



Bulletin

DECEMBER 2023 | KISLEV- TEVET 5784

VOLUME 78 NUMBER 3

FROM RABBI HAYON



Seeing children raised into Jewish adulthood is a parent's joy, but it is also a mark of a healthy and successful spiritual community.

In traditional Jewish practice, there is a blessing that is customarily recited by a parent when their child becomes bar or bat mitzvah. *Baruch she-petarani mei-onsho shel zeh*, it says: Blessed is God, who has released me from the punishment of this one.

The reason for this prayer is that, in traditional Jewish thought, a child becomes responsible for their own religious autonomy when they reach the age of legal majority. For this reason, a parent ought to give thanks when they are relieved of direct responsibility for their child's religious practice – and any punishment incurred because of the child's shortcomings.

I have always disliked this custom, and I am glad that it was jettisoned long ago from our Reform practice. I cannot view b'nai mitzvah as a marker of a parent's absolution from Jewish responsibility for their child, but instead as a celebration of the child's accomplishments in study and the development of a mature Jewish conscience. And it should go without saying that I do not support the view that children are primarily a burden or liability, rather than a blessing, to their parents!

That's not to say, however, that a parent's opportunity to raise their child to become a bar or bat mitzvah should not bring a measure of relief. This milestone marks

continued on page 2

2023 Endowment Speaker: Jonathan Safran Foer Wednesday, December 6, 7:00 p.m.



Jonathan Safran Foer

Congregation Emanu El is pleased to welcome Jonathan Safran Foer as our 2023 endowment speaker. Join us for a unique

conversation on what it means to create camaraderie around the challenges we face today and how we, informed by Judaism, think through such topics. Jonathan will discuss his fiction and non-fiction works as well as share his own story through the lens of being Jewish.

Jonathan Safran Foer is known for his novels *Everything Is Illuminated* (2002), *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* (2005), *Here I Am* (2016), and for his non-fiction works *Eating Animals* (2009) and *We Are the Weather: Saving the Planet Begins at Breakfast* (2019).

This event is free. To attend, please register online by visiting emanuelhouston.org/calendar.



MUSIC AT EMANU EL presents a Chanukah Weekend with Spike Kraus December 8 – 10

As part of its Chanukah weekend, MUSIC AT EMANU EL presents Spike Kraus, teacher, composer, and joyful artist, to brighten our Chanukah Shabbat and Havdalah celebrations. Spike brings his spirit to the entire weekend filled with music and learning opportunities for all ages. Find out more on page 6.

WORSHIP SERVICES

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 Vayishlach

Friday, December 1

5:45 p.m., Tot Shabbat Dinner, Feld Hall
6:00 p.m., Kabbalat Shabbat, Proler Chapel
6:15 p.m. Tot Shabbat Service, Oshman Multi-Purpose Room

Saturday, December 2

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel
10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Barish Sanctuary
B'nei Mitzvah of **Gabriel Rose** and **Simon Rose**, sons of Stacey & Brian Rose

Shabbat Vayeishev

Friday, December 8

6:00 p.m., Chanukah Shabbat with Spike Kraus, Barish Sanctuary
Chanukah Shabbat Dinner following evening service

Saturday, December 9

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel
7:00 p.m., Chanukah Havdalah Concert and Sing-Along with Spike Kraus

Shabbat Mikeitz

Friday, December 15

6:00 p.m., Kabbalat Shabbat, Proler Chapel
New Member Shabbat Dinner following evening service

Saturday, December 16

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

Shabbat Vayigash

Friday, December 23

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

Saturday, December 24

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

Shabbat Vayechi

Friday, December 29

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

Saturday, December 30

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

Shabbat Sh'mot

Friday, January 5

5:45 p.m., Tot Shabbat Dinner, Feld Hall
6:00 p.m., Kabbalat Shabbat, Proler Chapel
6:15 p.m. Tot Shabbat Service, Oshman Multi-Purpose Room

Saturday, January 6

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel
Shabbat Schmooze & Schmeat immediately following morning service

MAZEL MOMENTS

Waldman Funeral Care, LLC has been selected for the 2023 Houston Award in the Funeral Home category by the Houston Award Program. Each year, the Houston Award Program identifies companies that have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and business category. These are local companies that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their customers and our community. These exceptional companies help make the Houston area a great place to live, work and play.

Congratulations to congregant **Greg Lewis**, who was honored with the Joan Alexander Chesed Award at the Alexander JFS Gala, Deep in the Heart of JFS, on November 16, 2023.

FROM RABBI HAYON *continued from page 1*

the time when parents can celebrate that their child has achieved a command of the rudimentary skills and literacies of Jewish life. And it is also a chance to acknowledge with gratitude the support and love of a community which joyfully celebrates the arrival of its children into adulthood and maturity.

