



Congregation Emanu El

# Bulletin

MAY 2024 | NISAN – IYAR 5784

VOLUME 78 NUMBER 8

## FROM RABBI HAYON



*Our predecessors who lived thousands of years ago knew that successful leadership must be a shared endeavor, one in which the responsibilities and rewards of authority are shared in partnership between like-minded people.*

The 18th chapter of *Exodus* is a brief intermission in the Torah’s storytelling, falling squarely between the Israelites’ escape from Egyptian slavery and the giving of the Ten Commandments at Mt. Sinai. It is a short moment of relative calm in the biblical epic, and Moses finds himself exhausted.

He’s just accomplished the extraordinary feat of parting the sea and leading his entire people away from Pharaoh’s oppression and into the safety of their new lives. But there is no rest for this weary leader: “The people stood around Moses from morning to evening,” the text reports, surrounding him and seeking advice and encouragement during a time of deep uncertainty.

Moses’ father-in-law Jethro sees the signs of burnout in him, and counsels him that in order to relieve the burden of leadership, he must find some trusted partners with whom he can share his responsibilities. “Seek out some capable and faithful people, trustworthy individuals who spurn ill-gotten gain. . . . Make it easier for yourself by letting them share the burden with you.” (Ex. 18:21-22) Jethro knew, as we do today, that the demanding work of leadership cannot be held by a single person; rather, it must be shared with trusted partners and colleagues – for the well-

*continued on page 2*

**New Adult Ed miniseries coming this month!**

**A Fighter and a Poet: King David’s Spiritual Biography**  
Wednesdays May 8, 15 & 22  
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

King David plays a prominent role in the history of ancient Israel, and his legacy continues to influence Judaism to this day. Jewish literature is filled with dramatic and fantastical stories about David’s role as a military hero, the author of the *Psalms*, and forerunner of the *Messiah*. Together, we will study the history of this complicated biblical figure and explore some of the most engaging myths and stories about the “sweet singer of Israel.”

Join Rabbi Hayon for coffee and conversation during this early-morning class in May on three consecutive **Wednesdays: May 8, 15, 22, from 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.** at the temple.

Registration is available online at [emanuelhouston.org/king-david-2024](http://emanuelhouston.org/king-david-2024).

ALL IN  
**CASINO ROYALE**

**MEN'S SOCIAL**  
**THURSDAY, MAY 16**

**FIND OUT MORE INSIDE**

T 713.529.5771  
F 713.529.0703

1500 Sunset Boulevard  
Houston, Texas 77005

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

## SHABBAT WORSHIP

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

### Shabbat Acharei Mot Friday, May 3

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, May 4

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel  
Shabbat Schmooze & Schmear immediately following morning service  
10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Barish Sanctuary  
Bar Mitzvah of **Isaac Tenenbown**, son of Roger Tenenbown

### Shabbat Emor Friday, May 10

6:00 p.m., Kabbalat Shabbat, Proler Chapel  
8:00 p.m., Warehouse Shabbat at Love Dance Houston (doors open at 7:30 p.m.)

### Saturday, May 11

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel  
10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Barish Sanctuary  
B'nei Mitzvah of **Henry Kramer**, son of Rachel and Alex Kramer, and **Rowan Riben**, son of Dr. Kara Kahan and Dr. Michael Riben

### Shabbat Emor Friday, May 17

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

### Saturday, May 18

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel  
10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Barish Sanctuary  
Bat Mitzvah of **Colton ("CoCo") Rahbar-Daniels**, daughter of Emily & Damon Rahbar-Daniels

### Shabbat B'har Friday, May 24

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

### Saturday, May 25

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

### Shabbat B'chukotai Friday, May 31

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

### Saturday, June 1

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel  
Shabbat Schmooze & Schmear immediately following morning service  
10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Barish Sanctuary  
B'nei Mitzvah of **Leo Frenkel**, son of Stephanie Frenkel and Igor Frenkel, and **Charles Horan**, son of Jessica & Dr. Bram Horan

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

being of the leaders and for the good of the institutions they serve.

I am reminded of this timeless teaching each May when we welcome new "capable and faithful people" into leadership of our temple. A healthy congregation cannot be led solely by its staff or clergy; it requires a faithful and dedicated partnership between its professional leadership and its lay governance in order to remain sound and balanced.



**Stuart Gaylor**

Last month, Stuart Gaylor's term as President of our Board of Trustees came to an end after two successful and enriching years. Stuart has been exactly the kind of leader the Torah commends for roles of authority among the ancient Israelites: he is capable and faithful, trustworthy and ethical, and he has invested countless hours to ensuring that

our temple will live up to its highest vision of what a conscientious and sustainable Jewish community ought

to look like. I am deeply grateful for the partnership and friendship we have built over our years of shared leadership.

We welcome a new slate of committed leaders to assume their place on the Board and its Executive Committee. I am filled with confidence about this new group of exceptional individuals, led by our outstanding new President Adam Pollock, as they step into the sacred and vital work of congregational leadership. Moreover, I am especially delighted that this new year of temple governance will also see the arrival of our outstanding new Executive Director, Beryl Chernov, who will be joining us in July. I hope that you will join me in sharing your thanks with all of these leaders, and in pledging your support to them during their terms of service.

