



# Bulletin

JULY 2023 | TAMMUZ/AV 5783

VOLUME 77 NUMBER 10

## FROM RABBI HAYON



### What Does Summer Taste Like?

Now that we're back in the thick of summer in Houston, I find myself thinking about the flavors that all of us associate with this time of year. For your family, is summer the time when you enjoy grilled meats and refreshing cold drinks? Or is it a time when you finally get to enjoy the year's most perfect watermelons and peaches? Or, perhaps, these summer months are a time for you to treat yourself to hot dogs or marshmallows toasted over an open fire, just like you did when you were younger?

*Sometimes we, too, find ourselves fantasizing about the scents and savors of our idealized memories about "the good old days."*

Many of us are aware that our sense of taste is one of the forces that is most powerfully capable of evoking memories within us. Even recollections of vanished times and places from many years ago can come rushing back to us instantly when we taste flavors associated with those moments in our past.

For some of us, the taste of familiar family recipes can have the effect of carrying us back in time and making us feel as though we're back around the table with long-gone relatives and loved ones. For others, unique combinations of flavors and spices can remind us of memorable destinations that we've visited during our travels elsewhere in the country or around the world.

Even in ancient days, our predecessors were aware of the mental and emotional connection between specific

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### July Community Shabbat Dinner

Friday, July 21

Following our evening service

We are excited to welcome you to our Community Shabbat Dinner and hope you plan to join us for a delicious meal with Emanu El.

Back by popular demand, mark your calendar for our next Community Shabbat Dinner of the summer! Join us following Shabbat worship services as we come together as a community. Our Community Shabbat Dinners offer an opportunity to meet new people, connect with longtime friends, and have fun. Bring your friends and family, even if they aren't members at Congregation Emanu El. Dinner will be provided by Emanu El's preferred caterer, Houston Catering Concepts.

Online registration is available through **Wednesday, July 19**, by visiting our web calendar at [emanuelhouston.org](http://emanuelhouston.org). Please contact Anna Shabtay at 713.987.3316 or [annas@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:annas@emanuelhouston.org) with any questions.



### Warehouse Shabbat

Friday, July 28

Doors Open: 7:30 p.m. | Service: 8:00 p.m.

Join Rabbi Fixler, Cantor Simmons and their live band for Warehouse Shabbat! This rocking, adults-only worship event has been designed to be a dynamic, lively and musical prayer experience to rejuvenate your heart and uplift your spirit. Come enjoy local desserts and drinks during this exciting Shabbat program! All adults, young professionals or young at heart, are welcome to join us for this Shabbat service at Emanu El. Visit our calendar at [emanuelhouston.org](http://emanuelhouston.org) to register online and join us!

## WORSHIP SERVICES

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Friday night services are streamed on our website, Facebook page, Roku channel, and YouTube. Saturday morning B'nei Mitzvah services are available solely on the website and Saturday services take place in Proler Chapel as an in-person experience only. Any changes will be shared via the regular synagogue communications.

### **Shabbat Pinchas** **Friday, July 7**

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

### **Saturday, July 8**

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

### **Shabbat Matot - Mas'ei** **Friday, July 14**

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

### **Saturday, July 15**

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

### **Shabbat D'varim** **Friday, July 21**

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

### **Saturday, July 22**

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

### **Shabbat Va-et'chanan** **Friday, July 28**

6:00 p.m., Kabbalat Shabbat, Proler Chapel  
8:00 p.m., Warehouse Shabbat,  
Oshman Multi-Purpose Room

### **Saturday, July 29**

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

### **Shabbat Eikev** **Friday, August 4**

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

### **Saturday, August 5**

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

### **Shabbat R'eih** **Friday, August 11**

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

### **Saturday, August 12**

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

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## MAZEL MOMENTS

Our member **Benjamin Warren** has been honored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston as a Life Trustee of its Board.



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## FROM RABBI HAYON *continued from page 1*

flavors and vivid memories of the past. The Torah relates that, during their wanderings in the desert, our Israelite ancestors found themselves nostalgic for Egypt. They brought their unhappiness to Moses, complaining specifically about the food that they missed from their former home: *"We remember the fish that we used to eat in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic!"* (Num. 11:5)

Although the Israelites were wrong to yearn for a return to their servitude under Pharaoh, we can sympathize with the way in which they were drawn too strongly to the memories of the refreshing foods

they used to eat in Egypt. Sometimes we, too, find ourselves fantasizing about the scents and savors of our idealized memories about "the good old days." And so, with a nod to our nostalgic ancestors who lived many centuries ago, I'll end this month's message with a simple summer recipe. This is a quick and refreshing summer salad that combines cucumbers, melons and onions, the same flavors that the ancient Israelites longed for in the desert:

In a large bowl, combine 1/2 large cucumbers (peeled and sliced), 1/2 small cantaloupe (chopped), and 1/4 cup thinly-sliced red onions (fresh or pickled). In a separate bowl, whisk together 2 tablespoons of extra-virgin olive oil, 1 tablespoon of red wine vinegar, and salt and pepper to taste. Pour the dressing into the large bowl and toss. Season with more salt and pepper, and garnish with sunflower seeds and fresh basil leaves. Serve and enjoy with the people you love!

