to the Board of Trustees by virtue of their auxiliary positions as lead lay leaders for the Brotherhood, Helfman Religious School Community and "The Tribe", Emanu El's youth group. Sisterhood President Diane Puschett will begin her second year of service in 2018-19 as the Sisterhood representative on the board.

The meeting was dubbed 'BBQuorum' and started with a barbecue dinner catered by Smirnov Catering, the synagogue's in-house caterer.

During the course of the meeting, the membership approved the 2018-19 operating budget, adopted an updated set of bylaws for the congregation and greenlighted a funding mechanism for Emanu El to replace the roof and enhance its HVAC system.

The new roof is estimated to cost \$1.5M and the HVAC

system will cost between \$600k and \$1M. A presentation on the roof and HVAC enhancements was made by Lessey and Becky Proler, a Past President.

An address by Basen-Engquist, the outgoing president and Rabbi Oren Hayon were also made. The duo highlighted the past year which included the synagogue's handling of its families impacted by Hurricane Harvey, the introduction of the Mishkan Ha'Nefesh prayer book to High Holy Days and the transition to a new annual commitment model for members.

The meeting concluded with special recognition to outgoing Board of Trustees members, Sylvia Brody, Lenny Holzband, Heather Pesikoff and Linda Susman. For his service to the congregation, Basen-Engquist was presented with a menorah by Rabbi Hayon and the synagogue's Executive Director David Lamden, on behalf of the congregation.

## A Souper Success! Emanu El Brotherhood Hosts Chicken Soup Cookoff

The unusually cold April weather snap in Houston might have caused a few grumbles, but it worked out just perfectly for the organizers of the 14<sup>th</sup> Chicken Soup Cookoff at Congregation Emanu El on Sunday, April 8th.

As has been the case in the past, the chicken soup competition donated 100% of the profits, raising thousands of dollars for both the Houston Food Bank and Emergency Aid Coalition.

Chefs chose to enter their soups in the "Traditional", "Creative" or "International" categories. The big winners were Kenny & Ziggy's, Jonathan's the Rub and Biggio's.

Kenny & Ziggy's took top billing as the "People's Choice" award winner in addition to topping the traditional category. B&B Butchers and Chef Ellen finished second and third, respectively amongst traditional soups.



Kenny & Ziggy's restaurant won the People's Choice award at the Brotherhood's bi-annual Chicken Soup Cookoff. Kenny & Ziggy's also won top billing in the traditional category.

*continued next page*



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The creative category was won by Jonathan's The Rub followed by Catering To Your Taste Buds and Twin Peaks. Biggio's rounded out the big winners with a victory in the international soup category with Geo's Catering and Villages of Meyerland rounding out the top three.

Following the completion of the event, all of the leftover soup was donated to Second Servings, Houston's only prepared and perishable food rescue organization that delivers to charitable meal sites.

The judging panel on the stage was a who's who in Houston including: *Channel 13's* Traffic Anchor Katherine Whaley, *Houston Chronicle's* Craig Hlavaty, *Channel 39 News* Director Gary Jaffe, Greater Houston Restaurant Association Executive Melissa Stewart, Houston Food Bank's Director of Development Amy Ragan, *Local Houston Magazine's* food editor Carlos Brandon, Chair King's Joe Weissman, West University Fire Chief Aron Taylor, family reporter Valerie Sweeten, famous restaurateur Mark Holley, Magician/Illusionist Robby Bennett, ERJCC President Debbie Kaplan and AM 1070'S J.P. Pritchard.

Many of the soup lovers stopped by the Gift of Life Marrow Registry booth for a 20 second swab to be registered as a potential bone marrow donor.

Matches made from this effort will enable patients suffering from diseases like leukemia and lymphoma to find a donor when need of a marrow transplant.

The bi-annual event will return to Emanu El in February 2020.

## Helfman Teacher Judy Ney to Receive 2018 Irving L. Samuels Outstanding Teacher Award



The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston invites the community to attend the presentation of the 2018 Irving L. Samuels Outstanding Teacher Awards for Judaic Studies on Monday, May 7th at 7:00 p.m. at the Evelyn Rubenstein JCC, 5601 S. Braeswood.

In its 27th year, the Federation's Samuels Awards honor two outstanding educators who teach Judaic subject matter in our Day Schools, Early Childhood Programs or Congregational Religious Schools. This award is generously funded by the Samuels family in memory of Irving Samuels, z'l, who taught at Congregation Emanu El for over 20 years.

The 2018 award recipients are Judy Ney of the Helfman Religious School of Congregation Emanu El and Royce Phillips of the Shlenker School.

Judy Ney has been teaching Religious Studies and Hebrew at Congregation Emanu El for 25 years. She has mostly taught 4th grade and is known for the annual "Mock Wedding" learning experience. Judy was a participant in the Federation's 1st Shirley Barish Israel Educators' trip to Israel in 2014. In her "day" job, she is an Administrative Law Judge (Judge Judy) responsible for conducting contested case hearings and issuing Decisions and Orders on all benefit related issues arising under the Texas Workers' Compensation Act.

For more information, contact Lisa Klein at (713) 729-7000 or LKlein@HoustonJewish.org.

## Emanu El Exploring Ride Share Program to Improve Congregants' Access to Worship, Programming

For the last several months, Congregation Emanu El leadership has been working with a company called Envoy America to establish a low-cost ride share program that will pair a skilled driver companion with senior members of our Congregation who are unable to drive themselves safely to Temple.