This constitutes one of Judaism's deepest sources of wisdom: for centuries, we have insisted on the value of affirming and celebrating our children's growth as a communal accomplishment, not a private or individual one enjoyed only by the child and their family.

Our tradition has always guided us to take collective pride every time a child grows into the acceptance of Jewish identity as a young adult. Seeing children raised into Jewish adulthood is a parent's joy, but it is also a mark of a healthy and successful spiritual community.

By now, you have received an invitation to join me and my family for the celebration of my daughter's bat mitzvah on the Shabbat weekend of December 15 and 16. I hope that you will consider coming and rejoicing along with us as we bring her into adulthood. Julie and I feel deeply proud and incredibly privileged to have the opportunity to welcome our daughter into this next stage of her Jewish life while surrounded by the love of this wonderfully supportive congregational community. It means so much for our family to have reached this time of blessing and joy, and we truly hope that you'll make plans to celebrate with us.

LIFECYCLE EVENTS

WEDDINGS

Samantha Astrich & Ricky Legg

Stephanie Nachlas & Bobby Colyer

Lexi Perroux & Jeffrey May

BIRTHS

Bennett Myles Botwin, son of Mallory & Harrison Botwin; grandson of Elizabeth & Matt Krohn, Sharon & Brad Botwin, and Barry Balkin; great-grandson of Dr. Larry Greenfield and Shelly Botwin

Jonah Finn Chajet, son of Rabbi Elias & Michelle Chajet; grandson of Pam & John Blumenthal

Adele Juliet Kamkhagi, daughter of Lizzy & Albert Kamkhagi; granddaughter of Kay Bryan & Allen Poole, Rina & David Kamkhagi, and Jeannie & Gary Wermuth

Laurel Sydney Nachlas, daughter of Georgie & Greg Nachlas; granddaughter of Barbara & Martin Nachlas

DEATHS

Kelly Berretta, daughter of Marcia Berretta

Fannette Blum, mother of Peggy Blum and Susan & Ted Klasterin; grandmother of Jennifer & Andrew Friedberg, Lisa & Jim Walsh, Rachel & Josh Samek, and Anna Klasterin Levine & Jason Levine; great-grandmother of Sam, Julia, Riley, James, Jeremy, Elena, and Raia

Frederick Konig, husband of Diane Konig; father of Rhona & Ronald Konig and Sharon & Elliott Slusky; grandfather of Tracy & Kyle Bateman, Julie & Brogan Brasseaux, Rachel Konig, and Robyn Slusky; great-grandfather of Lovett and Parks Bateman

Michael Podolsky, husband of Iris Podolsky; father of Tiffany & Brett Podolsky and Shira Podolsky; grandfather of Quinn and Zack Podolsky

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.



Get Social With Us!

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

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

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.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT EMANU EL



An Afternoon of Learning & Volunteering: Family-to-Family Volunteer Project Sunday, December 3, 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Join us on Sunday afternoon for a volunteer project. This year, we will partner with Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston to support their clients through a variety of projects. Volunteers attending this all-ages program will help to create and pack hygiene kits and holiday gift bags for two Interfaith Ministries programs: Meals on Wheels and Refugee Services.

In addition, the Interfaith Ministries leadership team will join us to discuss why these projects are so vital to their mission. Lunch will be available for purchase.

Visit our web calendar to register for this volunteer project. For questions, contact Allison Hale at allisonh@emanuelhouston.org.



Chanukah Shabbat & Dinner Friday, December 8, 6:00 p.m.

Experience the joy of the season at Emanu El with our Chanukah Shabbat service filled with light and love. Congregants are encouraged to bring their chanukiyot and candles for this special service to illuminate the Barish Sanctuary together as a community. Following the all-ages-friendly service, come together with us to share a festive and delicious meal.

Registration for dinner is required to allow for an accurate headcount and is available by visiting our web calendar.

As part of its Chanukah weekend, MUSIC AT EMANU EL will present Spike Kraus, teacher, composer, and joyful artist, to brighten our Chanukah Shabbat and Havdalah

celebrations. Spike brings his spirit to the entire weekend filled with music and learning opportunities for all ages.



Emanu El Young Families Playdates in the Park: School Year Series Sunday, December 12, 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Fleming Park (1901 Sunset Blvd.)

Come connect with other Young Families while we celebrate our love of story time! Please join us on the children's playground at Fleming Park for the next Young Families Park Playdate. The theme will be Yoga Day! Come for the whole time, or just drop in when you can. Snacks, drinks and FUN will be provided! If your child is five years old or younger, we would love to meet up with you. As always, older siblings are welcome!

