



Congregation Emanu El

Bulletin

APRIL 2024 | ADAR II – NISAN 5784

VOLUME 78 NUMBER 7

FROM RABBI HAYON



One morning on our recent congregational trip to Morocco, I spent some time in conversation with Mohamed, our local guide who has lived in Morocco for his entire life. We were talking together about the factors that have made Morocco so unique in the Muslim and Arab worlds as a place of religious tolerance and political moderation.

The ability to curb one's own desires in order to enhance the well-being of those around us is at the heart of Jewish ethics; each of the holy days of our year invites us to exercise this spiritual muscle in new and productive ways.

Mohamed suggested that in Morocco, culture shapes policy, rather than the other way around. From his perspective, the monarchy has a long legacy of embracing modesty and humility as cherished social values. For this reason, the social culture tends to reward generosity and temperance rather than selfishness and unbridled ambition. "We have come to understand that our country has enough resources to fulfill everyone's need," he said, "but it cannot fulfill everyone's greed."

I find myself thinking a lot about Mohamed's insight as we approach this year's celebration of Passover. We are all familiar with the seder's proclamation: "Let all who are hungry come and eat." We open the door for Elijah, symbolically opening our homes to those who do not share our resources or our privileges. The seder is itself a symbolic invitation to those who hunger to find their

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

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

Registration is open online at emanuelhouston.org/second seder2024. A printed version is also available in this *Bulletin* edition if you prefer to register by mail. The deadline to register is **Friday, April 12**. The cost to attend Seder is \$48 for members, \$60 for non-members, and \$20 for children 12 and under.

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

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



CONGREGANT
OF THE YEAR LUNCHEON
& ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, APRIL 14
RSVP ONLINE
EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG/CALENDAR

T 713.529.5771
F 713.529.0703

1500 Sunset Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77005

EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG

SHABBAT WORSHIP

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

Shabbat Sh'mini

Friday, April 5

5:45 p.m., Tot Shabbat Dinner
6:00 p.m., Kabbalat Shabbat, Proler Chapel
6:15 p.m., Tot Shabbat Service

Saturday, April 6

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

Shabbat Tazria

Friday, April 12

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

Saturday, April 13

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel
10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Barish Sanctuary
B'not Mitzvah of **Annie Blitz**, daughter of Dawn & Mitch Blitz, and **Julia Brooks**, daughter of Dr. Kenneth Brooks and Dr. Lara Friel

Shabbat M'tzora

Friday, April 19

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

Saturday, April 20

10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Proler Chapel
10:30 a.m., Morning Service, Barish Sanctuary
Bar Mitzvah of **Owen Blumberg**, son of Justin & Becky Blumberg

Chol HaMo-eid Pesach

Friday, April 26

6:00 p.m., Kabbalat Shabbat, Proler Chapel
Featuring Robert I. Kahn Scholar in Residence
Rabbi Nancy Wiener

Saturday, April 27

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

FROM RABBI HAYON *continued from page 1*

needs fulfilled by the generosity of our community's resources and the abundance of our own human hearts.

In the Torah's description of the very first Passover ritual, each Israelite household in Egypt is commanded to slaughter a lamb and share its meat with the members of its own family. But, keenly aware that not all families are blessed with equal resources, the text goes on to stipulate that every household should be prepared to share their food with a neighbor who may not have the means to purchase a lamb and provide a holiday meal for themselves. This is not merely a practical lesson about the observance of the holiday rituals, but a moral one: God's primary concern is that the Jewish community will govern itself with the values of modesty and restraint, in order to ensure that everyone's basic needs will be met.

Being willing to place limits on one's own appetites, to act with modesty and generosity, is an important spiritual practice. It can exert a powerful effect on the moral character of a community and even, as I learned in Morocco, on the culture of an entire nation. The ability to curb one's own desires in order to enhance the well-

being of those around us is at the heart of Jewish ethics; each of the holy days of our year invites us to exercise this spiritual muscle in new and productive ways.

I pray our celebrations of Passover – and all the days that follow – will bring us to a deeper appreciation of these religious values, and to a firmer commitment to humility and coexistence, and an abiding concern for the welfare of those around us.



Find Us On YouTube!

Looking for a one-stop shop to catch the latest worship services, musical selections, videos from our schools and more?

Find us on YouTube by searching "Emanu El Houston Video" and subscribe today!

