



Congregation Emanu El

Bulletin

FEBRUARY 2024 | SHEVAT – ADAR 5784

VOLUME 78 NUMBER 5

FROM RABBI HAYON



All who are imprisoned unjustly will soon know freedom, and that the bonds of captivity will be turned into the foliage of liberation. May it be so, and may it be God's will.

While attending a rabbinic conference last month, I had the opportunity to visit the Museo Iconográfico del Quijote in Guanajuato, Mexico. The city of Guanajuato has a close cultural relationship with the classic Spanish literature of Cervantes, and the “MIQ,” as it is known, has become one of its most popular institutions: a museum for the exhibition of visual art featuring Cervantes’ best-known character, Don Quixote de la Mancha.

The museum, whose collection contains over a thousand different pieces of art, was created by a philanthropic gift from a Spanish-born entrepreneur named Eulalio Ferrer Rodríguez. As a young man, Rodríguez was active in the resistance against Spanish nationalism during the Spanish Civil War and was forced to flee his home to escape Franco’s army. After arriving in southern France, he was held in a refugee camp in Le Barcarès until the war ended in 1939.

During his years of internment, Rodríguez’s only possession was a pocket-sized copy of *Don Quixote*. He read it dozens of times and formed a close attachment to Cervantes’ prose and its fascinating cast of characters. For Rodríguez, the character of Don Quixote, in whom madness and heroism blend together, helped him to make sense of his captivity and his fight against fascism.

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MUSIC AT EMANU EL presents the Shepherd School of Music Concert

Sunday, February 25, 4:00 p.m.

“Sounds of the Sephardic Diaspora”

Enjoy an afternoon of music by composers who were influenced by their Jewish or Sephardic heritage, featuring Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco. We are honored to be joined by his granddaughter, Diana Castelnuovo-Tedesco, who will teach us about her grandfather’s life, music and legacy. This program is presented in partnership with Evelyn Rubenstein JCC.

Please join us for a Sephardic-themed reception following the concert.

Tickets are \$18 or included for FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT EMANU EL.



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T 713.529.5771
F 713.529.0703

1500 Sunset Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77005

EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG

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 Sh'mot Friday, February 2

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, February 3

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

Shabbat Mishpatim Friday, February 9

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

Saturday, February 10

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel
10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Barish Sanctuary
B'nei Mitzvah of **Dominic Miller**, son of Brian & Dena Miller, and **Sophia Shaftel**, daughter of Danny & Iris Shaftel

Shabbat T'rumah Friday, February 16

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

Saturday, February 17

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel
10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Barish Sanctuary
B'not Mitzvah of **Maya Sacks**, daughter of Steven & Julie Sacks, and **Lucia Trachtenberg**, daughter of Barry & Patricia Trachtenberg

Shabbat T'tzaveh Friday, February 23

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

Saturday, February 24

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel
10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Barish Sanctuary
B'nei Mitzvah of **Henry Kass**, son of Benjamin & Lauren Kass, and **Cayla Yoburn**, daughter of Jesse & Tewlyn Yoburn

Shabbat Ki Tisa Friday, March 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, March 2

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel
Shabbat Schmooze & Schmear immediately following morning services
10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Barish Sanctuary
B'nei Mitzvah of **Charlotte Kneese**, daughter of Jacqui & Reagan Kneese, and **Annabel Turowsky**, daughter of Melissa & Jason Turowsky

FROM RABBI HAYON *continued from page 1*

After the end of the war, Rodríguez made a new home in Mexico, where he eventually created the museum to honor his literary hero. In the domed entryway of the MIQ is a giant bronze statue of Quixote holding a long spear and wearing his trademark tin helmet. Next to the statue is a dedication plaque which contains an excerpt from Rodríguez's wartime journal. He writes that his idea for the museum was born in the refugee camp in 1936, where he was inspired to create a collection that would "transform barbed-wire fences into oak trees, and oak trees into spears."

