



# Bulletin

February 4, 2020 | 9 Shevat 5780

VOLUME 74 NUMBER 5

## FROM RABBI HAYON



Congregation Emanu El's support of Zionism and the Jewish state have always been vitally important parts of our history and our cultural identity.

I am frequently asked by members of our congregational community about ways that members of our congregation can strengthen the ties between Israel and the Diaspora, and support the vital work of Israeli progressive Judaism. As it happens, one of the most impactful opportunities to do so is now at hand.

*As a member of the American Jewish community, you are eligible to vote in the WZC elections this year and thereby play a part in the democratic process which ensures that our values will be reflected by Israeli domestic policy.*

Every five years, the World Zionist Congress [WZC] holds elections for its 500 delegates, representing communities all over the globe, whose voices will be heard as part of a process of articulating worldwide influence over Israel's cultural values – as well as some sizeable financial allocations to Israeli organizations, including our Reform Movement.

As a member of the American Jewish community, you are eligible to vote in the WZC elections this year and thereby play a part in the democratic process which ensures that our values will be reflected by Israeli domestic policy. In the current WZC parliament, the United States holds 145 delegates – the largest single group from outside Israel.

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## A Message from the President

As we begin the New Year and decade, I would like to reflect on the banner year we shared. A year that was filled with overflowing celebration, reconnection, growth and joy. A year that has rejuvenated this congregation, solidifying our foundation for an incredible future. I would like to thank our 75th Anniversary co-chairs, Cheryl Levy and Elyse Kalmans, our exceptional clergy and staff, event chairs and numerous volunteers that made the year so special. A year that I will always cherish.



**Rodney Roth**

I am pleased to report that this past year was a stellar year from many aspects. First, I would like to personally

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## Immigration: Current Crisis, Future Hope

Thursday, February 13, 7:00 p.m.

Where do you get your information on important issues such as Immigration Reform? NPR? Fox News? Facebook? How do you make sense of the information? Would you like to hear from people involved in this work every day? Please join us as we hear from three experts in the field of immigration.

Our panel will offer us important insights into the complex issues involved in the current immigration crisis and help us understand how these issues impact our community. Panel members include:

**Tatiana Obando**, Managing Attorney of RAICES – Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services. RAICES promotes justice by providing free and low-cost legal services to underserved immigrant children, families and refugees in Central and South Texas. RAICES is the largest immigration non-profit in Texas with offices in Austin, Corpus, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio.

**Gordon J. Quan**, Immigration and Nationality Law--Texas Board of Legal Specialization. As managing

*continued on page 2*

## WORSHIP SERVICES

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### Shabbat B'shalach, Exodus 13:17 – 17:16

#### Friday, February 7

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

6:30 p.m., Tot Shabbat, Proler Chapel

#### Saturday, February 8

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

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

B'nei Mitzvah of **Samuel Robert Rudin**, son of Allison & Steven Rudin and **Gavin Sherman**, son of Riana & Greg Sherman

### Shabbat Yitro, Exodus 18:1 – 20:23

#### Friday, February 14

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

#### Saturday, February 15

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

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

B'not Mitzvah of **Amanda Frankfort**, daughter of Michelle & Ben Frankfort and **Raya Weinstock**, daughter of Suzanna & Etan Weinstock

### Shabbat Mishpatim, Exodus 21:1 – 24:18

#### Friday, February 21

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

#### Saturday, February 22

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

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

B'nei Mitzvah of **Jonah Lepon Miller**, son of Jessica Segal & Danny Miller and **Emily Grace Williams**, daughter of Sarah & Adam Williams

### Shabbat T'ruman, Exodus 25:1 – 27:19

#### Friday, February 28

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

#### Saturday, February 29

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

### Shabbat T'tzaveh, Exodus 27:20 – 30:10

#### Friday, March 6

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

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

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

#### Saturday, March 7

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

Shabbat Ki Tisa, Exodus 30:11 – 34:35

Friday, March 13

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

#### Saturday, March 14

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

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

Bar Mitzvah of **Jake Austin Pinsky**, son of Roanna & Jay Pinsky

**REMINDER:** All Friday night Shabbat services are video streamed on our website as well as our Emanu El Facebook page and Roku channel. Saturday morning services featuring a B'nai Mitzvah are streamed on our website and Roku channel.

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## FROM RABBI HAYON *continued from page 1*

Thanks to our previous mobilization efforts, some 39% of the American WZC delegation represents the Reform Movement, and we have therefore been able to ensure that over \$20 million has been allocated to the Israeli Reform Movement over the past 5 years. (This is a marvelous accomplishment – until one realizes that the Israeli government has allocated over \$1 billion to Orthodox and ultra-Orthodox institutions over the same period of time!)

Voting for the next WZC delegates is now open, and will remain open until **March 11** of this year. I am urging every member of our Emanu El community to register and vote this month. A strong turnout from the Reform community in North America will mean that the institutions and congregations of Reform Judaism in Israel will continue to be strengthened, and it will also enable us to help fill leadership posts in some of Israel's most influential organizations, such as the Jewish Agency, the Jewish National Fund, and others. Our Reform Movement is represented by the ARZA slate [Association of Reform Zionists of America], and is indicated on the ballot by the phrase "Vote Reform."

Every member of Emanu El can vote this month, provided that you are over 18 years of age, identify as Jewish, and agree to pay a nominal processing fee. Two great leaders of our congregation, Fredi Franks and Barbara Loeser, are spearheading our congregation's get-out-the-vote efforts for the WZO, and they are making it as easy as possible for all of us to do our part. You can find more details about how to vote on page 17. It takes only a minute or two, but the impact of your vote will be significant and long-lasting.

Your vote in the WZC elections is the best way for us American Jews to strengthen Israeli democratic society and fortify our most precious Jewish values. Thank you for investing a few minutes for this most important step in our support of the Jewish state and the Reform principles to which we are dedicated.

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## IMMIGRATION: CURRENT CRISIS, FUTURE HOPE

*continued from page 1*

partner of the Quan Law Group, Mr. Quan assists clients with both complex and ordinary immigration problems. Mr. Quan was the first Asian-American elected to Houston's City Council where he helped support the user-friendly Office for Immigration and Refugee Affairs.

**Brett Perlman**, President and CEO of the Center for Houston's Future (CHF). The Center focuses on community indicators that serve as the region's report card on achieving a balance between the social, environmental and economic factors necessary to attain a competitive and sustainable place in the 21st Century. Earlier this year CHF published a report "Houston's Economic Future; Immigration."

Each of our presenters brings a unique perspective to this important discussion. We will hear real stories and information from our speakers, which will enable us to formulate our own opinions on this important topic. This event is free and open to the public. Reservations are requested so we can plan accordingly by visiting our website at [emanuelhouston.org](http://emanuelhouston.org) or call 713-529-5771. A dessert reception will follow.

## LIFECYCLE EVENTS

### IN THE COMMUNITY

**Dee Dee Dochen** and **Susan Farb Morris** received the President's Award at the Jewish Family Services Annual Meeting held in mid-January. The duo received the award after co-chairing the 2019 ReelAbilities Festival.

**Philip Tenenbaum** was installed as the president of Jewish Family Services.

### BIRTHS

**Max Itai Gerber**, son of Hayley & Jonathan Gerber; grandson of Bonnie & Gary Blumberg, Lisa & Gary Nadler, Sharon & Sonny Gerber; great-grandson of Janice Goldstein and Mildred Michael

**Noa Julie Mahdavi**, daughter of Maya Newman & Ben Mahdavi; granddaughter of Elaine Sachter, Michael Newman; great-granddaughter of Ruby Sachter and Enid Hammer

**Ellis George Miron**, son of Jennifer & Ben Miron; grandson of Carol Lisch

**Julia Abigail Spinner**, daughter of Emily & Joey Spinner; granddaughter of Cheryl & Haran Levy, Helen & Stanley Spinner; great-granddaughter of Carol & Barry Goodfriend, Paula Levy, Lotty Spinner

### DEATHS

**Leslie Harvey Berger**, husband of Judy Goldberg Berger; father of Rachel & Michael Berger, Stacy & Eric Berger; grandfather of Andrew, Spencer and Addison Berger, Noah and Abigail Berger; brother-in-law of Barb & Mike Williams; step-brother of Yoko & Don Jagust, Marsha & Ron Portman

**Donald Everett Gorewitz**, father of Lori & Marc Gorewitz, Lisa & Sam Brill, Josh Gorewitz & Erica Hakimi; grandfather of Sydney Gorewitz, Whitney Gorewitz, Sarah Brill, Daniel Brill, Jordan Gorewitz and Ariel Gorewitz

**Aubrey Farb**, husband of Sylvia Farb; father of Susan Farb Morris & David Morris, Helene & Rob Scolnick, Roberta & Doug Colton, Loretta Farb; grandfather of Leslie & Marc Hauser, Elaine & Jonathan Scolnick, Megan Jackson & Evan Colton, Julia Colton, Hannah Morris & Gabriel Band, Shara Morris & David Abelson; great-grandfather of Cecily Hauser, Mia Scolnick

