The Jewish Mardi Gras?

Now that March is here, we have arrived at what is said to be the most joyous time of the Jewish year. We are now in the Hebrew month of Adar, and our tradition teaches: “When Adar begins, rejoicing multiplies.”

Jewish happiness reaches its apex during Adar because it is the time of Purim, when convention and inhibition dissipate. During Purim we allow ourselves to indulge in all sorts of fun as a way of commemorating our people’s miraculous escape from Haman’s wicked plot in the ancient kingdom of Persia.

But we are not alone in our religious celebrations at this time of year. We’re all familiar with the raucous traditions associated with Mardi Gras, but we don’t often pause to recall that those celebrations are also rooted in religious traditions of their own: the reason for the Christian tradition of indulging on Fat Tuesday is that it occurs immediately before the penitence and abstention ushered in by Ash Wednesday.

It is always interesting to note how close to one another continued on page 2

Celebrate Purim with Emanu El!

Sunday, March 8
Purim Schpiel, 10:00 a.m. & Purim Carnival, 11:00 a.m.

It’s 5780, and we are taking you back to the 1980’s with a Totally Rad 80’s Purim Schpiel performed by your beloved Emanu El clergy and staff, along with our volunteer and youth choirs. Our Schpiel will be loads of fun, full of all your favorite 80’s tunes by Madonna, Prince and Rick Springfield (just to name a few). We’ll be singing and dancing our hearts out – complete with leg warmers and big 80’s hair!

The event will begin with our megillah reading, then we’ll jump into our high-energy performance. We hope to see you there! Come in costume (80’s or anything that gets you in the Purim mood), and get ready for silliness . . . 80’s style. No RSVP needed!

continued on page 3

Sisterhood to Host Barbara Pierce Bush as 2020 Fundraiser Speaker

Thursday, March 26, 11:30 a.m.

Congregation Emanu El Sisterhood, in partnership with the Barbara Bush Literacy Foundation and Harris County Public Library, will hold its annual fundraising event, Words Change the World this month. This year’s guest speaker will be Barbara Pierce Bush, humanitarian and co-founder and Board Chair of Global Health Corps.

A Yale University graduate with a degree in Humanities, Ms. Bush co-founded Global Health Corps, which mobilizes a global community of continued on page 4
Purim and Mardi Gras are on the calendar – just barely two weeks apart this year. Isn’t it striking that the Jewish and Christian worlds independently established times of celebration, masquerade, and indulgence at virtually the exact same time of year? The proximity of the two has even led some people to refer to Purim as “the Jewish Mardi Gras” (though no one ever seems to call Mardi Gras, “the Christian Purim”!). However, this comparison is not completely accurate, and if we identify our Purim celebrations too closely with the decadence of Mardi Gras, we risk overlooking the deeper religious messages and lessons of this most joyful Jewish holiday.

The rejoicing of Purim, after all, is not a religious end in itself. We do not celebrate at this time of year simply because celebration has intrinsic value in Judaism. Instead, Purim represents the height of the Jewish year’s joy because it is a reminder of our people’s redemption. And our observance of Purim is incomplete if it includes only the celebration but overlooks the other components of the holiday, including mishloach manot, sending food and treats to friends and family, and matanot la-evyonim, making charitable gifts to the needy.

Although Purim is a time of fun, its celebration is not an expression of shallowness or hedonism; it emerges from the realization that human action can bring about the redemption of others. Purim’s purpose is to help us realize the potential of transformative joy, but it insists that enduring happiness emerges less from satisfying our own appetites than from working for the preservation of others. This, after all, is what makes Esther such a compelling biblical heroine, and why she inspires us to acts of repairing the world.

This year, I encourage all of us to follow Purim’s invitation to lighthearted fun, but also its commandments about kindness and charity. And when we do, we can be assured that the ancient saying will come true: rejoicing will multiply as the month of Adar begins. May this month of celebration be filled with goodness and joy for all.
LIFECYCLE EVENTS

IN THE COMMUNITY

Nancy and Alan Shelby have been named members of the revamped Owls Club Board of Directors. This group comprises of former letter winners, alumni, students and fans of the Rice University athletic department tasked with helping realize the key goals of the “Vision for Victory” strategic plan of the athletic department.

BIRTHS

Edith Furst, daughter of Natalie & Michael Furst; granddaughter of Diane & Larry Furst

Benjamin Leonard Sumrow, son of Stacey & Steven Sumrow; grandson of Kathy & Stephen Parven; great-grandson of Sheila & Jerry Kaplan, Dolly & Steven Sumrow

WEDDING

Shina Bharadwaja & Drew Kwartler

DEATHS

William (Bill) Cohen, father of Sheri & Paul Heyman, Joni Cohen, Terri Kwiatek, and Ronald Kwiatek.


Jay Ignatoff, brother of Ruthe Berman, father of Jan Zieser and Joy Coffman, grandfather of three

Eleanor Levine, mother of Elaine & Ronald Plotkin, Phyllis & Steve Blanc; grandmother of Aliza & Jason Plotkin, Lana & Scott Blanc; great-grandmother of Isaac Plotkin, Sebastian and Charlotte Blanc

Robert Lewy, father of Amelia Chandler-Lewy and Adam Chandler-Lewy

Shirley Loeser, mother of Stephanie & Howard Loeser, Bruce Loeser; grandmother of Sarah & Lawrence Kass, Becky & Justin Blumberg, Leslie & Travis Loeser, Tracy Loeser; great-grandmother of five

Shirley Yetta Portman, mother of Marcie & David Weissman, Marsha & Ronald Portman, Darlene & Ronald Solomon; grandmother of Elina & Brian Weissman, Melissa & Craig Weissman, Joel Portman, Rachel & Stuart Portman, Melanie Solomon, Abbie & Tzvi Cohen; great-grandmother of Madison and Emma Weissman; sister-in-law of Sanford Portman

Renna Davis Rauch, wife of Jonathan Rauch; mother of Evan Rauch and Meredith Rauch; sister of Leslie & Brett Tatar, Patti & Robert Kessler; daughter-in-law of Lynette & Alan Rauch; sister-in-law of Sharon & Brad Rauch, Polly & David Roth

Leslie Michael Ribnik, husband of Susan Ribnik; brother of Patricia Pryzant Ribnik Rauch & Mark Rauch; step-father of Caroline & Ashley Page, Catherine & David Goldburg, Grace & John David Crump; grandfather of Gabrielle Page

Judith (Judi) Wagner, wife of Karl Wagner; mother of Gary & Scott Wagner, Linda & Jamie Heimbeucher; grandmother of Gregory Heimbeucher & Montana Machson, Ashley Heimbeucher & David Levine, Emily Wagner; sister of Janice & Jerry Spencer

Audrey Weiss, mother of Mindi Wachtel and Jeffrey Cohen

CELEBRATE PURIM WITH EMANU EL!

continued from page 1

Helfman Religious School Carnival

Sunday, March 8, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Be sure to join us for our Purim carnival, hosted by the Helfman Religious School Committee!

Religious School will be dismissed early and all are invited to take part in the carnival, which will feature inflatables, games, prizes, a “jail,” music, face painting, Henna, pie toss, confetti eggs, a hot dog lunch, hamantashen, and more!

Tickets can be purchased prior to the event by visiting our website or calling the synagogue at 713.529.5771.

Helfman Seeks Volunteers for the Purim Carnival!

The Religious School Community Committee is seeking volunteers for this year’s Purim carnival! Please visit us online at emanuelhouston.org to register.

There are four volunteering shifts to choose from below or an opportunity to bake a cake for the cake walk:

Setup help (9:30 - 11:00 a.m.)
Carnival shift 1 (11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
Carnival shift 2 (12:00 - 1:00 p.m.)
Cleanup help (1:00 - 2:00 p.m.)

