



# Bulletin

March 3, 2020 | 7 Adar 5780

VOLUME 74 NUMBER 6

## FROM RABBI HAYON



### The Jewish Mardi Gras?

Now that March is here, we have arrived at what is said to be the most joyous time of the Jewish year. We are now in the Hebrew month of Adar, and our tradition teaches: *“When Adar begins, rejoicing multiplies.”*

Jewish happiness reaches its apex during Adar because it is the time of Purim, when convention and inhibition dissipate. During Purim we allow ourselves to indulge in all sorts of fun as a way of commemorating our people’s miraculous escape from Haman’s wicked plot in the ancient kingdom of Persia.

But we are not alone in our religious celebrations at this time of year. We’re all familiar with the raucous traditions associated with Mardi Gras, but we don’t often pause to recall that those celebrations are also rooted in religious traditions of their own: the reason for the Christian tradition of indulging on Fat Tuesday is that it occurs immediately before the penitence and abstention ushered in by Ash Wednesday.

It is always interesting to note how close to one another

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*Purim’s purpose is to help us realize the potential of transformative joy, but it insists that enduring happiness emerges less from satisfying our own appetites than from working for the preservation of others.*

## Sisterhood to Host Barbara Pierce Bush as 2020 Fundraiser Speaker Thursday, March 26, 11:30 a.m.

Congregation Emanu El Sisterhood, in partnership with the Barbara Bush Literacy Foundation and Harris County Public Library, will hold its annual fundraising event, *Words Change the World* this month. 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

*continued on page 4*



## Celebrate Purim with Emanu El!

**Sunday, March 8**

**Purim Schpiel, 10:00 a.m. & Purim Carnival, 11:00 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 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 our megillah reading, then we’ll 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!

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## WORSHIP SERVICES

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### 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

### Shabbat Vayak'heil – P'kudei, Exodus 35:1 – 40:38

#### Friday, March 20

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

#### Saturday, March 21

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

### Shabbat Vayikra, Leviticus 1:1 – 5:26

#### Friday, March 27

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

#### Saturday, March 28

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

### Shabbat Tzav, Leviticus 6:1 – 8:36

#### Friday, April 4

5:45 p.m., Tot Shabbat Dinner, Tent Outside Emanu El  
6:00 p.m., Kabbalat Shabbat, Barish Sanctuary  
6:30 p.m., Tot Shabbat, Proler Chapel

#### Special guest musician, **Ellen Allard**

#### Saturday, April 5

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel  
10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Barish Sanctuary  
Bar Mitzvah of **Brayden Reese Friedman**, son of Meagan & Elliot Friedman

### Second Night Seder

#### Thursday, April 9

6:00 p.m., Feld Hall

### Shabbat Chol HaMo-eid Pesach, Exodus 33:12 -34:26

#### Friday, April 10

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

#### Saturday, April 11

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

### Passover Festival & Yizkor Service

#### Wednesday, April 15

10:30 a.m., Proler Chapel

**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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Congregation Emanu El Bulletin (USPS 399-430) is published monthly by Congregation Emanu El, 1500 Sunset, Houston, Texas 77005. Periodical paid at Houston, Texas. POSTMASTER: send address changes to Congregation Emanu El Bulletin, 1500 Sunset, Houston, Texas 77005.

## FROM RABBI HAYON *continued from page 1*

Purim and Mardi Gras are on the calendar – just barely two weeks apart this year. Isn't it striking that the Jewish and Christian worlds independently established times of celebration, masquerade, and indulgence at virtually the exact same time of year? The proximity of the two has even led some people to refer to Purim as "the Jewish Mardi Gras" (though no one ever seems to call Mardi Gras, "the Christian Purim"! ). However, this comparison is not completely accurate, and if we identify our Purim celebrations too closely with the decadence of Mardi Gras, we risk overlooking the deeper religious messages and lessons of this most joyful Jewish holiday.

The rejoicing of Purim, after all, is not a religious end in itself. We do not celebrate at this time of year simply because celebration has intrinsic value in Judaism. Instead, Purim represents the height of the Jewish year's joy because it is a reminder of our people's redemption. And our observance of Purim is incomplete if it includes only the celebration but overlooks the other components of the holiday, including mishloach manot, sending food and treats to friends and family, and matanot la-eyyonim, making charitable gifts to the needy.

Although Purim is a time of fun, its celebration is not an expression of shallowness or hedonism; it emerges from the realization that human action can bring about the redemption of others. Purim's purpose is to help us realize the potential of transformative joy, but it insists that enduring happiness emerges less from satisfying our own appetites than from working for the preservation of others. This, after all, is what makes Esther such a compelling biblical heroine, and why she inspires us to acts of repairing the world.

This year, I encourage all of us to follow Purim's invitation to lighthearted fun, but also its commandments about kindness and charity. And when we do, we can be assured that the ancient saying will come true: rejoicing will multiply as the month of Adar begins. May this month of celebration be filled with goodness and joy for all.

### Address Change? Phone Number Changed? Want *Bulletin* Emailed?

Have you changed your home address? Your e-mail address? Eliminated your home phone line and only utilizing your cell phone? When we are trying to send our communications or need to reach out, this helps our team! Please let the synagogue know by calling 713.529.5771 or contacting Elizabeth Townsend at [elizabethht@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:elizabethht@emanuelhouston.org).

Additionally, if you are currently receiving the Bulletin by mail and would prefer receiving it by e-mail, let us know by contacting the synagogue at the number and e-mail provided above.

## LIFECYCLE EVENTS

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### IN THE COMMUNITY

**Nancy** and **Alan Shelby** have been named members of the revamped Owls Club Board of Directors. This group comprises of former letter winners, alumni, students and fans of the Rice University athletic department tasked with helping realize the key goals of the “Vision for Victory” strategic plan of the athletic department.

### BIRTHS

**Edith Furst**, daughter of Natalie & Michael Furst; granddaughter of Diane & Larry Furst

**Benjamin Leonard Sumrow**, son of Stacey & Steven Sumrow; grandson of Kathy & Stephen Parven; great-grandson of Sheila & Jerry Kaplan, Dolly & Steven Sumrow

### WEDDING

**Shina Bharadwaja** & **Drew Kwartler**

### DEATHS

**William (Bill) Cohen**, father of Sheri & Paul Heyman, Joni Cohen, Terri Kwiatek, and Ronald Kwiatek.

**Melvin “Buster” Feldman**, husband of Theba Gold Feldman; father of Sherry & Stuart Feldman, Lori & Steven Kamins, Beverly & Howard Feldman; grandfather of Justin Schultz & Will Hunt Lewis, Lindsay & Jason Kramer, Brynne & Mitchell Feldman, Melissa Kendra & Ben Mains, Daniel Feldman; step-grandfather of Brooke & Jeffrey Wise; great-grandfather of William and Ethan Kramer; step-great-grandfather of Blake and Dylan Wise

**Jay Ignatoff**, brother of Ruthe Berman, father of Jan Zieser and Joy Coffman, grandfather of three

**Eleanor Levine**, mother of Elaine & Ronald Plotkin, Phyllis & Steve Blanc; grandmother of Aliza & Jason Plotkin, Lana & Scott Blanc; great-grandmother of Isaac Plotkin, Sebastian and Charlotte Blanc