Our predecessors who lived thousands of years ago knew that successful leadership must be a shared endeavor, one in which the responsibilities and rewards of authority are shared in partnership between like-minded people. As we welcome our newest leaders to their roles, I remain as proud as ever that Emanu El's future will be written in partnership between clergy, staff and volunteers who are equally committed to its thriving and success.

## LIFECYCLE EVENTS

### BIRTHS

**Charlie James Friedlander**, son of Lisa & Michael Friedlander; grandson of Barbara Rubenstein and Fredda & Gary Friedlander; great-grandson of Paula Friedlander and Ruth Steinfeld

**Felix Tin Yan Zazovsky-Chan**, grandson of Alexander Zazovsky

### DEATHS

**Liz Guill**, father of Kathy & Geoffrey Guill, Vicki Kuan & Timothy Guill, and Sharon Guill; grandmother of Ashley & Sam McCabe, Daniel Guill, Erin & Michael Adams, and Ellie & Austen Guill; great-grandmother of William and Noah McCabe, Blake Adams, and Anne Guill

**Yvette Levy**, mother of Cindy & Keith Adelsberg, Donna & Steven Adelsberg, and Cindy & Paul Lucas; grandmother of Sydnee Lucas & Jose "Kiko" Velez, Deanna Buehrle & Aaron Lucas, and Sarah and Justin Adelsberg; great-grandmother of Avi and Margot Velez; sibling of Ruth Kramer

**Brian Lowenberg**, son of Margaret & Edward Lowenberg; husband of Sofia Lowenberg; father of Liam Lowenberg; sibling of Kelly Lowenberg & Alex Pollen and Colin Lowenberg

**Marc Nodler**, son of Nancy & Ron Nodler and Dena Nodler Frye; father of Cole and John "Jack" Nodler; sibling of T. Lavois Thiebaud & Jason Nodler, Kate Neidorf & Greg Nodler, Abby & Jamie Nodler, Kelly Frye & Nick Campbell, and Alicia & Patrick Frye; uncle of Audrey Guerrero and Zoe and Rosie Nodler; loving friend of Dorian Gray

**Leon Sloane**, uncle of Jennifer & Jeffrey Ross

Please note the following correction to its listing in the April edition, as a family member was omitted. We deeply apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

**Jean Hayden**, father of Marsha & Mark Klaff, Mark Hayden, and Marilyn & David Arlen; grandfather of Mollie & Eugene Tunitsky, Evan & Jeremy Klaff, Tori Wolfe & Evan Klaff, and Leah & Eric Cohn and Michael Arlen; great-grandfather of Eleanor Klaff, Lilly and Max Tunitsky, and Ezra and Julia Cohn

#### 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.



### MAZEL MOMENTS

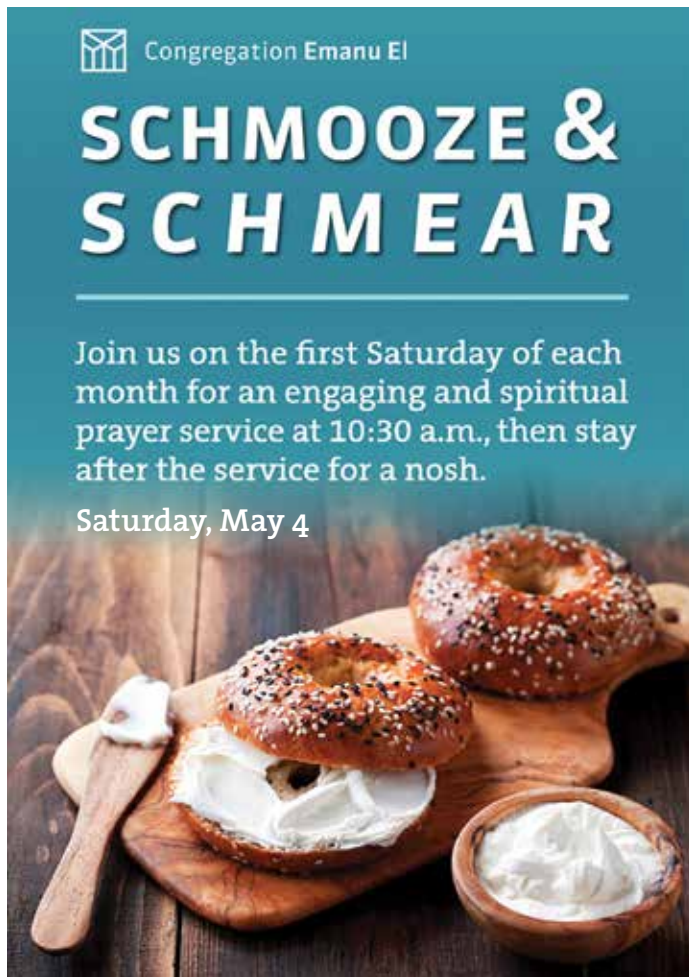
Linda and Richard Zoll were awarded and celebrated by the staff of SEARCH Homeless Services for their contribution and dedication to the program. In addition to bringing the hit "Birthdays & Bingo" programming each month, the Zolls have also coordinated and sponsored field trips to plays and concerts for the residents, all of which provide an important sense of community to the residents. Mazel tov to Linda and Richard for your achievement and for bringing *kehillah* (community).



