



Congregation Emanu El

Bulletin

September 3, 2020 | 14 Elul 5780

VOLUME 74 NUMBER 12

EDITOR'S NOTE ABOUT THIS BULLETIN

As of the print deadline for this edition of the *Bulletin*, all programs, services and meetings of the synagogue have been moved to electronic platforms, postponed or canceled **until further notice**. To clarify the status of events and gatherings at Emanu El, please visit our website at emanuelhouston.org, call the synagogue at 713.529.5771 or email Jason Plotkin at jasonp@emanuelhouston.org.

FROM RABBI HAYON



In the *Book of Isaiah*, the prophet imagines God welcoming the far-flung nations of the world to gather together peacefully in Jerusalem. God emphasizes the openness and accessibility of the great Temple, reassuring the people: "My House shall be called a house of prayer for all people!

Where in your house will you be experiencing the High Holy Days this year, and how will you transform those spaces? It is not too soon for us to plan and begin making arrangements.

Today, in a world that Isaiah could never have imagined, the words of that ancient prophecy return to us with an unexpected ironic reversal: this year, with Shabbat and holiday services being moved from synagogues to live-streams, *our houses* are the ones being transformed into houses of prayer.

We do not yet know when we will be able to gather physically together again to worship side-by-side in our sacred spaces. Until then, we will be praying, learning, and meditating from our own private family-room couches and dining-room tables; all of us will have to find concrete and achievable ways to turn our everyday living spaces into receptacles of holiness and transcendence.

Where in your house will you be experiencing the High

continued on page 2

Congregation Emanu El Extends Accessibility of High Holy Day Worship to Broadcast Television

Synagogues have been hard at work determining the best way to reach all of their congregants as worship and High Holy Day experiences move to a digital platform.



Congregation Emanu El was the first of the large synagogues in the Houston area to announce its intentions to move completely online for the coming High Holy Day season.

To extend the accessibility of its High Holy Day offerings, Emanu El engaged with Houston Media Source (HMS) earlier this summer to broadcast its primary worship opportunities during the holy days on public access television.

HMS broadcasts on channel 17 on Comcast/Xfinity – the primary

continued on page 3

Havdalah for All: Songs & Celebration

Saturday, September 5, 7:00 p.m. & Saturday, October 3, 7:00 p.m.

Join Cantor Simmons and Barbara Loeser for a spirited sing-a-long to mark the end of Shabbat. The rituals of Havdalah help us to engage all of our senses as we come together to savor the last sweet moments of Shabbat and prepare for the week ahead. All ages welcome!

Activities during our Havdalah in September will take on a High Holy Day theme while October will include recognition of our Sukkot holiday.

Register online at emanuelhouston.org. This event will be held exclusively on Zoom and pre-event registration is required. Upon registering, a Zoom link will be sent to the email address provided.

For more information, contact Jason Plotkin at jasonp@emanuelhouston.org or 713.535.6414.

WORSHIP SERVICES

The rooms listed below are the “location” of where the services are being streamed from for those seeking access on our website. Any changes will be shared via the regular synagogue communications.

Our services (with the exception of B’nei Mitzvah) are streamed to our website, Congregation Emanu El Facebook, Roku and YouTube. Our Saturday morning B’nei Mitzvah services are available solely on the Emanu El website.

Shabbat Ki Tavo, Deuteronomy 26:1 – 29:8 **Friday, September 4**

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

Saturday, September 5

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

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

B’not Mitzvah of **Sophie Rose Kauffman**, daughter of Julie Kauffman and **Sarah Poth Lack**, daughter of Jill & Josh Lack

7:00 p.m., Havdalah for All, Zoom

Shabbat Nitzavim – Vayeilech, **Deuteronomy 29:9 – 30:20, 31:1-30** **Friday, September 11**

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

Saturday, September 12

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

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

B’nei Mitzvah of **Sammy Barron**, son of Caryn & Matt Barron and **Emonni Caouette**, daughter of Dawn Arouty & Rick Caouette

9:00 p.m., Selichot, Barish Sanctuary

Shabbat Yom Rishon shel Rosh HaShanah **Erev Rosh Hashanah** **Friday, September 18**

7:00 p.m., Erev Rosh HaShanah, Barish Sanctuary
Sermon by Rabbi Hayon: *After the Fire*

Rosh HaShanah

Saturday, September 19

9:00 a.m., Children’s Service, Barish Sanctuary

Story by Rabbi Silk: *The Case of the Missing Shofar*

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

Sermon by Rabbi Fixler: *Scraping Off the Rust*

Shabbat Haazinu

Friday, September 25

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

Saturday, September 26

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

Kol Nidre

Sunday, September 27

7:30 p.m., Kol Nidre, Barish Sanctuary

Sermon by Rabbi Hayon: *The Clock in the Mountain*

Yom Kippur

Monday, September 28

9:00 a.m., Children’s Service, Barish Sanctuary

Story by Rabbi Fixler: *What If Everybody Did That?*

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

Sermon by Rabbi Silk: *Worth Doing*

4:30 p.m., Yizkor, Barish Sanctuary

Sermon by Rabbi Walter

5:30 p.m., N’ilah/Havdalah Experience, Barish Sanctuary

Shabbat Sh’mini

Friday, October 2

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

Saturday, October 3

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

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

B’not Mitzvah of **Camryn Kleiman**, daughter of Robyn & Steven Kleiman and **Amelia Rose Perry**, daughter of Allison & Ian Perry

7:00 p.m., Havdalah for All, Zoom

FROM RABBI HAYON *continued from page 1*

Holy Days this year, and how will you transform those spaces? It is not too soon for us to plan and begin making arrangements. There are some specific considerations to explore:

Will there be comfortable, spacious seating in your prayer space? Consider routing the livestream to a large television instead of a small laptop or tablet in order to reduce strain on your eyes, and make sure that the screen is placed somewhere that everyone in your household can watch from a comfortable position. You may find it meaningful to orient yourself so that your prayers are directed eastward, toward Jerusalem.

