



Congregation Emanu El

# Bulletin

June 2, 2020 | 10 Sivan 5780

VOLUME 74 NUMBER 9

## EDITOR'S NOTE ABOUT THIS BULLETIN

As of the print deadline for this edition of the *Bulletin*, all programs, services and meetings of the synagogue have been moved to electronic platforms, postponed or canceled through **Monday, June 15**. We wanted to provide a communication to our synagogue but have slimmed it down significantly to reflect how rapid things are changing around us. To clarify the status of events and gatherings at Emanu El, please visit our website at [emanuelhouston.org](http://emanuelhouston.org), call the synagogue at 713.529.5771 or email Jason Plotkin at [jasonp@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:jasonp@emanuelhouston.org).

## FROM RABBI HAYON



The COVID-19 Pandemic has taken so much from us this year. No family in our community has remained untouched by its rapacious consumption of the things we love and prize: our schools, our work, our confidence in the future, even our sacred spaces for worship and contemplation that are so precious to all of us.

*Camp serves as an incubator for innovation in Jewish education; it is a place that forges young people's Jewish identity more efficiently and powerfully than any other communal institution.*

One of the saddest losses our community has suffered this year is the cancellation of Jewish summer camps for this summer. All of the fifteen camps in North America that are affiliated with our Union for Reform Judaism have cancelled their operations for this summer, and although this was undoubtedly the safe and prudent choice, given the realities of the pandemic, the cancellation has already resulted in powerful financial consequences to the URJ and deep losses for the development of our children's spirituality and their Jewish identities.

The camping movement has always been one of the crown jewels of the URJ. Camp serves as an incubator for innovation in Jewish education; it is a place that

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## Weekend of Virtual Events to Celebrate Rabbi Walter's 50 Years at Congregation Emanu El, In the Rabbinate Friday - Sunday, June 5 - 7

This summer marks a milestone in the life of the congregation and our beloved Rabbi Emeritus Roy Walter as he celebrates 50 years in the rabbinate and with our community.



Rabbi Walter arrived at Congregation Emanu El and according to the August 15, 1970 edition of the *Bulletin*, was "warmly received by the large gathering" in the sanctuary as he started his new role on July 1 of that year after graduating a few weeks prior from Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati.

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## Emanu El Clergy Available to Offer Pastoral Care

In this time of hardship and uncertainty, our clergy are available to you for counsel and conversation by phone or video conference. To schedule a conversation of any length for individual counseling, blessing or prayer please email [joannek@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:joannek@emanuelhouston.org).

You have likely seen and perhaps wondered about this message in our weekly Coming Events email since the pandemic began. In addition to the publicly-visible work of service leading, preaching, teaching and life-cycle officiation, a significant amount of our clergy's time is dedicated to one-on-one meetings to provide pastoral care and support. Pastoral care is emotional, social and spiritual support and is among the highest priorities of our clergy.

### What are the kinds of issues that people discuss with the clergy?

- Personal illness and caring for a sick loved one

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## TENTATIVE WORSHIP SERVICES

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Please note that all services are presently slated for the Proler Chapel if we are able to meet in-person during the months of June and July. Any changes will be shared via the regular synagogue communications.

Services will continue to be made available on our website (via streaming video), Congregation Emanu El Facebook and Roku. Additionally, archives are typically posted within 24 hours to our YouTube channel.

### **Shabbat Naso II, Numbers 6:1 – 7:89**

**Friday, June 5**

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

### **Shabbat Honoring Rabbi Walter for 50 Years at Emanu El, In the Rabbinate**

**Saturday, June 6**

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

5:00 p.m., Havdallah Happening with Cantor Simmons & Ellen Allard, online

### **Shabbat B'haalot'cha, Numbers 8:1 – 12**

**Friday, June 12**

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

**Saturday, June 13**

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

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

**Friday, June 19**

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

**Saturday, June 20**

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

### **Shabbat Korach, Numbers 16:1 – 18:32**

**Friday, June 26**

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

**Saturday, June 27**

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

### **Shabbat Chukat – Balak, Numbers 19:1 -22:1, 22:2 – 25:9**

**Friday, July 3**

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

**Saturday, July 4**

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

### **Shabbat Pinchas, Numbers 25:10 – 30:1**

**Friday, July 10**

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

**Saturday, July 11**

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

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## FROM RABBI HAYON *continued from page 1*

forges young people's Jewish identity more efficiently and powerfully than any other communal institution. Jewish summer camp teaches kids, and adults as well, how to construct a sustainable spiritual identity on one's own terms. It helps us recognize that spending time outdoors, trying new things, meeting new friends and building lifelong relationships – these are not only satisfying experiences, they are spiritual ones.