I found this line from Rodríguez's diary deeply moving. For me, it was a reminder that the desire for freedom and liberation is an innately human one, and that even in the most difficult and oppressive places – or, perhaps, most especially in those places – the human spirit longs for liberty.

At this time of the Jewish year, we return to the stories of our ancestors' captivity in Egypt; these stories form the earliest foundation of our spiritual peoplehood and shape the outlines of Jewish communal identity. We were shaped into a nation by the knowledge that we are accompanied through our struggles by a God who yearns for our freedom.

These undying stories, and the yearning with which they are infused, continue to speak to us across the miles and millennia from the time they were written. It is tragic but true that today, more than 400 years since Cervantes wrote *Don Quixote*, innocent people are still held in captivity, and extremism still victimizes those who long to live in peace.

However, we can take comfort in the knowledge that the Jewish hope for freedom still lives as well. We continue to repeat the hopeful prayer hinted at in the earliest literature of our people, and repeated in the legacy of all those who have yearned for liberty across the ages: that all who are imprisoned unjustly will soon know freedom, and that the bonds of captivity will be turned into the foliage of liberation. May it be so, and may it be God's will.

LIFECYCLE EVENTS

WEDDING

Michelle Cohen & Nick Jameson

BIRTHS

Benjamin Putt Karklin, son of Lindsey & Drew Karklin; grandson of Carolyn & Leland Putterman and Debra & Steven Karklin; great-grandson of Lillian Putterman

Maite (MAI-teh) Elena Santos Penner, daughter of Elizabeth Santos & Ryan Penner; granddaughter of Karen & Murry Penner and Clementina & Santiago Santos; great-granddaughter of Barbara & Harris Hauser and Judy Penner

DEATHS

Stuart Baum, husband of Sue Baum; father of Stacey & Brad Uffelmann and Lauren & Darren Baum; grandfather of Eric and Scott Uffelmann and Lily & Charlie Baum; brother of Bonnie & Mike Grossfeld and Cindy & Robert Hess

Bill Coorsh, father of Jodie Coorsh and Monica & Danny Coorsh; grandfather of Harper and Holly

Barbara Fenton, wife of Leslie Fenton; mother of Marci Kende; grandmother of Julianna, Jason, Allison, Jacqueline, and Alexis; sister of Gloria & Peter Nemeroff and Bonnie & Joel Berman

Philip Getz, father of Janet & Al Solomon; stepfather of Sharon & Michael Znilek, Janice & Bruce Smith, and Debi & Glenn Pfitzenmaier; father-in-law of Trecia and Donna Getz; grandfather of Ben Solomon, Victoria & Grant Patterson, Beth & Oliver Jones, Susan & Peter Getz, Claudia Getz & Jorin Lee, Kara & Nathan Getz, Alison Getz & Peter Prunty, Jennifer & Jamie Abbott, Angelina & Kevin Znilek, Steven Znilek, Rachel & Patrick Lazear, Emily & Max Smith, Anna Smith, and Aaron and Sonya Pfitzenmaier; great-grandfather of Annie, Sara, Mary Margaret, Emmy, and Charlie Jones, Nolan Getz, Caroline and Robin Patterson, Sky Abbott, and Ezra and Miles Znilek

Alvin Jaffee, brother of Arlene & Barry Karchmer; husband of Sharon Jaffee; father of Melissa Jaffee & Michael Hanson, Donna & David Askenazi, and Jacqueline & Ian Jaffee; grandfather of eight

Susan Johnson, mother of Amy & Brian Brewer and Laurie Zapinski; grandmother of Madison and Jacob Brewer, Shoshanna & Kevin Mathews, and Andria & Joshua Wilson-Ward; great-grandmother of Tru and Sophie Mathews, Keaton Wilson, and Cash Ward; sister-in-law of Melvin Malzberg