How can you elevate the physical environment in which you will be praying? You can transform the space with candles, family photos, or mementos that will guide your prayer and your reflections. Be sure that your phone will not ring or distract you during services.

What will you wear to make the holidays special? Few of us are dressing in formal attire during these days of working from home, but I encourage you to choose clothing for the High Holy Days that will fit with the mood of this sacred season.

Skip the sweatpants and pajamas for these Days of Awe, and dress in a way that will make you feel special. If wearing a favorite piece of jewelry, or a special cologne, will help make the day more meaningful, go ahead and do it. Any small steps we can take to make imbue these days with an added level of sanctity will make their impact more powerful and long lasting.

As we prepare to enter the High Holy Days together, all of us will need to take personal ownership of our spiritual experiences this season in new ways. We’ll have to personally attend to the way our worship space looks, feels and sounds. But in taking time now, before the first blast of the shofar, for this important preparatory work, we will have made the first important step toward transforming our own dwelling-places into houses of prayer.

CONGREGATION EMANU EL EXTENDS ACCESSIBILITY OF HIGH HOLY DAY WORSHIP TO BROADCAST TELEVISION

continued from page 1

cable provider in the Houston metropolitan area. The broadcasts are also available on AT&T U-Verse, Sudden Link and Phonoscope on channel 99.

The broadcast schedule will begin with Erev Rosh HaShanah on **Friday, September 18 at 7:00 p.m.** and continue the next day with Rosh HaShanah morning services at **10:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 19.**

Kol Nidre services will be broadcast in its entirety on tape-delay at **8:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 27** (the service will begin on other platforms at 7:30 p.m.) with the Yom Kippur morning services airing at **10:30 a.m. on Monday, September 30.**

“Emanu El has continued to pride itself on how we make our worship services and programming accessible,” said Emanu El Program Director Jason Plotkin. “The current pandemic has only built upon this pursuit, encouraging our team to be more creative in the ways we reach our community.”

“This television accessibility will build upon our traditional means of broadcasting our worship including the synagogue’s website and Facebook page, as well as channels on Roku and YouTube.”

More information about Emanu El’s High Holy Day offerings can be found in this Bulletin, a brochure mailed to our congregants or on the synagogue website.

A Word from Emanu El Votes

Emanu El Votes, our 2020 Civic Engagement Campaign encourages all U.S. citizens to exercise their right to vote and to break down obstacles that shut some out of the voting booth.

Here in Texas, access to voting has been curtailed by closures of polling places and limits on eligibility for mail-in ballots. Although many of us have access to adequate polling locations and are most concerned about whether or not we will be exposed to the coronavirus, voter suppression directly affects our communities and those surrounding us. Many Texans – Jewish or not – will not have adequate access to a polling place in November, a tremendous barrier, particularly communities of color. Between 2012 and 2018, 542 polling sites were closed in the 50 counties that gained the most Black and Latinx residents during that time period. In contrast, 34 polling sites were closed in the 50 counties with the fewest Black and Latinx residents.

One of the major reasons polling locations close is a lack of trained poll workers. This problem is especially acute as a result of the pandemic, since many of the people who usually work the polls are over 65. Texas faces a huge shortage of poll workers for the upcoming election. If fewer poll workers are trained, more polling sites will be closed, lines will be longer, and polling locations more crowded. This is both a voter suppression risk and a public health concern.

To combat this injustice, we encourage people you to find out what your county is doing to keep poll workers safe during the pandemic and, if you are comfortable, consider volunteering to be a poll worker. You can get more information about what is involved and sign up to be trained as a poll worker in Harris County at harrisvotes.com/PollWorkers and for other counties by visiting workelections.com/.

LIFECYCLE EVENTS

BIRTHS

Hazel Sivan Lax, daughter of Larissa Wright & Reuven Lax; granddaughter of Silvie Loeber-Plant, Betsy Fox Vance & Kenny Wright, Leah Lax & Susan Baird, Eugene Lax; great granddaughter of Christa Loeber

Jonah Isaac Mombell Bagley, son of Laura Mombell & Alex Bagley; grandson of Norie Glick, Norman Bagley, Chunchi Maribona, Richard Mombell

DEATHS

Jan Amundsen, mother of Jeri Amundsen & Arthur Feldman, Erin & James Fleming, Lisa & Kris Amundsen; grandmother of Penny, Harry and Norah Feldman, Charlotte James and Gabby Fleming, Louisa & Spencer Cox, Anastasiia & John Amundsen; great-grandmother of four

Diane Gaitz Dante, wife of Morris Dante; mother of Dana & Eric Sposeep, Sherry Sposeep & Randy Bell; sister of Andi & Sandy Gaitz; step-mother of Karen Dante & John Michael Guerrero, Lisa & Joe Wyman, Becky & Eduardo Zendejas, Michelle Dante & Blake Bush; grandmother of Kirby Prince, Jessica Prince, Skylar Bush, Drew Sposeep, Zachary Zendejas, Daniel Zendejas, Jackson Bell, Daisy Bell

Marianne Dreyfus, mother-in-law of Helen Dreyfus; mother of Ellen Weinberg Dreyfus & James Dreyfus; grandmother of Elizabeth Richman & Benjamin Dreyfus, Lina & Adam Wallace, Lauren Butterfield & David Dreyfus, Daniel Dreyfus, Adam Dreyfus; great-grandmother of Sivan, Yonatan, Eitan, Avital, Penina

Bernice Eisen, mother of Jan & Arnold Shelby, Sherry & Robert Miller; grandmother of Nadia & Neil Shelby, Adriana & Ryan Shelby, Kimberly & Brandon Mackey; great-grandmother of Lyla, Jake, Wyatt, Emma, Lane, Rob

Stuart Grossman, husband of Harriet Grossman

Barbara Levine, mother of Mitzi & Norman Levine, Samuel Levine, Julie & Joel Levine; grandmother of JB Levine, Jonah Levine, Alissa Levine, Angela & Marcus Levine; sister of Elaine Diamond

Allen Wilner, husband of Ellen Wilner; father of Jason Wilner, Stacey Wilner Schubert & Gary Schubert; brother of Jeffrey Lawrence Wilner and Sheila Ann Wilner; grandfather of Audrey Jane Wilner and Brendon Schubert

A Notice About Bereavement Communications

Bereavement notices for our Temple family are distributed with the permission of the deceased’s family, and the timing of these notices is dictated by the family’s request. Of course, each family grieves in its own way, and we are grateful for our congregation’s patience and understanding with different families’ preferences about how their loss is publicized.

