



1500 Sunset Blvd.

Houston, Texas 77005

*An adventure of the spirit*

# Bulletin

February 7, 2017 / Sh'vat 11, 5777

Volume 71 Number 5

## From Rabbi Hayon



### Find a Rabbi, Acquire a Friend

*Pirke Avot* ("Ethics of the Fathers") is an ancient compendium of rabbinic knowledge, which offers bite-sized servings of wisdom and advice for everyday life. One of the most-cited pieces is the rabbi's encouragement for all people to "find oneself a rabbi and acquire for oneself a friend." [*Pirke Avot 1:6*]

This instruction emphasizes the importance of assuring that Jewish life will be distinguished both by spiritual growth and supportive community. I place these priorities at the forefront of my work as I begin this month's task of searching for Emanu El's next Assistant Rabbi.

Since we received the news of Rabbi Samantha Kahn's relocation to San Francisco, I have been working closely and diligently with my colleagues in the staff and clergy teams, and with our lay leadership partners, to assemble parameters and timelines for the search which will enable me to secure the best possible

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## All You Need is Love . . . and Bingo!



Congregation Emanu El, brush up on your bingo lingo and join Becker Early Childhood Center for **All You Need is Love . . . and Bingo**, Becker's first-ever bingo night featuring dinner, drinks, bingo, prizes and a silent auction.

This fun event will be held **Saturday, February 25th at 7:00 p.m.** in the Oshman Multi-Purpose Room. Tickets are \$125 a person and include dinner, adult and non-alcoholic beverages and two bingo cards per round.

As Becker's primary fundraiser for 2016-17, we would greatly appreciate your support and consideration in becoming a sponsor for this unforgettable event. As we begin our search for sponsors and silent auction items, we wanted to start first with you, our Emanu El and Becker families.

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## Congregation Emanu El Hosting Yom Limmud, Barish Limmud Scholar Rabbi Naomi Levy

The community-wide Day of Jewish Learning known as 'Yom Limmud' will take place at Emanu El on **Sunday, February 19th**. Scores of seminars featuring presentations by clergy, Jewish educators, college professors and more will be facilitated throughout the day. Yom Limmud is generously underwritten by the Barish family and The Chair King.

Our clergy will be teaching classes as part of the day. Rabbi Pam Silk will teach *Jewish Mourning and Grief in Text and Tradition* from 9:00-9:50 a.m., Rabbi Oren Hayon's session entitled *Famous Last Words* will take place from 1:00-1:50 p.m. while Rabbi Samantha Kahn leads *Changing Jewish Identity in the State of Israel*, from 1:00-2:20 p.m.

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## WORSHIP SERVICES

### Daily

6:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday

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

#### Friday, February 10th

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

### Saturday, February 11th

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

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

Bat Mitzvah of **Mackenzie Tobor**, daughter of Stephanie Tobor & Robert Tobor

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

#### Friday, February 17th

5:45 p.m., Shabbat & Play

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

### Saturday, February 18th

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

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

#### Friday, February 24th

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

### Saturday, February 25th

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

Bar Mitzvah of **Bryce Pollock**, son of Sarah & Beau Pollock

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

#### Friday, March 3rd

6:00 p.m., Tot Shabbat, Oshman Multi-Purpose Room

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

B'not Mitzvah of **Cory Kardesch**, daughter of Katherine & Matthew Kardesch & **Abigail Goldman**, daughter of Erin & Brian Goldman

### Saturday, March 4th

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

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

B'not Mitzvah of Cory Kardesch & Abigail Goldman

### Shabbat T'zaveh, Exodus 27:20-30:10

#### Friday, March 10th

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

### Saturday, March 11th

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

Shabbat Ki Tisa, Exodus 30:11-34:35

### Friday, March 17th

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

### Saturday, March 18th

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

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

Bar Mitzvah of **Ethan Canfield**, son of Steven Canfield & Cara Foldes

**Reminder:** All Friday night Shabbat services are video streamed on EmanuElHouston.org. Saturday morning services featuring a B'nai Mitzvah are also streamed.

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### All You Need is Love . . . and Bingo!

Do you and/or your family own a business? If so we would LOVE to support you, our "home team" in one of two ways: 1. Purchase a sponsorship! Or 2. Donate an auction item!

Help us help you! Fill both our buckets with LOVE!

Go to [beckerevents.org](http://beckerevents.org) to buy tickets and sponsorships or contact Peri Patel at [peri.m.patel@gmail.com](mailto:peri.m.patel@gmail.com) to donate to the silent auction today!



## PARENTING PROGRAMS

### Coffee Talk

(formerly Brown Bag Parenting)

This year's Coffee Talk series concludes on **Thursday, March 23rd at 9:15 a.m.** with *Confident Parenting: Staying Positive and Remaining Sane*. Please join us for coffee and good conversations.

## My Generation Prepares For February Shabbat Dinner

'My Generation' – a social group for those at least 65 years of age will host their next event on **Friday, February 17th** as My Generation enjoys Shabbat with the Shabbatoners in the Proler Chapel **at 6:00 p.m.** before staying for dinner and good company at approximately 7:15 p.m. – another great opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make news one.

The cost is just \$12 and registration can be completed on the [www.EmanuElHouston.org](http://www.EmanuElHouston.org) website. For more information, contact Jill Patir at [JillP@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:JillP@emanuelhouston.org) or (713) 529-5771, ext. 262. The My Generation committee includes Lindy Dorn, Susie Askanase, Sharon Ettinger, Elaine Lowenstein, Rose Marie Wagman and Brenda Lind.