Gary Landson, husband of Margie Landson; father of Colliny & Benjamin Landson and Jessica & Daniel Landson; grandfather of Harlowe, Lucas, Adalyn, and Josephine

Bettina Prager, wife of Stephen Prager; mother of Laura & Charles Kessler and Elizabeth & Jeremy White; sister-in-law of Jordana & Doug Hoffman; grandmother of Payton, Benjamin, and Andrew Kessler and Charlie, Sadie, and Danny White

Brenda Solomon, mother of Mary Ann & Andrew Solomon, Amy & Jonathan Roberts, and Debra Baker; grandmother of Samantha and Alexander Solomon, Arielle Roberts, Shira & Josh Roberts, Jillian Roberts, Emily & John Smachetti, and Max and Sarah Baker; great-grandmother of Hannah Smachetti

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.

**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.



Tot Shabbat

Friday, February 2

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

Tot Shabbat happens the first Friday of each month. Below is the 2024 schedule, and we hope your family joins us!

March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7



**L'Dor VaDor Celebration:
Make This a Year of YES**

Join us for celebratory drinks and light bites to hear about the expansion project that will transform Emanu El's campus in the coming years. Do not miss the L'Dor VaDor Celebration on **Thursday, February 8, at 6:00 p.m.** See the plans, hear from fellow congregants, and learn how you can be a part of this exciting project.

“Our tradition encourages us to envision each day of our lives as a perfectly balanced scale, so that every decision we make, every choice, every action, every yes, will be the tiny nudge that is needed to tip our world toward redemption.”

– Rabbi Hayon, Kol Nidre

Attire: Dressy Casual

Advance RSVPs are requested at emanuelhouston.org/LDVPDParty or 713.535.6421.



Yom Limmud 2024
Sunday, February 4
9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



Join us as we celebrate Yom Limmud, the official day of Jewish learning!

The 30th celebration is one you're not going to want to miss – and it's going to be at Emanu El. It will go beyond the traditional track of classes with unexpected topics and insightful presenters.

Pre-register: \$18 per person | At the door: \$25 per person
Complimentary lunch is included.

Register online by visiting our web calendar or by visiting houstonjewish.org/yomlimmud.

Please note that no backpacks or large bags will be permitted.

The lineup features some of Emanu El's MVPs!



**Stefani Carlson
& Rachel Kossar**

*Towards Inclusive Jewish Education for All:
Parents and Congregational Schools in Partnership*

Since the pandemic, the number of children receiving special education services in schools has skyrocketed. Unfortunately, all too often, families with children who have developmental, behavioral, or other learning differences face barriers to full participation in Jewish educational programming. Making Jewish education accessible to every student enriches our whole community. So how can we make our congregational schools fully inclusive? Join Stefani and Rachel for a conversation about how parents and congregational schools can be partners in ensuring that every child can receive a Jewish education.



**Rabbi Joshua R.S. Fixler
& Cantor Rollin Simmons**

Expanding our Metaphors for God

We often encounter God through metaphor – God as “parent,” God as “ruler,” God as “rock.” Using ancient and modern texts and songs, we will mine the Jewish tradition for new metaphors that expand our ability to conceptualize the Divine in our lives: God as “water,” God as “place,” God as “fire.”

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Emanu El Young Families Playdate: School Year Series

Sunday, February 11, 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Wier Park (3012 Nottingham Street, West University Place)

Come connect with other young families at Wier Park. We will be focusing on music and movement, so bring your favorite instrument from home! Additionally, there will be an opportunity to engage in the Jewish value of *tikkun olam*, repairing the world, in a creative way. Let's decorate a box for recycling electronics!

Feel free to 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 and join the fun! Find the event online by visiting our web calendar at emanuelhouston.org.



Coffee with the Clergy

Wednesday, February 21, 9:30 a.m.

Join us in the conference room for coffee, casual conversation, and connection with other Emanu El congregants and Rabbi Hayon. We'll provide the coffee and the nosh, you bring the conversation.