**Frances Isaacson**, mother of Gail & David Sager Paul Langston; grandmother of Amy & Kevin Sager, Theresa & Brian Mayper, Britt Sager, Kimberly & Preston Pehrson, Randy Langston, Bradley Langston; great-grandmother of Harrison, Gavin and Baron Sager, Myka & Mia Mayper, Austin Pehrson

**Fred Kolflat**, husband of Amy Kolflat; father of Amy Lynch Kolflat & Erik Kolflat, Kari & Michael Harris; grandfather of Leah Lynch, Wiley Lynch, Madison Harris, Bailey Harris

#### **Robert Mendelson**

**Cyndy Sax**, mother of Judy & Larry Sax, Karen & Greg Clouse, Patricia & Ken Sax; grandmother of Becca Sax, Nicole Sax, Violet Clouse, Sophia Sax, Ethan Sax

#### **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.

## 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.

**David Garber**

**Britt Klinger, daughter Dylan**

**Hunter & Anne Moliver, daughters Rachel and Margaret**

New members will be shared in the *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 Elizabeth Townsend at [elizabetht@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:elizabetht@emanuelhouston.org) or 713.529.5771, ext. 222.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

welcome the over 100 new families that joined our sacred community this past year. This is the largest increase in membership we have seen in many years and a true reflection of the incredible services we offer including world class pastoral care, exceptional programming and schools.

I am pleased to report that attendance is at an all-time high at Emanu El. Our Shabbat services and engaging programs are heavily attended and enjoyed by all. Our guest speakers, including Reverend Barber and Gloria Steinem, introduced Emanu El to the community at-large with crowds of over 1600 attendees apiece. Emanu El has become a leader and sustaining light onto the community.

Our committees and auxiliaries, including Brotherhood and Sisterhood, are introducing new relevant events and programs designed for all ages and stages. Our new Senior Engagement committee has filled a void in reconnecting our senior members to ensure that we provide the caring thoughtful amenities they desire. Our financial committees, including our Endowment Committee, Finance Committee and Audit Committee, continue to ensure the financial security of our sacred community. I invite you to find the committee(s) or program(s) that interest you, and please let me know how I can help.

Our schools, lead by the talented Stefani Carlson and Paula Katz, are filled to the brim with engaged, thriving children. New programs are being introduced to continue to stimulate and challenge our children. You will also notice a new school reception area that better reflects our warm and welcoming environment and community.

Lastly, projects, including our roofing and HVAC replacement, have been completed. I would like to thank the incredible Building and Grounds committee, chaired by Bruce Lessey and Shel Vedlitz, who worked tirelessly to ensure that these critical projects were completed on time and on budget. These projects not only beautify our most precious asset, our architectural masterpiece, but also will provide a warm safe space for many generations.

In conclusion, I would like to thank our incredible clergy and staff, board of directors, and the many volunteers who donate their time and talents to our sacred community. The energy, vision, dedication and passion they bring is refreshing and exciting.

As we kickoff the new year, I hope you will join me at our next event and feel the spirit of Emanu El. It will be a highlight of your week. Wishing you and your family a healthy, peaceful and spiritual new year!

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## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT EMANU EL

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### Taste of Talmud: Lunch Time Text Study Thursday, February 20, 12:30 p.m.

Bring your lunch and join Director of Congregational Learning Stefani Carlson for an introduction to rabbinic text study. We will study with translation alongside the original text. No previous experience necessary. This class is scheduled for the third Thursday of the month.

### Congregation Emanu El to Host Gail Rubin Part of "Before I Die Houston" Weekend Friday March 27 – Sunday, March 29

Gail Rubin, a certified thanatologist and The Doyenne of Death® will be in Houston the weekend of **Friday, March 27 through Sunday, March 29.**

During her visit to Houston, which is presented by Waldman Funeral Care, Emanu El and Houston Congregation of Reform Judaism (HCRJ), Rubin will host a program entitled *Kicking the Bucket List: Downsizing and Organizing Things to Do Before You Die* at **8:00 p.m.** following a post-Heritage Shabbat Oneg.

"Do you plan to live forever? Do you ever plan to move? Depending on where you're going, you can't take it with you. This talk focuses on practical ways to downsize excess goods without being overwhelmed by the job,

what you need to know to organize your information for your executor, and how to plan for end-of-life issues. Film clips add to the wealth of information in this talk."

The weekend will conclude on Sunday morning from **10:00-11:30 a.m.** with a light brunch before Rubin presents *Estate Planning: Hollywood Myth versus Facts* ahead of launching into *The Newly-Dead Game*®.

During the estate planning conversation, Rubin will explain how the movies portray wills and the unfortunate reality that family members may die before doing any estate planning, that plans can go awry. Clips from comedies and dramas will illustrate the need for estate planning today.

This discussion will turn into *The Newly-Dead Game*®, based on the classic television program, *The Newlywed Game*, *The Newly-Dead Game* tests couples on how well they know their partner's last wishes. Gail Rubin also created an Individuals edition so that everyone, not just couples, plus the audience can play along. It's an upbeat way to start end-of-life planning conversations.

We are asking for RSVPs for both Friday night and Sunday morning's programming so plans can be made accordingly. To RSVP, visit [www.emanuelhouston.org](http://www.emanuelhouston.org) or call 713-529-5771.



### Purim Schpiel

Sunday, March 8, 10:00 a.m.

It's 5780, and we are taking you back to the 1980's with a Totally Rad 80's Purim Schpiel performed by your beloved Emanu El clergy and staff, along with our volunteer and youth choirs. Our Schpiel will be loads of fun, full of all your favorite 80's tunes by Madonna, Prince, Michael Jackson and Rick Springfield, just to name a few. We'll be singing and dancing our hearts out – complete with leg warmers and big 80's hair.

The event will begin with a megillah reading, then jump into our high-energy performance. We hope to see you there! Come in costume (80's or anything that gets you in the Purim mood), and get ready for silliness, 80's style. No RSVP needed!

### Helfman Religious School Carnival

Sunday, March 8, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Be sure to join us for our Purim carnival, hosted by the Helfman Religious School Committee!

Our Religious School will be dismissed early and all are invited to take part in the carnival, which will feature inflatables, games, prizes, a "jail," music, face painting, Henna, pie toss, confetti eggs, a hot dog lunch, hamantaschen, and more!

Tickets can be purchased prior to the event by visiting [www.emanuelhouston.org](http://www.emanuelhouston.org) or calling the synagogue at 713-529-5771.

### Helfman Seeks Volunteers for the Purim Carnival!

The Religious School Community Committee is seeking

volunteers for this year's Purim carnival! Please visit us online at [emanuelhouston.org](http://emanuelhouston.org) to register.

There are four volunteering shifts to choose from below or an opportunity to bake a cake for the cake walk:

Setup help (9:30 - 11:00 a.m.)  
Carnival shift 1 (11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)  
Carnival shift 2 (12:00 - 1:00 p.m.)  
Cleanup help (1:00 - 2:00 p.m.)

### Emanu El Young Professionals: *Purim on Tap*



Monday, March 9, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

True Anomaly Brewing Co.  
(2012 Dallas St.)

Join Emanu El's Young Professionals group for *Purim on Tap: Esther, Vashti and #MeToo*, hosted by Rabbi Fixler. In the Purim story, Esther and Vashti both face subjugation at the hand of lecherous men, and each finds her own path to resistance and power. But, can the book of Esther be considered an early feminist text; and what can it teach us in the era of #MeToo about how to empower victims to find their voices. Join us for this honest and creative look at the story of the holiday. Plus, it's Purim so, of course the first drink is on us.

To help us prepare for the event, we ask that you please register below or by calling us at 713-529-5771. You may also email Elizabeth Townsend at [elizabetht@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:elizabetht@emanuelhouston.org). This event is partially underwritten by funding from the Houston Jewish Community Foundation.

### 2019 Purim Schpiel Re-Visited

Last year's Purim Schpiel was entitled Schmaltz and was based off of the hit *Grease*. As will be the case this year, the Purim Schpiel will feature members of both the volunteer and youth choir, as well as members of our staff. Be on the lookout for photos in the April edition of the *Bulletin* for photos from this year's schpiel.



### YP: Rec Room Arts presents Pass Over Thursday, February 20, 7:30 p.m.

Join the Emanu El Young Professionals for a night at the theater at the Rec Room (100 Jackson St.). We will attend Rec Room Art's new production of the provocative and powerful staging of Pass Over. The play by Antoinette Nwandu mashes up Waiting for Godot and the story of the exodus from Egypt to address issues of racism and police violence in America. After the play, we will retire to the Rec Room bar for a lively discussion about the plays themes, led by Rabbi Fixler. We are pleased to be able to provide \$10 discounted tickets to this event so **RSVP by Friday, February 14** to reserve your spot.

### Real Men Make Chocolate Matzah Tuesday, April 7, 6:00 p.m.

Come one, come all! Roll up your sleeves and gather with other men (as well as kids and special friends) at Emanu El just before Passover to make yummy chocolate matzah treats!

