



Congregation Emanu El

Bulletin

July 7, 2020 | 15 Tammuz 5780

VOLUME 74 NUMBER 10

EDITOR'S NOTE ABOUT THIS BULLETIN

As of the print deadline for this edition of the *Bulletin*, all programs, services and meetings of the synagogue have been moved to electronic platforms, postponed or canceled **until futher notice**. To clarify the status of events and gatherings at Emanu El, please visit our website at emanuelhouston.org, call the synagogue at 713.529.5771 or email Jason Plotkin at jasonp@emanuelhouston.org.

FROM RABBI HAYON



The Jewish people is no stranger to suffering and upheaval. But if there is one quality which exemplifies the Jewish character, it is our resilience.

At the end of this month, beginning on the evening of July 29, the worldwide Jewish community will begin its observance of Tisha B'Av, the ninth day of the Hebrew month of Av, which is traditionally dedicated to fasting and mourning.

Tisha B'Av is a day of somber memory for the Jewish people, dedicated to commemorating the losses that our people has experienced over the past two millennia, particularly the destruction of the two great Temples in Jerusalem.

Today, Tisha B'Av is generally not observed as rigorously in Reform communities as it is in other quadrants of the Jewish community. In part, the reason for this is that Reform Judaism staunchly refuses to prioritize the ancient Jewish past over and above the potential of the Jewish future. Moreover, from our perspective as modern Jews, we recognize that the destruction of the Temples, while tragic at the time, was a necessary precondition for the creation of Judaism as we know it today. The fall of the Temples brought with it the end of animal sacrifice, the creation of synagogues for study and rabbis to lead prayer, and the provision of equal access to Jewish life regardless

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Words Change the World Goes Virtual!

Wednesday, August 19, 12:00 p.m. **NEW TIME**

The Sisterhood is excited to share new information for its annual donor event "Words Change the World."



Originally slated for an in-person gathering in March, the Sisterhood will be going virtual on **Wednesday, August 19** at a new time of **12:00 p.m.**

The online, virtual event will be available to all attendees with a paid reservation and each guest will receive a personalized link a few days prior to the event.

The question and answer session with Barbara Pierce Bush will take place

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Emanu El Votes: Seeking Members to Help Grow Civic Engagement Campaign



Emanu El Votes

Stay Tuned for Future Opportunities to Become A Voter Registrar

In recent communications, we have shared our congregation's launch of "Emanu El Votes," a non-partisan civic engagement campaign.

Our aim is to count Emanu El among the growing number of 100% voting congregations in 2020 and beyond. If you are a current Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar (VDVR) and able to register congregants to vote in Harris County, or you would like to engage with this effort in one of many other ways, we would love your participation. No contribution is too big or too small.

Please contact EEvotes@emanuelhouston.org with questions, comments, or interest.

TENTATIVE WORSHIP SERVICES

Please note that this schedule was created with the intention of being back in the building. Any changes will be shared via the regular synagogue communications.

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

Shabbat Pinchas, Numbers 25:10 – 30:1 **Friday, July 10**

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

Saturday, July 11

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

Shabbat Matot – Mas-ei, Numbers 30:2 – 36:13 **Friday, July 17**

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

Saturday, July 18

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

Shabbat D'varim, Deuteronomy 1:1 – 3:22 **Friday, July 24**

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

Saturday, July 25

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

Shabbat Va-et'chanan, Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11 **Friday, July 30**

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

Saturday, August 1

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

Shabbat Eikev, Deuteronomy 7:12 – 11:25 **Friday, August 7**

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

Saturday, August 8

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

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Barish Sanctuary
B'nei Mitzvah of **Benjamin & Hannah Turner**, children
of Rachael Tobor & Valerie Turner

Shabbat R'eih, Deuteronomy 11:26 – 16:17 **Friday, August 14**

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

Saturday, August 15

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

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Barish Sanctuary
Bat Mitzvah of **Avi Hayon**, daughter of Julie & Rabbi
Oren Hayon

FROM RABBI HAYON *continued from page 1*

of one's physical proximity to the great Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

Indeed, throughout our people's life, we have seen how often tragedy leads to productive and inspiring new evolutions in Judaism: Eastern European pogroms and persecutions led to the rise of charismatic Hasidic dynasties, the Crusades fed the diasporic spread of Jewish communities throughout Europe, the Spanish Inquisition and expulsion led to the explosion of Sephardic life and culture around the world, and the horrors of the Holocaust clarified once and for all the importance of Zionism and Jewish self-determination. Time and again in Jewish life, calamity has fed creativity.