### 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!



Congregation Emanu El

# SCHMOOZE & SCHMEAR

Join us on the first Saturday of each month for an engaging and spiritual prayer service at 10:30 a.m., then stay after the service for a nosh.

Saturday, May 4



UPCOMING ISRAEL SPEAKER

**HAVIV RETTIG GUR**  
SENIOR ANALYST, THE TIMES OF ISRAEL

THURSDAY  
**MAY 2**  
6:30 PM

RSVP ONLINE  
EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG/HAVIV-GUR

Congregation Emanu El

**Israel Speaker: Haviv Rettig Gur**  
Thursday, May 2, 6:30 p.m.

Congregation Emanu El is pleased to invite you to our next Israel Program with Haviv Rettig Gur, Senior Analyst for *The Times of Israel*. A dynamic and well-informed speaker, Mr. Rettig Gur will give a talk titled, "Palestinians and Israelis – A More Sympathetic View of How They Got Here and How They Might Get Out of the Tailspin."

Coffee and dessert will immediately follow. This event is free to the public, and registration can be found online by visiting our web calendar at [emanuelhouston.org](http://emanuelhouston.org).



**TOT SHABBAT**  
MAY 3<sup>RD</sup>

REGISTER ONLINE AT [EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG](http://EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG)

**Tot Shabbat**  
Friday, May 3, 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 and geared toward families with little ones ages 0-6.

Tot Shabbat begins in Feld Hall with an optional dinner provided by Houston Catering Concepts for \$5 per person. Register online by visiting our web calendar at [emanuelhouston.org](http://emanuelhouston.org).

Tot Shabbat occurs on the first Friday of each month when in season and takes a break during the summer in July and August. Plan to join us again next month on **June 7** for the final Tot Shabbat of the 2023 – 2024 season.

If you have any questions regarding Tot Shabbat, please contact Allison Hale at [allisonh@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:allisonh@emanuelhouston.org)

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



**WAREHOUSE SHABBAT**

LOVE DANCE HOUSTON

5.10.2024

LEARN MORE & RSVP

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

**Warehouse Shabbat**  
**Love Dance Houston** (2206 Edwards St Unit B)  
Friday, May 10  
Doors Open at 7:30 p.m. | Service at 8:00 p.m.

Join Rabbi Fixler, Cantor Simmons and their live band for Warehouse Shabbat! This rocking, adults-only worship event has been designed to be a dynamic, lively and musical prayer experience to rejuvenate your heart and uplift your spirit. Come enjoy local desserts and drinks during this exciting Shabbat program, which is co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston's Young Adult Division!

All adults, young professionals or young at heart, are welcome to join us for this Shabbat service which will be at Love Dance Houston in Sawyer Yards.

Register online today at [emanuelhouston.org/yp](http://emanuelhouston.org/yp).

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## Community Yom HaAtzmaut Celebration Merfish Teen Center - ERJCC (5601 S Braeswood Blvd) Tuesday, May 14, 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Emanu El is participating as a community partner in the upcoming community Yom HaAtzmaut celebration at the Merfish Teen Center. This year's theme is "Sunset in Tel Aviv." The evening will be filled with family fun activities; from a bustling second-hand market where donations will support Israel, to lively Israeli dancing, a trackless train ride, and engaging games for the kids, there's something for everyone. Plus, there will be a relaxing lounging area for families to unwind.

To culminate the festivities, there will be a special performance by a local Israeli band.

For additional information, visit the ERJCC's website at [erjcc.org](http://erjcc.org), and click on the event calendar.



## All In: Casino Royale Men's Social Thursday, May 16, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Calling all Men of Emanu El! You are invited to the next men's social, All In: Casino Royale. This program is designed for Emanu El members who are 21+ and looking to build comradery and community with other members in the congregation.

At the event, guests can enjoy a variety of Vegas style offerings including Texas Hold 'Em and Blackjack (with dealers). The cost is \$5 per member and includes food and drinks. Spread the word – we're betting you won't regret it!

Register online and join us. Registration is available online at [emanuelhouston.org/casinoroyale2024](http://emanuelhouston.org/casinoroyale2024). For additional information, contact Allison Hale, Programming & Engagement Associate, at [allisonh@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:allisonh@emanuelhouston.org).



## New Member Shabbat Dinner Friday, May 17, 7:00 p.m.

Congregation Emanu El welcomes our newest members to join us for a delicious dinner following Shabbat services. If you've joined Emanu El since October 2023, be on the lookout for your personal invitation. During this time of togetherness, those who are new to the congregation will be joined by members of the clergy, committees and board of Congregation Emanu El.