## LIFECYCLE EVENTS

### BIRTHS

**Shira Elsner-Marcello**, daughter of Sophie Elsner & Tom Marcello; granddaughter of Benita Rubinett & Larry Elsner and Linda & Arthur Marcello

**Caleb Rivers Shannon**, son of Emily & Steven Shannon; grandson of Marla & Billy Drori and Amy & Jerry Shannon

### DEATHS

**Sara Astrich**, mother of Steve Astrich and Stephanie Astrich; sister of Lorraine Wulfe; grandmother of Stephanie Griffith & Bobby Astrich, Jordan Astrich, Marissa & JD Meador, and Samantha Astrich & Ricky Legg; great-grandmother of Elijah and Theodore Astrich

**Lulu Bar-Eli**, grandmother of Lee Bar-Eli & Clifford Nash; great-grandmother of Elijah and Naomi Nash

**Robert “Bobby” Berenson**, brother of Ann & Richard Goldfarb

**Ellin Grossman**, mother of Drs. Amy & Michael Coburn, Kate Rose, and Jennifer & Bruce Oakley; grandmother of Jeff Coburn, Laura Coburn & Bradley Clement, Joel Gottsegen, Claire Gottsegen & Scott Weady, Jessica & Jonathan Sosa, Sarah Oakley, Connor and Paige Albert, and William Oakley

**Ninel Listengarten**, mother of Elaine Listengarten & Guy Rosinbaum and Dmitry Listengarten; grandmother of Emily, Ariel, and Elizabeth Rosinbaum

**Jeanne Franklin Samuels**, mother of Vicki Samuels Levy & Lawrence S Levy, Maylee & Marc Samuels, and Maurene & Michael Bencal; grandmother of Kristy & Matthew Samuels, Hannah & Benjamin Samuels, Caroline Samuels, Wendy Waterman, Daniel Waterman, Kimberly Bencal, Amy Duke & Jesse Demartino, Colleen & Michael Duke, Lan & David Duke, Samuel Levy, and Rebekah Levy; great-grandmother of Cameron Samuels, Dylan Samuels, Marwa Boukraria, Claire Samuels, Noah Mark Waterman-Loil, Miles Bryant, Cole Bryant, Emmett Duke, Isabel Duke, and Joseph Duke; sibling of Gay Vitemb Jacobs

**June Silverblatt**, wife of Julian Silverblatt; mother of Abbe & Jeffrey Ricken; stepmother of Terri & Barry Brown, Shelley & Keith Silverblatt, Pamela & Stan Clark, and Cindy & Steven Reiner; grandmother of Robyn MacAdams, Herbert Perry MacAdams, Jacob Bryce Axelrad, and Jasper Allyse Axelrad; great-grandmother of Dylan and Evan MacAdams

**Cindy Weiss**, daughter of Bobbie Weiss; sibling of Michelle Cohen and Linda Sobel

#### 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.



### Find Us On YouTube!

Looking for a one-stop shop to catch the latest worship services, musical selections, videos from our schools and more?

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

## 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.

## HIGH HOLY DAY INFORMATION

Below please find a snapshot of the High Holy Days, featuring the schedule and pertinent information. Additional information including our guest pass policy for this year, parking, and more will arrive to our congregants in an upcoming mailout.

## SERVICE SCHEDULE

### S'lichot

**Saturday, September 9, 9:00 p.m.**

### Rosh Hashanah

**Friday, September 15**

**High Holy Day Kickoff Reception, 5:00 p.m.**

**Rosh HaShanah Unplugged, 6:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, September 16**

**Children's Service, 9:00 a.m.**

**Morning Service 10:30 a.m.**

**Tashlich**, immediately following morning service (Bill Coates Bridge)

## OUTDOOR HIGH HOLY DAY FAMILY EXPERIENCE

**Sunday, September 17, 9:00 a.m.**

Nature Discovery Center (7112 Newcastle)

## CEMETERY SERVICE

**Sunday, September 17, 5:00 p.m.**

Emanu El Memorial Park (8431 Bissonnet St.)

## SHABBAT SHUVAH

**Friday, September 22, 6:00 p.m.**

## KOL NIDRE

**Sunday, September 24, 7:30 p.m.**

## YOM KIPPUR

**Monday, September 25**

**Children's Service, 9:00 a.m.**

**Morning Service 10:30 a.m.**

**Afternoon Experience, 12:30 p.m.**

**Healing & Wholeness, 3:30 p.m.**

**Yizkor & N'ilah, 4:30 p.m.**

**Break the Fast, 6:30 p.m.**

## LIVE STREAMING

High Holy Day services can be watch in four ways:

- **Emanu El website:** [emanuelhouston.org](http://emanuelhouston.org)
- **Facebook:** [facebook.com/emanuelhouston](https://facebook.com/emanuelhouston)
- **Roku:** Congregation Emanu El Houston channel
- **YouTube:** [youtube.com/emanuelhoustonvideo](https://youtube.com/emanuelhoustonvideo)

Archived videos of services, musical selections and sermons will be available at the same digital locations.

