



1500 Sunset Blvd.

Houston, Texas 77005

An adventure of the spirit

Bulletin

April 4, 2017 / Nisan 8, 5777

Volume 71 Number 7

From Rabbi Hayon



Here's a short test you can take while preparing for Passover this year: Locate the page in your haggadah on which the seder's participants are invited to open the door for Elijah the Prophet. What prayer or reading, if any, does your book instruct you to read at this point?

Many haggadot follow an old European custom and insert at this point of the seder a liturgical poem

called *Sh'foch Chamat'cha* ["Pour Out Your Wrath"]. This prayer, thought to have originated during the Middle Ages, when Europe's Jews were regularly attacked and persecuted by their non-Jewish neighbors, beseeches God to avenge antisemitism by smiting the perpetrators with violence in return.

But most modern haggadot have opted either to delete *Sh'foch Chamat'cha* completely or replace it with different texts which place the tradition of welcoming the wandering prophet into a new and more relevant context. Often the editors have chosen to substitute the medieval text with readings whose themes focus

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Food Truck Havdalah Taking Place Saturday, April 29th



Our second annual Food Truck Havdalah will take place 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! Rachel Stern of the Institute of Jewish Southern Living (ISJL) will also be at the event and adding to the activities.

This event is absolutely FREE (minus the cost of buying food from the food trucks) and open to the community. For any questions, please contact Jason Plotkin at (713) 535-6414 or JasonP@emanuelhouston.org.

Annual Meeting To Be Held Tuesday, April 18th at 6:30 p.m. (Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m.)

We look forward to seeing you on **Tuesday, April 18th at 6:30 p.m.** for our annual meeting, this year entitled, "BBQuorum". President Jeff Basen-Engquist and Rabbi Oren Hayon will give reports and the budget and the 2017-18 Board of Trustees will be presented to the Congregation for a vote.

We will have a free BBQ dinner with food service beginning at 6:00 p.m. followed by our annual meeting promptly at 6:30 p.m. Childcare will be available for those between the ages of two months and eight years by contacting Evon Zions at EvonZ@emanuelhouston.org with a **deadline of Thursday, April 13th. RSVP for dinner** at www.EmanuelHouston.org by **Thursday, April 13th.**

WORSHIP SERVICES

Daily

6:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday

Shabbat Tzav, Leviticus 6:1-8:36

Friday, April 7th

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

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

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

B'not Mitzvah of **Bonnie Robbins**, daughter of Debbie & Samuel Robbins and **Amara Freedson**, daughter of Jessica & Armyn Freedson

Saturday, April 8th

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

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

B'not Mitzvah of Bonnie Robbins and Amara Freedson

Monday, April 10th

5:00 p.m., Passover Eve, Proler Chapel

Tuesday, April 11th

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

6:00 p.m., Second Night Seder, Feld Hall

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

Friday, April 14th

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

Saturday, April 15th

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

Sunday, April 16th

5:00 p.m., Passover Service, Proler Chapel

Monday, April 17th

10:30 a.m., Passover Yizkor, Proler Chapel

Shabbat Sh'mini, Leviticus 9:1-11:47

Friday, April 21st

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

Saturday, April 22nd

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

Shabbat Tazria/Metzora, Leviticus 12:1-15:33

Friday, April 28th

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

Saturday, April 29th

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

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

B'nei Mitzvah of **Brad Raizner**, son of Randi & Michael Raizner & **Seth Broadwell**, son of Felicia Provada & Jim Broadwell

Shabbat Acharei Mot/Kedoshim, Leviticus 16:1-20:27

Friday, May 5th

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

Leadership Shabbat & Farewell to Rabbi Samantha Kahn

Saturday, May 6th

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

Bar Mitzvah of **Micah Bozeman**, son of Lindsey Bozeman

Shabbat Emor, Leviticus 21:1-24:23

Friday, May 12th

5:45 p.m., Family Shabbat Experience, Sculpture Garden

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

Saturday, May 13th

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

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

B'not Mitzvah of **Maya Credeur**, daughter of Corey & Brian Credeur and **Leah Lynch**, daughter of Amy & Erik Kolflat and Russell Ditto

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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From Rabbi Hayon

focus on the concepts of openness, compassion and generosity, rejecting the troubling prayer for divine vengeance found in older haggadot.

I cherish this case study about liturgical reform, inspired by the impulse to urge contemporary Jews to view our homes with new eyes during Passover. The act of innovation calls us to cast off religious vigilantism and instead to see our own front doors as symbols of our connection with – and our obligation to – the outside world. Those who edited, *Sh'foch Chamat'cha*, out of the haggadah gave new life to this part of the seder by injecting into it a set of the most enduring Jewish values: charity, kindness, and concern for our

fellow human beings.

At the same time, the history of the religious revisions which resulted in today's haggadot reminds us again about why the Passover seder is so critical to our spiritual and historical identity as Jews. The Passover story is, of course, the undeniably and essentially Jewish of our foundational stories, celebrating a legacy of liberation that is ours alone. At the same time, however, the story of the Exodus cautions us never to forget that our story is connected with those of all marginalized, frightened, enslaved people who yearn for freedom. The seder is our way of reiterating, year after year, our faith that the universe is overseen by a God who yearns for human redemption.

And so, when we gather together around our festival tables – and when we open our doors to reconnect with those families outside our own – let us weave our voices together in prayers that plead earnestly with God to suppress the impulse for vengeance and to pour out a full measure of divine compassion and freedom for all those who seek peace.