**Robert Lewy**, father of Amelia Chandler-Lewy and Adam Chandler-Lewy

**Shirley Loeser**, mother of Stephanie & Howard Loeser, Bruce Loeser; grandmother of Sarah & Lawrence Kass, Becky & Justin Blumberg, Leslie & Travis Loeser, Tracy Loeser; great-grandmother of five

**Shirley Yetta Portman**, mother of Marcie & David Weissman, Marsha & Ronald Portman, Darlene & Ronald Solomon; grandmother of Elina & Brian Weissman, Melissa & Craig Weissman, Joel Portman, Rachel & Stuart Portman, Melanie Solomon, Abbie & Tzvi Cohen; great-grandmother of Madison and Emma Weissman; sister-in-law of Sanford Portman

**Renna Davis Rauch**, wife of Jonathan Rauch; mother of Evan Rauch and Meredith Rauch; sister of Leslie & Brett Tatar, Patti & Robert Kessler; daughter-in-law of Lynette & Alan Rauch; sister-in-law of Sharon & Brad Rauch, Polly & David Roth

**Leslie Michael Ribnik**, husband of Susan Ribnik; brother of Patricia Pryzant Ribnik Rauch & Mark Rauch; step-father of Caroline & Ashley Page, Catherine & David Goldberg, Grace & John David Crump; grandfather of Gabrielle Page

**Judith (Judi) Wagner**, wife of Karl Wagner; mother of Gary & Scott Wagner, Linda & Jamie Heimbeucher; grandmother of Gregory Heimbeucher & Montana Machson, Ashley Heimbeucher & David Levine, Emily Wagner; sister of Janice & Jerry Spencer

**Audrey Weiss**, mother of Mindi Wachtel and Jeffrey Cohen

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### 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.

## CELEBRATE PURIM WITH EMANU EL!

*continued from page 1*

### 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!

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 our website 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.)

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 Literary 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 book 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.

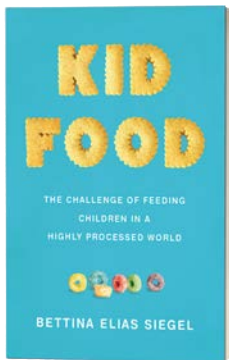
**Contact the Sisterhood office for more information at [sishood@emanuhouston.org](mailto:sishood@emanuhouston.org) or call 713.529.5771, ext. 233.**

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## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT EMANU EL

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### Author of *Kid Food* to Discuss "Why it's Difficult to Raise Healthy Eaters in America" Tuesday, March 31, 7:00 p.m.



Most parents start out with the best of intentions: They just want to raise healthy eaters. However, even before our children climb down from the highchair, it can feel like junk food is coming at them from every direction.

On top of this daily junk food deluge, some children just seem to be stubbornly resistant to eating healthier foods. So even when you do manage to get a healthy, home-cooked dinner on the table, it might go untouched.

It's enough to drive any parent crazy!

It's enough to drive any parent crazy!

Join us for this event as the Becker School and Congregation Emanu El host Bettina Elias Siegel, nationally recognized writer and food advocate and author of *Kid Food: The Challenge of Feeding Children in a Highly Processed World* shares her original reporting with the hard-won experiences of a mom to give parents a deeper understanding of why it is so hard to raise healthy eaters in America today.

Written in the same engaging, relatable voice that has made Siegel's website *The Lunch Tray* a trusted resource for almost a decade, *Kid Food* offers parents expert advice, time-tested advocacy tips, and a trove of useful resources to help parents not only navigate their children's unhealthy food landscape, but also change it for the better.

To help us prepare for the evening, please RSVP online by visiting our web calendar or by calling the synagogue. A copy of the *Kid Food* book is available for pre-sale at the Becker School for a cost of \$18 and will also be available at the event.

A reception featuring the author follows the presentation.

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

Please plan to join us for our 2020 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 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.

### Mental Health First Aid Training at Emanu El

Sunday, April 26, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and  
Tuesday, April 28, 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Congregation Emanu El is partnering with Jewish Family Services (JFS) to host a Mental Health First Aid training. These trainings are facilitated by nationally trained JFS instructors and provided free of charge through a generous grant from Jewish Family Service and co-sponsoring organizations. It is required that individuals attend both courses and one does not have to be affiliated with any community organization or Emanu El to attend. Each participant upon completing the class will receive a Mental Health First Aid certificate valid for three years from the training.

This class will teach a five-step action plan that offers initial help to people showing signs of a mental illness or in a crisis, connecting them with the appropriate professional, peer, social or self-help care. Anyone can take the eight-hour course, but it is ideally designed for adults - teachers, coaches, leaders of faith communities, social workers and other caring citizens.

For more information about the JFS Mental Health First Aid program, please contact Gittel Francis at [gfrancis@jfshouston.org](mailto:gfrancis@jfshouston.org) or call 713.986.7812. Registration for the class can occur online at [www.mentalhealthletstalk.org/firstaid](http://www.mentalhealthletstalk.org/firstaid) or those needing assistance to register are encouraged to reach out to Gittel Francis directly.

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## Taste of Talmud: Lunch Time Text Study Class

Continues on Thursday, March 19, 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 for “Before I Die” Weekend 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 and Emanu El, 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 an optional dinner for just \$5 that will take place following Shabbat services.

In this program, Rubin will explore “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 [emanuelhouston.org](http://emanuelhouston.org) or call 713.529.5771.

## Sixth Annual Night at the Ballpark

Tuesday, September 1



**Tickets on Sale to Members Only through May 30 or Upon Sellout**

Congregation Emanu El is excited to announce its sixth annual ‘Night at the Ballpark’.

Join members of the Emanu El clergy and staff on **Tuesday, September 1** at Minute Maid Park

as the Houston Astros welcome the Miami Marlins to town for a **7:10 p.m. first pitch**. The evening will feature \$1 hot dogs.

The cost of tickets to join Emanu El at the ballpark is just \$30. This year we will be sitting in the field box section and the cost of ticket is subsidized through the generosity of the Emanu El Brotherhood.

Please note that the initial allotment of tickets subsidized by the Brotherhood has sold out each year that it has been held at Minute Maid Park. Due to the space limitations, these \$30 seats are reserved for members of Emanu El (and their guests) on a first-come, **first-serve basis until Saturday, May 30 or upon sellout.**

Any available tickets on **Sunday, May 31** will be open to the community at large.

Tickets should arrive at the synagogue in early August and participants will be communicated to about making arrangements to pick-up their tickets prior to the ball game.

To register, please visit [www.emanuelhouston.org](http://www.emanuelhouston.org). For more information, contact Jason Plotkin at (713) 535.6414 or [JasonP@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:JasonP@emanuelhouston.org).

## Brotherhood BBQ Crawl

The Brotherhood headed out on a BBQ crawl on February 23. Traveling around town on an air-conditioned bus, the crawl featured stops at four restaurants – Blood Bros, Jackson Street BBQ, Luling BBQ and Brookstreet BBQ. Special thanks to event chairs Syd Waldman & Paul Franks for organizing the outing.



### 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.

### 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.

### Sisterhood's New Traditions Gift Shop Prepares for Passover

New items are arriving for Passover at the Sisterhood's New Traditions gift shop.

