



Congregation Emanu El

# Bulletin

MARCH 2024 | ADAR I – ADAR II 5784

VOLUME 78 NUMBER 6

## FROM RABBI HAYON



According to a well-known legend, the great Hasidic master Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Kotzk was once visited by a group of his disciples. He turned to them and asked a provocative question: “Where does God live?” Laughing, they responded, “What a thing to ask! God is everywhere, and the whole earth is full of God’s presence!”

*Gazing upon the tent of worship they had built, shining in the dark desert, they saw clearly – as we soon will too – how marvelous it feels to participate in building a place where holiness may dwell.*

The great rabbi rebuked them with a slight smile, and proceeded to answer his own question: “God dwells wherever we let God in.”

Some of Judaism’s holiest writings describe our ancestors’ efforts to build dwelling-places for God. During their wanderings in the wilderness, the ancient Israelites lovingly constructed a portable sanctuary dedicated to the worship of the Eternal. Upon their arrival in the Promised Land, they erected a great Temple on a Jerusalem hilltop, to which Jews throughout the region made seasonal pilgrimages to bring their offerings to God. After the Temple was destroyed and our forefathers were scattered in a worldwide diaspora, they built synagogues in every place they called home. We Jews have built holy spaces for ourselves in virtually every corner of the world: Europe and the Middle East, North Africa and Asia, the Americas and the islands of the Pacific Ocean.

In each generation, we have heard echoes of God’s ancient directive from the Torah: “Let them build a holy place,

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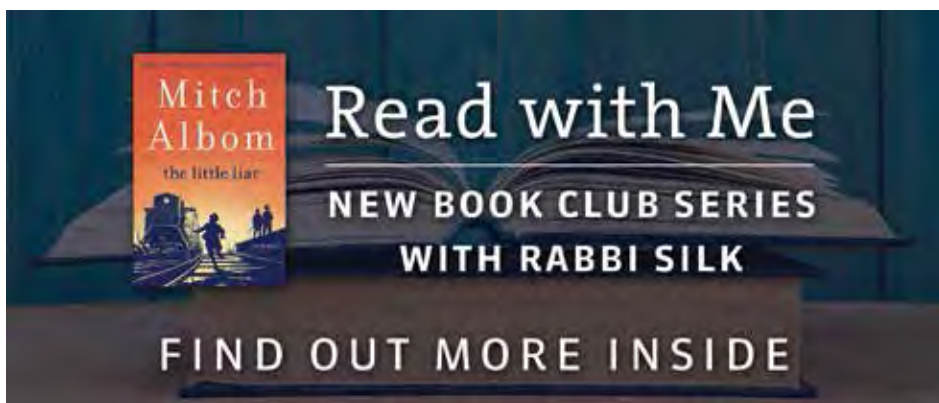
**Purim 2024**  
**Sunday, March 24**  
**Spiel 10:00 a.m.**  
**Carnival 11:00 a.m.**

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 along with our volunteer and youth choirs 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 to continue the celebration and visit everyone’s favorite Helfman Religious School Purim Carnival! Tickets and wristbands are available online – get yours today!

Visit us online to register and join us at [emanuelhouston.org/purim2024](http://emanuelhouston.org/purim2024)!



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that I may dwell among them” (Exodus 25:8). Throughout the centuries, each time we have set ourselves to the sacred work of creating enduring spaces for study, gathering and prayer, these endeavors have been made possible by the material and spiritual support of the entire community.

Today, our congregation stands together to begin a new historic undertaking in the life of our synagogue. Last month we officially announced the commencement of an ambitious capital improvement project for our campus, and a fundraising campaign called “L’Dor VaDor: For Emanu El’s Future” to support it.

This initiative, which is described in detail in the L’Dor VaDor mailed to your homes, represents a momentous new chapter in our congregation’s history, and the long-awaited fulfillment of a campus master plan that our predecessors imagined and hoped for. It also comprises vital elements of security, accessibility, and hospitality to enable Emanu El to fully execute our mission and vision for robust and transformative Jewish life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I hope that all of you have taken the time to explore the details of the plan laid out in these campaign materials, and I urge you to visit the webpage about L’Dor VaDor at [www.emmanuelhouston.org/forourfuture/](http://www.emmanuelhouston.org/forourfuture/) for more information.

Our ancestors knew well that any significant effort of this sort required broad and enthusiastic support from the entire community. The Book of Exodus includes a stern instruction from God before the Israelites could begin the work of constructing their tabernacle in the desert: “You shall accept gifts from every person whose heart is moved!” (25:2) God knew – as we do – that the project to expand and enhance our historic campus will require everyone’s help if it is to succeed. I am asking you to join me in making whatever meaningful gift you can give to ensure that this exciting project will become a reality.

It is true, of course, that God’s presence exists everywhere. What makes a place holy is the purpose and principles shared by those who spend time there. It is our willingness to “let God in” that enables us to feel the Divine presence in our community and in the softest parts of our generous hearts.