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.
young leaders to build the movement for health equity. She has worked with the Red Cross Children’s Hospital in South Africa and UNICEF in Botswana, is a member of UNICEF’s Next Generation Steering Committee and the UN Global Entrepreneurs Council.

Named one of Newsweek’s Women of Impact in 2013, she released Sisters First, a New York Times best seller written with her twin sister and co-author Jenna Bush Hager.

Barbara Pierce Bush is also a supporter of her family’s foundation, the Barbara Bush Literary Foundation, created to improve the quality of lives through the power of literacy. The Foundation, established by Neil and Maria Bush, is dedicated to helping eradicate the literacy crisis in Houston. The Sisterhood’s partnership with the Foundation will donate part of the proceeds raised by Words Change the World to make an impact on the local community by donating children’s book to the Harris County Public Library’s Curiosity Cruiser.

A moderated conversation with Barbara Pierce Bush will begin at 11:30 a.m., followed by a Texas-style lunch. Congregation Emanu El’s Sisterhood has a strong dedication to community service and social action as well as progressive Jewish values. Co-chairs for this year’s event are Kathy Parven and Shelley Wisner.

Contact the Sisterhood office for more information at sishood@emanuelhouston.org or call 713.529.5771, ext. 233.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT EMANU EL

Author of Kid Food to Discuss “Why it’s Difficult to Raise Healthy Eaters in America”
Tuesday, March 31, 7:00 p.m.

Most parents start out with the best of intentions: They just want to raise healthy eaters. However, even before our children climb down from the highchair, it can feel like junk food is coming at them from every direction.

On top of this daily junk food deluge, some children just seem to be stubbornly resistant to eating healthier foods. So even when you do manage to get a healthy, home-cooked dinner on the table, it might go untouched.

It’s enough to drive any parent crazy!

Join us for this event as the Becker School and Congregation Emanu El host Bettina Elias Siegel, nationally recognized writer and food advocate and author of Kid Food: The Challenge of Feeding Children in a Highly Processed World shares her original reporting with the hard-won experiences of a mom to give parents a deeper understanding of why it so hard to raise healthy eaters in America today.

Written in the same engaging, relatable voice that has made Siegel’s website The Lunch Tray a trusted resource for almost a decade, Kid Food offers parents expert advice, time-tested advocacy tips, and a trove of useful resources to help parents not only navigate their children’s unhealthy food landscape, but also change it for the better.

To help us prepare for the evening, please RSVP online by visiting our web calendar or by calling the synagogue. A copy of the Kid Food book is available for pre-sale at the Becker School for a cost of $18 and will also be available at the event.

A reception featuring the author follows the presentation.

Congregational Annual Meeting
Sunday, April 19, 9:30 a.m.

Please plan to join us for our 2020 annual meeting. Breakfast will be served prior to the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

The annual meeting will feature reports from outgoing President Rodney Roth and Rabbi Hayon. Congregants will have an opportunity to vote on the budget, the 2020-2021 Board of Trustees and more. A formal notice of the annual meeting will be sent in March.

Mental Health First Aid Training at Emanu El
Sunday, April 26, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and Tuesday, April 28, 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Congregation Emanu El is partnering with Jewish Family Services (JFS) to host a Mental Health First Aid training. These trainings are facilitated by nationally trained JFS instructors and provided free of charge through a generous grant from Jewish Family Service and co-sponsoring organizations. It is required that individuals attend both courses and one does not have to be affiliated with any community organization or Emanu El to attend. Each participant upon completing the class will receive a Mental Health First Aid certificate valid for three years from the training.

This class will teach a five-step action plan that offers initial help to people showing signs of a mental illness or in a crisis, connecting them with the appropriate professional, peer, social or self-help care. Anyone can take the eight-hour course, but it is ideally designed for adults - teachers, coaches, leaders of faith communities, social workers and other caring citizens.

For more information about the JFS Mental Health First Aid program, please contact Gittel Francis at gfrancis@jfsenholuston.org or call 713.986.7812. Registration for the class can occur online at www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org or by contacting Gittel Francis directly.

The annual meeting will feature reports from outgoing President Rodney Roth and Rabbi Hayon. Congregants will have an opportunity to vote on the budget, the 2020-2021 Board of Trustees and more. A formal notice of the annual meeting will be sent in March.

The annual meeting will feature reports from outgoing President Rodney Roth and Rabbi Hayon. Congregants will have an opportunity to vote on the budget, the 2020-2021 Board of Trustees and more. A formal notice of the annual meeting will be sent in March.
Taste of Talmud: Lunch Time Text Study Class
Continues on Thursday, March 19, 12:30 p.m.

Bring your lunch and join Director of Congregational Learning Stefani Carlson for an introduction to rabbinic text study. We will study with translation alongside the original text. No previous experience necessary. This class is scheduled for the third Thursday of the month.

Congregation Emanu El to Host Gail Rubin for “Before I Die” Weekend Weekend, Friday March 27 – Sunday, March 29

Gail Rubin, a certified thanatologist and The Doyenne of Death® will be in Houston the weekend of Friday, March 27 through Sunday, March 29.

During her visit to Houston, which is presented by Waldman Funeral Care and Emanu El, Rubin will host a program entitled, Kicking the Bucket List: Downsizing and Organizing Things to Do Before You Die, at 8:00 p.m. following an optional dinner for just $5 that will take place following Shabbat services.

In this program, Rubin will explore “Do you plan to live forever? Do you ever plan to move? Depending on where you’re going, you can’t take it with you. This talk focuses on practical ways to downsize excess goods without being overwhelmed by the job, what you need to know to organize your information for your executor, and how to plan for end-of-life issues. Film clips add to the wealth of information in this talk.”

The weekend will conclude on Sunday morning from 10:00-11:30 a.m. with a light brunch before Rubin presents “Estate Planning: Hollywood Myth versus Facts” ahead of launching into The Newly-Dead Game®.

During the estate planning conversation, Rubin will explain how the movies portray wills and the unfortunate reality that family members may die before doing any estate planning, that plans can go awry. Clips from comedies and dramas will illustrate the need for estate planning today.

This discussion will turn into The Newly-Dead Game®, based on the classic television program, The Newlywed Game, The Newly-Dead Game tests couples on how well they know their partner’s last wishes. Gail Rubin also created an Individuals Edition so that everyone, not just couples, plus the audience can play along. It’s an upbeat way to start end-of-life planning conversations.

We are asking for RSVPs for both Friday night and Sunday morning’s programming so plans can be made accordingly. To RSVP, visit emanuelhouston.org or call 713.529.5771.

Sixth Annual Night at the Ballpark
Tuesday, September 1

Tickets on Sale to Members Only through May 30 or Upon Sellout

Congregation Emanu El is excited to announce its sixth annual ‘Night at the Ballpark’.

Join members of the Emanu El clergy and staff on Tuesday, September 1 at Minute Maid Park as the Houston Astros welcome the Miami Marlins to town for a 7:10 p.m. first pitch. The evening will feature $1 hot dogs.

The cost of tickets to join Emanu El at the ballpark is just $30. This year we will be sitting in the field box section and the cost of ticket is subsidized through the generosity of the Emanu El Brotherhood.

Please note that the initial allotment of tickets subsidized by the Brotherhood has sold out each year that it has been held at Minute Maid Park. Due to the space limitations, these $30 seats are reserved for members of Emanu El (and their guests) on a first-come, first-serve basis until Saturday, May 30 or upon sellout.

Any available tickets on Sunday, May 31 will be open to the community at large.

Tickets should arrive at the synagogue in early August and participants will be communicated to about making arrangements to pick-up their tickets prior to the ball game.

To register, please visit www.emanuelhouston.org. For more information, contact Jason Plotkin at (713) 535.6414 or JasonP@emanuelhouston.org.