Register online by visiting our web calendar at emanuelhouston.org.



Emanu El Young Professionals Lies I Heard in Religious School: Jewish Holiday Stories for Grown-Ups Wednesday, December 13, 7:00 p.m.

Little kids hear all sorts of fanciful stories about the Jewish holidays: The Maccabees had oil that lasted for eight days. Moses raised his hand and the seas parted. Esther won a beauty contest. But the real stories of these holidays are way more complex and interesting (and sometimes even gorier) than you probably ever knew. Join Rabbi Fixler as we celebrate Chanukah with drinks and a latke-tasting menu of modern twists on the traditional potato pancake. We'll enjoy delicious food and delectable conversation as we peer past the PG holiday stories you've heard and explore the R-rated versions you never knew.

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From Hollywood to Broadway: A Volunteer Choir Winter Showcase

Sunday, December 17, 5:00 p.m.
Broadway at Emanu El is back!

As part of the 2023-2024 Music at Emanu El series, Emanu El's volunteer choir will host its annual winter showcase featuring your favorite songs that were in film and on the stage – *Les Miserables*, *Sound of Music*, *Lion King* and more!

Be sure to register and ensure you get a seat by visiting our web calendar at emanuelhouston.org/calendar. A post-show dinner option is available with registration.

EE Votes Reminder: All registered voters (even if you did not vote in the regular election) can vote in the Saturday, December 9 run-off election. For information on a list of candidates and polling locations, visit houston.tx.gov and click the "Dec. 9 Election Candidate Info" link under POPULAR CITY PAGES.



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!



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facebook®

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

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome Our Newest Members

We are pleased to welcome the newest and returning members to our congregational family from October 12 – November 13. Please be sure to introduce yourself to our newcomers as they become a part of our community.

Alfonso Arreola
Mariela Arreola
Bobbie & Roy Cohen
Kelsey & Marc Effenson
Erica & Nir Goldberg, children Avital & Ilan
Margie & Gary Landson
Pamela & Bruce Rich
Marissa Weitzner

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 or 713.529.5771, ext. 261.

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MUSIC AT EMANUEL

CHANUKAH WEEKEND WITH SPIKE KRAUS

DECEMBER 8-10, 2023

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

6:00 PM – JOIN SPIKE KRAUS AND OUR YOUTH CHOIR FOR A FESTIVE CHANUKAH SERVICE

7:00 PM – CHANUKAH SHABBAT DINNER*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

10:30 AM – SPIKE WILL JOIN RABBI FIXLER AND CANTOR SIMMONS FOR OUR SHABBAT MORNING WORSHIP

7:00 PM – CHANUKAH HAVDALAH CONCERT AND SING-ALONG (CO-SPONSORED BY GFC)*



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

9:00 AM – SPIKE AND OUR SONLEADING TEAM WILL LEAD OUR ALL SCHOOL T'FILAH

9:45 AM – 10:45 AM – ADULT EDUCATION: "MUSIC AS MIDRASH" – HOW CONTEMPORARY JEWISH SONGWRITING IS A FORM OF MIDRASH, AND WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TODAY*

*REGISTRATION REQUIRED AND AVAILABLE ONLINE AT EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG/MEE.



VOLUNTEER CHOIR ANNUAL WINTER SHOWCASE

FROM HOLLYWOOD TO BROADWAY
DECEMBER 17, 2023 | 5:00 PM

OUR EMANUEL VOLUNTEER CHOIR, LED BY THE RENOWNED ANN FROHBEITER, WILL PERFORM MUSIC FROM HOLLYWOOD TO BROADWAY, INCLUDING SONGS FROM LES MISERABLES, LION KING, AND THE SOUND OF MUSIC. THERE WILL EVEN BE SING-ALONG OPPORTUNITIES. BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!

REGISTER ONLINE AND AT
EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG/MEE.





Congregation Emanu El

EMANU EL IS GLAD YOU ARE HERE!

DO YOU...

- like helping others?
- have a talent or skill to share?
- enjoy being part of a vibrant community?
- want to feel more connected as a member?



The newly formed Volunteer & Committee Coordination Group is here to help match YOUR passions and interests with the wide variety of volunteer opportunities at Emanu El.

Volunteer today to help shape the future of our congregation and broader community.

Questions?

Contact Scott Bormaster, Chair, Volunteer & Committee Coordination Group

📞 713.725.5212

✉️ sb4runner@aol.com

JOIN NOW!

4 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

1. Visit emanuelhouston.org/getinvolved to submit your info and choice of committees
2. Complete the form below, check the various committees you are interested in and mail to **Congregation Emanu El Attn: Anna Shabtay 1500 Sunset Blvd. Houston, TX 77005**
3. Complete the form below, check the committees you are interested in and place it in the drop box located in the rotunda area of the temple
4. Feel free to reach out to any of our committee members listed on the back of this page with questions



Volunteer Form

Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

(over)

Make your mark at Emanu El and GET INVOLVED!