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## From Rabbi Hayon

candidate to serve as our community's newest rabbi. At this stage, the search will be focused on the newest class of rabbinic ordines from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion [HUC-JIR], our Reform movement's seminary. Our listing, along with information about our congregation and about life in Houston, has been shared with these soon-to-be-ordained rabbis, and at the time of this writing, I have already begun receiving résumés and personal statements from interested candidates. In the early days of February, I will travel to Los Angeles to spend a few days on the campus of HUC-JIR and begin in-person interviews. I will be accompanied by Jeff Basen-Engquist and Helen Dreyfus, the chair of our ad-hoc Open Tent Committee, convened to assist with the process of welcoming rabbinic candidates to Houston, facilitating on-site visits, and ensuring that Emanu El's diverse constituencies are represented during our conversations with candidates. Once the right candidate emerges during these on-site visits, we can expect to finalize contractual arrangements in March, and our new rabbi will formally begin his or her service to our congregation over the summer.

I will be excited to welcome a new rabbi to our community, and I know that you share my eagerness about securing a new spiritual leader to build upon Rabbi Kahn's accomplishments during her tenure at Emanu El – the deep relationships she has built, her advocacy for social justice, and her passion for programmatic engagement with our youth and young professionals – and also to bring fresh insights, worship and leadership skills, and new spiritual perspectives from which our congregation will benefit richly. I look forward to working closely as a mentor to our newest colleague and to helping construct a powerful professional springboard from which his or her rabbinic career will be propelled forward. In this way, the traditions of excellence that we prioritize here will continue to be carried forward into the nationwide Jewish community by rabbis whose careers begin at Congregation Emanu El.

During her time with us, Rabbi Kahn has served our community with enduring conscience and deep devotion. As I begin the search for her successor, I am committed to preserving the priority of those critical Jewish values, and am inspired by the future that our newest Assistant Rabbi will assist in building. Like you, I am so grateful to have upheld the teaching from Pirke Avot by having had Rabbi Samantha Kahn as both a rabbi and a friend. I look forward to carrying on in the same way with a new colleague, and I am optimistic about being able to introduce you to our newest Assistant Rabbi in the next few weeks.

## OUR TEMPLE FAMILY

### IN THE COMMUNITY

**Karen Basen-Engquist, PhD, MPH** was appointed to the MD Anderson Cancer Center Annie Laurie Howard Research Distinguished Professorship in October 2016. Karen is the Director of the Center for Energy Balance in Cancer Prevention and Survivorship in the Department of Behavioral Science.

**Sandy Harris** was selected as a finalist for the Houston Texans Community Quarterback Award presented by BHP Billiton. The Houston Texans, the United Way of Greater Houston and BHP Billiton all partner to recognize the work done by outstanding volunteers. SEARCH Homeless Services will receive a \$5,000 contribution from the Houston Texans Foundation and BHP Billiton because of her above and beyond service

**Aerin Kalmans** was elected Regional MIT Mom and **Kendall Kalmans** was elected Regional Mekasheret at the recently completed Lonestar Region BBYO Regional Conference.

### BIRTH

**Jake Alan Gaitz**, son of Bree & Russell Gaitz; grandson of Andi & Sandy Gaitz, Kathryn Pederson, Patti & Jerry Alan Wall

### WEDDINGS

**Jenny Mayants & Carlos Sanchez**

**Amanda Zimmerman & Marc Eichenbaum**

### DEATHS

**Harvey Baum**, husband of Sandra Baum; father of Bradley Baum, Jerrica & Gregory Baum, Michelle & Al Alchatta; grandfather of Sam, Mikey, and Cloey Baum, Sarah, Abe and Hannah Alchatta; brother of Michelle Shapiro & Gary Baum

**David Brochstein**, brother of Sandy & Richard Brochstein and Patricia & Jerry Brochstein; father of Anita & Michael Brochstein, Marcia & Robert Brochstein, and Brenda Brochstein; grandfather of four

**Shirley Caplan**, mother of Hildy & Mike Caplan, Leslie Cohan & Richard Caplan, Carolyn & Billy Caplan, Jimmy Caplan & Isolda Celeghein; grandmother of Lindsey & Jared Rockoff, Jennifer & Justen Barks, Ashley & Danny Caplan, Henry Caplan, Charlie Caplan, Joseph Caplan, Kailey Caplan, Koby Caplan, Leah Caplan; great grandmother of Jackson and Preston Rockoff

**Lillya Kolonsky**, wife of Vilen Kolonsky; mother of Marina Kolonsky & Farhad "Fred" Salehian, Svetlana Kolonsky-Krizeman & Benjamin Krizeman; grandmother of Anthony and Sarah Salehian, Benjamin Zabelshansky

**Mark Leventhal**, brother of Randa & John Bock

**Charles Weems**, father of Sunni & Gary Markowitz, Sandra & Chris Weems, Heather Paulson, Judy & Mark Mucasey, Jordana & David Markowitz, Yiota & Jeff Markowitz; grandfather of Blayne, Colten and Ryker Weems, Alex Paulson, Ariel and Steven Becker, Evan and Marshall Mucasey, Ethan, Zachary, Alexandros, Melina, Abbie, Brooke and Casey Markowitz; brother-in-law of Ruth Krell Steinfeld



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### **Congregation Emanu El Hosting Yom Limmud, Barish Limmud Scholar Rabbi Naomi Levy**

Additionally, as part of the festivities surrounding Yom Limmud, Emanu El will be hosting Barish Limmud scholar, Rabbi Naomi Levy throughout the weekend as our scholar-in-residence.



