



# Bulletin

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VOLUME 76 NUMBER 6

## FROM RABBI HAYON



*As we enter this season of joy and celebration and remember Esther's heroic story, let's remember to cultivate both of those critical Jewish survival skills: the ability to work for redemption and peace, and the sensitivity to be aware of God's invisible touch surrounding and supporting us at all times.*

The *Book of Esther*, the central text of the upcoming holiday of Purim, has several features which make it unique among the books of the *Bible*. It's the only one set in the kingdom of Persia, for one thing. And it's one of only two biblical books named for a woman (the other one is the *Book of Ruth*, which we'll read later this spring during Shavuot).

But what sets Esther apart from the rest of the biblical books is its most curious feature: it is the only prose book of the *Bible* which does not mention God at all.

Unsurprisingly, over the centuries, Jewish commentators and rabbis have debated about what it means for God to be absent from the pages of the *megillah*. For some, the Purim story is powerful precisely because God never makes an appearance in it. Because it is essentially a secular story, its account of the Jews' salvation may emphasize the value of human cleverness, ingenuity and solidarity with each other.

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## 7th Annual Second Night Seder (in-person) Saturday, April 16, 6:00 p.m.

Following a two-year break, we are thrilled to invite the congregation and community to our seventh Annual Second Night Seder.

A Passover Seder led by our clergy, our seder features a fully catered meal that includes all the staples from matzoh ball soup to gefilte fish! The meal is catered by Houston Catering Concepts, the preferred caterer of Congregation Emanu El.

Registration is open and the deadline for registration is **Wednesday, April 6**.

The cost of attending the seder is \$40 for member adults and \$50 for non-member adults. The cost for children is \$20.

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## Music of the Night, (hybrid)

Saturday, March 19, 7:30 p.m.,



**Andrea McCardle**



**Adam Pascal**



**Seth Rudetsky**

Congregation Emanu El Sisterhood will hold its annual fundraiser for all to enjoy – *Music of the Night* – a little bit of Purim, a lot of Broadway, a masked affair honoring Dolores Wilkenfeld.

The exciting event will feature Broadway stars, **Andrea McCardle** – the original “Annie” and **Adam Pascal**, star of “Rent.” The event will be hosted and accompanied by SiriusXM’s Broadway commentator **Seth Rudetsky**. The students from TUTS’ *The River* will also perform as we shine the spotlight on inclusion in the theatre arts.

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## WORSHIP SERVICES

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

Our Friday night services are streamed to our website, Facebook page, Roku channel, and YouTube. Our Saturday morning B'nei Mitzvah services are available solely on our website and our Saturday services offered in the Proler Chapel are offered as an in-person experience.

### **Shabbat P'kudei** **Friday, March 4**

5:45 p.m., Tot Shabbat Dinner, Sculpture Garden  
6:00 p.m., Kabbalat Shabbat, Proler Chapel  
6:15 p.m., Tot Shabbat, Sculpture Garden

### **Saturday, March 5**

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

### **Shabbat Vayikra** **Friday, March 11**

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

### **Saturday, March 12**

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

### **Shabbat Tzav** **Friday, March 18**

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

### **Saturday, March 19**

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

### **Shabbat Sh'mini** **Friday, March 25**

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

### **Saturday, March 26**

10:30 a.m., Shabbat Morning Service, Proler Chapel  
10:30 a.m., Shabbat Morning Service, Barish Sanctuary  
B'not Mitzvah of **Samantha Chavez**, daughter of Terry Leavitt-Chavez & Anthony Chavez and **Samantha Odensky**, daughter of Angela & Evan Odensky

### **Shabbat Tazria** **Friday, April 1**

5:45 p.m., Tot Shabbat Dinner, Sculpture Garden  
6:00 p.m., Kabbalat Shabbat, Proler Chapel  
6:15 p.m., Tot Shabbat, Sculpture Garden

### **Saturday, April 2**

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

### **Shabbat M'tzora** **Friday, April 8**

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

### **Saturday, April 9**

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

**REMINDER:** All Friday night Shabbat services are video streamed on our website as well as our Emanu El Facebook page, YouTube channel and Roku channel. Our Saturday morning Proler Chapel service is not streamed. Saturday morning services featuring a B'nei Mitzvah are streamed on our website and Roku channel.

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## **FROM RABBI HAYON** *continued from page 1*

For others, however, the absence of God in the *Book of Esther* is merely an illusion. According to this school of thought, God only appears to be absent, but is in fact present just behind the scenes, carefully orchestrating the action and gently guiding Esther, Mordecai, and the entire Persian Jewish community toward safety and redemption. God is only temporarily invisible in the story because the characters are unable or unwilling to detect God's presence in their midst.

Perhaps both interpretations are true at the same time. It may well be true that we bring about our own salvation most effectively by using the gifts of our hearts and minds, and by fortifying the supportive relationships we share with other around us. And at the same time, God's existence is woven invisibly through the fabric of our world, and we must attune ourselves to notice its nearness when we might otherwise easily overlook it.

As we enter this season of joy and celebration and

remember Esther's heroic story, let's remember to cultivate both of those critical Jewish survival skills: the ability to work for redemption and peace, and the sensitivity to be aware of God's invisible touch surrounding and supporting us at all times.

May this year bring a *freiliche Purim* – a Purim filled with happiness and redemption for all!

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## **Moved? New Email Address? Want the Bulletin via E-mail?**

As a reminder, please let us know when you have moved or changed email addresses so we can make sure our records are up to date! Please call the synagogue at 713.529.5771 or contact [jasonp@emanulhouston.org](mailto:jasonp@emanulhouston.org) to submit an update.

Additionally, congregants have the option to receive the Bulletin via e-mail instead of print. This helps save costs but also ensures an on-time delivery when there are issues with the US Postal Service. Contact Jason Plotkin at the contact information above if you would like to receive the Bulletin via your e-mail.

## LIFECYCLE EVENTS

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### IN THE COMMUNITY

**Rabbi Josh Fixler** was selected for the third co-hort of the Rukin Rabbinic Fellowship. Rabbi Fixler will be one of 15 Rabbis from around the country taking part in the two-year fellowship with 18 Doors as a chance to come together, deepening their practice of working with Jewish interfaith couples and parents of young children.

**Sophia Gurevich** was the recipient of a Scholastic Art & Writing Award presented by the Harris County Department of Education for her poem “What Makes You Think I’m the Epitome of A Jew”.

**Ed Septimus** will be recognized with the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) President’s Medal in recognition of his extraordinary work to keep HUC safe and informed through the COVID-19 pandemic. This presentation will occur at HUC commencement ceremonies in Cincinnati in May.

