



# Bulletin

## FROM RABBI HAYON



As our national life invites us into the observance of Thanksgiving this month, I hope that we will at the same time remember that the spiritual impulse to give thanks is rooted deeply in the soul of the Jewish people.

As Jews, we are continually urged toward humility and thankfulness – our tradition appeals to us to give thanks, to count our blessings, to acknowledge daily the “everyday miracles” of our lives.

In the Amidah section of every Jewish prayer service, you will find a prayer called the *hoda'ah* (“acknowledgment”), which includes the following passage:

*Let us thank You and praise You – for our lives which are in Your hand, for our souls which are in Your care, for Your miracles that we experience every day . . .*

Each time I pray these words, I am struck by the liturgy’s choice of language. How can one really experience “miracles . . . every day”? Most of us live under the assumption that a “miracle” is an event that upends the

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Jeff Basen Engquist**  
Board President

Who do you include in your circles of friendship? Has that changed recently? We are familiar with stories of strain and dissolution resulting from stress on a relationship. And

there is the expression suggesting that, when the chips are down, you find out who your REAL friends are. Two sides of the same coin?

I have heard about and witnessed examples of the most uplifting aspects of friendship in recent weeks. On top of whatever life stresses were apparent in August, the storm and its aftermath shook many of us up. Spouses and families, neighborhoods and communities, found the most fundamental elements of their relationships magnified.

I must acknowledge having experienced some annoyance with the early newsy feel-good stories which seemed to take attention and, potentially, resources away from ongoing tragedy. Like some jokes, too soon. I hope that this note does not raise such feelings for you.

Still, I have observed so much generosity and kindness that I feel compelled to recognize it. There are our dear personal friends who evacuated themselves from their home via their boat and went back to bring others out once they were safe. Individuals and congregations around the country sent us gift cards

*continued on page 4*



**Cantor Rollin Simmons**

## Help Us Celebrate the Installation of Cantor Rollin Simmons December 15 - 16, 2017

“Chanukah,” which means “dedication” in Hebrew, is the time of the Jewish year when we celebrate the Maccabees’ joyful consecration of the ancient Temple many centuries ago. During our celebrations of Chanukah this year, our congregational family has the opportunity to rejoice with another sacred ritual of dedication as we celebrate the installation of Cantor Rollin Simmons. We look forward to welcoming you!

*continued on page 2*

## WORSHIP SERVICES

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### Daily

6:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday

### Friday, November 10th

Shabbat Chayei Sarah, Genesis 23:1-25:18

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

Saturday, November 11th

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

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

B'not Mitzvah of **Hayley Schultz**, daughter of Shelly .  
& Jeff Schultz and **Ava Slobin**, daughter of Stephanie  
& Todd Slobin

### Friday, November 17th

Shabbat Tol'dot, Genesis 25:19-28:9

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

### Saturday, November 18th

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

### Friday, November 24th

Shabbat Vayeitzei, Genesis 28:10-32:3

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

### Saturday, November 25th

10:30 a.m., Kabbalat Shabbat, Proler Chapel

### Friday, December 1st

Shabbat Vayishlach, Genesis 32:4-36:43

5:45 p.m., Tot Shabbat Dinner, Feld Hall

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

6:30 p.m., Tot Shabbat, Oshman Multi-Purpose Room

### Saturday, December 2nd

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

### Friday, December 8th

Shabbat Vayeishev, Genesis 37:1 – 40:23

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

### Saturday, December 9th

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

**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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## Did You Know?

Over 450 unique viewers watched Emanu El's Kol Nidre service on our web site or Facebook.

The most popular hubs on Kol Nidre outside of Texas were the greater Los Angeles area (24), New York City (16) and Miami (eight). Other cities with multiple viewers included Albuquerque, Cincinnati and Denver.

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## CANTOR ROLLIN SIMMONS *continued from page 1*

### Friday, December 15th

6:00 p.m. – Service of Installation and Chanukah Celebration

Congregation Emanu El welcomes Cantor

Richard Cohn who will install Cantor Simmons

Please bring your own Chanukiyah for a family lighting during the service

Youth and Adult Choirs will participate

Festive Chanukah Oneg, including latkes, will follow service

### Saturday, December 16th

7:00 p.m. – Special Musical Concert with Cantor Rollin Simmons and Special Guest Elana Arian

Concert Tickets - \$18

Weekend Sponsorship Opportunities are Available

Watch your mail and email for invitations and more information.