— YOUTH CORNER —

Are Your Kids Going to Camp? We'd Love to Have their Information!

Are your children going to camp this summer? Our clergy would love to keep in contact! Please write to Alisha Klapholz, alishak@emanuelhouston.org, with your children's name(s), the camp name, camp address, bunk information and the dates that they will be there.



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 or (713) 529-5771, ext. 262 to have your name added to the list.



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facebook
<http://www.facebook.com/emanuelhouston>



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, we 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.

OUR TEMPLE FAMILY

— IN THE COMMUNITY —

Congratulations to our neighbor and friend **Pastor Michael Dunn** of First Christian Church, who celebrated the 25th anniversary of his ordination on Sunday, April 2nd.

Alissa Rubin Gomez was the recipient of a "Premier Woman in Law" award by the Association of Women Attorneys (AWA). Alissa is the Executive Director of the Houston Volunteer Lawyers, the non-profit legal aid arm of the Houston Bar Association.

Mia Septimus won first place with her Condit Elementary fifth-grade team members, in the citywide Odyssey of the Mind competition.

Dr. Ed Septimus has been promoted to Vice President, Research and Infectious Diseases, by Hospital Corporation of America. He also currently serves as a clinical professor of internal medicine for Texas A&M College of Medicine.

— BIRTHS —

Theodore Michael Fishel, son of Bari & David Fishel; grandson of Jerry Fishel, Adele Herzstein, Sandy & Randy Herzstein, Charlene Keller; great grandson of Pauline Fishel, Tina Keller

Odelle Furst, daughter of Michael & Natalie Furst; granddaughter of Diane & Larry Furst; great granddaughter of Odelle and Morty Furst and Warren and Edith Bloch

Ezra Joseph Schenker-Spitz, son of Jason Spitz & Rebecca Schenker; grandson of Ronna & Clay Spitz, Margaret Fairlie & Dean Schenker; great grandson of Evie Solomon and Bill Spitz

Charles Eli Silberman, son of Rebecca & Sam Silberman; grandson of Nanette & Barry Putterman, Mary & Herb Silberman; great grandson of Celine Kaplan, Lillian Putterman

— WEDDING —

Liebe Miller & Neal Reisman

— DEATHS —

Jennie Nachlas, mother of Barbara & Marty Nachlas; grandmother of Stephanie and Greg

David Shabot, brother of Linda & Michael Shabot, Debbie & Marc Shabot and Jean & Jack Shabot

Dianne Effenson Sharney, mother of Norma Nelson, Cynthia & Joe Baltazar, Cheryl & Bill Rhodes; grandmother of Tad Nelson, Steven and Brian Baltazar, Amanda & Jason Rhodes, Emily & Austin Rhodes; great grandmother of Griffyn, Jordan and William Rhodes

Emanu El Announces Addition of Joshua Fixler To Clergy Team As Assistant Rabbi

Below is a copy of a correspondence that was sent to the congregation on Wednesday, March 15th announcing the hiring of Joshua Fixler as Assistant Rabbi.

We are delighted to inform you that we have successfully completed the search for the newest member of our clergy team. With the unanimous approval of our Board of Trustees, we have finalized an agreement confirming Joshua Fixler as Congregation Emanu El's next Assistant Rabbi. The two of us, along with the many other staff members and congregants who spent time with Josh during his visit to Houston, were consistently and deeply impressed by his intellect, warmth, approachability, sensitivity and authenticity. We are confident that he will be an outstanding addition to our team, and an exceptional spiritual leader who will carry on the wonderful work that Rabbi Samantha Kahn has done during her years of service to our congregation. We are eager for you to become acquainted personally with Josh after his arrival in Houston, but for now, we are pleased to share a few details about his professional and educational background.

For the past two years, Josh has served as the Rabbinic Intern at Beth Haverim Shir Shalom in Mahwah, New Jersey. In December, he also completed a Certificate in Nonprofit Management from New York University. Previously, Josh served as Rabbinic Intern for B'nai Israel Synagogue, in High Point, North Carolina; as a Summer Intern at Temple Micah in Washington, DC and at Temple Emanuel in Denver; and as the Senior Educator at Shwayder Camp, a Reform summer camp in Colorado. Before beginning his studies, Josh served as the Assistant Educator and Youth Director for Temple B'nai Shalom in Fairfax Station, Virginia, and prior to that, as a Program Coordinator at the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, an interfaith social justice organization. Additionally, he has participated in a number of leadership training programs, which have contributed to his professional and spiritual growth, including the Wexner Graduate Fellowship and the Tisch Rabbinical Fellowship. Josh graduated from the University of Maryland in 2007 with a degree in Organizational Development and Community Leadership.

Josh will be ordained as a rabbi this May at the New York campus of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and will be officially beginning his tenure at Emanu El this summer. We will be so excited to introduce him and his wonderful wife Annie to you, and we know that you will be certain to welcome them warmly to their new home in Houston!

We cannot conclude this announcement without mentioning our gratitude for the hard work of the Open Tent Committee, and to Helen Dreyfus who served as its dedicated, hard-working Chair. This committee oversaw all of the countless details of our candidates' visits and ensured that they became acquainted with all of the wonderful aspects of our congregation and our Houston community. The importance that this committee played in the process of identifying and securing our next rabbi cannot be overstated, and we are both profoundly thankful for their commitment to the spiritual life of our congregation.

With many thanks for your support, and with great confidence in the continued strength of Emanu El.



MAKE AN IMPACT

SUPPORT WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU



WHAT IS CREATE A LEGACY?