Seder plates, matzo covers, afikomen bags, toys and games, cookbooks, hostess gifts and so much more. The gift shop also has four different kinds of Haggadahs from which to choose.

New Traditions is **open Monday - Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.** when Helfman Religious School is in session. Purchases at New Traditions help Sisterhood fulfill its commitment to the support of our congregation and the community. For more information, please call 713.529.5771, ext. 234.

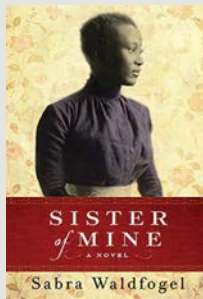






# Sisterhood News & Happenings

March – May  
2020



## BOOK REVIEW:

*Sister of Mine*,  
by Sabra Waldfogel

Reviewed by Lisa Brooks

THURSDAY, MARCH 12 12:30 PM

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 by visiting our web calendar at [emanuelhouston.org](http://emanuelhouston.org) or by calling the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771, ext. 233 so that we can plan accordingly.

## Art Safari & 50th Year Celebration of Art at University of Houston Thursday, April 23, 9:45 a.m.

Please join Sisterhood for an exciting day on a Houston Art Safari. We ask that you arrive at Emanu El by 9:45 a.m., as the bus will leave the synagogue promptly at 10:00 a.m. to begin exploring the creative and engaging art hiding and waiting to be seen in various interesting locations of H-Town.

The safari will continue for a guided tour to view the wonderful art at the University of Houston Campus, where they are celebrating 50 years of the Public Art Project with 700 pieces of art throughout their five campuses.

The bus tour will include several points of interest: Sesquicentennial Park to view the 7 Pillars of Wisdom/Big Bubble in the Bayou/Traditional Sculptures; David Adickes Storage Studio; University of Houston Public Art on campus and a tour with a docent of The Blaffer Gallery.

The tour will include lunch and a schmooze at McAllister's Deli on the campus, along with a visit to Smither's Park on our return trip. We anticipate the bus to return to Emanu El by 2:30 p.m.

Get your cameras ready, and please join us to enjoy this great event!

Space is limited for this event, and registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. The cost of the event is \$20

for Sisterhood members and \$25 for non-members and includes lunch. Register online today by visiting our web calendar at [emanuelhouston.org](http://emanuelhouston.org) or by calling the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771, ext. 233.

## Sisterhood Closing Program & Board Installation Wednesday, May 6, 11:00 a.m.

A tasty lunch, music, a souvenir to take home, what could be better?  
You're getting a poem instead of a letter.

Installing Sisterhood's Officers and Board,  
Some new, some restored.

Our guest speaker Susan Bass, who is President of National WRJ,  
Will inspire us to become leaders in the Jewish women's way.

Our own Cantor Simmons to lead us in song,  
Come join us **May 6 at 11:00 a.m.** at Emanu El, you can't go wrong.

In conjunction with Sisterhood's donor, *Words Change the World*, please bring books to donate to Harris County Protective Services. Children in foster care will receive these books as gifts as well as being read to while waiting to see their caseworkers.

Couvert: \$15 members, \$20 non-members

RSVP to the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771, ext. 233 or online at [emanuelhouston.org](http://emanuelhouston.org).



## Marlee Matlin Serves as Emanu El's 2019-2020 Endowment Speaker

Academy Award winning actress Marlee Matlin (right), accompanied by her longtime sign language interpreter Jack Jason made an appearance at Congregation Emanu El in late January as she presented, *Nobody's Perfect: Achieving Inclusion, Diversity and Access*. The event was part of the congregation's 2019-20 Endowment Series and kicks off the eighth annual, ten-plus-days ReelAbilities Houston Film & Arts Festival which is produced by the JFS Alexander Institute for Inclusion.

Over 700 attendees attended the festivities which were enhanced by captioning, hearing loops, American Sign Language interpreters and more in order to make the night inclusive for all who filled the Barish Sanctuary. Matlin's appearance continues a trend of big-name speakers at Congregation Emanu El in recent years including journalist Carl Bernstein and the Reverend William Barber.



## Longing & Belonging: Songs of Home

Cantor Rollin Simmons (right) was joined by a talented group of musicians for her *Longing & Belonging: Songs of Home* concert in late January. Becker School teacher Alex Venzke (left) and Helfman Religious School music teacher Emily Moses (center) were two of the talented musicians who contributed to the evening's musical offerings.

## Helfman Religious School Hosts Annual 4th Grade Model Wedding

The model wedding took a new twist this year for Helfman Religious School fourth graders as four sets of parents from this year's class renewed their vows and modeled the wedding for the fourth-grade class. The model wedding was featured on the front page of the *Jewish Herald Voice* in an article, which can be found on the [jhvonline.com](http://jhvonline.com) website.



## 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 [elizabetht@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:elizabetht@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, March 5**. A nominal \$5 fee covers drinks and dinner. Novice and advanced players welcome! The next edition in the series will be **Thursday, April 2**. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Elizabeth Townsend at [elizabetht@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:elizabetht@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, March 16**. Please RSVP to the Sisterhood at [sishood@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:sishood@emanuelhouston.org) or 713.529.5771, ext. 233.

### 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 online 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.

### My Generation Shabbat Dinner Friday, March 20 following 6:00 p.m. Shabbat services

All are invited to join My Generation, Emanu El's group for those 65 and older on **Friday, March 20** for a dinner with friends following the conclusion of the synagogue's

**6:00 p.m.** Shabbat worship service. Have a chance to schmooze and catch up with friends, old and new.

The cost of dinner is \$15 with advanced registration by **Wednesday, March 18** required so we can prepare accordingly. To register, visit our web calendar at [emanuelhouston.org](http://emanuelhouston.org), or call the synagogue at 713.529.5771. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Spring is the Reason! Classics Post-Shabbat Dinner Friday, March 20, following 6:00 p.m. Shabbat services Qin Dynasty (5115 Buffalo Speedway)

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

To help us plan accordingly and provide the restaurant with 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!

### The Classics: Houston Japanese Garden & 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 <https://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

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(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.

## Classics Hosts Wine & Chocolate Event at Nos Caves Vin



Ed Klein, Rebecca Lunstroth and Pam Kutner are pictured at Nos Caves Vin in mid-February at an event the Classics – Emanu El’s group for those in their 50s and 60s – hosted featuring a wine and chocolate pairing. The group has events slated for March and April, which can be found in this edition of the *Bulletin*.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.**



### Helfman Enrollment is Open

#### Early Enrollment Runs Through Sunday, March 8.

Enrollment for the 2020-21 Helfman Religious School year takes place online using Emanu El's online portal.

Click the link below and log on to your account.

[www.emanuelhouston.org/school\\_enrollment.php](http://www.emanuelhouston.org/school_enrollment.php)

Fill out all of the required information.

Payment of the \$100 per child, non-refundable, registration fee is necessary to confirm your enrollment. Payment must be made online.

We will confirm enrollment(s) once the forms are complete and the registration fee is paid. The balance of the tuition will then be added to your account and is due by **Monday, August 31**.

If you have any questions, please contact Gail Shapiro at [GailS@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:GailS@emanuelhouston.org) or 713.535.6400.