A nationally-recognized company, Envoy America provides mature, trained, secured driver companions that assist seniors in staying connected, independent, and safe.

Emanu El has had several members test Envoy America's service and they have reported positive feedback that has encouraged us to take the next step. In order to help minimize costs for the participants with the assistance of synagogue subsidies, we are seeking to compile a list of individual(s) that would be interested in taking advantage of this service. By enabling the drivers to make multiple stops in a single neighborhood en route to worship and/or programs, the costs and efficiency of the service become ideal for all participants.

For more information or to get on the list of interested participants, please contact Jason Plotkin at (713) 535-6414 or JasonP@emanuelhouston.org.



### Cub Scouts Make Donation To Emanu El's Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund

In light of Hurricane Harvey, the cub scouts decided to donate 100% of their fundraising proceeds from popcorn sales to Emanu El's hurricane relief fund. Helfman Religious School Community Chair Melissa Carson (second from left) accepts the check on behalf of the Congregation. Special thanks to cub scout leader Robert Rosenblum (far left) and popcorn chair Meagan Friedman (far right) for their assistance in this effort.

### Emanu El Hosts Joe Buchanan in Concert

Cantor Rollin Simmons, musician Joe Buchanan and Rabbi Oren Hayon are pictured following a concert Joe Buchanan hosted at Congregation Emanu El on Sunday, April 8th. A local Houstonian, Joe is a touring Jewish Americana artist that brings together a blend of southern soul and country charm. The talented musician has been a part of Emanu El's High Holy Day worship in the past and accompanied Rick Recht during the "Voices of Hope" concert held at Emanu El in the days after Hurricane Harvey. More information on Joe can be found on his website at [www.joebuchananmusic.com](http://www.joebuchananmusic.com).



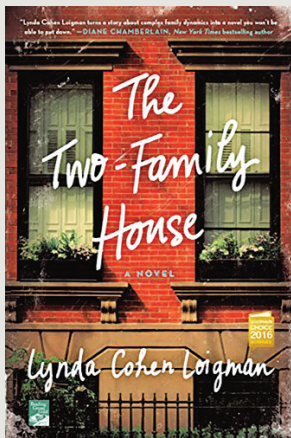
### Barish Announces Additional Gift to Shirley Barish Memorial Israel Experience

Marvin Barish recently announced to the Board of Trustees of Congregation Emanu El that he is increasing his gift to the Shirley Barish Memorial Israel Experience. The trip, held every other year, allows rising juniors and seniors in the congregation's Helfman Religious School to take an all-expense paid trip to Israel and Poland. The third group will leave in June to take advantage of this special opportunity established by Marvin and his family. Over 100 students will have taken part in the Shirley Barish Memorial Israel Experience which began in 2014. This generous gift ensures the future underwriting of this unique spiritual and cultural experience.



# Sisterhood News & Happenings

May 2018



## BOOK REVIEW:

*The Two-Family House*,  
by Linda Cohen Loigman

THURSDAY, MAY 10TH

12:30 PM

Join us on **Thursday, May 10th at 12:30 p.m.** for a book review of *The Two-Family House*, written by Lynda Cohen Loigman. The book will be reviewed by Marlene Rubin.

The fiction tells the story of two brothers and their respective families, who lived in a two-family brownstone, in Brooklyn, in the 1950s. The brothers work together in the family business, and their children play together, much as siblings would. Beneath this richly portrayed family dynamic, however, are circumstances, personalities, and secrets that forever change each family's fate.

Book reviews are open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to bring their lunch and a light dessert is served.

## New Traditions Gift Shop Begins Summer Hours on Monday, May 14th

The New Traditions Sisterhood gift shop will begin its summer hours on **Monday, May 14th**.

Beginning this date, the gift shop will be open Monday through Friday **from 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. or by appointment**. To schedule an appointment, call (713) 529-5771, ext. 234 or email [sishood@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:sishood@emanuelhouston.org). Please leave your name and phone number and someone will be in touch.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### Welcome Our Newest Members

We are pleased to welcome the newest members to our congregational family. Please be sure to introduce yourself to our newcomers as they become a part of our community.

**Rochella Cooper**

**Jill & Eric Storch**, daughters Maya & Ellie, son Noah  
**Emily & Brent Stoller**

New members will be shared in the Temple Bulletin regularly. Know someone interested in becoming a part of our community? New to town? Or looking to find a way to connect with Emanu El? Contact Jill Patir at (713) 529-5771, ext. 262 or [JillP@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:JillP@emanuelhouston.org).

### Annual Commitment Forms

Annual Commitment forms for 2018-19 arrived in congregant mailboxes in mid-to-late March. Congregants are encouraged to fill out the form and return it.

Individuals who have questions, needing assistance in filling out the form or needing another form are encouraged to call the synagogue office at (713) 529-5771.

Thanks to those congregants whom have already responded to date!

## Membership Portal Currently Unavailable

We apologize for the inconvenience, but our membership portal is currently unavailable as we transition to a new membership database software for the first time in over a decade. Our staff is currently in the process of familiarizing themselves with our new software so that they can better serve you upon launch.

Stay tuned for information on how you can access the member portal as part of a new website in the coming months.



### Congregation Emanu El Three-Part Lunch & Learn Series Concludes Wednesday, May 9th

Nourish your mind and spirit as well as your body at Congregation Emanu El's monthly lunch and learn generously underwritten by the Brotherhood.