Billiards & Brewskis

Thursday, February 22, 6:00 p.m.

Join us for a fun night of billiards and brewskis! This event is geared toward the men of Congregation Emanu El looking to build comradery and community with other members in the congregation. The cost is \$5 per member and includes food and drinks.

Registration is available online by visiting our web calendar at emanuelhouston.org. Spread the word – we're betting you won't regret it! For additional information on this new program, contact Allison Hale at allisonh@emanuelhouston.org.



Warehouse Shabbat

Friday, February 23, 8:00 p.m.
Doors open at 7:30 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 and/or young at heart are welcome to join us for this Shabbat service at Congregation Emanu El. The doors will open at 7:30 p.m., and the service will begin at 8:00 p.m.

Register online at emanuelhouston.org/yp.

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THE SHEPHERD SCHOOL OF MUSIC

"SOUNDS OF THE SEPHARDIC DIASPORA"

FEBRUARY 25, 2024 | 4 PM

Enjoy an afternoon of music by composers who were influenced by their Jewish or Sephardic heritage, featuring Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco. We are honored to be joined by his granddaughter, Diana Castelnuovo-Tedesco, who will teach us about her grandfather's life, music and legacy.



This program is presented in partnership with Evelyn Rubenstein JCC.



TICKETS ARE \$18 OR INCLUDED FOR FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT EMANU EL
REGISTER FOR THE EVENT AT [EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG/MEE](https://emanuelhouston.org/mee)

NEW Program Coming Soon! Emanu El Motherhood Together

Congregation Emanu El is launching a new program to support families who have welcomed new babies through birth and adoption. Launching in the early Spring of 2024, the Emanu El Motherhood Together will offer a weekly lunch with a supportive community and conversation for moms and babies in the first 12 weeks of the child's life. These sessions will be facilitated by a certified postpartum Doula and include visits from other postnatal specialists and our clergy.

In this group, primary caregivers will find a supportive community of peers and experts where they can ask the questions, share the struggles, and celebrate the successes that come in the first few months of a baby's life. We will also be offering additional opportunities for partners. Motherhood Together is open to the Houston Jewish community, with priority registration offered to Emanu El members.

Already interested in learning more? Contact Allison Hale, Programming & Engagement Associate, at allisonh@emanuelhouston.org.

SAVE THE DATE! Purim 2024 Sunday, March 24

Join us for this year's Purim Spiel, *Deep in the Heart of Shushan: A Country-Western Purim!* We will be line dancing our way across the bimah

in our finest western wear, yodeling and two-stepping to upbeat country tunes we all know and love. We hope you will join the Emanu El staff and our volunteer and youth choirs on **Sunday, March 24, 10:00 a.m.** in the Barish Sanctuary.

We will start with some megillah reading, then jump into our high-energy performance. Come in costume and get ready for a hollerin' hootenanny of a time. Stay after the Spiel is complete for the Helfman Religious School's Purim Carnival!

Register for the Carnival online at emanuelhouston.org/purim2024. Sponsorship opportunities are available.





Congregation Emanu El

EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG/PURIM2024SPONSOR

PURIM 2024

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

SPONSORSHIPS



DEEP IN THE HEART OF SHUSHAN

A COUNTRY-WESTERN PURIM

CONGREGATION EMANU EL

We are excited for a fabulous day of celebration that includes the Purim Spiel and Purim Carnival. We hope you will join us.

