

Bulletin

November 5, 2020 | 18 Cheshvan 5781VOLUME 75 NUMBER 2

FROM RABBI HAYON



Every nation that enters into a joint agreement with Israel thereby signifies that it has chosen to support progress, prosperity and peace in the Middle East, and therefore give us a very good reason for hope and gratitude.

Every November brings us the opportunity to give thanks: for the food on our tables, the loved ones in our homes, and the many freedoms and privileges we enjoy in our modern lives. This year brings another very encouraging development which invites our gratitude – though it has not been a source of optimism for a very long time: the process toward peace in the Middle East.

As I write these words, we have recently learned that Sudan has officially joined the governments of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates in moving toward normalized relations with the State of Israel. These agreements, known as the Abraham Accords, represent a measured but significant step forward for the region and for the world. They are the first diplomatic pacts that Arab nations have made with Israel since agreements were signed with Jordan in 1994 and Egypt in 1979.

The Abraham Accords constitute a different sort of agreement, to be sure: Israel is not presently at war with Bahrain, Sudan, or the UAE, as it had been before the peace treaties were signed with Jordan and Egypt. Nevertheless, formalizing diplomatic recognition required vision and

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Emanu El Enters Phase 3 of Reopening Plan



Special thanks to the volunteers like our president Jeri Amundsen (pictured), who have masked up and assisted guests for B'nei Mitzvah in the ramp up to this phase. Many thanks to the members of our congregation who will continue to play a similar role in this new phase.

In an email to the community on Monday, October 12, it was shared that the metrics support a move to the third phase of Emanu El's Reopening Plan on Monday, October 19.

INCLUDED WITH PHASE 3:

- Limited in-person attendance for Friday night Shabbat worship. Congregants will be able to register online or by phone for a limited number of available seats in the sanctuary. For information on how to sign-up, visit emanuelhous ton.org or call 713.529.5771. Additional information can be found below.
- An increase in the number of guests that Bar/Bat Mitzvah families may invite to the Saturday morning service.
- Limited participation life-cycle events may be held in the building.
- Helfman Religious School will explore partial in-person options.
- The gift shop will hold limited by-appointment-only hours. Watch for information on how to make an appointment (more information within this *Bulletin*).

WORSHIP SERVICES

Locations are listed below for those seeking to use the streaming video portal on our website. Any changes will be shared via the regular synagogue communications.

Our services (with the exception of B'nei Mitzvah) are streamed to our website, Facebook page, Roku channel, and YouTube. Our Saturday morning B'nei Mitzvah services are available solely on our website.

Shabbat Vayeira Friday, November 6

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

Saturday, November 7

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

Shabbat Chayei Sarah Friday, November 13

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

Saturday, November 14

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel
 10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Barish Sanctuary
 B'nei Mitzvah of Oliver Bloom, son of Sara & Jeff Bloom
 & Vincent Miller, son of Dena & Brian Miller

Shabbat Tol'dot Friday, November 20

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

Saturday, November 21

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel 10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Barish Sanctuary B'nei Mitzvah of **Alexander** & **Madeline Morrissette**, children of Tiffany & Vincent Morrissette

Shabbat Vayeitzi Friday, November 27

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

Saturday, November 28

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel 10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Barish Sanctuary B'nei Mitzvah of **Emma** & **Richard Manne**, children of Jane & Burton Manne

Shabbat Vayishlach Friday, December 4

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

Saturday, December 5

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel 10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Barish Sanctuary Bar Mitzvah of **Braden Susman**, son of Pamela & Andrew Susman

Shabbat Vayeishev Friday, December 11

6:00 p.m., Kabbalat Shabbat & Chanukah Service, Barish Sanctuary

Saturday, December 12

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel 7:00 p.m., Havdalah for All, Zoom

FROM RABBI HAYON continued from page 1

courage from all the signatory nations, and the Accords deserve our appreciation and gratitude.

The signing of these agreements can also lead us to be optimistic about further advancements yet to come. As the Arab world reevaluates its priorities, rapprochement with Israel will help to rebalance the political playing field in the region. There are, of course, many difficult steps that lie ahead, most notably peace talks with the Palestinians, but these agreements will help bolster any future negotiations. Every nation that enters into a joint agreement with Israel thereby signifies that it has chosen to support progress, prosperity and peace in the Middle East, and therefore give us a very good reason for hope and gratitude.

It is always a productive spiritual practice for us to find reasons to give thanks. Such opportunities have been more elusive during the past difficult months; per-

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.

haps this is even more reason for us to be enthusiastic about these steps toward peace between Israel and its neighbors. Let us all hope that the days and years ahead will bring many more such reasons for optimism and thanksgiving.



Get Social With Us!

Did you know Congregation Emanu El is on Instagram? In addition to our active Facebook pages, be sure to follow us on Instagram to catch snap shots of happenings around the

synagogue. From camel sightings to social action, a thriving youth group to clergy in action and more!

Find us on Instagram at instagram.com/emanuelhouston or if you are already a member, find us at @emanuelhouston. And yes, please feel free to "check-in" at Emanu El when you are here for events and happenings!