All are welcome for a stimulating hour of learning and text on **Wednesday, May 9 at 12:00 p.m.** as Rabbi Silk teaches *Developing Hope through Jewish Text & Traditions*.

There is no charge for this event though RSVPs are greatly appreciated by visiting [www.EmanuElHouston.org](http://www.EmanuElHouston.org) or by calling (713) 529-5771 to ensure we have enough food.

For more information on the series, contact Jason Plotkin at (713) 529-5771, ext. 216 or [JasonP@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:JasonP@emanuelhouston.org).

### Emanu El to Celebrate Confirmation & Shavuot Saturday, May 19th at 6:00 p.m.

Helfman Religious School's 10th grade students will celebrate Confirmation on the evening of **Saturday, May 19th at 6:00 p.m.** All in the community are welcome to join this group of students as they lead the congregation in a service celebrating the holiday of Shavuot, which marks the time when the Jewish people received the Torah at Mount Sinai. This service is an opportunity for our Confirmation students to stand together and affirm their connection to Judaism.

### Emanu El Alum Michelle Blumenthal to Give d'var Torah at June 1st Shabbat Services



Congregation Emanu El will welcome home one of our "alums" as Michelle Blumenthal will give the d'var Torah on **Friday, June 1st during our 6:00 p.m. Shabbat worship.**

Home in Houston for a few weeks before continuing her studies, Michelle will be sharing with our congregation about her year in Israel,

what she has learned at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) and how her involvement at Emanu El influenced her decision to enroll.

Upon her visit to Emanu El in June, Michelle will have just finished the first of three years in HUC-JIR's joint Masters in Jewish Education and Jewish Nonprofit Management Program.

A graduate of Helfman Religious School, Michelle's ties run deep at Emanu El with leadership responsibilities in TEFTY as a youth and on the congregation's Young Adult Committee as an adult. Additionally, she taught second grade in Helfman for four years while serving professionally as the Director of Jewston, Houston Hillel's community for Jewish 20somethings.

Prior to her tenure as a professional in Houston, Michelle served as the Program Associate at the Hillel of Broward and Palm Beach. Other professional experience includes two years as an Education Fellow at the Institute of Southern Jewish Life (Jackson, Mississippi), where she fell in love with Southern Jewish culture and decided to become a Jewish Professional. A 2010 graduate of Arizona with a double major in Judaic Studies and Communication, Michelle was an active member of Alpha Epsilon Phi, interned at University of Arizona Hillel, and spent her summers on staff at URJ Greene Family Camp.

We look forward to welcoming the community to learn about Michelle's experiences.



### 4th Annual Emanu El Night at the Ballpark Tuesday, June 5th

For the fourth straight year, Congregation Emanu El is heading out for a 'Night At the Ballpark'.

Join members of the Emanu El clergy and staff on **Tuesday, June 5th** at Minute Maid Park as the defending world champion Houston Astros battle the Seattle Mariners at 7:10 p.m.

The synagogue's initial allotment of 150 tickets at a cost of \$15 – subsidized generously by the Brotherhood of Congregation Emanu El – has officially sold out. The synagogue is now selling an additional allotment of \$20 tickets in the same section. As of press date, a deadline for these tickets had not been established.

The Tuesday night ball game is \$1 hot dog night. Tickets will be distributed via mail or at the synagogue beginning in early May.

To register, please visit [www.EmanuElHouston.org](http://www.EmanuElHouston.org). For more information, contact Jason Plotkin at (713) 535-6414 or [JasonP@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:JasonP@emanuelhouston.org).

## Annual Summer College Student Gathering

Wednesday, June 6th at 7:00 p.m.

Are you an Emanu El college student planning to be back in Houston this summer? Come join your favorite Emanu El clergy for dinner **Wednesday, June 6th at 7:00 pm**. This summer's dinner will take place at Mia's, 3131 Argonne. Please RSVP to [collegestudents@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:collegestudents@emanuelhouston.org).

## Congregation Emanu El's Annual Community Shabbat Dinners

Friday, June 15 & Friday, July 20th

There's always a debate of where to go for dinner following Shabbat services. Let Emanu El make the choice easy for you!

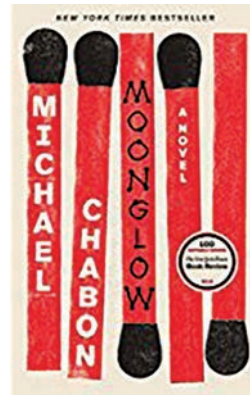
For a fourth straight summer, Emanu El will host community Shabbat dinners – this year on **Friday, June 15th** and **Friday, July 20th** following services. The cost of the dinner is \$5 per person, with the cost subsidized by the synagogue. The June dinner will feature sliders & hot dogs, with the July menu to be finalized soon. Vegetarian options are available for both dinners.

Please note that RSVPs are required and Emanu El will not be able to handle walk-ups.

RSVP online by **Wednesday, June 13th** for the June event and **Wednesday, July 18th** for the July dinner at [www.EmanuElHouston.org](http://www.EmanuElHouston.org) or by calling (713) 529-5771.

## BOOK REVIEW: *Moonglow*, by Michael Chabon

Thursday, July 12th at 7:00 p.m.