Today we find ourselves in the midst of yet another community crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic has played havoc with the norms and institutions of our lives: our workplaces and schools, our families and relationships, the cultural and artistic organizations that make our city beautiful, meaningful, and inspiring. And of course our Jewish community has suffered greatly as well, as we have been forced to sacrifice communal prayer, fellowship, and study in order to uphold the necessary religious imperative of preserving human life and health. Most recently, we have made the most difficult choice yet: to observe this year's High Holy Days without gathering in person in the sacred spaces of our temple building.

The unavoidable decision to observe these holiest days without being together physically – for the first time in our congregation's history – has brought our clergy and leadership into a great deal of soul-searching and careful reflection. Together, we have been imagining how the holidays will look and feel this year, and how we can create meaningful new experiences of reflection, repentance and renewal. This unprecedented brainstorming work is inspired by Jewish history, and all of us gain strength and encouragement by remembering the countless times in our history when calamity has fed creativity – and we are confident that we will rediscover this truth again this year. All of us – staff, clergy and lay leaders alike – are thinking expansively and creatively about building innovative opportunities for our community to experience the prayers, themes, and emotional contours of the High Holy Days in new ways this year. And, as always, we are looking forward to sharing these sacred days with you.

I want to thank you in advance for your support of our leadership and for your openness to this year's High Holy Days; we will begin to share details with you as soon as we are able. In the meantime, if you have feed-back or questions, please reach out to us at HHD20@emanuelhouston.org.

The Jewish people is no stranger to suffering and upheaval. But if there is one quality which exemplifies the Jewish character, it is our resilience. Despite tragedy and disappointments, we have always been able to adapt nimbly while remaining true to our values and to our obligation to each other. That commitment – more than any building or any book – is what makes us who we are, and it is what will ensure our survival forever.

LIFECYCLE EVENTS

IN THE COMMUNITY

A trio of members from the Emanu El family were honored in mid-June during the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston's virtual award ceremony. **Aliza Plotkin** received the Barbara & Harold Falik Young Leadership Award given to an outstanding young Jewish woman leader in our community; **Dena Marks** of the Anti-Defamation League was named the Hans Mayer Jewish Communal Professional Award; and Helfman Religious School teacher **Eileen Elfezouaty** was bestowed the Irving L. Samuels Outstanding Teacher Award for her work at the Emery-Weiner School.

Michelle Blumenthal became the latest Emanu El 'student' to graduate with a degree from the Reform Movement's Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion. Michelle earned a masters' degree in Jewish Education with a certificate in non-profit management.

Cantor Francyne Davis Jacobs was elected President of the Women Cantors' Network, an international organization of over 250 women (and a few men). The WCN is an open resource and support to any working, aspiring, or retired woman cantor who enjoys sharing, learning, singing and praying as a unique community.

WEDDINGS

Abby Weston & Aaron Mark

BIRTHS

Emily Reese Bleiler, daughter of Meredith & Seth Bleiler; granddaughter of Debbie Greenfield Zissman, Lecy & Al Leibman, Sandy & Mike Reckles; great-granddaughter of Marianne & Larry Greenfield, Ryva & Burt Reckles

Harper Rae Coorsh, daughter of Monica & Danny Coorsh; granddaughter of JoAnn Klar, Barbara & David Mello

Daniella Pearl Fixler & Fredi Ruth Fixler, daughters of Annie & Rabbi Josh Fixler; granddaughter of Peter Fixler and Sharon Weisberg; great-granddaughters of Audrey Friedman Marcus and Thelma Fixler

Arden Irene Rilke Kennedy, daughter of Dara Tanner-Kennedy & David Kennedy, granddaughter of Mona & David Tanner, Fred Kennedy

Stella June Sedita, daughter of Rachel & Frank Sedita; granddaughter of Patricia & Eric Smith, Jean & Richard Sedita

DEATHS

Betty Aronowitz, mother of Amy & Glenn Greene, Marjorie & Mark Aronowitz; sister of Marion Lewis, Estelle Jucker

Clara Cook, mother of Abby & Joel Davis, Denise Jordan & Stanley Cook, Larry Cook; grandmother of Shana & Nossi Creeger, Matthew Finkelstein, David Finkelstein; great-grandmother of Amira and Dean Creeger

Rose Ann Martin Finkel, sister of Pat & Aaron Fradkin; wife of Charles Finkel; mother of Stefaney Mathews & Andrew Finkel, Amy Finkel & Jesse Reiswig

Melvyn Fradkin, brother of Carol & Larry Fradkin, Allan Fradkin; husband of Lea Fradkin; father of Lee & Robbie Wright, Bonnie & Michael Fradkin, Julie Fradkin

Jean Goldberg, mother of member Ralph Howard; grandmother of Ashley & Nick Howard; great-grandmother of Harrison and Conrad Howard; sister of Joan Franks