As a sponsor, you are entitled to the benefits described below. Your goodies will be available for you on Sunday, March 10. Your support helps the Helfman Religious School provide an outstanding Jewish education to over 450 students each year. With your help, Jewish students are strengthening their Jewish identity, learning Hebrew, preparing for their bar and bat mitzvahs, and connecting with other Jewish students

\$1,800 - QUEEN ESTHER SPONSOR

- Name/Logo on all marketing including the website, signage, and in the *Emanu El Bulletin*
- Social media acknowledgment including link to company website or social media presence
- Vocal recognition and appreciation from the Purim Spiel stage
- 8 wristbands for unlimited carnival games and inflatables
- 2 packs of 25 tickets
- 4-pack of Hamantaschen
- 5 raffle tickets

\$720- MORDECHAI SPONSOR

- Name/Logo on all marketing including the website, signage, and in the *Emanu El Bulletin*
- Vocal recognition and appreciation from the Purim Spiel stage
- 6 wristbands for unlimited carnival games and inflatables
- Pack of 25 tickets
- 4-pack of Hamantaschen
- 3 raffle tickets

\$360- KING AHASHVEROS SPONSOR

- Name/Logo on all marketing including the website, signage, and in the *Emanu El Bulletin*
- 4 wristbands for unlimited carnival games and inflatables
- Pack of 25 tickets
- 4-pack of Hamantaschen
- 2 raffle tickets

\$180- HAMANTASCHEN SPONSOR

- Name/Logo on all marketing including the website, signage, and in the *Emanu El Bulletin*
- 4 wristbands for unlimited carnival games and inflatables
- 1 raffle ticket

\$72- MAIDEN SPONSOR

- Name/Logo on all marketing including the website, signage, and in the *Emanu El Bulletin*
- 2 wristbands for unlimited carnival games and inflatables
- 1 raffle ticket

****Deadline to be included in marketing materials is March 10.**

Become a sponsor today by visiting emanuelhouston.org/purim2024sponsor.

Questions? Contact Anna Shabtay at 713.987.3316 or annas@emanuelhouston.org.

SISTERHOOD NEWS & HAPPENINGS

February 2024

Mah Jongg 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, February 6, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of tiles and smiles! Noshes will be provided.

Evening Mahj

Tuesday, February 20, 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

What could be more fun than dots, dragons and dinner? Have a light dinner for \$7 with us and then play mah jongg.

NEW TRADITIONS

SISTERHOOD JUDAICA SHOP

CONGREGATION EMANU EL

GIFT SHOP HOURS:

Monday – Friday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Sundays 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.,

when Helfman Religious School is in session.

Also available by appointment!

713.529.5771, ext. 234.

Chanukah Sale

All Chanukah items are now on sale for 20% off through **Monday, February 5** at Sisterhood's gift shop. New Traditions still has a nice selection of menorahs and dreidels, decorations, candles, books, toys and much more. Michael Aram items are excluded from the sale. Purchases at New Traditions help Sisterhood fulfill its commitment to the congregation and the community.



Judaica from the Israel Museum is at New Traditions

Our Sisterhood gift shop is proud to showcase Judaica from the Israel Museum. The museum and their gift shop remain closed to the public, but thanks to your generosity and support, our shop sold out of most of the Judaica we originally stocked, and have just received a new shipment of exquisite, hand-crafted items.

We invite you to visit our shop and purchase one of these pieces for yourself or for a gift; purchasing any one of these items will support the Israel Museum and the artisans whose work we are displaying.



Women's Day 2024 Wednesday, February 28, 10:00 a.m.

Join us for Women's Day 2024! "Be the Hostess with the Mostest" as our three experts delve into the latest entertaining trends. Panelists Rebecca Cunningham of Dream Bouquets and Adrienne Wagenheim, Owner and Event Designer of Ideal Party Decorators, along with moderator Rhonda Kaiser from @southernhomeandfarm on Instagram, will show you how to create a stunning visual feast for your guests.

The discussion will be followed by a delicious catered lunch with centerpieces provided by our panelists.

The cost to attend is \$20 for Sisterhood members and \$25 for non-members. Register online at emanuelhouston.org/event/womensday2024 or contact Sisterhood at 713.529.5771. ext. 233 by **Friday, February 23.**

Sisterhood Donor Luncheon: Hummus & Happiness Thursday, March 21, 11:30 a.m. Patron Reception at 11:00 a.m.