Matzah and awesome toppings provided at no cost! Just bring your creativity and love of food and fellowship. This event including a pizza dinner, sponsored by the Brotherhood.

Please RSVP by visiting our website or by calling the synagogue so that we can plan appropriately.



**Annie and Mitch Blitz had a great time decorating their chocolate matzah last April. The event has grown over the years under the leadership of Scott Vines and has truly become a multi-generational experience. Dads and grandfathers are invited to bring their children, grandchildren and/or special friends.**

### 7th Annual Second Night Seder Thursday, April 9, 6:00 p.m.

This multi-generational evening led by the Congregation Emanu El clergy team will feature a fully catered meal by Houston Catering Concepts that will include all the traditional seder items, from matzah ball soup to gefilte fish.

The cost for the event is \$40 for adult members, \$55 for adult non-members and \$20 for children (12 and under). The deadline for registration will be **Wednesday, April 1**, or upon reaching our capacity of 350 participants. Should seats remain open, a limited number will become available at a cost of \$60 per person.

Those members of our congregation who are seeking financial assistance or are interested in donating toward making seder accessible for members of our community are encouraged to reach out to Program Director Jason Plotkin at [jasonp@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:jasonp@emanuelhouston.org) or 713.535.6414.

When registering, attendees can select gluten-free or vegetarian dietary options so arrangements can be made. For more information, please contact Jason Plotkin, 713.535.6414 or [jasonp@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:jasonp@emanuelhouston.org).

### Helfman Religious School Committee Conducting Passover Candy Sale

The Helfman Religious School Committee (HRSC) is conducting a Passover candy sale through **Sunday, March 15**, featuring Kosher for Passover Barton's Chocolates and Jennie's Macaroons. Online orders will be shipped directly to your office or home. Shipping is free with orders of \$100 or more.

To place your order:

Visit the Miss Chocolate website at <https://shop.misschocolate.com/>

Enter the Helfman Religious School Seller ID (710010), and click the adjacent blue bar labeled "CLICK HERE TO START SHOPPING."

Select "Kosher for Passover" from the shopping categories on the left side of the page.

The committee will receive 40% of all sales purchased through our Seller ID. Funds raised by the HRSC enrich Jewish education at Emanu El through programs including Greene Family Camp scholarships, retreats, holiday happenings, parent and family education, teacher and TA shirts, and professional development. Thank you for supporting Helman Religious School.





Please join

Rabbi Joshua Fixler, Rabbi Oren Hayon,  
Rabbi Pamela Silk, and Cantor Rollin Simmons

**for Congregation Emanu El's**

*Second Night Seder*

**Thursday, April 9, 2020 | 6:00 pm**

Kindly RSVP by Wednesday, April 1, 2020

Reserve your spot online at emanuelhouston.org or by returning the form below to  
Congregation Emanu El, 1500 Sunset Blvd, Houston, TX 77005

**BEGINNING APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup>, A LIMITED AMOUNT OF SPACES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR \$60 PER PERSON.**



**Congregation Emanu El**



**SECOND NIGHT SEDER RESERVATION**

I / WE WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE SEATS FOR:

\_\_\_\_\_ Adult Members (\$40 each)    \_\_\_\_\_ Adult Non-Members (\$55 each)    \_\_\_\_\_ Children 12 & under (\$20 each)  
qty    qty    qty

In my absence or in addition to my reservation, I (we) would like to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_ to allow our Seder to be accessible to those in need of financial assistance or are new to our community.

**DIETARY INFORMATION (OPTIONAL):**    \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian meal(s)    \_\_\_\_\_ Gluten-Free meal(s)  
qty    qty

**PAYMENT INFORMATION:**

Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check, made payable to Congregation Emanu El.

Please charge my credit card:     Visa     MasterCard     American Express

Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**PREFERRED SEATING, IF AVAILABLE (OPTIONAL):**

The Classics (50's and 60's)

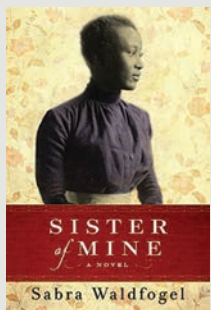
Emanu El Young Professionals

My Generation (65+)

Widow to Widow

# Sisterhood News & Happenings

February – March  
2020



## BOOK REVIEW:

*Sister of Mine*,  
by Sabra Waldfogel

THURSDAY, MARCH 12  
12:30 PM

Reviewed by Lisa Brooks. Join the Sisterhood for their next book review, *Sister of Mine* by Sabra Waldfogel, which will be reviewed by Lisa Brooks.

The year is 1852; the location is the bountiful cotton plantation of Mordecai Mannheim, a Jewish immigrant from Germany whose fortunes prospered in northern Georgia. His only child, Adelaide, is given a young slave, Rachel, for her 14th birthday. The two become confidants and discover that Mordecai was also Rachel's father.

As the girls move toward adulthood, the country moves toward war. This novel follows the sisters' individual and collective journeys, through love and resentment, to betrayal, and, ultimately, forgiveness.

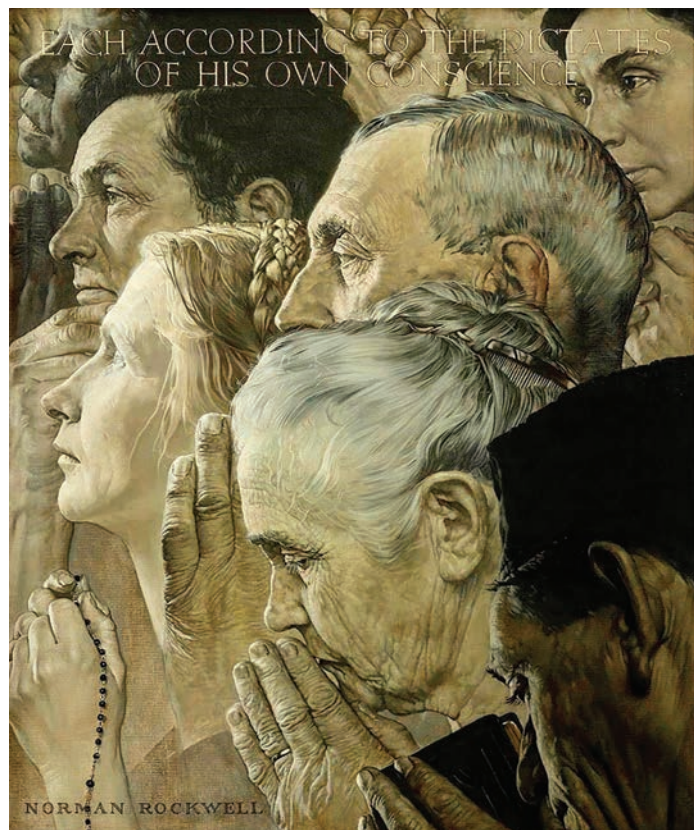
Attendees are encouraged to bring their lunch. Desserts and snacks will be provided.

Please register online at [emanuelhouston.org](http://emanuelhouston.org) or by calling the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771, ext. 233, so that we can plan accordingly.

## Judaism Through the Arts

Thursday, February 6, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Join Sisterhood at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston (MFAH) for a fascinating program of Judaism Through the Arts. This unique program will focus on Norman



Norman Rockwell's *Freedom of Worship* will be the focus of this year's Judaism Through the Arts program hosted at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston.

Rockwell's painting, *Freedom of Worship*, part of the internationally touring exhibition of Norman Rockwell: American Freedom at the MFAH.

In addition to a discussion of this iconic painting, Helga Aurisch, Curator of European Art, will coordinate a multi-media presentation of significant objects from the Jewish, Christian, Islamic, Hindu, and Buddhist collections by the curatorial staff of each department. One of the highlights will include the recently acquired Montefiore Mahzor, a beautifully illuminated High Holy Days manuscript created in 1310. This presentation will be followed by a tour of the Rockwell exhibit and a viewing each of the exceptional religious objects that were discussed.

Space is limited, so please **RSVP by Monday, February 3**, either online by visiting our web calendar or by contacting the Sisterhood office at [sishood@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:sishood@emanuelhouston.org) or at 713.529.5771, ext. 233.

## Pinot's Palette & Wine

Wednesday, February 26, 6:30 p.m.

Find your inner artist during a fun evening with friends at Pinot's Palette, 2406 Taft St.! The evening will start with wine and light bites at **6:30 p.m.**, and the painting will begin at **7:00 p.m.**

A professional art instructor will coach the group with painting tips and help with adding the finishing touches to the paintings. At the end of the evening, everyone will get to take their "masterpiece" home to enjoy. You don't need to be a seasoned painter to participate, and first-time painters are welcome. All painting supplies are provided.

*continued next page*





The cost of this fun night out is \$35. Please register by **Monday, February 24**. A direct link for registration can be found online at our website. For more information, please contact the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771, ext. 233 or [sishood@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:sishood@emanuelhouston.org).