Come join Rabbi Josh Fixler as he reviews, *Moonglow*, by Michael Chabon on **Thursday, July 12th at 7:00 p.m.** In 1989, Chabon traveled to his mother's home, in Oakland, California, to visit his terminally-ill grandfather. Tongue loosened by powerful painkillers, memory stirred by the imminence of death, Chabon's grandfather shared recollections the younger man had never before heard, uncovering bits and pieces of a history long-forgotten. From pre-

WWII South Philadelphia, to the invasion of Germany by U.S. forces, from a Florida retirement village, to New York's Wallkill prison, from the heyday of the space program, to the twilight of the 20th century, the novel revisits an entire era through a single life.

Book reviews are free and open to the public. The review will be followed by a reception.

## 4th Annual Emanu El Fourth of July Celebration



Join us at Congregation Emanu El on **Wednesday, July 4th at 7:00 p.m.** for food and fun! It will be an evening celebrating America! The evening will include a free dinner featuring hot dogs, hamburgers and chicken breasts, donated by PrefCo. Vegetarian options also available.

Continuing our tradition from previous years, all will be invited to enjoy a free ice cream social inside the Oshman Multi-Purpose Room and a kid-friendly movie in Feld Hall. Popcorn will also be served!

Bring your lawn chairs and we'll then head upstairs to the fourth level of the Gaylor Parking Facility where as a community, we will have an "All-American Sing-A-Long" on the roof that all are encouraged to join in on.

All will have an opportunity to enjoy the fireworks from *Southwest Airlines Freedom Over Texas* at Eleanor Tinsley Park which are anticipated to begin between just after 9:30 p.m. before the 'main event' when the fireworks from the Houston Symphony's *'Star-Spangled Salute'* at Miller Outdoor Theatre light up the sky around 10:00 p.m. Times for the fireworks are tentative and subject to change based on previous years' timing.

Congregation Emanu El is actively seeking to create groups within our community that serve different ages, stages and interests. Are you interested in forming a group like the offerings listed below?

Contact Jill Patir or Jason Plotkin at the synagogue. Jill can be reached at (713) 529-5771, ext. 262 or [jillp@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:jillp@emanuelhouston.org) and Jason can be reached at (713) 535-6414 or [jasonp@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:jasonp@emanuelhouston.org).

### Emanu El Hosting Community-Wide Jewish Singles Group for 50s and 60s Shabbat Dinner

Congregation Emanu El, in tandem with Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism (HCRJ), is spearheading a community-wide Houston Jewish singles' initiative for those in their 50s and 60s.

On **Friday, May 11th**, following Shabbat services, the group will host a Shabbat dinner at Emanu El. The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a pre-Shabbat schmooze and mixer before heading into services at 6:00 p.m. Following services, a dinner catered by Chef Smirnov will close the evening.

Registration for the dinner will be available on the [www.EmanuElHouston.org](http://www.EmanuElHouston.org) website at a cost of \$12 per person.

For more information on the Houston Jewish Singles' group, contact Jill Patir at [jillp@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:jillp@emanuelhouston.org) or (713) 529-5771, ext. 262.

### Classic Connections Kicks Off Memorial Day Weekend with Shabbat Dinner

Get into the holiday spirit with your Classic Connections friends. Join us for some holiday weekend fare after our 6:00 p.m. Shabbat services on **Friday, May 25th**. We will have a BBQ style supper with ice tea, soda, beer and wine.

Cost of the event is \$15 per person and must be paid in advance. Please RSVP online at [www.EmanuElHouston.org](http://www.EmanuElHouston.org). For more information, contact Jill Patir at [jillp@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:jillp@emanuelhouston.org) or (713) 529-5771, ext. 262 or Jason Plotkin at [jasonp@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:jasonp@emanuelhouston.org) or (713) 535-6414. Registration closes on Friday, May 18th.

Classic Connections is Emanu El's social group for 50s and 60s. Couples and singles are welcome.

### Houston Jewish Dog Play Group

**Calling all pups . . . bring your humans to Houston Jewish Dog Play Group**

The new Houston Jewish Dog Play Group. It's really cool. We get to play at the dog park (sometimes there is even water involved) and our humans kibbitz with each other. After, we even get to go for drinks. If you're interested, have your human give Pam Kutner a ring and she'll send the details when available. Email her at [pamelaekutner@gmail.com](mailto:pamelaekutner@gmail.com).

## SAVE THE DATE – My Generation BBQ & Bingo Pot Luck



Join My Generation – Emanu El's social group for those 65 & older – for a BBQ & Bingo Pot Luck on **Thursday, June 14th at 6:00 p.m.**

Chef Smirnov Catering will provide the entrees and we're asking for you to bring sides and dessert!

The cost for the evening is \$10 with registration available on [www.EmanuElHouston.org](http://www.EmanuElHouston.org) or by calling the synagogue at (713) 529-5771.

Enjoy an evening of bingo, schmoozing and prizes at the synagogue! More information will be sent to an email near you.

Contact Jill Patir at [jillp@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:jillp@emanuelhouston.org) or (713) 529-5771, ext. 262 for more information or to make sure you are on the My Generation email list.



## Tot Shabbat – Friday, June 1st, Dinner at 5:45 p.m.; Service at 6:30 p.m.

Families! Be on the lookout for more information our **Friday, June 1st**.

Starting with this coming June, our goal is to have dinners tied into as many Tot Shabbats as possible based on facility needs and congregational programming. We know that this makes it more convenient for our families to attend the worship experience and also enables for more engagement between our attendees.