Speaking personally, the summers I spent at camp were what made me who I am as a Jew, where I learned a sense of purpose, confidence, and self-determination. And this is true for hundreds of other leaders in the ranks of Reform clergy, education, professional and lay synagogue leadership as well. Simply put, Jewish summer camp creates Jewish leaders.

The sad reality that our kids will have endured the painful loss of their camp experience this summer must mean that we will redouble our commitment to Jewish camping and strengthen our support of its values and its vital role in our community. Our Emanu El community will continue to provide material support of Greene Family Camp, and I know that all of us will continually reaffirm our support of all the good things for which Jewish camping stands: the values, relationships and personal growth that cannot be replicated or replaced by any other Jewish experience.

I know that you join me in eagerly anticipating the day when it will be safe for our Jewish summer camps to reopen once more, and until then, to continue asserting the value and the importance of these amazing places which have always meant so much to so many of us.

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## Emanu El Responds to COVID-19

During these difficult times for our community, Congregation Emanu El continues to post updates, additional resources and the ways our congregation is connecting with one another on our website ([www.emanuelhouston.org](http://www.emanuelhouston.org)), via email and Facebook. If you are not receiving emails from the synagogue, please contact Christian Simmons at [christians@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:christians@emanuelhouston.org) or contact the synagogue at 713.529.5771.



## LIFECYCLE EVENTS

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### IN THE COMMUNITY

**Dorit Aaron** was elected to the position of President of the AJC Houston last week.

Our Helfman and B'nei Mitzvah teacher **Eileen Elfezouaty** was named one of the recipients of the Irving L. Samuels Outstanding Teacher Awards for Judaic Studies. Eileen was recognized for her work at the Emery Weiner School.

### BIRTHS

**Sydney Mae Lampe**, daughter of Kara Lampe, granddaughter of Karen Lampe

**Molly Lenora Silberman**, daughter of Rebecca & Sam Silberman; granddaughter of Nanette & Barry Putterman, Mary & Herb Silberman; great-granddaughter of Celine Kaplan, Lillian Putterman

### DEATHS

**Robert Bernhaut**, brother of Sylvia Bernhaut Brody & Steven Brody, Charlie Bernhaut, and Wilma Bernhaut Pitman

**Shirle Levin Nathan**, sister of Tammi & Bob Altshuler, Laine Maier; grandmother of Rori & Jason Feldman, Lacey & Todd Wallerstein; great-grandmother of Charlie and Dylan Feldman; mother-in-law of Sheri Feldman

**Morris "Ike" Rosenthal**, husband of Julien Epstein Rosenthal; brother-in-law of Bitsy Proler; brother of Marilyn & Ben Rosenthal, Carolyn & Harry Rosenthal; father of Laurie Rosenthal Lee & Dico Hassid, Mindy & Lee Rosenthal, Jan Rosenthal Cohen & Leslie Cohen, Alyssa & Louis Rosenthal, II, Marty Rosenthal Marlowe & Andrew Marlowe; grandfather of Lindsey Lee Hirsch & Jesse Hirsch, Justin Lee, Nicole Hast & Eli Hassid, Roni Hassid, Rachel Rosenthal Saghian & Michael Saghian, Seth Rosenthal, Anna Rosenthal, Stephanie & Joshua Cohen, Suzie Cohen, Amy & Jacob Cohen, Max Rosenthal, Jason Rosenthal, Jessica Rosenthal, Emily Marlowe, Hannah Marlowe; great-grandfather of Daniel, Jonah and Nicholas Hirsch, Evan and Logan Hast, Eva and Amelia Saghian, Spencer, Lilah and Annie Cohen, Duke Cohen, Jack Lee

**Franklin Roth**, husband of Evelyn Roth; father of Robin & Rodney Roth, Michelle & Barry Glauben, Lynnie & Jason Roth; grandfather of Hayley Glauben, Blake Glauben, Gavin Roth, Cameron Roth, Ellie Roth; brother-in-law of Barbara & Allen Pauly

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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.