EMANU EL ENTERS PHASE 3 OF REOPENING PLAN

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As part of our Shabbat Reopening, the following protocols and procedures are in place (in addition to registration):

- Worship will be held in the sanctuary, allowing for six foot social distancing.
- Limited in-person attendance for Friday night Shabbat worship: Congregants only will be able to sign-up online or call and register for a limited number of available seats in the sanctuary. Registration for attending Shabbat worship is available below.
- An increase in the number of guests that Bar/Bat Mitzvah families may invite to the Saturday morning service.
- Those over 65 and/or with underlying health issues will be encouraged to continue participating via online methods.
- Congregants must provide their own kippot/tallitot.
- Attendees will be required to wear face coverings and spread apart following social distancing standards.
- Attendees must enter the building through the North Lobby (sanctuary/chapel entrance).
- Attendees will have their temperature taken before entry; anyone with a temperature exceeding 100.4 degrees will not be permitted inside the building.
- Attendees must verbally confirm to entry attendant that they meet other "non-symptomatic" CDC criteria.
- Worshippers will be asked to use hand sanitizer.
- Worshippers will be required to check-in upon entering the building.
- No onegs or kiddush.

BOOK OF MEMORY

We apologize for omitting the below submission from the 2020 / 5781 edition of *The Book of Memory*.

In Loving Memory Of: Frankie Block, Rose Block, Julius Block, Marvin Rechtman, Rubye Rogers, Sylvia Teichman, Howard Whitehurst, Ruth Whitehurst

Remembered By: Marsha & Marty Block

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.

LIFECYCLE EVENTS

BIRTHS

Maya Elyse Hassid, daughter of Nicole Hast & Eli Hassid; granddaughter of Laurie Lee & Dico Hassid, Marilyn Hassid & Marc Gessner, Jane Meyers

WEDDING

Melissa Leva & Spencer Leiman

DEATHS

Sandy Baum, sister of Sheryl & Bernard Feldman; mother of Michelle & Jehad Al-Chatta, Jerrica & Greg Baum, Bradley Baum; grandmother of Sarah, Abe and Hana Al-Chatta, and Mikey, Sam and Chloe Baum

Arthur Daum, husband of Marian Daum; father of Suzie & Steve Daum, Debbie & David Gersh, Ann & Chris Fisher; grandfather of Julie & Jonathan Garfunkel, Leah Fisher, Sam Fisher, Josh Daum, Jenni Daum; great-grandfather of Nora Garfunkel

Allen Leon, husband of Inga Leon; father of Anna Leon; brother of Joel Hutton; brother-in-law of Sonja & Bosse Tolander, Eva & Janne Elfstrom, Per-Olov & Gunilla Norden, Gudrun Norden

Beverly Maisel Manne, mother of Jane & Burton Manne, Nancy & Neal Manne; grandmother of Benjamin, Elisabeth, Olivia, Richard and Emma Manne; great-grandmother of Ezra Manne.

Alan Maury Rauch, husband of Lynette Rauch; father of Sharon & Brad Rauch, Polly & David Roth, Jonathan Rauch; grandfather and great-grandfather

Frances Roseman, mother of Barbara & Donnie Roseman, grandmother of Courtney & Jeremy Brynes, Ashley & Gavin Roseman; great-grandmother of Caroline, Emerson and Pearson Byrnes, Sari, Brook and Davis Roseman

Paul Serrins, father of Mitzi & Norman Levine; grandfather of Jonah and Alissa Levine.

Leonard Tatar, father of Jinsook Choi & Bradley Tatar, Erin & Edmund Tatar, step-father of Kerry Silver & Jim Cowen; grandfather of Yujin Tatar, Noam Tatar, Natalie Tatar, Sydney Tatar, Carly Cowen, Jacob Cowen, Liana Franklin

Ronald Wolff, husband of Elaine Wolff; brother-in-law of Barbara Glave & David Wall; father of Shawn Wolff & Warren Adler, Michele & Blake Wolff; grandfather of Jared and Ethan; brother of Carol & Larry Tobias

Harriet Zinn, mother of Sharon & Harvey Zinn, Janis & Elias Zinn, Barbara & Alan Zinn; grandmother of Adrianne Williamson, Amy & Harvey Zinn, Jr., Kathleen & Jeffrey Zinn, Audrey and Andrew Zinn, Scott & Forreste Markowitz, Jessica & Danny Markowitz, Wendy & Mike Dutton; great-grandmother of Hunter Fishel, Hampton, Bennett, Tremble, Luke, Oliver, Josey, Julius (JW), Max and Brandon Markowitz, Alexis and Kylie Markowitz, Kacy and Lacy Dutton

Taste of Talmud

Thursday, November 5, 12:30 p.m. & Thursday, December 3, 12:30 p.m.

** New Date! First Thursdays of Month **

Did your plans for the new year include establishing a new study practice? Do you want all the benefits of a book discussion group without the need to commit to extensive reading ahead of time? Are you curious about what this "Daf Yomi" thing you've heard people mention is? Do you want to connect with both your Judaism and a fun group of people?

If your answer to any of these questions is yes, then join us for A Taste of Talmud, our monthly study of rabbinic texts, led by Director of Congregational Learning Stefani Carlson. No experience or Hebrew knowledge required: all texts are provided in translation. We are currently meeting on Zoom – all are welcome. We'd love to have you add your voice to our virtual beit midrash (house of study)!

Zoom information can be found on our website and for more information, contact Stefani Carlson at stefanic@ emanuelhouston.org or 713.529.5771, ext. 251.

Screening: This Is Our Home, It Is Not for Sale

Thursday, November 5, 3:30 p.m.



A Documentary Film by Jon Schwartz

The Program in Jewish Studies at Rice University and Congregation Emanu El invite you to join us for a discussion about the 1987 film, *This Is Our Home, It Is Not for Sale*, with Director and Houston native Jon Schwartz.