CREATE A LEGACY is an opportunity for you to provide legacy gifts that create a lasting source of support for Emanu El and make an enduring impact on our future.

Your legacy gift is a sacred covenant with the Jewish people to:

- Maintain the strength and secure the long-term financial security of Emanu El for future generations
- Pay tribute to those you love or those you remember
- Inspire others with the value of *tzedakah*
- Ensure that your values and priorities live on in perpetuity

A legacy gift can:

- Preserve the historic values of Emanu El
- Support community services and social justice
- Strengthen life-long learning opportunities
- Provide for the full range of worship, music and the cultural treasures that we cherish
- Secure the longevity of our beloved temple building

WHY PARTICIPATE?

- Because the Emanu El *adventure of the spirit* needs you to survive and thrive
- Because including Emanu El in your will or permanent estate plan will help secure the future of our *adventure* and provide a financial wellspring for our continued vitality

ENSURE EMANU EL FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

Your legacy gift can be structured to fit your lifestyle, family and financial priorities. Legacy giving is appropriate for gifts of ANY SIZE, and can be customized to provide support for Congregation Emanu El in any area of interest.

Leaving a legacy is simple. Some options include:

- Bequest in a will
- Gift of life insurance
- Gift of IRA or pension funds
- Gift of cash or securities
- Gift of real estate
- Charitable remainder trust

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

CONTACT US TODAY



COMMUNITY PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS:

- Robert M. Beren Academy
- Beth Yeshurun Day School
- Congregation Brith Shalom
- Congregation Emanu El
- The Emery/Weiner School
- Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center
- Holocaust Museum Houston
- Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism
- Jewish Family Service
- Jewish Federation of Greater Houston
- The Shlenker School
- Temple Beth Torah
- United Orthodox Synagogues of Houston

If you would like more information or intend to make a gift, please contact Elyse Kalmans at elysekalmans@gmail.com or Jason Plotkin at jasonp@emanuelhouston.org.

PASSOVER EVENTS & HAPPENINGS AT EMANU EL

Real Men Make Chocolate Matzah Thursday, April 6th at 6:00 p.m.

Come roll up your sleeves and gather with other men (as well as their kids and special friends) at Emanu El on **Thursday, April 6th at 6:00 p.m.** just before Passover to make yummy chocolate matzah treats! Your friends and family will thank you for bringing these awesome treats to your seder! Matzah and awesome toppings provided at no cost! Just bring your creativity and love of food and fellowship.

This event including a pizza dinner is sponsored by the Brotherhood. For more information, contact Brotherhood president Lewis Kalmans at lewis.kalmans@ms.com.



Young Professionals to Host 2nd Annual "Let My People Drink" in Preparation of Passover



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 two drinks! For more information, contact Jill Patir at (713) 529-5771, ext. 211 or JillP@emanuelhouston.org.



Second Night Seder at Emanu El Tuesday, April 11th at 6:00 p.m.

Registration for our fourth annual Second Night Seder closed on **Monday, April 3rd.**

Led by our clergy, the seder will feature all of the great Seder staples from matzah ball soup to gefilte fish, the four questions to Diyenu! Thanks to all of those individuals who RSVPed, as well as those who made donations in order to make Seder more accessible for all in our community.



Sisterhood New Traditions Is Ready for Passover

The Sisterhood's New Traditions gift shop can help you prepare for ALL your Passover needs. Seder plates, cookbooks, children's books, toys and more are all available. Need new Haggadots? We have lots, from *Sammy Spiders First Haddagah* to the *60 Minute Seder* and many more. Stop by New Traditions as you get ready for your families Seder.

Proceeds from purchases made at New Traditions benefit the Sisterhood. For more information, contact the Sisterhood office at (713) 529-5771, ext. 233.

EMANU EL – AT A GLANCE THROUGH MID-MAY

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 and/or on our Facebook page.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS THROUGH MAY 17TH

APRIL

- 6th** – Real Men Make Chocolate Matzah, 6:30 p.m.
- 6th** – YP: Let My People Drink, 7:30 p.m.
- 9th** – My Generation: Messina Hof Tour & Lunch, 8:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- 9th** – GFC Reunion & Meet-Up, 12:00 p.m. (after Religious School)
- 11th** – Second Night Seder, 6:00 p.m.
- 12th** – Age-ing & Sage-ing, 12:00 p.m.
- 13th** – *Work of Our Hands*, 10:00 a.m.
- 18th** – Annual Meeting, 6:30 p.m. (preceded by dinner at 6:00 p.m.)
- 20th** – Kids Meals, 9:30 a.m.
- 21st** – Helfman High School Graduation, 6:00 p.m.
- 22nd** – Pillars of Reform Judaism, Omni Hotel, 6:00 p.m.
- 23rd** – City-Wide Yom Ha'Shoah Commemoration, Beth Israel, 3:00 p.m.
- 25th** – Sack Lunches for SEARCH, 9:30 a.m.
- 25th** – Houston Storytellers Guild, 7:00 p.m.
- 29th** – Food Truck Havdalah, 4:30 p.m.

MAY

- 2nd** – Emanu Elders, 11:30 a.m.
- 2nd** – Widow to Widow Planning Meeting, 2:00 p.m.
- 5th** – Leadership Shabbat & Rabbi Kahn Farewell, 6:00 p.m.
- 11th** – *Work of Our Hands*, 10:00 a.m.
- 11th** – Book Review: *The Beautiful Possible*, 12:30 p.m.
- 12th** – Family Shabbat Experience, 5:45 p.m.
- 16th** – Kid Meals, 9:30 a.m.
- 16th** – JED Talks, 7:30 p.m.
- 17th** – Ernest Krautkopf Congregant of the Year, 6:30 p.m.