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### EMANU EL CLERGY AVAILABLE TO OFFER PASTORAL CARE *continued from page 1*

- Relationship challenges
- Loneliness and fear
- Grief and bereavement
- Financial hardship and struggle

#### What kind of training does our clergy have in this area?

Our rabbis and cantor have each completed 400 hours of supervised Clinical Pastoral Education as part of their training at the Hebrew Union College.

#### Is pastoral care the same as therapy?

Pastoral care is not the same as therapy. While therapy often focuses on behavioral or relational change and can be ongoing for months, pastoral care with temple clergy is typically limited to several sessions. Pastoral care is intended to create a safe and sacred space to be heard and provide nurturing care and comfort for the spirit at a time of struggle or hardship. If you are facing a particularly difficult situation that will require ongoing

therapeutic care, our clergy can help make a confidential referral to a counselor or therapist.

#### What about confidentiality?

The content of your pastoral conversations with our clergy is held in the strictest confidence. This helps ensure a foundation of trust and comfort when sharing personal and private matters.

#### Is there a fee for pastoral care appointments with the clergy?

There is no fee for pastoral care sessions with our clergy. This important work is a benefit of your temple membership and is available for all Emanu El members. How do I schedule an appointment?

There are two ways to schedule appointments with our clergy. Email your request to [joannek@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:joannek@emanuelhouston.org) or call 713.529.5771.

## PROGRAMMING UPDATES

In an effort to keep our congregants and the community up to date with our programs that have been either postponed or canceled, please find the list below. As information is constantly changing, we do strongly encourage you to take advantage of our Coronavirus Response page, which has the most up to date information. You can also call the synagogue at 713.529.5771 or contact program director, Jason Plotkin at jasonp@emanuelhouston.org and 713.535.6414. Even if the building is not open, members of our staff team are monitoring our phone lines and e-mails so we can remain in touch with you.

**Below is a list of programs that have been postponed or cancelled.**

### POSTPONED PROGRAMMING

- Sisterhood's *Words Change the World* featuring Barbara Pierce Bush – **originally scheduled for Thursday, March 26 – now re-scheduled for Wednesday, August 19**
- *Before I Die Weekend* – **originally scheduled for Friday, March 27 - Sunday, March 29**
- *Kid Food* with author Bettina Elias Siegel – **originally scheduled for Tuesday, March 31**
- Artist-in-Residence Weekend with Ellen Allard – **originally scheduled for Friday, April 3 - Sunday, April 5 – re-scheduled for February 12-14, 2021**
- Fire Truck Park Gathering – **originally scheduled for Sunday, April 26**
- The Classics: Houston Japanese Garden & Dinner – **originally scheduled for Sunday, April 26**
- Mental Health First Aid Training – **originally scheduled for Sunday, April 26 & Tuesday, April 28**
- Dad & Me at Dynamo Game – **originally scheduled for Sunday, May 5**
- Sisterhood's Closing Luncheon – **originally scheduled for Wednesday, May 6**
- Brotherhood Congregant of the Year – **originally scheduled for Wednesday, May 13**
- Book Review: *Save Me the Plumbs* – **originally scheduled for Thursday, May 14**
- Emanu El Young Professionals / YAD Shabbat Shalom Y'all – **originally scheduled for Friday, May 15**
- My Generation Heads to the Lone Star Flight Museum – **originally scheduled for Tuesday, May 19**

### CANCELED PROGRAMMING (ONLY JUNE / JULY PROGRAMMING)

- Emanu Elders – **originally scheduled for Tuesday, June 2**
- Tot Shabbat – **originally scheduled for Friday, June 5 (replaced by a Havdalah Happening on Saturday, June 6 with Cantor Simmons & Ellen Allard)**
- Gathering Place – **originally scheduled for Monday, June 8**
- Mah Jong – **originally scheduled for Thursday, June 11**
- June Community Shabbat Dinner – **originally scheduled for Friday, June 19**

Note: Please refer to prior editions of the *Bulletin* to see previously canceled programs.



## Emanu El Drive Thru for Becker Families

In mid-May, Becker families were assigned a time to pick up their children's belongings from the school. We are all so grateful for our teachers for maintaining our Becker School community online.