## Sisterhood Announces Barbara Pierce Bush as 2020 Fundraiser Speaker



Congregation Emanu El Sisterhood, in partnership with the Barbara Bush Literacy Foundation and Houston Public Library, will hold its annual fundraising event, *Words Change the World* on **Thursday, March 26, 2020, at 11:00 a.m.** This year's guest speaker will be Barbara Pierce Bush, humanitarian and co-founder and Board Chair of

Global Health Corps.

A Yale University graduate with a degree in Humanities, Ms. Bush co-founded Global Health Corps, which mobilizes a global community of young leaders to build the movement for health equity. She has worked with the Red Cross Children's Hospital in South Africa and UNICEF in Botswana, is a member of UNICEF's Next Generation Steering Committee and the UN Global Entrepreneurs Council.

Named one of *Newsweek's* Women of Impact in 2013, she released *Sisters First*, a *New York Times* best seller written with her twin sister and co-author Jenna Bush Hager.

Barbara Pierce Bush is also a supporter of her family's foundation, the Barbara Bush Literacy Foundation, created to improve the quality of lives through the power of literacy. The Foundation, established by Neil and Maria Bush, is dedicated to helping eradicate the literacy crisis in Houston. The Sisterhood's partnership with the Foundation will donate part of the proceeds raised by *Words Change the World* to make an impact on the local community by donating children's books to the Harris County Public Library's Curiosity Cruiser.

A moderated conversation with Barbara Pierce Bush will begin at 11:30 a.m., followed by a Texas-style lunch. Congregation Emanu El's Sisterhood has a strong dedication to community service and social action as well as progressive Jewish values. Co-chairs for this year's event are Kathy Parven and Shelley Wisner.

Invitations for the event will be sent out in mid-January and registration will subsequently open up online at [emanuelhouston.org/sisterhood](http://emanuelhouston.org/sisterhood) or by calling the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771.

For additional information, contact the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771 or email [sishood@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:sishood@emanuelhouston.org).

## Sisterhood Prepares Invitations for *Words Change the World*

Invitation stuffing captains Shirley Burkom (left) and Marlene Rubin helped lead a team of volunteers over two days in preparing over 2,000 invitations to be mailed to the Emanu El community for the *Words Change the World* fundraiser slated for late March. Thanks to all the volunteers!



## UPCOMING PROGRAMMING OFFERINGS FOR AFFINITY GROUPS & SPECIAL INTERESTS AT EMANU EL

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

Contact Elizabeth Townsend at 713.529.5771, ext. 222 or [elizabeth@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:elizabeth@emanuelhouston.org), or Jason Plotkin at 713.535.6414 or [jasonp@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:jasonp@emanuelhouston.org).

### Monthly Mahj at Emanu El – Two Opportunities to Play First Thursdays, 5:30 p.m. & Third Mondays, 1:00 p.m.

Our next first-Thursday evening group of Mahj players in the Stillman-Lack Library takes place on **Thursday, February 6**. A nominal \$5 fee covers drinks and dinner. Novice and advanced players welcome! The next edition in the series will be **Thursday, March 5**.

For more information and to RSVP, please contact Elizabeth Townsend at [elizabeth@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:elizabeth@emanuelhouston.org) or 713.529.5771, ext. 222. You may also RSVP online by visiting our website calendar.

The third-Monday afternoon group continues on **Monday, February 20**, following a break in January due to MLK day. Please RSVP to the Sisterhood at [sishood@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:sishood@emanuelhouston.org) or 713.529.5771, ext. 233.

### My Generation: Experience the Epic Story of Texas & American West at the Bryan Museum Wednesday, February 12, 8:45 a.m.



Join Emanu El's social group for 65 and older for a docent-led tour of the Bryan Museum in Galveston, located inside an orphanage that survived the storm of 1900. During the two-hour tour, My Generation will experience the

epic story of Texas and the American West through art, artifacts and touch screen displays that make history come alive.

The group will meet at Emanu El at **8:45 a.m.** before heading to Galveston on an air-conditioned bus. The museum is maintained at 65 degrees, and comfortable attire is recommended. The cost of tour is \$12 per person. Following the tour, the bus will head for lunch (purchased individually) at the Gypsy Joynt, a lively burger spot located in a historical building formerly owned by Jewish residents of Galveston.

The group is expected to return to the synagogue by 4:00 p.m. Space is limited to the first 39 registrants, and the registration deadline is **Tuesday, February 4**.

Register online or by calling the synagogue. For more information, contact Jason Plotkin at [jasonp@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:jasonp@emanuelhouston.org) or 713.535.6414.

### The Classics: For the Love of Chocolate . . . and Wine! Saturday, February 15, 4:00 p.m.

Like wine? Love chocolate? Join the Classics – Emanu El's social group for members in their 50's and 60's – for an afternoon of chocolate and wine tasting at Nos Caves Vin, 2501 Wroxtton Rd.

You'll be surprised at the various wine and chocolate pairings that we will share! Our scrumptious tasting is limited to 25 participants, so be sure to RSVP and secure your spot by visiting our website or by calling the synagogue. The cost to participate is \$18 per person. Questions? Contact fred Bleeker Franks at [fredi.bleeker@gmail.com](mailto:fredi.bleeker@gmail.com).

### Spring is the Reason! Classics Post-Shabbat Dinner Friday, March 20, following 6:00 p.m. Shabbat services

Join the Classics for dinner and be a part of our group as we welcome the spring season at Qin Dynasty, 5115 Buffalo Speedway #900, at approximately **7:15 p.m.** The restaurant will accommodate separate check.

To help us plan accordingly and to give the restaurant a proper count, please register online through our website or call 713.529.5771 by **Wednesday, March 18**. We look forward to seeing you there!

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## **The Classics: Houston Japanese Garden and Dinner**

**Sunday, April 26, 2:30 p.m.**

Have a stroll through Houston's Japanese Garden at Hermann Park with the Classics followed by a taste of Japan at an authentic Japanese restaurant.

The Japanese Garden was designed by world-renowned landscape architect, Ken Nakajima. Natural materials are used, such as rock, wood, and plants, to give a feeling of serenity to this peaceful hideaway in Hermann Park with 5.5 acres of waterfalls, bridges, and stone paths that wander among crepe myrtles, azaleas, Japanese maples, dogwoods, and cherry trees.

The entrance to the Japanese Garden is located near the Pioneer Memorial obelisk, just off Molly Ann Smith Plaza (by the Heart of the Park). The closest parking lot is Lot A located off Sam Houston Monument circle. From Lot A, follow the granite path along the Jones Reflection Pool under the double alley of trees and you'll find the entrance just off the plaza with the obelisk. View the Hermann Park Map by visiting [www.hermannpark.org/visit/interactive-map/](http://www.hermannpark.org/visit/interactive-map/).

The group will meet at the garden entrance at 2:30 p.m. Look for a sign that reads, "The Classics."

There is no charge to enter the Houston Japanese Garden. Following the garden stroll (approximately 4:30 p.m.), the Classics will enjoy authentic Japanese cuisine (purchased individually) at Zen Japanese Izakaya, 2015 South Shepherd Dr. Walking into Zen feels like entering a restaurant in Ginza, Tokyo.

While there is no fee for this event, we are requesting RSVPs to plan accordingly. Whether you plan to attend one or both parts of the afternoon, please RSVP online at

[emanuelhouston.org](http://emanuelhouston.org) or call 713.529.5771 to reserve your spot today.

## **Emanu El Meditation Group**

**Saturday Mornings, 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.**

Are you interested in reducing stress, enhancing your performance, and gaining insight and awareness of yourself and others? Consider joining Emanu El's Mindfulness Meditation group on Shabbat mornings. Jewish values and influences are often incorporated, and many find that it enhances their own practice of Judaism.

Certified and experienced leaders include Jan Silver, Susan Berdinis and Martin Lindenberg. All levels from beginner to advanced meditators are welcome.

The first Saturday of each month is dedicated to beginners with an Introduction to Mindfulness. Experience a basic practice, discuss bringing mindfulness into your daily life and have your questions answered. Please consider joining us! For more information, please contact Sandy Brochstein at [sandybtx@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sandybtx@sbcglobal.net) or Heidi Kaplan at [heidi.b.kaplan@gmail.com](mailto:heidi.b.kaplan@gmail.com).

## **Emanu El Volunteer Choir**

**Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.**

Emanu El's Volunteer Choir has been an active group this year, performing at various venues across town and taking part in the congregation's Purim Schpiel. Following a busy fall, an active spring is on the docket!

All members of the congregation are invited to join the choir by contacting Richard Zoll at [richard.zoll@yahoo.com](mailto:richard.zoll@yahoo.com). Please make sure to contact Richard to verify the rehearsal schedule for the month.

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## **Classics Convene for Shabbat Dinner**

In January, the Classics – Emanu El's group for 50s and 60s – convened for a Shabbat dinner after worship services. Mediterranean was the food for the evening which had a New Years' theme. Thanks to the Classics committee for planning an active, robust programming calendar!