## ACCESSIBILITY

For wheelchair or disability accessibility, please contact Christian Simmons at 713.529.5771, ext. 262 or [christians@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:christians@emanuelhouston.org).

The only reserved seats during the High Holy Days are for those that request this access ahead of time. When contacting Christian, please include the services you plan to attend. Those requesting accessible seating may be granted a maximum of four additional seats for family members. Please note this seating will be released 15 minutes prior to the beginning of services.

The deadline for Rosh HaShanah is **Sunday, September 10**, and Yom Kippur is **Tuesday, September 19**.

## HEARING LOOP

The Barish Sanctuary is equipped with an Induction Loop System which transmits audio signals directly to one's telecoil (T-coil)-equipped hearing aid.

## CLOSED CAPTIONING

To ensure those who are hard of hearing can enjoy and participate in our beautiful High Holy Day services, we will be providing closed captioning for all Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur services in the Barish Sanctuary except for the children's services.

For those watching remotely, we intend to use the StreamText platform for a second straight year and will provide the appropriate URL in upcoming synagogue communications.

## Going out of Town for High Holy Days? Let Us Help You!

Will you be out of town for Rosh HaShanah and/or Yom Kippur? Through our affiliation with the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), our congregation enjoys reciprocity with hundreds of synagogues nationally. Please contact Sue Lewis at [SueL@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:SueL@emanuelhouston.org). We will work with our partners to ensure your seat at your destination synagogue.

## Need an ASL Interpreter for High Holy Days? Let Us Know!

If you or a loved one are in need of an ASL interpreter, please contact Heidi Suprun at 713.529.5771 or [heidis@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:heidis@emanuelhouston.org) by **Friday, August 11** in order to ensure the availability of these services.

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## 2023 Book of Memory Deadline: July 19

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

Due to our mailing and printing deadlines, all information and donations must be received by the office by **Wednesday, July 19**. Information after the deadline will be printed in a future version of the *Bulletin*. We suggest a minimum donation of \$18 per name.

Please see page 16 for the *Book of Memory* form.

## NEW For High Holy Days 5784



Emanu El is excited to announce that we will be using digital passes for our High Holy Day services this year. We will email each adult member of your household a digital pass which may be used for all holidays and services. You must be a member in good standing to receive High Holy Day passes. You will receive an email from [orders@simpletix.com](mailto:orders@simpletix.com) which will be sent to the email address on file in your ShulCloud account in early September. You can print your pass at home or simply save it on your phone to be scanned when you

arrive at the building for services. Passes will be scanned before you can enter the building. Your name will be on your pass, and passes are NOT transferrable.

Please be sure that you have a current email address on file with the congregation. If you aren't sure, you can log into your ShulCloud account to check or contact Jessie Cassorla at [jessiec@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:jessiec@emanuelhouston.org).

Watch for more information about our new digital passes in your email and in our High Holy Day information packet that will be mailed in August.

\*Members in Good Standing are those who do not have a balance from the prior fiscal year and have returned their 2023-2024 Annual Commitment form.

## We Need You!

We know that there will be a learning curve with our digital passes for High Holy Day services, and we need your help to make our transition seamless and smooth. We will need ushers to assist our board members in scanning the digital tickets as well as our normal tasks of assisting our members find appropriate seating. Would you help us with this important task? Other than attending a mandatory training session in August, volunteers can commit to as little as one service during the holidays.

We ask that all ushers be at least 18 years old; however, if you have a minor that would like to assist you while you are serving as an usher, we will welcome that!

Please complete the form online at [emanuelhouston.org/hhdworship](http://emanuelhouston.org/hhdworship). We will reach out to confirm and provide details about the training brunch.

If you have any questions, please email Fredi Bleeker Franks, Interim Operations Manager, at [fredif@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:fredif@emanuelhouston.org).

## Celebrate July 4th with Emanu El!

Our July 4th Celebration is back!

Join us for an evening of fun, food and fireworks. Together, we will enjoy a festive menu of hotdogs and hamburgers, drinks, sweet treats, and movie snacks.

The celebration will begin at **7:00 p.m.** with options for all ages, including the movie *The Sandlot* for the kids and entertainment for the adults. Later in the evening, Cantor Simmons will lead us in a sing-along as we prepare to watch the fireworks.

This event is only \$5 per person. Please **RSVP online by Friday, June 30.**



## Emanu El Young Families Playdate Sunday, July 9, 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Evelyn's Park (4400 Bellaire Blvd.)

We had such a great time at the splash pad last month that we couldn't wait to go back for more! Please join us for our third Congregation Emanu El and Becker Young Families community playdate. This is a great opportunity to meet up with other families who understand exactly what life is like with little ones! If your child is five years old or younger, we would love to meet up with you for play time, snacks and coffee(!) at Evelyn's Park in Bellaire. Wear a swimsuit, and don't forget to bring sunscreen and a towel. As always, older siblings are welcome!

Please RSVP online so we can get an accurate count. If you have questions, please contact Tewlyn Yoburn at [tewlyn@gmail.com](mailto:tewlyn@gmail.com).