What made our ancestors’ ancient wilderness tabernacle so wondrous was the widespread and open-hearted impulse throughout the entire community that moved everyone to donate their own meaningful gifts: a silver shekel here, a wooden spool or skein of colored yarn there. And when they did, every member of our ancient people giving the gifts of their hearts, the construction of that holy marvel was quickly completed. Gazing upon the tent of worship they had built, shining in the dark desert, they saw clearly – as we soon will too – how marvelous it feels to participate in building a place where holiness may dwell.

*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 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 Jacqueline & Reagan Kneese, and **Annabel Turowsky**, daughter of Melissa & Jason Turowsky  
5:00 p.m., Helfman PreK-1st Grade Havdalah

**Shabbat Vayak’heil**

**Friday, March 8**

6:00 p.m., Heritage Shabbat, Barish Sanctuary

**Saturday, March 9**

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel  
10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Barish Sanctuary  
Bar Mitzvah of **Nathan Kruger**, son of Noah & Danielle Kruger

**Shabbat P’kudei**

**Friday, March 15**

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

**Saturday, March 16**

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

**Shabbat Vayikra**

**Friday, March 22**

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

**Saturday, March 23**

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel  
10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Barish Sanctuary  
B’not Mitzvah of **Merlyn & Rosalind Friesen**, daughters of Kyle & Sara Friesen

**Shabbat Tzav**

**Friday, March 29**

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

**Saturday, March 30**

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel  
10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Barish Sanctuary  
Bar Mitzvah of **Ezra Phillips**, son of Daniel & Christie Phillips

**Shabbat Sh’mini**

**Friday, April 5**

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

**Saturday, April 6**

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

## LIFECYCLE EVENTS

### WEDDING

**MacKenzie Haskins & Hunter Phillips**

### BIRTHS

**Abigail Lynn Davis**, daughter of Megan & Cameron Davis; granddaughter of Evon & Marc Zions; great-granddaughter of Carol Sue & Michael Zions

**Evelyn Flora Falik**, daughter of Deanne & Ian Falik; granddaughter of Patti & Jim Conrad and Nancy & Jay Falik; great-granddaughter of Sandy Conrad and Judy & John Irvin

**Jack Alexander Levine**, son of Kristin & Ian Levine; grandson of Antoinette & Mitchell Levine and Carolina & Doug Kurnava

**Kathryn Leah Mustoe**, daughter of Alison Goulding Mustoe & Anthony Mustoe; granddaughter of Claire & Tom Goulding, Tom Mustoe, and Kathryn Stallcup

**Isaac Nathan Stein**, son of Emily Schreiber & Sam Stein; grandson of Betsy & Ed Schreiber and Tracy & Gary Stein; great-grandson of Bruce Stein

**Levi Phillip Williams**, son of Jacqueline & Louis Williams; grandson of Bernadine & Charles z"l Franklin, Cindy Bonker, and Nathan z"l Williams; great-grandson of Phyllis z"l & Leonard z"l Franklin and Edith z"l & Jack z"l Kammerman

### DEATHS

**Danny Carson**, cousin of Melissa & Charles Carson

**Warren Krams**, husband of Mitzie Krams; father of Lita Selsberg, Randy Krams, and Robin & Kevin Alter; grandfather of Jared and Bradley Selsberg, Steffannie Alter & Kevin Baker, and Melissa and Matthew Alter

**Evelyn Solomon**, mother of Ronna & Clay Spitz, Tamra Marks & Eric Solomon, and Sheri & Louis Solomon; grandmother of Rebecca Schenker & Jason Spitz, Sarah Spitz & Adam Hockenberry, and Shayna Solomon; great-grandmother of Ari and Ezra Spitz and Julian Hockenberry

**Lew Todes, Jr.**, husband of Josephine "Jo" Todes; father of Lea & Brad Todes and Francine & Jeff Todes; grandfather of Jordan, Benjamin, Justin, and Blake Todes

**Nathan Waldman**, husband of Mary Waldman; father of Caolionn O'Connell & Samuel Waldman and Jennifer & David Waldman; grandfather of Isaac, Max, Vance, Josh, and Nora Kate Waldman

#### 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 . . .

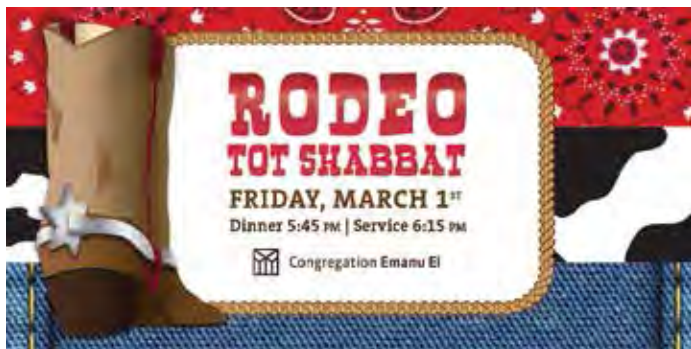
If you or a loved one is sick or hospitalized please let us know.

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.