NEXT BULLETIN TO BE ISSUED:
TUESDAY, MAY 2nd

UPCOMING PROGRAMMING & EVENTS

Emanu El Begins *Widow to Widow* Outreach Initiative Planning Meeting on Thursday, May 2nd

Congregants Marlene Rubin and Marilee Steiner are spearheading an initiative with the assistance of Rabbi Pam Silk entitled, ***Widow to Widow***, in an effort to provide a phone call and resources to newly identified widows at Congregation Emanu El. The group will host a planning meeting on **Thursday, May 4th at 2:00 p.m.** at Emanu El. Participants are encouraged to bring ideas and resources for what would have been of assistance in the time after their loss.

If you are unable to attend and are interested in assisting in this effort, there are two ways you can help out. Interested widows can submit their name, phone number and email address to Marlene at mrubin4@gmail.com or Marilee at msteiner002@gmail.com. Volunteers' names and contact information will be included on the resource sheet as widows willing to speak with other widows. Individuals can also submit any resources that have been helpful following their loss to Marlene or Marilee at the emails listed above.



Leadership Shabbat & Farewell to Rabbi Samantha Kahn



On **Friday, May 5th at 6:00 p.m.**, Congregation Emanu El will celebrate the beginning of a new year of lay leadership while also wishing farewell to Rabbi Samantha Kahn.

Leadership Shabbat has annually served as the Congregation's opportunity to install the Board of Trustees and those volunteers who serve as lay leaders of the temple's auxiliaries. The Board of Trustees will have been elected at the Annual Meeting held on **Tuesday, April 18th at 6:30 p.m.**

Over the years, this special Shabbat also served as opportunity as congregants to recognize our school faculty members from the Becker Early Childhood Center and Helfman Religious School who have reached special milestones.

Adding to the festivities this year, the Shabbat will also serve as an official farewell ceremony for Rabbi Kahn, who along with her family is relocating to San Francisco at the end of May as husband Matt recently took the helm of the San Francisco regional office of the AJC.

Rabbi Kahn has devotedly served our community since 2011, and has provided a wonderful rabbinic presence to pastoral care, programmatic innovation and worship leadership. We are especially grateful for her strong vision for youth and young professionals programming, and the guidance she has offered our Helfman Religious School students and youth group participants. She has shown great leadership in adult learning and social justice work; we will miss her warm presence and her passion for Jewish social advocacy.

A festive Oneg Shabbat in honor of all those being recognized will follow the service.



Myra Lipper To Be Honored As Congregant of the Year On Wednesday, May 17th

Brotherhood is pleased to announce that Myra Lipper will be our 2017 Ernest Krautkopf Congregant of the Year. Myra has been an active volunteer in our community for decades and we are delighted to honor her at our Congregant of the Year Dinner which will be held on **Wednesday, May 17th**. Please save the date to join us in honoring Myra. Watch your mailbox for an invitation.



From the President – Jeff Basen-Engquist



It's spring and, amidst the renewal of trees, flowers, and wildlife, Beauty and the Beast has reappeared. This timeless tale of courage and compassion reminds us that making the effort to see beyond the surface has its own consequences and rewards. It has lessons about examining identities and what goes into one's persona as well as how others judge us on that basis. What do you see when you look below the surface at Emanu El? What qualities would you ascribe to our congregation?

When we began the search that led to Rabbi Hayon, we asked members to tell us about their "best Emanu El", their own iconic story about their most meaningful experience associated with the temple. We heard about bar and bat mitzvah moments, celebrations and shared losses, feeling welcomed and helping out. We carried some of those stories in the bulletin for a number of months. What is your best Emanu El? Each of us has a story to tell. Some come to mind easily while others occur to us after some reflection.

Imagine a way to collect those stories, impressions, and emotions, using them to tell Emanu El's story. Would you call it 'Warm and welcoming', 'Lifecycles and life', 'An adventure of the spirit'? You will recognize the latter, the tag line we have used effectively in recent years to both describe ourselves and invite others to get to know us.

As our world has become increasingly fast-paced, informed by a 24/7 news cycle, and driven by internet searches, we continue to find commonality and meaning here, among friends and family, guided by Torah. Our individual touchstone narratives are both connected and unique. How can we best express those connections in our communication among ourselves and, simultaneously, to the greater community in a way that recognizes today's tempo and methods of information acquisition?

The Board of Trustees engaged a local firm, Principle, to study us - how we present ourselves (our building, signs, website, logo, etc.), talk about ourselves (bulletin, ads, Shabbat and other handouts and program materials, etc.), and see ourselves (interviews with an array of stakeholders including members, clergy, staff and lay leaders). They also culled our history by digging into our archives to find common threads in each of those domains. The purpose of this intense and revelatory process was to reflect back to us what we are communicating about ourselves, how we apply our tools of communication, and the strengths and weaknesses of each.

Recently we received their preliminary report, which the Board reviewed and thoroughly discussed with them and among ourselves. Using imagery and quotes from founders, rabbis, and others, from the 1940s to today, they skillfully and strikingly captured our sense of ourselves and our story. They presented preliminary recommendations from typeface to logo. Their final recommendations from this initial analysis are pending, but imminent. The Board affirmed going forward with Principle within specific responsible financial boundaries. The second stage in the process will involve selective introduction of their recommendations in priority areas such as the website and certain publications. As we move ahead, you will be seeing and hearing more about this exciting step forward.