LIFECYCLE EVENTS

WEDDING

Haley Rauch & Zachary Lessig

BIRTH

Ellyana Rivka Annabella Bond, daughter of Sarah & Steve Bond; granddaughter of Tracy & Gary Branfman and Susan Monty Branfman & Jimmy Goldman; great-granddaughter of Ann Monty

DEATHS

Natalie Brier, mother of Connie & Allen Brier and Betty Littrell & Bennett Brier; grandmother of Angela Fort and Jessica Brier & Beth Payne Brier; great-grandmother of Halley Fort

Edward Eastman, husband of Ingrid Eastman; father of Debbie & Samuel Robbins, Lillian & Danny Schwartz, and Russell and Louis Eastman; grandfather of Paige & Robby Hicks, Mitchell and Bonnie Robbins, and Elly and Myla Schwartz; sibling of Carolyn and Sharon Eastman

Thelma Fixler, mother of Peter Fixler and Barbara & Michael Fixler; grandmother of Annie & Rabbi Josh Fixler, David Fixler, Nathan Fixler, and Judy Fixler & Joe Heimberger; great-grandmother of Ella, Dani, and Fredi Fixler

Jean Hayden, father of Marsha & Mark Klaff 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

Alexander Kauffman, son of Audrey & Richard Kauffman; grandson of Shelly Cyprus; sibling of Annie Kauffman

Donald Maierson, husband of Ruth Maierson; father of Shari Maierson, Tabitha & Mark Maierson, and Ngan & Jeff Maierson; grandfather of Emma, Adam, Abigail, Winston, and Melanie Maierson; sibling of Allan Maierson

Jan Shelby, wife of Arnold Shelby; mother of Nadia & Neil Shelby and Adriana & Ryan Shelby; grandmother of Lyla, Jake, Wyatt, and Emma Shelby

Ronna Spitz, wife of Clayton Spitz; mother of Rebecca Schenker & Jason Spitz and Sarah Spitz & Adam Hockenberry; grandmother of Ari and Ezra Spitz and Julian Hockenberry; sibling of Eric and Louis Solomon

Howard Teller, husband of Florence Teller; father of Marci & Neil Walters and Norie & Lawrence Teller; grandfather of Jacob Teller and Daisy and Natalie Walters

Janet Tobias, wife of Barry Tobias; mother of Terri Bamberger and Randi Goldberg & Bobbie Andrews; grandmother of Michelle Goldberg & John Beilue, Amanda & Andrew Becraft, and Brian Bamberger

Marcia Weinstein, wife of Phillip Weinstein; mother of Emily & Adam Weinstein and Amy & Marc Granoff; grandmother of Zoe and Jules Weinstein and Noa and Mason Granoff; sibling of Risë Kogon & Fred Ruf

A Notice About Bereavement Communications

Bereavement notices for our temple family are distributed with the permission of the deceased's family, and the timing of these notices is dictated by the family's request. Of course, each family grieves in its own way, and we are grateful for our congregation's patience and understanding with different families' preferences about how their loss is publicized.

Our clergy want to know . . .

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

Contact the synagogue at 713.529.5771, so that our rabbis can reach out and visit and be a source of strength and support.

Visiting the sick and praying for those who are ill are important and meaningful mitzvot.



Spiritual Eldering

Miniseries Coming to Emanu El

Starting Wednesday, April 3, 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

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



Rabbi Seth Stander

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

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

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

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

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



NEW! Not Your Mom's Passover Recipe Exchange

Wednesday, April 3, 6:00 p.m.

The Women of Gen X Kehillah invite you to join in sharing your favorite Passover recipes while enjoying some wine and treats. Come to schmooze samples and get recipes while also enjoying wine and treats. Bring a sample of your favorite dish and lite bites will also be provided. Don't have time to cook? Don't let that stop you! Just bring a copy of your favorite recipe to share.

Kehillot is the Hebrew word for communities. At Congregation Emanu El, we are all part of one big *kehillah*, but we also have smaller communities that you can be a part of. Interested in forming your own *kehillah*? To learn more, contact Allison Hale at allisonh@emanuelhouston.org.

Register online at emanuelhouston.org/notyourmoms.



Tot Shabbat

Friday, April 5 | Dinner 5:45 p.m., Service 6:15 p.m.

Families with young children are invited to join Congregation Emanu El for this monthly event to share a special Shabbat led by a member of our clergy, geared toward families with little ones ages 0-6.