All we need is YOU



Volunteer & Committee Coordination Group

Patricia Baker	✉ patriciabaker83@yahoo.com	☎ 713.522.5241
Larry Barr-Meyer	✉ barmeyers1@gmail.com	☎ 713.516.5291
Nancy Ehrenkranz	✉ nancy@mkmmomentum.com	☎ 713.298.6297
Melinda Gordon	✉ melindagordonggordon@gmail.com	☎ 713.256.9145
Ralph Herring	✉ rjh77008@gmail.com	☎ 713.857.9411
Laura Mayer	✉ laura.mayer@sir.com	☎ 713.443.6776
Tammy Mermelstein	✉ tammy.wilsker@gmail.com	☎ 786.271.4346
Shari Penner	✉ shari@sharipenner.com	☎ 713.825.8125
Carolyn Putterman	✉ carolynputterman@gmail.com	☎ 713.817.2667



Representative List of Committees

- _Audit
- _Becker Early Childhood Education
- _Budget & Finance
- _Building, Grounds & Security
- _Cemetery
- _Emanu El Volunteer Choir
- _Endowment Board
- _Fundraising / Advancement
- _Helfman Religious School
- _Insurance
- _Investment
- _Israel
- _Legacy Giving
- _Management & Personnel
- _Membership
- _Nominations / Leadership Development
- _Sacred Belonging
- _Sisterhood
- _Social Action / Social Justice
- _Volunteer Committee & Coordination
- _Young Professionals
- _Widow 2 Widow
- _Single Day Event
(will be contacted by Event Chair)



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Syd Waldman
 Funeral Director



Don't miss this move-in ready home in Maplewood!



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Spacious, updated home nestled in Maplewood, a popular neighborhood. Never flooded. Great open floor plan that allows for versatility in arranging furniture. Wood floors flow through the living spaces and kitchen. Bedroom carpets were just replaced. The kitchen features granite counters and a gas cooktop. Zoned to Bellaire High School.
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SISTERHOOD NEWS & HAPPENINGS

December 2023

Mah Jongg 2023-2024 – Let’s Play!

Registration for Sisterhood mah jongg events can be found online by visiting our web calendar at emanuelhouston.org or by contacting the Sisterhood office at sishood@emanuelhouston.org or 713.529.5771, ext. 233.



Mah Jongg Afternoon

Tuesday, December 5
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Enjoy an afternoon of mah jongg at Emanu El! Noshes are complimentary.

Evening Mahj

Tuesday, December 19
5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

One bam, two crack! Join us for a light dinner for \$7 and a fun evening of mah jongg. Women of all ages and abilities are welcome!

Safety & Security for Women Program

Wednesday, December 20, 9:30 a.m.



Calicia Kampf

Please join Sisterhood to hear Calicia Kampf, patrol sergeant and public information officer with the Madison County Sheriff’s Office, speak about women’s personal safety and how they can protect themselves against crime. The program will also include a demonstration on self-defense by congregants Teri and Ray Wathen. We will begin with coffee and a visit with our “sisters,” then follow the program with a delicious brunch.

Open to all Emanu El members, there is no cost for this program. Please register online by visiting our web calendar at emanuelhouston.org or contact the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771, ext. 233 or sishood@emanuelhouston.org by **Friday, December 15**.

Tribute Book Honoring Rabbi Silk



Rabbi Pamela Silk

Emanu El Sisterhood is thrilled to announce that its 2024 donor event, Hummus and Happiness, will honor Rabbi Pam Silk for her 20 years of service to our congregation. The event – which will be held at Emanu El on **Thursday, March 21, 2024**, at 11:30 a.m. – will include a tribute to Rabbi Silk.


We invite you to participate in the celebration by sharing a memory with Rabbi Silk or a special story about her. Pictures are welcome, too! Your response will be printed in a special tribute book and presented to her at the event. To give your tribute, visit emanuelhouston.org/rabbisilk.

From Chaos to Calm

Downsizing, Decluttering, & Organizing
 WITH
 MICHELLE ARNOLD
 GOOD CLEAN FUNCTION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24 | 10:00 AM
 RSVP BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 19
 EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG/EVENT/DECLUTTER

Collecting handbags, scarves, coats, sweaters, and costume jewelry to declutter your homes between now and the event. Donations benefit the Houston Area Women's Center.



CONGREGATION EMANU EL
 SISTERHOOD



CONGREGATION EMANU EL
 SISTERHOOD

Emanu El Sisterhood New Member Event

Recently joined Emanu El or Sisterhood? Interested in learning more?