Teachers Ms. Alicia and Ms. Peggy are ready to distribute in the drive thru that was created for the teachers to wave to their friends and load the trunk of cars.



Teachers Ms. Elissa and Ms. Holly display a card given to them by a Becker Pre-K graduate in their class during the drive thru.

## Becker Staff Welcomes Families at Drive Thru

Assistant director Judy Lazor, interim director Barbara Loeser, Ms. Jennifer and Ms. Orit are all ready to distribute items to Pre-K students.



## A Becker Pre-K Graduate Visits with Her Teachers

Becker teachers Ms. Elissa and Ms. Holly peek through a car window as one of their students, a Becker Pre-K graduate comes through the car drive-thru in May.



### Pajama Havdalah with Ellen Allard & Cantor Simmons

Saturday, June 6, 5:00 p.m.



Nationally known musician Ellen Allard will join us for Pajama Havdalah.

Get your comfiest PJ's and your favorite lovey and join Cantor Simmons and her friend, Ellen Allard, The Queen of Jewish Early Childhood Music, for havdalah, the sweet end of Shabbat. We hope our families with young children will join us to sing, hear stories and prepare for the week ahead.

Allard has been performing children's concerts for decades at synagogues, festivals and more – encouraging children and parents alike. Allard was originally slated to join Emanu El for a weekend in early April and this Havdalah will serve as a preview for her rescheduled visit in February 2021.

This program will be available online through our streaming video page (choose Proler Chapel) and on Facebook.

### Taste of Talmud: Lunch Time Text Study Thursday, June 18, 12:30 p.m.

Have you heard people talking about “Daf Yomi” but aren't sure what that means – or if it's too late to begin? Are you curious about what's in the Talmud but not sure where to start? Do you have an established Talmud study practice and want some new learning partners with whom to share ideas? Join Director of Congregational Learning Stefani Carlson for a lively, discussion-based introduction to Rabbinic text study. No experience or Hebrew knowledge necessary – all texts are provided in English. All are welcome!

If we are unable to meet at Emanu El, our monthly gathering will be taken online to Zoom. Our Zoom information will be shared ahead of time in synagogue communications.

### Conversations

Wednesdays, 12:00 p.m.

Join us on **Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m.** for “Conversations” as Program Director Jason Plotkin sits down with a member of the congregation, community or from the sports world to discuss the current state of affairs while we are separated due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Previous guests included: First Christian Church pastor Michael Dunn, Jackie Fisherman and Taryn Baranowski from the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston, Houston Independent School District (HISD) school board member Elizabeth Santos and Jewish Family Services Chief Operating Officer Carl Josehart.

“Conversations” will be available on the Emanu El Facebook page and the Proler Chapel streaming video page. Archived editions are available on the Emanu El YouTube Channel

### Classics – Zoom Trivia Night

Friday, June 26, 7:30 p.m.

We had a blast at our Zoom Trivia Night with the Classics after services on Friday, May 15. It has been several months since we have been able to meet in person and we want to stay connected over the summer.

Plan to join us on **Friday night, June 26** after services for another game night. Chaired by Kathy and Steven Parven and Fredi and Paul Franks, the evening promises to be a great way to visit “old” friends and meet new ones. Please watch the Emanu El website for registration and more information.

### Words Change the World – NEW DATE!

Wednesday, August 19, 11:30 a.m.

The Sisterhood is excited to announce the new date for their annual donor event, “Words Change the World”.



Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, August 19**. As previously planned, Barbara Pierce Bush will be featured in a Q & A about her years at the daughter and granddaughter of two United States presidents, her family's mission to fight illiteracy and her work through her Global Health Corps. We have received over 1,000 new children's books to donate to

the Harris County Public Library to be distributed to our area's underserved children through our partnership with the Barbara Bush Literacy Foundation.

To get involved in the fight against illiteracy, please visit [www.connect4literacy.org](http://www.connect4literacy.org) and support the Barbara Bush Literacy Foundation's work by volunteering your time.

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**We urge all registered guests for the original date in March to re-confirm your reservation by contacting the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771, ext. 233 or by emailing [sishood@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:sishood@emanuelhouston.org).** Please know that while the synagogue building is closed, the phones and emails are being checked!