**Rabbi Levy** is founder and spiritual leader of Nashuva, a groundbreaking Jewish outreach organization based in Los Angeles, which is a unique and passionate voice in the contemporary Jewish world.

During her weekend at Emanu El, Rabbi Levy will give a guest d'var Torah on Friday night during **Friday, February 17th** Kabbalat

Shabbat worship at **6:00 p.m.** entitled, *From the Bima to the Beach: How a Change of Location Can Change Our Theology*.

Her weekend will include a study session entitled,

*Images of God and Images of Ourselves: Conceptualizing Prayer Wherever We Are*, at **9:15 a.m. on Saturday, February 18th**. She will conclude her weekend of appearances as one of the featured speakers at Yom Limmud, presenting *From Your Mouth to God's Ear*, 9:00 a.m.

Through *Nashuva*, Rabbi Levy has been involved in drawing hundreds of unaffiliated Jews back to a Judaism that is soulful, committed to social justice, meaningful, relevant and fun. The *Jewish Forward* listed Rabbi Levy as one of the 50 most influential Jewish leaders in the nation. *Newsweek Magazine* named Rabbi Levy in its "Top 50 Rabbis in America" list.

A nationally famous author and speaker, Rabbi Levy attended Cornell University where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa and Summa Cum Laude. She was in the first class of women to enter The Jewish Theological Seminary's rabbinical school. At the seminary, Rabbi Levy received honors as outstanding underclass student of Talmud and outstanding underclass rabbinical student. She became the first female Conservative rabbi to head a pulpit on the West Coast.



### **6th Annual Kiddush Cup Classic – Monday, March 6th**

Now in its sixth year, Congregation Emanu El is excited to announce that its annual Kiddush Cup Classic will be held on **Monday, March 6th** at Braeburn Country Club, 8101 Bissonnet St.

This year's 18-hole scramble event will begin with **lunch at 11:30 a.m.** followed by a **12:30 p.m. shotgun start**. Space is limited to the first 30 teams.

In addition to prizes for the low scoring teams, the Kiddush Cup will also feature a hole-in-one prize and contests for the longest drive and closest to pin. The "Pink Ball" contest, which has been a hit will also be back.

To register or get more information, visit [EmanuElHouston.org](http://EmanuElHouston.org).

The entry fee is \$175 for individual players. Sponsorship levels begin at \$500.

The Kiddush Cup has been Congregation Emanu El's primary fundraiser and we are thankful to all individuals, agencies and corporations that have continued to support this great day of community.

Current Sponsors (as of press date)

**Silver:** Absolute Marble & Granite, Holmes Smokehouse

**Bronze:** Buffalo Specialties/JB's Print Services, IMG Financial Group, InfuseEnergy, Origin Bank, Sponsel Miller Greenberg PLLC

**Closest-to-the-Pin Sponsor:** Judge Bob Schaffer, Waldman Funeral Care

**Hat Sponsor:** Houston Jewish Funerals

**Hole-In-One Sponsor:** Westside Lexus

**Hole Sponsor:** 8th Wonder Brewery, Houston IVF, Pipeline Realty

**In-Kind Donations:** Dolphin Graphics, Helfman River Oaks Chrysler, Klein's Fine Jewelers

**Long Drive Sponsor:** SmartVault



Please join  
**Rabbi Oren Hayon**  
**Rabbi Samantha Kahn**  
**Rabbi Pamela Silk**



for Congregation Emanu El's

# *Second Night Seder*

**Tuesday, April 11, 2017, 6:00 p.m.**

**Kindly RSVP By Monday, April 3, 2017**

Reserve your spot online at [emanuelhouston.org](http://emanuelhouston.org) or by returning the form below to:  
 Congregation Emanu El, 1500 Sunset Blvd, Houston, Texas 77005

**I (we) would like to reserve:**

- Individual Seating  
 Members: Adults (\$35 each) \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Members: Adults (\$40 each) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of children 10 & under (\$18 each) \_\_\_\_\_
- Family Table of 10 – \$360  
 Name on Table \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Tables \_\_\_\_\_
- Dietary Information (please indicate the number in your party)  
 Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_ Gluten-Free \_\_\_\_\_
- In my absence or in addition to my reservation, I (we) would like to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_ to allow our Seder to be accessible to those in need of financial assistance or are new to our community.

**Payment Information:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

- Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_, made payable to Congregation Emanu El.
- Please charge my ticket(s) / table(s) to:
  - Visa  MasterCard  American Express Amount \$\_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Preferred Seating:**

If available, I (we) wish to be seated with:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## EMANU EL – AT A GLANCE THROUGH MID-MARCH

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

As a Congregation, we communicate in many different ways – this calendar is supplemented by information that can be found throughout this edition of the Temple *Bulletin*, in the weekly Shabbat program, available in your weekly Wednesday eLetter, on the Emanu El website: [www.emanuelhouston.org](http://www.emanuelhouston.org) and/or on our Facebook page.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS THROUGH MARCH 15TH

#### FEBRUARY

- 7th** – Emanu Elders, 11:30 a.m.  
**8th** – Age-ing & Sage-ing, 12:00 p.m.  
**8th** – Rabbi Kahn Visits College Station, 6:00 p.m.  
**9th** – Work of Our Hands, 10:00 a.m.  
**9th** – Sisterhood @ Celebration Company, 6:30 p.m.  
**17th** – Barish Shabbat Limmud Scholar Rabbi Naomi Levy at services, 6:00 p.m.  
**17th** – My Generation Shabbat Dinner, 7:15 p.m.  
**18th** – Barish Shabbat Limmud Scholar Rabbi Naomi Levy at Torah study, 10:30 a.m.  
**19th** – Yom Limmud at Emanu El, 9:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m.  
**21st** – Kids Meals, 9:30 a.m.  
**21st** – JED Talks, 6:00 p.m.  
**25th** – Becker Bingo, 6:00 p.m.  
**28th** – Sack Lunches for SEARCH, 9:30 a.m.