## Seeking New Members for Motherhood Together Every Thursday, 11:30 a.m.

Motherhood Together is a program designed to support families who have welcomed new babies through birth and adoption, whether this is their first baby or the newest sibling. This group will meet weekly on Thursdays and include lunch, with the goal of providing a supportive community for moms and babies during the first 12 weeks of the baby's life. These sessions are facilitated by a certified postpartum doula and include visits from other postnatal specialists as well as our clergy. Topics will include postpartum care, nursing/feeding, baby sleep help, and more. It is a space of peers and experts where moms can ask questions, share struggles, and celebrate successes that come in the first few months of a baby's life. The program also offers additional opportunities for partners.

Motherhood Together is open to the Houston Jewish community, with priority registration offered to Emanu El members. This program is ongoing and actively seeking new members. Register online today. For additional information, contact Allison Hale at [allisonh@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:allisonh@emanuelhouston.org).

*This program is made possible by the Houston Jewish Community Foundation.*

# L'DOR VADOR



## FOR EMANU EL'S FUTURE



**Anna Shabtay**

Dear Congregants,

I wanted to share an update on the L'Dor VaDor: For Emanu El's Future with all of you. Since our community-wide announcement in February, many of our congregants have made incredibly generous gifts to ensure that this transformational project becomes a reality. As of the print deadline for the *May Bulletin*, we have raised \$16.6 million

towards our \$20 million goal. We are so grateful to those who have contributed already to this project!

With just over 20% of our congregation participating, we need additional support. This project and campaign need the involvement of our entire congregation. Every gift makes a difference, and 100% participation by June is our goal.

As part of L'Dor VaDor, there will be construction work on the Becker entrance and security vestibule, along with an HVAC overhaul in the education wing, beginning this month. Becker Summer programs will be held in the temporary classrooms while this work is happening.

Please review the packet that you received in the mail in February or visit [emanuelhouston.org/ForOurFuture](http://emanuelhouston.org/ForOurFuture) and pledge your support to L'Dor VaDor today. We want to make participating in L'Dor VaDor as easy as possible. There are many ways to contribute to the campaign; payments can be made for up to five years, gifts of appreciated stock are possible, donors 70.5 and over can use their IRA accounts and of course, credit cards, checks and eChecks.

Shayna Proler, on behalf of herself and her husband Ben, shared with us in February, "This project and campaign are just the next steps in making Emanu El an even more welcoming spiritual home that is at the heart of our Jewish experiences. Ben and I are excited to follow the example of generations of Prolers who have contributed to the future of Congregation Emanu El by making our own meaningful gift to the L'Dor VaDor campaign."

Join the Prolers and make your commitment today at [emanuelhouston.org/ForOurFuture](http://emanuelhouston.org/ForOurFuture). If you have questions, please contact me at [annas@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:annas@emanuelhouston.org) or 713.987.3316

With gratitude,

Anna Shabtay  
Director of Congregational Advancement



# SISTERHOOD NEWS & HAPPENINGS

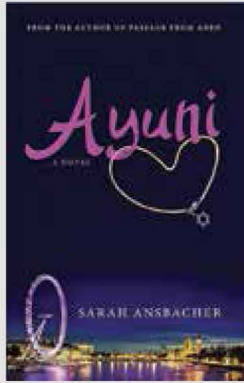
May 2024

## Installation & Closing Program

Tuesday, May 14, 12:00 p.m. *\*corrected date in digital version\**

Please plan to join Sisterhood to witness the installation of new officers and board members for 2024-2025 as we celebrate the past year and the beginning of a new one! The installation service will be led by our clergy in the chapel. Afterward, join us for a delicious spring luncheon catered by Houston Catering Concepts.

There is no cost for this event, but please RSVP online at [emanuelhouston.org](http://emanuelhouston.org) or by contacting the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771, ext. 233 or [sishood@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:sishood@emanuelhouston.org) by **Friday, May 10**.



### SAVE THE DATE! BOOK REVIEW:

*Ayuni* by Sarah Ansbacher  
Thursday, May 16, 12:30 p.m.

*Ayuni*, is a powerful story about forbidden love, loss and the complexities of Hasidism and the Middle Eastern Jewish community of Aden. This is a heartwarming story that bridges the divide between an insular community and its neighbors.

This book will be reviewed by Linda Kates. The book review will be held in the Oshman Multi-Purpose Room. Refreshments will be served. There is no charge for this event, but please RSVP online or by contacting the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771, ext. 233 or [sishood@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:sishood@emanuelhouston.org).

## Evening Mahj

Tuesday, May 21, 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Treat yourself to a fun evening of mahj with Sisterhood! You are welcome to play whether you are a seasoned player or a beginner. Enjoy a light dinner and wine before the game for \$7. Please register online or by contacting the Sisterhood office at [sishood@emanuelhouston.org](mailto:sishood@emanuelhouston.org) or 713.529.5771, ext. 233. Deadline to register is **Friday, May 17**.