Tot Shabbat will begin in Feld Hall with an optional dinner provided by Houston Catering Concepts for \$5 per person.

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

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If you have any questions regarding Tot Shabbat, please contact Allison Hale at allisonh@emanuelhouston.org

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



Emanu El Young Families Playdate: School Year Series

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

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

Feel free to come for the whole time, or just drop in when you can. Snacks, drinks and FUN will be provided! If your child is five years old or younger, we would love to meet up with you. As always, older siblings are welcome. Register online by visiting our web calendar and join the fun!



NEW Program! Motherhood Together Starts Thursday, April 11, 11:30 a.m.

We're thrilled to offer a new program designed to support families who have welcomed new babies through birth and adoption. Meeting **April 11 – June 27**, Motherhood Together offers a weekly lunch with a supportive community and conversation for moms and babies in the first 12 weeks of the child's life. These sessions are facilitated by a certified postpartum doula and include visits from other postnatal specialists and our clergy.

This group offers primary caregivers a supportive community of peers and experts where they can ask questions, share struggles, and celebrate successes that come in the first few months of a baby's life. 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.

For additional information, contact Allison Hale, Programming & Engagement Associate, at allisonh@emanuelhouston.org.

Visit emanuelhouston.org/motherhoodtogether to register.



2024 Ernest Krautkopf Congregant of the Year Award Luncheon Celebrating Susie Askanase

Sunday, April 14, 12:30 p.m.

Join Emanu El as we honor Susie Askanase – the 2024 Ernest Krautkopf Congregant of the Year!

In honor of her many accomplishments and her kind and supportive outreach to all, we look forward to celebrating Susie.

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

Register online at emanuelhouston.org/coy2024.

The award luncheon will be followed by our 2024 Annual Meeting.

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Annual Meeting Sunday, April 14, 1:30 p.m.

Following a complimentary lunch honoring the 2024 Ernest Krautkopf Congregant of the Year, join us for our 2024 Annual Meeting.

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

Copies of the budget, slate and 2023 Annual Meeting minutes were emailed to the Congregation on March 14. If you would like another copy, please contact Christian Simmons at christians@emanuelhouston.org.

The agenda items include:

- Important updates about the congregation from the President and Senior Rabbi

- Budget materials
- Electing officers and trustees
- 2023 Annual Meeting minutes

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

Save the Date! Israel Speaker: Haviv Rettig-Gur Thursday, May 2 at 6:30 p.m.

Please save the date for our next Israel speaker: Haviv Rettig-Gur, Senior Analyst for *The Times of Israel*. A dynamic and well-informed speaker, Mr. Rettig-Gur will address the most pressing issues of our time, including:



Haviv Rettig-Gur

- Palestinians and Israelis – a more sympathetic view of how they got here and how they might get out of the tailspin.
- Israel-Hamas War: Is the Storyline at Fault?

A reception with the speaker will follow the presentation. Registration and additional details can be found on our web calendar.



THE RIPPLES OF DEBBIE FRIEDMAN

THE MUSICAL LEGACY THAT SHAPED A GENERATION OF JEWISH COMPOSERS

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024

7:00 PM

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

TICKETS ARE \$18 OR INCLUDED FOR FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT EMANU EL

REGISTER FOR THE EVENT AT EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG/MEE

THANK YOU 2024 PURIM SPONSORS!

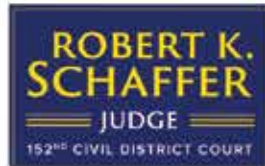


**Michelle & Robert Eutsler
Nash Family**

**Brooks/Serebrin Family
Kathryn & Jonathan Paine
Witus Family**



**Karen & Jeff Basen-Engquist
Carson family
fredi & Paul Franks
Lichman Family
Lurie Family
Mohrman-Statman Family**



**Adelman Family
Kathy & Stephen Parven
Rubenstein Lerner Family
Jenny Tavor Custom Catering
Yoburn Family**





Congregation Emanu El

Please join

Rabbi Joshua Fixler, Rabbi Oren Hayon,
Rabbi Pamela Silk, and Cantor Rollin Simmons

for Congregation Emanu El's

SECOND NIGHT SEDER

Tuesday, April 23, 2024 | 6:00 p.m.