This June Tot Shabbat will feature a dinner beginning at 5:45 p.m. with the service to follow at 6:30 p.m. More information will be shared.

## Calling Young Families! Emanu El Seeks Tot Shabbat Hosts

Are you looking for a way to get more involved? Do your kids want to lead blessings at Friday night services? Is your son or daughter having a birthday and you'd like to honor them in a unique way? The first Friday of each month we are pleased to have a special Tot Shabbat service, geared towards families with little ones ages 0-6.

Each Tot Shabbat presents a rare opportunity for families to interact with each other and get to know our clergy on a more personal level.

Each month, Emanu El extends the privilege of hosting a Tot Shabbat to our Young Families who may be interested in becoming more involved. We also invite you to pair up with other families and host as a cohort if that's what you'd prefer.

For more information on hosting responsibilities and what this may entail, contact Jill Patir at (713) 529-5771, ext. 262.

## JFS Now Accepting Applications For 2018-2019 College Year Scholarships & Interest-Free Loans

Jewish Family Service is now accepting applications for both Nathan and Sarah Klein Fund for Interest-Free Student Loans and for the Lloyd and Morissa Parkans Scholarship Fund for the 2018-2019 academic year. The deadline for both is **Friday, May 25th**.

Students seeking the Parkans Scholarship should be local Jewish students who will be attending a four-year college or university in the fall of 2018. These students should have demonstrated financial need, outstanding academic achievement, leadership, community involvement and admirable personal attributes. This scholarship will provide resources to enable an undergraduate student to realize his or her potential through academic achievement.

Local students seeking the interest-free student loans from the Klein Fund with demonstrated financial need, may receive assistance with educational and living expenses in undergraduate programs. Jewish Family Service, also, has cooperative control of a fund provided by the Hebrew Free Loan Association of Houston (HFLA) to provide additional resources for undergraduate, graduate, and trade school students seeking loans.

For more information on either of these programs or to set-up and complete the required interview (in person or by Skype) **by the May 25th deadline**, please contact Adele Croft at Jewish Family Service, (713) 986-7821 or email: [acroft@jfshouston.org](mailto:acroft@jfshouston.org). Applications can be found online at [www.jfshouston.org/loansandscholarships](http://www.jfshouston.org/loansandscholarships).

## Cub Scouts Host Crossing Over Ceremony with Boy Scouts

Members of our Cub Scout troop ceremoniously made the transition to the ranks of the Boy Scouts in late March. Cub Scouts earning this distinction included from left to right: Eli Freeman, Caden Warren, Grey Warren and Brayden Friedman.





# Helfman Religious School

## Helfman Religious School Registration

Helfman Religious School discounted registration is still underway! All families who register before Sunday, July 1 will receive a \$75 per child discount. To register, download registration forms and pay online at the Emanu El website, [www.EmanuElHouston.org](http://www.EmanuElHouston.org), by clicking through the '2018-2019 Registration' icon. You can select to pay the entire tuition or only the registration fee. You will need to complete forms and payments separately for each child. If you prefer to pay the fees by cash or check, paper forms will be available from the Religious School office. If you have any questions, please contact Gail Shapiro, Helfman Religious School Administrative Assistant, at [gails@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:gails@emanuelhouston.org) or (713) 535-6400.

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## BECKER EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER NEWS

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The Becker Early Childhood Center will host its annual graduation ceremonies on Friday, May 18th at 9:30 a.m. in the Barish Sanctuary. A list of graduates and their parents can be found below.