Our tradition teaches us enduring accounts provide today's lessons. First impressions matter, as does truly knowing who you are. We are authentic when our values and stories are reflected in each interaction with one another and with those who meet us along the way, regardless of the setting. It is a tale as old as time.

– Submitted by Jeff Basen-Engquist

BOARD NOTES

There was a full agenda for the final regular meeting of the 2016-2017 Board of Trustees. The Board approved the balanced 2017-18 budget for presentation to the congregation for adoption at the April 18th Annual Meeting (BBQuorum – free dinner at 6:00 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m.). All members are encouraged to attend.

The Board budgeted \$20,000 in FY 16-17 for a brand audit by local firm Principle. It received the Marketing/Rebranding report and initial recommendations. Ally Lack & Ina Riley from Principle presented what was gleaned from our archives, interviews with a diverse group of stakeholders, and our facility and publications. They presented recommendations regarding both language and visual elements, including proposed logos for Congregation Emanu El, Helfman Religious School and Becker Early Childhood Center. Executive Committee member Bruce Lessey and Trustee Laurie Lee described the internal review Principle's draft recommendations underwent in preparation for this presentation and endorsed the recommendations. After Q&A by the Board with Ms. Lack and Ms. Riley, the Board had a full discussion about the results, recommendations and next steps. It was noted 2016-2017 funds are sufficient for Principle to incorporate the Board's feedback into their final recommendations. The Board voted to provide \$20,000 in FY 2017-2018 in funding for Principle to assist in implementing certain recommendations in addition to \$10,000 placed in the 2017-2018 Budget to modernize our website.

In 2012 the Board of Trustees voted to adopt a new Standard Dues model, but postponed implementation across the congregation. It has been successfully employed with new members since then. Earlier this year the Board received a report from a task force which reviewed the 2012 decision. At that time the task force recommended and the Board agreed to go forward pending a vote on an implementation plan. The Board voted for President Basen-Engquist to appoint a representative Task Force to develop a detailed implementation plan that includes member outreach and education and wide publication of plan details, with the new dues model start date of May 1, 2018. Importantly, there will be no change in our member-friendly approach of working with members to meet their specific needs. There will be much more information made available beginning in the fall of 2017.

The Board approved the Officer and Trustee slate presented by Honorary President Rebecca Lunstroth, Chair of Nominating/Leadership. The Nominating Committee was thanked. Director Paula Katz reported the February Becker Early Childhood Center Love and Bingo fundraiser netted over \$25,000. The Early Childhood Advisory Committee is now co-chaired by Gary Blumberg and Jessica Segal. Executive Director David Lamden reported on upcoming changes to our cloud-based system, membership management software, and payroll companies. Also, the updated paging system will be coming online this week. Senior Rabbi Hayon described progress in his search for a Director of Congregational Learning. He explained that, should the right person not be identified for this broader position, he will hire a Principal for Helfman Religious School. In either case, Helfman will be the primary focus for this new hire.

– Submitted by Jeff Basen-Engquist, President

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MY GENERATION

Are you 65 or older? Then My Generation is for you! A social club sponsored by Emanu El for singles, couples, everyone welcome!

The My Generation committee includes Lindy Dorn, Susie Askanase, Sharon Ettinger, Elaine Lowenstein, Rose Marie Wagman and Brenda Lind. The group's professional staff contacts at Congregation Emanu El are Jill Patir and Jason Plotkin. Patir can be reached at (713) 529-5771, ext. 262 or jillp@emanuelhouston.org and Plotkin at (713) 535-6414 or jasonp@emanuelhouston.org.

Here's a look at upcoming events for My Generation:



My Generation Heads to Messina Hof on Sunday, April 9th

Registration has closed as My Generation heads to Messina Hof Winery in Bryan, Texas for a tour and lunch at the Vintage House Restaurant, plus a chance to see the bluebonnets on Sunday, April 9th. As a reminder to registrants, the group will meet at Emanu El at 8:45 a.m. in order to depart at 9:00 a.m. by way of an air-conditioned Harris County Precinct One bus. The group anticipates returning to Emanu El around 5:00 p.m.

HELFMAN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Helfman Religious School Graduation – Friday, April 21st

The Congregation is invited to celebrate as our 14 Helfman Religious School seniors graduate during Shabbat services on **Friday, April 21st at 6:00 p.m.** A listing of the group can be found below. A picture of the graduating class will be shared in a future edition of the Temple *Bulletin*.

2017 Helfman Religious School Graduating Class

Sydney Freeman, daughter of Eveta Weingarten & Michael Freeman

Jason Klein, son of Cynthia & Ben Klein

Robert Klein, son of Cynthia & Ben Klein

Noah Mattiuzzi, son of Lauren & George Mattiuzzi

Marisa Papell, daughter of Bonnie Weisman & David Papell

Evan Pfeffer, son of Gary Pfeffer

Dylan Rich, son of Pamela & Bruce Rich

Paige Robbins, daughter of Debbie & Samuel Robbins

Jason Rosenthal, son of Alyssa & Louis Rosenthal

Autumn Russell, daughter of Sarah Leva & Mike Russell

Jade Russell, daughter of Sarah Leva & Mike Russell

Rebecca Lynn Sax, daughter of Judy & Larry Sax

Alexander David Schaffer, son of Jo Ann & Robert Schaffer

Shelly Sylvia Schaffer, daughter of Jo Ann & Robert Schaffer

Helfman Religious School Registration

Helfman Religious School registration is still underway! All those families that registered by **Monday, July 31st** will receive a \$75 per child discount. To register, download registration forms and pay online at the Emanu El website, www.EmanuElHouston.org, by clicking through the '2017-2018 Registration' icon. You can select to pay the entire tuition or only the registration fee. You will need to complete forms and payments separately for each child.