Kindly RSVP by Friday, April 12

Reserve your spot online at emanuelhouston.org/seder2024 or by returning the form below to
Congregation Emanu El, 1500 Sunset Blvd, Houston, TX 77005



SECOND NIGHT SEDER RESERVATION

I / WE WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE SEATS FOR:

Member Adults (\$48 each) Non-Member Adults (\$60 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 accessible to those in need of financial assistance or are new to the community.

DIETARY INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE) Vegetarian Gluten-Free
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

Widow to Widow

SISTERHOOD NEWS & HAPPENINGS

April 2024

Evening Mahj Tuesday, April 16, 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Calling all mah jongg mavens! Join us for mahj and a light supper and wine for just \$7. Please register on our web calendar at emanuelhouston.org or by contacting the Sisterhood office at sishood@emanuelhouston.org or 713.529.5771, ext. 233.



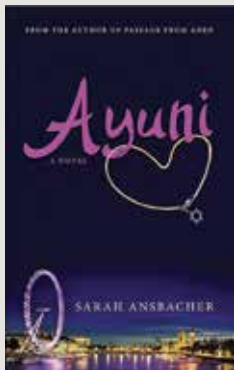
SAVE THE DATE! Tour the Eternal Gandhi Museum Wednesday, April 24, 10:30 a.m.

12379 Riceville School Rd.

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



The cost for the tour is \$10, which registrants will pay upon arrival at the museum. Please RSVP for the event either online by visiting our web calendar or by contacting the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771, ext. 233 or sishood@emanuelhouston.org by **Friday, April 19**.



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 and 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.

New Traditions for Passover

New Traditions Gift Shop is packed with Passover items including wonderful children's books, beautiful haggadot, colorful ten plagues, hopping frogs, matzoh covers and afikomen bags. Also just arrived is another new shipment of precious items from the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, including jewelry, kaleidoscopes, seder plates, and more. Most of these items are made by Israeli artisans. Your purchase of these items from the Israel Museum is a small way we can help Israel during this time.

New Traditions is open **Monday – Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**, and **Sundays 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** when Helfman Religious School is in session.

**NEW
TRADITIONS**
SISTERHOOD JUDAICA SHOP
CONGREGATION EMANU EL



Helfman Religious School

B'nei Mitzvah Preparation Program Welcomes Rebecca Lunstroth



Rebecca Lunstroth

One of the most visible ways in which our congregation puts its values into practice is through our B'nei Mitzvah preparation program. At Emanu El, we take seriously the statement that “becoming B'nei Mitzvah is a celebration not only for the student and their family but for our whole congregation.” For over 50 years, Dolores Wilkenfeld embodied

the spirit of that statement, working with every B'nei Mitzvah student as they practiced their speeches from the bimah, ensuring that they delivered their words of Torah with poise and precision.

In addition to the practical lessons about standing up straight and speaking slowly and clearly, students gained a deep sense of connection to the congregation through their work with Dolores, whose vast experience in congregational leadership was as important to her work with the students as was her knowledge of public speaking.

While Dolores retired from this work during the pandemic, we are extremely fortunate that she trained an “apprentice,” Lisa Brooks, who worked alongside her for more than twelve years. We are grateful to Lisa for carrying the tradition forward singlehandedly in the years since Dolores’ retirement – and even expanding the role to support with writing and editing.

As the size of our B'nei Mitzvah classes has grown, so has the need to find a fitting partner for Lisa in carrying on Dolores’ legacy. We are absolutely delighted to announce that Rebecca Lunstroth has agreed to join our speech rehearsal team. Rebecca, who has been a member of Congregation Emanu El for more than 25 years and has served as President of the Board of Directors, among other leadership roles, brings the deep sense of connection to the congregation that is so essential to this work.

Her students will also benefit from her many years of experience as an attorney, professor, and frequent public speaker. Her warmth and humor will help to put nervous students at ease and give them the confidence they need to deliver their words with pride. We are grateful to Rebecca for her willingness to invest in the future of our congregation in this important way, and we are thrilled to welcome her to our faculty.

Helfman Early Enrollment Is Here!

Enroll by April 30 and save \$75 (half off the enrollment fee!) per child! Enrollment takes place online using Congregation Emanu El's online portal.

1. Visit emanuelhouston.org/helfman and click “Enrollment,” then log in to your account.
2. Fill out all of the required information.
3. Payment of the \$150 per child, non-refundable registration fee is necessary to confirm your enrollment. Payment must be made online.
4. 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 August 31, 2024.

Contact Elizabeth Townsend at elizabethht@emanuelhouston.org with any questions!