Join us to mix & mingle with your Jewish "sisters" while tasting Israeli wines and enjoying lite bites.

ISRAELI WINE TASTING
 BY HAMSA

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31ST, 2024
 5 P.M. - 8 P.M.
 \$18 COUVERT + 1 FREE GUEST
 CONGREGATION EMANU EL

Save the Date for Women's Day 2024!

BE THE HOSTESS WITH THE MOSTEST: THE ART OF TABLESCAPING

Wednesday, February 28, 10:00 a.m.

Celebrate Women's Day at Congregation Emanu El with your sisters!

Three style experts will delve into the latest entertaining trends, including flower arranging and table decorating.

A delicious lunch will follow.

Sisterhood Members: \$20
 Non-Members: \$25



SAVE THE DATE

Hummus to Happiness

2024 SISTERHOOD DONOR LUNCHEON
 FEATURING CHEF ALON SHAYA OF NEW ORLEANS

MARCH 21, 2024 | 11:30 AM
 PATRON RECEPTION AT 11:00 AM

WITH A TRIBUTE TO RABBI SILK FOR HER 20 YEARS OF SERVICE TO CONGREGATION EMANU EL

WATCH YOUR MAILBOX FOR AN INVITATION IN JANUARY

CONGREGATION EMANU EL
 SISTERHOOD

Rabbi Josh Fixler Appointed to a 5-year term on the Commission for Social Action of Reform Judaism



Rabbi Josh Fixler

Have you ever wondered how the Reform Movement makes decisions about what social justice initiatives to support? These conversations begin at the Commission for Social Action for Reform Judaism (CSA). The CSA is a deliberative, policy-development and leadership body that sets the social justice agenda for the Reform movement. It encourages, supports, and enhances the social action and social justice work of the Union of Reform Judaism (URJ) congregations and the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR).

We are thrilled to announce that Rabbi Josh Fixler's extensive social justice work has been noticed on a national level and he has been invited to serve on the CSA as a representative of the CCAR. Rabbi Fixler will join the 120-member Commission for a term of five years. This appointment is a great honor for him and for Congregation Emanu El.

As a member of the CSA, Rabbi Fixler will help provide governance for the Religious Action Center (RAC) and develop the movement's social justice education advocacy, and leadership development programming. He will work with other CSA members to engage congregations and constituencies to advocate at the federal, state, provincial, and local levels for the positions which the CSA and/or the URJ and the CCAR have adopted. The goal of this work is to empower the Reform Movement to realize its social justice agenda by adopting resolutions on topics and subjects important to the Reform Movement.

More information about the CSA is available at rac.org.

Changes to Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (PDP)

ATTENTION SENIORS: Your current PDP sponsor will provide you with an Annual Notice of Change about your current prescription drug plan for 2024. Review that Notice, which describes changes in your Plan, including changes to the premium, co-pay, and the drugs covered. If you are satisfied with the changes and want to remain in that Drug Plan, you do not have to do anything to stay in that Plan for 2024. However, if your current plan will be discontinued or merged with another plan for 2024 or if you are in doubt as to whether or not your current plan is the best plan for you, you may want to review your options before accepting that change or staying with your current plan. **You have from October 15 to December 7, 2023, to make changes to your Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage.** To change your Prescription Drug Plan, you must sign up by **December 7, 2023**. The change will be **effective January 1, 2024**.



If you want to review your current Part D plan, the Emanu El Social Action Committee will provide a trained volunteer to assist your analysis of alternatives. If you know how to contact the person who helped you in the past, please contact them directly. If you are not sure and/or would like a volunteer to contact you between **October 15** and **December 7, 2023**, call Cynthia Pleason at 713.855.9260 and leave your name, phone number and email address and you will be contacted to schedule a convenient time to assist you.

When contacted by a volunteer, you will need to have the following information available:

1. Your MyMedicare username & password (If you do not have an account, you will need to create one. The volunteer can provide assistance if needed.)
2. Your Medicare Card (Medicare number and the date enrolled in Part A & Part B)
3. Your drug list: name, dosage and frequency of each medication
4. The name of your current insurance plan, if any
5. The name of your preferred pharmacy
6. Your zip code

Do not wait until the last minute to make your call. If you want to sign up for a Medicare Part D (drug) plan for the first time, you will need to create a personal account at www.mymedicare.gov. Call Cynthia Pleason at 713.855.9260, and a volunteer will assist you in setting up your account.

continued next page

End-of-Year Giving Makes a Huge Difference to Congregation Emanu El

As 2023 comes to a close, a donation to Congregation Emanu El will make a difference for Jewish communal life and could help your tax landscape. As you make your end-of-year philanthropic decisions, please ask your tax advisor if these approaches are suitable for your financial plans:

- Consider donating appreciated securities or mutual funds you have held more than one year.
- Donate cash from the sale of depreciated securities.
- If you are 70.5 years or older, you can act now to make a gift from your IRA and avoid income taxes on the withdrawal.