## Emanu El Celebrates Chanukah with Over 75 Menorahs for 75 Years

Emanu El celebrated Chanukah as a community during this event chaired by Brooke & Jonathan Reichel. Congregants and community members more than completed our challenge to have 75 menorahs for our congregation's 75 years of existence by bringing over 90 menorahs.

## Young Professionals Partner with YAD for Israeli Cooking Class

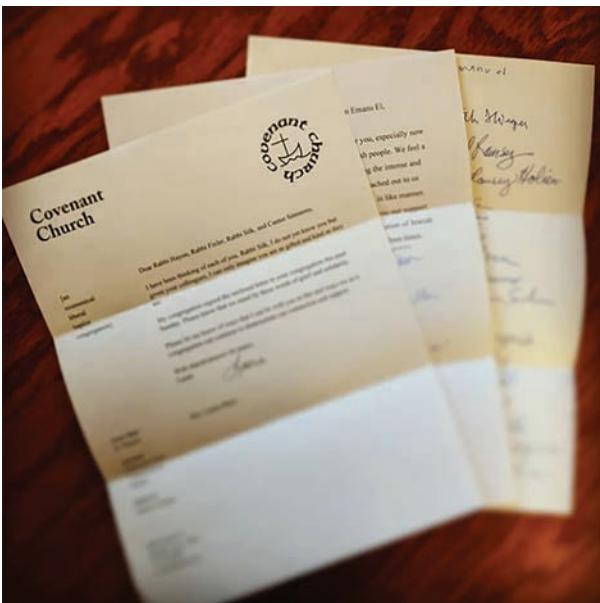
In mid-December, the Emanu El Young Professionals partnered with the Young Adult Division (YAD) of the Houston Jewish Federation for an Israeli cooking class led by Hadas, the Houston area Israeli Sh'licha. A great Israeli feast was prepared and enjoyed by all!



## Friends from Covenant Church Send Touching Letter to Congregation Emanu El

Congregation Emanu El received a beautiful and touching letter from our friends at Covenant Church Houston. In an Instagram post about the letter, Rabbi Hayon shared that his friend "Rev. Mayo and dozens of her parishioners express their sadness and solidarity with the Jewish community after weeks of antisemitic incidents. Thank you, friends. This is what allyship looks like."

Emanu El also recently received correspondence from members of the Muslim community expressing their support for the Jewish community following the antisemitic activity towards the end of 2019.



### Tot Shabbats in February & March

**Friday, February 7, 6:30 p.m.** (service only)

**Friday, March 6, 5:45 p.m.** (dinner), 6:30 p.m. (service)

Families with young children are invited to join Congregation Emanu El for our monthly Tot Shabbat!

Due to building considerations, the February Tot Shabbat will include a service without dinner. To accommodate our families who need to feed their children or make a pit stop at home, our service will begin at **6:30 p.m.** A short and sweet Oneg will follow the Tot Shabbat service.

All are invited to wear your favorite hats, boots, bandanas in March for our annual Rodeo Tot Shabbat! The evening will begin at **5:45 p.m.** with dinner featuring BBQ favorites along with vegetarian and gluten-free options. The cost for dinner is \$4 for children and \$8 for adults. The cost will increase to \$5 for children and \$10 for adults on the day of the event or at the door for those who have not registered previously.

This optional dinner will be followed by our service at **6:30 p.m.** Our Shabbat worship will have a 'Rodeo twist' followed by a short and sweet Oneg.

For more information on our February or March Tot Shabbats, contact Jason Plotkin at [jasonp@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:jasonp@emanuelhouston.org) or 713.535.6414. Registration for Rodeo Tot Shabbat in March is available on our website, [www.emanuelhouston.org](http://www.emanuelhouston.org) or by calling 713.529.5771.



## Becker School

### Becker School Presents Parenting Workshop Sessions

**Tuesday, February 4, 9:15 a.m. or 7:00 p.m.**

Join us for this four-part parenting workshop that will teach you the most powerful parenting tips we know! Get strategies to use now.

This unique parenting workshop will offer research-backed parenting tips and techniques that can enhance your relationship with your child, return control to you as a parent, help you avoid the number one mistake we make as parents, and teach skills you can use right away to make situations better.

This information will help you lay the foundation you want for your family. We will meet on four Tuesdays in February, beginning **Tuesday, February 4**, and concluding on **Tuesday, February 25**. Class times offered are **9:15 - 10:15 a.m.** or **7:00 - 8:00 p.m.** The cost for the class is \$200 for one parent or \$300 for two people from the same family.

Becker School is offering this workshop in conjunction with Houston Family Therapy Associates. Lynn McLean, LCSW-S, Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor, teaches parent classes and offers individual parent coaching at

the Museum District child and family therapy practice she founded in 2004. Her staff includes therapists dedicated to the use of play therapy to support children.

For more information, contact Houston Family Therapy Associates at 713.936.0633, or contact Leslie Strug at [leslies@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:leslies@emanuelhouston.org) or 713.535.6400. To register, visit [emanuelhouston.org](http://emanuelhouston.org) or call Leslie.

### Becker School Registration is Open for 2020-21 School Year

Becker School is excited to open registration for the 2020-2021 school year. This year, Becker is adding a Kindergarten class. Children in the class will benefit from a smaller classroom ratio while achieving all the objectives of Kindergarten. This class is for children who will be age 5 by **September 1, 2020**.

To learn more about the class, join us at Becker School on **Wednesday, February 12, at 9:00 a.m.** for an informative talk.

This coming school year Becker also looks forward to expanding its outdoor curriculum by adding an Outdoor Learning Specialist to guide the children in their outdoor exploration, gardening, science, and more.

If you are already registered for this school year or the next school year, your child is eligible to attend summer camp at Becker. The camp theme is Becker's Wildlife World, which will be a fun interactive and educational experience.

Please contact Judy Lazor at [judy1@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:judy1@emanuelhouston.org) for more information about school registration and summer camp.

### Becker School's Helping Lives Bloom: A Garden Celebration

**Sunday, March 1, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Becker's first ever-garden celebration will be a family event on our natural playground. All Becker and Emanu El families are invited to join us in celebrating the children.

The upbeat and fun-filled music of AndyRoo will kick-off our celebration as we create family steppingstones, plant our garden and enjoy sweet treats. You will have the opportunity to support and enhance both Becker playgrounds by purchasing items such as bikes and sandbox toys.

Underwriting information will be available soon. All underwriters for the event will be acknowledged in print. Family and individual tickets are available on our website. If you cannot join us, please consider contributing toward our inaugural event.

We look forward to seeing our families for this special afternoon!



## BROTHERHOOD NEWS & HAPPENINGS

### Brotherhood BBQ Crawl

Sunday, February 23 at 1:00 p.m.

Meet us at Congregation Emanu El and ride the bus with the Brotherhood on **Sunday, February 23 at 1:00 p.m.** sharp for a tasty afternoon touring several local BBQ joints enjoying each location's specialties.

Among the BBQ joints we will travel to are Blood Brothers for their exceptional Brisket Fried Rice and chicken and Luling BBQ for their well-known sausage and potato salad. Additional stops to be announced!

We will ride in an air-conditioned bus and reservations will be limited to 28 participants. The cost is \$45 per person and covers samples from each BBQ joint along the way, plus tea or soft drinks at each. All are welcome. Please RSVP at [www.emanuelhouston.org](http://www.emanuelhouston.org) by **Wednesday, February 19** or before space runs out!

### Congregant of the Year Nominations

Each year, Brotherhood selects the Ernest Krautkopf Congregant of the Year, honoring an outstanding member of Emanu El.

Named for Ernest Krautkopf, a long-time member of Emanu El who served this congregation and the community as an "unsung hero," this award is given each year to a congregant who has devoted years of service to the Emanu El community and to the community at large.

We invite the congregation to nominate deserving congregants for our 2020 award. If you are interested in doing so, please submit a nomination letter that describes the person and explains why he or she should be Congregant of the Year. Please also describe the nominee's service both to the Emanu El community and to the community at large.

You may mail the letter to Brotherhood's attention at the Temple, email it to Ben Miller at [bpmiller82@gmail.com](mailto:bpmiller82@gmail.com) or leave it in an envelope in the Brotherhood box. Sitting members of the Emanu El executive board, members of Emanu El senior staff, and posthumous nominees are not eligible. **Nominations must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3.**

### Emanu El Recruiting for Annual Synagogue Men's Softball League

The Sunday Softball League will get started again in February. The games are held at Bayland Park on **Sunday mornings**.

If anyone has any questions, please contact Alford Bleeker at 281.352.0477 or via email at [vableeker@yahoo.com](mailto:vableeker@yahoo.com).