The documentary chronicles the history of Houston's Riverside Terrace neighborhood, an area of the city that was once a thriving hub for Houston's Jewish community in the 1940s and 1950s. As Black Americans began to move into the neighborhood, Jewish and white Houstonians moved out. The film addresses critical topics relevant to contemporary discussions in our time about race, religion, and real estate. Emanu El's Rabbi Robert Kahn, of blessed memory, is one of the subjects interviewed in the film.

The screening will take place on Zoom. Registration is available on our website.

Havdalah for All: Songs & Celebration of Gratitude

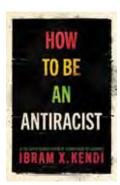
Saturday, November 7, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

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

As we prepare for Thanksgiving and the winter holiday season, our November gathering will have the theme of gratitude.

This event will be held exclusively on Zoom and a song sheet will be made available on our website during the week leading heading up to the evening. To get the Zoom link, please register online at emanuelhouston.org.

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



Racial Justice Book Club: How to Be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi

Tuesday, November 17, 7:30 - 8:45 p.m. Chapters 11-18

Join Rabbi Fixler as we dive deeper into the themes and messages from his Rosh HaShanah sermon on racism and racial justice.

We will be reading and discussing Kendi's powerful book *How to Be an Antiracist* and exploring ways that his framework of racist versus antiracist might influence how we respond to the challenging call of moment in our nation's history.

To create a space of shared language and productive conversation, participants are encouraged to attend both sessions (the previous session was held in October) and to have read the applicable sections of the book. Registration is available to those who signed up for the first session.

Online Trivia Night

Sunday, November 15, 7:00 p.m.

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

The custom-built game nights are a fun and challenging

experiences where players muse a variety of different skill sets and ways of thinking to win. It's an experience beyond your average game night.

Register by 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 15 by visiting our website to receive information about how to connect on the night of the event.

The information on how to connect will be sent roughly 60-90 minutes before the game. Individuals and teams are encouraged to join the trivia room at 6:30 p.m. for a pre-game schmooze or stay afterward. If this is your first time playing with Emanu El and Game Time Adventures, it is strongly encouraged that you show up no later than 6:45 p.m. to make sure your devices are working appropriately.

Previous winners include individuals or teams captained by the following individuals: Andrew Gass (October), Chip Ware (September), fredi Bleeker Franks (August) and Jeff Silk (July).

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

Strangers and Neighbors: Important Themes in Black-Jewish Relationships Thursday, November 19, 7:00 p.m.

From a shared history of slavery and discrimination, through the civil rights movement, to the unrest of today, Jews and Black Americans have had a relationship that includes cooperation and tension. Join us as **Dr. Joshua Furman**, curator of the Houston Jewish History Archive at Rice University, discusses how



an understanding of our history can help us form better relationships with Black Americans in our community.

This event co-sponsored by the Sisterhood and the Emanu El CORE team, will be held via Zoom. The information to access will be emailed ahead of time to those who RSVP.

To RSVP, please visit our web calendar at emanuelhouston. org or call the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771, ext. 233.

Conversations

Wednesdays, 12:00 p.m.

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

Previous guests have included Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, Houston Symphony principal cellist Brinton Smith, Houston Independent School District (HISD) school board member Elizabeth Santos, Shariq Ghandi of the Minaret Foundation, Corpus Christi Hooks playby-play voice Michael Coffin, and more.

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

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

Calling All Emanu El Recent Alumni

Calling our recent alumni! We know that you are in different places and have different needs this year, but we hope to be able to continue to provide you with the same fun, heartwarming connection that our Alumni have come to expect. To ensure that we know the best ways to reach you this fall, please complete the form online at emanuelhouston.org/form/eealumni2020.

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.



Lay Leaders At High Holy Days

Though we held our High Holy Day worship on digital platforms this year, we enjoyed finding ways to keep our congregants involved in leading our worship.

Throughout the High Holy Days, members of our community (including the pictured Robin & Rodney Roth) sounded shofar, provided vocals to songs or led blessings.

Sukkahs on Display

During our Helfman Religious School Sunday T'filah, members of the Helfman administrative team show off the creativity of their own mini-Sukkahs.





Torah Cam Lends Itself to Simchat Torah Celebration

A 'behind the scenes' look at the 'Torah Cam' which made an appearance during our Simchat Torah celebration in October. The Simchat Torah service features a creative walk-through of the Torah that include lay leader involvement and popular music. An archive of this service or the Torah service in particular can be found on our YouTube channel.

Troop 1190 Welcomes New Scouts

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

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



Whether its high-tech, environmentalism or social engagement, all activities take place with the highest ideals

of scouting and Jewish ethics. Pre-COVID-19, we camped several times a year and went to Boy Scout camp every summer. In recent years, we've attended camp in California, Colorado and upstate New York.

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

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

For more information, contact Scoutmaster Josh Rotenberg at pedzzz@gmail.com. You can also visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Scouts1190/.

HELFMAN SCHOOL NEWS



Helfman Religious School

Shirley Barish Memorial Israel Experience Update



Some of our Shirley Barish Memorial Israel Experience teens pictured during the 2018 edition of the trip pictured in Warsaw, Poland.

We are pleased to announce that the Shirley Barish Memorial Israel Experience trip, which was postponed from Summer 2020, has been **rescheduled for June**16 – July 13, 2021. Students who are currently in 10th, 11th, and 12th grades will be eligible to spend a week

in Poland and three weeks in Israel on this once-in-alifetime journey, provided that they meet enrollment and attendance requirements. Thanks to the generosity of the Barish Family, the cost of the trip, less a deposit, is entirely underwritten for Helfman Religious School students who attend our Upper School from 8th grade through High School Graduation at the end of 12th grade.