### Tot Shabbats in March & April

**Friday, March 6, Dinner 5:45 p.m.;**

**Service 6:30 p.m.**

**Friday, April 3, Dinner 5:45 p.m.;**

**Service 6:30 p.m.**

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

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.

Our April Tot Shabbat will head outdoors for dinner! Join us under a big tent for burgers and veggie burgers fresh off the grill. All the toppings and more await our guests with vegetarian and gluten-free options available as always.

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.

Following dinner, we'll head inside for a special musical Tot Shabbat as nationally known musician Ellen Allard will join us in the Proler Chapel. Dubbed "The Queen of Jewish Early Childhood Music", Allard has been performing children's concerts for decades at synagogues, festivals and more – encouraging children and parents alike to join in on the singing, dancing, moving and grooving. Simply put, you won't want to miss it!



**Nationally known musician Ellen Allard will join us in the Proler Chapel for the April edition of Tot Shabbat.**

A short and sweet Oneg will follow the Shabbat service.

For more information on our Tot Shabbat programming, please contact Jason Plotkin at [jasonp@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:jasonp@emanuelhouston.org) or 713.535.6414.

Registration for both Tot Shabbat experiences are available on our web calendar or by calling 713.529.5771.

### Join Emanu El Young Families at Fire Truck Park

**Sunday, April 26, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Join Emanu El Young Families for a fun morning at Fire Truck Park (3743 Garnet)!

We invite all families with kids ages 6 and under to come together for a fun morning at the park, and snacks will be provided. As the event will take place from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., if you have older sibling(s) attending Helfman Religious School, you can bring the younger one(s) to the park after drop-off.

To RSVP, visit [emanuelhouston.org](http://emanuelhouston.org) or call 713.529.5771. For more information, please contact Paula Katz at [becdir@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:becdir@emanuelhouston.org).

This event was created by the Early Childhood Advisory Committee and will be a way for both parents and children to socialize in a casual environment.

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## Dad & Me Heads to the Dynamo Sunday, May 3, 3:00 p.m.

Join Emanu El's newest small group - Dad & Me - tailored to fathers and their children between the ages of 3 & 6.



Our first outing will be the Houston Dynamo game on **Sunday, May 3 at 3:00 p.m.** against the San Jose Earthquakes. Thanks to the Dynamo, we are able to offer a \$12 ticket along the 200 level of the endline. When registering at

<https://bit.ly/3btxj8t>, please indicate that you are with Congregation Emanu El to have your tickets placed within our group.

We are looking for volunteers to spearhead future gatherings of Dad & Me. This group is all about laid back get togethers throughout the year. It's always guaranteed to be so much fun!

For more information, please contact Jason Plotkin at [jasonp@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:jasonp@emanuelhouston.org) or 713.535.6414.



## Becker School

### Becker Donation Day, A Huge Success

A big thank you to all of our families for participating in Shake Shake Donation Day on Tuesday, February 4th. All enjoyed the delicious burgers, fries and famous frozen custard while helping to raise money for the Becker School. Pictured here Admissions Director Judy Lazor and Assistant Director Pam Jenkins were delighted to run into three-year-old Imram Katchi while ordering lunch.



## Brotherhood CoTY Selection Meeting Thursday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m.

All men of the Congregation are invited to join the Brotherhood on **Thursday, March 5** at Escalantes, 590 Meyerland Plaza, for our annual Ernest Krautkopf Congregant of the Year selection meeting. The meeting will begin with dinner at **6:30 p.m.** before the selection begins.

The deadline to submit nominations for this award are due to Ben Miller at [bpmiller82@gmail.com](mailto:bpmiller82@gmail.com) or via envelope in the Brotherhood box at the synagogue **by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3**. Sitting members of Emanu El's executive board, members of Emanu El senior staff and posthumous nominees are not eligible.

To help us plan accordingly for our meeting, we are asking that you RSVP online at [www.emanuelhouston.org](http://www.emanuelhouston.org) or by calling the synagogue at 713.529.5771.

## Congregant of the Year Wednesday, May 13, 6:30 p.m.

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

This year's Congregant of the Year will be formally announced later this month, with invitations to follow shortly thereafter. Please note that this *Bulletin* went to print prior to the selection meeting in early March.

To register for the Congregant of the Year dinner, complete the form online at [emanuelhouston.org](http://emanuelhouston.org), or return the response card included within the invitation that will come in the weeks ahead.

For more information, contact Jason Plotkin at 713.535.6414 or [jasonp@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:jasonp@emanuelhouston.org).

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

The Sunday Softball League 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 e-mail at [vableeker@yahoo.com](mailto:vableeker@yahoo.com).

## 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.

**Gal & Alexis Barbut, son Ari**

**Barbara Drell**

**Marc & Lori Gorewitz**

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 or 713.529.5771, ext. 222.

### 2020-21 Annual Commitment Letters Coming Soon!

By the end of March, all members will receive a large envelope in the mail with their personalized cover letter and the 2020-21 Annual Commitment form.

Our fiscal year begins May 1 and as such, our goal is to have all members set their commitment level for the coming year. We ask each household either return a completed form or reach out to the office for a confidential conversation about your annual commitment.

If you have not received your annual commitment envelope by **Wednesday, April 15**, please contact the synagogue at 713.529.5771 or email Tiffany Siegel at tiffanys@emanuelhouston.org so that we can send you another one.

### Sponsoring an Oneg

Do you want to sponsor a pre-Neg prior to services or an Oneg following services in honor of a special occasion? Or perhaps in memory of the yartzheit of a loved one? The Sisterhood is ready to help you! Contact Jason Plotkin at jasonp@emanuelhouston.org or 713.535.6414 to verify availability before he connects you with our Oneg committee.

## EMANU EL AT A GLANCE THROUGH APRIL 21

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

### MARCH

- 3/3** – Emanu Elders, 11:30 a.m.
- 3/5** – Emanu El Mahj Night, 5:30 p.m.
- 3/5** – Brotherhood Congregant of the Year Meeting & Dinner, 6:30 p.m. (Escalantes, Meyerland Plaza)
- 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.
- 3/20** – My Generation Post-Shabbat Dinner, services at 6:00 p.m. with dinner to follow at Emanu El
- 3/24** – Sack Lunches for SEARCH, 9:30 a.m.
- 3/27** – *Before I Die - Kicking the Bucket List* with Gail Rubin, 8:00 p.m. (preceded by dinner following Shabbat services)
- 3/29** – *Before I Die- Estate Planning: Hollywood Myth versus Facts* with Gail Rubin, 10:00 a.m.
- 3/31** – *Kid Food: The Challenge of Feeding Children in a Highly Process World*, featuring author Bettina Elias Siegel, 7:00 p.m.

### APRIL

- 4/2** – Emanu El Mahj Night, 5:30 p.m.
- 4/3** – Tot Shabbat, 5:45 p.m. (dinner) & 6:30 p.m. (service, featuring Ellen Allard)
- 4/7** – Emanu Elders, 11:30 a.m.
- 4/9** – Work of Our Hands, 10:00 a.m.
- 4/9** – Second Night Seder, 6:00 p.m.
- 4/13** – Gathering Place, 10:00 a.m.
- 4/16** – Taste of Talmud, 12:30 p.m.
- 4/19** – Emanu El Annual Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 4/19** – Citywide Yom HaShoah Service, 3:00 p.m. (at Brith Shalom)
- 4/20** – Emanu El Mahj Afternoon, 1:00 p.m.
- 4/21** – Kids Meals, 9:30 a.m.