Louis Green, father of Pat & Chuck Green, Shelley Green, Lauren & Robert Smith; grandfather of Alissa & Geoffrey Smalling, Elizabeth & Michael Shulak, Mindy Green; great-grandfather of Rowan and Landyn Smalling

William Murphy, stepfather of Heidi & Ken Leventhal; grandfather of Jeremiah Leventhal, Nicole & Brian Leventhal, Emily Leventhal

Arnold Nitishin, husband of Leah Nitishin; father of Cheryl Rose Nitishin, Renee & Zeev Kofman, Annette & Larry Weiser, Lawrence David Nitishin; grandfather of Leslie & Garrett Hartman, Rachel & Ian Hartman, Jenna & Dustin Potter, Becca & Dillon Kofman, Kelly & Nick Weiser, Amanda & Eric Weiser; great-grandfather of Dean Mills, Ari Hartman, Noah Hartman, Sarah Hartman, Drake Potter, Stori Potter, Tanner O'Cain, Jaxon Kofman, Tegan Kofman, Luna Bella Kofman, Levi Weiser, Hudson Weiser, Hayden Weiser

Helen Papell, mother of Bonnie Weisman & David Papell; grandmother of Darci and Marisa Papell

J. Victor Samuels, husband of Bobbi Samuels; father of Marci Rosenberg & Ben Samuels, Cheryl & Josh Samuels, Suzan & Jeremy Samuels; grandfather of Megan, Ethan, Zachary, Nathaniel, Leah, Mimi and Gabby

Gayle Barbara Smiley, sister of Lynda Smiley Rauch

A Notice About Bereavement Communications

Bereavement notices for our Temple family are distributed with the permission of the deceased's family, and the timing of these notices is dictated by the family's request. Of course, each family grieves in its own way, and we are grateful for our congregation's patience and understanding with different families' preferences about how their loss is publicized.

Emanu El Confirmation

Congregation Emanu El held its annual confirmation during Shavuot worship on Thursday, May 28, 2020 over a virtual platform. The service can be watched on the Emanu El Facebook page and the Emanu El YouTube Channel. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are unable to provide a class photo but plan to take the 2020 class photo in 2021. Mazel Tov to the Confirmands and their families!

2020 CONFIRMANDS:

Braden Isaac Burgan, Yitzhak Baruch ben David v'Rachel, son of Rachel & David Burgan

Maya Gertrude Credeur, Maya bat David v'Devorah, daughter of Corey & Brian Credeur

Wyatt Sam Cyprow, Omri ben Zev v'Leah, son of Laura Mayer & Jarrod Cyprow

Hannah Lang Dunnam, Chanah Yosefa bat Noah v'Rut, daughter of Ruth & Jeffrey Dunnam

Norah Katherine Feldman, Neorah Tzipporah bat Aron Shmuel v'Gavriella Chana, daughter of Jeri Amundsen & Arthur Feldman

Lindsay Ruth Frankfort, Dafna Chaviva bat Benjamin Yehoshua v'Michal Dina, daughter of Michelle & Benjamin Frankfort

Amara Kay Freedson, Leah bat Abraham v' Jessica, daughter of Jessica & Armyn Freedson

Jason Alan Gerber, Avram Yaakov ben Chaim Dov v'Chaya Freida, son of Teri & Howard Gerber

Zoe Elise Hirshfeld, Chaya Elisheva bat Eli, daughter of Betsy & Elliott Hirshfeld

Cory Alexander Kardesch, Katzin Asher ben Mayer Shmuel v'Tamar, son of Katherine & Matthew Kardesch

Leah Emma Lynch, Kochava Chaya bat Amita Shira, daughter of Amy & Erik Kolflat & Russell Ditto

Veronica Sage Ostrin, Roni bat Eitan v'Leah, daughter of Lisa & Edwin Ostrin

Bonnie Erin Robbins, Aharonit bat Shmuel v'Devorah, daughter of Debbie & Samuel Robbins

Madelaine Dae Rose, Ariella bat Chana, granddaughter of Vivian Rose

Sarah Wechsler Kelly, Yisraela bat Hadassah, daughter of Adrianna Wechsler & Patrick Kelly

Joshua Mathew Weber, Harel Tobiah ben Michael, son of Monica & Michael Weber

2019-20 Helfman Religious School Confirmation Award Winners

Emanuel & Cecile Wulfe Award: **Braden Burgan**

Ben & Esther Noble Campership Award: **Leah Lynch**

Rose Goodfriend Israel Pilgrimage Award: **Jason Gerber**

Ben & Berta Steinberg Confirmation Award: **Zoe Hirshfeld & Wyatt Cyprow**

Honor Roll: **Bonnie Robbins, Norah Feldman, Sarah Wechsler Kelly**

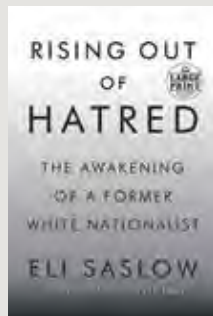
Drive-By Confirmation Blessings



These photos were taken over a few days in late May 2020 by Rabbi Hayon with confirmation students. Traditionally, Rabbi Hayon would do a blessing at the ark with these students during confirmation, however, they were unable to do so due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sisterhood News & Happenings