### BIRTHS

**Maggie Chiasson**, daughter of Keenan Chiasson & Kaitlin Kendziora; granddaughter of Janie & Alan Chiasson, David & Jamie Kendziora, Gena & John Jongbloed; great-granddaughter of Ruth Kendziora, Maria Durand, Roland & Ena Chiasson

**Micah David de Sola Band**, son of Hannah Morris & Gabriel Band; grandson of Susan Farb Morris & David Morris, Debra Band & Michael Diamond; great-grandson of Sylvia Farb, Arnold Band

**Aaron Jacob Libby**, son of Lauren & Rusty Libby; grandson of Sheri & Jim Libby, Karen & Rick Callahan, Alisa & Rick Owens; great-grandson of Tom Owens, Marion & Jay Owens

**Emily Ginger Rosenberg**, daughter of Sara & Kenny Rosenberg; Jan & Steven Rosenberg, Bill Holliday; great-granddaughter of Charlotte Rosenberg

**Peter Valentine Thomas**, son of Anna & Clay Thomas; grandson of Julie & Peter Johnson, Suzanne & John Thomas; great-grandson of Barbara Burns

### DEATHS

**Ian Goldfoot**, father of Jeanne & Jeff Goldfoot, Jon Goldfoot; grandfather of Skyler & Kate Goldfoot; brother of Denise Bremridge

**George Kamins**, father of Ricky Kamins & Robert Collier, Janna & Marshall Weiner, Anna-Lee & Duane Kamins, Lori & Steven Kamins, and Anna & Michael Kamins; grandfather of Codi & Matthew Wiener, Laura & Joshua Wiener, Brooke & Jeffrey Wise, Ashley Kamins Jones, Zach Kamins, and Andrew Kamins

**Bessie Leventhal**, mother of Georgiana & Ralph Leventhal, Judi & Lynn Leventhal; grandmother of four, great-grandmother of six

**Elton Lipnick**, husband of Janet Lipnick; father of Kathy & David Lipnick, Amy & Myles Kelman, Mark Rubin, and Gail Rubin; grandfather of Estela & Elio Lipnick, Eleanor & Charlie Kelman, and Seth & Abby Rubin; brother of Sonya Lipnick; brother-in-law of Hope Lipnick

**Alex Trubek**, husband of Stella Trubek; father of Mollie & Simon Trubek, Miriam & Daniel Goott; grandfather of Ella, Yossi, Charlotte, Eloosha, Marki and Tova

**Evie Weinstein**, husband of Paula Weinstein; father of Maureen & Jody Proler, Linda & Alan Yoelin, Michael Weinstein & Rene Clothier; grandfather of Shayna Goldblatt & Ben Proler, Stephen Proler, Amy, Allison, Amanda, and Bryan Yoelin, Brittany and Alyssa Ramirez, Alex Weinstein

### 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.

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### 7TH ANNUAL SECOND NIGHT SEDER

*continued from page 1*

Those members of our congregation who are seeking financial assistance or are interested in making a donation to make seder accessible for members of our community are encouraged to reach out to Program Director Jason Plotkin at [jasonp@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:jasonp@emanuelhouston.org) or 713-535-6414.

Second Night Seder is generously underwritten by the Susman Fund for Family Programming and the Rabbi Roy & Linda Walter Enrichment Fund.

### Updated Masking Policy – Effective March 1

Please note that our updated masking policy goes into effect on **March 1**. With the recent drop in COVID cases in Harris County, the Emanu El Reopening Task Force is modifying our masking policy from masks being required for everyone to masks being optional for individuals up to date on COVID vaccinations [meaning a person has received all recommended COVID-19 vaccines, including any booster dose(s) when eligible]. Please review our website or synagogue/school communications for how this change impacts our schools and special events (i.e. Purim, Tot Shabbat, etc.)



### Programming at Emanu El

As Congregation Emanu El gradually migrates back to a robust program calendar, we are currently able to offer three kinds of programs to our community: in-person, digital and hybrid. The definitions of these categories are as follows:

- **IN-PERSON.** Available for in-person attendance only. These offerings will not be livestreamed or broadcast for online audiences.
- **DIGITAL.** Designed for viewing and participation on Zoom or on one of our digital platforms (Facebook, YouTube, etc.) only. Please note that, for privacy reasons and contractual considerations, some of our digital programs will be available for live viewing only and will not be accessible for re-broadcast after the event takes place.
- **HYBRID.** These programs include opportunities for attendees to participate in person or digitally, via Zoom or one of our live-streaming platforms.

When reviewing our program calendar, please make note of any registration requirements (RSVPs may be required), and whether the offering you wish to attend will be offered in-person, digitally, or in a hybrid format. Taking a few moments to confirm these details will help ensure the excellence of our programming and will help us to provide a positive experience for all participants.

If you have a suggestion for a program, or any questions about the details above, please contact Program Director Jason Plotkin at [jasonp@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:jasonp@emanuelhouston.org) or 713.535.6414.

### Gems of the Social Justice Torah Commentary (digital)

**Saturdays, March 5 – April 9, 9:15 a.m.**

Join us for a special six-week series in our Saturday morning Gems of Torah class as we focus on highlights from the Reform Movement's newly released Social Justice Torah Commentary. The gathering will run on **Saturdays, beginning March 5** and continuing through **April 9**. Each week, we will use an article from the commentary to examine new themes and perspectives in the parashah. Participants will be encouraged to read the article in advance of our conversation to facilitate a lively and participatory conversation. To help us prepare, we are asking that you pre-register on Emanu El's web calendar at [emanuelhouston.org/calendar](http://emanuelhouston.org/calendar).

A limited number of complimentary copies of the commentary will be made available to participants on a first-come, first-serve basis.

### Shabbat Schmooze & Schmear (in-person) First Saturday of the Month following 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning services

Join us for our warm, participatory and Hamish Shabbat

morning Proler Chapel service, then stay for a chance to schmooze and enjoy a schmear.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend an engaging and spiritual prayer service on the first Shabbat morning of the month at 10:30 a.m. and stay after services for a nosh.

Try something new in 2022 with our Shabbat Schmooze & Schmears that will take place on the first Saturday of the month, from February through May. The dates are **March 5, April 2** and **May 7**.

### Purim Palooza

**Sunday, March 6**

**Purim Spiel 10:00 a.m. (hybrid),  
Purim Carnival 11:00 a.m. (in-person)**

Join us in the Barish Sanctuary for the Purim Spiel! If you are unable to join us in-person, please find us on the Barish Sanctuary (streaming video page) and the Emanu El Facebook page, along with our YouTube and Roku channels.

We're taking things back to the 90's, and it's going to be all that and a bag of chips! We'll tell the story of Queen Esther while rockin' out to the music of Britney Spears, Ace of Base and the Spice Girls.

Following the spiel, all are invited to head over to our Purim Carnival, sponsored by the Helfman Religious School Committee. The outdoor carnival will take place around the synagogue's campus and in the Gaylor Parking Facility. From games to inflatables, hamantaschen to arts & crafts, and of course confetti eggs, there will be something for everyone. More information on the carnival will be available in forthcoming synagogue and Helfman communications.

The day's festivities are generously underwritten by the Susman Fund for Family Programming, the Rabbi Roy & Linda Walter Enrichment Fund, the Julia Kaplan Religious School Enrichment Fund, and the Michael Spolane Education Fund.

### New Traditions' Outdoor Passover Market (in-person)

**Sunday, March 6, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Come shop to support Sisterhood and visit with friends in the comfort of the outdoors as you prepare for Passover, which will begin on the evening of **Friday, April 15**.

The Sisterhood's New Traditions gift shop will be outside again this year with all your Passover needs: Seder plates, haggadot, matzah covers, afikomen bags, toys and of course, jumping matzah balls! All purchases made during this event will be tax free.

The market will be located in the west driveway and is being held in-conjunction with the congregation's Purim festivities.

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In need of Passover items or other Judaica? The New Traditions gift shop is currently open **Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** or by appointment. For more information or to make an appointment, call 713-529-5771, ext. 234.

## The Classics Head to Common Bond for Post-Shabbat Service Dinner

Our Classics group for those in their 50s and 60s headed to Common Bond following Shabbat services on Friday night in late January for dinner and socializing!



## Classics – Dinner after Services on March 18 (in-person)

Friday, March 18, 7:30 p.m., Location TBA

### SAVE THE DATE!

Join the Classics (Emanu El's social group for members in their 50s and 60s) for dinner after Friday night services on **Friday, March 18**. We had a great time having dinner together in January and enjoyed visiting after services.