**NEXT BULLETIN TO BE ISSUED: TUESDAY, APRIL 7**



# Thank you

Congregation Emanu El appreciates the enhanced commitments we've received from those listed below. These commitments allow us to continue to serve our wonderful community.

## **RABBI'S CIRCLE**

Anonymous  
Andrew & Julie Alexander  
David & Susie Askanase  
Allen Becker  
Mark & Barbara Brookner  
Lawrence & Marlene Bursten  
Bernice Feld  
Marc & Judy Herzstein  
Jerold Katz  
Simon & Svetlana Kukes  
Jarrod & Sarah Pollock  
Joseph & Gloria Pryzant  
Howard & Beverly Robinson  
Franklin Rose & Cindi Harwood-Rose  
Linda Rauch Susman  
Philip & Donna Tenenbaum  
Lorraine Wulfe

## **PILLARS/HOMRIM**

Anonymous (2)  
Milton & Laurie Boniuk  
Steven & Kerry Buxbaum  
Alan & Renee Helfman  
Elaine Helfman  
George Kamins  
David Odle  
Paul Pryzant  
Lila Rauch  
Rodney & Robin Roth  
Mary Schwartz & David Cech  
Sue Smith  
Andrew & Helen Spector  
Sam Stolbun & Alana Spiwak  
Ben & Gloria Tobor  
Dolores Wilkenfeld

## **BENEFACTORS/GIBORIM**

Anonymous (4)  
Jeff & Karen Basen-Engquist  
Andy & Vicki Bursten  
Daniel & Joan Cohen  
Rochelle Cyprus  
Barry & Barbara Feig  
Larry & Karen Feld  
Melvin & Theba Feldman  
Paul & Lauren Grossbard  
Lewis & Elyse Kalmans  
Amy Kapiloff  
Brian & Tracy Kapiloff  
Lewis & Ellen Krinsky  
Stephen & Heather Lack  
Matt & Jeanne Pasternak  
Barry & Nanette Putterman  
Priscilla Schube  
Alan & Nancy Shelby  
Joe & Becky Williams

## **SUPPORTERS/SOLELIM**

Anonymous (10)  
Stanford & Joan Alexander  
Milton & Susan Altschuler  
Allen & Phyllis Applebaum  
Marvin Barish  
Mark Bermann  
Diana Brackman  
Kenneth Brooks & Lara Friel  
Myra Brown  
Richard Caplan & Leslie Cohan

William & Carolyn Caplan  
Marilyn Caplovitz  
Ann & Jeffrey Cummins  
William & Pamela Daily  
Joshua & Mindy Davidson  
Helen Dreyfus  
Daniel & Gabriela Dror  
David & Myrna Engler  
Mark & Raime Estes  
M. M. Feld, Jr. & Carole Feld  
Barbara Feldman  
Sheri Feldman  
Keith & Marcia Fiman  
Marvin & Gloria Fishman  
Steven & Ivy Frank  
Gary & Silvia Fritzhand  
Greg Galler  
Lillian Gaylor  
Stuart & Anita Gaylor  
Barry & Carol Goodfriend  
Gordon & Gastonia Goodman  
Robert & Ellin Grossman  
Don & Sandra Harris  
Randy Herzstein  
Susan Hirsch  
Julie Muntz Johnson & Peter Johnson  
Michael Kaplan & Laura Dew  
Linda Kates  
Evan & Nicole Katz  
Edward & Caroline Kuntz  
Amanda Leal & David Leal, III  
Haran & Cheryl Levy  
Gary & Joni Lewis  
Sherry Lewis  
Eric & Rhonda Lipper  
Clarence & Jill Mayer  
Stephen & Robbie Moskowitz  
Jeannette Nestvold  
Stephen Popkin & Linda Popkin-Paine  
Richard & Bette Pesikoff  
Richard & Madgelyn Pesin  
Alan & Alana Pulaski  
Eric Pulaski  
Richard & Joy Pulaski  
Bart & Ilene Putterman  
Leland & Carolyn Putterman  
Martin & Adele Raber  
Albert & Andrea Raizner  
Mark & Nancy Reichel  
Don Robins & Katharyn Fox Slater  
Mallory Robinson  
Alexander Ropper & Kathleen Chen  
Maury & Rikki Rubenstein  
J. Victor & Barbara Samuels  
Richard Schechter  
Richard & Michelle Schoenberg  
Herman Schultz  
Michael & Linda Shabot  
Todd & Stephanie Slobin  
Sandra L. Smith Herzstein  
Saul Solomon & Anabella Guzman  
Sylvia Solomon  
Michael & Rona Sonabend  
Norman & Gail Stalarow  
Robert & Martha Stein  
Dan & Patti Steiner  
Sheldon & Bonnie Vedlitz  
Michael Vogel & Merri Schneider-Vogel  
Donald & Robin Wayne

Richard & Eileen Westerman  
Michael & Carol Wilk  
Vic & Shelley Wisner

## **FRIENDS/CHAVERIM**

Marilyn Albert  
Anonymous (18)  
Jeffrey & Julie Applebaum  
Scott & Nancy Atlas  
Sybil Balasco  
David & Juli Baskin  
Eric & Daphne Bernicker  
Mitch & Dawn Blitz  
Gary & Bonnie Blumberg  
Melissa Bondy  
Scott & Leslie Bormaster  
Jeff & Laurie Bricker  
Steven & Sylvia Brody  
Richard & Claire Brooks  
Madeline Bunch  
Richard & Jennie Buxbaum  
Michael & Amy Coburn  
Brad & Anna Eastman  
Pablo Eisner & Tamara Saront-Eisner  
Cindy Ewers  
Arthur Feldman & Jeri Amundsen  
Steven Fenberg  
Milton Finegold  
Aaron & Perri Fink  
Benjamin & Jennifer Fink  
Avrim Fishkind & Wendy Hawkins  
Benjamin & Michelle Frankfort  
Paul & Fredi Franks  
Donald & Martha Freedman  
Seth & Rhonda Freedman  
Paul Friedman & Joanna Kornfeld  
Aaron & Stephanie Gabelnick  
Andrew Gardener  
Simon & Rebecca Garfield  
Arthur Gelber & Jill Friedman  
Howard & Teri Gerber  
Maynard & Arlyne Gimble  
Burt & Deborah Ginsburg  
Franklin & Ellen Gittess  
Andrew & Colleen Gold  
Ian Goldfoot  
Robert & Julie Goodfriend  
Roger & Vicki Greenberg  
Stephen & Lisa Greenberg  
Alexander Gurevich  
Ricky & Roslyn Haikin  
Michelle & Brian Hendry  
Ralph Herring  
Jordan & Lindsay Hirsch  
Alan & Ellen Holzberg  
Harris & Joy Jacobs  
Edward & Susan Kahn  
Matthew & Katherine Kardesch  
Daniel & Kate Katz  
Ben & Cynthia Klein  
Lawrence Lachman & Virginia Kennedy  
Randall & Allyson Lack  
Joel Laser  
Maurice & Suzanne Leibman  
Robert & Denise Leisten  
Harris & Deborah Leven  
Irv Levine & Barbara Black Levine  
Gary Lew & Ronnie Kurtin  
Barry & Rachael Lichman