You are invited to join the festivities at the Congregation Emanu El Sisterhood Donor Luncheon, "Hummus & Happiness" – honoring our beloved Rabbi Pam Silk.

Our honoree, Rabbi Pam Silk, will celebrate her 20 years with Congregation Emanu El. She has held leadership roles in the Houston Rabbinic Association and has served on the Board of Trustees for the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston, who presented her with the Mae & Edmund Hecht Rabbinic Award. She is known for her excellent culinary skills and is acclaimed for her delicious Passover "Matzah Toffee."

We are thrilled that our guest speaker will be Chef Alon Shaya, born in Israel, raised in Philadelphia and a proud New Orleanian. He is a multiple James Beard Foundation Award winner and author of *Shaya, An Odyssey of Food, My Journey Back to Israel*. Shaya's celebrated cuisine – food of his native Israel infused with a New Orleans flavor – has been acknowledged as "unimagined perfection that has changed the cuisine of New Orleans itself." He is also the recipient of many awards for his philanthropy and charitable efforts.

As our event is "all about food," a portion of the proceeds will be donated to No Kid Hungry and the Alexander JFS Passover Assistance Fund.

Invitations were mailed in January. Registration is also available online at emanuelhouston.org/sisterhood. For more information, please call the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771 ext. 233 or email sishood@emanuelhouston.org.





Israel Trip Partnerships

We are thrilled to announce that Congregation Emanu El has been selected as an official Trip Provider for RootOne, an initiative of the Jewish Education Project. This partnership will provide funding for the Shirley Barish Memorial Israel Experience, as well as inclusion in an incredible network of Israel education organizations.

We are excited about the new learning opportunities that will now be available to our teens. We are also appreciative of the wealth of resources and support to which our staff now has access to inform our decision-making process about the possibility of Israel travel this summer.

With funding support from this new partnership, Stefani Carlson, Director of Lifelong Learning, will be traveling to Israel on the Association of Reform Jewish Educators Israel Solidarity Mission trip in February. Stefani is grateful for the opportunity to learn about the situation in Israel firsthand and will be sharing reflections from the trip both on social media and upon her return. Watch the e-letter for more details.

New Yahrzeit Wall Restored by Nancy Parkans Ehrenkranz



At the January Board of Trustees Meeting, we took the opportunity to dedicate the New Yahrzeit Wall lovingly restored by Nancy Parkans Ehrenkranz. Rabbi Silk spoke

beautifully, and we unveiled the plaque thanking Nancy for this generous gift.



Emanu El **Votes**

IMPORTANT PRIMARY ELECTION DATES

Monday, February 5

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE

Tuesday, February 20

FIRST DAY OF IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING

Friday, March 1

LAST DAY OF IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING

Tuesday, March 5

ELECTION DAY

Find your polling location at [harrisvotes.com](https://www.harrisvotes.com)

VOTING BY MAIL

You may vote early by mail if:

- You are 65 years of age or older on Election Day;
- You are sick or disabled (as defined in Texas Election Code 82.002(A));
- You expect to give birth within three weeks before or after Election Day;
- You are out of your county on Election Day and during early voting hours;
- You are confined in jail or involuntary civil commitment but eligible to vote.

Eligible voters must reapply to vote by mail each year. To apply for all elections in 2024, be sure to check the "annual" box of question #4 of the vote by mail application.

Harris County voters can call 713.755.6965 or visit [harrisvotes.com](https://www.harrisvotes.com) to request a mail in ballot application.



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!