There will be no cost to attend this event, but we will need RSVPs so that we can make sure that there is space reserved for us.

Look for more information, including the link to register in Emanu El communications.

## April Tot Shabbat (in-person)

Friday, April 1 (optional dinner at 5:45 p.m. followed by services at 6:15 p.m.)

EDITOR'S NOTE: A Rodeo Tot Shabbat is slated for **Friday, March 4** – a day after this *Bulletin* is slated to arrive in mailboxes. Based on prior Tot Shabbat experiences, we are likely to have hit our capacity. Please contact Jason

Plotkin at [jasonp@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:jasonp@emanuelhouston.org) if you would like to see if room exists.

Families with young children will join Congregation Emanu El for this monthly event to share a special Shabbat led by a member of our clergy, geared toward families with little ones ages 0-6.

As of press time, we are planning to maintain our posture of holding Tot Shabbat outside as many of our youngest friends have not yet received access to COVID-19 vaccines. Due to this, please note that due to capacity considerations in our outside spaces, advance registration is required and only open to Becker or Emanu El families. A logistics email will be sent prior to the Tot Shabbat.

Our Tot Shabbat will begin with a picnic dinner outside in the Sculpture Garden at **5:45 p.m.** (or the Gaylor Parking Facility, if weather dictates). Families are encouraged to bring picnic blankets or something comfortable to sit on.

An optional dinner will be provided by Houston Catering Concepts and feature macaroni & cheese. Vegetarian and gluten-free options will be available. The cost of the dinner is \$5 per person.

The deadline for registration is **Wednesday, March 30**, or upon hitting our capacity number.

For more information on our Tot Shabbat programming, please contact Jason Plotkin at [jasonp@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:jasonp@emanuelhouston.org) or 713-535-6414.

This program is generously underwritten by the Alex & Willie Mae Goldstein Children's Fund.

## Tackling Hunger in Israel with Leket Israel's Joseph Gitler (digital)

Sunday, April 3, 12:30 p.m.



Joseph Gitler

Congregation Emanu El has long been committed to tackling hunger in Houston from its involvement in projects such as Kids' Meals, SEARCH Homeless Services and others.

As part of our ongoing series of programs on Israel, we will have an opportunity to learn about how Israel navigates the challenge of hunger with Leket Israel founder Joseph Gitler.

Gitler will share with us insight into how Leket Israel – the country's largest food bank and food rescue network – distributes food in partnership with 200 non-profit organi-

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# Sisterhood News & Happenings

March – April 2022



## BOOK REVIEW:

*Concealed*

by Esther Amini

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 7:00 PM (digital)

Sisterhood hosts bi-monthly book reviews throughout the year that are open to the public. March's book review will be led by our congregant, Rabbi Pam Silk.

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.

A summary of our March book selection can be found below:

Esther Amini grew up in Queens, New York, during the freewheeling 1960's. She also grew up in a Persian-Jewish household., the American-born daughter of parents who had fled Mashhad, Iran. In *Concealed*, she tells the story of being caught between these two worlds: the dutiful daughter of tradition-bound parents who hungers for more self-determination than tradition allows.

Exploring the root of her father's deep silences, and explosive temper, her mother's flamboyance and flights from home, and her own sense of indebtedness to her Iranian-born brothers, Amini uncovers the story of her parents' early years in Mashhad, Iran's holiest Muslim city; the little-known history of Mashhad's underground Jews; the incident that steeled her mother's resolve to leave; and her parent's arduous journey to the U.S., where they faced a new threat to their traditions: the threat of freedom.

In this poignant, funny, entertaining, uplifting memoir, Amini documents how family members build, buoy, wound, and save one another across generations; how lives are shaped by the burdens of loyalty and legacy; and how she rose to the challenge of deciding what to keep and what to discard.

To help us plan for our book reviews and to receive communications about future book reviews, we ask that you kindly **RSVP by Wednesday, March 9**, by visiting our web calendar and completing the form online or by contacting the Sisterhood at [sishood@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:sishood@emanuelhouston.org) or 713.529.5771, ext. 233.



Michelle O'Michael pictured with her piece *Moon River* at the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts in San Angelo, Texas.

## Meet Artist Michelle O'Michael at the Foundry (in-person)

Wednesday, April 27, 1:00 p.m.

Sisterhood will head to The Foundry, 1414 Hardy St, Houston, 77026, to meet Michelle O'Michael in her studio.

Michelle is a proud Texan and amazing creator of large pieces of Public Art commissioned by private collectors, cities and municipalities. She has been the President and Owner of The Foundry, for 36 years. We are privileged to be hosted by an amazing artist, one of the few women in the field, and see firsthand what it takes to make a sculpture three stories high, piece by piece. You can have a glimpse of her artwork at [omichael.com](http://omichael.com).

Get ready for an afternoon of camaraderie and to be in awe of Michelle's creativity, imagination and craftsmanship.

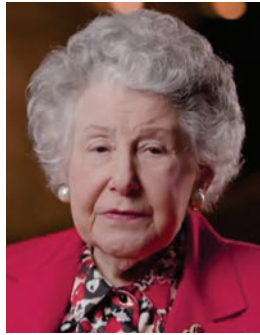
More information including costs and how to register will be made available in upcoming synagogue communications.



## MUSIC OF THE NIGHT

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This year's honoree, Dolores Wilkenfeld served as president of Emanu El's Sisterhood from 1961-1963, and as president of the congregation from 1983-1985. She was also president of what is now known as Women of Reform Judaism and the World Union for Progressive Judaism, as well as other organizations. She tutored hundreds of Bar and Bat Mitzvah students for over 50 years, making an indelible impression on students and parents alike. Dolores has been honored by many organizations, including the Houston Assembly of Delphian Chapters, Houston Joint Committee for Reform Judaism in Israel, Jewish National Fund, and many more. Emanu El's Sisterhood is honored to have this opportunity to salute her accomplishments.



Dolores Wilkenfeld

A portion of each ticket will be donated to TUTS' *The River* in Houston, and the Actors Fund. *The River* provides affordable, accessible arts education to individuals with disabilities and their siblings. It includes programming for young adults, an inclusive performance troupe that performs events across the city.

The Actors Fund is a national human services organization that fosters stability and resiliency and provides a safety net for performing arts and entertainment professionals. Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, The Fund has helped more than 40,000 people in the performing arts community from performers, to backstage personnel to ushers!

Emanu El's Sisterhood is an active group with almost 400 members, who host a variety of events and programs throughout the community. They are committed to community service and social action, including a partnership with *The River* to provide volunteer opportunities for members.

A fabulous dessert reception will follow the show along with a special cocktail party for "young-ish" congregants. Be sure to wear a fun Purim mask! Reserved and general admission tickets for Music of the Night are available through the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771, ext. 233 or by visiting Emanu El's website calendar ([emanuelhouston.org/calendar](http://emanuelhouston.org/calendar)).

Any purchased ticket can be transferred to a live-stream viewing option. Details will be sent upon request. For further information, including business sponsorships and underwriting opportunities, email [sishooddonor@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:sishooddonor@emanuelhouston.org).

CONGREGATION EMANU EL  
**SISTERHOOD**

PRESENTS

*Music*  
of the  
**NIGHT**  
A MASKED AFFAIR

*Saturday, March 19*  
7:30 pm Showtime

RESERVED & GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS AVAILABLE  
[EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG/MUSICOFTHENIGHT](http://EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG/MUSICOFTHENIGHT)

FEATURING  
*Broadway Stars*

 ANDREA McARDLE  
STAR OF "ANNIE"

 ADAM PASCAL  
STAR OF "RENT"

SPOTLIGHTING  
*Students from The River*

ACCOMPANIED AND HOSTED BY  
*Seth Rudetsky*



H-E-B Houston Jewish Funerals BAGEL SHOP Bakery  
Bartisan Monthly Chocolate BLOSSOM Houston

## A Year in the Life of our Temple

Since its inception, Congregation Emanu El's clergy and staff has prided itself on creating and maintaining a close connection to both its members and the greater community at large. This focus, a 'partnership between the pulpit and pew,' has defined the temple's mission, communication style and outreach over the years.