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## High Holy Day Survey Recap

An unprecedented number of respondents – more than 400 families – participated in Congregation Emanu El's third annual post-High Holy Day survey during the month of October.

Responses to the survey revealed very positive feedback, with approximately 87% of those surveyed indicating that they would agree with the statement "this year's High Holy Day experience was meaningful and fulfilling for me personally" and roughly 88% agreeing that they would recommend the High Holy Days at Emanu El to a friend or relative. Both percentages represent increases over last year's survey responses. In addition, we received a higher number of "strongly agree" responses to both questions than in any of the other years in which the survey has been administered.

As in previous years, many respondents took advantage of the opportunity to submit specific comments or feedback. Highlights included an overwhelmingly positive response to the Union for Reform Judaism's new High Holy Day prayerbook, *Mishkan HaNefesh*, which made its debut at Emanu El this year, and to the unifying experience of coming together for a single Kol Nidre service.

By the time of this *Bulletin's* printing, initial reviews of the survey responses and of the entire High Holy Day experience will have been conducted by the senior staff, the clergy team, and the lay leadership of our Ritual and Music Committee. Our entire Emanu El team is grateful to all who took the time to offer their input and comments as part of our ongoing process of assessing our success at meeting the many needs of our diverse community of faith.

laws of nature, representing God's spectacular intrusion into physical space and time, altering the normal course of history to fit God's divine purpose.

But the liturgy of the *hoda'ah* asserts a very different definition of this word. This prayer suggests that a "miracle" is not necessarily an extraordinary or supernatural happening in the world around us; a miracle is the sensation which results when we place ourselves in a posture of recognition, humility and gratitude. For this reason, it is, indeed possible for one to observe miracles multiple times each day.

This season of the year is always the time that we customarily give thanks – for our food, our home, and the blessings of friendship and family. This November, many of us find ourselves experiencing gratitude in new and unfamiliar ways – for some of us, it's still too soon to feel very thankful given the loss and damage we have experienced in our homes and neighborhoods. Others may find themselves newly able to appreciate and affirm the blessing of family and friends, and the reassurance of a congregational home which provides a supportive spiritual community. As for me, this November I find myself grateful for this remarkable congregation, and for its generous outpouring of support and advocacy as we continue our work of recovering from storm damage [see President's Message, page 1.

The fact is that gratitude, like grief, flows along at its own pace, differently for each of us; sometimes it speeds past in a breathtaking rush, and sometimes it plods by in an agonizing crawl. But what our Jewish liturgy – and this American season of thanksgiving – reminds us is that we are called at all times to cultivate and practice the habit of gratitude, to find something every day for which we can give thanks. In this way, we will continually grow to recognize and celebrate the miracles of our own lives, and to give our thanks to God.

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## Emanu El Available For Outside Rentals

Over the last two years, Emanu El has hosted several outside events ranging from an American Alzheimers Association workshop to a YMCA line dancing competition and a Texas Women's Hospital nurses' pinning ceremony. Are you a part of a non-profit or an organization that is looking to utilize a great space? Contact Jason Plotkin at (713) 535-6414 or JasonP@emanuelhouston.org.

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## Emanu El Joins Instagram

Congregation Emanu El has joined the world of Instagram! Be sure to follow us on Instagram to catch snap shots of happenings around the synagogue. From camel sightings to social action, a thriving youth group to clergy in action and more! Find us on Instagram at [www.instagram.com/emanuelhouston](http://www.instagram.com/emanuelhouston) or if you are already a member, find us at @emanuelhouston.



**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK**

[www.facebook.com/emanuelhouston](http://www.facebook.com/emanuelhouston)

## IN THE COMMUNITY

**Ralph Herring** was promoted to Clinical Professor for University of Houston College of Optometry. He also serves as the Assistant Dean for Professional Studies.

## BIRTHS

**Lila Celeste Harrington**, daughter of Kimberly & Zac Harrington; granddaughter of Cindy & Brian Atlas, Nanci & Andrew Spear; great-granddaughter of Helene Atlas, Harry Milne

**Matthew Kukes**, son of Sveltana Stanovkina & Simon Kukes; grandson of Galina Frenklach & Gregory Kukes, Nadezhda Stanovkina & Mikhail Stanovkina

**Benjamin Simon Marks**, son of Nataly & Andrew Marks; grandson of Kathy & Garey Marks, Michael Pogrebinsky; great grandson of Yulia Timan

**Penn Alexander Nussbaum**, son of Elizabeth & Ryan Nussbaum; grandson of Karen Tabak Nussbaum & Meynard Morrie Nussbaum, Kathi & Charles Bryant