**YOU ARE
INVITED**

**L'DOR
VADOR**



FOR EMANUEL'S FUTURE

THURSDAY

February 8, 2024

6:00-8:00PM

CONGREGATION EMANUEL

MAKE THIS A YEAR OF YES

JOIN US FOR CELEBRATORY DRINKS & LIGHT BITES TO HEAR ABOUT THE EXPANSION PROJECT THAT WILL TRANSFORM EMANUEL'S CAMPUS

CELEBRATION CO-CHAIRS

HEIDI & STUART AROUTY

BARI & DAVID FISHEL

ALANA & ALAN PULASKI

BECKY & JOE WILLIAMS

CAMPAIGN CHAIR

ELYSE SPECTOR KALMANS

HONORARY CAMPAIGN CHAIR

DOLORES WILKENFELD

CELEBRATION HOST COMMITTEE

KAREN & JEFF BASEN-ENGQUIST

DAWN & MITCH BLITZ

KERRY & STEVEN BUXBAUM

CAREN & DAVID COWAN

JEN & BEN FINK

IVY & STEVEN FRANK

SUSIE & EDDIE KAHN

BARBARA & RAYMOND KALMANS

NICOLE & EVAN KATZ

MEREDITH & CARY KOTTLER

CHRISTINE & MARK LASKIN

RACHAEL & BARRY LICHMAN

STACEY & BRIAN ROSE

ROZANNE & HOWARD RUBIN

PHYLLIS & STEVEN SEGAL

HELEN & ANDY SPECTOR

ATTIRE: DRESSY CASUAL

ADVANCE RSVP REQUESTED

EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG/LDVPARTY OR 713.535.6421



Helfman Religious School

Helfman Religious School classes resumed on January 7, and we are back in the swing of things! From participating in t'filah, to classroom discussions, to visits to our specials labs, Helfman students are having a blast!





PRIORITY ENROLLMENT

The Becker School Priority Enrollment period for members of Congregation Emanu El is **Monday, February 5 – Friday, February 16.**

To be included in Priority Enrollment, you must submit an Admissions Application for your child. Please submit the application online by visiting our website at emanuelhouston.org/beckerschool and click on Admissions.

All applicants will receive an email on **Monday, February 5** with a link to enroll their children online for the 2024-2025 school year, which begins in late August of 2024.

Becker School offers Young Toddlers, Twos, Threes, PreK and Kindergarten classes for ages 15 months – 5 years. Early care and extended care hours are available.

For questions regarding admissions or to schedule a tour of Becker, please contact Judy Lazor at 713.535.6400 or judy@emanuelhouston.org.

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

GET INVOLVED



EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG/GETINVOLVED





We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who remember and honor their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions through January 10, 2024.

ACCESS FOR ALL FUND

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

In Memory of

Stuart Baum

Holly S. Hunsicker

ALAN GAYLOR TEACHING ASSISTANT FUND

To support Helfman Religious School teaching assistants

In Memory of

Philip Getz

Joni & Gary Lewis and Lillian Gaylor

AUBREY & SYLVIA FARB COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND

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

In Honor of

The Bat Mitzvah of Noa Hayon

Shelley & Vic Wisner

In Memory of

Stuart Baum

Laurie & Jeff Bricker Steven Fenberg

Philip Getz

Nora Laufman

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BARBARA & MARK BROOKNER CAMPERSHIP FUND

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

In Honor of

The Bat Mitzvah of Noa Hayon

The Kaluzny Family

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To provide and enhance Becker School programs

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In Memory of

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In Memory of

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Clay Spitz

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To maintain and enhance Emanu El Memorial Park

In Memory of

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In Memory of

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Shirley Burkom

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Heidi Suprun

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Kate Fox Slater &

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Marla & Hank Radoff

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

A Donation

Milton Finegold

Ronni J. Rosenfeld

continued next page

In Memory of
Philip Getz, Lou Getz, and Norman Getz
Lee Kaplan

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To send Emanu El leadership to URJ Biennials and underwrite leadership programs and speakers
In Honor of
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Lori & Donald Degen

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To enhance musical programming
In Memory of
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Debbie Nathan

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To provide musical programs
In Appreciation of
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Andrew, Pam & Zachary Susman