Forms will be available from the Religious School office, if needed. Please bring \$50/child for registration fees with your completed forms.



Greene Family Camp Reunion & Summer Camp Meet Up

Calling all 1st-5th grade Greene Family Camp campers! Bring your parents and join us for a fabulous pizza and ice cream party after Helfman Religious School on **Sunday, April 9th**.

Generously hosted by GFC, it will be the perfect afternoon to tell stories about time you've spent at camp, see the amazing camp video, and get excited about this summer. New campers can ask returning campers questions about camp life and see which of their temple friends will be at camp when they are there this summer. Parents will have an opportunity to schmooze and connect as we all prepare for an awesome 2017 summer at GFC.

To help ensure we have enough pizza and ice cream, please **RSVP by Wednesday, April 5th** to Elizabeth Townsend at ElizabethT@emanuelhouston.org or (713) 529-5771.

EMANU EL SCRAPBOOK



Emanu El's Brotherhood & Troop 1190 Secure Third Place at Houston Kosher Chili Cookoff

For the first time in the history of the Houston Kosher Chili Cookoff, the Emanu El Brotherhood teamed with their younger counterparts from Troop 1190. The duo teamed successfully to earn third place at this past February's Houston Kosher Chili Cookoff. Mazel Tov!



Becker Goes Big at B-I-N-G-O Night

"All You Need is Love... and Bingo!" took place in late February. The fun evening featured food and fellowship. Celebrity bingo callers included Ryan Soroka of 8th Wonder Brewery, as well as Joel Eisenbaum and Amy Davis from KPRC Channel 2 Houston. Funds raised will go towards scholarships for our Becker Early Childhood Center.

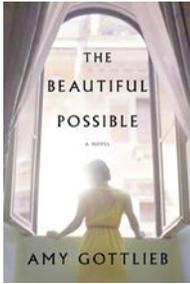


A 'Frosted Purim'

Elsa-chai saved the day and Hans Haman met his defeat as Congregation Emanu El's staff performed a 'Frosted Purim' during the synagogue's Purim observance.

SISTERHOOD NEWS & HAPPENINGS

Book Review: *Beautiful Possible* – Thursday, May 11th at 12:30 p.m.



Reviewed by Rabbi Samantha Safran, this beautifully-imagined and written novel by Amy Gottlieb follows a post-WWII love triangle between an American rabbi, his wife, and a German-Jewish refugee. Spanning 70 years and several continents, the novel tells the “braided” love story of three unforgettable characters. In 1946, Walter Westhaus, a German Holocaust survivor who spent the war years at Tagore’s ashram in India, arrives at the Jewish Theological Seminary, in New York City. He meets Sol Kerem, a promising rabbinical student, who is engaged to the brilliant, passionate Rosalie, the daughter of a rabbi. The lives of Walter, Sol and Rosalie are connected through love, passion, humanity, and Judaism.

This book review is free and open to the public. Attendees are invited to bring their lunches. Desserts are provided.



Emanu El Seeks Vendors for Annual Shopping Extravaganza

Now in its second year! On **Wednesday, October 25th from 4:00-7:00 p.m.** and on **Thursday, October 26th from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**, Congregation Emanu El will transform into a holiday shuk (market) and become the perfect place to find a gift for family, friends, co-workers and yourself!

Shop for jewelry, accessories, gifts for the home, gifts for your pet, stationery, food, toys and much more! In 2016, we had over 50 vendors and anticipate more for 2017. All of our top performing vendors from this past November’s event have already committed to being back in 2017.

Admission is free for guests and promotional efforts will soon start for the 2017 event. New this coming year, a ‘Preview Night’ featuring food trucks, musical performances and more! We will also have door prizes throughout both days.

Vendors interested in signing up are encouraged to contact Jill Patir at JillP@emanuelhouston.org or (713) 529-5771, ext. 262. 2016 vendors had an opportunity to sign-up for early bird pricing and now registration is open up to all vendors.

SAVE THE DATE!

Third Annual Emanu El Night at the Ballpark – Wednesday, August 2nd

Congregation Emanu El will host its Third annual ‘Night At the Ballpark’ on **Wednesday, August 2nd** as the Sugar Land Skeeters face the Somerset Patriots at **7:05 p.m.** at Constellation Field. \$18 subsidized tickets by the Brotherhood and Emanu El include an all-you-can-eat buffet, a shaded area to watch the game, a pool area and chance to hear Cantor Rollin Simmons perform the national anthem. More details to come!



IN OUR COMMUNITY

Pillars of Reform Judaism Tribute To Honor Dolores Wilkenfeld, Stephen Breslauer

The World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) will be honoring two outstanding individuals in our community who truly are Pillars of Reform Judaism. **Dolores Wilkenfeld** from Congregation Emanu El, and **Stephen Breslauer** of Congregation Beth Israel will be honored for their contributions to organizations too numerous to name, in support of Reform Judaism throughout their lives. Please come support WUPJ and honor these two outstanding individuals, and enjoy a gala tribute on the evening of **Saturday, April 22nd**. The event will be held at the Omni Hotel, Houston.