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT EMANU EL



### Rodeo Tot Shabbat

Friday, March 1

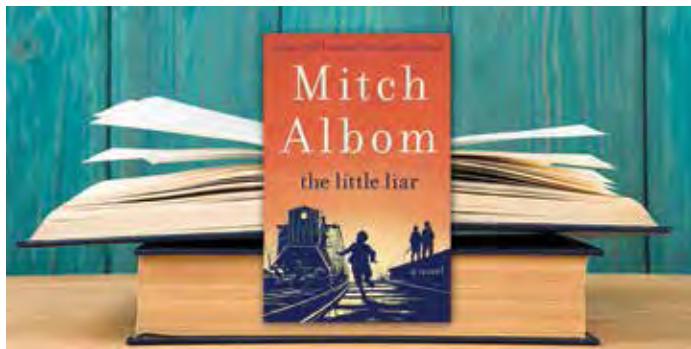
Dinner 5:45 p.m., Service 6:15 p.m.

Families with young children ages 0-6 are invited to dress up in their favorite and finest western wear and join us for Rodeo Tot Shabbat to usher in one of the most joyous times in Houston – Rodeo Season!

Our Rodeo Tot Shabbat will begin with an optional barbecue dinner along with vegetarian and gluten-free choices for \$5 per person. Following dinner, families will share a special Shabbat led by a member of our clergy and geared toward families with little ones at 6:15 p.m. Register online by visiting our web calendar at [emanuelhouston.org](http://emanuelhouston.org).

Tot Shabbat occurs the first Friday of each month, and we hope your family joins us! The next Tot Shabbat dates are **April 5, May 3** and **June 7**.

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



### Read with Me Book Club

Tuesday, March 19, Tuesday, April 2,  
Thursday, April 18, 7:00 p.m.

You are invited to join Emanu El's newest program, Read with Me. Led by Rabbi Silk, this spring's Read with Me will discuss and explore *The Little Liar* by Mitch Albom. Wine and refreshments will be provided.

- No time to read? This group is for you as we will read at a nice slow pace and the discussion of the book will be spaced over three meetings, each two weeks apart.
- Busy during the day? This group is for you as we will meet in the evenings at 7:00 p.m. and enjoy wine and tasty refreshments to enhance the experience of being together.
- Never been in a book club before? This group is for you as the rich and engaging discussion will take shape from each person's experience and thoughts about the book.

Register online, purchase a copy of the book, and start reading!

**About *The Little Liar*** – An instant *New York Times* Bestseller, this powerful novel of hope and forgiveness moves from a coastal Greek city during WWII to America in the golden age of Hollywood, as the intertwined lives of three young survivors are forever changed by the perils of deception and the grace of redemption.



### Israeli Briefing + Bites

Tuesday, March 26, 6:30 p.m.

Witness this special talk between Rabbi Hayon and Jewish Federation of Greater Houston's CEO, Renee Wizig-Barrios. During the discussion, Rabbi Hayon and Ms. Wizig-Barrios will co-present their experiences from the recent Houston solidarity trip to Israel. In addition, Ms. Wizig-Barrios will talk about efforts being carried out by the Jewish Federation to support Israel.

Light bites and refreshments with an Israeli twist will be served. To register, please visit our web calendar at [emanuelhouston.org](http://emanuelhouston.org).



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## Emanu El Young Families Playdate: School Year Series

**Sunday, April 7, 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**  
**Art Day at Metropolitan Multi-Service Center Park**  
 (1475 W. Gray St.)

Come connect with other young families at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center Park. For the Jewish value of *tikkun olam*, repairing the world, we will be decorating a box for the upcoming Becker Diaper Drive!

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 by visiting our web calendar and join the fun!

## Spiritual Eldering

**Miniseries Coming to Emanu El**  
**Starting Wednesday, April 3, 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**

Our lifespans are longer than ever, and yet so many older adults are merely existing instead of truly living. Meanwhile, we've come to treat natural stages of decline and death as medical dilemmas, to be dreaded and avoided. How shall we transform the above? How shall we consider changes of status and identity, reframing our goals towards mindful living and spiritual eldering? How shall we share perennial wisdom into an ever-evolving society? And how shall we respect the natural life cycle, using the latter stages of physical life to contemplate legacy and eternity?



**Rabbi Seth Stander**

Emanu El welcomes you to attend Spiritual Eldering, a three-session miniseries led by **Rabbi Seth Stander** of Hope and Healing Center & Institute (HHCI), beginning in April.

Sessions will be led by Rabbi Seth Stander, Community Aging Specialist for HHCI CARES (Caregiving, Aging, Resilience, Education, and Spirituality).

Seth connects community members with resources related to caregiving, aging in place, long-term care facility placement, advanced care planning, and more. Additionally, Seth facilitates caregiver/grief/ethical support for individuals/couples/families. Finally, Seth teaches HHCI CARES' "Aging with Grace" series and periodic lunch-and-learn sessions. Seth attended the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, where he was ordained in 1999. He has served as congregational rabbi, chaplain, and long-term care ombudsman.

If you feel you would benefit from this three-session class, register online today by visiting our web calendar and join us!

The next sessions will be **April 17** and **May 1**.



## NEW Weekly Program Coming Soon! Emanu El Motherhood Together Starts Thursday, April 11, 11:30 a.m.

Congregation Emanu El will launch a new program to support families who have welcomed new babies through birth and adoption. Launching on **Thursday, April 11**, 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 questions, share struggles, and celebrate 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.