July 2020



BOOK REVIEW:

Rising Out of Hatred: The Awakening of a Former White Nationalist,
by Eli Saslow

THURSDAY, JULY 9 6:30 PM

The Congregation Emanu El Sisterhood hosts bi-monthly book reviews throughout the year. These book reviews are open to the public. July's book review will be led by our congregant, Ed Septimus.

Please note: This book review will be held by Zoom and the information to access will be emailed ahead of time to those who register.

In our July book, *Rising Out of Hatred: The Awakening of a Former White Nationalist*, the author Eli Saslow, a winner of the Pulitzer Prize, writes through the prism of Derek Black's disavowal of the mantle of white supremacy, which Black was poised to inherit. Black's personal example of submitting to exposure and conversation with those who espoused different beliefs, showed how dangerous and damaging his prior beliefs were. This is a true story of America's racist and Anti-Semitic history told through the battle over a single American soul.

To help us plan for our book reviews and to receive communications about future book reviews, we ask that you kindly RSVP online or by contacting the Sisterhood at sishood@emanuelhouston.org or 713.529.5771, ext. 233 **by Tuesday, July 7.**

Sisterhood's Virtual Installation of Officers & Board Members

Sisterhood held its first virtual installation of officers and board members in June.

Rabbi Silk conducted the installation service, originally written by former Sisterhood president Dolores Wilkenfeld, for the incoming 2020-2021 board.

Rabbi Hayon expressed the importance of Sisterhood to Congregation Emanu El, praising it for 'always being there.' Cantor Simmons added to the ceremony with a pair of songs, which included "Sanctuary" and "Do Justice/Hinei Ma Tov," the song specially written for Emanu El's 75th anniversary.

Former Sisterhood President and current Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) Board Member Fredi Franks spoke about the value of Sisterhood's membership in WRJ, as well as leadership and the importance of mentoring.

Later in June, Sisterhood met on Zoom to plan the year's activities. Whether they take place physically or virtually, Sisterhood is working toward continuing its legacy of programming that we look forward to sharing.

Sisterhood Membership Information Forthcoming

Please be on the lookout for information on 2020-21 Sisterhood membership in the coming weeks. Although right now, we may not have been able to get together in person as a group, our intentions are to maintain the strong bond that Sisterhood represents. Virtual programs will be planned and scheduled to provide many exciting activities.

Upon receiving the membership information, please return the enclosed form with payment or you can register online at <https://www.emanuelhouston.org/sisterhood>.

For additional information, please contact the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771, ext. 233 or sishood@emanuelhouston.org.

How to Connect When You're Never Apart

Wednesday, July 8, 7:00 p.m.
(4th - 7th grade families)

Wednesday, July 15, 7:00 p.m.
(8th - 12th grade families)

In the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, parents and their children are spending more time together under one roof than ever before.

Led by our Director of Congregational Learning Stefani Carlson and Youth Engagement Coordinator Becca Schwartzberg, this hour-long session will give you and your child the opportunity to come together – even if on your own screens – to talk to each other in real time about the gifts and challenges of this new normal. You will reflect on your own needs and communication styles and explore strategies for truly connecting with each other at a time when you are in the same house/apartment but maybe not necessarily finding genuine ways to connect. Students and at least one parent should attend together.

We will be offering two sessions, one for middle school families (outgoing grades 4-7) and one for upper school families (outgoing grades 8-12). Please register in advance at <https://www.emanuelhouston.org/form/connect2020> or by calling 713.529.5771.

For more information, contact Becca Schwartzberg at beccas@emanuelhouston.org.

Tisha B'Av Edition of Taste of Talmud: Lunch Time Text Study Thursday, July 30, 12:30 p.m.

Join Stefani Carlson, Director of Congregational Learning, for a special Tisha B'Av session of our monthly Talmud study group. All are welcome, and no prior experience or Hebrew knowledge is required. While pre-registration is not necessary, if you would like the study sheet sent to you in advance, please email Stefani at stefanic@emanuelhouston.org.

Please note that we will be meeting on a different date than our usually scheduled date in July. We look forward to meeting next on Thursday, August 20 at 12:30 p.m. If we are unable to meet at Emanu El, our monthly gathering will be taken online to Zoom. Our Zoom information will be shared ahead of time in synagogue communications.