Please visit <http://pillarsofreformjudaism.org/> for more information and to register for the event. In addition, Wilkenfeld will be honored at Shabbat Services at Emanu El on **Friday, April 21st at 6:00 p.m.**, and Breslauer at Beth Israel, the same evening at 6:30 p.m. Rabbi Oren Hayon and Rabbi David Lyon are honorary co-hosts of the evening and Congregation Emanu El is partnering with Beth Israel and WUPJ as partners in the event.



Congregation Emanu El Joins Community for Annual Yom HaShoah Service



Join Congregation Emanu El and the Holocaust Museum Houston at Beth Israel on **Sunday, April 23rd at 3:00 p.m.** for the annual Yom HaShoah commemorative service in memory of all who died in the Holocaust and to pay tribute to those who survived. The service is free and open to the public.

The event is co-sponsored by Congregation Emanu El and many of our community synagogues and Jewish agencies. Emanu El looks forward to hosting Yom HaShoah again in 2018!



Emanu El Hosts Houston Storytellers Guild Fourth Tuesday of the Month at 7:00 p.m.

"Come to tell. Come to listen. But come for the story!" The Houston Storytellers Guild meets in the Stillman-Lack Library on **the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.** Everyone is Welcome!

Pre-Planning with Peace of Mind

Emanu El Memorial Park offers:

- Peaceful & calming atmosphere
- Well-maintained landscape
- Beautiful outdoor chapel
- Park open daily 8 AM - 5 PM
- Members & non-members welcome
- Interest-free financing

Call to speak with our planning coordinator at
713-529-5771 ext. 213 or visit www.emanuelhouston.org



Emanu El Memorial Park
8341 Bissonnet St.

**PLAN NOW & SAVE UP TO \$200
BEFORE MAY 1, 2017**

**BECKER EARLY
CHILDHOOD
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

*To provide Becker Early
Childhood Center
scholarships*

In Honor of

**Shirley Burkom's
Birthday
The Birth of Hana
Braunfeld & the
continued good
health of Mindy
Michaels**
Sara Astrich

**BECKER EARLY
CHILDHOOD FUND**

*To provide & enhance Becker
Early Childhood Center*

In Honor of

**The Birth of Luke
Alexander Pauly**
Linda & Marvin Stein
**Ezra Joseph
Schenker-Spitz**
Ronna & Clay Spitz

In Memory of

Albert Stein
Linda & Joseph Pulaski

**CHESTER MARCUS
CAMPERSHIP FUND**

*To provide Greene Family
Camp scholarships*

In Honor of

**Shirley Burkom's
Birthday**
Jennis Kauffman

**CONGREGATION
EMANU EL
BROTHERHOOD**

*To provide & enhance
the programming of the
Brotherhood*

In Honor of

**Myra Lipper – 2017
Ernest Krautkopf
Congregant of the
Year**
Sara Astrich

**DOLORES & BUDDY
WILKENFELD
COMMUNICATIONS
FUND**

*To enhance Emanu El's
communications with
congregants*

In Honor of

**Dolores Wilkenfeld
– Being Honored by
The World Union for
Progressive Judaism
“Pillars of the Jewish
Community”**
Sara Astrich
Hilda & Robert Frank
Linda & Harris Miller

**EDIS LEWIS PARKANS
EMANU ELDERS FUND**

*To provide programs for
Emanu Elders*

In Memory of

“Babe” Green
Edis Parkans

**EDWARD WAYNE
HUNGER FUND**

*To feed the hungry of
Houston*

In Honor of

**David Livitz's
Birthday**
Kathy & Garey Marks
**The Speedy Recovery
of Jane Root**
Sara Astrich

In Memory of

Jonathan Uzick
Carol & Barry
Goodfriend

**Our Parents & In
Honor of Kids' Meals**

Bill Wayne, Helaine
Wayne Lane & David
Lane, Tanja & Ed
Wayne, Bobby Wayne

**FLORENCE & BEN
BLUM LEADERSHIP
FUND**

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

In Honor of

**Myra Lipper – 2017
Ernest Krautkopf
Congregant of the
Year**
Judy & Marc Herzstein
Linda & Harris Miller
Sondra Ross
Linda & Marvin Stein

**GENERAL
ENDOWMENT FUND**

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

In Honor of

**Elyse & Lewis
Kalmans' Annivesary**
Andrea & Walter
Kalmans Family

In Memory of

Sylvia Levinson
William Spitz

**JEAN & JULIAN
GOLDBERG
CHILDREN'S FUND**

*To provide arts programs for
children*

In Memory of

Jonathan Uzick
Jean Goldberg
Sondra Ross

**JULIA KAPLAN
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
ENRICHMENT FUND**

*To enhance Helfman
Religious School programs*

In Honor of

**The Brit Milah of
Charles Eli
Silberman**
Rebecca, Sam &
Charlie Silberman

JULIUS ZINN FUND

*To provide & enhance
congregation programs*

In Memory of

Albert Stein
Harriet Zinn

**KAGAN RUDY CHAPEL
FUND**

*To maintain & enhance
the Kagan Rudy Chapel at
Emanu El Memorial Park*

In Memory of

Albert Stein
Linda & Richard Stanley

**LILLIAN PASTERNAK
MITZVAH FUND**

*To support mitzvah
projects that improve life of
Houstonians*

In Memory of

Jonathan Uzick
Rose Sandler

**MAX & LOUISE
BAMBERGER
MEMORIAL FUND**

*To provide & promote
programs that strengthen
Emanu El's support for Israel*

In Memory of

Walter Kase
Richard Bamberger

**RABBI ROY WALTER
ENRICHMENT FUND**

*To support spiritual &
cultural enrichment*

In Honor of

**Anne Joachim –
Inez Taylor – Rita
Wilkenfeld's 40+
years of Emanu El
Sisterhood catering**
Rici & Harold Miller
**The Speedy Recovery
of Marianne
Greenfield**
Jennis Kauffman