#### MARCH

- 6th** – Kiddush Cup Classic, 11:00 a.m.  
**7th** – Emanu Elders, 11:30 a.m.  
**8th** – Age-ing & Sage-ing, 12:00 p.m.  
**9th** – Work of Our Hands, 10:00 a.m.  
**9th** – Book Review: “Fields of Exile”, 12:30 p.m.  
**9th** – Endowment Speaker Series: Rabbi Samuel Karff, 7:30 p.m.  
**11th** – Emanu El’s Purim Celebration, 4:30 – 8:30 p.m.

NEXT BULLETIN TO BE ISSUED: TUESDAY, MARCH 7th



### CanCare Volunteer Training In February

Emanu El is an active partner with CanCare, a non-profit cancer support network with a mission to improve the quality of life for cancer survivors and their families. The next CanCare volunteer training class is scheduled for **February 10-12, 2017**.

Cancer survivors or caregivers of cancer survivors may be interested in offering one-on-one emotional support to others as they go through cancer treatment. The volunteer application can be found at [cancare.org](http://cancare.org)/volunteer along with more information about our program.

## Congregation Emanu El’s Continued Commitment to AniMeals



Congregation Emanu El continues to partner with Interfaith Ministries for AniMeals, a program that provides local seniors with proper means to care for their pets. Canned dog and cat food, new flea collars, unused packaged toys, blankets, beds, bowls for eating are being accepted in bins in the school lobby and in the north foyer. For more information, contact Ellie Morse at [eymorse@gmail.com](mailto:eymorse@gmail.com).



### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

#### Membership Renewal Process Begins In February for Chai, Young Adult Members

February begins our yearly membership renewal process for those members who joined Emanu El through the Chai Membership Experience this year or for Young Adult members moving to standard dues (over 30).

In the next month, make sure to check your mailbox for the notice about setting your membership dues. If you have any questions or need to speak with a staff member about your dues rate, please don’t hesitate to call (713) 529-5771 or email Jill Patir at [JillP@emanuel-houston.org](mailto:JillP@emanuel-houston.org).

#### 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.

**Sarah Fischer & Greg Kalba, son Max and daughter Zoe**

**Samantha Hea**

**Judy Weil & Barry Solomon**

**David & Jennifer Stockel, son Ashton**

New members will be shared in the Temple *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 Jill Patir at (713) 529-5771, ext. 262 or [JillP@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:JillP@emanuelhouston.org).



## COLLEGE STUDENT CORNER

### Rabbi Kahn and Jamie Aaron Hang Out With Our College Students Over Winter Break



Rabbi Samantha Kahn and our Experiential Educator Jamie Aaron headed to Noodles And More over winter break to visit with some of our Emanu El college students in town for winter break. Emanu El hosts similar gatherings over summer break, in Austin and College Station. See below for details on an upcoming visit to College Station.

### Rabbi Kahn Visits College Station on Wednesday, February 8th

Rabbi Samantha Kahn is heading to College Station/Bryan to visit our students attending Texas A&M University at Napa Flats on **Wednesday, February 8th from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** at Napa Flats, 1727 Texas Ave. S, College Station, TX 77840. Are you an Emanu El college student at Texas A&M or know one? Make sure to invite them to this event! We look forward to seeing everyone there!

### Houston Area College Students

Rabbi Kahn is looking to plan a dinner with y'all in March. If we don't have your current mailing address – or if you're not sure – email it to Alisha Klapholz, [alishak@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:alishak@emanuelhouston.org) so we can include you.

## Congregation Emanu El to Host Afternoon, Evening of Purim Activities

Congregation Emanu El will have a wide-range of activities to celebrate Purim on **Saturday, March 11th beginning at 4:30 p.m.** The afternoon begins with a family-friendly magician Robert Berry at 4:30 p.m. before continuing with our 2nd annual "Purim & Pasta" dinner at 5:30 p.m. The event continues at 6:30 p.m. with Havdallah, the reading of the *Megillah* and the annual Purim Schpiel before concluding at 7:30 p.m. with an adult-comedy show featuring the antics of Keith Barany. There is literally something for every age and stage – with all encouraged to dress up in costumes to join in on the festivities!

### Magician, Robert Berry

Robert has been entertaining audiences professionally for over twenty years and is one of the most highly recommended performers in the market.

Robert's magic has been called strong, engaging and entertaining by

top industry leaders. He has a friendly, engaging style that will keep the youngest of attendees actively entertained throughout his show!

### "Purim & Pasta" and *Megillah* and Schpiel

The "Purim & Pasta" dinner is \$5 for children and \$10 for adults with payment accepted via [EmanuElHouston.org](http://EmanuElHouston.org) with an RSVP deadline of **Wednesday, March 8th.**

The *Megillah* reading and schpiel at 6:30 p.m. are free and open to the community and will be followed by a chance to nosh on some fantastic hamantashen!