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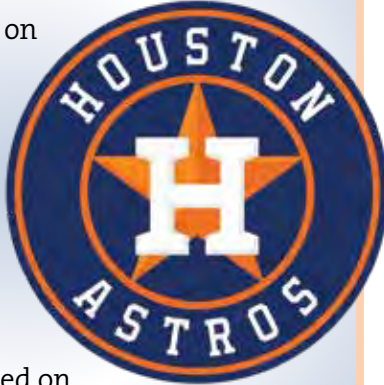
## SAVE THE DATE:

### 8th Annual Night at the Ballpark Sunday, August 13, 1:30 p.m.

Join Emanu El to cheer on the Houston Astros for our 8th Annual Night at the Ballpark!

Come on out and root for the home team as they take on the Los Angeles Angels.

Tickets can be purchased on our website and will be delivered electronically. \$20 per ticket – the best deal in baseball!



### Tot Shabbat Dinner & Service

Friday, September 1

Dinner: 5:45 p.m., Service: 6:15 p.m.



Families with young children are invited to join us for this monthly joyous Shabbat experience geared toward ages 0-6.

Beginning with an optional dinner in Feld Hall (\$5 per person – vegetarian and gluten-free options available), the shortened service to follow is guaranteed fun family time.

Questions? Contact Anna Shabtay at 713.987.3316 or [AnnaS@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:AnnaS@emanuelhouston.org).

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

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We are pleased to welcome the newest and returning members to our congregational family from May 10 – June 14. Please be sure to introduce yourself to our newcomers as they become a part of our community.

**Advait Balaji**

**Jaimie Blackman**

**Elise & David Bouchner, children Matthew & Sydney**

**Sophie Elsner & Tom Marcello, daughter Shira**

**Arin & Henry Freedman, children Hope & Millie**

**MacKenzie Haskins & Hunter Phillips**

**Sarah Heilbronner & Benjamin Hayden, children Rosalind & Solomon**

**Jordan Kampf & Jacob Robertson**

**Gabrielle & Jeremy Larus, son Asher**

**Barbara & Steven Mayer**

**Ashley & Samuel McCabe, children Henry & Noah**

**Priscilla & Thomas Roosth**

**Amy & Clayton Seigle, children Abby & Nicholas**

**Renie & Louis Silver**

**Sharon & Benjamin Spitz, children Madison & Myles**

**Randi & Matthew Steele**

**Chanel Tran & Jeremy Slawin**

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 Anna Shabtay at [annas@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:annas@emanuelhouston.org).



# SISTERHOOD NEWS & HAPPENINGS

July 2023

## Mah Jongg 2023-2024 – Let's Play!



### Evening Mah Jongg Tuesday, July 18, 5:30 p.m.

Enjoy a light dinner and wine for \$7, then play mah jongg!  
Please register online or by contacting the Sisterhood office at  
sishood@emanuelhouston.org or 713.529.5771, ext. 233.



### BOOK REVIEW

*My Grandfather Would Have Shot Me: A Black Woman Discovers Her Family's Nazi Past* by Jennifer Teege & Nikola Sellmair

**TUESDAY, JULY 27, 12:30 P.M.**

This fascinating memoir by German writer Jennifer Teege and Nikola Sellmair recounts Teege's discovery at age 38 that her grandfather was Amon Goeth, the vicious Auschwitz commandant depicted in Steven Spielberg's film *Schindler's List*. Teege was adopted and learned about her family history after reading a biography of her biological mother. This book details Teege's discovery of her ancestry and her attempts to come to terms with this revelation by researching her family and traveling to Israel and Krakow.

Sisterhood's upcoming book review will take place at Congregation Emanu El, and refreshments will be served. There is no charge to attend, but please RSVP online or by contacting the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771, ext. 233 or sishood@emanuelhouston.org. This month's selection will be reviewed by Susana Paoloski.

## SAVE THE DATE: Sisterhood's Birthday Bash & Opening Dinner! Wednesday, August 30, 6:30 p.m.

*Come celebrate with us, it's our big birthday,  
Sisterhood has come a long, long way.  
Eighty years strong, working toward a common cause,  
Supporting our congregation and community without pause.  
August 30 is the night of celebration,  
Don't miss this stupendous occasion!*

The covert for this event is \$25 for Sisterhood members and non-members. \$5 of each payment will be donated to the WRJ YES Fund (Youth, Education and Special Projects), which nurtures future leaders in the Jewish community through grants at local and national levels. Please **RSVP by Friday, August 25**, either online by visiting our web calendar at [emanuelhouston.org](http://emanuelhouston.org) or by contacting the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771, ext. 233 or [sishood@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:sishood@emanuelhouston.org).



## Announcing the Yahrzeit Wall Replacement

With so much gratitude, Congregation Emanu El is excited to announce that in the coming weeks, our Yahrzeit (Memorial) wall in the Barish Sanctuary will be replaced with a new state-of-the-art Yahrzeit wall. The new wall will include automated and programmable lighting, new brass plaques replacing all current plaques, and room for an additional 1,000 names.