Registration can be found by visiting our web calendar at [emanuelhouston.org](http://emanuelhouston.org).

For additional information, contact Allison Hale, Programming & Engagement Associate, at [allisonh@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:allisonh@emanuelhouston.org).

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**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**2024 Ernest Krautkopf Congregant of the Year Award Luncheon & Congregational Annual Meeting**  
**Sunday, April 14**  
**Luncheon 12:30 p.m. | Annual Meeting immediately following**

Save the date to join us at Emanu El as we honor the 2024 Ernest Krautkopf Congregants of the Year! A complimentary lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. with the awards presentation to follow. Afterward, we will proceed directly to our 2024 Annual Meeting.

The Congregant of the Year Award, named in loving memory of Ernest Krautkopf, a long time Emanu El member and a devoted volunteer, is given to honor his commitment to Emanu El, the Jewish community, and to Judaism. Congregants honored as the Congregant of the Year share similar values – leadership, community and synagogue involvement, and a love of Judaism.

Be on the lookout for the honoree announcement in the April edition of the *Bulletin*.

The award luncheon will be followed by our 2024 Annual Meeting. Your participation in this year’s Annual Meeting helps shape Emanu El’s future by voting on key items and being a part of the necessary quorum to conduct important synagogue business.

The agenda items include:

- Important updates about the congregation from the President and Senior Rabbi
- Budget materials
- Electing officers and trustees
- 2023 Annual Meeting minutes

Childcare will be available for those in Pre-K through 5th grade. Registration for the luncheon, meeting and childcare is available online. Contact Fredi Franks at [fredif@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:fredif@emanuelhouston.org) if you have any questions.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR**

**THE RIPPLES OF DEBBIE FRIEDMAN**  
**THE MUSICAL LEGACY THAT SHAPED A GENERATION OF JEWISH COMPOSERS**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024**  
**7:00 PM | \$18 GENERAL ADMISSION**

Join Cantor Simmons and her sensational colleagues, newly-ordained cantors David Fair, Becky Mann, and Isaac Sonett-Assor as they combine their voices to celebrate the music of our beloved pioneer, Debbie Friedman.

[EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG/MEE](http://EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG/MEE)



**2024 Second Night Seder**  
**Tuesday, April 23, 6:00 p.m.**

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

Registration is open online at [emanuelhouston.org/secondseder2024](http://emanuelhouston.org/secondseder2024). A printed version is also available in this Bulletin edition if you prefer to register by mail. The deadline to register is **Friday, April 12**. The cost to attend Seder is \$48 for members, \$60 for non-members, and \$20 for children 12 and under.

Those members of our congregation seeking financial assistance and/or are interested in making a donation to make Seder accessible for members of our community are encouraged to reach out to Anna Shabtay, Director of Congregational Advancement, at 713.987.3316 or [annas@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:annas@emanuelhouston.org).

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





# SISTERHOOD NEWS & HAPPENINGS

March 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](http://emanuelhouston.org) or by contacting the Sisterhood office at [sishood@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:sishood@emanuelhouston.org) or 713.529.5771, ext. 233.



## Evening Mahj

**Tuesday, March 19, 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.

## 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.

RSVP today! For more information, please call the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771 ext. 233 or email [sishood@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:sishood@emanuelhouston.org).



## 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!





**BOOK REVIEW:**  
*The Thread Collectors*  
**Thursday, March 28, 12:30 p.m.**

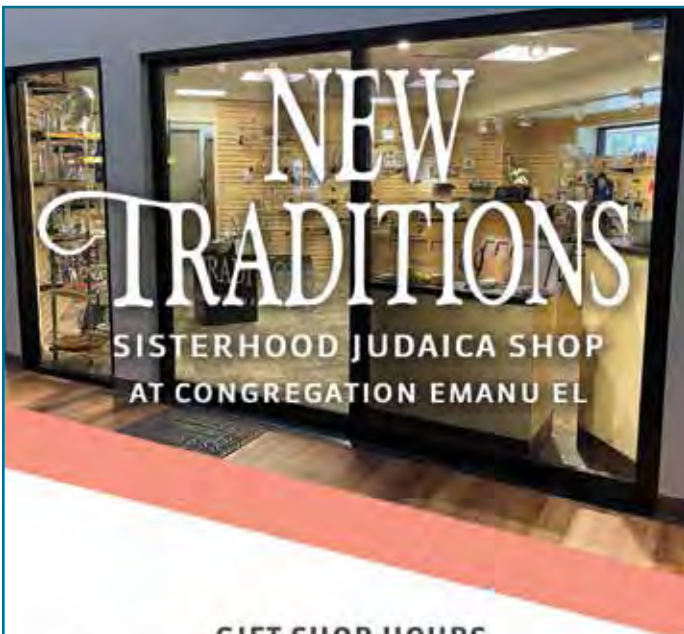
*The Thread Collectors*, by Shaunna J. Edwards and Alyson Richman, is about a young Black woman from New Orleans and a Jewish woman from New York who risk everything for love and freedom during the brutal Civil War. Their paths converge in New Orleans, where an unexpected encounter leads them to discover that even the most delicate threads have the capacity to save us. This is an unforgettable story of female strength, hope and friendship.