EXPLORING ELUL: Preparation and Reflection for the High Holy Days
Thursdays, 12:30 – 1:15 p.m.

Elul, the Hebrew month that precedes the High Holy Days, is traditionally a time of preparation and introspection. This year, during each week of Elul, our synagogue communications will highlight a different theme of the season.

The weeks will culminate each Thursday in a “Lunch and Learn” discussion over Zoom, led by our clergy and Director of Congregational Learning. We will explore traditional and modern texts that will help us prepare our spirits and enrich our experience of the Days of Awe.

The sessions began on **Thursday, August 20** and will continue weekly through **Thursday, September 17**.

Register for these learning opportunities online at emanuelhouston.org/form/elul2020. Login information to access the lunch and learns will be sent upon registering.

September offerings include:

Thursday, September 3 – *Justice & Mercy Avinu Makleinu* (Rabbi Oren Hayon)

Thursday, September 10 – *Failure & Regret/Kol Nidre* (Rabbi Joshua Fixler)

Thursday, September 17 – *Confession & Apology/Vidui* (Stefani Carlson, Director of Congregational Learning).

S'LICHOT
Saturday, September 12, 9:00 p.m.

S'lichot begins the journey toward the unique beauty of High Holy Days, to focus our minds on penitence and preparation.

ROSH HASHANAH
Friday, September 18
Rosh HaShanah Unplugged, 7:00 p.m.

This innovative service features a creative, contemporary prayer experience, suitable for all ages, with unique musical additions from members of the Shabbatoners.

Sermon by Rabbi Oren Hayon

Saturday, September 19
Children's Service, 9:00 a.m.

Designed for children 8 and under and their families, this lively and fun service highlights the themes and rituals of the holiday.

Story by Rabbi Pamela Silk

Morning Service, 10:30 a.m.

This intergenerational service combines familiar music and prayers with graceful new liturgical writing and stirring poetry, along with full translation and

transliteration of Hebrew texts.

You'll also experience an inspiring and engaging collection of music led by Cantor Rollin Simmons, with accompaniment on organ and piano.

Sermon by Rabbi Joshua Fixler

- * Families of children in grades 3-5 can look forward to receiving our do-it-yourself packet in the mail, with games, activities, and topics for family discussion throughout the holidays.

TASHLICH

We set aside some time as Rosh HaShanah concludes to symbolically cast away our sins and reflect on the year ahead. In lieu of an in-person gathering, we will provide prayers and meditations to observe Tashlich at home or in a favorite place in nature.

SHABBAT SHUVAH
Friday, September 25, 6:00 p.m.

Hear a message of inspiration to deepen your spiritual and moral explorations on this very special Shabbat between Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur.

YOM KIPPUR
Sunday, September 27
Kol Nidre Service, 7:30 p.m.

This service, on the holiest night of the year, will feature the contemplative prayers and stirring music unique to this holiday. It will be accompanied by Ann Frohbieter on organ and include the poignant setting of Kol Nidre played by Brinton Smith, Principal Cellist of the Houston Symphony.

Sermon by Rabbi Oren Hayon

Monday, September 28
Children's Service, 9:00 a.m.

Designed for children 8 and under and their families, this service offers engaging music, prayers and stories that will encourage families to reflect on how we can be our best selves.

Story by Rabbi Joshua Fixler

Morning Service, 10:30 a.m.

This service will be led by our clergy, accompanied by Ann Frohbieter on organ. Through stirring music and meaningful prayer, we will reflect on the themes of repentance and forgiveness.

Sermon by Rabbi Pamela Silk

Yizkor, 4:30 p.m.

Through meaningful readings and soul-stirring music, we will journey through varied expressions of grief and memory.

Sermon by Rabbi Roy Walter

continued next page

N'ilah / Havdalah Experience, 5:30 p.m.

We will bring our holidays to a close with the sweetness of Havdalah, the separation between the penitential season and the promising new year ahead.

YOM KIPPUR AFTERNOON ONLINE, AT YOUR CONVENIENCE

The following opportunities will be available immediately after morning services for you to experience on your own time.

- **Meditation** – A guided journey of mindfulness.
- **Healing Service** – Returning to wholeness through poetry, song and prayer.
Led by Cantor Rollin Simmons

LIVE EXPERIENCES

Visit us online at emanuelhouston.org/hhdworship to register for these live afternoon options.

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

- **Themes & Texts of the Penitential Season**
Led by Rabbi Roy Walter
- **Familiar Texts for Unfamiliar Times** – Reexamining Jewish writings for new sources of strength, comfort and resilience.
Led by Stefani Carlson
- **Building Toward Racial Justice** – A unique opportunity for cheshbon hanefesh (accounting of the soul).

2:15 – 2:45 p.m.

- **Emanu El Votes Commitment Celebration** – Help make our synagogue a 100-percent voting congregation.

3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

- **Repentance when Forgiveness is Impossible** – Exploring this difficult dilemma using traditional texts and group discussion.
Led by Rabbi Oren Hayon
- **The Color of Love by Marra B. Gad** – Meaningful conversation about pain and forgiveness, framed by a powerful memoir of a biracial Jewish woman.
Led by Rabbi Pamela Silk

ADDITIONAL OFFERINGS

The Art of the Celebrity Apology: Zoom Happy Hour Tuesday, September 22, 8:00 p.m.

For our 18-to-22 year-olds, a digital social gathering where we catch up and judge celebrities for their great and/or terrible public apologies.

Teen Zoom Meetup Wednesday, September 23, 7:00 p.m.

A time to reflect on our growth in the last year, and reconnect with one another, led by Rabbi Joshua Fixler and Youth Engagement Coordinator Becca Schwartzberg.