Conversations

Wednesdays, 12:00 p.m.

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

Previous guests have included: First Christian Church pastor Michael Dunn, Jackie Fisherman and Taryn Baranowski from the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston, Houston Independent School District (HISD) school board member Elizabeth Santos, Jewish Family Services Chief Operating Officer Carl Josehart, Shariq Ghandi of the Minaret Foundation, Fox 8 New Orleans Sports Director Juan Kincaid, Martin Cominsky of Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston, Corpus Christi Hooks play-by-play voice Michael Coffin and more!

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

Sixth Annual Night at the Ballpark Postponed to 2021



This year's event at Minute Maid Park to cheer on the Houston Astros against the Miami Marlins in September has been postponed.

Due to uncertainty in early June surrounding the Major League Baseball season along with changes to game dates and fan access, Emanu El worked with the Houston Astros to postpone the contest until 2021.

All congregants who previously registered were informed of this decision by email, and refunds have been processed to the credit/debit cards used for the transactions. We look forward to announcing a 2021 date next winter!

BOOK OF MEMORY 2020

The *Book of Memory* is shared at our Yorn Kippur Yizkor service and is among our most treasured congregational traditions. In it we inscribe the names of our loved ones, and it serves as an acknowledgement that those who came before us, taught us, loved us and inspired us, and have not been forgotten.

This year, we know that our congregation and the world around us are dealing with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which will mean adapting our traditions. This year, we will mail all congregants a copy of the *Book of Memory* in advance of Yom Kippur, in order to preserve this cherished tradition despite the upheaval and discontinuity that the pandemic has brought. Additional copies will be available at the synagogue following the High Holy Days. We suggest a minimum of \$15 per name.

Due to our foreshortened mailing printing deadlines, all information and donations must be received by the office by **Wednesday, July 29**. Information received after the deadline will be printed in the *Bulletin*. We regret that we cannot take *Book of Memory* information over the phone.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

REMEMBERED BY:

Please complete and return this form with your check to:
 Congregation Emanu El, 1500 Sunset Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77005.

Daytime Phone _____ Email _____



Congregation Emanu El

Emanu El Recognized with Partnership Award from CarePartners



Rabbi Oren Hayon pictured with the Partnership Award from CarePartners. This photo was taken during the virtual celebration on Thursday, June 11. The event can be viewed on Emanu El's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Congregation Emanu El was awarded with the Partnership Award on Thursday, June 11 during Care Partners' "Sweet Charity" event.

Originally programmed to take place in person, the ceremony awarding Emanu El was moved to a virtual platform that included a pre-recorded message from Rabbi Hayon.

This award is presented annually to a CarePartners partner organization that shares in the mission and passion to serve family caregivers and their loved ones who suffer from memory loss and other challenges of aging.

Emanu El has been associated with CarePartners since 1989, when the congregation launched an AIDS Care



Each month, the Gathering Place is offered at Emanu El and features a program along with singing, arts, bingo, and lunch. Some of the more popular get-togethers occur when members of "Faithful Paws" and "Caring Critters" (pictured with their owners) stop by to visit with the clients and caregivers.

Team that lasted just over six years, served 22 people with HIV/AIDS and donated over 9,546 hours to the effort. At the time, Emanu El along with Congregation Brith Shalom were the first two synagogues in Houston to pioneer the Jewish response locally to those people with HIV/AIDS.

The work of the congregation extended to what CarePartners dubs as a "Second Family" team, which Emanu El affectionately named its Caring Congregation committee. Over the course of 26 years, this group provided assistance for 18 homebound families – and many more who were temporarily confined to hospitals and nursing homes – with nearly 13,000 hours of service.

The work with CarePartners continues this coming September, as Emanu El will celebrate its 15th anniversary of hosting the Gathering Place at the synagogue.

The first Jewish congregation to sponsor a CareTeam, members of the Emanu El community have served 173 caregivers and their loved ones with memory loss, donating over 14,711 hours of service in the process.



Arts and crafts are considered highlights of the monthly gatherings. In addition to the usual happenings, previous guests have included musicians, the University of Houston cheerleaders and even our Becker School students. Each month's gathering is chaired by one or more people, with lunch provided by a team under the direction of Chef Jodi Gibson.

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Previous winners of the Partnership Award include Zion Lutheran Church (2019) and Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church (2018).

This award is not the first for Emanu El, which has received two of CarePartners' featured recognitions over the years. In 1997, Rabbi Roy Walter was presented the Founder's Award honoring individuals and organizations who have contributed significantly toward the realization of CarePartners' vision and mission. In 2010, congregant Sandy Lusky was the Dr. Ronald H. Sunderland Care Team Member Award recipient for service reflecting exemplary dedication to the Care Team® program, and whose caregiving personifies the

caring spirit of Dr. Ronald H. Sunderland, Co-Founder of CarePartners.