### 2018 Becker Graduating Class

**Leilani Badenhorst**, daughter of Tricia & Rynie Badenhorst

**Janine Bishop**, daughter of Melina McCarty & John Bishop

**Jelena Blum**, daughter of Jamie & Srdjan Blum

**Matthew Breagy**, son of Laranne & Patrick Breagy

**Lucas Bronstein**, son of Marianna Karpinos & Maury Brochstein

**Charlotte Carling**, daughter of Megan & Nicholas Carling

**Zoe Connelly**, daughter of Grace & James Connelly

**Maxwell Crawley**, son of Jennifer & Eric Crawley

**Isaac Davis**, son of Ann & Jeffrey Davis

**Joshua Dickerman**, son of Annie Stein & Jesse Dickerman

**Tiberias Donsky**, son of Kristine & Ilya Donsky

**Adil Dutt**, son of Deepa Kamath & Ranabir Dutt

**Hannah Fishman**, daughter of Heather & Doug Fishman

**Holden Fraser**, son of Rachel & David Fraser III

**Sivan Funk**, daughter of Laura & Etai Funk

**Adeline Getschow**, daughter of Claire & William Getschow

**Gabriel Goldman**, son of Julia & Daniel Goldman

**Eli Gomez**, son of Alissa & Gregory Gomez

**Owen Heinz**, son of Shari Rubin & Dennis Heinz

**Joshua Kass**, son of Lauren & Benjamin Kass

**Shalin Kodali**, son of Preeti & Pradeep Kodali

**Aliya Kottler**, daughter of Meredith & Cary Kottler

**Isaac Kuruvila**, son of Asha Kuruvila & Renju Jose

**Greta Lipski**, daughter of Friederike & Roy Lipski

**Amelie Lorenz**, daughter of Marisol & Dirk Lorenz

**Samara Manjeshwar**, daughter of Sana & Sidd Manjeshwar

**Rhys Manning**, son of Julia & Lawrence Manning

**Jonah Marcelli**, son of Michele Totah & Gabriele Marcelli

**Ian McGinley**, son of Sharon Anderson & Matthew McGinley

**Danielle Ogren**, daughter of Sharon & Brian Ogren

**Christopher Parilli**, son of Alejandra Guzman Lopez & Leonardo Parilli

**Sybil Pulaski**, daughter of Alana & Alan Pulaski

**Theodore Ropper**, son of Kathleen Chen & Alexander Ropper

**Daniel Rosenbach**, son of Judy & James Rosenbach

**Hank Roslyn**, son of Amanda & Paul Roslyn

**Wyatt Schaffer**, son of Emily & Josh Schaffer

**Juniper Seff**, daughter of Jessica & Blake Seff

**Sayali Shetty**, daughter of Priya & Manjunath Shetty

**Maya Turner**, daughter of Deidre Larrier & Michael Turner

**Gabriel Zamberk**, son of Denise & Andres Zamberk





# Becker School

## 2018 Becker Pre-K Graduating Class



### Becker Update

Things have been very busy at Becker the past few weeks. The Becker Transportation Fair was a huge success thanks to Richard Buxbaum, Becker parent, for organizing this great morning. The children enjoyed exploring different modes of transportation. Some of the favorites included going inside a police helicopter, mobile home, firetruck, garbage truck, ambulance, police cars, and a ride around the school in a train. Ice cream treats served out of a rolling cart was the children's favorite.

The Becker administrative staff hosted a lovely lunch to show appreciation for our fantastic parent volunteers. We are so fortunate to have such amazing parents help us throughout the year with all the different programs and events held at Becker.

Yom Ha'atzmaut was celebrated across the school with parades, Israeli cooking demonstrations and tastings, and even a pretend airplane ride to Israel.

As the school year comes to an end, we are planning for Pre-K graduation which is always a very special program at Becker. We wish all the best to our graduates.

Our final program will be the annual Becker Picnic on **Wednesday, May 23rd from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** We will have camel rides, a carousel, clowns, face painting, sno-cones, watermelon and more.



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# BOOK OF MEMORY – 2018

*The Book of Memory* is printed outside the Temple and all names memorialized must be submitted on the form below by **Wednesday, August 2nd**. Names submitted after that date will be published in a future *Bulletin*. We suggest a minimum donation of \$15 per name. *The Book of Memory* will become available for distribution on the afternoon of Yom Kippur, with additional copies available at the Temple following Yom Kippur. We suggest a minimum of \$15 per name.

Please print the names clearly in the spaces below  
as you wish them to appear in the book.

### IN LOVING MEMORY OF:


### REMEMBERED BY:


Please complete and return this form with your check to:  
Congregation Emanu El, 1500 Sunset Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77005.

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



Congregation **Emanu El**

## DIANE PUSCHETT TO BE HONORED AS CONGREGANT OF THE YEAR *continued from page 1*

For those whom frequent the congregation's property on a regular basis, it as if Diane is a member of the staff team. Always willing to step up and fill in when a need exists. This past year, Diane answered the call when both the Sisterhood and congregation needed it most.

Following the effects of Hurricane Harvey on the Houston community, Emanu El stepped up to partner with Greene Family Camp and the Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center.

Starting a camp was a difficult challenge as hundreds of children descended on Emanu El daily for over a week. With a need for more volunteers to staff the camp, enabling the camp to provide the service it had guaranteed, program director Jason Plotkin knew Diane would be a huge help.

Over the next 10 days, Diane worked long hours in the kitchen helping to feed three meals a day to the camp attendees. She found other volunteers to lend a hand and could be spotted throughout the long camp days doing what was necessary to help take the children's mind off what had occurred in their homes.

It did not stop there. Right after the storm, Sisterhood had an immediate vacancy for president when the previous president had to step away from the position. As honorary past president of the Sisterhood, Diane stepped in and assumed full responsibilities of the job in addition to her previously established role in helping with the Oneg Shabbats, the Sisterhood donor luncheon and much more.

These contributions are no different than what Diane has provided since she joined our community.

From running social action projects and book reviews to chairing Sisterhood luncheons and a World Union for Progressive Judaism dinner, her involvement has led to many others finding their way to not only step forward, but volunteer their own time.

The Brotherhood encourages the community and the congregation to come together to celebrate with Diane.

Information on purchasing individual tickets or patron opportunities can be found online or in the invitations that were recently sent out to the Congregation.

### Who to Contact at Emanu El?

Have you ever found yourself wondering who the right person to contact is at the synagogue to assist you?

While there is no definitive list that covers everything from 'A to Z', the staff of Emanu El came together to determine what the most frequently asked questions were from the membership and from those outside the synagogue. It is our hope that by providing this list from time to time in the Temple Bulletin, we can ensure that our sacred partnership together leads you not only to right person, but to get the right answer!

Please note that the below listing is current as of April 23, 2018 and is scheduled to change.