Open to all teens in grades 8-12.

HIGH HOLY DAY GENERAL INFORMATION

LIVE STREAMING

There are a variety of options to access the streaming video of each of our special and beautiful services.

- **Emanu El Website**
emanuelhouston.org/streamingvideo
- **Facebook**
facebook.com/emanuelhouston
- **YouTube**
youtube.com/emanuelhoustonvideo
- **Roku**
Congregation Emanu El Houston

Archived videos of services and sermons will become available at the same digital locations.

CLOSED CAPTIONING

The Brotherhood provides closed captioning for all Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur services, with the exception of the children's services and the healing service.

In consultation with members of our congregation and our captioner, Marie Bryant, we will be utilizing StreamText during High Holy Days this year.

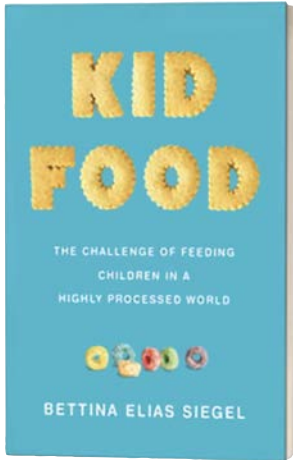
Direct links will be provided in our pre-Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur mailings along with our website, at emanuelhouston.org/hhdworship.

PRAYER BOOKS

As we join together in sacred community from our homes, there are a variety of ways to follow along in *Mishkan HaNefesh*, the machzor, or High Holy Days prayer book of the Reform Movement. We will be sharing the words of our prayer book on your screen during services, and you can follow along with these resources available to you at ccarnet.org/publications/hhd.

- **A free digital flipbook**, courtesy of CCAR Press (for assistance using flipbooks, visit ccarnet.org/publications/how-to-use-flip-books/)
- **A downloadable, discounted e-book** version of *Mishkan HaNefesh*
- **The two-volume, hard-cover set** is available, with a generous discount, at CCAR Press with the code MHN2020 – remember to leave adequate time for processing and shipping.

Kid Food: The Challenge of Feeding Children in a Highly Processed World Thursday, September 3, 7:30 p.m.



Originally scheduled this past spring, the Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center of Houston (ERJCC) and Congregation Emanu El are proud to host former Becker parent Bettina Elias Siegal, author of *Kid Food: The Challenge of Feeding Children in a Highly Processed World* via Zoom. She will be in conversation with Zibby Owens, host of the acclaimed podcast *Mom's Don't Have Time to Read Books*.

This program will be available for everyone to enjoy in the safety and comfort of their home. **Find the registration link online and in our weekly communications.**

As Siegel shares in her book, most parents start out wanting to raise healthy eaters then the world intervenes. In *Kid Food*, the author explores one of the fundamental challenges of modern parenting: trying to raise healthy eaters in a society intent on pushing children in the opposite direction.

Siegel will delve into the many influences that make feeding children healthfully today so difficult – from the prevailing belief that kids will only eat highly processed “kid food” to the near-constant barrage of “special treats.”

With expert advice, time-tested advocacy tips, and a trove of useful resources, *Kid Food* offers parents both the knowledge and the tools to navigate their children's unhealthy food landscape – and change it for the better.

For Siegel, this interest started in 2020 as she sought to improve the food in her children's school district, Houston ISD, and soon after launched *The Lunch Tray*, a blog about all things related to “kids and food, in school and out.” In 2015, *Family Circle* named Siegel one of the country's “20 Most Influential Moms,” and in 2020, she was named one of “20 Heroines Revolutionizing Food Activism to Improve the Planet” by *Food Tank*.

Zibby Owens, the interviewer for the evening, is the host of the acclaimed podcast *Mom's Don't Have Time to Read Books*. Zibby's articles on books and parenting have been published in *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *Parents*, *Real Simple*, *SELF* and many other outlets, and she frequently appears on television shows like *Good Morning America* and *Good Day LA*.

For more information, contact Jason Plotkin at jasonp@emanuelhouston.org or 713.535.6414.

Men of Reform Judaism: Akiva Tor of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sunday, September 13, 12:00 p.m.



Join the Men of Reform Judaism (MRJ) – a national organization representing men's groups and clubs from across the Reform Movement – as it hosts **Akiva Tor**, the head of the Bureau for World Jewish Affairs and World Religions at the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Tor previously served as Consul General of Israel for the Pacific Northwest, Director of the Israel Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei and Deputy Director for Palestinian Affairs in the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Additionally, Tor served as World Jewish Affairs Adviser to the President of Israel in which capacity he began the organization of the World Jewish Forum, an initiative for creating a pan-Jewish strategy for stemming assimilation and decline in Jewish life.

There is no cost for the event though registration is required. A link to register can be found on our website.

Online Trivia Night Sunday, September 13, 7:00 p.m.

Join Congregation Emanu El for another fun Trivia Night, hosted by Game Time Adventures! Play for FREE against your fellow congregants online for bragging rights – play as a household or as an individual.

The custom-built game nights are fun and challenging experiences where players muse a variety of different skill sets and ways of thinking to win. It's an experience beyond your average game night.

Register by 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 13 by visiting our website to receive information about how to connect on the night of the event.

The information on how to connect will be sent out roughly 60-90 minutes before the game. Individuals and teams are encouraged to join the trivia room at 6:30 p.m.

continued next page

for a pre-game schmooze or stay afterward. If this is your first time playing with Emanu El and Game Time Adventures, it is strongly encouraged that you show up no later than 6:45 p.m. to make sure your devices are working appropriately.

“Franks and Friends” captained by Fredi Bleeker Franks won the August competition by a single point over a trio of teams. “The Silk Road” captained by Jeff Silk won the July trivia championship.

For more information, contact Jason Plotkin at jasonp@emanuelhouston.org or 713.535.6414.

Classics – Virtual Wine & Cheese Pairing Saturday, October 10, 5:00 p.m.

Join the Classics for a virtual wine and cheese pairing. The Classics is Emanu El’s social group for those in their 50’s and 60’s, singles and couples alike.