Why Upper School

It's no secret that today's teens are busier and more scheduled than at any time in the past. The demands of school, sports and extracurricular activities have expanded to fill seemingly every hour of the day. And hanging over it all is a pervasive sense of anxiety that if they don't do All. The. Things. they won't be accepted into the “right” college. Given all that, why would they choose to spend one evening a week at Helfman Upper School at Congregation Emanu El?

For many of our students, especially the ones who attend public or private schools with very few (if any) other Jewish students, the quick answer is: “to be with my Jewish friends.” For this couple of hours a week, their Judaism is a source of connection with their peers, not the thing that makes them different. They can come and share dinner and conversation about topics that matter to them, from a distinctly Jewish perspective, without need for explanation or justification. Upper School is also a safe place for students to discuss their experiences with anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism and other challenges of being Jewish in a secular society, and to receive support from peers and faculty.

Speaking of faculty, one of the most compelling reasons to attend Upper School is the unparalleled opportunity to build deep relationships with our clergy and senior education staff. Unlike in Jewish day schools or other community programs, Helfman Upper School classes are

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taught by our rabbis and senior educators in partnership with lay teachers. The informal interactions made possible by sharing meals, class discussions, retreats and field trips create a deep sense of community and connection to our congregation and its leadership. Unlike the lower grades of Helfman Religious School, which are about “building a Jewish toolbox” of knowledge about holidays, customs, prayers, stories, Hebrew and other content-focused material, Helfman Upper School classes are about using that knowledge, guided by clergy and teachers, to build a personal sense of Jewish identity, to prepare students for adult Jewish life.

While connection to the Congregation Emanu El community is central to the Helfman Upper School experience, we also partner with the larger Houston Jewish community on a number of programs. Our students are able to travel (at no additional cost to families) on the community-wide 8th/9th grade Alternative Winter Break; to participate on the planning committees for J-Serve, Global Havdalah, and other teen-led events; and to attend Teen Nights at the JCC Book Fair, ReelAbilities and the JCC Jewish Film Festival alongside their friends from other congregations. Becca Schwartzberg, our Youth and Young Adult Engagement Coordinator, regularly attends meetings of area youth professionals to ensure that our teens have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of programs and events throughout the Houston Jewish community.

To honor the commitment students make by attending Helfman Upper School, Congregation Emanu El offers a number of incentives. Upper School students may serve as role models to younger students by participating in our Teaching Assistant (TA) program on Sunday mornings. This incredibly popular program – with more than 75 participants this year – gives students the opportunity to earn service hours or a paycheck while preparing them to take their place as the next generation of Jewish educators after they graduate from high



school. Indeed, several of our current Helfman teachers are former TAs!

In 10th grade, Upper School students take part in a yearlong program of study and preparation, including a weekend retreat, led by Rabbi Hayon, which leads to the Confirmation ceremony. The long line of Confirmation photos on the walls of our administrative wing attest to the deep feelings of connection to family and community engendered by this tradition. Students’ expression of personal connection to Congregation Emanu El reaches its peak during the 12th grade Graduation service, during which students share their own stories of Jewish growth and learning.

No discussion of Helfman Upper School would be complete without mentioning the greatest gift our congregation gives to its students: the Shirley Barish Memorial Israel Experience. Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Barish family and their dedication to Israel education, students who enroll in Helfman Upper School and commit to continuing through graduation receive a four-week trip to Poland and Israel, with all expenses paid, during the summer after 10th or 11th grade. Students return from this transformative experience deeply connected to Israel, to each other, to the clergy and staff, and to their Judaism. It is powerful and life-changing, and the peak experience of the robust Jewish learning that happens in Helfman Upper School.

Enrollment for Helfman Upper School opens April 1, with a \$75 Early Bird **discount available through April 30**. Current 7th graders will have two opportunities to try out our programs: “Bridge Night” on Wednesday, March 27 (during which they will attend classes with current 8th graders) and “TA For A Day” on **Sunday, April 7** (during which they will have a meeting with Becca and spend some time in classrooms). For more information, please contact Stefani Carlson, Director of Lifelong Learning at stefanic@emanuelhouston.org or 713.529.6389.

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Congratulations to our Greene Family Camp campership winners!



Andrew Kruger, winner of the Chester Marcus campership, pictured with Sarah Kronman, Stefani Carlson, and Rabbi Erin Mason of GFC.