These tax-wise giving ideas can be utilized when making a donation to Congregation Emanu El, Becker School, or any Endowment Fund at the congregation.

There has never been a more important time to invest in the future of the Jewish community than now. At Congregation Emanu El, we are supporting Jewish life every day and ensuring that the future of our Jewish community is bright. Jewish education, programming, ritual and spiritual fulfillment, lifecycle celebrations, and so much more make Congregation Emanu El an important organization.

This is not intended to be legal or tax advice. We encourage you to consult your own legal or tax advisor to see how you may be affected by the IRA charitable rollover law.

Ready to utilize one of these tips or make a year-end contribution to the congregation? Visit emanuelhouston.org/give or contact Anna Shabtay, Director of Congregational Advancement, at annas@emanuelhouston.org or 713.987.3316.



Thank you

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the High Holy Days Hunger Fund Appeal. Your support will directly impact those who are hungry in Houston through Kids' Meals, SEARCH, Houston Food Bank, and more.

*List reflects gifts given from October 10 – November 12. We apologize if we inadvertently missed your name. Please contact Anna Shabtay if you believe there is an error at annas@emanuelhouston.org.

Carol Fradkin
Sandra Frieden & Bob Kelly
Donald Gardner
Ellen & Franklin Gittess
Carol & Barry Goodfriend
Ellen & Allen Holzberg
Helaine Wayne Lane & David Lane

Susan Levy
Beth Merfish & Daniel Coleman
Annette Robertson
Joyce Schneider
Rabbi Roy Walter
Carol & Michael Wilk
Lorraine Wulfe



We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who remember and honor their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions through November 12, 2023.

ACCESS FOR ALL FUND

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

In Honor of

The Bar Mitzvah of Will Heinz

Madeline Lowitz

In Memory of

Elaine Kuper

TRIO Education

Elaine Maas

Pam Kaufman & Dennis Keierleber

AUBREY & SYLVIA FARB COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND

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

In Memory of

Fannette Blum

Laurie & Jeff Bricker

Helen Simkin

Eric & Carol Adatto Nelson

BARBARA & MARK BROOKNER CAMBERSHIP FUND

To provide scholarships to send Helfman Religious School students to Greene Family Camp

In Honor of

The Speedy Recovery of Alan Reingold

Jeffrey Ross

In Memory of

Melvin Dow

Michael Karchmer

Earl Littman

Rabbi Jack Segal

Jeffrey Ross

BECKER EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND

To provide and enhance Becker School programs

In Honor of

Ariah Phan Madorsky

Judith Richard & Martin Madorsky

CARY PASTERNAK CEMETERY FUND

To maintain and enhance Emanu El Memorial Park

In Appreciation of

Shel Vedlitz

Jeanne & Matt Pasternak

CERSONSKY CEMETERY BEAUTIFICATION FUND

To maintain and enhance Emanu El Memorial Park

In Memory of

Earl Littman

David N. Miller and Edythe

& Milton Baumohl

Barbara Miller

Sondra Rose

Joy & Dickie Pulaski

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

The Emanu El Clergy

Tori Brooks & Darlene

Kolaja

Sandy & Don Harris

Rabbi Joshua Fixler

Francyne & Kevin Jacobs

Mark Naggar

Rozanne & Howard

Rubin

Rabbi Oren Hayon

Chanel & Jeremy Slawin

Becca Schwartzberg & Cantor Rollin Simmons –

Warehouse Shabbat

Sharon Levy Pagan

In Honor of

Rabbi Pamela Silk

Rebecca & Jost Lunstroth

Shel Vedlitz

Sharon Katz

The Speedy Recovery of Celine Kaplan

Rozanne & Howard

Rubin

In Memory of

Noreen Greenberg

Susan & Richard Speer

Debby & Alan Stanton

Michael Karchmer

Susan & Richard Speer

Kenneth H. Kates

Linda Kates

Frederick Konig

Iris & David Littwitz

Sondra Rose

Rozanne & Howard

Rubin

Jerry Spencer

Janice Spencer

Frank Yelin

Marilyn Waldman

EDWARD WAYNE HUNGER FUND

To feed the hungry in Houston and to support Kids Meals

In Honor of

The Bar Mitzvah of Eytan Shabtay

Diane Puschett

In Memory of

Sara Astrich

Jerry Meyerson

Michael Karchmer

The Camac Family

Debby & Richard Colton

Linda Kates

David Lurie

Barbara Mandelstein

Zarine & Raj Mashruwala

Resanne & Earl Saltzman

Sandra Sheinberg

Linda & Richard Stanley

Phyllis Turkel

David S. Kaufman

Pam Kaufman & Dennis

Keierleber

Sondra Rose

Marjorie Rosenthal

Carolyn Solar

Phyllis Turkel

Helen Simkin

Carolyn Solar

ETERNAL FLAME FUND

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

In Appreciation of

The Emanu El Clergy, the B'nei Mitzvah Preparation team, and the Event, Maintenance, & Security Crew