There is no charge for this event. Prior to the event, we’ll suggest wine and cheese pairings, which are readily available in your favorite grocery store. Pick and choose what sounds good to you and we’ll compare notes on our choices.

Not interested in wine and/or cheese? No problem – join us for the camaraderie. But registration is limited to 20 devices, so register soon!

Register by visiting our web calendar or by calling Jason Plotkin at 713.535.6414 by **Wednesday, October 7**. A list of suggested wines and cheeses for tasting, along with the Zoom login information, will be sent to all participants prior to the event.

Election 2020: An Evening with Bob Stein Monday, October 12, 7:00 p.m.



Sisterhood and the Emanu El Community Organizing CORE team is inviting you to a lively discussion of the upcoming election featuring **Bob Stein**, well-known Rice University professor who studies state and local politics, public policy and voting behavior.

A member of our congregation, Dr. Stein will discuss the many challenges of voting during the current pandemic, which is overlapping with a tremendous polarization in American politics.

Topics covered will include:

- Pros and cons of mail-in voting for those 65 and older;
- What the lack of door-to-door campaigning could mean for candidates;
- Effective ways to get involved politically from now until the election; and
- Attributes voters are looking for in presidential leadership.

We will also learn more about Emanu El Votes, the non-partisan civic engagement initiative, which aims to make Emanu El a 100% voting congregation in 2020 and beyond. A survey was sent to the congregation in late July/early August to learn more about voting trends within our congregation.

The information to access this Zoom program will be emailed ahead of time to those who RSVP.

To register, please visit emanuelhouston.org or by contacting the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771, ext. 233 or sishood@emanuelhouston.org.

Conversations Wednesdays, 12:00 p.m.

Join us for “Conversations” as Program Director Jason Plotkin sits down with a member of the congregation, community or from the sports world to discuss the current state of affairs while we are separated due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our August guests included Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, Houston Symphony principal cellist Brinton Smith, New Orleans Privateers (NCAA Division I) head men’s basketball coach Mark Slessinger and Judge Bob Schaffer, a Houston civil court judge.

Previous guests have included First Christian Church pastor Michael Dunn, Houston Independent School District (HISD) school board member Elizabeth Santos, Shariq Ghandi of the Minaret Foundation, Corpus Christi Hooks play-by-play voice Michael Coffin and more.

Do you have a suggestion or connection to a potential future guest? Let Jason know! Email jasonp@emanuelhouston.org or 713.535.6414.

“Conversations” is available on the Emanu El Facebook page and our streaming video page (select Proler Chapel). Archived editions are available on the Emanu El YouTube Channel

continued next page

Emanu El To Host Series of Events Ahead of World Homeless Day

On **Saturday, October 10**, the world will acknowledge World Homeless Day.

The concept of 'World Homeless Day' emerged from online discussions between people working to respond to homelessness from various parts of the world. This day of recognition has occurred annually on the 10th of October since 2010.

Emanu El will have a series of opportunities surrounding homelessness to engage, learn and give.

Learning Through Liturgy – A Sermon: Homelessness & Sukkot Friday, October 2, 6:00 p.m.

During our Shabbat worship service, a member of our clergy will be sharing a sermon with the congregation tying in the themes of homelessness with the festival holiday of Sukkot. This service will be available on our website, Facebook page, Roku and YouTube channel.

Learning How Communities Address Homelessness with Thao Costis, CEO of SEARCH Homeless Services Tuesday, October 6, 7:00 p.m.



As part of our recognition of World Homeless Day, please join us as we learn from **Thao Costis**, President and CEO of SEARCH Homeless Services, a leading Houston agency helping people move from the streets, into jobs, and safe, stable housing.

During her 23-year tenure, she's focused on how SEARCH can best help people who are homeless transform their lives, improve their health, and change how the community addresses this problem. Prior to SEARCH, she worked at the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County where she brought together 150 not-for-profit agencies to coordinate their efforts.

During the evening's program, Costis will share how Houston's model of addressing homelessness compares to those around the world, the role SEARCH plays in the greater Houston area.

This program will be available on the Congregation Emanu El Facebook page and on the Proler Chapel streaming video page.

Guests to the program are strongly encouraged to contribute questions, which will be used with a question and answer portion of the program with Rabbi Oren Hayon.

SEARCH is a not-for-profit agency that pursues a mission of providing hope, creating opportunity, and transforming lives. SEARCH services engage, house, educate, and increase income of individuals and families who are homeless.

For more information, visit SEARCH at www.SEARCHhomeless.org.

For more information on this program, contact Jason Plotkin at jasonp@emanuelhouston.org or 713.535.6414.

Mitzvot: SEARCH Survival Kits

Throughout the month of October, Emanu El will be collecting survival kits during our synagogue's operating hours. Survival kits are helpful items and information that is distributed to people living on the street. These kits can be kept in your car and distributed to those neighbors in need.

You can create a survival kit at home by placing some or all of the following items in a Ziploc bag: bottled water (high priority), Kleenex, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, lip balm, socks, rain poncho and/or a SEARCH resource guide (Emanu El will provide the resource guide)

Tzedakah: Emanu El To Give Portion of Hunger Fund to SEARCH Homeless Services Emergency Foods Fund

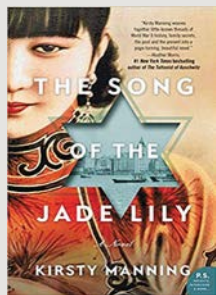
As part of Emanu El's ongoing commitment to fight hunger in Houston and longstanding tradition to collect donations for the Hunger Fund during our Yom Kippur services, Emanu El will be sending the traditional Hunger Fund envelope to our congregants in a Yom Kippur-specific delivery prior to the holiday.

This year as part of a week of activities surrounding World Homeless Day in early October, Emanu El will be directing a portion of Hunger Fund donations to the SEARCH Homeless Services' Emergency Foods Fund. These monies will go to provide travel friendly, shelf stable foods for the SEARCH Mobile Outreach & Housing Navigation team members to distribute to clients as they work to move them from the streets.