In Memory of
Raya Meyerson
Betty Lou Blumrosen
Allen Brooks
Lenore Brooks & Family

RABBIS' GOOD WORKS FUND
To provide Emanu El's clergy with funds to help individuals in need & to support organizations that benefit the community
A Donation for the Victoria Islamic Center
Sandra Frieden & Robert Kelly
Sydney Greenblatt

In Honor of
David Livitz's Birthday
Vivian & Stanley Lipman
Rabbi Pamela Silk
Cheryl & Haran Levy
Sherry & Michael Van & Stephanie & Tommy
Shel Vedlitz
Donna & Bart Fraley
Rabbi Roy Walter
Linda & Richard Stanley
The Speedy Recovery of Michael Wulfe
Marianne & Larry Greenfield

In Memory of
Harry H. Brochstein
Marie Brochstein
Allen Brooks
Lenore Brooks & Family
Meyer H. Lewis
Felice, Ed, Marlee & Janelle Klein and Rhonda, Randy & Lauren Hardaway
Jody & Mel Platt
Joseph (Joey) Levy
Marcia & Victor Shainock
Albert Stein
Barbara Hurst & Richard Schatz

RICKY SCHNURR CAMBERSHIP FUND
To provide Greene Family Camp scholarships
In Honor of
The Speedy Recovery of Gladys Schnurr
Marianne & Larry Greenfield
RIVA BURSTEN CARING CONGREGATION FUND
To support programs that assist people in the community
In Honor of
The Speedy Recovery of Marianne Greenfield
Sara Astrich

In Memory of
Alline Kost
Sherry & Bernard Feldman
Albert Stein
Myra Mayer
ROBERT I. KAHN GALLERY FUND
To maintain & enhance the Robert I. Kahn Gallery
In Honor of
Bernie Feld's Birthday
Sue Sue & Don Aron

ROSE GOODFRIEND ISRAEL PILGRIMAGE
To help send Confirmation students to Israel
In Honor of
The Birth of Grandson
Gary Goodfriend

SUSMAN FUND FOR FAMILY PROGRAMMING
To support programs for families
In Honor of
Linda Susman's Birthday
Fonda & Rachel Tenenbaum

TEMPLE FUND
To support the needs of the temple & to fulfill the mission of Congregation Emanu El
In Honor of
Carol & Larry Fradkin's Wedding Anniversary
Pat & Aaron Fradkin
Beatrice Lewis's Birthday
Cookie & Salomon Schein
Shel Vedlitz
Rose Sandler

In Memory of
Mark Leventhal
Janet & Elton Lipnick
Melvin T. Lewis
Melanie Lewis
Jennie Nachlas
Ann & Richard Goldfarb
Fan & Udell Premack
Sybil & Ralph Balasco
Albert Stein
Karen & Larry Feld

Thank You

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

Jeri Amundsen & Arthur Feldman
Jeff & Karen Basen-Engquist
Lisl Berman z'l
Barbara & Mark Brookner
Dee Dee Dochen
Nancy Parkans Ehrenkranz
Bernice Feld
Arthur Feldman
Steven Fenberg
Stuart Gaylor
Anne & Don Graubart
Rachel & Adam Gutow-Ellis
Sandy and Don Harris
Julie & Rabbi Oren Hayon
Ralph Herring

Rabbi Samantha & Matt Kahn
Elyse & Lewis Kalmans
Elizabeth & Matt Krohn
Pamela Kutner
Jennifer & David Lamden
Mark Lensky z'l
Bruce Lessey
Cheryl & Haran Levy
Myra Lipper
Rebecca & Jost Lunstroth
Kathy & Garey Marks
Rebecca & Benjamin Miller
Joan Morganstern
Ethel Morris z'l
Kathy & Steven Parven

Ellen Hurwitz Penner z'l
Greta Pliskin
Becky Proler & Gretchen Gemeinhardt
Dean Putterman
Lila Rauch
Robin & Rodney Roth
Cheryl & Michael Rubenstein
Richard Schechter
Esther Shelby z'l
Rabbi Pam & Jeff Silk
Rachael Tobor & Valerie Turner
Linda & Rabbi Roy Walter
Dolores Wilkenfeld
Becky & Joe Williams
Shelley Wisner

If you would like more information or if you intend to make a gift, please contact Elyse Kalmans at elysekalmans@gmail.com or Jason Plotkin at jasonp@emanuelhouston.org.





1500 Sunset Blvd.

Houston, Texas 77005

An adventure of the spirit



This *Bulletin* is being printed on recycled paper.

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www.emanuelhouston.org

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Treasurer Richard Schechter
Secretary Rachel Gutow-Ellis
Honorary President Rebecca Lunstroth
Brotherhood President Lewis Kalmans
Sisterhood President Marci Weinstein



**Family Shabbat Experience
Friday, May 12th**

Families, be on the lookout! Emanu El will host its annual 'Family Shabbat Experience' on **Friday, May 12th**. Burgers and tots! Vegetarian options available. An outside Shabbat experience in our sculpture garden. More information to come!

Follow Emanu El on Facebook
<http://www.facebook.com/emanuelhouston>