In previous articles in this series, we have highlighted Endowment Funds which have supported various programs and activities that give Emanu El its vitality and heart. There are other funds which also contribute to the day-to-day functioning of the temple and keep its members connected to each other and the community. The following are a sampling of these funds, and the impact they provide.

**In February 2020, Academy Award-winning actress Marlee Matlin visited Emanu El in a program that was done in collaboration with Jewish Family Service. ASL interpreters and captioning allowed the program to be accessible to all who attended.**



**“The ReelAbilities Houston Film & Arts Festival is a 10-day free series of events that promotes disability inclusion and equity, erases stigma, enlightens and educates, all through the arts. Jason Plotkin has always been a wonderful partner in helping promote the festival, including the 2019 co-sponsorship bringing Marlee Matlin to speak at the temple. The event was part of Emanu El’s Endowment Series and was a huge success. It demonstrated the temple’s commitment to inclusion and belonging, its open door to the community and people of all faiths and abilities and the impact of endowment programming. The temple should be proud to have ReelAbilities Houston representing the diverse community in our Emanu El home.”**

**Dee Dee Dochen, Former Chair, ReelAbilities, Houston**



# *Guidance from our past, growth for our future*

“The Shabbat Shirah service celebrating Barbara Loeser captured not only the congregation’s love for Barbara as a voice and an icon for our generation of music, but also as a sister to so many of us who raised our children together at Emanu El. She is simply beloved for her talent, commitment and friendship. The Endowment Funds supporting this effort are by definition, perpetuating goodness, grace and generosity. What better description of this special woman, this selfless talent?”

Karen Krakower Kaplan, member of the planning committee for Shabbat Shirah

**In March, our Tot Shabbat transforms into the popular ‘Rodeo Tot Shabbat.’ Our multi-generational family Shabbat and holiday experiences from Tot Shabbat to Sukkot on Sunset, from Purim to Chanukah and everything in between are funded by the programming funds of the congregation.**



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“This fund means so much as my husband Richard and I set it up just before his passing. Family has always meant so much to us, and it speaks to our values. We only asked that the fund be used to enhance temple programming for families, and support anything that brings them together.”

Linda Susman

“When I retired in 2011, the temple created the Rabbi Roy Walter Enrichment Fund in my honor, and when Linda passed away, we added her name. We purposely designed the fund so it can be used in the most general way possible. The fund is designed to be flexible, so that each year the proceeds can fund whatever needs or programs are needed in any given year. Each time I see the fund utilized, I feel the warm hug I felt when I first learned the fund was being established.”

Roy Walter, Rabbi Emeritus



## Be a Part of It

On any financial level, we all have the capacity to impact the future. For additional information on contributing to the Temple's Endowment through planned giving and legacy gifts, please contact Anna Shabtay at annas@emanuelhouston.org, or scan the QR code with your cell phone camera.

Endowment Funds Supporting Ongoing Temple Programming Include:

**Rabbi Roy & Linda Walter Enrichment Fund** – To support spiritual and cultural enrichment

**Susman Fund for Family Programming** – To support programs for families

**Ablon Fund for the Creative Arts** – To provide creative arts programs

**Max & Louise Bamberger Memorial Fund** – To create and promote programs that strengthen Emanu El's support for Israel

**Nathan Berg Lecture Series** – To present programs on political issues

**Eleanor & Frank Freed Lectureship Fund** – To present programs on issues in contemporary society

**Julie Kronowitz Memorial Fund** – To provide programs about religion

**Moser Library Fund** – To provide library programs

**Helen & Harry Reichel Lecture Fund; Shirley & Bernard Weingarten Fund; Julius & Harriet Zinn Fund** – To provide and enhance congregation programs

**Esther Shelby Fellowship Fund** – To provide food and refreshments to Emanu El

Programs that bring members closer to the congregation and to each other:

**Bill & Joan Spitz Presidential Leadership Fund** – To strengthen the vision of Congregation Emanu El's leaders

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The programming funds over the years have enabled the creation of social groups in the synagogue from The Classics to My Generation, Widow 2 Widow and a monthly Mahj group. These funds subsidize the programming and allow individuals to engage in the synagogue under the leadership of lay leaders.

**“My family wanted to create a way to honor my parents while they were still living, as we knew how much this would mean to them. My parents were big readers and my mother would often share things from her non-fiction finds at the dinner table. Our family is related to the Pasternak family, and we were impressed by the funds they established and decided to follow their lead.”**

**Robert Reichek, son of Helen and Harry Reichek**



### Staff Changes at Emanu El



Please join us in welcoming **Marissa Barragan** (right) to the team. Marissa started in late January and serves as the new face behind the front desk as well as the voice you'll hear when connecting with Emanu El over the phone.

Marissa takes over the position from **Christian Simmons** (left) who, in January, assumed the role of Cemetery Coordinator and Assistant to the Executive Director.

A third new member of the team, **Jessie Cassorla** started in early February. Jessie serves as the assistant to Rabbi Josh Fixler in addition to the role of Advancement Assistant.

### Widow 2 Widow Plans Return Under New Leadership

Widow 2 Widow is navigating a rejuvenation from the COVID shutdown under new leadership.

Before COVID, the group would make phone calls to newly widowed congregants, then Rabbi Silk would send a resource sheet to the home. In addition, this group offered social gatherings to offer support and entertainment to the widows among us. Some have said, *"I hate the word WIDOW."* Well, so do we. Upon losing a love and life partner, the surviving partner must evaluate her new life and make decisions about moving forward. We have found that networking with other women who have walked these paths can be very helpful.

Rona Weiner and Marilyn Waldman have graciously offered to be the new leaders of the group. If you are interested in information or getting involved, please contact Rona Weiner, 410.963.6564, ronaweiner777@gmail.com or Marilyn Waldman, 832.567.6782.

### A Security Message from Congregation Emanu El

A version of the below communication was sent to our congregational community including Becker families on Friday, February 4 via email. For access to Rabbi Hayon's appearance on ABC13 following Colleyville, the press

conference that included Rabbi Hayon with district attorney Kim Ogg, the training with Brad Orsini or links to other information referenced below, please contact Jason Plotkin at [jasonp@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:jasonp@emanuelhouston.org).

Dear Congregants,

Last month, the hostage crisis at Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas, brought national attention to what we in the Jewish community are keenly aware: the rising threat of antisemitism is real. We are incredibly grateful and relieved that Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker and the three congregants escaped without physical harm. The personal accounts of their heroic escape captivated a national audience. They also prompted discussions, both locally and nationally, about synagogue security.

Synagogues and Jewish organizations understand that security is a daily concern. At Emanu El, security is our highest priority, and we regularly assess our security needs. Below we have shared some information that you may find helpful. Please note that many details about our security protocols are not shared beyond the security team.

We employ ADM, a private security firm, to keep our congregation and campus safe. Our security team and staff communicate regularly with local law enforcement agencies and other organizations. When other institutions are threatened, additional patrols are quickly deployed around our campus. Over the past decade, Emanu El has been awarded several Homeland Security grants through the Nonprofit Security Grant Program ("NSGP") to invest in security infrastructure. Applications for this year's NSGP are currently being prepared by our Security Committee. We also conducted active shooter training for our staff shortly before the onset of Covid, and planning is underway for additional staff training as well as active shooter/situational awareness training for our members on our Emanu El campus. We will update you as the information becomes available.