## 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.



# Helfman Religious School

## Helfman Graduation 2024



**Front row: Natalie Walters, Hannah Marmo, Maddie Mark, Isabelle Pesikoff and Mia Septimus; Second row: Larkin Boucher, Josie Pulaski, Madelyn Frank and Evelyn Arouty; Third row: Jack Applebaum, Sam Rosen, Ben Ostrin, Noa Granoff and Cole Nodler; Back row: Stefani Carlson, Rabbi Josh Fixler, Rabbi Oren Hayon, Rabbi Pamela Silk, Cantor Rollin Simmons and Michelle Frankfort. Not pictured: Noah Friesen and TJ Owers.**





## Becker Kindergarten and Pre-K Graduation



### KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS:

**Patrick Boone-Cervoni**, son of Frances Cervoni-Curet & David Boone  
**Flora Mae Coleman-Merfish**, daughter of Beth Merfish & Daniel Coleman  
**Thomas Epstein**, son of Rachel & Ryan Epstein  
**Aira Sharma Goel**, daughter of Ridhima Sharma & Manav Goel  
**Aristide Kriegel**, son of Elizabeth & Uri Kriegel  
**Aaron Kronman**, son of Sarah & Michael Kronman  
**Ruby O'Neil**, daughter of Marisa Hilliard & Evan O'Neil  
**Robert Putterman**, son of Lindsey & Matthew Putterman

### PRE-K STUDENTS:

**Niko Armstrong**, son of Lisseth De Masi Hoffman & Joanna Hoffman, son of Andrea Houstoun & Daniel Armstrong  
**Agnes Asker**, daughter of Jorunn Asker & Fredrik Eriksson  
**Max Barrett**, son of Melissa Liebling-Goldberg & John Barrett  
**Sadie Botwin**, daughter of Mallory & Harrison Botwin  
**Eleanor Brodsky**, daughter of Colleen & Charles Brodsky  
**Everett Brodsky**, son of Colleen & Charles Brodsky  
**Eleanor Burfitt**, daughter of Lauren & Joseph Burfitt

**Oliver Delisio**, son of Abigail Schuh & Samuel Delisio  
**George Farrow**, son of Anna & Luke Farrow  
**Nikolas Favinsky**, son of Sara & Pavel Favinsky  
**Hope Freedman**, daughter of Arin & Henry Freedman  
**Robert Goldfarb**, son of Megan & Stephen Goldfarb  
**Ruby Heller**, daughter of Laurie & Blake Heller  
**Noam Hiller**, son of Donna Haim & Zachary Hiller  
**Naomi Lichman**, daughter of Rachael & Barry Lichman  
**Nina Maricevich**, daughter of Renata & Marco Maricevich  
**George Martin**, son of Jennifer & Joshua Martin  
**Clara Merlin**, daughter of Drew Dumaine & Jeffrey Merlin  
**Margaret Moliver**, daughter of Anne & Hunter Moliver  
**Ishaan Patel**, son of Heena & Jinit Patel  
**Cora Pyle**, daughter of Leah Binkovitz & Phillip Pyle II  
**Yara Qadir**, daughter of Farah Ahmed & Tahir Qadir  
**Michael Sada**, son of Yvonne & David Sada  
**Twyla Siegel-Gardner**, daughter of Hannah & Seth Siegel-Gardner  
**Max Slaton**, son of Carli & Daniel Slaton  
**Ella Swaminathan**, daughter of Ashmitha & Tirumani Swaminathan  
**Abe Teigman**, son of Mallory & Rob Teigman  
Max Tunitsky, son of Mollie & Eugene Tunitsky  
**Jackson Wagner**, son of Emily & Marc Wagner

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## Becker School Welcomes New Director



**Rachel Spector-McAdam**

Following a nationwide search process led by the Becker Leadership Task Force and involving listening sessions with our entire Becker School community, including parents, teachers and staff, Congregation Emanu El is excited to announce that Rachel Spector-McAdam will be joining our senior staff team on May 1 as the new Director of the Becker School. Rachel comes to Becker with nearly 20 years of educational leadership experience and a strong commitment to academic excellence and holistic student development. She is excited to be bringing together her love of Judaism, her love of learning, and her love of children at Becker.

Throughout her career, Rachel has assumed diverse leadership roles, both at the campus level as a principal of elementary and junior high schools and at the district level as a special education coordinator. Her expertise encompasses a wide range of areas, including social-emotional learning, behavioral management, inclusion of students with disabilities, differentiated instruction, and fostering teacher growth through professional learning communities. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A&M University, a Master of Education in Educational Leadership from Texas State University, and a superintendent of schools certification from Lamar University.

As she writes in her educational statement:

I believe in fostering the needs and developmental stages of each unique child. Children should be active participants in their own learning journey, capable of constructing knowledge through exploration, play, meaningful experiences, and interactions. Every child is a capable, curious, and imaginative individual.

I value creating a nurturing and inclusive environment where children feel safe to express themselves and take risks. I embrace allowing the interests, questions, and discoveries of the children to shape the direction of their learning experiences. Learning should be project-based. Children should engage in deep exploration, critical thinking, and problem-solving. This fosters a sense of ownership in their own learning.

I recognize the importance of building meaningful relationships and connections within the learning community. Families must be valued as partners in their child's education, contributing insights, expertise, and cultural perspectives to enrich their collective experience. I strive to cultivate strong relationships built on trust, respect, and open communication. By involving families in the educational process, we create a supportive network that empowers children to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

I aspire to create a learning environment that honors diversity, fosters creativity, and celebrates the exceptional strengths and identities of each child. I am a committed lifelong learner who is continually refining my approach to best meet the evolving needs of the children, staff, and community I serve.