Leo Krohn, winner of the Ricky Schnurr campership, pictured with Stefani Carlson and Rabbi Erin Mason of GFC.



Bea Segal, winner of the Sisterhood campership, pictured with Stefani Carlson, Rabbi Erin Mason of GFC, and Carol Sue Zions of Sisterhood.



Lillie Krohn, winner of the Connie Reischer campership, pictured with Stefani Carlson and Rabbi Erin Mason of GFC.



Ella Friedensohn, winner of the Helfman Religious School Committee campership, pictured with Stefani Carlson, Rabbi Erin Mason of GFC, and Tammy Mermelstein, HRSC president.

Not pictured, Caio Kahn, winner of the Sisterhood campership.



Becker School

Becker students and their families enjoyed our fabulous Exhibition Night & Family Dinner on February 15. During the evening, families visited their children's classrooms, studios, Hebrew room and library to witness the amazing work happening each day at Becker. Families were treated to a pizza dinner in the Oshman Multi-Purpose Room, generously hosted by the Becker Boosters. The Oshman Multi-Purpose Room also served as an art gallery featuring works of art created by the children using recycled materials.



LEARNING THROUGH PLAY AT BECKER



Becker School
CONGREGATION EMANU EL
1500 SUNSET BOULEVARD



ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

SCHEDULE YOUR **TOUR**
713.535.6400

AGES 15 MONTHS THROUGH 5 YEARS

CLASSROOMS UTILIZE REGGIO EMILIA APPROACH

DEVELOPMENTALLY NURTURING ENVIRONMENT

EARLY & EXTENDED CARE PROGRAM AVAILABLE

EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG/BECKERSCHOOL

**2024 Rabbi Robert I. Kahn
Scholar in Residence:
Rabbi Nancy Wiener
April 26-28**



Rabbi Nancy Wiener

Emanu El will welcome Rabbi Nancy Wiener during the weekend of **April 26-28, 2024**, for the Rabbi Robert I. Kahn Scholar in Residence. Rabbi Nancy Wiener is the Founding Director of the Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Center for Pastoral Counseling at HUC-JIR.

Throughout the weekend, congregants are encouraged to join Rabbi Nancy Wiener at different opportunities while she covers a wide range of topics including women in the rabbinate, Moral Injury and Soul Repair, and her work as a chaplain. Full schedule of the weekend can be found online at emanuelhouston.org/kahnscholar2024.

Rabbi Nancy Wiener's visit is supported by the Rabbi Robert I. Kahn Scholar in Residence Fund.

GIFT SHOP HOURS
Monday – Friday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Sundays 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
when Helfman Religious School is in session

Also available by appointment!
713.529.5771, ext. 234.

THANK YOU



Rabbi Walter

The blood drive held on March 17 to benefit Rabbi Walter was a remarkable success. A huge thank you to everyone who donated blood on that day. We collected 44 units from 51 donors. These will help up to 153 patients in the 170 area hospitals who receive blood from the Houston Blood Bank. Hospital clients include M.D. Anderson, CHI-St. Luke's, Memorial Hermann, Texas Children's Hospital, and Methodist. Due to managed health care changes, all blood donations go into the general blood supply for all patients in the Texas Gulf Coast region.

Maintaining diversity in the blood supply is essential. Some blood types are quite rare and are likeliest to be found among people with shared ancestral origins. Congregants wishing to donate blood who were unable to attend the blood drive at Congregation Emanu El are invited to make an appointment at M.D. Anderson by visiting mdandersonbloodbank.org or the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Bank giveblood.org.

Rabbi Walter continues to make progress in his treatment, and we know he appreciates all of the generous support he has received from our congregants.



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FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS.**



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 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.





We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who remember and honor their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions through March 11, 2024.

**ALAN GAYLOR
TEACHING ASSISTANT
FUND**

*To support Helfman
Religious School
teaching assistants
In Memory of
**Reba Eskowitz
Magids**
Joni & Gary Lewis*

**BARBARA &
MARK BROOKNER
CAMBERSHIP FUND**

*To provide scholarships
to send Helfman
Religious School
students to Greene
Family Camp
In Honor of
**The Marriage of Haley
Rauch & Zach Lessig**
Sandy & Van Lessig*

**BECKER EARLY
CHILDHOOD
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

*To provide Becker
Early Childhood Center
scholarships
A Donation
Arin & Henry
Freedman*