Brotherhood BBQ Crawl

The Brotherhood headed out on a BBQ crawl on February 23. Traveling around town on an air-conditioned bus, the crawl featured stops at four restaurants – Blood Bros, Jackson Street BBQ, Luling BBQ and Brookstreet BBQ. Special thanks to event chairs Syd Waldman & Paul Franks for organizing the outing.
Real Men Make Chocolate Matzah
Tuesday, April 7, 6:00 p.m.

Come one, come all! Roll up your sleeves and gather with other men (as well as kids and special friends) at Emanu El just before Passover to make yummy chocolate matzah treats!

Matzah and awesome toppings provided at no cost! Just bring your creativity and love of food and fellowship. This event including a pizza dinner, sponsored by the Brotherhood.

Please RSVP by visiting our website or by calling the synagogue so that we can plan appropriately.

7th Annual Second Night Seder
Thursday, April 9, 6:00 p.m.

This multi-generational evening led by the Congregation Emanu El clergy team will feature a fully catered meal by Houston Catering Concepts that will include all the traditional seder items, from matzah ball soup to gefilte fish.

The cost for the event is $40 for adult members, $55 for adult non-members and $20 for children (12 and under). The deadline for registration will be Wednesday, April 1 or upon reaching our capacity of 350 participants. Should seats remain open, a limited number will become available at a cost of $60 per person.

Those members of our congregation who are seeking financial assistance or are interested in donating toward making seder accessible for members of our community are encouraged to reach out to Program Director Jason Plotkin at jasonp@emanuelhouston.org or 713.535.6414.

When registering, attendees can select gluten-free or vegetarian dietary options so arrangements can be made. For more information, please contact Jason Plotkin, 713.535.6414 or jasonp@emanuelhouston.org.

Helfman Religious School Committee Conducting Passover Candy Sale

The Helfman Religious School Committee (HRSC) is conducting a Passover candy sale through Sunday, March 15, featuring Kosher for Passover Barton's Chocolates and Jennie's Macaroons. Online orders will be shipped directly to your office or home. Shipping is free with orders of $100 or more.

To place your order:

Visit the Miss Chocolate website at https://shop.misschocolate.com/

Enter the Helfman Religious School Seller ID (710010), and click the adjacent blue bar labeled “CLICK HERE TO START SHOPPING.”

Select “Kosher for Passover” from the shopping categories on the left side of the page.

The committee will receive 40% of all sales purchased through our Seller ID. Funds raised by the HRSC enrich Jewish education at Emanu El through programs including Greene Family Camp scholarships, retreats, holiday happenings, parent and family education, teacher and TA shirts, and professional development.

Thank you for supporting Helfman Religious School.

Sisterhood’s New Traditions Gift Shop Prepares for Passover

New items are arriving for Passover at the Sisterhood’s New Traditions gift shop.

Seder plates, matzo covers, afikomen bags, toys and games, cookbooks, hostess gifts and so much more. The gift shop also has four different kinds of Haggadahs from which to choose.

New Traditions is open Monday - Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. when Helfman Religious School is in session. Purchases at New Traditions help Sisterhood fulfill its commitment to the support of our congregation and the community. For more information, please call 713.529.5771, ext. 234.
Please join
Rabbi Joshua Fixler, Rabbi Oren Hayon,
Rabbi Pamela Silk, and Cantor Rollin Simmons
for Congregation Emanu El's

Second Night Seder

Thursday, April 9, 2020 | 6:00 pm
Kindly RSVP by Wednesday, April 1, 2020

Reserve your spot online at emanuelhouston.org or by returning the form below to
Congregation Emanu El, 1500 Sunset Blvd, Houston, TX 77005

BEGINNING APRIL 2ND, A LIMITED AMOUNT OF SPACES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR $60 PER PERSON.

SECOND NIGHT SEDER RESERVATION

I / WE WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE SEATS FOR:

_____ Adult Members ($40 each)  _____ Adult Non-Members ($55 each)  _____ Children 12 & under ($20 each)

qty  qty  qty

☐ In my absence or in addition to my reservation, I (we) would like to donate $_______ to allow our Seder to be
accessibe to those in need of financial assistance or are new to our community.

DIETARY INFORMATION (OPTIONAL):  _____ Vegetarian meal(s)  _____ Gluten-Free meal(s)

qty  qty

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

Total Amount: $__________

Name: ________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________  City/State/Zip: _______________________

☐ Enclosed is my check, made payable to Congregation Emanu El.

☐ Please charge my credit card:  ☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard  ☐ American Express

Cardholder Name: ____________________________________________  Expiration: _________

Card Number: _______________  Security Code: _______

Phone: ___________________________  Email: _______________________________________

PREFERRED SEATING, IF AVAILABLE (OPTIONAL):

☐ The Classics (50’s and 60’s)  ☐ Emanu El Young Professionals

☐ My Generation (65+)  ☐ Widow to Widow
The year is 1852; the location is the bountiful cotton plantation of Mordecai Mannheim, a Jewish immigrant from Germany whose fortunes prospered in northern Georgia. His only child, Adelaide, is given a young slave, Rachel, for her 14th birthday. The two become confidants and discover that Mordecai was also Rachel's father. As the girls move toward adulthood, the country moves toward war. This novel follows the sisters' individual and collective journeys, through love and resentment, to betrayal, and, ultimately, forgiveness.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their lunch. Desserts and snacks will be provided.

Please register online by visiting our web calendar at emanuelhouston.org or by calling the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771, ext. 233 so that we can plan accordingly.
Marlee Matlin Serves as Emanu El's 2019-2020 Endowment Speaker

Academy Award winning actress Marlee Matlin (right), accompanied by her longtime sign language interpreter Jack Jason made an appearance at Congregation Emanu El in late January as she presented, Nobody’s Perfect: Achieving Inclusion, Diversity and Access. The event was part of the congregation’s 2019-20 Endowment Series and kicks off the eighth annual, ten-plus-days ReelAbilities Houston Film & Arts Festival which is produced by the JFS Alexander Institute for Inclusion.

Over 700 attendees attended the festivities which were enhanced by captioning, hearing loops, American Sign Language interpreters and more in order to make the night inclusive for all who filled the Barish Sanctuary. Matlin’s appearance continues a trend of big-name speakers at Congregation Emanu El in recent years including journalist Carl Bernstein and the Reverend William Barber.

Longing & Belonging: Songs of Home

Cantor Rollin Simmons (right) was joined by a talented group of musicians for her Longing & Belonging: Songs of Home concert in late January. Becker School teacher Alex Venzke (left) and Helfman Religious School music teacher Emily Moses (center) were two of the talented musicians who contributed to the evening’s musical offerings.

Helfman Religious School Hosts Annual 4th Grade Model Wedding

The model wedding took a new twist this year for Helfman Religious School fourth graders as four sets of parents from this year’s class renewed their vows and modeled the wedding for the fourth-grade class. The model wedding was featured on the front page of the Jewish Herald Voice in an article, which can be found on the jhvonline.com website.
UPCOMING PROGRAMMING OFFERINGS FOR AFFINITY GROUPS & SPECIAL INTERESTS AT EMANU EL

Congregation Emanu El is actively seeking to create groups within our community to serve various ages, stages and interests. Are you interested in forming a group like the offerings listed below?

Contact Elizabeth Townsend at 713.529.5771, ext. 222 or elizabetht@emanuelhouston.org, or Jason Plotkin at 713.535.6414 or jasomp@emanuelhouston.org.

**Monthly Mahj at Emanu El – Two Opportunities to Play**
**First Thursdays, 5:30 p.m. & Third Mondays, 1:00 p.m.**

Our next first-Thursday evening group of Mahj players in the Stillman-Lack Library takes place on **Thursday, March 5**. A nominal $5 fee covers drinks and dinner. Novice and advanced players welcome! The next edition in the series will be **Thursday, April 2**. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Elizabeth Townsend at elizabetht@emanuelhouston.org or 713.529.5771, ext. 222. You may also RSVP online by visiting our website calendar.

The third-Monday afternoon group continues on **Monday, March 16**. Please RSVP to the Sisterhood at sishood@emanuelhouston.org or 713.529.5771, ext. 233.