This book will be reviewed by Shelly Cyprus. The review will take place in the Oshman Multi-Purpose Room, and refreshments will be served. There is no charge, but please RSVP online or by contacting the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771, ext. 233 or [sishood@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:sishood@emanuelhouston.org).

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Tour the Eternal Gandhi Museum**  
**Wednesday, April 24, 10:30 a.m.**

Join Sisterhood for a fascinating tour of the Eternal Gandhi Museum, the only museum in the United States dedicated to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi. The museum preserves and promotes Gandhi's legacy of non-violent conflict resolution by cultivating the universal values of truth and non-violence. Following the tour, we will enjoy a Dutch treat lunch at a nearby restaurant. This event will be limited to 30 people, so please register early. The museum is located in Southwest Houston at 12379 Riceville School Rd.

The cost is \$10 for Sisterhood members and non-members. Please register online by visiting our web calendar at [emanuelhouston.org](http://emanuelhouston.org) or contact the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771, ext. 233 or [sishood@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:sishood@emanuelhouston.org) by **Friday, April 19**.



**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.**

**ADVERTISE  
WITH US**

Increase your reach to nearly  
1700 families each month!

To advertise, email  
[fredif@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:fredif@emanuelhouston.org).



# Helfman Religious School

On February 9-10, sixth grade students spent 24 hours at Congregation Emanu El as a kickoff to their b'nei mitzvah experience! Students did a deep dive into the Friday evening and Saturday morning Shabbat services, learned about what it means to become bar or bat mitzvah, and bonded with their classmates. They had a great time!



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On February 11, Helfman Religious School celebrated its annual Fourth Grade Model Wedding. Part of the fourth grade's study of Jewish lifecycle events, the model wedding is an opportunity for fourth grade parents to renew their vows while teaching students about a Jewish wedding. Mazel tov to our couples: Marianna and Maury Bronstein, Jen and Ben Fink, Erica and George Hittner, and Yael and Gopi Mohan!





# The Project

The L'Dor VaDor capital campaign will fund a transformational construction project to expand Emanu El's learning and gathering spaces and ensure a welcoming, secure, and accessible campus for all. The cornerstone of the project will be the Jerold B. Katz Family Center for Jewish Learning, a new two-story education and multipurpose building that will replace the temporary classrooms adjacent to the Gaylor Parking Facility.

Our goal is to raise \$20 million with your help.



## The Project includes

- // Single point of entry for entire campus adjoining the Gaylor Parking Structure
- // Reception area that also serves as a security point
- // Eight state-of-the-art Helfman Religious School classrooms
- // Flexible multipurpose spaces for education classes, parent groups, lectures, meetings, life-cycle celebrations, and social gatherings
- // New Sisterhood shop located on the first floor near the new entrance
- // Modernized and expanded restrooms that are accessible to people with disabilities
- // Enclosed courtyard for outdoor programming
- // Second floor skybridge to connect Jerold B. Katz Family Center for Jewish Learning with existing education building, combining all buildings into a single unified campus





L'DOR  
VADOR



FOR EMANUEL'S FUTURE

MAKE A GIFT AT [EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG/FOROURFUTURE](http://EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG/FOROURFUTURE)

QUESTIONS?

Email [ForOurFuture@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:ForOurFuture@emanuelhouston.org) or phone 713.987.3316





For Tu BiShvat Becker gathered together to celebrate and honor the trees with recycled art, stories of trees and a trees dance party. The children helped plant lemon trees for Bear's Garden and said the blessing of the trees. There was even time to sing Happy Birthday and eat cake! Thanks so much to our amazing team for creating an enriching Tu BiShvat!



Join the Becker Boosters for a Spring Fundraiser at Betsy's in Evelyn's Park. Betsy's will donate 20% of all proceeds back to Becker School – just mention Becker when you order your food. Bring the whole family for a fun-filled afternoon of delicious food and playground fun while supporting Ms. Jennifer & Ms. Sharon by helping to fulfill their garden wishlist!



Don't miss out on this opportunity to contribute to the garden for our little ones. See you there!

If you can't make it but still want to fulfill items on the wishlist, please use the QR code to donate.



## MAZEL MOMENTS

Our member **Vikki Evans** received the 2023 Chesed Award from the Alexander JFS at its annual meeting on January 18.

We are delighted to announce that **Stefani Carlson**, Director of Lifelong Learning, has been accepted to Cohort II of the Educational Leadership Program of the Mandel Institute for Nonprofit Leadership. Stefani will join an international group of 17 senior Jewish educational leaders from a broad array of professional settings (including congregations, day schools, camps, college campuses, etc.) for a series of four intensive week-long seminars over the next 18 months, beginning in April. Three of the seminars will be held at the Mandel Institute's offices in Boston, while the fourth will be held in Jerusalem. The Mandel Institute for Nonprofit Leadership is a program of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation. Thanks to the generosity of the Foundation, the cost of the Educational Leadership Program (including travel) is fully covered for participants. For more information, please visit [mandelinstitute.org](http://mandelinstitute.org).