This will be the fourth cohort of Emanu El teens to travel together and the first to comprise three-grades: previous cohorts of 10th and 11th graders traveled in 2014, 2016 and 2018. The trip has been described by a parent of previous participants as, "an amazing experience for my sons {that] truly solidified their Jewish identity." Alumni have gone on to staff NFTY in Israel trips, return to Israel to work on kibbutzim, to hold internships in Israel and in Poland, and to work as faculty in Helfman Religious School. We look forward to seeing what this cohort will accomplish!

The commitment form for eligible students is due by **Monday, November 30**. The first parent information meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 2**. For moreinformation, please contact Stefani Carlson at stefanic@emanuelhouston.org.

Becker Joins EE Votes Campaign

On the first day of early voting, the Becker School joined the rest of Emanu El in participating in the EE Votes campaignand asked its families and teachers to vote. Pictured are Pre-K student Isaac Plotkin with Becker teacher Ms. Dalia on the first day of early voting, reminding all their friends to vote!



An Update from Emanu El Votes



Emanu El Votes

Emanu El Votes would like to thank its outstanding volunteers for working so hard to make Emanu El a 100% voting congregation in 2020 and beyond. Every phone call you made and email you sent helped empower congregants to vote safely and effectively. We

would especially like to recognize Annie Stein, Lauren Ziff, and Marcia Fiman for their unwavering commitment, wisdom, and generosity of both time and spirit. Huge thanks also to Rabbi Fixler for his leadership, Rabbis Hayon and Silk and Cantor Simmons for their enthusiastic support, Bob Stein for his expertise and for always fitting us in, Stephanie Kamion for her deft graphic design, and Jason Plotkin, David Lamden, and Tiffany Siegel for helping us navigate the many nuts and bolts involved in this initiative. We could not have undertaken this campaign without any one of you and will remain eternally grateful.

— Emanu El Votes Team

New Traditions, the Sisterhood Gift Shop – Reopens!

New Traditions – the Congregation Emanu El Sisterhood gift shop – is back! Here is your opportunity to support your congregation.

The gift shop will be opening on Wednesdays and Thursdays, beginning October 28 and 29 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. by appointment only.



Sisterhood volunteers Sylvia Brody and Donnie Bundman have been hard at work getting the Sisterhood's New Traditions gift shop ready for use of the community once more.

To make an appointment, please call 713.529.5771, ext. 234. Please leave your name and numbers so that Sylvia Brody or Donnie Bundman can return your call. The team will do all they can to accommodate you!

If you're ready to shop for:

- ◆ Chanukah
- ◆ Need a wedding or B'nei Mitzvah gift (including tallit)
- ◆ Excited about 25 percent off any one item.

If so, please call to schedule an appointment and come to see New Traditions!

Thank You to Volunteers on Congregational Care Call Task Force

On behalf of the Congregational Care Call Task Force, thank you to our outstanding volunteers for reaching out to members of our community during these trying times. Your participation was vital and very much appreciated.

Jeri Amundsen
Dawn Blitz
Claire Brooks
Caren Cowan
Nancy Ehrenkranz
Michael Epstein
Lindsay Frankfort
fredi Bleeker Franks
Ivy Franks
Stephanie Gabelnick
Stuart Gaylor
Ralph Herring
Barbara Kalmans
Elyse Kalmans

Ronnie Kurtin
Laurie Lee
Rebecca Lunstroth
Burton Manne
Garey Marks
Adam Pollock
Ben Proler
Diane Puschett
Carolyn Putterman
Emily Schaffer
Michael Sprung
Phillip Tenenbaum
Carol Sue Zionts

Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) – Assistance Available

ATTENTION SENIORS: Your current PDP sponsor should have or will provide you with an Annual 'Notice of Change' about your current prescription drug plan for 2021. Review that notice, which describes changes in your plan, including changes to the premium, co-pay, and the drugs covered. If you are satisfied with the changes and want to remain in that drug plan, you do not have to do anything to stay in that plan for 2021. However, you might be advised that your current plan will be discontinued or merged with another plan for 2021 or if you are in doubt as to whether or not your current plan is the best plan for you, you may want to review your options before accepting that change or staying with your current plan. You have from Thursday, October 15 to Monday, December 7, 2020 to make changes to your Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage. To change your prescription drug plan, you must sign up by Monday, December 7, 2020. The change will be effective January 1, 2021.

If you want to review your current Part D plan, the Emanu El Social Action Committee will provide a trained volunteer to assist your analysis of alternatives.

If you know how to contact the person that helped you in the past, please contact them directly. If you are not sure and/or would like a volunteer to contact you between October 15 and December 7, 2020, call Cynthia Pleason at 713.855.9260 and leave your name, phone number and email address and you will be contacted to schedule a convenient time to assist you.

When contacted by a volunteer, you will need to have available the following information:

- Your MyMedicare username & password. If you do not have an account, you will need to create one. The volunteer can assist you to do so.
- 2. Your new Medicare number
- 3. Your drug list: name, dosage, and frequency of each
- 4. The name of your current insurance plan, if any
- 5. The name of your preferred pharmacy
- 6. And your zip code

Do not wait until the last minute to make your call. This year because of COVID 19 there will be no person to person appointments. All assistance will be provided by email or phone.

If you want to sign up for a Medicare Part D (drug) plan for the first time, you will need to create a personal account at mymedicare.gov. Call Cynthia Pleason at 713.855.9260 and a volunteer will assist you in setting up your account.