Robert Light  
Elton & Janet Lipnick  
Bruce Loeser  
James Longhofer  
Rebecca & Just Lunstroth  
Paul & Linda Lynn  
Gary & Kathy Marks  
Robert & Joan Marshak  
Michael & Michele Marvins  
Wesley Mayer & Geraldine Daumerie  
Benjamin & Rebecca Miller  
Susan & David Morris  
Dennis Murland & Vinh Phan  
Marco Nicolayevsky & Jessica Zachary  
Judith & Alfred Osborn  
Gene & Karen Oshman  
Rick & Tania Oshman  
Jonathan & Kathryn Paine  
Stephen & Kathy Parven  
Herb & Vicki Pasternak  
Murry & Karen Penner  
Brett & Cindy Perlman  
Allison & Ian Perry  
Sheri Pfeil  
Marvin & Cynthia Pleason  
Brett & Tiffany Podolsky  
Adam & Andrea Pogach  
Barry Pulaski  
Robert & Barbara Reichlin  
Alexander & Amira Reiter  
Keith & Debra Remels  
Michael & Kahan Riben  
Jean Rosenbaum  
Robert & Amber Rosenblum  
Adam & Lori Roth  
James & Barbara Rubenstein  
Michael & Cheryl Rubenstein  
Howard & Rozanne Rubin  
Marlene Rubin  
Lee & Kathleen Rubinstein  
Mark Sadykhov & Irene Sheytman  
Dylan & Jordan Seff  
Steven & Phyllis Segal  
Joel & Claudia Selzer  
Joshua & Alison Septimus  
Sanford & Carol Slobin  
William & Sandra Smith  
Jessica & Joshua Solera  
James Solomon  
Ruby Sondock  
Anna Stool  
Gary & Kimberlee Taylor  
Craig & Lori Teller  
Rachael Tobor & Valerie Tuner  
George & Kendall Vincent  
Larry & Jane Wagner  
Milton Wagner  
Susan Weingarten & John Arnsparger  
Philip & Marcia Weinstein  
Terry & Susie Wizig  
Gary Wolf & Starr Borden-Wolf  
Frank & Linda Yelin  
Rowena Young & Buddy Steves  
Judy Zainfeld  
William & Donna Zhukovsky  
Garrison & Lauren Ziff  
Richard & Linda Zoll

### Emanu El to Participate in City-Wide Observance of Yom HaShoah Sunday, April 19, 3:00 p.m.

Congregation Brith Shalom (4610 Bellaire)

Join Holocaust Museum Houston in observance of Yom HaShoah, a day of remembrance for the six million Jewish people who lost their lives during the Holocaust. During this annual commemoration, we will mourn the loss of all who perished, honor those who survived and come together as a community to remember and reflect. The 2020 edition of the event will mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II and the liberation of the concentration camps.

Coordinated by the Yom HaShoah Steering Committee and Holocaust Museum Houston, this year's gathering will take place at Congregation Brith Shalom, with Cantor Rollin Simmons participating in the service.

Emanu El has historically been a partner in the event and our congregation most recently hosted the Yom HaShoah commemoration in 2018.

### Seeking Vehicles for Annual Becker Transportation Fair Wednesday, April 22, 9:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

The Becker Transportation Fair is vrooming to a parking lot near you!

The highly anticipated Becker Transportation Fair is only a month away, and we need your help! If you or someone you know owns or has access to a boat, motorcycle, tractor, race car, truck, limousine, off-road Jeep, or anything else that could be fun and of interest to our Becker children, please contact Jennifer Stockel at [jbstockel@gmail.com](mailto:jbstockel@gmail.com) or David Stockel at [dstockel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dstockel@sbcglobal.net).

Those non-Becker families or participants that would like to attend the Transportation Fair are encouraged to contact Leslie Strug at [leslies@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:leslies@emanuelhouston.org) or 713.529.5771, ext. 259.

### 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 [wzo2020@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:wzo2020@emanuelhouston.org) 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 [wzo2020@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:wzo2020@emanuelhouston.org), and one of us will contact you as quickly as we can.

### Recap from Emanu El Immigration Panel

On Thursday, February 11, Congregation Emanu El hosted a panel discussion on immigration that focused on educating the audience on issues with legal immigration, the current migrant crisis, and the overall economic impact immigrants have on our city and our country.

*continued next page*

The panel, sponsored by Sisterhood and Brotherhood, featured Tatiana Obando, Managing Attorney of RAICES), Gordon J. Quan of Quan Law Group, PLLC and Brett Perlman of the Center For Houston's Future.

Each of these speakers brought a unique perspective on immigration and offered suggestions about ways in which the audience members could learn more and find volunteer opportunities.

The Reform Action Center – Texas (RAC-TX) has selected immigration reform as one of its campaigns for 2020. Emanu El is supporting RAC-TX in their work on this issue in Houston and across the state; if you are interested in learning more about that work feel free to reach out to fred Bleeker Franks (fredi.bleeker@gmail.com) who is on the RAC-TX Immigration Research Team, Rabbi David Segal (dsegal@rac.org) the Texas Lead Organizer for RAC, or Rabbi Josh Fixler (rabbifixler@emanuelhouston.org).

An encore viewing of the event can be seen on the Congregation's Facebook page and website, under the archives from the Proler Chapel.

## New Photo Exhibit on Display in Robert I. Kahn Art Gallery



This famous photograph, Soldier at the Wall, is by Israeli photojournalist Micha Ba-Am and has been a part of the Emanu El art collection in the Robert I. Kahn Gallery since 1986.

Our art committee recently changed the exhibit in the Kahn Gallery to feature dozens of pieces from the synagogue's

extensive collection of photographs. This display is being presented at the time that Fotofest International Biennial 2020 is being presented in venues all around Houston.

## Southwest Association of Reform Rabbis Conference Held at Emanu El

The Southwest Association of Reform Rabbis (SWARR) held their annual Kallah at Congregation Emanu El. Over 40 clergy members from Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma attended the conference which was planned by our very own Rabbi Pam Silk. The conference included one day at Beth Israel before moving to Emanu El for two days. Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) executive director Rabbi Hara Person and the CCAR president Rabbi Ron Segal attended the conference.







We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who remember and honor their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions through February 5, 2020.