The purpose of the fellowship is to “empower Jewish educational leaders . . . to sharpen their educational visions, broaden their understanding of the educational landscape, and develop leadership skills to bring their visions to fruition.” The diversity of the group is essential to the program, which believes that “educators from different settings have much to learn from one another and that the robust exchange of ideas across settings can spark innovation and clarify visions.” Stefani is grateful for the support of Congregation Emanu El in enabling her to participate in this fellowship and is looking forward to implementing the ideas it generates to take our educational programming, including our Becker and Helfman Religious Schools, from strength to strength.

Congregation Emanu El is pleased to announce that Youth and Young Adult Engagement Coordinator **Becca Schwartzberg** has been accepted into Hebrew Union College's Executive Master's in Jewish Education program. This two-year program accepts just sixteen students each year and will involve both in-person and online learning. The focus of the curriculum is to develop new generations of Jewish education leaders who will shape Reform Jewish education in the future. We are thrilled to have Becca – one of our own – involved in this prestigious educational program and to benefit from what she learns. Mazel tov and good luck to Becca!

## 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



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 Congregation Emanu El

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## Blood Donations Requested for Rabbi Walter



We are pleased to note that Rabbi Walter continues to make progress in his treatment for cancer. At the present time, congregants wishing to support him are invited to consider donating blood at MD Anderson.

Donations of blood in Rabbi Walter's name will enable him to accrue "credits" towards the supply of blood needed during his treatment. In order to give blood, one must be at least 17 years of age, in good health, and not pregnant. To facilitate a blood donation for Rabbi Walter, please make an appointment at the MD Anderson Blood Donor Center (2555 Holly Hall St.), Tuesday-Thursday from 10:00am – 6:00pm and Friday-Monday from 10:00am – 6:00pm. Please bring a photo ID and provide the staff with Rabbi Walter's birthdate (June 7, 1942) and Patient ID number #2275475. (We also hope you will notify Rabbi Walter that you've made a donation, so he can be sure to thank you personally!)

General information on blood donation can be found online at [mdanderson.org/bloodbank](http://mdanderson.org/bloodbank) or by emailing Shelly Schultz at [sgschult@mdanderson.org](mailto:sgschult@mdanderson.org). Thank you for your kind and generous support of our beloved Rabbi Walter!



## 11th Annual Kosher Chili Cookoff Beth Yeshurun (4525 Beechnut St.) Sunday, March 3, 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

It's official! The Houston Kosher Chili Cookoff is now the largest kosher food event in Houston – and it's BACK!

The 11th Houston Kosher Chili Cookoff will be held on **Sunday, March 3**, at Beth Yeshurun! There will be MORE cooking teams, MORE food, MORE money raised for local charities, and MORE fun! At 12:00 p.m., the public is invited to sample chili, mingle, enjoy children's activities, listen to music, and simply have a great time in an outdoor, festival atmosphere. The event will conclude with the selection of the winning chili by celebrity judges.

So don't miss this "hot" event! Stop by and show your support for Team "Emanu El's Campfire Crew!"

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$5 for children ages 4-12. Visit [houstonkosherchilicookoff.com](http://houstonkosherchilicookoff.com).



## 20th Annual Houston Jewish Film Festival Evelyn Rubenstein JCC (5601 S. Braeswood Blvd.) Monday, March 25, 7:30 p.m.

Emanu El is a community partner this year for the 20th annual Houston Jewish Film Festival. The selected film, *Children of Nobody*, will stream from the Evelyn Rubenstein JCC on **Monday, March 25, at 7:30 p.m.**

Preceding the film at 6:00 p.m., we invite you to join us for dinner at Fadis Meyerland Mediterranean Grill (4738 Beechnut St.). Guests will purchase their own meals and we will sit together!

Please join us by registering online through our web calendar **by March 20**. Ticket purchases are offered at a discount rate through Emanu El's partnership in this event.

Additional information about the entire film festival can be found at [erjcc-houston.org/filmfest](http://erjcc-houston.org/filmfest).

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## Emanu El Teens Participate in L'taken Social Justice Seminar

In January, nine of Emanu El's teens traveled to Washington, DC for a long weekend to participate in the L'taken Social Justice Seminar, a program hosted by the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, our movement's advocacy and justice arm.

Our temple's teens, along with Rabbi Fixler and Becca Schwartzberg (Youth and Young Adult Engagement Coordinator), joined about 300 other high school students from around the country. They spent three days learning about the American legislative process and our movement's approaches to various social justice issues, including economic justice, reproductive freedom, LGBTQ+ rights, and climate justice.

Then, on Monday morning, these well informed and newly empowered teens went to Capitol Hill to lobby the offices of their senators and representatives on the issues about which they are passionate. Our students visited the offices of Senators Cornyn and Cruz and Representatives Fletcher and Green and lobbied on antisemitism, voting rights, and gun violence prevention.