Emanu El Partners with Count Me In to Brighten Chanukah Amidst Pandemic

The first night of Chanukah this year is Thursday, December 10. While Houston Jews may be having much smaller celebrations due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Count Me In will continue to make sure that children have a festive and meaningful Hanukkah.

Count Me In, Inc. is a non-profit 501C3 corporation, which began as a high school community service project by two local Jewish teens, Eric Berdinis and Ben Rice and their families when the boys started 9th grade. Their mission was to collect and distribute eight new and unused Chanukah gifts to children in the community ages birth-18 years old whose families are experiencing financial difficulties. A major component of the program is that it is anonymous and allows the recipient parents to provide the Chanukah gifts directly to their children.

Eleven years ago, Count Me In began a very exciting partnership with Lonestar Region BBYO and has since partnered with multiple organizations and congregations around the Houston area. Count Me In is open to volunteers looking to make a difference; teen volunteers are strongly needed and encouraged.

While Emanu El has traditionally chosen Shabbat worship to distribute the donation bags, Count Me In is adapting to keep our donors and recipients safe during the pandemic while still meeting the needs of its recipients. In lieu of new presents, Count Me In will be accepting cash donations in form of online payment or check. Recipient families will receive a gift card and Chanukah supplies to ensure they have a festive and meaningful holiday. The goal is to give each recipient family a gift card valued at the equivalent of eight new gifts per child. And, while this model is different than years past, Count Me In is thrilled to give parents the opportunity to shop for presents that truly meet their children's wants and needs.

Donations can be made online at countmeininc.org or via check mailed to Count Me In, 5601 S Braeswood, Houston, TX 77096. To best serve its recipients, the Count Me In team is encouraging all donations be made by **Sunday, November 15**.

For more information, please visit countmeininc.org or email gifts@countmeininc.org. If you or someone you know would like to be a Count Me In recipient, please contact Jewish Family Services at 713.986.7844.

Sisterhood News & Happenings

November – December 2020



The World That We Knew
by Alice Hoffman; reviewed by Shelly Cyprus
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 7:00 PM

Emanu El's Sisterhood hosts bi-monthly book reviews throughout the year. These book reviews are open to the public. November's review will be led by our congregant, Shelly Cyprus.

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

Summary of our November book:

At the time when the world changed, Hanni Kohn knew she must send away her twelve-year-old daughter, Lea. Hanni finds a renowned rabbi whose daughter, Ettie, offers hope of salvation when she creates a mystical Jewish creature, a rare and unusual golem named "Ava," who is sworn to protect Lea. After Ava's creation, she, Lea, and Ettie become eternally entwined. In a world where evil can be found at every turn, Hoffman presents remarkable characters who embark on a journey of loss and resistance – to a place where all roads lead past the Angel of Death and love is never-ending.

To help us plan for this event and to receive communications about future book reviews, we ask that you kindly **RSVP by Wednesday, November 11**, either online or by contacting the Sisterhood at sishood@emanuelhouston. org or 713.529.5771, ext. 233.

Sisterhood Partners with Jewish Book & Arts Festival for *The Last Kings of Shanghai*

Tuesday, November 10, 12:00 p.m.



Join us as Sisterhood supports the Evelyn Rubenstein JCC's 2020 Ann and Stephen Kaufman Jewish Book & Arts Festival by once again participating as a community partner. Sisterhood is sponsoring Jonathan Kaufman, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of The Last Kings of Shanghai: The Rival Jewish Dynasties That Helped Create Modern China.

From opium trading to banking to real estate, the Sasson and Kadoorie families, both Jewish and both originally from Baghdad, stood astride Chinese business and politics for more than 175 years. Ticket prices begin at \$5 per person. There are also options to purchase a premium ticket, which includes the book and/or lunch to enjoy with the program. Tickets for this virtual program may be purchased through the ERJCC website at erjcchouston.org.

How the COVID-19 Pandemic Could Change Our Cities

Sunday, December 6, 7:00 p.m.



Large cities the world over, including Houston, will be profoundly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. If continued home delivery of goods leads to more closed retail stores, what will happen to shopping centers? If the work-at-home trend leads to more empty office space, how will that space be repurposed? How will traf-

fic and commuting patterns change? Join Sisterhood as **Bill Fulton**, Director of Rice University's Kinder Institute for Urban Research, gives us a look into the future as he discusses these and other provocative questions related to the pandemic.

There is no charge for this Zoom program, however, registration is required to the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771, ext. 233 or sishood@emanuelhouston.org. Log-in information will be sent closer to the program date.

Jewish Women Artists

Thursday, December 17, 7:00 p.m.

Join Sisterhood as well-known local artist Ellen
Orseck presents a virtual
multi-media program about
Jewish women artists. The
list of artists that Orseck
will focus on includes
Helen Frankenthaler, Louise
Nevelson, Lee Krasner,
Charlotte Salomon, among
others. Whether their work is
representational or abstract,
artwork by these Jewish
artists ties them to Jewish
life and identity.



Local artist Ellen Orseck.

Orseck, currently a practicing artist and art instructor, was a finalist for the coveted Hunting Prize and was awarded a mural grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. She earned a master's degree in painting from New York University and a master's degree in museum education at George Washington University. Presently, Orseck is a studio art instructor at Rice University's Glasscock School of Continuing Studies (GSCS) and at Watercolor Art Society, Hous-

ton (WASH). She shows her work at Carolyn Garcia Gallery, Flatland Gallery and Mother Dog Studios in Houston.

Please RSVP to the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771, ext. 233 or sishood@emanuelhouston.org. There is no charge for this Zoom program, and log-in information will be sent closer to the program date.