MARIANNE GREENFIELD SISTERHOOD FLOWER FUND

To provide flowers in our worship spaces
In Honor of

The Bat Mitzvah of Emerson Alexa Brynes

Barbara & Donnie Roseman and Debby & Steve Brynes

The Bat Mitzvah of Noa Hayon

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The Hayon Family
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Elizabeth & Matt Krohn
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The Birth of Julia Marie Stone

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The B'not Mitzvah of Emerson Brynes & Dylan Rovelli

The Brynes & Rovelli Families

In Memory of
Stuart Baum

Sue Baum, Stacey, Brad, Eric, & Scott Uffelman, and Lauren, Darren, Charlie, & Lily Baum
Elizabeth & Matt Krohn
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To provide prayer books for worship

In Honor of

The Bat Mitzvah of Noa Hayon

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To support spiritual and cultural enrichment

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To provide Helfman Religious School scholarships

A Donation

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The Bat Mitzvah of Noa Hayon

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To provide Greene Family Camp scholarships

In Honor of

The Bat Mitzvah of Noa Hayon

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Stuart Baum

Don & Larry Barr-Meyer

Celine Kaplan

Gladys Schnurr

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To support programs that assist people in the community

In Memory of

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Hillary & Clay Freed,
Carly & Scott Goldman,
and Susie & Joel Litman

continued next page

ROBERT I. KAHN SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND

To fund social justice programming and support congregants' participation in social justice focused gatherings and leadership trainings

In Memory of **Stuart Baum**

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Ellen Safier & Efrain Bleiberg

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To purchase and maintain Emanu El's sacred objects

A Donation

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To provide lifelong adult Jewish education programs

In Honor of

The Bat Mitzvah of Noa Hayon

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To provide training programs for Emanu El teachers

In Honor of

The Barish Family

Katherine Wildman

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To send Helfman Religious School high school students to Israel

In Memory of

Fannette Blum
Marlene Rubin

SISTERHOOD FUND

To provide for the Sisterhood

In Memory of

Stuart Baum
Barbie & Lennie Roth
Michael Karchmer
Diane Kaplan

SUSMAN FUND FOR FAMILY PROGRAMMING

To support programs for families

In Honor of

The Bat Mitzvah of Noa Hayon
Catherine & Matt Cort

In Memory of

Celine Kaplan
Diana Brackman
Richard Susman
Linda Susman

TEMPLE FUND

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

A Donation

Kate Black & Ryan Slattery

In Honor of
Edward Septimus – For His Service to HUC
Linda & Richard Zoll – Receiving 2021 Governor's Volunteers Award for the Volunteer Family of the Year

Ellen Grabois
The Bat Mitzvah of Noa Hayon
fredi & Paul Franks
Shirlee & Mark Rosenthal

In Memory of

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Pola Firestone
fredi & Paul Franks
Kathy (May) Guttman
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Eric Langkjaer
Ellen Grabois
Nora Laufman
Harriette Bearden
Howard Plotkin
Beverly Katz
Bertram Jerome Spiwak
Betsy & Ed Schreiber

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome Our Newest Members

We are pleased to welcome the newest and returning members to our congregational family from December 12 – January 11. Please be sure to introduce yourself to our newcomers as they become a part of our community.

- Ursula Alberts**
- Stefani Harris & Robert Tobor**
- Caryn Papantonakis & Dara Percely**

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.



Get Social With Us!

In addition to our active Facebook pages, be sure to follow us on Instagram to catch snap shots of happenings around the synagogue, including social action, a thriving youth group, our 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!

Thank You to the community for supporting us over the last 20 years



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Pamela B. Silk, Associate Rabbi
Joshua R.S. Fixler, Associate Rabbi
Roy A. Walter, Rabbi Emeritus
Rollin Simmons, Cantor
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Congregational Advancement
Erika Roberts, Interim Becker Principal
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TOT SHABBAT

MARCH 1ST



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Congregation Emanu El



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