**Emanu El Young Professionals:**
**Purim on Tap**
**Monday, March 9, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**
True Anomaly Brewing Co. (2012 Dallas St.)

Join Emanu El’s Young Professionals group for Purim on Tap: Esther, Vashti and #MeToo, hosted by Rabbi Fixler.

In the Purim story, Esther and Vashti both face subjugation at the hand of lecherous men, and each finds her own path to resistance and power. But, can the book of Esther be considered an early feminist text; and what can it teach us in the era of #MeToo about how to empower victims to find their voices. Join us for this honest and creative look at the story of the holiday. Plus, it’s Purim so, of course the first drink is on us.

To help us prepare for the event, we ask that you please register online or by calling us at 713.529.5771. You may also email Elizabeth Townsend at elizabetht@emanuelhouston.org.

This event is partially underwritten by funding from the Houston Jewish Community Foundation.

**My Generation Shabbat Dinner**
**Friday, March 20 following 6:00 p.m. Shabbat services**

All are invited to join My Generation, Emanu El’s group for those 65 and older on **Friday, March 20** for a dinner with friends following the conclusion of the synagogue’s

**6:00 p.m. Shabbat worship service. Have a chance to schmooze and catch up with friends, old and new.**

The cost of dinner is $15 with advanced registration by **Wednesday, March 18** required so we can prepare accordingly. To register, visit our web calendar at emanuelhouston.org, or call the synagogue at 713.529.5771. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Spring is the Reason! Classics Post-Shabbat Dinner**
**Friday, March 20, following 6:00 p.m. Shabbat services**
**Qin Dynasty (5115 Buffalo Speedway)**

Join the Classics for dinner and be a part of our group as we welcome the spring season at Qin Dynasty, at approximately 7:15 p.m. The restaurant will accommodate separate checks.

To help us plan accordingly and provide the restaurant with a proper count, please register online through our website or call 713.529.5771 by **Wednesday, March 18**. We look forward to seeing you there!

**The Classics: Houston Japanese Garden & Dinner**
**Sunday, April 26, 2:30 p.m.**

Have a stroll through Houston’s Japanese Garden at Hermann Park with the Classics followed by a taste of Japan at an authentic Japanese restaurant.

The Japanese Garden was designed by world-renowned landscape architect, Ken Nakajima. Natural materials are used, such as rock, wood, and plants, to give a feeling of serenity to this peaceful hideaway in Hermann Park with 5.5 acres of waterfalls, bridges, and stone paths that wander among crepe myrtles, azaleas, Japanese maples, dogwoods, and cherry trees.

The entrance to the Japanese Garden is located near the Pioneer Memorial obelisk, just off Molly Ann Smith Plaza (by the Heart of the Park). The closest parking lot is Lot A located off Sam Houston Monument circle.

From Lot A, follow the granite path along the Jones Reflection Pool under the double alley of trees and you’ll find the entrance just off the plaza with the obelisk. View the Hermann Park Map by visiting https://www.hermannpark.org/visit/interactive-map/.

The group will meet at the garden entrance at 2:30 p.m. Look for a sign that reads, “The Classics.”

There is no charge to enter the Houston Japanese Garden. Following the garden stroll (approximately 4:30 p.m.), the Classics will enjoy authentic Japanese cuisine.
(purchased individually) at Zen Japanese Izakaya (2015 South Shepherd Dr). Walking into Zen feels like entering a restaurant in Ginza, Tokyo.

While there is no fee for this event, we are requesting RSVPs to plan accordingly. Whether you plan to attend one or both parts of the afternoon, please RSVP online at emanuelhouston.org or call 713.529.5771 to reserve your spot today.

Classics Hosts Wine & Chocolate Event at Nos Caves Vin

Ed Klein, Rebecca Lunstroth and Pam Kutner are pictured at Nos Caves Vin in mid-February at an event the Classics – Emanu El’s group for those in their 50s and 60s – hosted featuring a wine and chocolate pairing. The group has events slated for March and April, which can be found in this edition of the Bulletin.

Emanu El Meditation Group
Saturday Mornings, 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Are you interested in reducing stress, enhancing your performance, and gaining insight and awareness of yourself and others? Consider joining Emanu El’s Mindfulness Mediation group on Shabbat mornings. Jewish values and influences are often incorporated, and many find that it enhances their own practice of Judaism.

Certified and experienced leaders include Jan Silver, Susan Berdinis and Martin Lindenberg. All levels from beginner to advanced meditators are welcome.

The first Saturday of each month is dedicated to beginners with an introduction to Mindfulness. Experience a basic practice, discuss bringing mindfulness into your daily life and have your questions answered. Please consider joining us! For more information, please contact Sandy Brochstein at sandybtx@sbcglobal.net or Heidi Kaplan at heidi.b.kaplan@gmail.com.

Emanu El Volunteer Choir
Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

Emanu El’s Volunteer Choir has been an active group this year, performing at various venues across town and taking part in the congregation’s Purim Schpiel. Following a busy fall, an active spring is on the docket!

All members of the congregation are invited to join the choir by contacting Richard Zoll at richard.zoll@yahoo.com. Please make sure to contact Richard to verify the rehearsal schedule for the month.

Donations to the Sisterhood Flower Fund

For donations to the Sisterhood Flower Fund (for the Shabbat handout) please make checks payable to “Congregation Emanu El Sisterhood” and mail or drop off to Donna Fraley at the synagogue, 1500 Sunset Blvd, Houston, TX 77005. Donations can also be made online at www.emanuelhouston.org. Please make sure to specify which Shabbat service(s) you would like your flower fund donation listed. In order to ensure the donations are listed, we ask that they be at the synagogue no later than the Wednesday before Shabbat.
Helfman Enrollment is Open

Early Enrollment Runs Through Sunday, March 8.

Enrollment for the 2020-21 Helfman Religious School year takes place online using Emanu El’s online portal.

Click the link below and log on to your account.

www.emanuelhouston.org/school_enrollment.php

Fill out all of the required information.

Payment of the $100 per child, non-refundable, registration fee is necessary to confirm your enrollment. Payment must be made online.

We will confirm enrollment(s) once the forms are complete and the registration fee is paid. The balance of the tuition will then be added to your account and is due by Monday, August 31.

If you have any questions, please contact Gail Shapiro at GailS@emanuelhouston.org or 713.535.6400.

Tot Shabbats in March & April

Friday, March 6, Dinner 5:45 p.m.; Service 6:30 p.m.
Friday, April 3, Dinner 5:45 p.m.; Service 6:30 p.m.

Families with young children are invited to join Congregation Emanu El for our monthly Tot Shabbat!

All are invited to wear your favorite hats, boots, bandanas in March for our annual Rodeo Tot Shabbat! The evening will begin at 5:45 p.m. with dinner featuring BBQ favorites along with vegetarian and gluten-free options.

The cost for dinner is $4 for children and $8 for adults. The cost will increase to $5 for children and $10 for adults on the day of the event or at the door for those who have not registered previously.

This optional dinner will be followed by our service at 6:30 p.m. Our Shabbat worship will have a Rodeo twist followed by a short and sweet Oneg.

Our April Tot Shabbat will head outdoors for dinner! Join us under a big tent for burgers and veggie burgers fresh off the grill. All the toppings and more await our guests with vegetarian and gluten-free options available as always.

The cost for dinner is $4 for children and $8 for adults. The cost will increase to $5 for children and $10 for adults on the day of the event or at the door for those who have not registered previously.

Following dinner, we’ll head inside for a special musical Tot Shabbat as nationally known musician Ellen Allard will join us in the Proler Chapel. Dubbed “The Queen of Jewish Early Childhood Music”, Allard has been performing children’s concerts for decades at synagogues, festivals and more – encouraging children and parents alike to join in on the singing, dancing, moving and grooving. Simply put, you won’t want to miss it!