## WEDDINGS

**Melanie Sherman & Peter Plocharski**

**Molly Weber & Jared Berg**

## DEATHS

**Norman Chanin**, husband of Shirley Johnson; father of Erica & Andrew Cozewith; grandfather of Henry and Harrison Leusink, Leah and Rachel Cozewith; brother of Karin & Steve Chanin, Sharon Johnson Starr, Patty & Gary Johnson

**Martha Jacobson Clark**, mother of Annette & Scott Erstein, Dianne Jacobson; grandmother of Michelle & Michael Eber, Julia & Stephen Jacobson, Amanda Jacobson; great-grandmother of Liam, Jack and Ellie Jacobson; sister of Yvonne & Arnold Miller, Shirley Hecht

**Andrea Gotlieb**, wife of Frank Gotlieb; mother of Deborah Pesses & David Cotner, Elizabeth & Kevin Nowak; grandmother of Danielle & Stephen Krupa, Dustin Nowak; great grandmother of Audrey and Emerson Krupa, Brody Nowak; sister-in-law of Phyllis Joachim

**Adine Holland**, mother of Libby & Buz Marvins and Gilbert Holland; grandmother of Bryan Marvins and Alyssa Marvins; great grandmother of Oscar Beck and David D. Seiler.

**Gracie Herzog Robinson**, mother of Aaron Robinson, Jordan Robinson; sister of Silvia & Gary Fritzhand, Gilberto Herzog

**Nelly Ropper**, mother of Sandra & Allan Ropper; grandmother of Kathleen Chen & Alexander Ropper, Dana Ropper; great grandmother of Theodore and Maxwell

**Harris Zainfeld**, husband of Judy Zainfeld; father of Lindsay Zainfeld & Amy Edwards; brother of Susan & Richard Speer



and funds for our Clergy's Good Works Fund while others sent truckloads of supplies to Houston. Clergy continue to reach out to members emotionally and financially affected. Congregants volunteered company resources and expertise to address the varied building issues and tasks required to keep our programs running while conducting remediation and repairs. Others have been appointed to a Roof Task Force, as serious decisions must be made about the current condition of and possible replacement of the roof.

Working with a team of volunteers and staff, Shel Vedlitz has been Emanu El's volunteer General Contractor for all things Harvey. He spent countless hours in the building, certainly in the hundreds by now, pricing, scheduling, overseeing, and tracking it all. He has kept us informed at every turn and done so in the most modest good humor imaginable. Thank you, Shel.

Many of you volunteered for the day camp we hosted and donated to our Temple Fund and the Federation. Others have sheltered friends, loaned cars, cut sheetrock and expanded their circles to include strangers.

And having devoted much precious preparation time to the needs of troubled congregants, our clergy team, working together for the first time, elevated our prayers and our spirits throughout High Holidays. Their words comforted and challenged us; music soothed and stirred us.

Over the years, I have been around friends as well as organizations in crisis. I have necessarily been a close observer and participant with staff, clergy and volunteers here of late. Our circles of warmth, affection and friendship have grown in response to recent events. Our new membership tagline – Be a Friend, Bring a Friend – could not be more timely or appropriate. I see new faces at services, attending programs, at Sukkot on Sunset and other events. Whatever your situation, I hope you will find support and meaning by sharing in what we are building at Emanu El and by inviting members of your circles to accompany you here. I'll see you all then.

**Jeff Basen Engquist**  
Board President

## Repair Update



Remediation and repair should be completed by the time you read this. Items remaining on our checklist include replacing some carpeting, ongoing roof concerns, and some preventive construction and maintenance.

We continue to await the final flood insurance policy determination. Our out-of-pocket expense estimate has been slightly reduced below \$500,000, but many final invoices, insurance decisions and personal financial

decisions are still outstanding.

Staff, clergy and I continue to research and request funds to offset our expenses and revenue losses. As of this writing, we have collected a little over \$100,000 in contributions to the Temple Fund where we are gathering your gifts dedicated to this need ([emanuelhouston.org](http://emanuelhouston.org) webpage has a direct link). A recent donation of \$50,000 helped us make significant headway – thank you Marc and Judy Herzstein and Brooke and Dan Feather.

Additional gifts, large and small, are critical to making this fiscal year budget whole. Budget planning for next year begins in December. If you can better assist us with a multi-month donation, please speak with Executive Director David Lamden, Rabbi Hayon or me.