### Comedian, Keith Barany

Keith Barany is our nightcap for the festivities and is a Jewish comedian with a quality shtick and was billed by the New York post as the "wittiest comic working today!"



A contributing writer on *Seinfeld*, Keith currently contributes to the *Jimmy Kimmel Show*. He has toured overseas nine times entertaining our U.S. troops and in 2004, co-wrote Gary Shandling's monologue for the 2004 Emmy Awards. His show is a mix of Jewish themed and mainstream routines, so in other words . . . you don't have to be Jewish to love his show.

A proud graduate of the Ramaz Orthodox Day School, Keith nonetheless describes it this way, "I served 14 years in a minimum security yeshiva for a crime I didn't commit!"

For more information, contact Jason Plotkin at [JasonP@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:JasonP@emanuelhouston.org) or (713) 535-6414.



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## From the President – Jeff Basen-Engquist



As I write this on Inauguration Day, I am reminded of the wisdom of our congregation's founders. Our statement of principles ends with "...the membership of Congregation Emanu El resolves that its members shall not be limited in their freedom of thought and speech and that its pulpit shall be free to preach on behalf of truth, a righteousness in the democratic spirit." Their insight continues to support our clergy and set an invaluable example. As an elected leader, I am called to incorporate this tradition in my work. Whether making appointments or analyzing initiatives, representative constituencies and diverse opinions are being sought out.

You have seen the announcement of our Director of Congregational Learning position. The right candidate will identify and implement best practices for education experiences throughout the congregation. Having commenced a national search, Rabbi Hayon met with our learning constituencies, including adult learners, Helfman Religious School parents and teachers, Becker Early Childhood Center parents, and B'nei Mitzvah parents. The learning experiences described by these groups will be applied in both the search and orientation for this position.

Our Board of Trustees nominations process has begun, as we seek experienced and new leadership talent for our Board and Executive Committee. We have sought recommendations via the Bulletin and eblasts. Immediate Past President Rebecca Lunstroth serves as Chair. As per our bylaws, I have appointed three additional Board members – Elizabeth Krohn, Steven Reiner, and Eileen Westerman – and five members with a cross-section of experience – Kristina Boshernitzan, Brad Brookner, Jennifer Reichek, Hilary Rosenthal and Annie Stein. Their combined understanding and knowledge of our membership will support the process of building a slate for the Board to consider. The Board will recommend a slate to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on the evening of Wednesday, April 19th (please save the date – come for the barbeque, stay for the meeting).

Most recently you have received a letter from Rabbi Hayon and me regarding Rabbi Kahn's resignation effective May 31st. With Matt Kahn's appointment as Regional Director of AJC in San Francisco, we are excited for their family's new opportunities yet sad about Rabbi Kahn's departure. As May approaches, we will announce our formal plans to honor Rabbi Kahn for her service. I encourage each of us to take the opportunity to express to her our deep appreciation for her many contributions to our community.

As has been the case previously, our Senior Rabbi will hire for this vacant position. There is a very time-limited, formal procedure established by the Rabbinical Placement Commission, Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion for screening rabbinical students who will be ordained this spring. I have named Trustee Helen Dreyfus to lead what we are calling our Open Tent Committee to assist Rabbi Hayon primarily with our internal logistics for the search and interview process. The committee consists of members drawn from across the congregation, including Past President Gary Blumberg, Michelle Blumenthal, Ben Feldstein, Steven Frank, Michelle Frankfort, Stephanie Gabelnick, and Ben Proler, with Greta Pliskin as Executive Committee Liaison. Their collective experience centers around, but is not limited to, the portfolio the Assistant Rabbi will carry as a full clergy partner, particularly involvement with our youth and young professionals programs, young families and new member outreach, as well as their pastoral, preaching and teaching responsibilities.

We have officially entered the placement process, having submitted our formal application. We have begun receiving resumes from students. Helen and I will accompany Rabbi Hayon to Los Angeles in February's first weekend to represent the congregation and assist him with numerous initial interviews. Rabbi Hayon will choose the candidates who will be invited to visit Houston between February 10th and March 6th to meet the clergy team, Senior staff, Open Tent and Executive Committees, and others as needed. Rabbi Hayon will receive feedback particular to each group to consider in making his final selection. Offers may be issued beginning March 7th. With a mutual fit between candidate and congregation, our new Assistant Rabbi will arrive in July.

We foster community by listening to one another. When we embrace the richness of our distinct experiences, we renew the tradition established by the architects of our congregation's success.



## Friendly Reminders

### Our clergy want to know...

If you or a loved one is sick or hospitalized please let us know. Contact Alisha Klapholz at (713) 529-5771, ext. 213 or AlishaK@emanuelhouston.org so that our rabbis can reach out and visit and be a source of strength and support.

If you would like to add someone's name to our *Misheberach* list please contact Donna Fraley at (713) 529-5771, ext. 212 or DonnaF@emanuelhouston.org. We are able to add names only when an individual has given permission for their name to be read aloud. To ensure that our list remains accurate and up-to-date, names can remain on our list for a month. Individuals can continue to add the same name each month, as needed, for continued prayers for healing.