Join Emanu El Young Families at Fire Truck Park

Sunday, April 26, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Join Emanu El Young Families for a fun morning at Fire Truck Park (3743 Garnet)!

We invite all families with kids ages 6 and under to come together for a fun morning at the park, and snacks will be provided. As the event will take place from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., if you have older sibling(s) attending Helfman Religious School, you can bring the younger one(s) to the park after drop-off.

To RSVP, visit emanuelhouston.org or call 713.529.5771. For more information, please contact Paula Katz at becdir@emanuelhouston.org.

This event was created by the Early Childhood Advisory Committee and will be a way for both parents and children to socialize in a casual environment.
Dad & Me Heads to the Dynamo
Sunday, May 3, 3:00 p.m.

Join Emanu El’s newest small group - Dad & Me - tailored to fathers and their children between the ages of 3 & 6.

Our first outing will be the Houston Dynamo game on Sunday, May 3 at 3:00 p.m. against the San Jose Earthquakes. Thanks to the Dynamo, we are able to offer a $12 ticket along the 200 level of the endline. When registering at https://bit.ly/3btxj8t, please indicate that you are with Congregation Emanu El to have your tickets will placed within our group.

We are looking for volunteers to spearhead future gatherings of Dad & Me. This group is all about laid back get togethers throughout the year. It’s always guaranteed to be so much fun!

For more information, please contact Jason Plotkin at jasonp@emanuelhouston.org or 713.535.6414.

Brotherhood CoTY Selection Meeting
Thursday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m.

All men of the Congregation are invited to join the Brotherhood on Thursday, March 5 at Escalantes, 590 Meyerland Plaza, for our annual Ernest Krautkopf Congregant of the Year selection meeting. The meeting will begin with dinner at 6:30 p.m. before the selection begins.

The deadline to submit nominations for this award are due to Ben Miller at bpmiller82@gmail.com or via envelope in the Brotherhood box at the synagogue by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3. Sitting members of Emanu El’s executive board, members of Emanu El senior staff and posthumous nominees are not eligible.

To help us plan accordingly four meeting, we are asking that you RSVP online at www.emanuelhouston.org or by calling the synagogue at 713.529.5771.

Congregant of the Year
Wednesday, May 13, 6:30 p.m.

Each year, Brotherhood selects the Ernest Krautkopf Congregant of the Year, honoring an outstanding member of Emanu El. Named for Ernest Krautkopf, a longtime member of Emanu El who served this congregation and the community as an “unsung hero,” this award is given each year to a congregant who has devoted years of service to the Emanu El community and to the community at large.

This year’s Congregant of the Year will be formally announced later this month, with invitations to follow shortly thereafter. Please note that this Bulletin went to print prior to the selection meeting in early March.

To register for the Congregant of the Year dinner, complete the form online at emanuelhouston.org, or return the response card included within the invitation that will come in the weeks ahead.

For more information, contact Jason Plotkin at 713.535.6414 or jasonp@emanuelhouston.org.

Emanu El Recruiting for Annual Synagogue Men’s Softball League

The Sunday Softball League started again in February. The games are held at Bayland Park on Sunday mornings. If anyone has any questions, please contact Alford Bleeker at 281.352.0477 or via e-mail at vableeker@yahoo.com.
EMANU EL AT A GLANCE THROUGH APRIL 21

The below information contains a listing of events at Emanu El exclusive of our worship and Shabbat schedule, which can be found monthly on page 2.

As a congregation, we communicate in many ways. This calendar is supplemented by information that can be found throughout this edition of the Bulletin, the weekly Shabbat program, the weekly eLetter, on our website, and on our Facebook page.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

3/3 – Emanu Elders, 11:30 a.m.
3/5 – Emanu El Mahj Night, 5:30 p.m.
3/5 – Brotherhood Congregant of the Year Meeting & Dinner, 6:30 p.m. (Escalantes, Meyerland Plaza)
3/6 – Rodeo Tot Shabbat, 5:45 p.m. (dinner), 6:30 p.m. (service)
3/8 – Purim Schpiel, 10:00 a.m., followed by Purim Carnival at 11:00 a.m.
3/9 – Gathering Place, 10:00 a.m.
3/9 – Purim on Tap: Esther, Vashti & #MeToo, 6:00 p.m. (True Anomaly Brewing Co., 2012 Dallas St.)
3/12 – Work of Our Hands, 10:00 a.m.
3/12 – Sisterhood Book Review: Sister of Mine by Sabra Waldfogel, 12:30 p.m.
3/16 – Emanu El Mahj Afternoon, 1:00 p.m.
3/17 – Kids’ Meals, 9:30 a.m.
3/19 – Taste of Talmud, 12:30 p.m.
3/20 – The Classics Post-Shabbat Dinner at Qin Dynasty, service at 6:00 p.m. & dinner at 7:15 p.m.
3/20 – My Generation Post-Shabbat Dinner, services at 6:00 p.m. with dinner to follow at Emanu El
3/24 – Sack Lunches for SEARCH, 9:30 a.m.
3/27 – Before I Die - Kicking the Bucket List with Gail Rubin, 8:00 p.m. (preceded by dinner following Shabbat services)
3/29 – Before I Die- Estate Planning: Hollywood Myth versus Facts with Gail Rubin, 10:00 a.m.
3/31 – Kid Food: The Challenge of Feeding Children in a Highly Process World, featuring author Bettina Elias Siegel, 7:00 p.m.

APRIL

4/2 – Emanu El Mahj Night, 5:30 p.m.
4/3 – Tot Shabbat, 5:45 p.m. (dinner) & 6:30 p.m. (service, featuring Ellen Allard)
4/7 – Emanu Elders, 11:30 a.m.
4/9 – Work of Our Hands, 10:00 a.m.
4/9 – Second Night Seder, 6:00 p.m.
4/13 – Gathering Place, 10:00 a.m.
4/16 – Taste of Talmud, 12:30 p.m.
4/19 – Emanu El Annual Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
4/19 – Citywide Yom HaShoah Service, 3:00 p.m. (at Brith Shalom)
4/20 – Emanu El Mahj Afternoon, 1:00 p.m.
4/21 – Kids Meals, 9:30 a.m.

NEXT BULLETIN TO BE ISSUED: TUESDAY, APRIL 7

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome Our Newest Members

We are pleased to welcome the newest members to our congregational family. Please be sure to introduce yourself to our newcomers as they become a part of our community.

Gal & Alexis Barbut, son Ari
Barbara Drell
Marc & Lori Gorewitz

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 Elizabeth Townsend at elizabetht@emanuelhouston.org or 713.529.5771, ext. 222.

2020-21 Annual Commitment Letters Coming Soon!

By the end of March, all members will receive a large envelope in the mail with their personalized cover letter and the 2020-21 Annual Commitment form.

Our fiscal year begins May 1 and as such, our goal is to have all members set their commitment level for the coming year. We ask each household either return a completed form or reach out to the office for a confidential conversation about your annual commitment.

If you have not received your annual commitment envelope by Wednesday, April 15, please contact the synagogue at 713.529.5771 or email Tiffany Siegel at tiffanys@emanuelhouston.org so that we can send you another one.