## EMANU EL AT A GLANCE THROUGH MARCH 20

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

As a congregation, we communicate in many ways. This calendar is supplemented by information that can be found throughout this edition of the *Bulletin*, the weekly Shabbat program, the weekly eLetter, on our website, and on our Facebook page.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### FEBRUARY

- 2/4** – Emanu Elders, 11:30 a.m.
- 2/6** – Sisterhood's Judaism Through the Arts, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. (MFAH)
- 2/6** – Emanu El Mahj Night, 5:30 p.m.
- 2/7** – Tot Shabbat, 6:30 p.m. (no dinner offering)
- 2/10** – Gathering Place, 10:00 a.m.
- 2/12** – My Generation: Bryan Museum Trip, 8:45 a.m.
- 2/12** – Becker Kindergarten Program Information Session, 9:00 a.m.
- 2/13** – Work of Our Hands, 10:00 a.m.
- 2/13** – Immigration: Current Crisis, Future Hope, 7:00 p.m.
- 2/15** – Classics' For the Love of Chocolate & Wine, 4:00 p.m. (Nos Caves Vin)
- 2/17** – Emanu El Mahj Afternoon, 1:00 p.m.
- 2/18** – Kids' Meals, 9:30 a.m.
- 2/20** – Taste of Talmud, 12:30 p.m.
- 2/20** – YP: Rec Room Arts presents Pass Over, 7:30 p.m.
- 2/23** – Brotherhood BBQ Crawl, 1:00 p.m.
- 2/25** – Sack Lunches for SEARCH, 9:30 a.m.
- 2/26** – Sisterhood's Pinot's Palette & Wine, 6:30 p.m. (2406 Taft St.)

#### MARCH

- 3/1** – Becker School's Helping Lives Bloom: A Garden Celebration, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
- 3/3** – Emanu Elders, 11:30 a.m.
- 3/5** – Emanu El Mahj Night, 5:30 p.m.
- 3/6** – Rodeo Tot Shabbat, 5:45 p.m. (dinner), 6:30 p.m. (service)
- 3/8** – Purim Schpiel, 10:00 a.m., followed by Purim Carnival at 11:00 a.m.
- 3/9** – Gathering Place, 10:00 a.m.
- 3/9** – Purim on Tap: Esther, Vashti & #MeToo, 6:00 p.m. (True Anomaly Brewing Co., 2012 Dallas St.)
- 3/12** – Work of Our Hands, 10:00 a.m.
- 3/12** – Sisterhood Book Review: *Sister of Mine* by Sabra Waldfogel, 12:30 p.m.
- 3/16** – Emanu El Mahj Afternoon, 1:00 p.m.
- 3/17** – Kids' Meals, 9:30 a.m.
- 3/19** – Taste of Talmud, 12:30 p.m.
- 3/20** – The Classics Post-Shabbat Dinner at Qin Dynasty, service at 6:00 p.m. & dinner at 7:15 p.m.

**NEXT BULLETIN TO BE ISSUED: TUESDAY, MARCH 3**



# Thank You



CONGREGATION EMANU EL WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WHO INTEND TO LEAVE A LEGACY GIFT TO THE TEMPLE:

Jeri Amundsen & Arthur Feldman  
Anonymous  
Susie & David Askanase  
Marvin Barish  
Jeff & Karen Basen-Engquist  
Lisl Berman z'l  
Barbara & Mark Brookner  
Laura Mayer Cyprow  
Dee Dee Dochen  
Helen Dreyfus  
Nancy Parkans Ehrenkranz  
Bernice Feld  
Steven Fenberg  
fredi & Paul Franks  
Anne & Don Graubart  
Rachel & Adam Gutow-Ellis  
Sandy & Don Harris  
Julie & Rabbi Oren Hayon  
Ralph Herring  
Rabbi Samantha & Matt Kahn

Barbara & Raymond Kalmans  
Elyse & Lewis Kalmans  
JoAnn Klar  
Elizabeth & Matt Krohn  
Pamela Kutner  
Jennifer & David Lamden  
Laurie Lee  
Mark Lensky z'l  
Bruce Lessey  
Cheryl & Haran Levy  
Myra Lipper  
Rebecca & Jost Lunstroth  
Kathy & Garey Marks  
Benjamin Miller  
Joan Morganstern  
Ethel Morris z'l  
Jeannette Nestvold  
Kathy & Steven Parven  
Ellen Hurwitz Penner z'l  
Greta Pliskin

Richard "Dick" Plumb z'l  
Marilyn Presser  
Becky Proler & Gretchen Gemeinhardt  
Dean Putterman  
Lila Rauch  
Robin & Rodney Roth  
Cheryl & Michael Rubenstein  
Marlene Rubin  
Richard Schechter  
Esther Shelby z'l  
Rabbi Pam & Jeff Silk  
Helen & Andy Spector  
Linda Susman  
Donna & Philip Tenenbaum  
Rachael Tobor & Valerie Turner  
Linda & Rabbi Roy Walter  
Dolores Wilkenfeld  
Becky & Joe Williams  
Shelley Wisner  
ED Wolfe z'l

IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION OR IF YOU INTEND TO MAKE A GIFT, PLEASE CONTACT JERI AMUNDSEN AT [JERI.AMUNDSEN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JERI.AMUNDSEN@GMAIL.COM) OR JASON PLOTKIN AT [JASONP@EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG](mailto:JASONP@EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG).

## Donations to the Sisterhood Flower Fund

For donations to the Sisterhood Flower Fund (for the Shabbat handout) please make checks payable to "Congregation Emanu El Sisterhood" and mail or drop off to Donna Fraley at the synagogue, 1500 Sunset Blvd, Houston, TX 77005. Donations can also be made online at [www.EmanuElHouston.org](http://www.EmanuElHouston.org). Please make sure to specify which Shabbat service(s) you would like your flower fund donation listed. **In order to ensure the donations are listed, we ask that they be at the synagogue no later than the Wednesday before Shabbat.**

## 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.

### A Note from the 75th Anniversary Chairs

Dear Congregational Family,

We were honored to co-chair Emanu El's 75th anniversary year, Ever Open. With a dynamic steering committee, energetic program chairs, caring clergy and staff, and scores of willing volunteers, we celebrated, learned, and grew together.

Our deepest appreciation and recognition are for Jason Plotkin, whose creativity, calm, and endless patience are gifts that everyone at Emanu El and beyond is privileged to experience.

Here is a brief recap of our anniversary year:

Beginning in October 2018, we counted down the 75 days to January 1, 2019, with a daily social media reminder or clue of Emanu El past and present.

**JANUARY** – Cantor Simmons, Rabbi Hayon, and guest performers Noah Aronson and Elana Arian premiered the song Ever Open, specially commissioned for our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

**FEBRUARY** – We welcomed Rabbi Gary Zola from Hebrew Union College's American Jewish Archives as our weekend scholar-in-residence. Our social action team volunteered at Bo's Place.

**MARCH** – Our Endowment series speaker featured Reverend William Barber. We partnered with SEARCH for social action projects.

**APRIL** – The Annual Meeting featured a “magical” children's program. Our hands and hearts participated in social action programs for Interfaith Ministries.

**MAY** – Congregants Donna and Philip Tenenbaum were recognized at the Congregant of the Year dinner.

**JUNE** – A Birthday Celebration was held as we wished happy birthday to Emanu El and all congregants who were born in 1944. Rabbi Hayon led an inspiring congregational trip to Eastern Europe.

**JULY** – After an indoor July 4<sup>th</sup> picnic and movie night, we headed to the rooftop of the Gaylor Parking facility to watch fireworks over Houston.

**AUGUST** – Seventy-five hundred lunches were assembled in a single morning for the beneficiaries of Kids' Meals.

**SEPTEMBER** – Rabbi Andrea Weiss from Hebrew Union College (HUC) was our weekend Rozelle and Rabbi Robert I. Kahn scholar-in-residence. Our social action partner this month was Cultivating Families.

**OCTOBER** – Sukkot on Sunset provided celebration and fun for all ages. Emergency Aid Coalition was our partner for social action efforts.

**NOVEMBER** – The building was transformed into a cocktail supper club for the elegant Ever Forward evening. The film Ever Open, created and produced by Steven Fenberg, premiered that night. Becker School's art exhibit, the culmination of a school-wide study of many artists, opened at Grandparents' Shabbat.

**DECEMBER** – Founding Families and Past Presidents were recognized at a Heritage Shabbat in their honor. In conclusion, at our 75 Menorahs for 75 Years Chanukah celebration, Congregation Emanu El was aglow to end our momentous celebration year.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the events of this anniversary year. Special thanks to our steering committee and event chairs:

Jeri Amundsen, Sue Baum, Dawn Blitz, Tracey Blumrosen, Sara Brook, Adina Cohen, Michelle Eber, Mike Eber, Tammy Feldstein, Steven Fenberg, Ivy Frank, Barry Goodfriend, Carol Goodfriend, Josh Gottlieb-Miller, Lauren Gottlieb-Miller, Erica Hittner, George Hittner, Alfred Kahn, Eddie Kahn, Dora Klaff, Daniel Levin, Melissa Rubenstein Levin, Myra Lipper, Rhonda Lipper, Barbara Loeser, Nicole Longnecker, Andrew Madof, Leah Madof, Garey Marks, Kathy Marks, Ben Miller, Rebecca Miller, Kathy Parven, Julie Price, Gloria Pryzant, Alana Pulaski, Diane Puschett, Brooke Reichek, Jonathan Reichek, Maxine Reingold, Debbie Robbins, Sammy Robbins, Robin Roth, Rodney Roth, Judy Sax, Jessica Segal, Ali Septimus, Stephanie Slobin, Todd Slobin, and Rabbi Roy Walter.