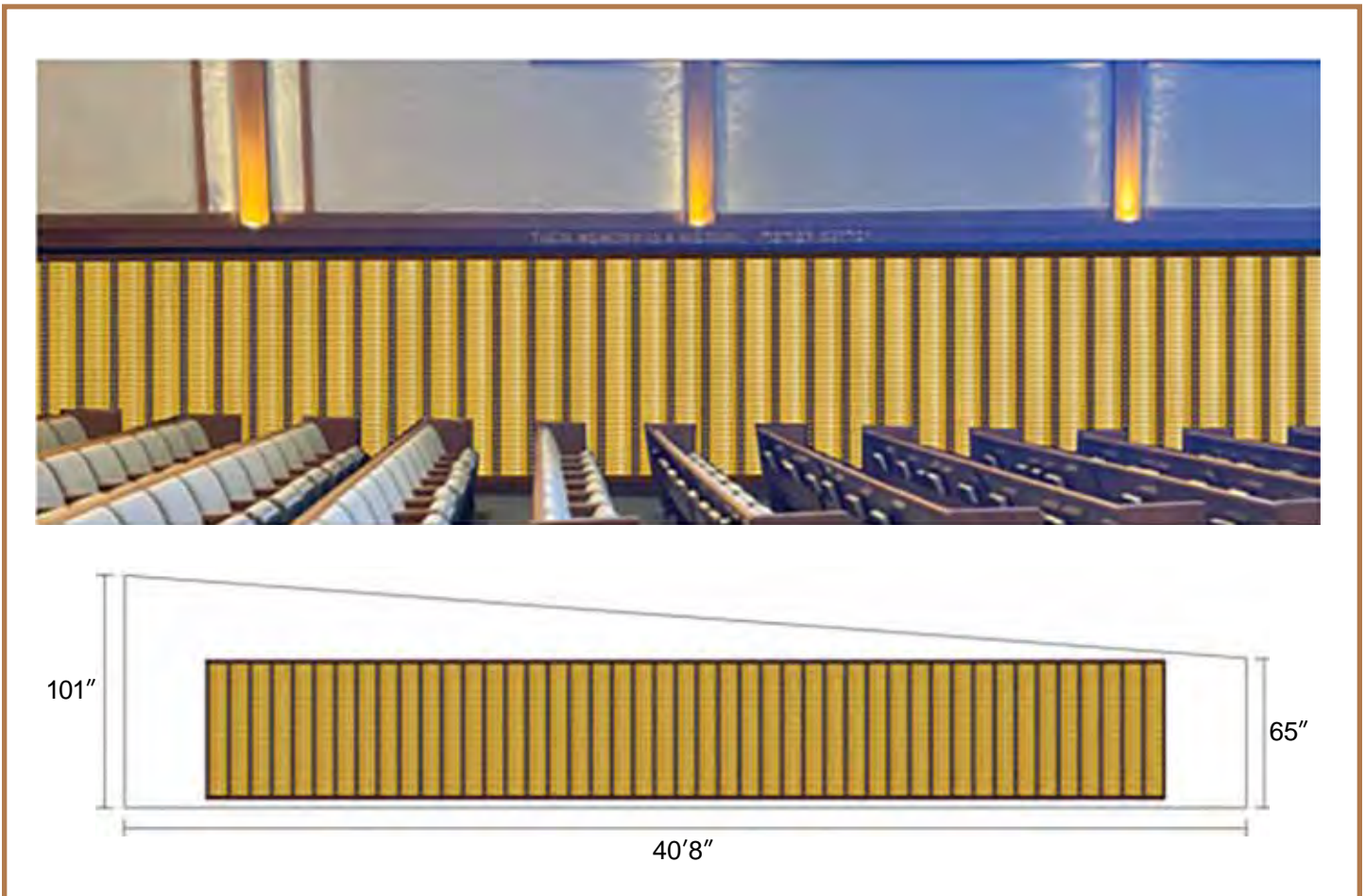
This project is being made possible through the generous support of our congregant and board member, Nancy Parkans-Ehrenkranz. Nancy explains, “As a lifelong member of Congregation Emanu El, I have watched the evolution of our sacred space change and age with the passage of time. I have also experienced the loss of many family members – including eight whose names are memorialized on our current Yahrzeit walls. My parents, Morissa and Lloyd Parkans, of sacred memory, were also long-time members of our congregation who cherished their connection to the temple. As the last remaining member of my family in Houston, I have long wanted to do something meaningful to honor my parents’ memory and leave a continuing legacy, while I am here to witness it. It is my hope that the new format and more consistent

look of these remembrance walls provides a home of dignity and affection for those named, and peace and comfort to all temple members whose family shares space in this holy way.”

Rabbi Hayon adds, “The incredible impact of Nancy’s generosity will live on for generations through the new Yahrzeit wall. This new fully functional memorial will allow us to remember our beloved ones in a dignified way in keeping with the classic aesthetics of our sanctuary. We are so grateful for Nancy’s ongoing dedication to our congregation and for her willingness to make such a generous gift which will benefit all the generations of Congregation Emanu El – past, present, and future.”