Sponsoring an Oneg

Do you want to sponsor a pre-Neg prior to services or an Oneg following services in honor of a special occasion? Or perhaps in memory of the yarzheit of a loved one? The Sisterhood is ready to help you! Contact Jason Plotkin at jasonp@emanuelhouston.org or 713.535.6414 to verify availability before he connects you with our Oneg committee.
Thank you

RABBI’S CIRCLE
Anonymous
Andrew & Julie Alexander
David & Susie Askasane
Allen Becker
Mark & Barbara Brookner
Lawrence & Marlene Bursten
Bernice Feld
Marc & Judy Herzstein
Jerald Katz
Simon & Svetlana Kukes
Jarrod & Sarah Pollock
Joseph & Gloria Pryzant
Howard & Beverly Robinson
Franklin Rose & Cindl Harwood-Rose
Linda Rauch Suaman
Philip & Donna Tenenbaum
Lorraine Wulfe

William & Carolyn Caplan
Marilyn Caplovitz
Ann & Jeffrey Cummins
William & Pamela Daily
Joshua & Mindy Davidson
Helena Dreysli
Daniel & Gabriela Dror
David & Myrna Engler
Mark & Raime Estes
M. M. Feld, Jr. & Carole Feld
Barbara Feldman
Sheri Feldman
Keith & Marcia Fiman
Marvin & Gloria Fishman
Steven & Ivy Frank
Gary & Silvia Fritzhahn
Greg Galler
Lillian Gaylor
Stuart & Anita Gaylor
Barry & Carol Goodfriend
Gordon & Gastonia Goodman
Robert & Elinn Grossman
Don & Sandra Harris
Randi Herzstein
Susan Hirsch
Julie Muniz Johnson & Peter Johnson
Michael Kaplan & Laura Dew
Linda Kates
Evan & Nicole Katz
Edward & Caroline Kuntz
Amanda Leal & David Leal, III
Haran & Cheryl Levy
Gary & Joni Lewis
Sherry Lewis
Eric & Rhonda Lipper
Clarence & Jill Mayer
Stephen & Robbie Moskowitz
Jeannette Nestvold
Stephen Popkin & Linda Popkin-Paine
Richard & Bette Peskoff
Richard & Madgelyn Pesin
Alan & Alana Pulaski
Eric Pulaski
Richard & Joy Pulaski
Bart & Ilene Putterman
Leland & Carolyn Putterman
Martin & Adele Raper
Albert & Andrea Ratzner
Mark & Nancy Reichek
Don Robins & Kathryn Fox Slater
Malley Robinson
Alexander Ropper & Kathleen Chen
Maury & Rikki Rubenstein
J. Victor & Barbara Samuels
Richard Schectner
Richard & Michelle Schoenberg
Herman Schultz
Michael & Linda Shabot
Todd & Stephanie Slobin
Sandra L. Smith Herzstein
Saul Solomon & Anabella Guzman
Sylvia Solomon
Michael & Rona Sonabend
Norman & Gill Stalaarow
Robert & Martha Stein
Dan & Patti Steiner
Sheldon & Bonnie Vedlitz
Michael Vogel & Merri Schneider-Vogel
Donald & Robin Wayne
Richard & Eileen Westerman
Michael & Carol Wilk
Vic & Shelley Wisner

FRIENDS/CHAVERIM
Marilyn Albert
Anonymous (18)
Jeffrey & Julie Applebaum
Scott & Nancy Atlas
Sybil Balasco
David & Juli Baskin
Eric & Daphne Bernicker
Mitch & Dawn Blitz
Gary & Bonnie Blumberg
Melissa Bondy
Scott & Leslie Bormaster
Jeff & Laurie Bricker
Steven & Sylvia Brody
Richard & Claire Brooks
Madeline Bunch
Richard & Jennie Buxbaum
Michael & Amy Coburn
Brad & Anna Eastman
Pablo Eissner & Tamara Saron-Eissner
Cindy Ewens
Arthur Feldman & Jeri Amundsen
Steven Fenberg
Milton Finegold
Aaron & Peri Fink
Benjamin & Jennifer Fink
Avinr Fishkind & Wendy Hawkins
Benjamin & Michelle Frankfort
Paul & Fidel Franks
Donald & Martha Freedman
Seth & Khonda Freedman
Paul Friedman & Joanna Kornfeld
Aaron & Stephanie Gabelnick
Andrew Gaidner
Simon & Rebecca Garfield
Arthur Gelber & Jill Friedman
Howard & Teri Gerber
Maynard & Arlyne Gimble
Burt & Deborah Ginsburg
Franklin & Ellen Gittess
Andrew & Colleen Gold
Ian Goldfoot
Robert & Julie Goodfriend
Roger & Vicki Greenberg
Stephen & Lisa Greenberg
Alexander Gurevich
Ricky & Roslyn Haikin
Michelle & Brian Hendry
Ralph Herrig
Jordan & Lindsay Hirsch
Alan & Ellen Holzberg
Harris & Joy Jacobs
Edward & Susan Kahn
Matthew & Katherine Kardesch
Daniel & Kate Katz
Ben & Cynthia Klein
Lawrence Lachman & Virginia Kennedy
Randal & Allyson Lack
Joel Lasar
Murice & Suzanne Leibman
Robert & Denise Leisten
Harris & Deborah Leven
Irv Levine & Barbara Black Levine
Gary Lew & Ronnie Kurtin
Barry & Rachael Liechman
Robert Light
Elton & Janet Lipnick
Bruce Loeser
James Longhofer
Rebecca & Lost Lustroth
Paul & Linda Lynn
Gary & Kathy Marks
Robert & Joan Marshak
Michael & Michele Marvin
Wesley Mayer & Geraldine Daumerie
Benjamin & Rebecca Miller
Susan & David Morris
Dennis Mulstrand & Vinh Phan
Marco Nikolayevsky & Jessica Zachary
Judith & Alfred Osborn
Gene & Karen Oshman
Rick & Tania Oshman
Jonathan & Kathryn Paine
Stephen & Kathy Farven
Herb & Vicki Pasternak
Murry & Karen Penner
Brett & Cindy Perlman
Allison & Ian Perry
Shari Pfeif
Marvin & Cynthia Pleason
Brett & Tiffany Podesky
Adam & Andrea Pogach
Bary Pulaski
Robert & Barbara Reichlin
Alexander & Amir Reiter
Keith & Debora Remels
Michael & Kahn Riben
Jean Rosenbaum
Robert & Amber Rosenblum
Adam & Lori Roth
James & Barbara Rubenstein
Michael & Cheryl Rubenstein
Howard & Roxanne Rubin
Marlene Rubin
Lee & Kathleen Rubinstein
Mark Sadykhov & Irene Sheytman
Dylan & Jordan Seff
Steven & Phyllis Segal
Joel & Claudia Seizer
Joshua & Alison Seitzman
Sanford & Carol Slobin
William & Sandra Smith
Jessica & Joshua Solera
James Solomon
Ruby Sondock
Amy Stool
Gary & Kimberly Taylor
Craig & Lori Teller
Rachael Tobor & Valerie Tuner
George & Kendall Vincent
Larry & Jane Wagner
Milton Wagner
Susan Weingarten & John Arrsparger
Philip & Marcia Weinstein
Terry & Susie Wizig
Gary Wolf & Star Borden-Wolf
Frank & Linda Yelin
Rowena Young & Buddy Steves
Jude Fairfield
William & Donna Zhukovsky
Garrison & Lauren Ziff
Richard & Linda Zoll

Congregation Emanu-El appreciates the enhanced commitments we’ve received from those listed below. These commitments allow us to continue to serve our wonderful community.
Emanu El to Participate in City-Wide Observance of Yom HaShoah
Sunday, April 19, 3:00 p.m.
Congregation Brith Shalom (4610 Bellaire)

Join Holocaust Museum Houston in observance of Yom HaShoah, a day of remembrance for the six million 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. The 2020 edition of the event will mark the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II and the liberation of the concentration camps.

Coordinated by the Yom HaShoah Steering Committee and Holocaust Museum Houston, this year’s gathering will take place at Congregation Brith Shalom, with Cantor Rollin Simmons participating in the service.

Emanu El has historically been a partner in the event and our congregation most recently hosted the Yom HaShoah commemoration in 2018.

Seeking Vehicles for Annual Becker Transportation Fair
Wednesday, April 22, 9:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

The Becker Transportation Fair is vrooming to a parking lot near you! The highly anticipated Becker Transportation Fair is only a month away, and we need your help! If you or someone you know owns or has access to a boat, motorcycle, tractor, race car, truck, limousine, off-road Jeep, or anything else that could be fun and of interest to our Becker children, please contact Jennifer Stockel at jbstockel@gmail.com or David Stockel at dstockel@sbcglobal.net.