You may also contact the Sisterhood office to inquire about additional ticket sales, patron seating or any other questions about the event.

## Sixth Annual Night at the Ballpark Tuesday, September 1



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

Join members of the Emanu El clergy and staff 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) **first-come, first-serve basis until Saturday, May 30 or upon sellout.**

Tickets are anticipated to arrive at the synagogue in early August, and participants will be communicated with about arranging to pick-up their tickets prior to the ball game.

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

Note: If this event is postponed or canceled as we wait for Major League Baseball to determine how the season will proceed, we will share this information in synagogue communications. In the event of a cancellation this year, we will refund all registrants and work with the Astros on scheduling a date for 2021.

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## 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.

**Karen & Charles Kelly**

**Karen Lansden & Zachary Rosenberg**

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 Jason Plotkin at [jasonp@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:jasonp@emanuelhouston.org) or 713.535.6414.

### Under 25-Year-Old Membership: FREE!

Have a recent college graduate moving back to Houston this summer? Know a young professional that is new to town or just venturing out on their own? Congregation Emanu El gifts free memberships to all those members of our Jewish community under the age of 25. For more information, connect with Jason Plotkin at [jasonp@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:jasonp@emanuelhouston.org) or 713.535.6414.

## Mazel Tov to Donna Fraley on Her Retirement



Donna Fraley

The staff of Congregation Emanu El would like to extend a hearty Mazel Tov to Donna Fraley on her retirement. Donna has served almost a decade as the ritual coordinator, as well as the assistant to Rabbi Silk and Cantor Simmons. Prior to coming to Emanu El, Donna worked at Parker Elementary in the Houston Independent School District (HISD).

Donna along with her husband Bart will be moving to the Austin area to be with their two daughters and two grandchildren. Both daughters attended the University of Texas in Austin and as a proud supporter of the Longhorns, you can bet Donna will be wearing burnt orange in the stands at UT baseball and football games real soon!



## Emanu El Votes: Congregation Seeks Voter Registrars

Emanu El **Votes** Stay Tuned for Future Opportunities to Become A Voter Registrar

Our congregation's new civic engagement project, Emanu El Votes was originally slated to host a voter registrar training in late April with the National Council of Jewish Women [NCJW] and Hadassah.

At this time, this training is postponed and we look forward to sharing information about future opportunities similar to this one in upcoming synagogue communications.

In the meantime, Emanu El Votes is seeking members to assist us as we grow our civic engagement campaign in the months leading up to the November election. If you are interested in staying informed about future events including future volunteer opportunities, please e-mail us at [EEVotes@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:EEVotes@emanuelhouston.org).

## Memorial Plaques Deadline of Friday, June 5 to Ensure Placement Prior to High Holy Days

Many members of our congregation choose to memorialize their loved ones with a permanent plaque on the yahrzeit wall of the Barish Sanctuary, which also provides for the perpetual reading of their names as part of the Friday evening Mourner's Kaddish.

To ensure that your loved ones' plaques are placed on the wall in time for High Holy Days in early September, we encourage you to purchase plaques by the close of business on **Friday, June 5**. For more information, contact Alisha Klapholz at [alishak@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:alishak@emanuelhouston.org) or 713.529.5771, ext. 213.

## Cemetery Plot Increase on Hold Until September

The Cemetery Committee recently decided to put the planned cemetery plot increase off until **September 1** due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The plot prices that will now go into effect on September 1 are the following:

### MEMBER

**Pre-need:** \$3,900.00

**At need:** \$4,300.00

### NON-MEMBER

**Pre-need:** \$6,200.00

**At need:** \$6,700.00

For questions or plot purchases, please contact Alisha Klapholz at [alishak@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:alishak@emanuelhouston.org), 713-529-5771).



## Find Us On YouTube!

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

In just a few weeks, over 200 videos of new content created since the pandemic have been posted to Emanu El's YouTube page with dozens and dozens more from the archives also shared.

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



## WEEKEND OF VIRTUAL EVENTS TO CELEBRATE RABBI WALTER'S 50 YEARS AT CONGREGATION EMANU EL *continued from page 1*

Over the course of the 50 years to follow, Rabbi Walter became no stranger to circumstances changing whether it was leading Shabbat by candlelight in the aftermath of a hurricane or having to scrap a sermon last minute due to the need to respond to a current event.