**ACCESS FOR ALL**

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

In Honor of

**The Speedy Recovery of Irv Levine**

Pat & Aaron Fradkin

In Memory of

**Robert Mendelsohn**

Pat & Aaron Fradkin

**AUBREY & SYLVIA FARB COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND**

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

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**The Bar Mitzvah of JJ Silk**

Marilynne & Alford Bleeker

In Memory of

**Aubrey Farb**

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Susie & David Askanase  
Sara Astrich  
Bonnie Beerman  
Marilynne & Alford Bleeker  
Beverly Borden  
Laurie & Jeff Bricker  
Sara Brook  
Marilyn Caplovitz  
Heidi Kaplan & Peter Christie  
Rochelle Cyprus  
Susan & Joseph Darsey  
Debbie & Stu Diamond  
Dee Dee Dochen  
Andromeda Robert,  
Joe Hon, Peter Einhorn  
& Sarah Eckhardt  
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Ronna & Clayton Spitz  
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The Scolnick Family  
Len Trombetta  
Hilary & Peter Tyor  
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**Cyndy Sax**

Ann & Kenny Friedman  
**Emily Weingarten-Stein**  
Marilynne & Alford Bleeker

**CERSONSKY CEMETERY BEAUTIFICATION FUND**

*To maintain and enhance Emanu El Memorial Park*

In Memory of

**Aubrey Farb**  
Barbara Miller

**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*

In Appreciation of  
**Rabbi Joshua Fixler**

Recca Gibson & Colin Baker

In Honor of

**Susie Askanase's Birthday**

Isabelle & Eric Mayer

**Earl Littman's Birthday**

Audrey & Ray Maislin

**Rabbi Pamela Silk**

The Gorewitz Family

**The Marriage of Shina**

**Bharadwaja & Drew**

**Kwartler**

Drew Kwartler & Shina

Bharadwaja

In Honor of

**The Speedy Recovery of**

**Bruce Fleishman**

**Lawrence Kagan**

Sheila & Jerry Kaplan

In Memory of

**Aubrey Farb**

Audrey & Ray Maislin

**Cyndy Sax**

Anonymous

Cheryl & Haran Levy

**EDIS LEWIS PARKANS EMANU ELDERS FUND**

*To provide programs for Emanu Elders*

In Honor of

**Sylva & Steven Brody's Wedding Anniversary**

Shirley Schnoll

**ESTHER SHELBY FELLOWSHIP FUND**

*To provide food and refreshments for Emanu El programs that brings members closer to the congregation and to each other*