2020-21 Mah Jongg Cards – Now on Sale by Sisterhood



Been playing online with your group ... or with robots? Doesn't matter!

You will want the new card this spring! Make your checks and mail to Sylvia Brody, 2004 Vermont, Houston, TX 77019 by **Monday**, **January 25**. The cost of a card is \$9 for a regular card and \$10 for large print.

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.

Eidan & Zevulun Kazaz, son Jonathan Madeline Lowitz Celeste Lurie Robert Lurie Leslie & Warren Simmons

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.



Find Us On YouTube!

Looking for a one-stop shop to catch the latest worship services, musical selections, High Holy Day highlights, videos from our schools and more?

Over 400 videos of new content created since the pandemic have been shared to Emanu El's YouTube page with dozens and dozens more from the archives also shared. YouTube also serves as a way to watch live services and other events.

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



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

ABLON FUND FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS

To provide creative arts programs In Memory of **Gloria Pepper Katz** Sharon (Sherry) Roth Dolgoff

ACCESS FOR ALL FUND

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

Laurie Vidaver

In Appreciation of **David Tanner, Nathan** Malek & Troy Valtierra/ **High Holy Day AV Crew Jason Plotkin**

In Honor of

Larry Fradkin's Birthday Pat & Aaron Fradkin **Cantor Rollin Simmons**

Melissa & Dave Kranowitz

In Memory of **Arthur Daum** Susan & Ed Septimus Marilyn Klein Halpin Caren & David Cowan Gloria Pepper Katz Pat & Aaron Fradkin Priscilla Schube Caren & David Cowan

ALAN GAYLOR TEACHER ASSISTANT FUND

To support Helfman Religious School teacher assistants In Memory of Paul Kagan Joni & Gary Lewis

AUBREY & SYLVIA FARB COMM **UNITY SERVICE FUND**

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

Melissa Fasteau Weingast & Jay Weingast

Kathy & Mickey Turken

In Memory of **Anne Brudno** Steven Fenberg **Diane Gaitz Dante** Anne & Edward Bornet

Marianne Dreyfus Marilyn Klein Halpin

Marilynne & Alford Bleeker

Beth Johnstone

Steven Fenberg

Lila Lerner Marilyn Mendeloff

Marilynne & Alford Bleeker

Michelle Sobel

Steven Fenberg

BECKER EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND

To provide and enhance the Becker School In Memory of

Gloria Pepper Katz

Randi & Scott Rubenstein

Alan Maury Rauch Milton Wagner

Linda & Joseph Pulaski

BECKER EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

To provide Becker School scholarships In Honor of

Barbara Loeser for her work as Interim Director of Becker School Judy Lazor

CARY PASTERNAK CEMETERY FUND

To maintain and enhance Emanu El Memorial Park In Memory of

Alan Maury Rauch Barbara Miller

CERSONSKY CEMETERY BEAUTIFICATION FUND

To maintain and enhance Emanu El Memorial Park In Memory of **Harry Fradkin Dorothy Rolfe Martin**

Pat & Aaron Fradkin

CHESTER MARCUS CAMPERSHIP FUND

To provide Greene Family Camp scholarships In Memory of **Arthur Daum** Shirley Burkom &

Cathy Borden

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

High Holy Day special recognition - Clergy & Staff

Hannah Brook & Jeff Peskin & Family Debra Gardner Renee Gerber Kathy & Stephen Parven Susan & Henry Rose Rozanne & Howard Rubin & Family Laurie Morgan Silver

High Holy Day special recognition - Rabbi Pamela Silk

Hannah Brook & Jeff Peskin & Family

In Honor of Rabbi Pamela Silk

Judy Simon The Bat Mitzvah of Avital "Avi" Hayon

Marilynne & Alford Bleeker

Sophie Kauffman Iulie Kauffman

The B'nai Mitzvah of Amelia Perry & Camryn Kleiman

Allison & Ian Perry

In Memory of Elise McKenzie DeFord William D. Soffar &

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Norman Stalarow

Priscilla Schube Helen & Andrew Spector

DICK FOX EMANU ELDERS LECTURESHIP FUND

To provide programs for Emanu Elders In Memory of

Priscilla Schube

Barbara & Raymond Kalmans

DOLORES & BUDDY WILKENFELD **COMMUNICATIONS FUND**

To enhance Emanu El's communications with the congregation In Appreciation of

High Holy Day special recognition - Rabbi Oren Havon

Merle Caplan & Michael Stern

FLORENCE & BEN BLUM LEADERSHIP FUND

To send Emanu El leadership to URI Biennials and underwrite leadership programs In Honor of

Myra Lipper

Sara Astrich

In Memory of Gloria Pepper Katz Sara Brook **Alan Maury Rauch** Myra Lipper

FREDELL LACK EICHHORN CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND

To enhance musical programming In Appreciation of High Holy Day special recognition - Cantor **Rollin Simmons** Hannah Brook & Jeff Peskin & Family

In Honor of **Cantor Rollin Simmons** Phyllis & Jack Selber The Speedy Recovery of Cathy Chelin Kathy & Stephen Parven

In Memory of Fannie G. Poborsky Sheila & Jerald Kaplan

GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND

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

A Donation

Anonymous Catherine & Matt Cort

GREENE FAMILY CAMP FUND

To support Greene Family Camp In Memory of **Arthur Daum** Stefani & Steve Carlson **LeRov Shaw** Louis Silverman **Caryl Danto Singer** Jennifer & Jeffrey Ross