**Friday, June 5, at 6:00 p.m.** our congregation's recognition of Rabbi Walter will take shape in a manner different from originally planned due to the pandemic that keeps us apart and will take place online during Shabbat worship services.

**Saturday, June 6, at 9:15 a.m.** Rabbi Walter will lead a morning study class open to the congregation and a program on **Sunday, June 7 at 7:00 p.m.** entitled "Rabbi to Rabbi: A Conversation with Rabbi Roy Walter," reflecting back on his time in the rabbinate with Emanu El's Senior Rabbi, Oren Hayon

Both the Shabbat worship and the conversation with Rabbi Hayon will be streamed on Emanu El's Facebook page and the Proler Chapel streaming video page.

Over the years, Rabbi Walter has worked with many clergy members and that collective voice will be represented during our Friday night worship as Rabbi Robert "Bob" Loewy, who served as an Assistant Rabbi

then Associate Rabbi at Congregation Emanu El from 1977-1984, will be our special guest for the evening.

During the last few weeks, Rabbi Loewy has chatted and exchanged communications with many current and former clergy colleagues of Rabbi Walter from his tenure at Emanu El and will be representing this group in his remarks to be made during Shabbat.

On Saturday morning, the weekend continues with both our Gems of Torah and Golden Calf classes taking a one-week hiatus so that the congregation can come together to learn with Rabbi Walter on Zoom.

Lastly, the weekend will conclude on Sunday evening in a unique conversation with his colleague Rabbi Hayon, Rabbi Walter will have a chance to reflect on 50 years at Congregation Emanu El, his time in the rabbinate and

All three events are open to the community. The Friday night worship and Sunday conversation will be archived for later viewing on the Emanu El website, Facebook page and YouTube channel following the weekend.

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

### Rabbi Walter's 50th Weekend Schedule of Events

#### **Friday, June 5, 6:00 p.m.**

Shabbat Worship; including a special Shabbat message by Rabbi Bob Loewy  
Available on the Proler Chapel streaming video & Congregation Emanu El Facebook page

#### **Saturday, June 6, 9:15 a.m.**

Shabbat Morning Learning with Rabbi Roy Walter  
To participate, Zoom information will be shared the week of in Emanu El communications

#### **Sunday, June 7, 7:00 p.m.**

Rabbi to Rabbi: A Conversation with Rabbi Roy Walter  
This event will air on the Proler Chapel streaming video page & Congregation Emanu El Facebook page

## 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.



# Helfman Religious School



Ms. Kyndhal is pictured with her 'Helfie' certificate for winning 'Favorite Hebrew Lesson' as chosen by the students of the Helfman Religious School.

## Helfman Religious School Concludes School Year With 'The Helfies'

On Sunday, May 17, the Helfman Religious School hosted "The Helfies" honoring the contributions by the Religious School faculty and staff who created over 75 'Helfman @ Home' videos during the course of the final two months of the school year.

Similar to an awards show, there were categories and the votes were cast by the students over the final two weeks of the Helfman academic year. We are pleased to share the winners below.

All Helfman @ Home videos, including weekly T'filah services and more can be found on the Congregation Emanu El YouTube channel. On the YouTube channel, click the 'Helfman @ Home' playlist.

- Favorite Art Project – Making masks with Ms. Michelle
- Favorite Blessing – "Hinei Ma Tov" sing-along with Doug

- Favorite Dance – "Hinei Ma Tov" with Ms. Ellie
- Favorite general (non-holiday) story – "Stars" reading with Ms. Judy S.
- Favorite Hebrew Lesson – Hebrew Through Movement with Ms. Kyndhal
- Favorite Shabbat/Holiday book reading – *Baxter, the Pig Who Wanted to Be Kosher* with Mr. Daum
- Favorite Jewish learning – Understanding each other with Mr. Lex
- Favorite original Passover story – The Four Questions with Ms. Eileen
- Favorite Passover song – "Chad Gadya" with the Youth Choir
- Favorite recipe – Challah with Ms. Rachel B.
- Favorite Sing-along (non-Passover) – *L'takein (The Na Na Song)* with Becca
- Best Picture (selected from category winners by Helfman staff team) – *Baxter, the Pig Who Wanted to Be Kosher* with Mr. Daum

## Helfman Enrollment is Open

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. ([https://www.emanuelhouston.org/school\\_enrollment.php](https://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 8/31/20**.