Furthermore, the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston is working on a comprehensive approach to security for the entire Houston Jewish community. The Federation is working with Secure Communities Network (SCN) to hire a local, full-time director who will serve as a representative of SCN. They hope to have this position filled this spring. The Federation also reports that SCN will provide additional training to the community as early as this month. As many of you know, Rabbi Charlie and the other hostages credited active shooter training with saving their lives. In July 2020, The Houston Federation's Jewish Response and Action Network (JRAN) hosted "Countering an Active Threat," led by Brad Orsini of the Secure Community Network.

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You may also find useful SCN's Homeland Security and Preparedness Training Center website.

In the wake of the Colleyville event, Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg joined with area police chiefs, constables, faith leaders and ADL to announce a unified front against antisemitic violence. Our Jewish community was well-represented and included Rabbi Hayon.

If you have questions about this letter, please reach out to either David Lamden at davidl@emanuelhouston.org or Jason Plotkin at jasonp@emanuelhouston.org.

*Regards,*  
*Jeri Amundsen, President*  
*David Lamden, Executive Director*  
*Oren Hayon, Senior Rabbi*

## HRSC Passover Chocolate Fundraiser Candy Ordering Open through Friday, March 18

The Helfman Religious School Committee is delighted to announce the return of their beloved annual fundraiser: The Miss Chocolate Passover candy sale! Get your sweet treats from Barton's Candy and other goodies for your Passover table here. Order now for shipment beginning in mid-February. Due to weather concerns, the last date for orders is **Friday, March 18**.

Proceeds from the candy sale support the activities of the Helfman Religious School Committee, including Greene Family Camp scholarships, parent and family education, and teacher and TA professional development.

To shop and benefit Helfman, visit [shop.misschocolate.com](http://shop.misschocolate.com) and, when prompted for a Seller ID on the page, enter **70031**. Thanks for your support of this fundraiser.

## Farb Fund Grant Validates Importance of Dedicated Anti Human Trafficking Program Based in Texas Medical Center

Congregation Emanu El is proud to have a fund that supports small and emerging organizations throughout the Greater Houston area that improve life for underserved Houstonians. That was the late Aubrey M. Farb's vision when he approached Rabbi Roy Walter with the idea in 1984 and continues to make an impact to this day.

A recent grant was awarded to the Anti-Human Trafficking Program (AHTP) and its Medical Director Mollie Gordon, an associate professor in the Baylor College of Medicine's Menninger Department of Psychiatry.

"I wanted to thank you again for your family's support of our work through the Aubrey & Sylvia Farb Community Service Fund. It was the first community grant our program received and validated the importance of a dedicated Anti-Human Trafficking Program. Since receiving the grant, we have gone on to secure funds from national foundations, as well

as state and federal grants," noted Gordon.

According to Gordon, their team, along with PATH partners in Houston, have trained thousands of healthcare professionals, screened more than 600 patients for trafficking and violence (more than 70 percent of whom were trafficking victims and 85 percent of whom are domestic victims of human trafficking who live in Harris County), trained numerous doctors as part of their clinical post-doctoral program, provided thousands of clinical service hours, written papers and books, and advocated at the national and international level to inform Anti human trafficking efforts. In December, they trained more than two dozen international governments in Anti Trafficking efforts.

For further information on this program, visit [bcm.edu/humantrafficking](http://bcm.edu/humantrafficking) or contact Gordon at [mrgordon@bcm.edu](mailto:mrgordon@bcm.edu). To contribute to the Farb Fund and support similar microgrants, visit [emanuelhouston.org/give](http://emanuelhouston.org/give).



Left to right: Members of the Anti-Human Trafficking Team are Dr. Nicole White PhD Post- Doctoral Fellow, Dr. Phuong Nguyen PhD Program Director, Dr. John Coverdale MD Medical Director, Dr. Mollie Gordon MD Medical Director, Katie Robicheaux LCSW Program Manager, Dr. Nancy Hererra PhD Post-Doctoral Fellow and Dr. Melissa Torres PhD Researcher.

zations to more than 175,000 people in need each week. Founded in 2003, Leket Israel helps impoverished people throughout the country, regardless of their age, gender, ethnic background or religion. They run several projects, including Sandwiches for Kids, which was launched in 2006. There are 850,000 children suffering from hunger in Israel, and many of them go to school without sufficient meals. In order to help feed these children, volunteers make and distribute 7,500 - 8,000 sandwiches every morning in 40 cities.

Helfman Religious School students who travel on our Shirley Barish Memorial Israel Experience (SBMIE) trips to Israel participate in Leket's "Harvest Helpers" program, working in the fields to rescue produce that would otherwise go to waste.

This activity helps to provide fresh fruits and vegetables for Leket's thousands of clients and is directly related to the Torah's instruction that the gleanings of Israel's fields should go to those in need. In 2018, Emanu El teens picked over 2,000 pounds of onions for Leket. We can't wait to see what our 2022 SBMIE group will pick!

We ask that you register in advance by calling 713.529.5771 or visiting our web calendar ([emanuelhouston.org/calendar](http://emanuelhouston.org/calendar)). For more information, contact Jason Plotkin at [jasonp@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:jasonp@emanuelhouston.org) or Stefani Carlson at [atstefanic@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:atstefanic@emanuelhouston.org). The Zoom information will be sent prior to the conversation.

## Remix Judaism: Preserving Tradition in a Diverse World with Roberta Kwall (digital)

Tuesday, April 5, 7:00 p.m.

Join us when Congregation Emanu El hosts Roberta Kwall as she discusses the thesis of her widely acclaimed new book, *Remix Judaism: Preserving Tradition in a Diverse World*, and how it applies to individuals, parents and grandparents seeking to deepen their connection to Jewish tradition outside of strict compliance with the rules of Jewish law.

Her book demonstrates how developing a richer set of culturally religious norms in the home can provide a foundation for transmissible Jewish tradition and invites readers to construct their own Jewish journeys with greater mindfulness and intentionality.

To register for this program, visit our web calendar at [emanuelhouston.org/calendar](http://emanuelhouston.org/calendar).

## Women in Diplomacy: An Inside Look at the Work of Women Serving as Consul General in Houston (in-person)

Wednesday, April 6, 9:00 a.m.

AJC Houston is partnering with the congregations and

Sisterhoods of Beth Israel, Beth Yeshurun and Emanu El to host "Women in Diplomacy" at Congregation Emanu El on **Wednesday, April 6**. The program will start off with a reception at 9:00 a.m. in Feld Hall before moving into the Barish Sanctuary at 9:30 a.m.

The "Women in Diplomacy" panel discussion will provide an inside look at the work of the consul generals of Canada, Mexico, Israel and Norway, in addition to the United States' regional director of the state department – all women.

The bios of the panelists can be found below:

Katherine "Kit" Ho, the regional director of the U.S. Department of State. Ho oversees diplomatic services and security issues for more than 150 foreign missions in 8 states: Texas, Louisiana, Colorado, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Arkansas, New Mexico and Kansas.



Rachel McCormick

Rachel McCormick is currently the Consul General of Canada to the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. She was head of the Energy and Environment Section at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, DC from 2014 to 2019. She joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in 2004.

In Ottawa she worked in divisions responsible for sustainable development, energy, climate change and circumpolar affairs. She represented the Government of Canada in a range of international forums, including the Arctic Council, the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation and the United Nations.