Above all, I am dedicated to nurturing compassionate, lifelong learners who are empowered to explore, question, and contribute to a more just and equitable world.

Rachel and her husband, Philip, and her children, Eli and Ian, are delighted to be joining the Congregation Emanu El community. They will be relocating closer to Houston over the summer and are looking forward to being involved in our temple family. We will be scheduling some formal opportunities to get to know Rachel and her family in the coming weeks. In the meantime, we hope that you will join us for Tot Shabbat on Friday, May 3 as we welcome Rachel to Emanu El!

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## Transportation Fair

On Wednesday, April 10, Becker celebrated its annual Transportation Fair! This year was extra special as, due to an HISD holiday, several Becker alumni came to enjoy the day with their siblings. Thank you to Elizabeth Townsend and our Becker Boosters for helping to make the event such a huge success.



Abe Teigman, Max Slaton and Mallory Teigman.



Zoe Baker, Gunner (horse), Ziggy Saati and Audrey Saati.



Laurel Greene and Hilary Greene.

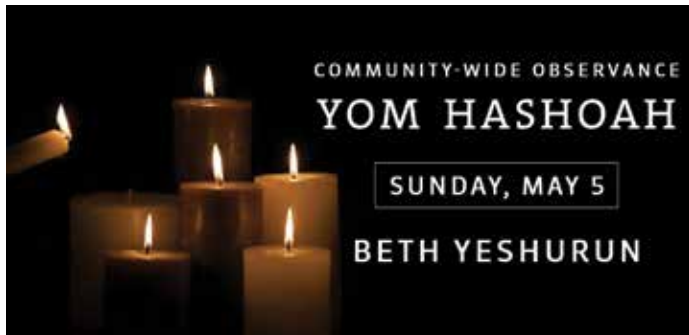


Avery and Brooke Kaplan.

## Community Wide Observance of Yom HaShoah Congregation Beth Yeshurun

(4525 Beechnut St.)

Sunday, May 5, 3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.



Please join us and the Houston Jewish community in observance of Yom HaShoah, a day of remembrance for the 6,000,000 Jewish people who lost their lives during the Holocaust.

During this annual commemoration, we will mourn the loss of all who perished, honor those who survived and come together as a community to remember and reflect.

Coordinated by the Yom HaShoah steering committee and the Holocaust Museum Houston, this year's event will take place at Beth Yeshurun.

### MAZEL MOMENTS



During this year's Yom Limmud (day of learning) program, Houston Jewish Community Foundation (HJCF) raffled off a \$500 donation to the charity of the winner's choice, and Lucy Mosbacher, Helfman Religious School Principal, won! Lucy chose to donate her check to the Helfman Religious School scholarship fund. Lucy is pictured here receiving her check from Alisha Klapholz of HJCF.



Photo credit: Courtesy of Holocaust Museum Houston

## Holocaust Museum Houston to Offer Free Admission Days in May

Museum admission will be free in honor of Holocaust survivor Walter Kase on **Sunday, May 5**, the anniversary of his liberation by the 71st Infantry Division of the United States Army in 1945. Kase passed away on March 4, 2015. The Free Admission Day in Honor of Walter Kase is supported by the Walter Kase Endowment Fund. The free admission day is also in observance of Yom HaShoah.

The museum will offer free admission **Wednesday, May 15**, in honor of Holocaust survivor Stefi Altman. During WWII, Altman was sent to several camps and eventually managed to escape the labor camp of Dorohucza. For the remainder of the war, she hid in a coffin-like space underneath a barn that belonged to a sympathetic Polish farmer. After she was liberated by the Soviets, she learned that her entire family had perished. Stefi Altman passed away in December 2017. The Free Admission Day in Honor of Stefi Altman is supported by the Stefi Altman Endowment Fund.

HMH will also participate in the Blue Star Museums program with free admission for active-duty service members and their families starting **Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 18** and ending on **Labor Day, Monday, September 2**. Blue Star Museums is a partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families, in collaboration with the Department of Defense and museums across America.

Reserve your free tickets at [hmh.org/tickets](http://hmh.org/tickets).

Holocaust Museum Houston, Lester and Sue Smith Campus, is fully bilingual in English and Spanish. Located at 5401 Caroline Street, HMH is closed Mondays except Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Memorial Day and Labor Day from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., and Sundays from noon – 5:00 p.m. The Bagel Shop @ The Museum is open during Museum hours. Admission is \$22 for adults; \$16 for seniors (ages 65+) and AARP members and active-duty military; always free for children and students through age 18 and college students with valid student ID; and free to all visitors Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Parking is available at the Museum's adjacent lot for \$8 for a four-hour period. Tickets are available exclusively online. For more information, visit [hmh.org/visit](http://hmh.org/visit).



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We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who remember and honor their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions through April 9, 2024.