**Main Phone Number** (713) 529-5771

**Pastoral Emergency Line**  
(during off hours) (713) 529-5771, follow prompts

**Weather Emergency or Closures** Info shared to (713) 529-5771  
(as of 4/23/18)

### A-to-Z OF FREQUENTLY CALLED ABOUT TOPICS:

Address Changes	Elizabeth Townsend, ext. 0
Annual Commitment Forms	David Lamden, ext. 221 Jill Patir, ext. 262 Jason Plotkin, ext. 216
Becker Early Childhood Center	Judy Lazor, ext. 256
Billing	Lisa Damen, ext. 225
Bulletin/Communications	Jason Plotkin, ext. 216
Cemetery/Cemetery Plots	Alisha Klapholz, ext. 213
Chai Membership	Jill Patir, ext. 262
Donations	Lisa Damen, ext. 225
Farb Fund	JoAnne Karnuth, ext. 211
Flower Fund	Donna Fraley, ext. 212
General Inquires	Jason Plotkin, ext. 216
Helfman Religious School	Gail Shapiro, ext. 261
Membership	Jill Patir, ext. 262
Mi Sheberach	Donna Fraley, ext. 212
Parking Passes	Elizabeth Townsend, ext. 0
Programming	Jason Plotkin, ext. 216
Rentals/Special Events	Jason Plotkin, ext. 216
Sisterhood	Leda Karchmer, ext. 233
Unveilings (and Headstones)	Alisha Klapholz, ext. 213
Web Site	Stephanie Kamion, ext. 217
Web Streaming	Stephanie Kamion, ext. 217 Jason Plotkin, ext. 216
Yarzheits	Donna Fraley, ext. 212



We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who remember and honor their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions.

**SECOND NIGHT SEDER 2018**

To help make Second Night Seder accessible for everyone

**A Donation**

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Barbara & Ernest Henley  
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David Livitz  
Dena Propis  
Debra Rips  
Jane Root  
Shirlee & Mark Rosenthal  
Priscilla Schube  
Susan & Edward Septimus  
Dianne & Ellis Tudzin

**ABLON FUND FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS**

To provide creative arts programs

In Memory of  
**Royce Ann Sline**  
Susan & Ed Septimus

**ACCESS FOR ALL**

To make Emanu El accessible for physically challenged people

In Honor of  
**Rabbi Roy Walter**  
Caren & David Cowan

In Memory of

**Willy Kuehn**  
Nancy Peskin  
**Donald W. Peaceman**  
Caren & David Cowan

**Adele Sandler**

Sherry & Lenny Dubin & Family  
Michael Flier & David Trueblood  
Hilda & Bobby Frank  
Donna Kidwell & Michael Gibson  
Jan & Jay Gilden  
Harvard University,  
Slavic Department

Barbara & Raymond Kalmans  
Carolyn & Jay Kaplan  
Sylvia Gayle & Stuart Klein  
Linda & Harris Miller  
Jan Pasternak  
Fred Saunders  
Staff of the Jones Library  
Emily Weingarten-Stein  
Carol & Michael Wilk

**Royce Ann Sline**  
fredi & Paul Franks

**ALAN GAYLOR TEACHER ASSISTANT FUND**

To support Helfman Religious School teacher assistants  
In Honor of  
**David Segal**  
Joni & Gary Lewis

In Memory of  
**Jeanette Getz**  
Lillian Gaylor & Family  
**Karl 'Bubba' Friedman**  
Joni & Gary Lewis

**AUBREY & SYLVIA FARB COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND**

To support small & emerging organizations that improve life for underserved Houstonians

In Memory of  
**Marshall Linder**  
**Adele Sandler**  
Joyce & Stuart Cohan  
Jeanette  
Sylvia & Aubrey Farb

**BROTHERHOOD FUND**

To support the Brotherhood & its programming  
In Honor of  
**Diane Puschett – Brotherhood Congregant of the Year**  
Judy & Richard Stein

**CHESTER MARCUS CAMBERSHIP FUND**

To provide Greene Family Camp scholarships  
In Honor of

**Shirley Burkom's Birthday**  
Nancy Peskin  
Linda & Marvin Stein

In Memory of  
**Jenny Segall**  
Shirley Burkom

**CLERGY'S GOOD WORKS FUND**

To provide Emanu El's clergy with funds to help individuals in need & to support organizations that benefit the community  
In Honor of

**Alice Berkman's Birthday**  
Carole & M.M. Feld, Jr.  
Bitsy Proler  
**Rabbi Pamela Silk**  
Sheryl & Douglas Fish

In Memory of  
**Jennifer Ruggeri**  
Marie Brochstein  
**Frank Dover**  
Lila Rauch

**DOLORES & BUDDY WILKENFELD COMMUNICATIONS FUND**

To enhance Emanu El's communications  
In Memory of  
**Janet Fay Segall**  
Dolores Wilkenfeld

**EDIS LEWIS PARKANS EMANU ELDERS FUND**

To provide programs for Emnau Elders  
In Honor of  
**Patricia & Aaron Fradkin**  
Lou & Herb Mizis

**EDWARD WAYNE HUNGER FUND**

To feed the hungry of Houston  
In Honor of

**Aaron Fradkin's Birthday**  
Carol & Michael Wilk  
**The Speedy Recovery of Sara Astrich**

Beadie Lewis  
**Bill Wayne – For Kids' Meals**  
Gail & Louis Adler  
William L. Crothers, Jr.  
Carol & Barry Goodfriend  
Alfred Kahn  
Susan & Edward Kahn  
Barbara & Raymond Kalmans  
Linda Lesser  
Vivian & Stanley Lipman  
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Joy & Dickie Pulaski  
Linda & Jerry Rubenstein  
Ellie & Jon Totz  
Carol & Michael Wilk