**Jeff Basen Engquist**  
Board President

## Cub Scouts Serve as Ushers During Holy Days

Emanu El's Cub Scouts served as ushers during both the Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur Young Children's Services. The scouts pictured from left to right are Ryan Berger, Sam Friedberg, Oliver Garfield, Max Madof and Jonathan Rosenblum.



## **Brotherhood Announces Re-Scheduled Top Golf Event Sunday, November 12th**



We have re-scheduled! Enjoy TOPGOLF, 1030 Memorial Brook Blvd Houston, TX 77084, with your Brotherhood. Join us on **Sunday, November 12th from 2:30-4:30 pm**. The food, drinks and golf are on us. Come greet old friends and meet new ones. Open to all male adult members of Congregation Emanu El regardless of whether you think you are a member of Brotherhood or not. We want to meet you so we can get acquainted. Come by yourself or with a group of friends. We look forward to spending the afternoon with you. For more information, contact Alex Pliskin at alexpliskin@yahoo.com or Jason Plotkin at the synagogue at (713) 535-6414 or JasonP@emanuelhouston.org.

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## **Clergy Team, Brotherhood Announces Series of Adult Education Learning Sessions**

A series of adult education learning sessions which will focus on the Jewish perspective on current social issues has been announced by the clergy. The sessions are sponsored by the Brotherhood and open to the men of the Congregation.

Each session includes a 'pay your way' breakfast or lunch. A listing of sessions can be found below. Locations for each of these gatherings will be announced in synagogue communications as we get closer to the date.

**Thursday, November 16th** – Breakfast with Rabbi Oren Hayon – *Race & Racism* at 7:00 a.m. (Location: Corner Bakery, 2615 Southwest Freeway)

**Wednesday, December 13th** – Lunch with Rabbi Pam Silk – *Punishment & Mercy* at 12:00 p.m.

**Thursday, January 11th** – Breakfast with Cantor Rollin Simmons – *Justice & Injustice* at 7:00 a.m.

**Wednesday, February 7th** – Lunch with Rabbi Josh Fixler – *Housing & Homelessness* at 12:00 p.m.

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## **Brotherhood to Host Monthly Supper Club**

**Next Gathering – Thursday, December 28th**

The Brotherhood of Congregation Emanu El is excited to announce the formation of a monthly supper club to meet on the fourth Thursday of each month. The first gathering was at Cyclone Anaya in September with the second at Hops Meets Barley in October. The next gathering will take place on Thursday, December 28th due to November's being canceled in observance of Thanksgiving. A location will be shared in forthcoming synagogue communications.

This is an opportunity for men of the congregation to gather for a social evening featuring a happy hour or a 'pay your way' dinner at a different restaurant each month. Most establishments will either be new, 'hole in the walls' and/or near the congregation. For more information, contact brotherhoodemanuelhouston@gmail.com.

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## **Emanu El Makes World Series Wager with Stephen Wise in LA**

Rabbi Oren Hayon issued a challenge to his colleague, Rabbi Yoshi Zweiback at Stephen Wise Temple in Los Angeles as the World Series between the Houston Astros and Los Angeles Dodgers was ready to launch.

As part of the friendly wager, Rabbi Hayon said if the Dodgers win, Emanu El will make a charitable donation to the relief efforts at URJ Camp Newman, which was devastated by the recent fires in Northern California. The congregation would also treat the Stephen Wise Temple staff with pecan pies from Goode Company.

Rabbi Zweiback accepted Emanu El's challenge and offered their own prize if the Astros win – a platter of meat from Factor's Famous Deli and a donation to a charity of Emanu El's choice.

Throughout the first few days of the World Series, the two traded video messages back and forth on their Congregation's Facebook pages. As of print deadline, the series was tied at one game apiece. Check the Emanu El Facebook page to see how things turned up!

The friendly wager between the synagogues had received coverage in the Jewish Herald Voice and on KHOU-TV (Channel 11) in Houston. The initial video had been viewed over 4,000 times by the print deadline of this edition of the Temple *Bulletin*. Subsequent videos issued by both synagogues also drew in thousands of views.

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## Jewish Life Intertwined in Curriculum of Becker

Jewish life is an important part of the Becker curriculum and includes a weekly Kabbalat Shabbat as well as learning about all the Jewish holidays.



The teachers, clergy and Cantor play a huge role in educating the children with wonderful lessons.



The children learned all about Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Simchat Torah with many fun and creative activities including baking round challahs, making shofars, creating Sukkahs in the classrooms and decorating them with fruit, learning all about how the Torah is written and even practicing how to be a scribe.