IASON & DAVID MARCUS PLAYSPACE FUND

To maintain and enhance the playground In Memory of Gloria Pepper Katz

Rhonda & Seth Freedman

IULIE KRONOWITZ MEMORIAL FUND

Christie

To provide programs about religion In Memory of **Arthur Daum** Heidi Kaplan & Peter

MOSER LIBRARY FUND

To provide library programs In Honor of

Ed Septimus

West Houston Bnai Brith

PRAYER BOOK FUND

To provide prayer books for worship In Honor of Miriam Feldman Sharon & Herb Cohn

The Marriage of Sandy **Rubin & Robert Light** Judy & Allan Lazor

RABBI ROY & LINDA WALTER ENRICHMENT **FUND**

To support spiritual and cultural enrichment In Appreciation of

High Holy Day special recognition - Clergy & Staff

Shirley R. Schnoll Claudia & Joel Selzer

Rabbi Roy Walter Judy Zainfeld

In Honor of Pat Fradkin

Staff

Carol Fradkin High Holy Day special recognition - Clergy &

Shirley R. Schnoll Claudia & Joel Selzer

Rabbi Walter's 50th Anniversary in Rabbinate & Emanu El

Cynthia & Ben Klein

In Memory of

Donald Neal Bass Janie & Jon Pollock Vicki Thall Greenberg

Nancy & Scott Atlas Jennifer & Andrew Friedman Simone & John Irwin Pam & Alan Jarrett Linda Kaplan Paulette & Mel Levine Regina Rogers Irene & Frank Shaw Linda Rauch Susman DeDe & David Wadler Ted White of Move

Marilyn Klein Halpin Paulette & Mel Levine

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Gloria Pepper Katz

Susan & Steve Berdinis **Sherry Stoger**

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Doreen Mosier

Priscilla Schube

Arlyne & Maynard Gimble Carol & Barry Goodfriend Janie & Jon Pollock Marsha & Douglas Tsuchida

Milton Wagner

Arlyne & Maynard Gimble

Linda Cohn Walter

Anne & Edward Bornet Marilyn S. Lippman Stephanie & Howard Loeser Doreen Mosier Marsha & Douglas Tsuchida

RICKY SCHNURR CAMPERSHIP FUND

To provide Greene Family Camp scholarships In Memory of Vicki Thall Greenberg **Priscilla Schube**

Gladys Schnurr

RIVA BURSTEN CARING CONGREGATION FUND

To support programs that assist people in the community In Honor of

Larry Bursten's Birthday

Ann & Larry Rabin & Family Melanie Rasansky & Craig Litman

The Speedy Recovery of **Judy Simon**

Nancy Peskin

ROBERT I. KAHN SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND

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

High Holy Day special recognition - Rabbi Oren Hayon

Saranne & Livingston Kosberg

Shirley Schnoll's Birthday

Holly Hunsicker, Beth Ann Sher, Debra Goodwin, Amy Schnoll Gritz.

In Memory of

Elaine Maas

Pam Kaufman & Dennis Keierleber

ROSE GOODFRIEND ISRAEL PILGRIMAGE

To help send Confirmation students to Israel In Memory of

Norris Goodfriend

Carol & Barry Goodfriend

SHIRLEY & MARVIN BARISH TEACHER ENRICHMENT FUND

To provide training programs for Emnau El teachers In Memory of **Arthur Daum**

leff & Karen Basen-Engauist

SISTERHOOD FLOWER **FUND**

To provide flowers for Emanu El worship In Memory of

Priscilla Schube

Marilynne & Alford Bleeker

SISTERHOOD FUND

To enhance and maintain Sisterhood programming In Honor of

Freddie Croft

Congregation Emanu El Sisterhood

In Memory of

Sandy Baum

Patti & Dan Altman

Priscilla Schube

Susie Askanase Mary & John Untereker

STILLMAN-LACK **MEMORIAL LIBRARY FUND**

To maintain and enhance the Stillman-Lack Memorial Library

A Donation

The Family of Elinor Alpert

SUSMAN FUND FOR

FAMILY PROGRAMMING To support programs for families In Honor of Lila Rauch's Birthday

Diana Brackman

In Memory of **Diane Gaitz Dante** Diana Brackman & Harry Green **Morris Glesby** Lila Rauch

Vicki Thall Greenberg Jerome Lipnick

Diana Brackman & Allen Becker **Gerald Rauch** Lila Rauch

TEMPLE FUND

To support the needs of the Temple and to fulfill the mission of Congregation Emanu El In Appreciation of High Holy Day special recognition - Clergy & Staff **Daniel Altman**

Sheila & Jerald Kaplan Fran & Carl Levinson Kally & Michael Sokolow

High Holy Day special recognition - Clergy & Staff & Board of Trustees

leff & Karen Basen-Engquist

Joy & Harris Jacobs **Judy Zainfeld**

In Honor of **Barnett Irving Pesin's** Birthday Madgelyn & Richard Pesin

In Memory of **Arthur Daum** Lynn & Bob Loewy Debora & Keith Remels Vicki Thall Greenberg

Carol & Michael Wilk Marilyn Klein Halpin Karen & Bill Rubinsky

Gloria Pepper Katz

Sheryl & Bernard Feldman Janice Katz & Family Carol & Michael Wilk

EDWARD WAYNE HUNGER FUND / HIGH HOLY DAY HUNGER FUND APPEAL

Congregation Emanu El is committed to fighting hunger and has a longstanding tradition of collecting donations for our neighbors and social justice partners during the High Holy Day period.

This year, as part of a week of activities surrounding World Homeless Day in early October, our congregation will be directing a portion of Edward Wayne Hunger Fund donations during the High Holy Day period to the SEARCH Homeless Services' Emergency Foods Fund.