**ACCESS FOR ALL FUND**

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

In Honor of

**The Anniversary of Linda & Richard Zoll – 60th**

Donna & Bill Zhukovsky

In Memory of

**Edward Eastman**

Jennifer & Evan Melrose

**Marc Nodler**

Neil Henderson

**AUBREY & SYLVIA FARB COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND**

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

In Memory of

**Marc Nodler**

Steven Fenberg

Linda & Harris Miller

**BECKER EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

*To provide Becker Early Childhood Center scholarships*

In Memory of

**Marc Nodler**

Paulette & Mel Levine

**BILL & JOAN SPITZ PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP FUND**

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

In Memory of

**Ronna Spitz**

Paulette & Mel Levine

Mitzi & Mark Shidler

Richard Wolf

**CARY PASTERNAK CEMETERY FUND**

*To maintain and enhance Emanu El Memorial Park*

In Memory of

**Ronnie Robins**

Andi & Sandy Gaitz

**CERSONSKY CEMETERY BEAUTIFICATION FUND**

*To maintain and enhance Emanu El Memorial Park*

In Honor of

**The Speedy Recovery of Rabbi Roy Walter**

Barbara Miller

**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*

**A Donation**

Carol Lee Seliger

In Appreciation of

**Rabbi Oren Hayon, Rabbi Joshua Fixler, and Cantor Rollin Simmons**

Julie Muntz & Peter Johnson

Johnson

**Rabbi Pamela Silk – 20 Years at Emanu El**

Rochelle Cyprus

Lindy & Samuel Dorn

Julie Muntz & Peter Johnson

Johnson

In Honor of

**Susie Askanase – 2024 Ernest Krautkopf Congregant of the Year**

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Claire & Richard Brooks

**The Bat Mitzvah of Noa Hayon**

Sherrie & Ed Massin

**The Speedy Recovery of Rona Train**

Rozanne & Howard Rubin

In Memory of

**Thelma Fixler**

Barbara Loeser & Linda Hayon

**Marc Nodler**

Jeri Amundsen & Arthur Feldman

Feldman

Karen & Jeff Basen-Engquist

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**EDWARD WAYNE HUNGER FUND**

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

In Honor of

**Susie Askanase – 2024 Ernest Krautkopf Congregant of the Year**

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**The Anniversary of Linda & Richard Zoll – 60th**

Gail Shinbaum & Bill Soffar

Soffar

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Sondra Ross

In Memory of

**Marc Nodler**

Claire & Richard Brooks

Barbara & Dick Burris

Cheryl & Haran Levy

Gail Shinbaum & Bill Soffar

Soffar

**FLORENCE & BEN BLUM LEADERSHIP FUND**

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

In Memory of

**Marc Nodler**

Myra Lipper

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

*To enhance musical programming*

In Honor of

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**The Birthday of Julien Rosenthal – 95th**

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**HOFFMAN-NATHAN YOUTH FUND**

*To provide scholarships for attending Jewish camps or programs*

In Honor of

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Cookie & Salomon Schein

**The Anniversary of Linda & Richard Zoll – 60th**

Cookie & Salomon Schein

In Memory of

**Marc Nodler**

Cookie & Salomon Schein

**JASON & DAVID MARCUS PLAYSPACE FUND**

*To maintain and enhance the playground*

In Honor of

**The Anniversary of Linda & Richard Zoll – 60th**

Gay Yellen & Don Reiser

**JULIUS NATHAN MUSIC FUND**

*To provide musical programs*

In Honor of

**The Anniversary of Linda & Richard Zoll – 60th**

Glori & Ed Chaika

*continued next page*

**L'DOR VADOR CAMPAIGN**

*To expand our learning and gathering spaces and ensure a welcoming, secure, and accessible campus for all*

In Honor of

**The Birthday of Julien Rosenthal – 95th**

Nanette & Barry Putterman

**LILLIAN PASTERNAK MITZVAH FUND**

*To support mitzvah projects that improve life for Houstonians*

In Honor of

**Susie Askanase – 2024 Ernest Krautkopf Congregant of the Year**

Susan & Ed Septimus

**MARIANNE GREENFIELD SISTERHOOD FLOWER FUND**

*To provide flowers in our worship spaces*

In Appreciation of

**Rabbi Pamela Silk – 20 Years at Emanu El**

Elizabeth & Matt Krohn

In Honor of

**Susie Askanase – 2024 Ernest Krautkopf Congregant of the Year**

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Marlene Rubin & Ron Kronberg

**The Bar Mitzvah of Ezra Phillips**

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**The Bat Mitzvah of Annie Blitz**

Linda & Paul Lynn

**The Birthday of Dr. Larry J. Greenfield**

Jennis Kauffman

**The Birthday of Jerry Kaplan – 90th**

Kathy & Stephen Parven

**The B'not Mitzvah of Rosalind & Merlyn Friesen**

The Friesen Family

**In Memory of Gary Chauvin**

The Friesen Family

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**MILTON POPKIN LIFELONG ADULT JEWISH EDUCATION FUND**

*To promote an understanding of other religions and cultures*

In Memory of

**Jan Shelby**

Linda Popkin & Stephen Paine

**RABBI ROY & LINDA WALTER ENRICHMENT FUND**

*To support spiritual and cultural enrichment*

**A Donation**

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**In Honor of Susie Askanase – 2024 Ernest Krautkopf Congregant of the Year**

Barbara & Allen Pauly

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**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