## Becker School Open House for Prospective Parents Wednesday, November 8th, 9:30 a.m.

See what makes Becker School such a wonderful learning environment for your preschool children. Join us on **Wednesday, November 8th at 9:30 a.m.** for an informative presentation followed by a tour of Becker. Current Becker parents will join Becker staff on the tours to share their perspective and personal experiences.

To RSVP for the Open House or if you have any questions, please contact Judy Lazor at [judyl@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:judyl@emanuelhouston.org) or call (713) 535-6400.

For more information about Becker or to apply for the 2018-19 school year, check out our website.

## Becker School Book Fair Thursday, November 16th from 3:00-7:00 p.m.

Fall into Reading: Join us for a fun afternoon of choosing books, *Honeydew the Clown*, story time with Becker teachers and more on **Thursday, November 16th from 3:00-7:00 p.m.** at the Barnes & Noble on Holcombe at the corner of Buffalo Speedway. This is a great time to buy holiday gifts. Proceeds benefit Sugar's Library, our preschool library. After the Book Fair, grab dinner at Chick-fil-a for Becker Spirit Night.

## Becker Blankets On-Sale

Becker School has blankets on sale! Blankets are just \$25 each and monies raised benefit the Becker Scholarship Fund.

They are perfect for all outdoor events.

For more information, contact the Becker School at (713) 529-5771, ext. 257



## EMANU EL AT A GLANCE THROUGH MID-DECEMBER

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 on our Facebook page.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(through December 15, 2017)

#### NOVEMBER

- 11/7** – Emanu Elders, 11:30 a.m.
- 11/8** – Becker School Open House for Prospective Parents, 9:30 a.m.
- 11/9** – Book Review: *The Black Widow* by Daniel Silva, 7:00 p.m.
- 11/9** – Work of Our Hands, 10:00 a.m.
- 11/12** – Top Golf with the Brotherhood, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
- 11/13** – Gathering Place, 10:00 a.m.
- 11/16** – Brotherhood Adult Ed Series: Race & Racism, 7:00 a.m. (Corner Bakery)
- 11/16** – Becker Book Fair at Barnes & Noble, 3:00-7:00 p.m.
- 11/16** – Sisterhood Opening Dinner, 6:30 p.m.
- 11/21** – Kids Meals, 9:30 a.m.
- 11/28** – Sack Lunches for SEARCH, 9:30 a.m.

#### DECEMBER

- 12/1** – Tot Shabbat & Dinner, 5:45 p.m. (dinner), 6:30 p.m. (Tot Shabbat)
- 12/5** – Emanu Elders, 11:30 a.m.
- 12/6-12/10** – URJ Biennial, Boston
- 12/10** – Latke Making Morning in the Temple kitchen, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- 12/13** – Brotherhood Adult Ed Series: Punishment & Mercy, 12:00 p.m. (TBA)
- 12/14** – Work of Our Hands, 10:00 a.m.
- 12/15** – Service of Installation for Cantor Simmons & Chanukah Celebration, 6:00 p.m.
- 12/16** – Special Musical Concert with Cantor Simmons & Elana Arian, 7:00 p.m.

**NEXT BULLETIN TO BE ISSUED:  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5th**

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### Welcome Our Newest Members

We are pleased to welcome the newest members to our congregational family. Please be sure to introduce yourself to our newcomers as they become a part of our community.

- Tara & Bryant Burt,**  
daughter Evelyn & son Michael
- Meryl Ettelson**
- Katy Goodman & Zach Moser,**  
sons Alan & Edward
- Emily & Andrew Kasner**
- Melissa Kopin & Sam Levenback**
- Danielle & Blaine Lapin**
- Nikki Lapine**
- Susan Nerlove,**  
son Joe Naccache
- Deana & Glenn Reitman,**  
sons Alexander & Jason
- Chloe Smith & Alan Urban**
- Christine & Paul Wasserman,**  
son Thomas

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).

## Our clergy want to know . . .

If you or a loved one is sick or hospitalized please let us know.

Contact the synagogue at (713) 529-5771, so that our rabbis can reach out and visit and be a source of strength and support.

Visiting the sick and praying for those who are ill are important and meaningful mitzvot.



## URJ Delegation Visits Emanu El To Review Post-Harvey Recovery

The delegation from the Union for Reform Judaism spent time visiting the Congregation Emanu El leadership team. The URJ team reviewed the Hurricane Harvey associated damage on the Congregation's campus. The meeting also provided an opportunity for the URJ to learn about the effects the storm had on over 150 member families and what Emanu El's role has been within the greater Houston community in the recovery process.