Over the past 32 years, CarePartners has partnered with more than 300 congregations, synagogues and other non-profits around the greater Houston area who provide space, volunteers and financial resources to CarePartners.

At Emanu El, this work is generously underwritten by the Riva Bursten Caring Congregation Fund which goes to support programs like Gathering Place that assist people in the community.

WORDS CHANGE THE WORLD GOES VIRTUAL! *continued from page 1*

with attendees having an opportunity to submit questions ahead of time. A few surprises at the start and end of the event will take place, that for now - we are keeping a secret!

A custom box lunch will be delivered to attendees between 9-11 a.m. at the addresses specified in a form sent prior to this publication of the Bulletin. Inside the lunch box, attendees will find some of the personalized details that had been prepared for the original luncheon event. Attendees will also have the opportunity to donate their lunch to Second Servings.

Sisterhood will be donating two books in the name of each attendee, accounting for over 1,000 new children's books donated to the Harris County Public Library's Curiosity Cruiser.

Other donations include a gift to Bush's Global Health Corps and in addition to the lunch boxes gifted by guests, the Sisterhood will be making a financial contribution to Second Servings.

The deadline for attendees to finalize their arrangements for the date is Friday, July 31. To solidify your arrangements, please fill out the form mailed out by the Sisterhood or contact the Sisterhood directly at 713.529.5771, ext. 233 or sishood@emanuelhouston.org.

Additionally – tickets are still available for the program only at a cost of \$50 by contacting the Sisterhood office or by visiting the Emanu El website at www.emanuelhouston.org.

Membership Information; Annual Commitment 2020-21

All members of Emanu El should have received a letter from the congregation enclosed with their first statement. If you did not receive these documents, need assistance with selecting your payment options and/or adjusting your planned commitment for the 2020-21 fiscal year, or have general questions, please contact David Lamden at davidl@emanuelhouston.org or 713.529.5771, ext. 221. All conversations are kept strictly confidential.

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.



Becker Names Sarah Williams to Assistant Director Post



We are so excited to welcome Sarah Williams to our Becker team as Assistant Director, supervising Curriculum and Professional Development.

Sarah is a former Becker teacher and has 15 years of experience teaching early childhood through third grade.

Her passion of multi-sensory learning led her to co-create

Literacy Enrichment And Play (LEAP), which she ran for seven years and has been an integral part of our Becker curriculum.

Sarah has presented original workshops on play-based learning at a variety of early childhood conferences and schools. She has a Bachelor of Science in Child Development, a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, and is a trained Dyslexia Specialist. Sarah believes all children deserve the opportunity to develop at their full potential and flourish in school, their community, and life. She, her husband Adam and their three girls are members of Congregation Emanu El.

HELFMAN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS



An Update from Stefani Carlson, Director of Congregational Learning



This spring and summer have been unprecedented. We have had to rethink so much about how we interact with each other, how we learn, and how we maintain the strong ties of community, tradition and friendship that sustain us. And while that work has been difficult, and sometimes uncomfortable, it

has also presented an amazing opportunity for deep thinking, creativity, and exploration. We have had the chance to examine what we do, why we do it, and how we might do it better.

There has been much learning happening this spring! We have moved our B'nei Mitzvah preparation program almost seamlessly onto Zoom. Families have enjoyed cozy Sunday mornings singing, praying and learning together online. Our teachers have created dozens of videos and other materials for our students and their families to use in learning at home. And our Summer Challenge, which is launching in this Bulletin, will help families explore some of the many opportunities for home-based Jewish learning that are available, including resources from our partner URJ camps.

As the clergy, the Helfman Religious School team and I have begun to work together to plan learning opportunities for our congregation for the summer and beyond, we have a wealth of new knowledge and skills upon which to draw. Throughout the spring, I have been collecting and processing data about the experiences we and our partners in the community and the URJ have had with online and other forms of distance learning. We are working with our curriculum partners to develop new materials, and new ways of accessing familiar ones. I am also serving on the national advisory board for a group of Jewish educators who are designing a new hybrid-learning curriculum for congregational schools.

While we do not yet know exactly what the fall will look like for our Helfman Religious School, I do know this: there will be exciting and engaging Jewish learning. There will be deep ties of family and community built and strengthened. There will be Hebrew and prayer and tradition.

And most importantly, there will be joy. If you are interested in helping to shape what comes next, I welcome your voice. Please contact me directly at stefanic@emanuelhouston.org or join our Helfman Religious School Committee by contacting co-chairs Burton Manne or Marcia Fiman.