With appreciation,

Elyse Spector Kalmans and Cheryl Levy, Co-chairs of Emanu El's 75th anniversary year



**EE75 Chairs Elyse Spector Kalmans and Cheryl Levy.**

*continued next page*



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## World Zionist Congress Elections Underway

The World Zionist Congress elections are here, and it is time to have our voices heard in Israel! Each and every vote from our congregation is crucial to maintaining a strong Reform presence. This is our chance to combat the discrimination the Reform Movement faces in Israel. Together we can grow our Reform Movement and work towards making progress on the issues we care about: religious freedom, equality, and many more.

Voting is open now until March 11, 2020. Your vote in this election is the only democratic opportunity you have to influence Israeli society.

Here are step-by-step directions to VOTE REFORM!!

Go to [www.zionistelection.org](http://www.zionistelection.org) and click on the register and vote button.

The registration form will now appear on your screen; please fill out the required information and click submit.

A form asking for a verification number will now appear on your screen. Retrieve your verification number in your email or by text message. Enter the verification code and hit submit.

A payment page will then appear. Select your method of payment and complete the payment section. Once you have entered in your payment information click 'Submit.'

**You are now ready to vote for the Reform Slate!** You will be asked to provide your email address and a 'Voting PIN Code.' You can retrieve your 'Voting PIN Code' by text message or email. Enter the information and click 'Submit.'

Select the "Vote Reform: ARZA Representing the Reform Movement and Reconstructing Judaism" option! We will be listed 2nd on the ballot. Choose only one Slate. Click the 'Submit' button to confirm you are voting for the slate you want and click the 'Vote' button. And you're done! All in under 10 minutes.

If you need a paper ballot, one can be downloaded and printed at [www.azm.org/elections](http://www.azm.org/elections).

After you have voted, please take just another minute and email [wzoe@gmail.com](mailto:wzoe@gmail.com) to let us know you voted. We want to know how many of our congregants participated in this very important election. Questions? Need help? Just send an email to [wzoe@gmail.com](mailto:wzoe@gmail.com), and one of us will contact you as quickly as we can.

## Community-Wide Yom Limmud to be Hosted at Beth Israel

Sunday, February 16, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston's annual Yom Limmud will take place at Congregation Beth Israel, located at 5600 N. Braeswood.

Since 1995, the Federation has brought together Jews from all denominations to one place at one time each year to learn, shop, schmooze, nosh, sing, and play together. More than 70 local rabbis, cantors, and Jewish professionals will present sessions on a wide variety of topics.

Yom Limmud is generously endowed by Chair King Backyard Store and the Barish Family. Online registration is available on the Federation website at [houstonjewish.org/yomlimmud](http://houstonjewish.org/yomlimmud). Don't miss this day to celebrate being Jewish!

## Classes Led by Members of the Extended Emanu El Family

9:30 a.m., *Tu B'Shevat; Making the Desert Bloom* led by Director of Congregational Learning Stefani Carlson and Helfman teacher Lisa Brooks

9:30 a.m., *Vaani T'filati L'cha: Finding Yourself in Prayer*, led by Cantor Rollin Simmons & Rabbi Josh Fixler

10:30 a.m., *The Rabbi's Mixtape*, led by Rabbi Oren Hayon

1:30 p.m., *Immigrant Justice in Texas: Local Jewish Responses*, led by Rabbi David Segal of the Religious Action Center of Texas

1:30 p.m., *(Almost) Everything I Know About Mussar, I Learned From My Dogs*, led by Director of Congregational Learning Stefani Carlson

Congregation Emanu El looks forward to welcoming Yom Limmud back to our congregation in 2021.

## Emanu El Welcomes New Members to Staff Team

In January, Congregation Emanu El welcomed **Charles Colona** and **Tiffany Siegel** to our staff team. Charles serves our Helfman Religious School as the Education Coordinator, while Tiffany is our new Assistant to the Executive Director, David Lamden. Please join us in welcoming both!







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

**ACCESS FOR ALL**

*To ensure Emanu El is a welcoming, accessible and inclusive community*  
In Appreciation of

**Rabbi Joshua Fixler**  
Jessica & Erik Teegerstrom

**Donna Fraley**  
Pat & Aaron Fradkin

In Honor of  
**Phyllis Frank's Birthday**  
Pat & Aaron Fradkin  
**Joan Suchart's Birthday**  
Pat & Aaron Fradkin

**AUBREY & SYLVIA FARB COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND**

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

In Memory of  
**Gertrude Barnstone**  
**Odessa Wexler**  
Steven Fenberg

**BECKER EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

*To provide Becker Early Childhood Center scholarships*

In Memory of  
**Emily Weingarten-Stein**  
Paulette & Mel Levine

**BECKER EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND**

*To provide and enhance Becker Early Childhood Center programs*

In Memory of  
**Jay Albert**  
Cantor Francyne Davis Jacobs

**Jacob Cohen**  
**James Falick**  
Linda & Joseph Pulaski

**Emily Weingarten-Stein**  
Jeanie & Larry Krim  
Linda & Joseph Pulaski

**CERSONSKY CEMETERY BEAUTIFICATION FUND**

*To maintain and enhance Emanu El Memorial Park*

In Honor of  
**Jane Root's Birthday**  
Barbara Miller

In Memory of  
**Peggy & Louis Ashe**  
Sharon & Herb Cohn

**Arnold Eskin**  
Helen Adamson

**Ruth May**  
Sandra & M.H. "Butch" Cersonsky

**Helga & Rolf Monroy**  
Ursula Corbett

**CLERGY'S GOOD WORKS FUND**

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

**A Donation**  
Cynthia & Ben Klein  
**Staff Mitzvah Project**

Amrita Asgar  
Stefani Carlson  
Lisa Damen  
Marlene Finkelstein

Rabbi Josh Fixler  
Donna Fraley  
Rabbi Oren Hayon

Pam Jenkins  
Stephanie Kamion  
Leda Karchmer  
JoAnne Karnuth

Paula Katz  
Laura Kocian  
David Lamden  
Judy Lazor

Lucy Mosbacher  
Jason Plotkin  
Rabbi Pamela Silk  
Christian Simmons  
Cantor Rollin Simmons  
Elizabeth Townsend

In Appreciation of  
**The Clergy Team**  
Richard Gruen

**Rabbi Pamela Silk**  
Pat & Aaron Fradkin  
The Susman Family

In Honor of  
**The Wonderful Clergy Team**  
Leslie & Warren Simmons

**Rabbi Pamela Silk**  
Shelley & Vic Wisner  
**William Spitz's Birthday**

Ronna & Clayton Spitz

**Joan Suchart's Birthday**  
Anita Rothschild

**The Bar Mitzvah of Richie Klosek**  
Tama & John Klosek

**JJ Silk**  
Linda & Richard Zoll

**The Bat Mitzvah of Katharyn Fox Slater**  
Rhonda Lewis  
Don Robins & Katharyn Fox Slater

**Baby Naming of Tanner Ellis Pickei**  
Patti & Dan Steiner

In Memory of  
**Lillian Farr's Unveiling**  
Camae & Mark Schultz  
**Frances Isaacson**  
Karen Reichek & Joel Kaufman

**Arnold Sachs**  
Delwin Beene  
**Emily Weingarten-Stein**  
Cindy & Brett Perlman  
Linda & Richard Zoll

**EDWARD WAYNE HUNGER FUND**

*To feed the hungry of Houston*

In Honor of  
**Carol & Barry Goodfriend**  
Jeri Amundsen & Arthur Feldman

**Carol & Barry Goodfriend's leadership as co-chairs for Kids' Meals**  
Sara Astrich  
Linda Lesser

**Joan Suchart's Birthday**  
Irv & Barbara Black  
Levine

**The Bat Mitzvah of Katharyn Fox Slater**  
Felice & Ed Klein

**FLORENCE & BEN BLUM LEADERSHIP FUND**

*To send Emanu El leadership to URJ Biennials and underwrite leadership programs and speakers*

In Honor of  
**The Speedy Recovery of Fredi Franks**  
**Rachel Gutow-Ellis**  
**Irv Levine**  
Myra Lipper

In Memory of  
**Emily Weingarten-Stein**  
Myra Lipper

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

*To enhance musical programming*

In Honor of  
**Cantor Rollin Simmons**  
Robin Scott & Bruce Grossman

**The Bat Mitzvah of Katharyn Fox Slater**  
Don Robins & Katharyn Fox Slater

**GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND**

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

In Honor of  
**Annette & Larry Robertson's Wedding Anniversary**  
Sharon & Lewis Krantz