From left to right: Congregation Emanu El President Jeff Basen-Engquist, Emanu El Senior Rabbi Oren Hayon, Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) Vice President of Strengthen Congregations, URJ President Rabbi Rick Jacobs and Emanu El Executive Director David Lamden.



## Sukkot on Sunset Features Climbing Wall for All Ages

Lewis Kalmans and Greta Pliskin had no problem scaling the rock wall at Sukkot on Sunset in October. Sukkot on Sunset was attended by over 600 guests who had an opportunity to enjoy BBQ, great music, inflatables, arts and crafts and more. The evening ended with a Sukkah service and s'mores provided by the Brotherhood & Boy Scouts.

## Pause Box Constructed by Rice Architecture Students on Emanu El's Front Yard

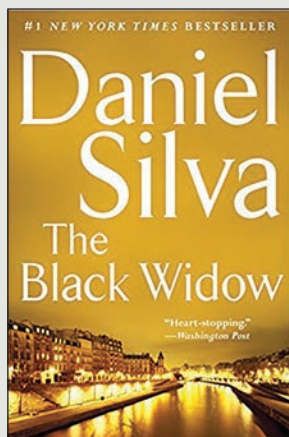
The "Pause Box" made its debut on the front of Emanu El's campus during Sukkot. The "Pause Box" was the winner of a contest held in conjunction with the Rice School of Architecture in which students were tasked with designing a Sukkah.





# Sisterhood News & Happenings

Fall 2017



## BOOK REVIEW:

*The Black Widow*,  
by Daniel Silva

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH  
7:00 PM

*Reviewed by Ed Septimus*

Gabriel Allon, legendary spy and art-restorer, is poised to become the chief of Israel's secret intelligence service. On the eve of his promotion, ISIS detonates a massive bomb in the Marais district of Paris. A desperate French government enlists the aid of Allon and other Israeli agents, in order to eliminate the responsible ISIS operative. A reception follows held in memory of Elwood "Woody" Nestvold. Please RSVP to [sishood@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:sishood@emanuelhouston.org) or call (713) 529-5771, ext. 233.

## Sisterhood Lends Hand on Sukkot on Sunset



The Emanu El Sisterhood helped out with arts and crafts during this last month's Sukkot on Sunset event.

## Sisterhood Women's Day Wednesday, January 10, 2018

The Sisterhood of Congregation Emanu El will once again entertain, educate and elucidate you on Women's Day. Out new date is **Wednesday, January 10, 2018**. Details to follow.

## Sisterhood Membership Campaign has started for 2017-18

Join a dynamic group of women dedicated to the principles of our faith and the support of our Congregation and the community, planning social action activities, entertaining events and educational programs with the bond of friendship.

Please call the Sisterhood office for more information at (713) 529-5771, ext. 233 or email [sishood@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:sishood@emanuelhouston.org).

## Re-Scheduled Opening Dinner Thursday, November 16th at 6:30 p.m.

Please join Sisterhood to celebrate our annual Opening Dinner on **Thursday, November 16th, at 6:30 p.m.** at Congregation Emanu El.

Enjoy the Italian theme of the night with friends, fun and fantastic food. You can even request your favorite song, aria or melody from the strolling violins with beautiful music that will have you singin' and swayin'. Adding to the festivities will be a great opportunity to extend a warm welcome to our new clergy, Rabbi Joshua Fixler and Cantor Rollin Simmons.

We look forward to seeing our "seasoned" members, as well as new ones, and we hope to share the excitement of the evening and great beginning of the coming year with you.

Couvert: \$15 members, \$20 non-members. Payments previously made in anticipation of the Sisterhood hosting this event in August will be honored. You may send a check to Congregation Emanu El Sisterhood, 1500 Sunset Blvd., Houston, TX 77005 or contact the Sisterhood office at (713) 529-5771, ext. 233 to pay via credit card.

## Helfman Religious School Consecration

On Wednesday evening, October 11th, in front of their family and friends, our Kindergarten students and our new students in first, second and third grades, were Consecrated during Simchat Torah services. The children sang songs and were blessed by Rabbi Hayon. “T-Torah and the Scrolls” provided spirited music for dancing with the Torah. After the service, a festive Oneg, graciously provided by our Consecration families, was enjoyed by all.