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Helfman Summer Challenge

Join us this July for the first installment of our Helfman Summer Challenge! This list of fun, Jewish activities that your whole family can participate in is a great way to show off your Jewish learning and living all summer long. Do as many or as few of the activities as you want, but make sure you share your finished products with us!

Between now and August 7th, send us your pictures, videos, stories, or whatever else you come up with from the listed activities, and at the end of the month, we will select a participant to win a gift card. You can share with us by email by contacting Becca Schwartzberg at beccas@emanuelhouston.org or by posting to our Facebook page. We can't wait to see what you come up with!



The poster is titled "HELFMAN SUMMER CHALLENGE" with the dates "July 1 - August 7". It features a logo for Helfman Religious School and a green speech bubble saying "Summer fun!". The challenge is divided into four categories: CREATE, LEARN, WATCH, and FAMILY ACTIVITIES. Each category has a list of activities. At the bottom, there are social media links for Facebook, YouTube, and the school's website.

HELFMAN SUMMER CHALLENGE
July 1 - August 7

CREATE

- Take a video of yourself singing one of your favorite Jewish songs
- Write a Jewish story
- Make a video of a dance you've learned at Helfman or at camp
- Do an art project that shows or makes a Jewish object
- Participate in an online Jewish summer camp cally challenge

LEARN

- Read Hebrew for 10 minutes
- Learn a new blessing
- Read a summary of this week's Torah portion and write 2 sentences about what you learned
- Read a Jewish book and do a creative book report (video, art project, etc.)
- Watch a Jewish movie and do a creative book report

WATCH

- Listen to Jewish Rock Radio and list 2 songs you liked
- Watch a Helfman@Home video that you haven't seen before
- Attend a virtual Emanu El Shabbat service
- Tune into Campfire on Tour virtual concert series
- Attend a virtual camp Shabbat or Havdalah service

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

- Light Shabbat candles together
- Bake a challah
- Learn how to cook your favorite Jewish food and enjoy it together
- Do Havdalah together
- Interview a family member about their favorite Jewish holiday or traditions

Facebook.com/HelfmanReligiousSchool
Youtube.com/EmanuElHoustonVideo
EmanuElHouston.org/Helfman



Find Us On YouTube!

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

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

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



Get Social With Us!

Did you know Congregation Emanu El is on Instagram? In addition to our active Facebook pages, be sure to follow us on Instagram to catch snap shots of happenings around the synagogue. From camel sightings to social action, a thriving youth group to clergy in action and more!

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



We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who remember and honor their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions through June 14, 2020.

ACCESS FOR ALL

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

In Memory of

Franklin Roth

Pat & Aaron Fradkin
Susan & Steve Weil

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To support Helfman Religious School teacher assistants

In Honor of

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

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

A Donation (through Farb

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Gail Eldridge
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Noel Foreman

The Birth of Ari Theodore Zeitman

Michael Zeitman

The Speedy Recovery of Rabbi Roy Walter

Gretchen Gemeinhardt

In Memory of

Joel Cyprus

Mildred Rudolph

Shelly Cyprus

Louis Green

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Aubrey Farb

Carol & Michael Wilk

Morris "Ike" Rosenthal

Shelley & Vic Wisner

BECKER EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND

To provide for and enhance Becker School programs

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Dee Dee & Bob Halpin

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BECKER EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

To provide Becker Early Childhood Center scholarships

In Honor of

Jeri Amundsen –

Election as President of Congregation Emanu El
Judy & Allan Lazor

In Memory of

Linda Cohn Walter

Louis Green

Judy & Allan Lazor

CARY PASTERNAK CEMETERY FUND

To maintain and enhance Emanu El Memorial Park

In Honor of

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

Jeanne & Matt Pasternak

CERSONSKY CEMETERY BEAUTIFICATION FUND

To maintain and enhance Emanu El Memorial Park

In Memory of

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Pat & Aaron Fradkin

Morris "Ike" Rosenthal

Barbara Miller

Franklin Roth

Kelly & James Cersonsky

Joy & Dickie Pulaski

CHESTER MARCUS CAMPERSHIP FUND

To provide Greene Family Camp scholarships

In Memory of

Bernard "Bernie" Berman

Shirley Burkom

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

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To support and enhance Brotherhood programming
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Lidya Kushner

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To provide programs for Emanu Elders
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Beth Edeiken-Monroe
Barbara & Raymond Kalmans

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To feed the hungry of Houston
In Honor of

Carol Goodfriend's Birthday
Jennis Kauffman

The Speedy Recovery of David Askanase
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Katharyn Fox Slater & Don Robins

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FLORENCE & BEN BLUM LEADERSHIP FUND