Alicia Kerber Palma has served as Consul General of Mexico in Houston since June 2019 and has been a member of the Mexican Foreign Service (SEM) since 1991. In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SRE), she has served as Advisor in the Coordination for the Environment and Natural Resources, Director of Liaison with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Director for the Organization of American States (OAS). She was part of the first work team of the National Human Rights Commission as Director of Studies, Projects and Events, in addition to having held other positions in the Ministry of Tourism (SECTUR), Ministry of Public Education and the Security Institute at the Service of State Workers (ISSSTE). She has served as Head of Political Affairs at the Mexican Embassy in Colombia, Titular Consul of the Mexican Consulate in San Pedro Sula, Honduras; Representative of Mexico to the Organization of American States (OAS), she served for two years as Chargé d'Affaires at the Embassy of Mexico in Ireland. He has also been Consul Principal of the Consulates of Mexico in Kansas and in Philadelphia.

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**Livia Link-Raviv**

Consul General Livia Link-Raviv began her post in August of 2021 to lead the Consulate General of Israel to the Southwest United States, which is responsible for the five-state region of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. The Consulate's departments include academic, cultural, Hispanic, press, political and strategic affairs. A career diplomat in the Israel MFA

for the past 20 years, Consul General Link-Raviv has served in Caracas, Venezuela, as Deputy Ambassador, and in Rome, Italy, as Counsellor for Public Diplomacy. In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Consul General Link-Raviv has worked in the Department for International Organizations, coordinating policy vis-à-vis the United Nations; directed the MFA's Cadet Course, leading the training and preparation of the next generation of diplomats; and in the Legal Adviser Division in charge of economic affairs. She has also served as the Director of the Pacific Department.



**Hilde Skorpen**

Hilde Skorpen took up her position as Consul General of Norway in Houston on September 2, 2019. Prior to her current posting, Dr. Skorpen served as Director of the Section for Business Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Oslo. She held the position of Consul General in San Francisco from 2013 to 2017, serving the thirteen western most states.

She has also served as Ambassador for Disarmament and Deputy Head of the Norwegian Mission to the UN in Geneva and has been posted to the Norwegian mission to NATO in Brussels, and the Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She served as the Foreign Ministry's Senior Faculty Advisor to the Norwegian National Defense College in Oslo from 2011 to 2013. The Houston region is home to approximately 6000 Norwegians, the largest contingency of Norwegians anywhere outside of Norway with many working in the offshore and onshore oil and gas sector, the maritime sector, innovation and technology, financial services, space, and medical sectors, as well as higher education, research and development.

To help the event coordinators plan, please RSVP online at the link provided on the Emanu El website calendar or by reaching out to AJC Houston Region Director Randy Czarlinsky at [czarlinskyr@ajc.org](mailto:czarlinskyr@ajc.org). An event logistical email which will include details on utilizing the covered parking facility at Emanu El will be sent to all registrants of the event on **Monday, April 4.**

For more information, contact Czarlinsky at the email listed above.

## Cantor Josh Breitzer to Serve as Kahn Scholar-in-Residence Friday, April 22 – Sunday, April 24



**Cantor Josh Breitzer**

Cantor Josh Breitzer of Brooklyn's Congregation Beth Elohim (CBE) and Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion's (HUC-JIR) Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music be serving as the Rabbi Robert & Rozelle Kahn Scholar-in-Residence during the weekend of **April 22** at Congregation Emanu El.

The scholar-in-residence program is funded by the Rabbi Robert & Rozelle Kahn Lectureship Fund which has since its creation brought top Reform scholars to our community as guests.

A member of the CBE clergy team since receiving ordination from HUC-JIR in 2011, Cantor Breitzer leads the community through prayer and song, teaches chanting and ritual skills to people of all ages, and helps turn special moments into sacred occasions. During his decade of innovative cantorial stewardship, CBE has become a beacon of dynamic, pluralistic ritual activity, attracting international attention and growing to over 1000 member units.

Named by *The Forward* in its "Soundtrack of Our Spirit" series as one of the best new Jewish music voices, Cantor Breitzer has sung at concert halls and synagogues across the country. He appears throughout the PBS documentary *The Four Sons and All Their Sons: A Passover Tale* and helped create the New York Festival of Song's acclaimed cabaret *A Goyishe Christmas to You* in which he has performed every year since 2010. Among his most influential mentors were Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Yehudi Wyner, Cantor Lawrence Avery, and Dr. Jack Gottlieb, whose artistic legacy Cantor Breitzer continues to preserve and promote.

In addition to his congregational cantor duties, Cantor Breitzer is a dedicated instructor at the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music where he advises and coaches students and teaches courses on integrative repertoire for Shabbat and Yom Kippur. An alumnus of the Clergy Leadership Program of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality, he strives to model in all his work how one might weave traditional and contemporary liturgical settings into a holistic, compelling prayer experience. His former cantorial interns have gone on to serve prominent communities throughout the progressive Jewish world.

Beyond his work at CBE and with our Reform Movement's seminary, Cantor Breitzer is also active in the American

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Conference of Cantors (ACC). Originally elected to the ACC board in 2015 and to the officer team in 2016, Cantor Breitzer served from 2016-2019 as Vice President for Professional Development, External Policy and Placement and since 2019, as Vice President for Membership and External Partnerships.

A listing of events during the weekend in residency with Cantor Breitzer can be found below.

### **Passover Yizkor (hybrid)** **Friday, April 22, 10:30 a.m.**

We are honored to have Cantor Breitzer begin his weekend-in-residence with us by lending his voice and spirit to our Passover Yizkor service. Join Cantor Breitzer, Cantor Simmons and Rabbi Hayon as they lead us in beautiful reflective prayer as we remember our loved ones and commemorate the end of our Passover observance. This service will be streamed on our website, Facebook, YouTube, and Roku. Please call the synagogue or reference future synagogue communications for location.

### **Heritage Shabbat (hybrid)** **Friday, April 22, 6:00 p.m.**

Our Heritage Shabbat will be enhanced by Cantor Breitzer's leadership. Cantors Breitzer and Simmons will join their voices with organist Ann Frohbieter and our professional choir to lift our prayers to new heights. We will hear cherished melodies as well as some less familiar settings and learn from Cantor Breitzer as he presents a sermon in song. This service will be streamed on our website through the Barish Sanctuary streaming video page, Facebook, YouTube, and Roku.

### **Saturday Morning Study: "The Song of Redemption and the Song of Confession" (in-person)** **Saturday, April 23, 8:30 a.m. (breakfast), 9:00 a.m. (study)**

During the last days of Passover, we recount the Exodus from Egypt and the ancient tune sung by the Israelites on the shores the sea. Throughout Yom Kippur, our Day of Atonement, we count our shortcomings by tapping our hearts in time to a version of that same tune. How can this be? Come and learn more about the musical connection between two starkly contrasting sacred occasions.

This study will be held in the Oshman Multi-Purpose Room and include an optional pre-study breakfast. To help us plan accordingly, we ask that you RSVP on the emanuelhouston.org web calendar or by calling 713-529-5771.

### **Sunday Morning Learning Session: "Synagogue Music and the Great American Songbook" (in-person)** **Sunday, April 24, 10:00 a.m. (breakfast), 10:30 a.m. (study)**

While the melodies of URJ summer camps started making their way into URJ sanctuaries, one composer steeped in the standards of Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby and their contemporaries was writing liturgical settings inspired by their popular stylings. That composer was also an authority on and associate of the incomparable Leonard Bernstein and followed his lead in pushing the limits of what tonal music could be. Join us for a fascinating exploration of a little-known but hugely impactful artistic legacy!