Those non-Becker families or participants that would like to attend the Transportation Fair are encouraged to contact Leslie Strug at leslies@emanuelhouston.org or 713.529.5771, ext. 259.

World Zionist Congress Elections Underway

The World Zionist Congress elections are here, and it is time to have our voices heard in Israel! Each and every vote from our congregation is crucial to maintaining a strong Reform presence. This is our chance to combat the discrimination the Reform Movement faces in Israel. Together we can grow our Reform Movement and work towards making progress on the issues we care about: religious freedom, equality, and many more.

Voting is open now until March 11, 2020. Your vote in this election is the only democratic opportunity you have to influence Israeli society.

Here are step-by-step directions to VOTE REFORM!!

Go to www.zionistelection.org and click on the register and vote button.

The registration form will now appear on your screen; please fill out the required information and click submit.

A form asking for a verification number will now appear on your screen. Retrieve your verification number in your email or by text message. Enter the verification code and hit submit.

A payment page will then appear. Select your method of payment and complete the payment section. Once you have entered in your payment information click ‘Submit’.

You are now ready to vote for the Reform Slate! You will be asked to provide your email address and a ‘Voting PIN Code.’ You can retrieve your ‘Voting PIN Code’ by text message or email. Enter the information and click ‘Submit.

Select the “Vote Reform: ARZA Representing the Reform Movement and Reconstructing Judaism” option! We will be listed 2nd on the ballot. Choose only one Slate. Click the ‘Submit’ button to confirm you are voting for the slate you want and click the ‘Vote’ button. And you’re done! All in under 10 minutes.

If you need a paper ballot, one can be downloaded and printed at www.azm.org/elections.

After you have voted, please take just another minute and email wz02020@emanuelhouston.org to let us know you voted. We want to know how many of our congregants participated in this very important election. Questions? Need help? Just send an email to wz02020@emanuelhouston.org, and one of us will contact you as quickly as we can.

Recap from Emanu El Immigration Panel

On Thursday, February 11, Congregation Emanu El hosted a panel discussion on immigration that focused on educating the audience on issues with legal immigration, the current migrant crisis, and the overall economic impact immigrants have on our city and our country.
The panel, sponsored by Sisterhood and Brotherhood, featured Tatiana Obando, Managing Attorney of RAICES), Gordon J. Quan of Quan Law Group, PLLC and Brett Perlman of the Center For Houston's Future.

Each of these speakers brought a unique perspective on immigration and offered suggestions about ways in which the audience members could learn more and find volunteer opportunities.

The Reform Action Center – Texas (RAC-TX) has selected immigration reform as one of its campaigns for 2020. Emanu El is supporting RAC-TX in their work on this issue in Houston and across the state; if you are interested in learning more about that work feel free to reach out to fredi Bleeker Franks (fredi.bleeker@gmail.com) who is on the RAC-TX Immigration Research Team, Rabbi David Segal (dsegal@rac.org) the Texas Lead Organizer for RAC, or Rabbi Josh Fixler (rabbifixler@emanuelhouston.org).

An encore viewing of the event can be seen on the Congregation’s Facebook page and website, under the archives from the Proler Chapel.

New Photo Exhibit on Display in Robert I. Kahn Art Gallery

This famous photograph, Soldier at the Wall, is by Israeli photojournalist Micha Ba-Am and has been a part of the Emanu El art collection in the Robert I. Kahn Gallery since 1986.

Our art committee recently changed the exhibit in the Kahn Gallery to feature dozens of pieces from the synagogue’s extensive collection of photographs. This display is being presented at the time that Fotofest International Biennial 2020 is being presented in venues all around Houston.

Southwest Association of Reform Rabbis Conference Held at Emanu El

The Southwest Association of Reform Rabbis (SWARR) held their annual Kallah at Congregation Emanu El. Over 40 clergy members from Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma attended the conference which was planned by our very own Rabbi Pam Silk. The conference included one day at Beth Israel before moving to Emanu El for two days. Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) executive director Rabbi Hara Person and the CCAR president Rabbi Ron Segal attended the conference.
We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who remember and honor their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions through February 5, 2020.

ACCESS FOR ALL
To ensure Emanu El is a welcoming, accessible and inclusive community
In Honor of
The Speedy Recovery of
Irv Levine
Pat & Aaron Fradkin

In Memory of
Robert Mendelsohn
Pat & Aaron Fradkin

AUBREY & SYLVIA FARF COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND
To support small and emerging organizations that improve life for underserved Houstonians
In Honor of
The Bar Mitzvah of JJ Silk
Marilynne & Alford Bleeker

In Memory of
Aubrey Farb
Judy & Ken Arfa
Susie & David Askanase
Sara Astrich
Bonnie Beeran
Marilynne & Alford Bleeker
Beverly Borden
Laurie & Jeff Bricker
Sara Brook
Marilynn Caplovitz
Heidi Kaplan & Peter Christie
Rochelle Cyprus
Susan & Joseph Darsey
Debbie & Stu Diamond
Dee Dee Dohen
Andromeda Robert, Joe Hon, Peter Einhorn & Sarah Eckhardt
Nancy Ehrenkranz
Ariela Emery
Carol Emery
Marc Epstein
Charles Fairchild
Karen & Larry Feld
Steven Fenberg
Julie & Richard Fischer
Bobby Frank
fredi & Paul Franks
Ann & Kenny Friedman
Janet & Mickey Frost
Sandy & Andy Gaitz
Marsha & Sid Gerber
Lucille Gidseg
Carol & Barry Goodfriend
Marianne & Larry Greenfield
Robert Harris
Joni & Michael Hoffman
Sam Jacobson & Carl Josehart
Betty Duson & Al Kahn
Susan & Edward Kahn
Harla Kaplan
Linda Kates
Ann & Stephen Kaufman
Cele Keeper
Barbara & Geoffrey Koslov
Kim Koydemir
Barry Lack
Nora Kaufman
Richard Leibman
Cheryl & Haran Levy
Like Minds Communications
Myra Lipper
Barbara Loeser
Linda & Harris Miller
Lainie Gordon & David Minchberg
Sylvia & Marty Mintzer
Blakely Mitchell
Eric & Carol Adatto Nelson
Nancy & Ron Nodler
Lidya Kushner Osadchey
Linda & Jerry Paine
Kathy & Stephen Parven
Marla & Dick Parvey
Marlene & Howard Pressman
Gretchen Gemeinhardt & Becky Proler
Lila Rauch
Robin Robinowitz
Beverly & Howard Robinson
Linda & Jerry Rubenstein
Adele Segel
Amy & Clay Seigle
Claudia Pleasen Selzer
Rosemary Shepard
Ronna & Clayton Spitz
Robert & Lynn Goldman Sullivan
Linda Rauch Susman
Donna & Philip Tenenbaum
The Scolnick Family
Len Trombetta
Hilary & Peter Tyor
Marsha Wallace
Dolores Wilkenfeld
Jay Steinfeld & Barbara Winthrop
Shelley Wisner
Alan G. Woodbury
Judy & Ronnie Yambra
Joni & Richard Zlotowitz

Cyndy Sax
Ann & Kenny Friedman

Emily Weingarten-Stein
Marilynne & Alford Bleeker

CERSONSKY CEMETERY BEAUTIFICATION FUND
To maintain and enhance Emanu El Memorial Park
In Memory of
Aubrey Farb

Shirley Schnoll

EDIS LEWIS PARKANS EMANU ELDERS FUND
To provide programs for Emanu Elders
In Honor of
Sylvia & Steven Brody's Wedding Anniversary
Shirley Schnoll