The installation of the new wall should be complete by the 2023 High Holy Day season. Additional information about the timing, how plaques will be arranged, and more will be communicated directly to those congregants with loved one’s names currently on the wall.

If you would like to purchase a plaque to be installed on the new wall, please contact Christian Simmons at [christians@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:christians@emanuelhouston.org) or 713.535.6498. Memorial Plaques are \$500 tax deductible donations.



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## From Cantor Simmons

I recently attended Hava Nashira, an annual Jewish music conference hosted at Greene Family Camp this year, where I connected with colleagues, learned new music, sang my heart out, and recharged my soul. Here I am singing *Deep in the Heart of Texas* around the campfire along with cantorial colleagues, Cantor Vicky Glikin of Temple Emanu-El Dallas and Emanu El Houston alum, Cantor Jenna Mark. In June, I spent a week back at GFC serving as summer camp faculty, along with our recent graduate Scout Brooks, who is working as a songleader at camp this summer. In addition to this fun



and enriching travel, I am hard at work on next season's Music at Emanu El series, so please stay tuned for more information coming soon!



## Join the Helfman Religious School Team!

Do you love helping young learners? Are you interested in teaching at Helfman Religious School but don't want the year-long commitment? Be a substitute! We are always looking for friendly faces to fill in when our teachers are absent. Our PreK-7th grade classes meet on **Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** Contact our principal, Lucy Mosbacher, at [lucym@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:lucym@emanuelhouston.org) with questions or to get involved!

## Heading to Camp This Summer?

Everyone loves getting mail at summer camp! Please send us your child(ren)'s camp info and address(es) for camp this summer so we can send them something special. The two options to communicate this information to our team are emailing Jessie Cassorla at [jessiec@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:jessiec@emanuelhouston.org) or completing the online form at [emanuelhouston.org/form/summer-camp-contact-info-2023](https://emanuelhouston.org/form/summer-camp-contact-info-2023).





# Helfman Religious School

## Confirmation Class of 2023

Mazel tov to our 10th grade class on their Confirmation!



Front row: Sophie Kauffman, Carly Peleg, Camryn Kleiman, Addison Berger, Emily Williams, Jonah Miller and Jacob Sacks; Second row: Landon Lord, Leah Hoffmann, Amelia Perry, Brayden Friedman, Ethan Taylor and Sam Rudi; Third row: Dean Mills, Hannah Turner, JJ Silk, Lily Ryden, Eli Freeman and Alexander Credeur; Back row: Stefani Carlson, Rabbi Josh Fixler, Rabbi Pamela Silk, Rabbi Oren Hayon, Cantor Rollin Simmons and Lisa Brooks.

### Helfman Enrollment Is Underway!

Enrollment takes place online using Congregation Emanu El's online portal.

1. Visit <https://www.emanuelhouston.org/learning/helfman> and click "Enrollment", then log on to your account.
2. Fill out all of the required information.
3. Payment of the \$150 per child, non-refundable registration fee is necessary to confirm your enrollment. Payment must be made online.
4. We will confirm enrollment(s) once the forms are complete and the registration fee is paid. The balance of the tuition will then be added to your account and is due by **August 31, 2023**.

Contact Elizabeth Townsend at [elizabetht@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:elizabetht@emanuelhouston.org) with any questions!

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## Confirmation Awards

*Mazel tov to our award winners!*

Harold Reingold was the first Religious School Director at Congregation Emanu El. He retired as Education Director Emeritus after more than 30 years of service to Emanu El's students and parents. He continued teaching B'nei Mitzvah until his death in 2002. His family established an award in his honor to reward students who show the greatest improvement. The **Harold Reingold Award** is given to three religious school students in 4th-5th grades, 6th-8th grades and 9th-12th grades.

**WINNERS: Indiana Newman, Sam Dickerman and Dean Mills**

Gail Shapiro served as the Administrative Assistant to Helfman Religious School for over 25 years. The Congregation Emanu El Sisterhood has established the **Gail Shapiro Mensch Award** in her memory, to recognize two students in Kindergarten through 3rd grade for exemplary citizenship and kindness, the values that Gail held dear.

**WINNERS: Ava Nicolayevsky and Davis Hyatt**

The **Ellen Furst Hebrew Award** is conferred annually by Diane, Larry and Michael Furst in memory of their daughter Ellen.

**WINNER: Aliya Kottler**

Esther Slotnik was the first Hebrew teacher at Congregation Emanu El. Her family established the **Esther Slotnik Award** for Hebrew language excellence to reward a 6th grader for extraordinary achievement in Hebrew studies.

**WINNER: Emerson Brynes**

The **Steinberg Award** is given annually in memory of Ben and Bertha Steinberg, who were founding members of Congregation Emanu El. This award honors the top 10% of the confirmation class as determined by their teachers and the director. Students are recommended for this award based on their participation, behavior, and attendance in high school.

**WINNERS: JJ Silk and Hannah Turner**

The **Honor Roll Award** honors the second 10% of the confirmation class as determined by their teachers and the director. Students are recommended for this award based on their participation, behavior and attendance in high school.