This study will be held in the Oshman Multi-Purpose Room and include an optional pre-study breakfast. To help us plan accordingly, we ask that you RSVP on the emanuelhouston.org web calendar or by calling 713-529-5771.

For questions on any of the program offerings during the weekend, please contact Jason Plotkin at [jason@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:jason@emanuelhouston.org) or 713-535-6414.

### **Community-Wide Yom Hashoah Observance (hybrid)** **Sunday, April 24, 3:00 p.m., Beth Israel, 5600 N. Braeswood**

Please join us in observance of Yom Hashoah, a day of remembrance for the 6,000,000 Jewish people who lost their lives during the Holocaust. During this annual commemoration, we will mourn the loss of all who perished, honor those who survived and come together as a community to remember and reflect. Coordinated by the Yom Hashoah steering committee and the Holocaust Museum Houston, this year's event will take place at Beth Israel. Funding for this service is generously provided by the Morgan Family Endowment Fund, the Morgan Family Center and the Morgan Family Foundation.

This event will be live streamed for those unable to join us in person. A live stream link will be provided closer to the event and in community-wide communications.



We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who remember and honor their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions through February 14, 2022.

**ACCESS FOR ALL FUND**

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

In Appreciation of

**Shel Vedlitz**

Cherill Dubinski

In Memory of

**Elton Lipnick**

Paul A. Lewis

**Shirley Racusin-Roosth**

Pat & Aaron Fradkin

**ALAN GAYLOR TEACHER ASSISTANT FUND**

*To support Helfman Religious School teacher assistants*

In Memory of

**Betty Lou Blumrosen**

Joni & Gary Lewis

**AUBREY & SYLVIA FARB COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND**

*To support small and emerging organizations that improve life for underserved Houstonians*

In Memory of

**Mark Cyprus**

**Pearl Shub**

Rochelle Cyprus

**BECKER EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND**

*To provide and enhance the Becker School*

**A Donation**

Cheryl & Haran Levy

In Honor of

**Barbara Loeser's**

**Retirement**

Cindy & David Senior

In Memory of

**Linda Stein**

Marianne & Larry

Greenfield

**BECKER EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

*To provide Becker School scholarships*

**A Donation**

Keri & Michael Sprung

In Honor of

**Barbara Loeser's**

**Retirement**

Sara Astrich

Judy Lazor

Vicki Samuels Levy &

Lawrence S Levy

Kathy & Stephen Parven

In Memory of

**Ian Goldfoot**

Marianne & Larry

Greenfield

**Alfred Levine**

Rose Marie & Ron

Wagman

**BILL & JOAN SPITZ PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP FUND**

*To strengthen the vision of Emanu El's leaders*

In Memory of

**Bill Spitz**

Janice & Albert Dinner

**BROTHERHOOD FUND**

*To support the Brotherhood and its programs*

**A Donation**

Tori Brooks

**CEMETERY BEAUTIFICATION FUND**

*To maintain and enhance Emanu El Memorial Park*

In Memory of

**Alfred Levine**

Catherine & Hartley

Chelin

**CERSONSKY CEMETERY BEAUTIFICATION FUND**

*To maintain and enhance Emanu El Memorial Park*

In Memory of

**Selma Bradspies**

Pat & Aaron Fradkin

**David Eisen**

Sharon & Herb Cohn

**Elton Lipnick**

Barbara Miller

**Mack Michael Martin**

Pat & Aaron Fradkin

**CHESTER MARCUS CAMPERSHIP FUND**

*To provide Greene Family Camp scholarships*

In Appreciation of

**Barbara Loeser's**

**Retirement**

Sandy Lessig

In Memory of

**Rosa "Shoshana" Woloski**

Shirley Burkom &

Cathy Borden

**CLERGY'S GOOD WORKS FUND**

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

In Appreciation of

**Rabbi Pam Silk**

Susie Askanase

In Honor of

**Barbara Loeser's**

**Retirement**

Linda & Richard Zoll

**Rabbi Oren Hayon**

Maureen & Jody Proler,

Shayna & Ben Proler,

and Stephen Proler

Paula F. Weinstein

**Rabbi Pam Silk**

Patti & Michael

Dennenberg

**The Bat Mitzvah of**

**Rebekah Cooper**

Ellen & Ron Kerman

**Ava Silk**

Andi & Sandy Gaitz

William Soffar & Gail

Shinbaum

**The Speedy Recovery of**

**Sara Astrich**

Linda & Richard Zoll

**Michael Wilk**

Rozanne & Howard Rubin

In Memory of

**Betty Lou Blumrosen**

Dora Klaff

Dean Putterman

**Herb Brochstein**

Marie Brochstein &

Family

**Charlotte Frucht**

Linda & Richard Zoll

**George Kamins**

Dora Klaff & Matt Okin

**Alfred Levine**

Reva & Bruce Edison

**William Tarnopol**

Jerry Tarnopol &

Christine Stevens

**Bernard Weingarten**

Linda Kates

**Rosa "Shoshana" Woloski**

Reva & Bruce Edison

**EDWARD WAYNE HUNGER FUND**

*To feed the hungry of Houston*

**A Donation**

Don Akens

In Honor of

**The Bat Mitzvah of**

**Ava Silk**

Eileen & Richard

Westerman

In Memory of

**Rhoda & Harlan Priesman**

Ellen & Richard Slosburg

**Evie Weinstein**

Sara Astrich

**ELEANOR & FRANK FREED LIFELONG ADULT JEWISH EDUCATION FUND**

*To present programs on issues in contemporary society*

In Memory of

**George Kamins**

Margery, Robert,

Rebecca & Emily Loeb

**Elton Lipnick**

Ellen & Paul Orseck

**FREDELL LACK EICHHORN CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND**

*To enhance musical programming*

In Honor of

**Barbara Loeser's**

**Retirement**

Sonia & Peter Benjamin

Betty Duson & Al Kahn

Gloria & Joe Pryzant

**The Speedy Recovery of**

**Michael Wilk**

Susie & Alvin Zimmerman

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**GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND**

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

In Honor of

**The Birthday of Celine Kaplan**

Cherill Dubinski  
Jean Mintz, Melinda & Morris Mintz and Sally & Anthony Mann

**The Speedy Recovery of Michael Wilk**

Myra Lipper

In Memory of

**Rosalee Fink**

Perri & Aaron Fink

**GOCHMAN BECKER EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND**

To provide for Transportation Fair and the librarian in Sugar's Library  
In Honor of

**Barbara Loeser's Retirement**

Dora Klaff

**GREENE FAMILY CAMP FUND**

To support Greene Family Camp

In Honor of

**Blake Chaifetz**

Tina & Farrell Chaifetz

**JASON & DAVID MARCUS PLAYSPACE FUND**

To maintain and enhance the playground

In Memory of

**George Kamins**

Seth Freedman

**JULIE KRONOWITZ MEMORIAL FUND**

To provide programs about religion

In Memory of

**Julie Kronowitz**

Steven, Matthew & Lindsay Kronowitz

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To provide prayer books for worship