### Hosting An Oneg To Honor A Simcha

Hosting an Oneg Shabbat is a great way to honor your special occasion (bar/bat mitzvah, birthday, anniversary, etc.)! Celebrate with the Congregation, family and friends while observing the beauty of Shabbat. Enjoy good food and experience the camaraderie at Congregation Emanu El. You don't even have to plan as Chef Smirnov will provide all of the arrangements for a memorable evening. For more information, call Jason Plotkin at (713) 529-5771, ext. 216 or JasonP@emanuelhouston.org.

### Contribute to the Emanu El Flower Fund

The beautiful flowers on our bimah are generously provided by donations to the Sisterhood's Flower Fund. Making a donation to the Flower Fund is a meaningful way to honor the memories of your loved ones, as well as to honor important simcha's in your lives, such as anniversaries and birthdays. Donations may be made to the Flower Fund by contacting Donna Fraley at DonnaF@emanuelhouston.org or (713) 529-5771, ext. 212.

## YOUTH CORNER

### L'Taken for 9th-12th Graders March 3rd-6th in Washington, DC

Join us in Washington, DC for an incredible weekend learning about Jewish advocacy and exploring our nation's capital. Greene Family Camp will be partnering with the Religious Action Center for a life-changing program, culminating with lobbying your representatives and senators on Capitol Hill.

More information and registration here:  
<https://greene.org/event/ltaken/>

## Emanu El Sends Two to Temple Administrators' Conference In Nashville

Congregation Emanu El executive director David Lamden and program director Jason Plotkin recently returned from a combined conference of the Reform Movement's National Association for Temple Administration (NATA) and the Conservative Movement's North American Association of Synagogue Executives (NAASE) in Nashville, Tennessee.

The Emanu El duo were the lone representatives from the Houston area at the conference that attracted over 260 administrators from the Reform and Conservative movements in the United States and abroad. Other countries represented included Australia, Canada and Israel.

Lamden was one of four chairpersons for the conference, which included fellow NATA member Aliza Goland and a pair of NAASE members in Fred Rothstein and Richard Tannenbaum. The quartet spent 18 months putting together the combined conference.

The conference was headlined by a session led by Union for Reform Judaism president Rick Jacobs and Rabbi Steven Wernick, CEO of the United Synagogues of Conservative Judaism. The duo spoke on how partners matter and stressed the importance of collaboration between synagogues and other agencies within the community.

Amongst the entertainment highlights was a Sunday night performance by Gary Burr, Georgia Middleman and Don Schlitz. Each member of the trio performed songs they had written including Schlitz, the two-time Grammy Award winner who wrote *The Gambler* and Burr, who wrote amongst others *Nothin' Bout Love Makes Sense* during a career that includes being honored as Songwriter of the Year by *Billboard Magazine*. On Monday night, the attendees headed to the Country Music Hall of Fame for a tour and a performance by up-and-coming teenage musician Alana Springsteen.

A member of the Congregation Emanu El team since November after previously serving as executive director at Temple Beth Sholom in Miami Beach, Florida, Lamden was re-elected to the board of NATA and formally installed during the conference's closing banquet. The new board is headed by Abigail Goldberg Spiegel of Leo Baeck Temple in Los Angeles.

The NATA conference was the first for Plotkin, who in December was elected to the board of the Program & Engagement Directors of Reform Judaism (PEP-RJ) and will be attending the NATA Institute in March. The Institute provides the foundation for those individuals seeking a certification as a 'Fellow in Temple Administration' (FTA).

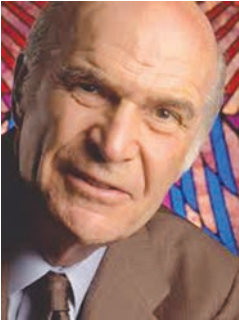


### Congregation Seeks to Update Email Information for Members

Did you know the Congregation sends out an email on Wednesday mornings detailing the upcoming activities? That when a family requests, a death notice is sent to the Congregation? That the Emanu El *Bulletin* can be received via email? Or how about emails with special advisories incase inclement weather cancels a synagogue event?

If you are missing out on these emails and want to add your information or make sure your information is current with the synagogue, contact the Temple at (713) 529-5771. We can update your email address!

## Rabbi Samuel Karff To Close Out Endowment Fund Speaker Series On Thursday, March 9th



Congregation Emanu El's 2016-17 Endowment Fund Speaker Series entitled *Pathway to the Future: A New Look at Reform Jewish Worship* will conclude on **Thursday, March 9th at 7:30 p.m.** as Rabbi Samuel Karff presents, *The Changing Face of Reform Judaism – An Eye Witness Account*.

Rabbi Karff serves as Rabbi Emeritus at Congregation Beth Israel and is a past President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) and the *Journal of Reform Judaism's* former editor.

During his presentation, Rabbi Karff will speak to the rich history of the Reform Movement through his eyes as it changed from 'Classical Reform' to 'Post-Modern Reform.' He will also share how both are authentic expressions of Liberal Judaism in their time.

Rabbi Samuel Karff formerly served as Associate Director and visiting professor in the Department of Family Medicine at UT Health. After retiring from the rabbinate in 1999, he founded the Health and Human Spirit Program, the precursor to the McGovern Center. He co-created the Sacred Vocation Program and previously served as the program's co-director and instructor. A widely-published author, he has lectured extensively in this country and abroad.

Rabbi Karff earned an A.B., Magna Cum Laude, from Harvard College and a Doctor of Hebrew Letters from the Hebrew Union College. Before joining the McGovern Center, he served for over two decades as the senior rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel, Texas' oldest synagogue. A former president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, he also taught in the Department of Religious Studies at Rice University.