**BILL & JOAN SPITZ
PRESIDENTIAL
LEADERSHIP FUND**

*To strengthen the vision
of Emanu El's leaders
A Donation
Rob Appel*

*In Honor of
**The Birthday of Jackie
and Grant Spitz**
Jonathon Spitz*

*In Memory of
Evelyn Solomon
Karen & Larry Feld*

Joan & Bill Spitz
Jonathon Spitz

Ronna Spitz
Anonymous
Marsha & Joe Cohen
Barbara & Raymond
Kalmans
Joy & Joe Kaplan
Dennis Murland &
Vinh Phan
Karen & Murry Penner
Beverly & Howard
Robinson
Art Saxby, Chief
Outsiders

**CLERGY'S GOOD WORKS
FUND**

*To provide Emanu El's
clergy with funds to help
individuals in need and
to support organizations
that benefit the
community
In Honor of*

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

Dianna & Joe
Gittelman
Julian Silverblatt
**The Bar Mitzvah of
Nathan Kruger**
Perri & Aaron Fink

*In Memory of
Don Graubart
Jennis Kauffman*

**DOLORES & BUDDY
WILKENFELD
COMMUNICATIONS
FUND**

*To enhance Emanu El's
communications with
congregants
In Memory of
Warren Krams
Serena Brooks & Lewis
Wilkenfeld*

**EDWARD WAYNE
HUNGER FUND**

*To feed the hungry in
Houston and to support
Kids Meals
In Memory of
Tracy Chaskin
Jennis Kauffman
Jack Rips
Carol Fradkin
Jennis Kauffman
Cecil & Edward Wayne
Samantha Wayne
Meazell and Family*

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

*To enhance musical
programming
In Honor of
**The Anniversary of
Linda & Richard Zoll**
Susie & David
Askanase*

**HOFFMAN-NATHAN
YOUTH FUND**

*To provide scholarships
for attending Jewish
camps or programs
In Honor of
**The Bat Mitzvah
of Charlotte Lucy
Kneese**
Sherrie & Dr. Robert
Frachtman*

**JASON & DAVID
MARCUS PLAYSPACE
FUND**

*To maintain and enhance
the playground
In Honor of
**The Birthday of Ruby
Sondock**
Dianna & Joe Gittelman*

**JULIA KAPLAN
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
ENRICHMENT FUND**

*To enhance Helfman
Religious School
programs
In Memory of
Celine Kaplan
Erin Badala
Howard Plotkin
Cookie & Salomon
Schein*

**MARIANNE GREENFIELD
SISTERHOOD FLOWER
FUND**

*To provide flowers in our
worship spaces
In Honor of
**Barbara & Mark
Brookner, Eva Loeb,
the B'nei Mitzvah
teachers, and the
Emanu El Clergy**
The Sacks Family
**The Bar Mitzvah of
Nathan Kruger**
The Kruger Family
**The Bat Mitzvah
Maya Sacks**
Eva Loeb
**The B'not Mitzvah of
Charlotte Kneese &
Annabel Turowsky**
The Kneese & Turowsky
Families
**The B'not Mitzvah of
Maya Sacks & Lucia
Trachtenberg**
The Sacks &
Trachtenberg Families*

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In Memory of
**Elaine & Louis
Alexander, Michael Fink,
Rosalie & Jack Fink,
Tom Friedman, Sam
Gottheim, Aaron &
Edythe Kruger, William
“Billy” Zidell, and Rozan
Zidell**

The Kruger Family
**Shelly Archer, Minnie
& Walter Jones, Debbie
Kashy, Florence &
Walter Loeb, Michael
Loeb, Lisa Margolis,
James Myers, Sarah Orr,
Louise & Richard Sacks,
Rose Sacks, and Morris
Weiser**

The Sacks Family
Marianne Greenfield
Dr. Larry J. Greenfield
Elizabeth & Matt Krohn
and Family
Michelle & Howard
Stone and Family
Debbie Zissman and
Family

Hanna & Morris Kaplan
Sheila & Jerry Kaplan
Al Rubin & Sadie Solomon
Robert Rubin
Jennis Kauffman

**RABBI ROY & LINDA
WALTER ENRICHMENT
FUND**

*To support spiritual and
cultural enrichment*

In Appreciation of
**Rabbi Roy Walter –
Theba Feldman’s
Unveiling**

Beverly & Howard
Feldman, Sherry &
Stuart Feldman, and
Lori & Steven Kamins

In Honor of
**The Speedy Recovery of
Carol Wilk**

Sheila & Jerry Kaplan

In Memory of
Jack Rips
Sheila & Jerry Kaplan
Samuel Siegel
Barbara & Martin Meyer