In addition to returning your envelope to the synagogue, you may make donations online to the Hunger Fund at emanuelhouston.org.

Sisterhood News & Happenings

September – October 2020



BOOK REVIEW: *The Song of Jade Lily* by Kirsty Manning

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 7:00 PM

Emanuel El's Sisterhood hosts bi-monthly book reviews throughout the year. These book reviews are open to the public. September's book review will be led by our congregant, Marilyn Nathan.

PLEASE NOTE: This book review will be held online via Zoom, and the information to access will be emailed ahead of time to those who register.

In our September book, we'll go to 1939 as two young girls meet in Shanghai: Li Ho, a beautiful, talented Chinese national, and Romy, a Jewish refugee whose family fled Vienna during the Nazi occupation. Li and Romy form a heartfelt friendship that does not survive circumstances arising from the brutal Japanese takeover of Shanghai. Romy ultimately immigrates to Australia, where she marries Wilhelm and adopts a daughter. Fast forward to 2016, when Romy's granddaughter, Alexandra, leaves her job and her lover in London, flies to Australia to be with her grandparents (Romy and Wilhelm), and painstakingly unravels her grandmother's wartime history and her mother's ancestry. Ultimately, Alexandra finds that circumstances wrought by war lead to outcomes as complicated and poignant as the mysterious song of the jade lily.

To help us plan for our book reviews and to receive communications about future book reviews, we ask that you kindly **RSVP by Wednesday, September 9**, either online or by contacting the Sisterhood at sishood@emanuelhouston.org or 713.529.5771, ext. 233.

Enough Sitting – Get Up and Move! Thursday, October 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Come enjoy a fun, stressless yoga class with Sisterhood! Yoga instructor Gudrun Danburg has designed a class for beginners, as well as experienced yoga practitioners, that will include balance, stretching and relaxation. The class will last approximately one hour and 15 minutes.

There is no charge for the class, but please RSVP to the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771, ext. 233 or sishood@emanuelhouston.org. Login information will be sent to attendees at a later date.

Barbara Bush Donor Luncheon Recap: Sisterhood Donor Finally Soars!

After pausing Sisterhood's annual donor event, "Words Change the World", a luncheon preceded by a Q & A with Barbara Pierce Bush originally planned for March 26, co-chairs Kathy Parven and Shelley Wisner took a pivot and re-set the date for August 19. Soon realizing an in-person event could not occur, we went virtual and the event soared!

Lunches made by Houston Catering Concepts (dessert from Dessert Gallery) were hand-delivered to guests (some opted to pick up their lunch). Each lunch had a special royal blue napkin roll encircled with a string



of "pearls" in a nod to First Lady Barbara Bush! Many guests opted out of lunch and instead chose to donate the value of their meal to Second Servings, a Houston food rescue organization.

The day of the event arrived, and at noon, the pre-recorded program began. Our co-chairs shared that we not only met our goals but surpassed them. Due to the generosity of the guests, 1,000 new books will be donated to the Harris County Public Library's Curiosity Cruiser, which brings books and videos to underserved children throughout the county, a monetary donation will be made to support the work of Ms. Bush's Global Health Corps and a monetary donation was made to

continued next page

Second Servings.

Neil Bush appeared next to introduce the question and answer moderator – Julie Baker Finch, PhD., president of the Barbara Bush Literacy Foundation, and introduced his niece. Neil did this while singing the praises of the good work of Emanu El’s Sisterhood.

The 45-minute question and answer began, and viewers learned about Ms. Bush’s work, and her stories as the

daughter and granddaughter of two presidents of the United States. Her message about her work was inspiring, especially during the pandemic and her personal stories were fun and heartwarming. The program ended with messages of appreciation to our volunteers, underwriters, patrons and vendors, and included photos and videos of some of our Sisterhood members participating in literacy-focused volunteers activities (pre-pandemic).

BECKER SCHOOL SCHOOL NEWS



The below two programs will be taking place on Zoom and advanced registration is required to acquire the Zoom information. To register, visit emanuelhouston.org or contact Leslie Strug at leslies@emanuelhouston.org.

HISD Kindergarten Facts **Wednesday, September 16, 10:00 a.m.**

Learn about the many school options available for kindergarten, when you can tour, or attend open house events. Information provided will help you as you begin the process of choosing a kindergarten. HISD Magnet coordinator, Todd Paulus, will explain the process for applying to kindergarten magnet programs including gifted and talented programs.

Kindergarten Panel Discussion **Wednesday, October 7, 10:00 a.m.**

This program provides information on a range of topics that will help you make the important decisions regarding kindergarten for your child. The panelists are Julie Blumberg, M.S. Educational Consultant, Rob Wise, Director of Enrollment Management at the Joy School and Lynn McLean, LCSW-S.

Each has many years of experience in the field and will review kindergarten readiness, the admission process for private schools, choosing private vs. public school, individual needs, and making the right match for your child and your family.



Get Social With Us!

Did you know Congregation Emanu El is on Instagram? In addition to our active Facebook pages, be sure to follow us on Instagram to catch snap shots of happenings around the synagogue. From camel sightings to social action, a thriving youth group to clergy in action and more!

Find us on Instagram at [instagram.com/emanuelhouston](https://www.instagram.com/emanuelhouston) or if you are already a member, find us at [@emanuelhouston](https://www.instagram.com/emanuelhouston). And yes, please feel free to “check-in” at Emanu El when you are here for events and happenings!

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.

Emanu El Holds First B'nei Mitzvah in Barish Sanctuary Since March

The weekend of August 7-8 featured Congregation Emanu El's return to its prayer spaces albeit without the congregation in the pews. The weekend included the first B'nei Mitzvah in the Barish Sanctuary since March 14 as Valerie Turner (left) and Rachel Tobor (second from left) celebrated the simcha of their children Hannah and Benjamin.



First B'nei Mitzvah family back in building.

Emanu El at Sunrise

Anna Leon, daughter of our congregants Inga and Allen Leon, took this photo of our synagogue at sunrise during one of her morning walks. Thanks Anna for sending this beautiful photo in and sharing it with our community!