In Memory of

**Audrey Weiss**

Jason Plotkin

**FLORENCE & BEN BLUM LEADERSHIP FUND**

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

In Honor of

**Shel Vedlitz**

**The Speedy Recovery of**

**Frank Karkowsky**

Myra Lipper

In Memory of

**Cyndy Sax**

Myra Lipper

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

To enhance musical programming

In Appreciation of

**Cantor Rollin Simmons**

**The Bris of Louis Bradford**

**Borden**

Courtney & Marc Borden

In Honor of

**Cantor Rollin Simmons**

Phyllis & Jack Selber

In Memory of

**Rosalee Fink**

Dr. & Mrs. Aaron Fink

**GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND**

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

In Memory of

**Jack J. Rush**

William Spitz

**GREENE FAMILY CAMP FUND**

To support Greene Family Camp

In Honor of

**The Bat Mitzvah of**

**Kate Fox Slater**

Cindy & Steven Reiner

**JASON & DAVID MARCUS PLAYSPACE FUND**

To maintain and enhance the playground

In Honor of

**The Marriage of**

**Mr. & Mrs. Steve Gerdes**

Ruby Sondock

In Memory of

**Sarah Fay Freedman**

Ruby Sondock

**JAY STERLING CHILDREN'S LIBRARY FUND**

To maintain and enhance the children's section

of the Stillman-Lack

Memorial Library

In Honor of

**Rabbi Joshua Fixler**

Catherine & Matthew

Cort

**PRAYER BOOK FUND**

To provide prayer books for worship

In Memory of

**Rosina Clarke**

Sharon & Herb Cohn

**RABBI ROY WALTER ENRICHMENT FUND**

To support spiritual and cultural enrichment

In Honor of

**Rabbi Roy Walter**

Morton Cohn – Esther

Friedman Family

Foundation

In Memory of

**Jake Fradkin**

**Sylvia Fradkin**

Carol & Larry Fradkin

**Cyndy Sax**

Sara Astrich

**RIVA BURSTEN CARING CONGREGATION FUND**

To support programs that assist people in the community

In Honor of

**Vicki & Andy Bursten's**

**Birthday**

Melanie Rasansky &

Craig Litman

**The Speedy Recovery of**

**Bernie Berman**

Pat & Aaron Fradkin

In Memory of

**Riva Bursten**

Merry & Lowell Gordon

**ROBERT I. KAHN SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND**

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

In Appreciation of

**Rabbi Joshua Fixler**

Recca Gibson & Colin

Baker

**RONALD BROCHSTEIN EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND**

To enhance preschool education

In Memory of

**Aubrey Farb**

Sandy & Richard

Brochstein

**Helene Zucker**

Elaine & Alan Priesman

**SISTERHOOD FUND**

To provide for and enhance Sisterhood programming

In Honor of

**The Speedy Recovery of**

**fredi Franks**

Kathy & Stephen Parven

**STILLMAN-LACK MEMORIAL LIBRARY FUND**

To maintain and enhance the Stillman-Lack Memorial Library

In Memory of

**Cyndy Sax**

Carol Tuttle

**TEMPLE FUND**

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

**A Donation**

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In Honor of

**Carol & Barry Goodfriend**

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**to Kids' Meals**

Ina Perlman

**The Speedy Recovery of**

**Lawrence Kagan**

Rolaine Abramson

Loretta Friedman &

Harold Goldstein

In Memory of

**Leonid Buryakovsky**

Patricia & Mark Rauch

**William Cohen**

Karen & Jeff Basen-

Engquist

**Aubrey Farb**

Barbara Feldman

Nanette & Barry

Putterman

**Henia & Benjamin**

**Friedberger**

Gloria & Ben Tobor

**Norman Kleiman**

Patricia & Mark Rauch

**Robert Mendelsohn**

Carol & J. Desev

Desenberg

**Cyndy Sax**

Nancy Israel

Nanette & Barry

Putterman

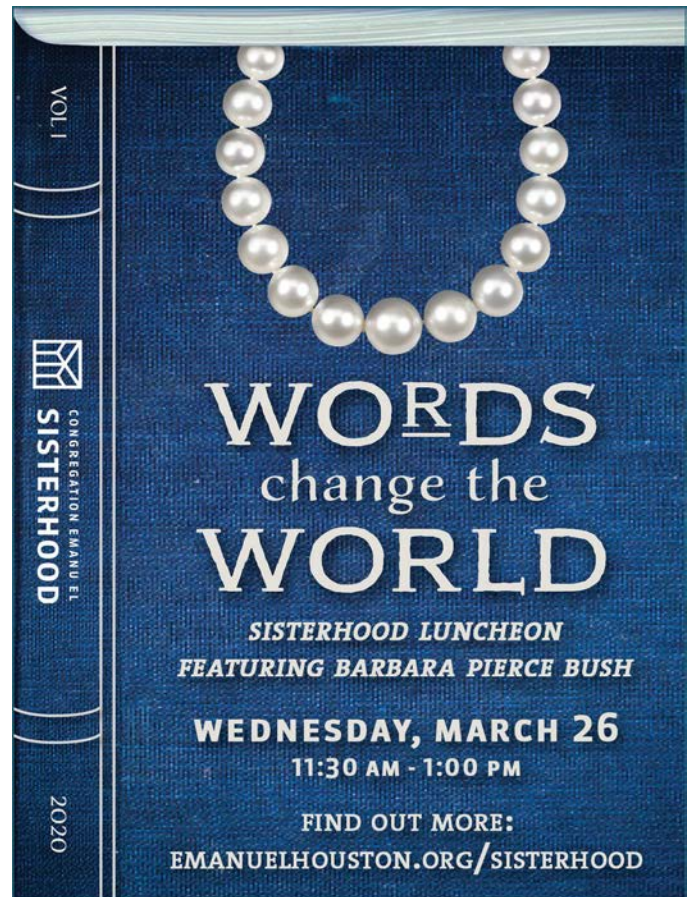
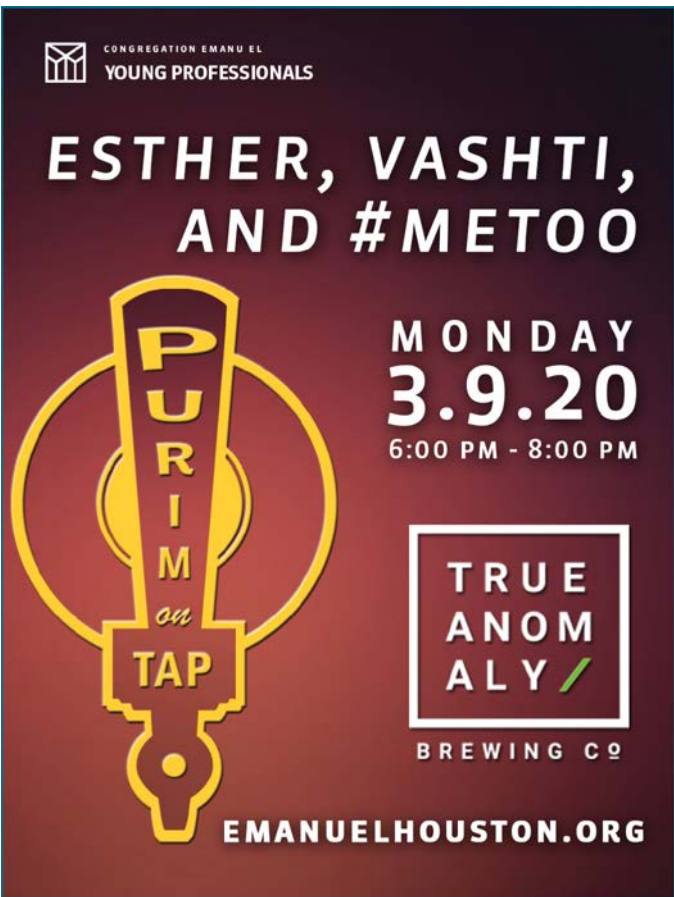
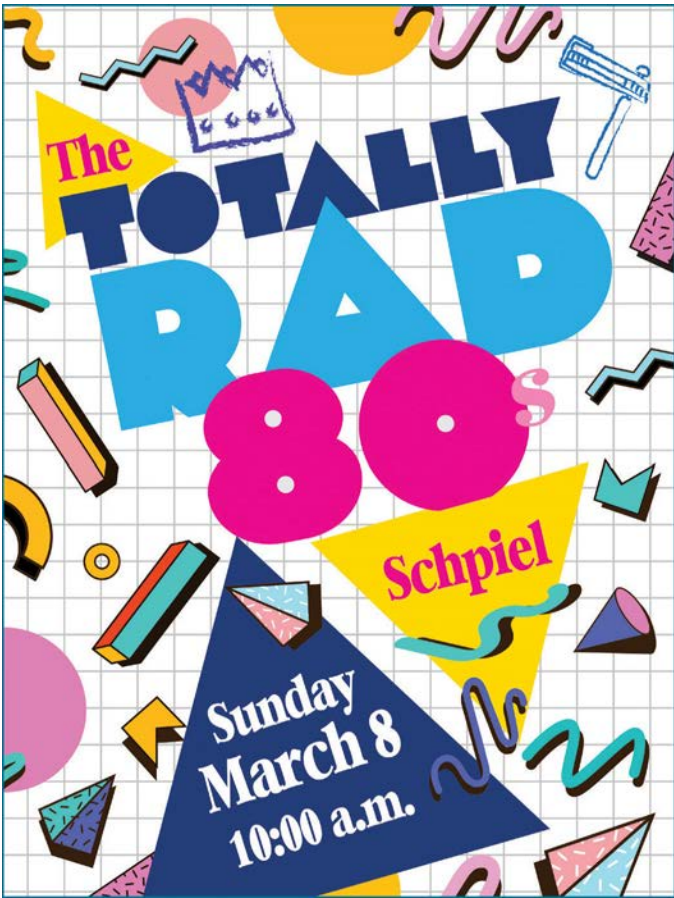
**Rob Schenberg**

Sandy & Michael Wexler

**Mary Stein Schultz**

Herman Schultz







BROTHERHOOD PRESENTS

# REAL MEN

MAKE CHOCOLATE MATZAH

APRIL 7 6:00 PM  
RSVP ONLINE  
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 Congregation Emanu El

# 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, APRIL 19  
9:30 AM

RSVP ONLINE  
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# Before I Die

Featuring:

**GAIL RUBIN**

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Friday, March 27 @ 7:15pm

Kicking the Bucket List

Dinner at Congregation Emanu El (RSVP required)

Saturday, March 28 @ 10:00am

Death Café Conversations

Light breakfast at Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism (RSVP required)

Saturday, March 28 @ 2:00-4:30pm

The Funeral Director on Film

National Museum of Funeral History

\$10 includes all-day access to museum. Purchase tickets online or at the door.

Sunday, March 29 @ 10:00-11:30am

Estate Planning: Hollywood Myth versus Facts

The Newly-Dead Game®

Light brunch at Congregation Emanu El (RSVP required)



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# SECOND NIGHT SEDER

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



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MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup> 7:00 PM



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Congregation Emanu El

Oren J. Hayon, Senior Rabbi  
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  
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Claire Brooks & Carol Sue Zions,  
Sisterhood Presidents

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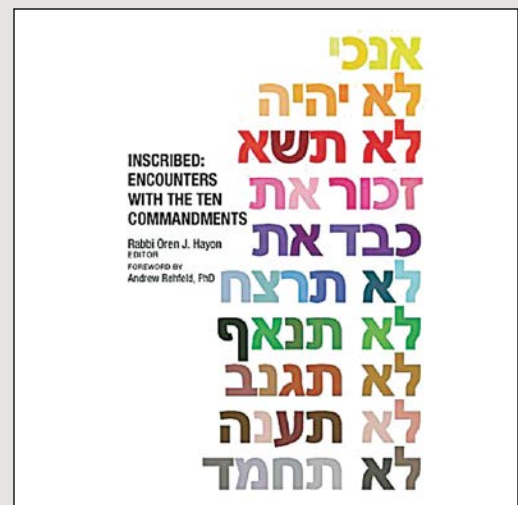
SAVE THE DATE:

Save the Date for  
Launch Party of  
Rabbi Hayon's  
New Book

Please make plans to join  
us on **Tuesday, May 5 at  
6:30 p.m.** for a launch  
party for Rabbi Hayon's  
new book entitled,  
*Inscribed: Encounters with  
the Ten Commandments.*

The evening will include  
light bites, a chance to  
get your copy of the book  
signed, and a short program.

More information to come.



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