*To provide Helfman Religious School scholarships*

**A Donation**

Lucy Mosbacher

**In Memory of Howard Teller**

Brenda Lind

**RIVA BURSTEN CARING CONGREGATION FUND**

*To support programs that assist people in the community*

In Honor of

**Susie Askanase – 2024 Ernest Krautkopf Congregant of the Year**

Donna & Bill Zhukovsky

**The Birthday of Aaron Fradkin**

Lou & Herb Mizis

**In Memory of Marc Nodler**

Rosanne & Gary Van Gelder

**ROBERT I. KAHN SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND**

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

In Honor of

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Sue Baum  
Kathy & Stephen Parven

**SANFORD I. LACK SCOUT FUND**

*To support Emanu El's Scout program*

In Memory of

**Marc Nodler**

Mike Rowekamp  
Susan & Ed Septimus

**SHIRLEY BARISH MEMORIAL ISRAEL EXPERIENCE FUND**

*To send Helfman Religious School high school students to Israel*

In Memory of

**Ronna Spitz**

Marlene Rubin

**SISTERHOOD FUND**

*To provide for the Sisterhood*

In Appreciation of

**Shelley Wisner**

Sharon Segal

In Honor of

**Susie Askanase – 2024 Ernest Krautkopf Congregant of the Year**

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Barbara & Raymond Kalmans  
Mitzi Shure & Jerry Wische

**The Emanu El Sisterhood**

Eileen Lee

**Rozanne Rubin**

Judy Danziger  
Nancy Perry

*continued next page*

**The Birthday of Julien Rosenthal – 95th**

Lou & Herb Mizis

In Memory of  
**Alex Kaufman**

Congregation Emanu El  
Sisterhood  
Barbara & Raymond  
Kalmans  
Diane Puschett

**Marci Weinstein**

Sylvia & Steven Brody  
Congregation Emanu El  
Sisterhood  
Diane Puschett  
Susan & Ed Septimus  
Mitzi Shure & Jerry Wische

**SUSMAN FUND FOR FAMILY PROGRAMMING**

*To support programs for families*

In Honor of

**Susie Askanase – 2024 Ernest Krautkopf Congregant of the Year**

Diana Brackman

In Memory of  
**Marc Nodler**  
Diana Brackman  
**Lila Rauch**  
Linda Susman

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

In Appreciation of  
**Rabbi Joshua Fixler**  
Dorothy & Albert  
Krafcheck

In Honor of  
**Susie Askanase – 2024 Ernest Krautkopf Congregant of the Year**

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Cheryl & Haran Levy  
Susan & Syd Waldman  
Linda & Richard Zoll

**Rabbi Pamela Silk– 20 years at Emanu El**

Linda & Paul Lynn

**The Anniversary of Pam & John Blumenthal – 40th**

fredi & Paul Franks

**The Anniversary of Linda & Richard Zoll – 60th**

Sam Jacobson & Carl  
Josehart

Joel Laser & Bernie  
Stephan

Janet & Alan Selbst

**The Birthday of Julien Rosenthal – 95th**

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Evelyn Wisenberg

**The Birthday of Frances Zlotnik – 100th**

Nanette & Barry  
Putterman

In Memory of  
**Pauline Applebaum**

Marcia Forbes

**Marc Nodler**

Ashley & Ryan Bayer  
Linda & Nelson Block  
Mustang Cat  
fredi & Paul Franks  
Linda & Paul Lynn  
Susan & Kevin McCarren  
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Lisa & Adam Pollock and Family  
Julie & Len Rowekamp  
Luann & Steven  
Rowekamp  
Mary & Jeff Rowekamp  
Karen & Bill Rubinsky  
Richard Wolf

**Ronna Spitz**

**Marci Weinstein**

Nanette & Barry  
Putterman



**MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

**Welcome Our Newest Members**

We are pleased to welcome the newest and returning members to our congregational family from March 13 – April 11. Please be sure to introduce yourself to our newcomers as they become a part of our community.

**Leah & Andrew Caplan**

**Katia & Elliot Carol, children Ilya and Misha**

**Rachel & Daniel Fein, children Henry and Noah**

**Liza & Moises Felman**

**Eve Simmons**

**Rachel Spector-McAdam & Philip McAdam, children Eli and Ian**

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.



On March 24, Emanu El celebrated Purim 2024 with its “Deep in the Heart of Shushan” spiel before the Helfman Religious School Purim carnival. Along with a ton of laughs, a fantastic time filled the Barish Sanctuary in honor of Purim.



Cantor Simmons along with Houston Cantors Sharon Colbert, Francyne Davis Jacobs and Kenny Feibush leading a rousing Dayenu at Federation’s Passover Seder for Faith and Community Leaders.



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The Women of Gen X Kehillah had their debut as they welcomed Passover with a new program, "Not Your Mom's Passover Recipe Exchange."





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Emanu El

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**Pamela B. Silk**, Associate Rabbi  
**Joshua R.S. Fixler**, Associate Rabbi  
**Roy A. Walter**, Rabbi Emeritus  
**Rollin Simmons**, Cantor  
**Anna Shabtay**, Director of  
 Congregational Advancement  
**Rachel Spector-McAdam**, Director of  
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