**WINNERS: Addison Berger and Sam Rudin**

The **Noble Campership Award** is presented to Confirmands who have exhibited outstanding leadership in youth group or in class.

**WINNER: Ethan Taylor**

The **Rose Goodfriend Award** was created by her children, Norris and Dr. Barry Goodfriend and their families, in memory of their mother. The Goodfriend Award is given annually to a Confirmand who has achieved academic excellence, has been a leader, and who commits to continue his/her Jewish education through high school graduation. This year is the 40th anniversary of the creation of the Goodfriend award.

**WINNER: Eli Freeman**



**Norris and Dr. Barry Goodfriend and their families, in memory of their mother.**

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## Helfman Welcomes Rachel Kossar



All of us at Helfman are thrilled to welcome the newest addition to our team, School Counselor Rachel Kossar. Welcome, you say? Hasn't Rachel been a teacher with us for six years? Why, yes. This wonderful educator is bringing her expertise and energy in a new capacity, and is building an essential new space within Helfman.

Religious school campus counselors are rare, if not almost unheard of, across the nation. Recognizing this need, Rachel proposed integrating this role at Helfman after receiving her master's in counseling and development last year. Following a successful pilot program in the 2022-23 school year, we are expanding Rachel's role as Helfman's official Counselor. As part of our commitment to providing Jewish education, we believe in growing and supporting the whole individual. And Rachel is the perfect person to help us achieve this.

Using her tremendous creativity, flexibility, and knowledge, Rachel has already developed a fledgling program into a strong, beautifully integrated presence on campus. She not only provides counseling for students and staff, but also supports parents with multiple tools and touchpoints for bettering conversation and connection with their kids.

There is so much more on the horizon, and we are so proud and thankful to have a talent like Rachel growing our community toward a safer, stronger, kinder tomorrow. You can catch Rachel making her rounds on campus every Sunday, so please stop by and say hi!





We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who remember and honor their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions through June 13, 2023.

**ABLON FUND FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS**

*To provide creative arts programs*

In Memory of

**Sara Astrich**

Alene Levy

**ACCESS FOR ALL FUND**

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

In Memory of

**Sara Astrich**

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**Jeanne Samuels**

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**Cindy Weiss**

Holly S. Hunsicker

The Valor & Hunsicker Families

**ALAN GAYLOR TEACHING ASSISTANT FUND**

*To support Helfman Religious School teaching assistants*

In Memory of

**Sara Astrich**

Melinda & Steven Gordon

Cynthia & Marvin Pleason

**Cindy Weiss**

Cynthia & Marvin Pleason

**AUBREY & SYLVIA FARB COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND**

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

In Memory of

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Sandy & Don Harris

**June Silverblatt**

Laurie & Jeff Bricker

**Sylvia Solomon**

Steven Fenberg

**BARBARA & MARK BROOKNER CAMPSHIP FUND**

*To provide scholarships for attending Jewish camps or programs*

In Memory of

**Jeanne Samuels**

Kathy & Stephen Parven

**BECKER EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

*To provide Becker Early Childhood Center scholarships*

In Memory of

**Jeanne Samuels**

Judy & Allan Lazor

**CANTOR-STONE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

*To provide scholarships for Helfman Religious School students*

In Honor of

**The Anniversary of Lisa Stone & Scott Cantor**

Susan & Ed Septimus

**CARY PASTERNAK CEMETERY FUND**

*To maintain and enhance Emanu El Memorial Park*

In Memory of

**Sara Astrich**

Jeanne & Matt Pasternak

**CERSONSKY CEMETERY BEAUTIFICATION FUND**

*To maintain and enhance Emanu El Memorial Park*

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**Peggy & Louis Ashe**

Sharon & Herb Cohn

**Charles Joe Hibbler**

Jackie Hibbler

**Jeanne Samuels**

Sharon & Herb Cohn

**CHESTER MARCUS CAMPSHIP FUND**

*To provide scholarships for campers attending URJ Greene Family Camp*

In Memory of

**Sara Astrich**

Jeanne Samuels

Shirley Burkom

**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 Oren Hayon**

Edgar Gil-Haro

**Rabbi Pamela Silk**

Dessert Gallery Bakery & Cafe

In Honor of

**Rabbi Joshua Fixler**

Anonymous

**Rabbi Oren Hayon**

Goldie & Werner Knurr

**Elyse Spector Kalmans & Cheryl Levy – 2023 Ernest Krautkopf Congregants of the Year**

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& Lindsey Brook

**The Birthday of Bitsy Proler**

Celine Kaplan

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Eileen Westerman

Linda & Richard Zoll

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*To enhance Emanu El's communications with congregants*

In Honor of

**The Anniversary of Claire & Dick Brooks**

Susan & Ed Septimus

In Memory of

**June Silverblatt**

Saranne & Livingston

Kosberg

**ED WULFE YOUTH LEADERSHIP FUND**

*To support programming to train young leaders*

In Memory of

**Sara Astrich**

Tammy & Dan Feldstein

Cathy & Reggie Guettner

and Allison & Tem Nieto

Lynn & Bob Loewy

Aliza & Jason Plotkin

**Jeanne Samuels**

Lorraine Wulfe

**EDWARD WAYNE HUNGER FUND**

*To feed the hungry in Houston and to support Kids Meals*

**A Donation**

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*continued next page*

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In Memory of  
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**ETERNAL FLAME FUND**  
*To provide for the general needs of Emanu El and its facilities*  
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**The Anniversary of Diane & Fred Konig**  
Jay Marks