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

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## Shirley Barish Memorial Israel Experience Update

In different times, this article would have been a “bon voyage” note: the fourth cohort of Emanu El Upper School 10th and 11th grade students was scheduled to depart for Poland and Israel on the the Shirley Barish Memorial Israel Experience trip on June 10, 2020. However, on March 31, following the U.S. State Department’s issuance of a “Global Level 4 Health Advisory – Do No Travel” due to the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic (which remains in place today), the Israel Committee, on the advice of our travel provider as well as U.S. and Israeli governmental and other advisory agencies, made the difficult but necessary decision to postpone the trip. While we are deeply disappointed not to be taking students on this life-changing journey this summer, we are excited to share updates regarding our plans for rescheduling.

We are currently working with our travel partners at Da’at to shift our itinerary to a June, 2021 departure, and will confirm new dates as soon as school calendars are finalized. All students who were eligible to attend this summer’s trip – even those who will have graduated

by the time of the rescheduled date, as well as those who, for whatever reason, were not going to be able to join the group this summer – will be eligible for the rescheduled trip, provided that they remain enrolled in our Upper School program. We will also be expanding the cohort to include our current 9th grade students – next year’s group will include 10th, 11th and 12th grades. We are looking forward to the opportunities that the larger, 3-grade cohort will provide to our learning and community-building!

In the meantime, we are working on developing an enhanced pre-trip learning experience. We are collaborating with our travel providers at Da’at, as well as with some of the excellent museums we visit on the trip (including the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, the Galicia Jewish Museum, Yad VaShem, the Israel Museum, and Beit Hatfutsot: Museum of the Jewish People) and some of our organizational partners (including Jerusalem PeaceBuilders, Kids4Peace, the Leo Baeck School and Community Center, and JNF/Special in Uniform) on virtual and other remote learning experiences to strengthen our relationships and lay the foundations for a truly exceptional program next year. As we said at the close of our Passover seders, “BaShanah HaBa’ah b’Yerushalayim” — Next Year in Jerusalem!

## Leadership Shabbat Goes Online

Senior Vice President Stuart Gaylor passed along this screen shot (one of two screens of board members) from his Zoom during Leadership Shabbat. Our May 8 Leadership Shabbat headed online. New President Jeri Amundsen shared some remarks and Rabbi Oren Hayon blessed the new leaders, who assumed their roles officially on May 1. The first meeting of the new board took place on Tuesday, May 12. Those wanting to hear Jeri Amundsen’s remarks or to see the installation are encouraged to head to the congregation’s YouTube Channel.







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

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To provide creative arts programs

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

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

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**CERSONSKY CEMETERY BEAUTIFICATION FUND**

To maintain and enhance Emanu El Memorial Park

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To provide Greene Family Camp scholarships

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

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

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

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

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713.204.8807 | [jlevin@bernsteinrealty.com](mailto:jlevin@bernsteinrealty.com)

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Congregation Emanu El

Oren J. Hayon, Senior Rabbi  
Pamela B. Silk, Associate Rabbi  
Joshua R.S. Fixler, Associate Rabbi  
Roy A. Walter, Rabbi Emeritus  
Rollin Simmons, Cantor  
David Lamden, Executive Director  
Jason Plotkin, Program Director  
Barbara Loeser, Interim Early Childhood  
Director  
Stefani Carlson, Director of  
Congregational Learning

Jeri Amundsen, President  
Stuart Gaylor, Senior Vice President  
Dawn Blitz, Vice President  
Melissa Carson, Vice President  
Ronnie Kurtin, Vice President  
Ben Miller, Vice President

fredi Bleeker Franks, Treasurer  
Laura Mayer, Secretary  
Rodney Roth, Honorary Past President  
Andrew Gass, Brotherhood President  
Claire Brooks & Carol Sue Zions,  
Sisterhood Presidents

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Becker Graduation Held Virtually

The Becker School held its Pre-K graduation virtually on Friday, May 15. This unique ceremony included musical contributions from all three classes, a message from Rabbi Hayon and a musical collaboration by the Pre-K teachers.

If you missed this graduation, make sure to view the archives on our streaming video page (select Proler Chapel), or visit the Becker School Facebook page.



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