In Memory of  
**Royce Ann Sline**  
Sara Astrich

**FLORENCE & BEN BLUM LEADERSHIP FUND**

To send Emanu El leadership to URJ Biennials & underwrite leadership programs & speakers  
In Honor of  
**Stanford Alexander Rodney Roth**  
Myra Lipper

In Memory of  
**Frank Dover**  
**Jenny Segall**  
Myra Lipper

**FREDELL LACK EICHHORN CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND**

To enhance musical programming  
In Honor of  
**Cantor Rollin Simmons**  
Nancy & Terry Wiseman



In Memory of  
**Royce Ann Sline**  
Roselyn Oshman  
Johnston

**GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND**

*To provide for the general needs of Emanu El & its facilities*

In Honor of  
**Albert Krafcheck's Birthday**  
Pat & Aaron Fradkin

In Memory of  
**Royce Ann Sline**  
Helen K. Godfrey

**JASON & DAVID MARCUS PLAYSPACE FUND**

*To maintain & enhance the playground*

In Honor of  
**Alice Berkman's Birthday**  
Ruby Sondock  
**Ruby Lee Sondock's Birthday**  
Lila Rauch

In Memory of  
**Frank Dover**  
**Howard Kusnetz**  
**Jack Ogg**  
**Sam Proler**  
**Adele Sandler**  
Ruby Sondock

**JEAN & JULIAN GOLDBERG CHILDREN'S FUND**

*To provide arts programs for children*

In Honor of  
**Alice Berkman's Birthday**  
Dottie & Kurt Berk  
Sondra Ross

In Memory of  
**Royce Ann Sline**  
Meredith Laine Goodman

**JULIA KAPLAN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ENRICHMENT FUND**

*To enhance Helfman Religious School programs*

In Memory of  
**Jeanette Getz**  
Nanette & Barry  
Putterman

**JULIUS ZINN FUND**

*To provide & enhance congregation programs*

In Memory of  
**Frank Dover**  
Harriet Zinn

**KAGAN RUDY CHAPEL FUND**

*To maintain & enhance the Kagan Rudy Chapel at Emanu El Memorial Park*

In Memory of  
**Jeanette Getz**  
Dermody, Burk & Brown,  
CPAs, LLC

**RABBI ROY WALTER ENRICHMENT FUND**

*To support spiritual & cultural enrichment*

In Memory of  
**Helaine Grogin**  
**Ronald Suchart**  
Diane Lapidus  
**Clarence Ketchum**  
Marina & Matt Grayson

**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

*To provide Helfman Religious School scholarships*

In Honor of  
**The B'nai Mitzvah of Kate & Johnny De Leef**  
Pat & Kenneth Susman

In Memory of  
**Lenny Katz**  
Ian Goldfoot

**RICKY SCHNURR CAMBERSHIP FUND**

*To provide Greene Family Camp scholarships*

In Honor of  
**Alice Berkman's Birthday**  
**Jackie & Ray Sessel's Anniversary**  
**The Speedy Recovery of Sylvia Mintzer**  
Bernice Schnurr

In Memory of  
**Adele Sandler**  
Bernice Schnurr

**RIVA BURSTEN CARING CONGREGATION FUND**

*To support programs that assist people in the community*

In Memory of  
**Bea Tandler**  
Susie & Joel Litman &  
Family

**ROBERT I. KAHN SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND**

*To send congregants to the Consultation on Conscience at the Religious Action Center*

In Memory of  
**Royce Ann Sline**  
Marty Buck

**RONALD BROCHSTEIN EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND**

*To enhance preschool education*

In Honor of  
**Judy Lazor's 18 years with Becker School**  
Sharon & Herb Cohn

**SUSMAN FUND FOR FAMILY PROGRAMMING**

*To support programs for families*

In Honor of  
**Linda Susman's Birthday**  
Sandy Barrash  
Cheryl & Haran Levy  
Linda Popkin-Paine &  
Stephen Paine

**TEMPLE FUND**

*To support the needs of the Temple & to fulfill the mission of Congregation Emanu El*

**A Donation**

Dan Steiner

**Help After Hurricane Harvey**

Boy Scouts of America  
Pack 1190

**Carl Josehart - Receiving Albert Schweitzer Fellowship Humanitarian of the Year**

Karen & Jeff Basen-Engquist  
Rachael Tobor & Valerie Turner

In Memory of

**Hank Bickart**

Lanie & Jerry Rose

**Jeanette Getz**

Diane & Tom Abshire &  
Marilyn Pfitzenmaier

Linda & Leonard Gerber  
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**grat·i·tude**

/gradə,t(y)ōd/ noun

*Definition: the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness.*

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Joshua R.S. Fixler, Assistant Rabbi  
Roy A. Walter, Rabbi Emeritus  
Rollin Simmons, Cantor  
David Lamden, Executive Director  
Jason Plotkin, Program Director  
Paula Katz, Early Childhood Director  
Stefani Carlson, Director of  
Congregational Learning

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Diane Puschett, Sisterhood President

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Emanu El Seeks Summer Camp Addresses



Everyone loves getting mail at summer camp!  
Please send us your children's addresses for camp this  
summer (and the dates they'll be there!) so we can send  
something to them. You can send information to Alisha  
Klapholz, [alishak@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:alishak@emanuelhouston.org).



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