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

FREDELL LACK EICHHORN CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND

To enhance musical programming
In Memory of

Louis Green
Sheila & Stanley Horn
Janet & Joe Marshal

GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND

To provide for the general needs of Emanu El and its facilities
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Louis Green
Harriet & Stuart Grossman
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Eleanor Faye
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Linda Cohn Walter
Harriet & Stuart Grossman

GREENE FAMILY CAMP FUND

To support Greene Family Camp
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Sondra Ross

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To maintain and enhance the playground
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Louis Green
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To provide arts programs for children
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Sydney & Ted Roggen
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To provide musical programs
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KAGAN RUDY CHAPEL FUND

To maintain and enhance the Kagan Rudy Chapel at Emanu El Memorial Park
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Dotty & Lawrence Kagan

LILLIAN PASTERNAK MITZVAH FUND

To support mitzvah projects that improve the life of Houstonians
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Rabbi Joshua Fixler
Fran & Michael Kowler

In Memory of
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Vicki & Herb Pasternak
Morris "Ike" Rosenthal
Adrian & Dianna Shapiro

THE PROLER CHAPEL FUND

To provide for and enhance the Proler Chapel
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Morris "Ike" Rosenthal
The Spielberg Family

RABBI ROY & LINDA WALTER ENRICHMENT FUND

To support spiritual and cultural enrichment
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Josh, Ali, Noah, Mia & Sonny Septimus

Rabbi Roy Walter's 50th Anniversary in

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Ruthe Berman, Lisa &
David

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SCHOLARSHIP FUND**
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Elaine Helfman
Franklin Roth
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Susan & Richard Speer

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Gayle Zubowski
Gladys Schnurr

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*To support programs
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A Donation
Cindy Thomas

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**Rabbi Roy Walter's 50th
Anniversary in
Rabbinat & Emanu El**
Marlene & Larry Bursten
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Bursten

In Memory of
**Alan Garber
Franklin Roth**
Ellen & Martin Grabois

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EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND**
*To enhance preschool
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*To help send Confirmation
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**Maya Credeur – becoming
a Comfirmant**
Heather & Marty
Oppenheimer

**SARAH & ADOLPH
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KODESH SACRED OBJECTS
FUND**
*To purchase and maintain
Emanu El's sacred objects*
In Memory of
**Sarah Blumenfeld
Linda Cohn Walter**
Norman L. Blumenfeld

**SHIRLEY & MARVIN
BARISH TEACHER
ENRICHMENT FUND**

To provide training
programs for Emanu El
teachers

In Memory of

Franklin Roth

Evelyn Wisenberg

**SISTERHOOD FLOWER
FUND**

To provide flowers at
Congregation Emanu El

In Memory of

Bernard Farfel

Carol & Barry Goodfriend
& Family

SISTERHOOD FUND

To provide for and enhance
Sisterhood programming

In Honor of

Sisterhood 2020-2021

**Officers & Board
Members**

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In Memory of

Franklin Roth

Lynda Newman

**STILLMAN-LACK
MEMORIAL LIBRARY
FUND**

To provide for and
enhance the Stillman-Lack
Memorial Library

In Memory of

Eleanor Levine

Ellen & Martin Grabois

**SUSMAN FUND FOR
FAMILY PROGRAMMING**

To support programs for
families

In Memory of

Louis Green

Alyce Levey

Ralph Levey

Lila Rauch

TEMPLE FUND

To support the needs of the
Temple and to fulfill the
mission of Congregation
Emanu El

In Appreciation of

**Rodney Roth's leadership
as Emanu El's President**

Jeri Amundsen & Arthur
Feldman

In Honor of

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

Ronnie Kurtin &
Gary Lew

Gloria & Ben Tobor

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Mark Warshaw

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Barbara Feldman

Carol & Michael Wilk

Cemetery Plot Increase on Hold Until September

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

MEMBER

Pre-need: \$3,900.00

At need: \$4,300.00

NON-MEMBER

Pre-need: \$6,200.00

At need: \$6,700.00

For questions or plot purchases, please contact Alisha Klapholz at 713-529-5771 or at alishak@emanuelhouston.org.



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WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

UPPER SCHOOL (GRADES 8-12):

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

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grat-i-tude

/gradə,t(y)ōōd/ noun

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EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG

A Look Back: Celebrating Rabbi Walter's
50 Years in Rabbinate, at Emanu El

Congregation Emanu El celebrated 50 years in the rabbinate and at Congregation Emanu El of our beloved Rabbi Roy Walter during the weekend of June 5-7.



Clips and videos from the weekend's festivities ranging from our Friday night Shabbat service to our Saturday morning study and concluding with a conversation with Rabbi Oren Hayon can be found on our website (click the Rabbi Walter image on the front page) or on our YouTube channel.

Thanks for joining Rabbi Walter and our community virtually during the festivities!



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