Rabbi Fixler says, "It was incredibly powerful to watch these teens stand in the offices of their congresspeople and deliver their speeches with passion and conviction. They spoke beautifully and powerfully, and our congregation could not be more proud." The program was transformative for our students. Here are a few of their reflections:

"L'taken was the first program I've ever attended that allowed me to be the change I only ever learned about." – JJ Silk

"The politicians in DC normally seem so far away and so important that they would never take time for a normal high school kid like me. The L'taken Seminar shows you how much your voice matters." – Ethan Taylor



"Going to Washington with the RAC and spending time with other teens who share my passions was extremely inspiring. Being able to experience this gave me the push I really needed to continue finding ways to change what's happening in the world."

– Leah Hoffman

This yearly trip is available to our synagogue's 11th and 12th graders. Our participation in this program is made possible in part through the support of several endowment funds, including the Robert I. Kahn Social Justice Fund, the Florence & Ben Blum Leadership Fund, and the Hoffman-Nathan Youth Fund.







We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who remember and honor their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions through February 12, 2024.

**ACCESS FOR ALL FUND**

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

In Memory of **Stuart Baum**

Betsy Kusin

**Marty Grossbard**

Paul Grossbard & Dee Dee Dochen

**Sam Spain**

Lisa Spain

**AUBREY & SYLVIA FARB COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND**

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

In Memory of **Warren Krams**

Shelly Cyprus

**BARBARA & MARK BROOKNER CAMPERSHIP FUND**

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

In Memory of **Sadie Goldstein**

**Alvin Jaffee**

**Irvina Ross Katz**

**Irving Ross**

Jennifer & Dr. Jeffrey Ross

**BECKER EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND**

To provide and enhance Becker School programs

In Memory of **Stuart Baum**

Tracey Blumrosen

**Alvin Jaffee**

Leda Karchmer

**BECKER EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

To provide Becker Early Childhood Center scholarships

In Memory of **Alvin Jaffee**

Julie & Drew Alexander Sandy & Michael Wexler

**CARY PASTERNAK CEMETERY FUND**

To maintain and enhance Emanu El Memorial Park

In Memory of

**Cary Pasternak**

Sandy & Andi Gaitz

**CERSONSKY CEMETERY BEAUTIFICATION FUND**

To maintain and enhance Emanu El Memorial Park

In Memory of

**Selma Bradspies**

**Mack Michael Martin**

Pat & Aaron Fradkin

**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 Pamela Silk – The Brit of Hudson Accardo**

Nancy & Cory Accardo and Kay & Fred Zeidman

**Cantor Rollin Simmons & Rabbi Roy Walter**

Sue Baum and Family

In Honor of

**The Emanu El Clergy – Emerson Brynes' Bat Mitzvah**

Courtney & Jeremy Brynes

**Rabbi Pamela Silk**

Carol Fradkin

**The Bat Mitzvah of Noa Hayon**

Cynthia & Ben Klein

**The Speedy Recovery of L.A. Train**

Rozanne & Howard Rubin

In Memory of **Stuart Baum**

Susan & Eddie Kahn

**Herb Brochstein**

Marie Brochstein

**Rosalee Fink**

Perri & Aaron Fink

**Alvin Jaffee**

Marie & Max Brochstein

**Josephine Ruth Kaplan & Irvin Kaplan**

Joy & Joseph Kaplan

**Lila Rauch**

Joyce & Eric Haufrect

**Jacob Schultz, Lillian Schultz, Phillip Farr, Lillian Farr, Ronald Farr, Joyce Bernstein, Donald Setty, and Robert Chisum**

Camelia & Mark Schultz

**EDIS LEWIS PARKANS EMANU ELDERS FUND**

To provide programs for Emanu Elders

In Memory of

**Carl and Rob Hess**

Bonnie & Mike Grossfeld

**EDWARD WAYNE HUNGER FUND**

To feed the hungry in Houston and to support Kids Meals

**A Donation**

The Heimbinder Family Foundation

In Appreciation of **Donna Zhukovsky**

Sue Baum and Family

**In Honor of The Birthday of Henrietta Bell – 101st**

Amy Kapiloff

In Memory of **Stuart Baum**

Donna & Bill Zhukovsky

**Irma Freedline**

Cheryl & Haran Levy

**Cecil & Edward Wayne – For Kids' Meals**

Helaine & David Wayne, Ed Wayne and Tanja Trickovic, Bobby Wayne & Dr. Robert Wayne

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

To provide lifelong adult Jewish education programs

In Memory of

**Earl Littman**

Trina Jones Stanfield & Jack Stanfield

**ETERNAL FLAME FUND**

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

**A Donation**

Michele & Clayton Moliver

In Memory of

**Philip Getz**

Don Hamblin

**FARB TZEDAKAH CANS**

Tzedakah collected by congregants throughout the year that benefit the Aubrey & Sylvia Farb Community Service Fund

**A Donation**

Anonymous  
Susie & David Askanase  
Alfred Kahn  
Becky Proler & Gretchen Gemeinhardt

**FLORENCE & BEN BLUM LEADERSHIP FUND**

To support leadership development for Emanu El lay leaders, staff, clergy, and the congregation