Troop 1190 Welcomes New Scouts

Congregation Emanu El's Boy Scout Troop 1190 has gone virtual and we are welcoming scouts ages 11 and up to join.



While physically distant, Troop 1190 is socially relevant. We're "zooming" forward: completing badges, hearing from interesting speakers and making a difference in our communities.

Here are some highlights of the summer of 2020:

- A virtual Q&A with Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Vindman
- Completion of 3 merit badges per scout and advancement
- U.S. Flag placement for July 4 in Meyerland
- Individual family camping (e.g. backyard)

Whether it's high-tech, environmentalism or social engagement, all activities take place with the highest ideals of scouting and Jewish ethics. Pre-COVID-19, we camped several times a year and went to Boy Scout camp every summer. In recent years, we've attended camp in California, Colorado and upstate New York.

Neither camping nor scouting experiences are required to join Troop 1190. This is a great opportunity to make new friends, develop leadership skills and have a blast! Scouts of all faiths and all backgrounds are welcome.

Fun fact: 26% of Troop 1190 members reach Eagle compared to 5% nationally.

For more information, contact Scoutmaster Josh Rotenberg pedzzz@gmail.com. You can also visit us on Facebook: [facebook.com/Scouts1190/](https://www.facebook.com/Scouts1190/).

Congregation Emanu El's Collaboration Goes Across the Atlantic Ocean

The pandemic and the digital environment have allowed Congregation Emanu El to partner in various ways with synagogues outside the Houston area.

On Friday, July 31, the programmatic wings of the congregation took flight and headed across the Atlantic Ocean as Cantor Rollin Simmons helped lead a Shabbat worship at London's Finchley Reform Synagogue with Cantor Zoe Jacobs.

The two cantors are active members of the American Conference of Cantors and were classmates at Hebrew

Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

The service can be found on the Finchley Reform Synagogue's Facebook page.

This out of state partnership is nothing new for Emanu El, which participated in the internet phenomena 'Jewish Geography Zoom Racing' with Stephen Wise Temple in Los Angeles. The friendly competition featured Emanu El's Rabbi Oren Hayon challenging Wise's Rabbi Sari Laufer.

Prior to that, the synagogue simulcast a program hosted by Temple Sinai in Atlanta entitled 'A Timely Discussion About Racism' featuring Reverend Dr. Gerald Durley and Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) president and Houston native Rabbi Ron Segal.



Services at Finchley Reform Synagogue by ZOOM.



Find Us On YouTube!

Looking for a one-stop shop to catch the latest worship services, musical selections, videos from our schools and more while we are separated during CoVID-19?

In just a few weeks, over 300 videos of new content created since the pandemic have been posted to Emanu El's YouTube page with dozens and dozens more from the archives also shared.

Find us on YouTube by searching "Emanu El Houston Video" and subscribe today!



We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who remember and honor their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions through August 15, 2020.

ABLON FUND FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS

To provide creative arts programs

In Honor of

Sheila Kaplan

Terry Cweigenberg

ACCESS FOR ALL FUND

To ensure Emanu El is a welcoming, accessible and inclusive community

In Honor of

Lisa Brooks' election

as President of Alumni Association of Franklin & Marshall College
fredi & Paul Franks

ALAN GAYLOR TEACHER ASSISTANT FUND

To support Helfman Religious School teacher assistants

In Memory of

Jan Amundsen

Melinda & Steven Gordon

AUBREY & SYLVIA FARB COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND

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

In Appreciation of

The tireless efforts of our Clergy

Richard Wolf

In Memory of

Jan Amundsen

Kathy Guttman

Diane Gaitz Dante

Dee Dee Dochen

Aubrey Farb

Ivis & Alan Westheimer

Robert Rudolph

Rochelle Cyprus

BARBARA & MARK BROOKNER CAMPSHIP FUND

To provide scholarships to send Helfman Religious School students to Greene Family Camp

In Memory of

Jerome Lipnick

Saranne & Livingston Kosberg

BECKER EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND

To provide for and enhance Becker School programs

In Appreciation of

Barbara Loeser – for serving as Interim Director of Becker
fredi & Paul Franks

In Honor of

Aliza Plotkin's election to the NCJW National Board

fredi & Paul Franks

In Memory of

Jan Amundsen

Eileen & Richard Westerman

Bernard "Bernie" Berman

Sally Heflin

BECKER EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

To provide Becker Early Childhood Center scholarships

A Donation

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The Raizner Family

In Appreciation of

Ed Septimus

Barbara Loeser

In Honor of

The Birth of Dani & Fredi Fixler

Sara Astrich

CERSONSKY CEMETERY BEAUTIFICATION FUND

To maintain and enhance Emanu El Memorial Park

In Memory of

Jason Marks

Eileen Cersonsky

CHESTER MARCUS CAMPSHIP FUND

To provide Greene Family Camp scholarships

In Memory of

Jan Amundsen

Diane Gaitz Dante

Shirley Burkom

CLERGY'S GOOD WORKS FUND

To provide Emanu El's clergy with funds to help individual in need and to support organizations that benefit the community

A Donation

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Rabbi Pamela Silk

Terry Stukalin

In Appreciation of

Rabbi Pamela Silk

Pat & Aaron Fradkin

In Honor of

The Bat Mitzvah of Avital "Avi" Hayon

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Sandy & Andi Gaitz

Dora Klaff

Sherry & Gerald Merfish

Phyllis & Steven Segal

The Birth of Dani & Fredi Fixler

Bitsy Proler

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Marianne & Larry
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Tammy Feldstein

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Perri & Aaron Fink

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Lou Mizis

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Judy Weiser & Bob Ostiguy
William Doyce Spears
Terry & Bruce Merwin

FLORENCE & BEN BLUM LEADERSHIP FUND
To send Emanu El leadership to URJ Biennials and underwrite leadership programs and speakers
In Appreciation of
Stefani Carlson
Barbara Loeser

In Memory of
Jan Amundsen
Myra Lipper

FREDELL LACK EICHHORN CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND
To enhance musical programming
In Honor of
Cantor Rollin Simmons
Martha & Donald Freedman
Phyllis & Steven Segal