First row (left-right): Liv Umansky, Sarah Berger, Julia Friedberg, Sasha Solomon, Reagan Reichek, Elliana Gospin, Ava Longo, Charlee Frank, Lilah Garner, Braelyn Sweed and Leo David; second row: Ryan Umansky, Hannah Carter, Elise Fishel, Anna Taylor, Sabrina Eisner, Penelope Madof, Sydney Pasternak, Myles Peskin, Beatrice Paine, Josephine Paine and Hannah Lurie; third row: Carson Weinberg, Evelyn Getschow, James Mosbacher, Sadie Buxbaum, Nora Feld, Noa Fink, Mia Sonabend, Theodora Bruskoff, Joshua Carter, Ruby Williams and Gabrielle Miller; fourth row: Henry Koestler, Sam Cass, Lynden Polak, Simon Zamberk, Oliver Ziff, Bobby Mosbacher, Alexander Mayer, Zachary Taylor Ozzie Bloom, Levi Segal, Joseph Bernstein and Owen Greenberg; fifth row: Todd Weiss, Teacher, Jacob Caplan, Matthew Hearn, Leo Chaudhary, Madeleine Bell, Lucy Wolfe, Arabella Hearn, Jacob Schaffer, Georgina Bruskoff, Kara Miller and Reeve Hirsch; back row: Evan Carlson, teacher, Rabbi Josh Fixler, Rabbi Oren Hayon, Rabbi Pam Silk, Cantor Rollin Simmons, Cathy Borden, teacher and Stefani Carlson, Director of Congregational Learning.



## Sukkot Happening Highlights



Rabbi Oren Hayon leads a group of Helfman Religious School students during the Sukkot Happening at Helfman Religious School.



Cantor Rollin Simmons brings her energy and the power of song to Helfman Religious School during their Sukkot Happening.

## MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN (PDP)

### Social Action Committee Prepares to Assist with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (PDP)

Attention Seniors! Your current PDP sponsor should provide you with an *Annual Notice of Change* about your current prescription drug plan. Review that Notice, which may describe changes in your Plan, including changes to the premium, co-pay, and the drugs covered. If you are satisfied with the changes and want to remain in that Drug Plan, you probably will be notified that you do not have to do anything to stay in that Plan for 2018. However, you might be advised that your current plan will be discontinued or merged with another plan for 2018. In such case, you may want to review your options before accepting that change.

If you want to change, or consider changing, to another Plan, the Emanu El Social Action Committee will provide a trained volunteer to assist your analysis of alternatives. To make an appointment (**between Monday, October 16th and Thursday, December 7th**) please call Donna Fraley at (713) 529-5771, ext. 212 and leave your name, phone number, and the day(s) and time(s) you would like to meet. One of our volunteers will call to help you and schedule an appointment. Do not wait until the last minute to make changes.

To change your Prescription Drug Plan, **you must sign up by Thursday, December 7, 2017**. The change will be effective Monday, January 1, 2018.

When you come for your appointment, please bring:

1. Your Medicare Card
2. Your drug list: name, dosage and frequency of each
3. Benefit record from your current PDP Plan or a pharmacy print out of drugs purchased in 2017, if available.

If you want to sign up for a Medicare PDP for the first time, follow the same procedure, and a volunteer will return your call to schedule an appointment.

**Appointments may be scheduled no earlier than Monday, October 16th.**

## Classic Connections Has Successful Launch

The Classic Connections Wine, Cheese and Mineral Water Tasting held on October 21st was a great success. The event sold out in advance, plus two walk-ups who were admitted at the door! Rabbi Hayon set a lovely tone for the evening with an opening Havdalah service followed by an extensive tasting. Guests rated their favorite beverages and were surprised that some of the less expensive wines were favored. Old friends reconnected and new friends got acquainted. Following the great response, the Classic Connections planning committee is inspired and motivated and plans to schedule events for this 50s to 60s age group every 6 to 8 weeks. Watch for future happenings.



### Tot Shabbat with Rabbi Silk & Cantor Simmons

Friday, December 1st

Join Rabbi Silk & Cantor Simmons for Tot Shabbat on Friday, December 1. The evening will begin with a dinner in Feld Hall featuring Chicken Kitchen at 5:45 p.m. before moving into the Oshman Multi-Purpose Room for services at 6:30 p.m. The dinner is just \$5 for children and \$10 for adults. Registration for the dinner is open on the Emanu El web site.