In Honor of

**The Speedy Recovery of Carolyn Putterman**

Myra Lipper

In Memory of

**Abraham Haskell Frosch**

Jan & Rick Sander & Family

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

To enhance musical programming

In Memory of

**Stuart Baum**

Amy Kapiloff  
Rose Marie & Ron Wagman

**JULIA KAPLAN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ENRICHMENT FUND**

To enhance Helfman Religious School programs

In Memory of

**Celine Kaplan**

Paul Grossbard & Dee Dee Dochen  
Jeri & Jeffrey Wolff

*continued next page*

**JULIUS NATHAN MUSIC FUND**

To provide musical programs  
In Honor of  
**Prissy Roosth**  
Ann Goldfarb

In Memory of  
**Stuart Baum**  
Ashley & Marc Grossfeld  
Susan & Ed Septimus  
Linda Susman

**MARIANNE GREENFIELD SISTERHOOD FLOWER FUND**

To provide flowers in our worship spaces

In Honor of

**Rabbi Pamela Silk**  
Debbie Zissman

**The Anniversary of Rabbi Pamela Silk**

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**The B'nei Mitzvah of Emma Bray & Vic Graff**

The Bray & Graff Families

**The B'nei Mitzvah Henry Kass & Cayla Yoburn**

The Kass & Yoburn Families

**The B'nei Mitzvah Dominic Miller & Sophia Shaftel**

The Miller & Shaftel Families

**The B'not Mitzvah of Charlotte Kneese & Annabel Turowsky**

The Kneese & Turowsky Families

**The B'not Mitzvah of Maya Sacks & Lucia Trachtenberg**

The Sacks & Trachtenberg Families

**The Speedy Recovery of Joe Gittelman**

Dr. Larry J. Greenfield and Family

In Memory of  
**Stuart Baum**

Judy Simon

**Sam Bernhaut**

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**Helen & Vito Biase, Lena & Charles Cravotta, and Elaine & Sam Spain**

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**Sidney & Frederica Shaftel, Pamela Shaftel, and Esta & Jorge Lezama**

The Shaftel Family  
**Evelyn June Solomon**

Ronna & Clay Spitz

**PRAYER BOOK FUND**

To provide prayer books for worship

In Memory of  
**Stuart Baum**

Judy & Allan Lazor

**RABBI ROY & LINDA WALTER ENRICHMENT FUND**

To support spiritual and cultural enrichment

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**Prissy Roosth**

Lauren & Alan Gordon

In Honor of  
**The Speedy Recovery of Rabbi Roy Walter**

Rozanne & Howard Rubin

In Memory of  
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Bonnie & Mike Grossfeld

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Mallory Robinson

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**Stephen J. Smith**

Shelly Smith Hendry

**RICKY SCHNURR CAMBERSHIP FUND**

To provide Greene Family Camp scholarships

In Memory of  
**Ricky Schnurr**

Sharon Koonce

**RONALD BROCHSTEIN EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND**

To enhance preschool education

In Memory of  
**Stuart Baum**

Sharon & Herb Cohn  
Marilyn & Rob Corn

**ROSE GOODFRIEND ISRAEL PILGRIMAGE**

To help send Confirmation students to Israel

In Memory of  
**Brent Nat Goodfriend**

Gary Goodfriend

**SISTERHOOD FUND**

To provide for the Sisterhood

In Memory of  
**Stuart Baum**

Sylvia & Steven Brody

**TEMPLE FUND**

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

**A Donation**

Thomas Soto

In Honor of

**The Bat Mitzvah of Rosa Fulop**

Madgelyn & Richard Pesin  
**The Birthday of Delores Krakower**

Kathy & Garey Marks  
**The Birthday of Frances Zlotnik - 100th**

Dean Putterman

In Memory of  
**Stuart Baum**

Marla & Mark Gitig  
**Philip Getz**

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**Susan E. Johnson**

Amy & Brian Brewer  
**Dorothy & Cy Kosberg**

Saranne Kosberg  
**Warren Krams**

Natalie & Albert Sikora  
**Lew Todes**

Linda & Paul Lynn

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

**Welcome Our Newest Members**

We are pleased to welcome the newest and returning members to our congregational family from January 12 – February 14. Please be sure to introduce yourself to our newcomers as they become a part of our community.

**Gila Arnoni**

**Lawrence D. Nitishin**

**Lesley & Charles Teitelbaum**

**Natalie Fabe Ubias & Sean Ubias, son Asher**

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.



L'Dor VaDor Celebration



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L'Dor VaDor Celebration continued



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L'Dor VaDor Celebration continued





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## MUSIC AT EMANU EL's Weekend with Elana Arian & New Moon Rising Concert



**Cantor Simmons and Elana Arian.**



**Enjoying the New Moon Rising Concert.**



**The clergy lead Havdalah with New Moon Rising.**



**Elana leads us in song at Shabbat services.**



**New Moon Rising: Elana Arian, Rabbi Deborah Sacks Mintz, and Chava Mirel.**



**Elana and Cantor Simmons singing in harmony.**



**The Youth Choir joins in for "I Have a Voice."**





Congregation  
Emanu El

1500 Sunset Boulevard  
Houston, Texas 77005  
T 713-529-5771 F 713-529-0703

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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  
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**Erika Roberts**, Interim Becker Principal  
**Stefani Carlson**, Director of  
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# TOT SHABBAT

APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup>



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Congregation Emanu El



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