Anna, Erez, Eytan & Eliya

Shabtay

continued next page

**JASON & DAVID MARCUS
PLAYSPACE FUND**

*To maintain and enhance
the playground*

In Memory of

Elaine Kuper

Ruby Sondock

Helen Simkin

Sandy Marcus & Stan

Poladsky

Ruby Sondock

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

*To provide arts programs
for children*

In Memory of

Helen Simkin

Ralph G. Howard

**JULIA KAPLAN RELIGIOUS
SCHOOL ENRICHMENT
FUND**

*To enhance Helfman
Religious School programs*

In Honor of

Celine Kaplan

Cookie & Salomon

Schein

**The Speedy Recovery of
Celine Kaplan**

Barbara & Raymond

Kalmans

**MARIANNE GREENFIELD
SISTERHOOD FLOWER
FUND**

*To provide flowers in our
worship spaces*

In Honor of

**The Bar Mitzvah of Zach
Susman**

The Susman Family

**The Birth of Bennett
Botwin**

Andy & Shana Balkin and

Efrayim, Yomo, and Nava

Balkin

Jeremy & Maxwell Balkin

Elizabeth & Matt Krohn

**The Birthday of Syd
Waldman – 65th**

Anonymous

**The B'nei Mitzvah of
Oliver Friedman & Eytan
Shabtay**

The Friedman & Shabtay

Families

**The B'nei Mitzvah of
David Jacobs & Jacob
Schaffer**

The Jacobs & Schaffer

Families

**The B'nei Mitzvah of
Gabriel & Simon Rose**

The Rose & Rubin

Families

**The B'not Mitzvah of
Hadley Mira Barrow &
Arabella Hearn**

The Barrow & Hearn

Families

In Memory of
**Dorothy & Robert
Axelroth, Helen & Delbert
Wilkinson, Sonia &
Meyer Friedman, Thelma
& Bernard Gerson,
Melvin Dow, and Abe
Friedman**

The Friedman Family

**Stan Davis, Sid Frank, &
Beverly Jacobs**

The Jacobs Family

Marianne Greenfield

Dr. Larry J. Greenfield

Elizabeth & Matt Krohn
and Family

Michelle & Howard Stone

and Family

Debbie Zissman and

Family

**Goldie & Seymour Halfant,
Stanley Kaplan, Mimi &
Alfred Rubin, Joan Rose,
Robert Rubin, and Joan
Levine**

The Rose & Rubin

Families

**Rivka Shabtay, Inez &
Chaim Ben-Simon, Fran &
Maurice Buchalter, Dixie
& Frank Prins, Miriam &
Ya'acov Shabtay**

Anna, Erez, Eytan & Eliya

Shabtay

**Richard Susman, Jennifer
Susman, Herb Feins, Lila
& Gerald Rauch, Elaine
& Morris Kalin, Dorothy
& Harry Susman, Sylvia
Reiss, and Beth Edeiken-
Monroe**