In Memory of
Diane Gaitz Dante
Shirlee & Mark Rosenthal

GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND
To provide for the general needs of Emanu El and its facilities
In Memory of
Jan Amundsen
Dawn & Mitch Blitz
Jennifer & David Lamden

Marianne Dreyfus
fredi & Paul Franks
Morris "Ike" Rosenthal
Gail & Kenneth Goldstein
Judy & Alan Rosen
Lyn & Carl Schmulen
Linda Weiner
Franklin Roth
Dawn & Mitch Blitz
Lyn & Carl Schmulen

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To provide for Transportation Fair and the librarian in Sugar's Library
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Susan F. Brochstein

GREENE FAMILY CAMP FUND
To support Greene Family Camp
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Marsha & Marty Block
Stuart Grossman
Gail & Larry Levinson

HOFFMAN-NATHAN YOUTH FUND
To provide scholarships for children to attend events with Jewish content
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JEAN & JULIAN GOLDBERG CHILDREN'S FUND
To provide arts programs for children
In Memory of
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Alice & Ralph Berkman
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JULIA KAPLAN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ENRICHMENT FUND
To enhance Helfman Religious School programs
In Memory of
Louis Green
Celine Kaplan

MOSER LIBRARY FUND
To provide library programs
In Memory of
Jerome Lipnick
Jane & Bert Moser

RABBI ROY AND LINDA WALTER ENRICHMENT FUND
To support spiritual and cultural enrichment
In Honor of
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Susan Garber

Rabbi Roy Walter – 50 years of service in the Rabbinate and at Emanu El
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Don Gardner
Judy & David Introligator
Celine Kaplan
June & Julian Silverblatt
The Speedy Recovery of Vicki Greenberg
Roger Greenberg
Rabbi Roy Walter
Barry & Terri S. Brown;
Sharon, Steven & Seth

In Memory of
Jan Amundsen
Pamela Hoffer Wallock & Mark Wallock
Robert Bernhaut
Jan & Richard Sander
Louis Green
Don Gardner
David Levitin
Sara Astrich
Jerome Lipnick
Vicki & Roger Greenberg
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Toby & Darryl Sherman
Irene & Arnold Skor
Rev. Theodore (Ted)
M. Smith
Simone & Sam Weber

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

To provide scholarships for Helfman Religious School
In Honor of

The Bat Mitzvah of Avital "Avi" Hayon
Sara Astrich

RICKY SCHNURR CAMBERSHIP FUND

To provide Greene Family Camp scholarships
In Honor of

The Bat Mitzvah of Avital "Avi" Hayon
Elyssa Schnurr

In Memory of

Jean Goldberg
Ruth May
Linda Cohn Walter
Emily Weingarten-Stein
Elyssa Schnurr

RIVA BURSTEN CARING CONGREGATION FUND

To support programs that assist people in the community

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fredi & Paul Franks
Nancy Peskin
Susan & Ed Septimus
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Pam Kaufman &
Dennis Keierleber

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To enhance preschool education
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The Birth of Elizabeth Madison Wood
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Judy Myers
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To support Emanu El's Scout program
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Perri & Aaron Fink

SARAH & ADOLPH BLUMENFELD KLEI KODESH SACRED OBJECTS FUND

To purchase and maintain Emanu El's sacred objects
In Memory of
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Norman Blumenfeld

SHIRLEY BARISH MEMORIAL ISRAEL EXPERIENCE FUND

To send Helfman Religious School students to Israel
In Honor of
Madison & Jacob Brewer
Amy & Brian Brewer

SISTERHOOD FLOWER FUND

To provide flowers at Congregation Emanu El
In Memory of

Diane Gaitz Dante
Jan Pasternak
Bettie Farfel
Carol & Barry Goodfriend
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Joel Pitman
Sylvia & Steven Brody
Arlene Roggen
Sydney & Ted Roggen
June Waldman
Lynn Lewis Webb
Beadie Lewis

SISTERHOOD FUND

To provide for and enhance Sisterhood programming
In Memory of
Shella Pryzant Plastrik
Franie & Barry Rochkind,
Jenny & Brandon Mark
& Jessica & Hal Rochkind

SUSMAN FUND FOR FAMILY PROGRAMMING

To support programs for families
In Memory of
Richard L. Susman
Robin Susman & Howard
Block

TEMPLE FUND

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

A Donation
Caren & David Cowan
Dolores Malon
Dennis Postel

In Honor of
Pat & Aaron Fradkin's Anniversary
Carol & Michael Wilk
Leah Rebecca Fulop's Birthday

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Talia Sidney Kessler's Birthday
George Robert Pesin's Birthday
Madgelyn & Richard
Pesin

The Bat Mitzvah of Avital "Avi" Hayon
Barbara Hurst &
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Ann Friedman
Sandy & Louis Gordon
Elyse, Lewis, Aerin,
Kendall & Tali Kalmans
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Aliza & Jason Plotkin
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Donna & Philip
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Congregation Emanu El



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Joshua R.S. Fixler, Associate Rabbi
Roy A. Walter, Rabbi Emeritus
Rollin Simmons, Cantor
David Lamden, Executive Director
Jason Plotkin, Program Director
Sarah Williams, Interim Early Childhood
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Stefani Carlson, Director of
Congregational Learning
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Melissa Carson, Vice President
Ronnie Kurtin, Vice President
Ben Miller, Vice President
fredi Bleeker Franks, Treasurer
Laura Mayer, Secretary
Rodney Roth, Honorary Past President
Andrew Gass, Brotherhood President
Claire Brooks & Carol Sue Zions,
Sisterhood Presidents

EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG

Watch Your Mailbox!

Be sure to watch your mailbox for two packets, which will provide all the information you need for your online and in-home participation.

The first will arrive before Rosh HaShanah and will include materials for Tashlich and the Cemetery Service.

The second will arrive before Yom Kippur and will include the *Book of Memory* and information about our Hunger Fund.

Each will contain schedules and links to access all online services, study sessions and events.



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