**RICKY SCHNURR
CAMBERSHIP FUND**
*To provide Greene Family
Camp scholarships*
A Donation
Elyssa Schnurr

**RIVA BURSTEN CARING
CONGREGATION FUND**
*To support programs
that assist people in the
community*

In Appreciation of
Pat Fradkin
Lou & Herb Mizis

In Honor of
**The Birth of Nathan
Gold**
Myra Mayer

In Memory of
**Reba Eskowitz
Magids**
Myra Mayer

**ROBERT I. KAHN
SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND**

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

In Memory of
Robert I. Kahn
Alfred J. Kahn &
Betty Duson

**RONALD BROCHSTEIN
EARLY CHILDHOOD
FUND**

*To enhance preschool
education*

In Memory of
Michael Brochstein
Marilyn & Rob Corn

**ROSE GOODFRIEND
ISRAEL PILGRIMAGE**
*To help send Confirmation
students to Israel*

In Memory of
Ida Ritchie Goodfriend
Gary Goodfriend

**ROZELLE & ROBERT I.
KAHN FUND**
*To provide lifelong adult
Jewish educational
programs*

In Memory of
Rozelle & Robert I. Kahn
Alfred J. Kahn & Betty
Duson

SISTERHOOD FUND

*To provide for the
Sisterhood*

In Appreciation of
Prissy Roosth
Sallye Wolf

In Memory of
Irene Breisacher
Sandy & Van Lessig

Marci Weinstein
Leda Karchmer

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

A Donation
The Estate of Philip
Getz

In Honor of
Jack Stopnicki
Anonymous
**The Anniversary of
Bathsheva & Gabriel
Perry – 60th**

Fayann & Mel Weiss
**The Speedy Recovery of
Carol Wilk**
Maralyn Cohen

In Memory of
Gladys Slavin Brenner
Philip A. Davidson

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome Our Newest Members

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

**Erica & Michael Akerman, children Harris,
Sloane, & Whitney
Eva Breston
Pamela & Matthew Ellis
Arlene & Charles Gillman
Elena Marks
Vanessa & Nathan Pierce
Edith Rahimian
Elissa & Eric Roesch, children Adina, Asher,
& Shira**

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.

Women's Day With Sisterhood

Committee for Women's Day 2024 Emanu El Sisterhood held on February 28.



Pictured back row: Keri Sprung, Susana Paoloski, Carol Sue Zionts, Lorna Klebe, Brenda Lind, and Amy Kapiloff. Front row: panelists Adrienne Wagenheim, Ideal Party Decorators, Rhonda Kaiser, @SouthernHomeandFarm on Instagram, and Rebekah Cunningham, Dream Bouquet. Not pictured: Donnie Bundman, and Judy Simon.



continued next page

Music At Emanu El's The Shepherd School of Music: Sounds of the Sephardic Diaspora

In partnership with the Evelyn Rubenstein JCC

Featuring notes and commentary by Diana Castelnuovo-Tedesco, the granddaughter of renowned Sephardic composer, Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco.



Diana Castelnuovo-Tedesco.



Keaton Brown, baritone.



Han Lee on cello and Isaac Foreman on piano.



Julie Lin on violin.



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Congregation Emanu El

- Oren J. Hayon**, Senior Rabbi
- Pamela B. Silk**, Associate Rabbi
- Joshua R.S. Fixler**, Associate Rabbi
- Roy A. Walter**, Rabbi Emeritus
- Rollin Simmons**, Cantor
- Anna Shabtay**, Director of
Congregational Advancement
- Erika Roberts**, Interim Becker Principal
- Stefani Carlson**, Director of
Lifelong Learning

- Stuart Gaylor**, President
- Adam Pollock**, Senior Vice President
- Dan Gospin**, Vice President
- Dora Klaff**, Vice President
- Barry Lichman**, Vice President
- Ben Miller**, Vice President

- Philip Tenenbaum**, Treasurer
- fredi Bleeker Franks**, Secretary
- Jeri Amundsen**, Honorary President
- Carol Sue Zions**, Sisterhood Co-President
- Judy Simon**, Sisterhood Co-President

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DO YOU...

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

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

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