SEARCH is a longtime agency dedicated to moving individuals and families from homelessness into permanent housing. These donations will be used to provide travel-friendly, shelf-stable foods for the SEARCH team members to distribute to clients as they work to move them from the streets.

The below listing includes donations made to the Edward Wayne Hunger Fund and during our High Holy Day Hunger Fund appeal between September 15 and October 14.

A Donation In recognition of world homeless day Dora Klaff

In Appreciation of Rabbi Hayon, Cantor Simmons, & our wonderful niece & nephew, Melissa Fasteau Weingast & **Jay Weingast** Kathy & Meyer Turken

In Honor of **Shelly Cyprus** Sandy Harris **Sandy Harris** Shelly Cyprus **Aaron Feldman's** Bar Mitzvah Sara Astrich **High Holy Day special** recognition - Clergy & Staff Marlene Rubin

Claire, Carter & Cory Kardesch

Katherine & Matthew Kardesch

Lorraine Wulfe's Birthday

Sara Astrich

A Donation

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Ivv & Steven Frank Rhonda & Seth Freedman

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Ina Friedman Charlotte Frucht

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Sandy Gaitz Donald Gardner

Laura Nathan-Garner & Richard Garner

Anita & Stuart Gaylor Lori & Larry Gibson Rebecca Gibson &

Colin Baker Barbara Glave &

David Wall continued next page Colleen & Andrew Gold Iovce Goodman Sydney Greenblatt Marianne & Larry Greenfield Nonya & Jonathan Grenader Mary Gresik Paul D. Grossbard Harriet Grossman Richard Gruen Roslyn & Ricky Haikin Dorothy & Robert Halpin Tracy Hart Ralph Herring Hilda Herzfeld Sandra L. Smith Herzstein **lackie Hibbler** Ellen & Alan Holzberg Ellen Howard Cathy & Buster Irby Debra Isman & Skip Kennedy Francyne & Kevin Jacobs Joy & Harris Jacobs Cathy & Joseph Jankovic Susan & Edward Kahn Barbara & Raymond Kalmans Louise Kamin Sheila & Jerald Kaplan Celine Kaplan Joy & Joe Kaplan Natalie Karp Linda Kates Jennis Kauffman Virginia Kennedy & Lawrence Lachman Cvnthia & Ben Klein Dolores Klickstein Myra & Marvin Kogutt Dorothy & Albert Krafcheck Suzanne & Mike Krakower **ludith Krull** Sarah Labowitz Helaine Wayne Lane & David Lane Carol Laufer & Leo Boucher Leah Lax & Susan Baird Iudv & Allan Lazor Suzanne & Maurice Leibman Seymour Lemel Linda Lesser Lorraine & Bruce Lessey

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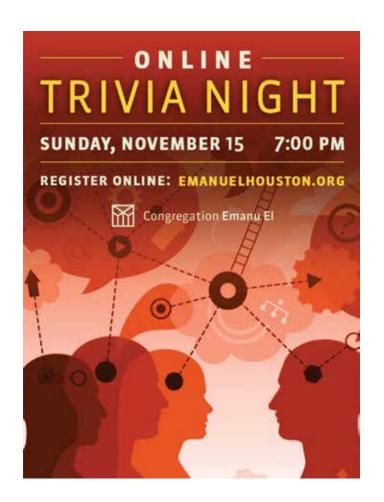
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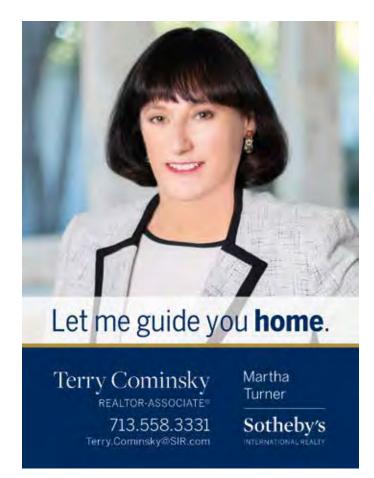
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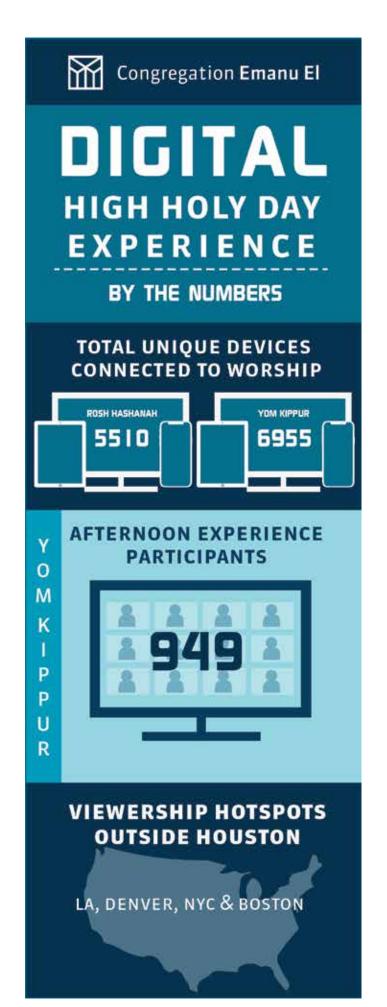


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Joshua R.S. Fixler, Associate Rabbi
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Congregants, Chanukah is coming!

In the coming weeks, we will be sharing our Chanukah plans with multiple opportunities for all to engage with our congregation.

Additionally, be on the lookout in early December for a special Chanukah care package from your friends at Emanu El!