The Susman Family

**RABBI ROY & LINDA
WALTER ENRICHMENT
FUND**

*To support spiritual and
cultural enrichment*

In Appreciation of

Rabbi Roy Walter

Alex, Jack, Noah, and

Family

Meredith & Alan Marks

Hayley, Adam, Ellie &

Finley Wilk

In Memory of

Sondra Rose

Rhonda & Seth

Freedman

Barbara & Raymond

Kalmans

Marian Siegel

Barbara & Martin Meyer

**RIVA BURSTEN CARING
CONGREGATION FUND**

*To support programs
that assist people in the
community*

In Honor of

**The Anniversary of Susie &
David Askanase**

Sandy & Don Harris

**ROBERT I. KAHN GALLERY
FUND**

*To maintain and enhance
the Robert I. Kahn Gallery*

In Memory of

Michael Karchmer

Libby & Buz Marvins

**RONALD BROCHSTEIN
EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND**

*To enhance preschool
education*

In Honor of

Elizabeth Robben

Sharon & Herb Cohn

SISTERHOOD FUND

*To provide for the
Sisterhood*

In Memory of

Fannette Blum

Sylvia & Steven Brody

Susan & Ed Septimus

Michael Karchmer

Elaine Kuper

Gail & Larry Levinson

TEMPLE FUND

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

In Appreciation of

The Emanu El Clergy

Miriam & Bernard Yenkin

Rabbi Pamela Silk

Peggy Blum and Susan

Blum Klastorin & Ted

Klastorin

Shel Vedlitz

Dodie Gaber

In Honor of

Rabbi Joshua Fixler

Lisa & Adam Pollock and

Family

**The Anniversary of Fredi &
Paul Franks – 18th**

Susan & Syd Waldman

**The Anniversary of
Mariana & Isaac Pesin**

Madgelyn & Richard

Pesin

**The Birthday of Syd
Waldman – 65th**

Bonnie Forkosh, Margot

Ettlinger, & Elyse Cutler

In Memory of

Fannette Blum

Peggy Blum and Susan

Blum Klastorin & Ted

Klastorin

Marilyn Caplovitz

Professor Yehiel Hayon

Miriam & Bernard Yenkin

Michael Karchmer

Elyse, Lewis, Aerin,

Kendall & Tali Kalmans

Earl Littman

Stephen Weil

Maxine Reingold

Elyse, Lewis, Aerin,

Kendall & Tali Kalmans

Sondra Rose

Rochelle G. Skibell

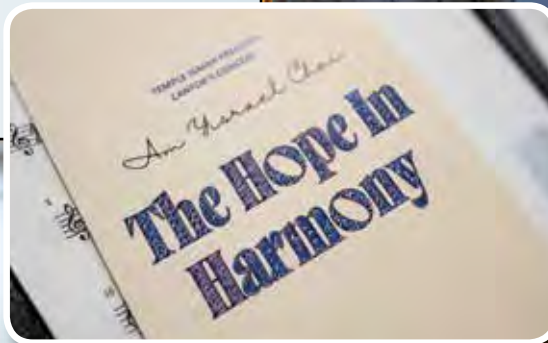


Our opening MUSIC AT EMANU EL event of our second season was our concert with the spectacular Phillip Hall Singers. Our volunteer and youth choirs joined their voices together with Phillip's choir to lift our spirits. It was truly a wonderful afternoon!



From Cantor Simmons:

In early November, I traveled to Lafayette, CA to perform the Israel concert, "Hope in Harmony" that we performed in Houston last April to celebrate Israel's 75th birthday. Cantor Leigh Korn invited our same group: me and Cantors Galit Dadoun-Cohen and David Berger to join him. We had the concert on the calendar for months, but when the tragic events unfolded on October 7 in Israel, we knew we had to redesign our program to meet the current moment. We debated whether we should do it at all. Cantor Dadoun-Cohen, an Israeli, wrote a heartfelt letter that was sent to Cantor Korn's congregation about the concert. She wrote "I am deeply aware of the power of music to move our hearts to open, to give us strength and also to allow us to weep. Music beyond words can give a channel for the expression of our most painful feelings, to help us survive and ultimately give us hope!" And so, we did it. We adapted the concert to include prayers for the hostages, for Israel and for those who have died. We sang the words of *Shir LaShalom* (a song of peace) with more passion than ever before. After the concert, the congregation kept telling us how they didn't even realize how much they needed this event. As we closed with the words "Am Yisrael Chai," everyone was on their feet clapping along with us until the end. It was a moment of strength and hope.



EMANU EL SCRAPBOOK

We had a great time at our first (of what we hope will be many) Family Trivia Night sponsored by the Helfman Religious School Committee! We all enjoyed a delicious fajita dinner and celebrated Havdalah with Rabbi Silk, then the kids watched a movie while the adults got competitive with Geeks Who Drink Pub Quizzes. Mazel tov to the winning team, "Hillel, Yeah!" made up of members of the Lichman, Schneider and Seff families!

We can't wait for the next event!





This Bulletin is printed on recycled paper.



Congregation Emanu El

Oren J. Hayon, Senior Rabbi
Pamela B. Silk, Associate Rabbi
Joshua R.S. Fixler, Associate Rabbi
Roy A. Walter, Rabbi Emeritus
Rollin Simmons, Cantor
Anna Shabtay, Director of
Congregational Advancement
Erika Roberts, Interim Becker Principal
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Carol Sue Zionts, Sisterhood Co-President
Judy Simon, Sisterhood Co-President

EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG



January Tot Shabbat
Friday, January 5
Dinner 5:45 p.m., Service 6:15 p.m.

Families with young children are invited to 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. Tot Shabbat will begin in Feld Hall with an optional dinner provided by Houston Catering Concepts, and vegetarian and gluten-free options will be available. The cost of the dinner is \$5 per person.



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