Rabbi Karff is the third and final speaker in this year's series that are part of a year-long preparation for Emanu El which will transition from the *Gates of Repentance* to *Mishkan Hanefesh*, the Reform Movement's new High Holy Day machzor (prayer book). Emanu El will make this transition in 2017 and each of the speakers will focus on Reform Judaism's dynamic approach to meaningful liturgy and inspiring music.

Cantor Richard Cohn, Director of the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at HUC-JIR visited in December and was followed by Rabbi Elaine Zecher, Senior Rabbi of Temple Israel in Boston.

The Endowment Fund Series is underwritten by grants from the Caplovitz Lectureship, Eleanor & Frank Freed Lectureship, Helen & Harry Reichel Fund, Milton Popkin endowment, Susman Family Programming Fund, Rabbi Walter Legacy Fund and Friends of the Endowment Fund. We are grateful to be the beneficiaries of their generosity and extend our thanks to the following Friends (as of press date): Susie & David Askanase, Jacquelyn Barish, Marvin Barish, Karen & Jeff Basen-Engquist, Laurie & Milton Boniuk, Gloria & Larry Brenner, Barbara & Mark Brookner, Rochelle Cyprus, Sheryl & Bernard Feldman, Carol & Larry Fradkin, Julie & Robert Goodfriend, Wendy Hawkins & Avrim Fishkind, Sandy & Don Harris, Elyse & Lewis Kalmans, Sam Jacobson & Carl Josehart, Ellen & Lewis Krinsky, Myra Lipper, Rhonda & Eric Lipper, David Odle, Linda S. Popkin-Paine & Stephen C. Paine, Becky Proler & Gretchen Gemeinhardt, Barbara & Donald Roseman, Robin & Rodney Roth, Richard Schechter, Phyllis & Steven Segal, Helen & Andrew Spector, Linda Susman, Dianne & Ellis Tudzin, Eileen & Richard Westerman, Becky & Joe Williams, Dolores Wilkenfeld and Linda & Richard Zoll.

All speaking engagements are free and open to the community. Each will include an opportunity to ask questions of the guest and be followed by a reception.



## **Emanu El Seeking To "Restart" 50s & 60s Social Group, Seeking Committee Members for Launch**

Congregation Emanu El is currently looking to 'restart' and 'rebrand' our Classic Connections social group for those members of our Congregation and community in their 50s and 60s.

Are you interested in being a part of this effort and taking part in a committee to launch an exciting year of activities for this age demographic? Contact Jill Patir at [JillP@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:JillP@emanuelhouston.org) or (713) 529-5771, ext. 262 to have your name added to the list.



# EMANU EL SCRAPBOOK



## Caring Committee Celebrates Chanukah at Brookdale

Rabbi Pamela Silk, Cantor Sharon Colbert and the Caring Committee headed to the Brookdale to celebrate Chanukah with residents. Said staff member Tracy from the Brookdale, "Emanu El's members always create a wonderful spirit of unison and love for all."

## Generations Come Together for Annual Latke Supper, Service

The Latke Supper at Emanu El featured over 300 guests and a fantastic Chanukah service that was highlighted by our Inter-Generational Choir under the direction of Barbara Loeser.



## Lisa Loeb Rocks Emanu El

Over 650 members of the community came to Emanu El in early January for a concert with Grammy Award nominated singer/songwriter Lisa Loeb. Lisa played some of her popular childrens' songs while also exciting the adults with her 1990s classic Stay.



### Sisterhood to Have An Evening at Celebration Company

On **Thursday, February 9th at 6:30 p.m.**, the Congregation Emanu El Sisterhood will have a social evening and do a mitzvah all at once. We will be meeting at Celebration Company, located at 4131 South Braeswood, enter on Linkwood, to roll beeswax candles and enjoy each other's company, and some nibbles and wine. The shop at Celebration Company will be open for your gift buying needs as well. We sell their products in the Sisterhood Gift Shop.

Celebration Company is part of Jewish Family Service. It is a social entrepreneurial program for adults with disabilities. This organization provides life skills and meaningful employment to individuals who, with joy and purpose, provide services and create products that celebrate the good of life.

Head to the doors by the sunflowers and menorah. We can't wait to see how you roll!



### Emanu El, NCJW Teaming Up to Host Hannah's Vision on Sunday, February 12th

The National Council of Jewish Women – Greater Houston Section is teaming up with the Emanu El Sisterhood for the NCJW's annual Hannah's Vision event on **Sunday, February 12th at 1:00 p.m.** in the Proler Chapel. The event features keynote speaker Lisa Falkenberg, Pulitzer Prize winning columnist for the *Houston Chronicle*, and Alex Hunt, an attorney with Hunt Law Firm, for a discussion on the state of foster care in Texas, legislative issues surrounding the foster care system, and action items for how we can support foster care families and help better meet their needs.

Named after NCJW's founder Hannah G. Solomon, Hannah's Vision is a forum to learn and discuss local, national and international issues affecting our ability as a nation to move forward on topics such as immigration reform, public health challenges, education, and women's rights. Tickets for this event, which is followed by a reception, are \$18 per person. To purchase tickets, visit <http://ncjwhouston.org/event/hannahs-vision-2017/>.