In Memory of  
**Joan Rush Spitz**  
William Spitz

**GREENE FAMILY CAMP FUND**

*To support Greene Family Camp*

In Honor of  
**The Bar Mitzvah of JJ Silk**  
Camae & Mark Schultz

**JASON & DAVID MARCUS  
PLAYSPACE FUND**

*To maintain and enhance  
the playground*

In Honor of

**The Bat Mitzvah of  
Katharyn Fox Slater**  
Gay Yellen & Don Reiser

**JULIUS ZINN FUND**

*To provide and enhance  
congregation programs*

In Honor of

**Harriett Zinn**  
Sharon & Harvey Zinn

**PRAYER BOOK FUND**

*To provide prayers books  
for worship*

In Memory of

**Ruth Weiss**  
Sharon & Herb Cohn

**RABBI ROY WALTER  
ENRICHMENT FUND**

*To support spiritual and  
cultural enrichment*

In Honor of

**Carol & Dick LaMarche**  
Brooke & Marc Graubart  
**Joan Suchart's Birthday**

Carol & Larry Fradkin

**Rabbi Roy Walter**

Family of Elaine Proler  
Sharon & Mike Segal,  
Irene Weingarten and  
Shelley & Vic Wisner

**Mr. & Mrs. Stanley  
Weinstein's Wedding  
Anniversary**

Sybil Balasco

**The Speedy Recovery of  
Linda Walter**

Sheila & Jerald Kaplan

In Memory of

**Ruth May**  
Julie & Matt Bogar  
**Emily Weingarten-Stein**  
Sheila & Jerald Kaplan

**RICKY SCHNURR  
CAMBERSHIP FUND**

*To provide Greene Family  
Camp scholarships*

In Honor of

**The Bat Mitzvah of  
Katharyn Fox Slater**  
Don, Larry, Benji &  
Michelle Barr-Meyer

In Memory of

**Jay Albert**  
Larry & Don Barr-Meyer  
**Emily Weingarten-Stein**  
Gladys Schnurr

**RIVA BURSTEN CARING  
CONGREGATION FUND**

*To support programs  
that assist people in the  
community*

In Honor of

**The Speedy Recovery of  
Bernie Berman**  
Susie & David Askanase

**ROBERT I. KAHN GALLERY  
FUND**

*To maintain and enhance  
the Robert I. Kahn Gallery*

**A Donation**

Joan Morgenstern

In Honor of

**Joan Morgenstern**  
Nancy Daily

**RONALD BROCHSTEIN  
EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND**

*To enhance preschool  
education*

In Honor of

**The Speedy Recovery of  
Bernie Berman**  
**Barbara McCauley**  
Sharon & Herb Cohn

In Memory of

**Peggy & Louis Ashe**  
**Gloria Cohn**  
**Rosalind Kay**  
Sharon & Herb Cohn

**SARAH & ADOLPH  
BLUMENFELD KLEI  
KODESH SACRED OBJECTS  
FUND**

*To purchase and maintain  
Emanu El's sacred objects*

**A Donation**

Norman Blumenfeld

**SHIRLEY BARISH  
MEMORIAL ISRAEL  
EXPERIENCE FUND**

*To send Helfman Religious  
School high school  
students to Israel*

**A Donation**

Marvin Barish

**SISTERHOOD FUND**

*To enhance Sisterhood  
programming*

In Memory of

**Emily Weingarten-Stein**  
Marc Weinstein

**SUSMAN FUND FOR  
FAMILY PROGRAMMING**

*To support programs for  
families*

In Honor of

**Lila Rauch**  
Robin Susman

In Memory of

**Richard L. Susman**  
Robin Susman

**TEMPLE FUND**

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

**A Donation**

Ronni Rosenfeld

In Appreciation of

**Elyse Kalmans – for  
chairing Emanu El's  
75th Anniversary year of  
programming**  
**Cheryl Levy – for chairing  
Emanu El's 75th  
Anniversary year of  
programming**  
Kathy & Stephen Parven

In Honor of

**Rosa Esther Fulop's  
Birthday**  
Madgelyn & Richard  
Pesin

**Annette & Larry  
Robertson's Wedding  
Anniversary**  
Gloria & Ben Tobor

**Rodney Roth**  
Chris & Jeff Cohen

**Joan Suchart's Birthday**  
Susan & Syd Waldman

**Dianne Tudzin's Birthday**  
**Ellis Tudzin's Birthday**  
Gloria & Ben Tobor

**The Bat Mitzvah of  
Caroline Brynes**

The Fink Family

**The Speedy Recovery of  
Rachel Gutow-Ellis**  
Gloria & Ben Tobor

**Irv Levine**

Lou & Herb Mizis

In Memory of

**Ed Bersin**  
Gloria & Ben Tobor  
**Gladys Slavin Brenner**  
MN Davidson  
Foundation

**Harold Caplan**  
Herman Schultz

**Lenore Fenberg**  
Steven Fenberg

**Sarah Friedman Fink**  
The Fink Family

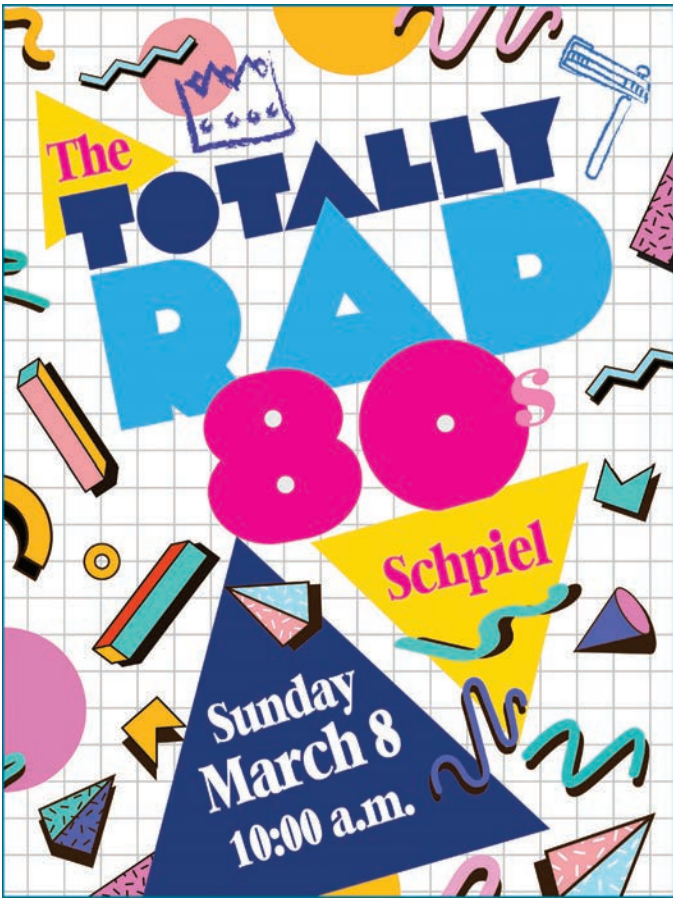
**Ruth May**  
Carol & Mark Entman

**Rozelle Jacobson Schultz**  
Herman Schultz

**Emily Weingarten-Stein**  
Sylvia & Steven Brody  
Ina Perlman  
Nanette & Barry  
Putterman

Sister & Joel Steinberg  
Carol & Michael Wilk





*Purim Carnival*

**MARCH 8 | 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

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## grat·i·tude

/gradə,t(y)əd/ noun

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## Friday, March 6

**BBQ Dinner 5:45 p.m.**  
**Service 6:30 p.m.**

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 Congregation Emanu El

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# SECOND NIGHT SEDER

THURSDAY, APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>  
6:00 PM



REGISTRATION OPENING SOON!  
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**SAVE THE DATE**

SUNDAY  
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CONGREGATION EMANUEL  
**SISTERHOOD**

2020

WORDS  
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WORLD

SISTERHOOD LUNCHEON  
FEATURING BARBARA PIERCE BUSH

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26  
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

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Congregation Emanu El

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Pamela B. Silk, Associate Rabbi  
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

Rodney Roth, President  
Jeri Amundsen, Senior Vice President  
Todd Slobin, Vice President - Personnel  
Helen Dreyfus, Vice President - Education  
Dawn Blitz, Vice President - Committees/  
Volunteers  
Ben Miller, Vice President - Committees/  
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Stuart Gaylor, Treasurer  
Laura Mayer, Secretary  
Jeff Basen-Engquist, Honorary President  
Andrew Gass, Brotherhood President  
Claire Brooks & Carol Sue Zions,  
Sisterhood Presidents  
EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG

SAVE THE DATE:

Annual Meeting  
Sunday, April 19, 9:30 a.m.

Please save the date for our annual meeting.

Breakfast will be served prior to the meeting at **9:00 a.m.** The annual meeting will feature reports from outgoing President Rodney Roth and Rabbi Oren Hayon. Congregants will have an opportunity to vote on the budget, the 2020-2021 Board of Trustees and more.

A formal notice of the annual meeting will be sent in March.



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