ESTHER SHELBY FELLOWSHIP FUND
To provide food and refreshments for Emanu El programs that brings members closer to the congregation and to each other
In Memory of
Audrey Weiss
Jason Plotkin
FLORENCE & BEN BLUM LEADERSHIP FUND
To send Emanu El leadership to URJ Biennials and underwrite leadership programs and speakers
In Honor of Shel Vedlitz
The Speedy Recovery of Frank Karkowsky
Myra Lipper

In Memory of Cyndy Sax
Myra Lipper

FREDELL LACK EICHHORN CANTOR’S MUSIC FUND
To enhance musical programming
In Appreciation of Cantor Rollin Simmons
The Bris of Louis Bradford Borden
Courtney & Marc Borden

In Honor of Cantor Rollin Simmons
Phyllis & Jack Selber

In Memory of Rosalee Fink
Dr. & Mrs. Aaron Fink

GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND
To provide for the general needs of Emanu El and its facilities
In Memory of Jack J. Rush
William Spitz

GREENE FAMILY CAMP FUND
To support Greene Family Camp
In Honor of The Bat Mitzvah of Kate Fox Slater
Cindy & Steven Reiner

In Memory of Jake Fradkin
Sylvia Fradkin
Carol & Larry Fradkin
Cyndy Sax
Sara Astrich

JASON & DAVID MARCUS PLAYSPACE FUND
To maintain and enhance the playground
In Honor of The Marriage of Mr. & Mrs. Steve Gerdes
Ruby Sondock

In Memory of Sarah Fay Freedman
Ruby Sondock

JAY STERLING CHILDREN’S LIBRARY FUND
To maintain and enhance the children’s section of the Stillman-Lack Memorial Library
In Honor of Rabbi Joshua Fixler
Catherine & Matthew Cort

PRAYER BOOK FUND
To provide prayer books for worship
In Memory of Rosina Clarke
Sharon & Herb Cohn

RABBI ROY WALTER ENRICHMENT FUND
To support spiritual and cultural enrichment
In Honor of Rabbi Roy Walter
Morton Cohn – Esther Friedman Family Foundation

In Memory of Jake Fradkin
Sylvia Fradkin
Carol & Larry Fradkin
Cyndy Sax

RIVA BURSTEN CARING CONGREGATION FUND
To support programs that assist people in the community
In Honor of Vicki & Andy Bursten’s Birthday
Melanie Rasansky & Craig Litman

The Speedy Recovery of Bernie Berman
Pat & Aaron Fradkin

In Memory of Riva Bursten
Merry & Lowell Gordon

ROBERT I. KAHN SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND
To send congregants to the Consultation on Conscience at the Religious Action Center
In Appreciation of Rabbi Joshua Fixler
Rebecca Gibson & Colin Baker

RONALD BROCHSTEIN EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND
To enhance preschool education
In Memory of Aubrey Farb
Sandy & Richard Brochstein
Helene Zucker
Elaine & Alan Priesman

SISTERHOOD FUND
To provide for and enhance Sisterhood programming
In Honor of The Speedy Recovery of Fredi Franks
Kathy & Stephen Parven

STILLMAN-LACK MEMORIAL LIBRARY FUND
To maintain and enhance the Stillman-Lack Memorial Library
In Memory of Cyndy Sax
Carol Tuttle

TEMPLE FUND
To support the needs of the temple and to fulfill the mission of Congregation Emanu El
A Donation
Dennis Postel

In Honor of Carol & Barry Goodfriend
– 12 years & 100,000+ sack lunches of service to Kids’ Meals
Ina Perlman

The Speedy Recovery of Lawrence Kagan
Rolaine Abramson
Loretta Friedman & Harold Goldstein

In Memory of Leonid Buryakovsky
Patricia & Mark Rauch
William Cohen
Karen & Jeff Basen-Engquist

Aubrey Farb
Barbara Feldman
Nanette & Barry Puterman

Henia & Benjamin Friedberger
Gloria & Ben Tobar

Norman Kleiman
Patricia & Mark Rauch

Robert Mendelsohn
Carol & J. Desey Desenberg

Cyndy Sax
Nancy Israel
Nanette & Barry Puterman

Rob Schenberg
Sandy & Michael Wexler

Mary Stein Schultz
Herman Schultz
The Totally Rad 80s Schpiel
Sunday March 8 10:00 a.m.

Purim Carnival
MARCH 8 | 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
TICKETS, SPONSORSHIPS & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE ONLINE
EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG

ESTHER, VASHTI, AND #METOO
MONDAY 3.9.20
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG

Words Change the World
SISTERHOOD LUNCHEON
FEATURING BARBARA PIERCE BUSH
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
FIND OUT MORE: EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG/SISTERHOOD
BROTHERHOOD PRESENTS

REAL MEN
MAKE CHOCOLATE MATZAH

APRIL 7  6:00 PM
RSVP ONLINE
EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG

---

Congregation Emanu El

2020
ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, APRIL 19
9:30 AM
RSVP ONLINE
EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG

---

Before I Die

Featuring:
GAIL RUBIN
Certified Thanatologist, The Doyenne of Death®

Friday, March 27 @ 7:15 pm
Kicking the Bucket List
Dinner at Congregation Emanu El (RSVP required)

Saturday, March 28 @ 10:00 am
Death Café Conversations
Light breakfast at Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism (RSVP required)

Saturday, March 28 @ 2:00-4:30 pm
The Funeral Director on Film
National Museum of Funeral History
$10 includes all-day access to museum. Purchase tickets online or at the door.

Sunday, March 29 @ 10:00-11:30 am
Estate Planning: Hollywood Myth versus Facts
The Newly-Dead Game®
Light brunch at Congregation Emanu El (RSVP required)

Presented by:
WALDMAN FUNERAL CARE
713-875-4811
waldmanfuneralcare.com/before-i-die-houston

---

Affiliated with Hardin Family Funeral Home

Break the fast with Congregation Emanu El’s preferred caterer, Houston Catering Concepts and New York Deli & Coffee Shop!

NEW YORK DELI
CATERING
CONCEPTS

PLACE YOUR ORDERS TODAY!
WWW.HOUSTONCATCATERING.COM
SECOND NIGHT SEDER
THURSDAY, APRIL 9TH
6:00 PM
REGISTRATION OPENING SOON!
EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG

Houston’s Oldest Jewish Owned Headstone & Monument Company
Benches, Bronze Plaques, Crypt Faces & Restoration

Exclusively Jewish Memorials
Visit Our 30,000 Sq. Ft. Manufacturing Facility

Ask for Sandy Gaitz
Or Linda Spencer
281-888-5522

Emanuel El & Becker School Present
Bettina Elias Siegel
Author of
Kid Food: The Challenge of Feeding Children in a Highly Processed World
March 31st 7:00 PM

Rsvp Online: Emanuelhuston.org

Going beyond the call of duty.

I would love to guide you through the Real Estate process.
Terry Cominsky
Realtor Associate®
Circle of Excellence | Hall of Fame
713.558.3331
terry.cominsky@sothebyshomes.com

Martha Turner
Sotheby’s International Realty
Local Jewish Ownership Makes the Difference

Houston Jewish Funerals
Serving the Jewish Community since 2001
Jewish Heritage... Jewish Traditions... Jewish-owned and operated

713.666.0257 • HoustonJewishFunerals.com

Bernstein Realty 35 years

Melinda Gordon
713.256.9145 | mgordon@bernsteinrealty.com

Judy Levin
713.204.8807 | jlevin@bernsteinrealty.com

PLEASE CONTACT US FOR A FREE MARKET EVALUATION OF YOUR HOME!

713.932.1032 | BernsteinRealty.com | @BernsteinRealty
Save the Date for Launch Party of Rabbi Hayon’s New Book

Please make plans to join us on Tuesday, May 5 at 6:30 p.m. for a launch party for Rabbi Hayon’s new book entitled, *Inscribed: Encounters with the Ten Commandments*.

The evening will include light bites, a chance to get your copy of the book signed, and a short program.

More information to come.