In Memory of

**Gerry Schenberg  
Joseph Schenberg  
Rob Schenberg**

Sandy & Michael Wexler

**THE PROLER CHAPEL FUND**

To maintain and enhance the Proler Chapel

In Memory of

**Evie Weinstein**

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Sydney & Ted Roggen

**RABBI ROY & LINDA WALTER ENRICHMENT FUND**

To support spiritual and cultural enrichment

In Honor of

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Linda & Richard Zoll

**The Speedy Recovery of Michael Wilk**

Carol & Larry Fradkin  
Sheila & Jerry Kaplan  
Claudia & Joel Selzer

In Memory of

**Jake Fradkin**

**Sylvia Fradkin**

Carol & Larry Fradkin

**Michael Laviage**

Sherry, Barry & Rose Sandler

**Elton Lipnick**

Dorita Aron  
Butch Novy  
Janet Furman Speyrer

**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

To provide Helfman Religious School scholarships

In Appreciation of

**Renee & Alan Helfman**

Rochelle Rubinoff

**RIVA BURSTEN CARING CONGREGATION FUND**

To support programs that assist people in the community

In Memory of

**Elton Lipnick**

Susan & Ed Septimus

**Debbie Tendler**

Susie, Joel Litman & Family

**Evie Weinstein**

Myra Mayer

**RONALD BROCHSTEIN EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND**

To enhance preschool education

In Memory of

**Rhoda Priesman**

Judy & Allan Lazor

**Rhoda & Harlan Priesman  
Rosa "Shoshana" Woloski**

Marianne & Larry  
Greenfield

**ROSE GOODFRIEND ISRAEL PILGRIMAGE**

To help send Confirmation students to Israel

In Memory of

**Brent Nathaniel Goodfriend**

Gary Goodfriend

**SANFORD I. LACK SCOUT FUND**

To support Emanu El's Scout program

In Honor of

**The Birthday of Bob Remels**

Carol & Gary Brush  
Holly & Randy Plost

**SHIRLEY & MARVIN BARISH TEACHER ENRICHMENT FUND**

To provide training programs for Emanu El teachers

In Honor of

**The Birthday of David**

Gloria & Joe Pryzant

In Memory of

**Rosa "Shoshana" Woloski**

Lori, Larry, Stewart & Sam Gibson

**SISTERHOOD FLOWER FUND**

To provide flowers in our worship spaces

In Honor of

**Rabbis, Cantor, Teachers & Religious School Staff**

Jennifer, Adam & Hayden Kramer  
Sarah & Seth Lurie  
Deborah & Myles Rose  
Mollie & Simon Trubek & Ashton & Dallas Garrison

**The B'nei Mitzvah of Bryce Dunn-Kahn & David Weber**

Susan & Edward Kahn,  
Jennifer & Karin  
Dunn-Kahn & Rabbi  
Samantha & Matt Kahn

**The Bar Mitzvah of Julian Farber**

Jennifer, Adam & Hayden Kramer

**Charlotte Garrison**

Sarah & Seth Lurie  
Mollie & Simon Trubek & Ashton & Dallas Garrison

**Dylan Kramer**

Jennifer, Adam & Hayden Kramer

**Clara Lurie**

Sarah & Seth Lurie  
Mollie & Simon Trubek & Ashton & Dallas Garrison

**The B'not Mitzvah of Lexie & Madison Rose**

Sandy (Mimi) & Kenny  
(Poppy) Kopel  
Deborah & Myles Rose  
Lanie & Jerry Rose

In Memory of

**Sam Bernhaut**

**Bertha Brody**

Sylvia & Steven Brody

**Lillian Dinallo**

Ashton & Dallas Garrison

**Aaron Gabriel Grammar**

Sarah & Seth Lurie

**Rabbi Robert & Rozelle Kahn, Dr. Raymond & Patricia Kaufman and Barbara Dunn**

Susan & Edward Kahn,  
Jennifer & Karin  
Dunn-Kahn & Rabbi  
Samantha & Matt Kahn

**Sol Laufman**

**Helen Friedman Laufman**

**Bill Laufman**

**Shirley L. Getz**

**Jeanette B. Getz**

Philip Getz

**Anitra Lourie**

**Kevin Lourie**

**Mr. & Mrs. I.M. Lurie**

The Lurie & Townsend Families

**Mary & Richard Marks & Helen & Jimmy Kopel**

Sandy & Kenny Kopel

*continued next page*

**Trip Milliet**

Mollie & Simon Trubek

**Evelyn Bernhaut****Perlmutter**

Sylvia & Steven Brody

**Shirley Green****Jay Loeb****Doris & Morris Rose****Marnie Rose****Frances & Aaron****Wasserman****Arthur Weinman &****Bernard Weinman****Ida & Morris Weinman**

Lanie & Jerry Rose

**John Paul Trevelise**

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To provide funds to enhance Sisterhood programming

**A Donation**

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Eleanor & Jon Totz

In Memory of

**Linda Stein**

Linda Zoll

**Rosa "Shoshana" Woloski**

Leda & Mike Karchmer

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To support programs for families

In Memory of

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Diana Brackman

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

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Sara Astrich

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Red Ryan Mitzvah Fund

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**Rabbi Josh Fixler's****selection as a Rukin****Rabbinic Fellow**

fredi & Paul Franks

**The Bar Mitzvah of****Syd Waldman**

Linda & Richard Zoll

**The Bat Mitzvah of****Ava Silk**

Adam Pollock

**The Speedy Recovery of****Michael Wilk**

Pat & Aaron Fradkin

Barbara & Raymond

Kalmans

Carolyn Solar

Joel Bernard Steinberg

In Memory of

**Bart Fraley**

Sara Astrich

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Laurie R. Lee &

Dico Hassid

Debora & Keith Remels

**Rosa "Shoshana" Woloski**

Barbara Geiger

Sandy & Don Harris

Joan Shafran

## 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.

## 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.

**Jessica Cassorla**

**Kathryn & Adam Gottlieb, daughter Eliana**

**Dana Laine**

**Shannon Mohrman & Katriel Statman**

**Dana & Jonah Stulberg, children Ethan & Maya**

**Deborah Ziegler**

New members will be shared in the *Bulletin* regularly. Know someone interested in becoming a part of our community? New to town or looking to find a way to connect with Emanu El? Contact Jason Plotkin at [jasonp@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:jasonp@emanuelhouston.org) or 713-535.6414.



### Emanu El Rabbis Attend SWARR Conference

Rabbis Josh Fixler, Pam Silk and Oren Hayon headed to New Orleans in early February for the Southwest Association of Reform Rabbis conference. The Emanu El trio is pictured outside of historic Touro Synagogue on St. Charles Avenue.

### New Residents Move Into Becker Chicken Coop

We are excited to welcome the newest (and perhaps first?) official residents at 1500 Sunset Boulevard. In late January, several chickens took up residence in part of Bear's Garden on the west playground of the Emanu El campus. Three more chickens moved in during the first part of February. Be on the lookout for more about our chickens.



### Cooking Like Your Bubbe!

Thanks to Chef Carol Pock, Director of the Rice Epicurean Markets Cooking School and chef Cathy Jankovic for allowing our Sisterhood into their kitchens in early February for a "Cooking Like Your Bubbe" program. Missed the program or would like to view it again? Click over to Emanu El's YouTube channel.





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Congregation Emanu El

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Pamela B. Silk, Associate Rabbi  
Joshua R.S. Fixler, Associate Rabbi  
Roy A. Walter, Rabbi Emeritus  
Rollin Simmons, Cantor  
David Lamden, Executive Director  
Jason Plotkin, Program Director  
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Rodney Roth, Honorary President  
Andrew Gass, Brotherhood President  
Carol Sue Zions, Sisterhood President

EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG

SAVE THE DATE:

Annual Meeting  
Sunday, April 10 at 4:00 p.m.

Save the date and makes plans to join Congregation Emanu El for its annual meeting.

A packet will be sent to the congregation in mid-March with budget information, the nominating slate and a copy of last year's annual meeting minutes. Rabbi Hayon and President Jeri Amundsen will also give reports to the membership. Details related to the format of the meeting were unavailable as of press time and will also be shared in the packet.



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