In Memory of  
**Sara Astrich**  
Bitsy Proler

**FARB TZEDAKAH CANS**  
*Tzedakah collected by congregants throughout the year that benefit the Aubrey & Sylvia Farb Community Service Fund*  
In Memory of  
**Lottie & Harry Berkowitz, Eleanor & Bennett Fenberg, & Lenore & Morton Fenberg**  
Steven Fenberg

**FLORENCE & BEN BLUM LEADERSHIP FUND**  
*To send Emanu El leadership to URJ Biennials and underwrite leadership programs and speakers*  
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Sara Brook

**Leda Greenstein**  
**Jeanne Samuels**  
Myra Lipper

**FREDELL LACK EICHHORN CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND**  
*To enhance musical programming*  
In Honor of  
**Cantor Rollin Simmons**  
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**JASON & DAVID MARCUS PLAYSPLACE FUND**  
*To maintain and enhance the playground*  
In Memory of  
**Ellin Grossman**  
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**JULIE KRONOWITZ MEMORIAL FUND**  
*To provide programs about religion*  
In Memory of  
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Heidi Kaplan & Peter Christie

**LILLIAN PASTERNAK MITZVAH FUND**  
*To support mitzvah projects that improve life for Houstonians*  
In Honor of  
**The Anniversary of Susie & David Askanase**  
Susan & Ed Septimus

**MARIANNE GREENFIELD SISTERHOOD FLOWER FUND**  
*To provide flowers in our worship spaces*  
In Honor of  
**Stella Farber**  
The Farber Family  
**The Anniversary of Barbara & Allen Pauly**  
Your Kids  
**The B'not Mitzvah of Rebecca Balke & Hazel Slaugenwhite**  
The Balke & Slaugenwhite Families

In Memory of  
**Sara Astrich**  
Carol & Gary Brush  
**Bernard "Buzzy" Farfel**  
His Family  
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**PHILIP G. LUSKY RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**  
*To provide scholarships for Helfman Religious School students*  
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Barbara B Glave & Elaine B. Wolff

**PRAYER BOOK FUND**  
*To provide prayer books for worship*  
In Memory of  
**June Silverblatt**  
Kathy & Stephen Parven

**THE PROLER CHAPEL FUND**  
*To maintain and enhance the Proler Chapel*  
In Memory of  
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**Jeanne Samuels**  
Maureen & Joseph Proler  
**Bubba Silberstein**  
The Proler & Weinstein Families

**RABBI ROY & LINDA WALTER ENRICHMENT FUND**  
*To support spiritual and cultural enrichment*  
In Honor of  
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**The Birthday of Bruce Stein**  
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**The Birthday of Rabbi Roy Walter**  
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In Memory of  
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Irene Weingarten

*continued next page*

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**CAMPERSHIP FUND**  
*To provide Greene Family  
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**CONGREGATION FUND**  
*To support programs  
that assist people in the  
community*  
In Honor of  
**Riley Greene – on his high  
school graduations**  
Susan & Ed Septimus

In Memory of  
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Myra Mayer

**ROBERT I. KAHN SOCIAL**  
**JUSTICE FUND**  
*To send congregants  
to the Consultation on  
Conscience at the Religious  
Action Center*  
In Honor of  
**The Bat Mitzvah of**  
**Rebecca Balke**  
Hedy & Jeff Wolpa

In Memory of  
**Jeanne Samuels**  
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**KODESH SACRED OBJECTS**  
**FUND**  
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In Memory of  
**Sarah Blumenfeld**  
Norman Blumenfeld

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**MEMORIAL ISRAEL**  
**EXPERIENCE FUND**  
*To send Helfman Religious  
School high school  
students to Israel*  
In Honor of  
**Madison & Jacob Brewer**  
Amy & Brian Brewer

In Memory of  
**Sara Astrich**  
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**SISTERHOOD FUND**  
*To provide for the  
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In Memory of  
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**FAMILY PROGRAMMING**  
*To support programs for  
families*  
In Honor of  
**Linda Susman**  
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Zachary, & Alexis Susman

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**TEMPLE FUND**  
*To support the needs of the  
temple and to fulfill the  
mission of Congregation  
Emanu El*  
In Appreciation of  
**The Emanu El Staff**  
Lisa & Adam Pollock and  
Family

In Honor of  
**Stephanie Falkenhagen’s**  
**return from maternity  
leave**  
Your Friends at Emanu El  
**The Anniversary of Susie &  
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**The Anniversary of Carol &  
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# Becker School

## From Interim Principal Erika Roberts

Our Becker students are exploring and learning all things artistic this summer at Camp Creative! In June, the children enjoyed a special interactive performance by Wooden O Theatre and Young Audiences Inc. Thank you to our performers for a fun morning of theatre!



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