### Book Review: *Fields of Exile* by Nora Gold – Thursday, March 9th at 12:30 p.m.



Reviewed by Charlotte Berkowitz; Fiction: In her debut novel, Nora Gold writes about the experiences of Judith, a young woman who lived in Israel for a decade, then returns to her native Canada, in order to care for her ailing father. She promises him that she will complete her coursework for a masters degree in social work before she returns to Israel. Enrolling for her final scholastic year at the local university, Judith is confronted with hate-filled, anti-Israel activism by her professors and fellow students that coalesces into a toxic, anti-Semitic atmosphere currently present on many college campuses throughout the world. Our reviewer, a professor of English Literature, will speak about her own experiences in regard to the BDS (Boycott, Divest, Sanction) Movement that is prevalent throughout academia.



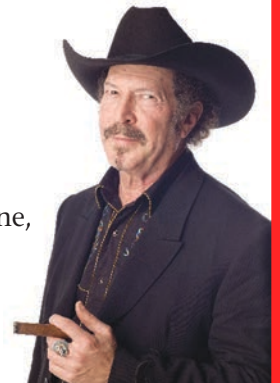
### An Evening with Kinky Friedman on Thursday, March 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

There is still time to get on board for a spectacular evening **Wednesday, March 23rd, 6:30 p.m.** Congregation Emanu El Sisterhood has planned a fabulous evening starring Kinky Friedman, singer, songwriter, novelist, humorist and occasional Texas politician.

Diane Puschett, Fundraising Vice President, is excited to tell you that this year's fundraiser will be something different. We've changed from lunch to a catered dinner.

But friends, this evening is NOT just about the entertainment – it's Not just about the menu. It's all about what Sisterhood does for our congregation and community and what YOU can do to support our projects and programs. It's all about providing:

- Hospitality (coffee, wine, challah, etc.)
- Lunch and monthly programs for the Emanu El Elders
- Support for Search, House of Tiny Treasures, Jewish Family Service, Undies for Everyone, Houston Food Bank, Dress For Success
- Scholarships at Hebrew Union College • Camperships at Greene Family Camp
- Prayer books for Helfman Religious School students • Jewish Braille
- WRJ • Work of Our Hands





### Emanu El Young Professionals Lend Hand at Ronald McDonald House

This past Christmas Eve, members of Congregation Emanu El's Young Professionals spent the evening at Ronald McDonald House, 1907 Holcombe Blvd. Over 60 guests of the Ronald McDonald House were served a fajita dinner while children of all ages had the opportunity to take parts in an arts and crafts project provided by the

Young Professional group.

The Ronald McDonald Holcombe House provides comfortable, affordable, "homey" lodging for those who have children receiving treatment in the nearby medical center. The house has 50 bedrooms and often operates with a waitlist. Meals and activities are provided by volunteers- both individuals and groups- on a regular basis. The House also has a dedicated Houston Independent School District schoolroom for patients and school bus transportation for siblings to area public schools. Additionally, families staying at the Holcombe House are provided transportation to the medical center and grocery stores.



### Emanu El's JED Talks Series Heads to Rec Room

Emanu El Young Professionals will host the spring edition of their signature JED Talks series on **Tuesday, February 21st** at the Rec Room downtown, 100 Jackson St #130c, 77002. Happy Hour/Drinks will begin at 6:00 p.m., and the program begins at 7:00 p.m.

The theme is "Thinking outside the can – How to help Houston's needy beyond canned food." We are proud to share that the speakers will be Marc Eichenbaum (Special Assistant to the Mayor for Homeless Initiatives) and Ellyn Josef (pro bono counsel at Vinson and Elkins and 2016 NCJW Gala honoree).

Eichenbaum will discuss the city's initiatives to combat homelessness through helping those who are in need to get the assistance they require to get back on their feet, and Josef will address her mission of providing legal access to low-income clients, including children in Child Protective Services and women who are victims of domestic violence. Both speakers will participate in a question and answer portion to share how to get involved and will respond to any queries the audience may have. Their combined experience and desire to help the greater Houston community guarantee this will be an inspiring and eye-opening evening for all. You won't want to miss this!

**SAVE THE DATE:** *Let My People Drink*, a Young Professional night at 8th Wonder Brewery, 2202 Dallas St., 77003, will take place on **Thursday, April 6th from 7:00-10:00 p.m.** Join us as we say goodbye to hametz before Passover begins the following week. Come hang out and enjoy some local craft beer – complimentary first 2 drinks!

## Thank You

Congregation Emanu El would like to thank the following individuals who intend to leave a legacy gift to the temple:



- |                                |                            |                             |                                     |
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| Bernice Feld                   | Cheryl & Haran Levy        | Cheryl & Michael Rubenstein | Shelley Wisner                      |

If you would like more information or if you intend to (or have) made a gift, please contact Elyse Kalmans at [elysekalmans@gmail.com](mailto:elysekalmans@gmail.com) or Jason Plotkin at [jasonp@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:jasonp@emanuelhouston.org).

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to URJ Biennials & to  
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*An adventure of the spirit*



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**Food Truck  
Havdalah  
Saturday,  
April 29th  
4:30-7:00 p.m.**

Save the date for “Food Truck Havdalah” on **Saturday, April 29th from 4:30-7:00 p.m.** We’re excited to announce that we will be joined by popular local food trucks “It’s a Wrap” and “Kurbside EatZ” in addition to the dessert truck “Snowcone Angels.” In addition to the food trucks and a 6:30 p.m. Havdalah service, there will be plenty of activities for children including inflatables! This event is absolutely FREE (minus the cost of buying food from the vendors) and open to the community.

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