### Calling All Latke Makers!

Sunday, December 10th from 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Share your time and talent as we fry up the famous Emanu El latkes for our congregation's Shabbat Chanukah celebration on **Friday, December 15th**. Sign up for one of three shifts. There will be two 90-minute latke frying shift to begin at either **9:00** or **10:30 a.m.** There will also be a **12:00 – 1:30 p.m.** "cleanup and closeout crew" shift. Please contact Gail Shapiro in the Religious School office to reserve your spot at (713) 535-6400, ext. 261 or [gails@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:gails@emanuelhouston.org).

### Egg Foo Shabbos III

Friday, December 22nd at 6:00 p.m.

What's the holiday season without some Chinese inspired food? We'll have a special Oneg following our Kabbalat Shabbat service on **Friday, December 22nd** at **6:00 p.m.** Fortune cookies, Chinese classics and more await!

### My Generation to Host January Shabbat Dinner

Friday, January 19th

'My Generation' – a social group for those at least 65 years of age will host their next social gathering on **Friday, January 19th** as the group will enjoy Shabbat with the Shabbatones 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 for Italian dinner and registration can be completed on the [www.EmanuElHouston.org](http://www.EmanuElHouston.org) website. Vegetarian options will be available.

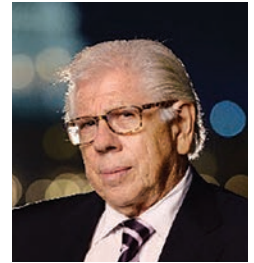
For more information, contact Jill Patir at (713) 529-5771, ext. 262 or [JillP@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:JillP@emanuelhouston.org).

The My Generation committee includes Lindy Dorn, Susie Askanase, Marilyn Waldman, Elaine Lowenstein, Rose Marie Wagman and Brenda Lind. Other programs offered by My Generation for the coming year include a Shabbat dinner in January, a pre-Pesach cooking class with Rabbi Pam Silk in March and a table for the Second Night Seder at Emanu El in April. More information about these and additional upcoming programs, will be shared at a later date.

### Endowment Fund Speaker: Carl Bernstein

Wednesday, January 24, 2018  
at 7:30 p.m.

Congregation Emanu El's featured Endowment Fund Speaker in 2017-18 is renown journalist Carl Bernstein who will speak about "Evolving Role of the Media in Dealing with 'Washington'" on **Wednesday, January 24th** at **7:30 p.m.**



Carl Bernstein

No stranger to the grind of Washington, Bernstein began part-time work at the *Washington Star* at the age of 16 and later dropped out of the University of Maryland to work full-time as a reporter. Bernstein made a historic name for himself when along with Bob Woodward, he uncovered the Watergate scandal which led to the resignation of U.S. President Richard Nixon.

Bernstein shared a Pulitzer Prize with Woodward for their coverage of Watergate for *The Washington Post*. Bernstein's most recent book is the acclaimed biography, *A Woman in Charge: The Life of Hillary Rodham Clinton*. He is the author, with Woodward, of *All the President's Men* and *The Final Days*, and, with Marco Politi, of *His Holiness: John Paul II and the History of Our Time*.

He is also the author of *Loyalties*, a memoir about his parents during McCarthy-era Washington. He has written for *Vanity Fair* (he is also a contributing editor), *Time*, *USA Today*, *Rolling Stone*, and *The New Republic*. He was a Washington bureau chief and correspondent for ABC News. At *The Washington Post*, Bernstein also was a part-time rock critic, and he still occasionally writes about music.

This program is underwritten by the Congregation Emanu El Endowment Fund through grants from the Caplovitz Lectureship Fund, Eleanor & Frank Freed Lectureship Fund, Helen & Harry Reichek Lectureship Fund, Rabbi Roy A. Walter Legacy Fund and the Friends of the Endowment Fund.

Arrangements for the appearance of Carl Bernstein made through Greater Talent Network, Inc., New York, NY.

"Friends of the Endowment Fund" will be shared in upcoming publications. If you have not yet become a "Friend of the Endowment Fund", please contact Jason Plotkin at (713) 535-6414 or [JasonP@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:JasonP@emanuelhouston.org).



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

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**7<sup>th</sup> Annual Kiddush Cup Classic**  
**Monday, March 5, 2018**

Congregation Emanu El is excited to announce that its annual Kiddush Cup Classic will be held on **Monday, March 5, 2018** at Braeburn Country Club, 8101 Bissonnet St.

Sponsorship levels begin at \$450, prior to the **December 31st deadline** in which all individual, organization or company purchasing sponsorships are entitled to 10 percent off the cost.

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.

For more information, visit [www.emanuelhouston.org](http://www.emanuelhouston.org) or call Jason Plotkin at (713) 535-6414.



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