



Bulletin

AUGUST 2023 | AV/ELUL 5783

VOLUME 77 NUMBER 11

FROM RABBI HAYON



Our sacred texts provide the framework for our ethical identity, our spiritual culture, and our national coherence as a Jewish people; in very real ways, these stories make us who we are.

In her excellent book *Reader, Come Home* (2018), Dr. Maryanne Wolf explores the wondrous miracle of the human brain which has – only recently in its evolutionary history – learned to read.

The ability to read, she explains, has contributed significantly to the neuroplasticity in our brains. It is this aspect of human beings which has allowed our cognition and behavior to adapt more swiftly and efficiently to the stimuli we face than any other species on earth.

Wolf argues that the advancements in our ability to read have come at a cost, however. The book’s subtitle is “The Reading Brain in a Digital World,” and through its pages, Wolf points out that because of our current digital domain, the way we read today is drastically different than the way our parents or grandparents did. Although the quantity of reading we do on an average day today – an estimated 100,000 words per day – is much higher than in any earlier generation, we read most of them by skimming lightly over the text’s (or digital screen’s) surface, never plunging down into what Wolf calls “deep reading.”

“Deep reading” is what we engage in when we find ourselves immersed in a gripping plot or feel the thrill of inhabiting the skin of a compelling fictional character. It is the practice which develops the “contemplative dimension” of our brains and fortifies our innate abilities of insight and empathy. Wolf issues a stern warning about what losing the capacity for deep reading will do for our inner lives, and for society at large.

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August Community Shabbat Dinner Friday, August 18, Following our evening service

We are thrilled to invite you to our final Community Shabbat Dinner of the summer!

Join us following Shabbat worship services as we come together and enjoy a delicious meal as a community. This will be an opportunity to meet new people, connect with longtime friends, and have fun. Bring your friends and family, even if they aren’t members at Congregation Emanu El. A delicious BBQ dinner will be provided by Emanu El’s preferred caterer, Houston Catering Concepts.

Online registration is now open through **Wednesday, August 16**. Please contact Anna Shabtay at 713.987.3316 or annas@emanuelhouston.org with any questions.

Is Your Contact Information Current?

Did you know that you can update your contact information by logging into our membership portal? As High Holy Days are approaching, we want to make sure you receive your High Holy Day mailer at a current address, along with your **digital High Holy Day passes** at your preferred email address. Log into the portal to access and update your contact information by visiting members.emanuelhouston.org. Need help logging in? Email fredif@emanuelhouston.org.

WORSHIP SERVICES

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

Shabbat Eikev Friday, August 4

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

Saturday, August 5

10:30 a.m., Shabbat Morning Service, Proler Chapel
Shabbat Schmooze & Schmeear

Shabbat R'eih Friday, August 11

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

Saturday, August 12

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

Shabbat Shof'tim Friday, August 18

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

Saturday, August 19

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

Shabbat Ki Teitzei Friday, August 25

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

Saturday, August 26

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

Shabbat Ki Tavo Friday, September 1

5:45 p.m. Tot Shabbat Dinner, Feld Hall
6:00 p.m., Kabbalat Shabbat, Proler Chapel
6:15 p.m., Tot Shabbat Service, Oshman Multi-Purpose Room

Saturday, September 2

10:30 a.m., Shabbat Morning Service, Proler Chapel
Shabbat Schmooze & Schmeear

Shabbat Nitzavim – Vayeilech Friday, September 8

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

Saturday, September 9

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

MAZEL MOMENTS

Congregant **Joshua Gottlieb-Miller** was hosted at Basket Books on Wednesday, July 12, to read from his first book of poetry, *The Art of Bagging*, with Texan-born and Israeli-based Jewish poet Marcela Sulak (author most recently of *City of Skypapers*, a 2021 finalist for the National Jewish Book Award).

FROM RABBI HAYON *continued from page 1*

Inspired by the strength of Wolf's data and the power of her encouragement to return to deep reading, I wanted to chose something substantial for my summer reading this year. I decided on William Faulkner's classic novel *Absalom, Absalom!* I remembered loving Faulkner's prose when I read his other work many years ago, and so I was eager to spend my vacation immersing myself in his writing once again.

I only got a few pages into the book, however, before I hit a wall. The book was more difficult than I expected. Everything that I once loved about Faulkner's writing – the intricate structure of his prose and the lyrical complexity of his characters' dialogue – was now a struggle to navigate. This book that I had saved as a treat for my vacation turned out to be disappointingly tedious.

Perhaps Maryanne Wolf was right. Maybe my ability for deep reading has been compromised by the digital age; maybe my attention span has become irreversibly fragmented by all the time I spend doing surface-level reading of tiny words on a screen, rather than old-fashioned type printed on a page. My struggle with Faulkner was both disappointing and worrying – have I permanently lost my capacity for deep immersion in

stories, plots, and characters?

Fortunately, Wolf includes a note of hope and encouragement in *Reader, Come Home*. The neuroplasticity of human brains, which enabled our adaptation to the digital environments in which we now do most of our reading, is also key to our ability to recapture the skill of deep reading. Like so much else in life – building new skills in physical exercise, art, or music – all we need to do is practice. Our brains are masterful at building and strengthening the connections in their internal wiring which are needed to accomplish new tasks. To regain the wonderful and enduring gifts of deep reading, all we have to do is read more.

We Jews are “the people of the book”; for a hundred generations we have inherited and reveled in our collective love for words and stories. Our sacred texts provide the framework for our ethical identity, our spiritual culture, and our national coherence as a Jewish people; in very real ways, these stories make us who we are. If we neglect, or, God forbid, lose our ability to read deeply, we risk undermining a significant and beloved part of our Jewish identity.

Whatever your summer plans hold, I hope that you'll set aside some time for reading – the old-fashioned kind, with words printed on paper pages. Whenever we see each other next, I'll be eager to hear about the stories and insights you will discover in the pages of a book. And I'll be sure to share with you my impressions of what I'm sure will be a challenging but rewarding rediscovery of William Faulkner. Happy reading!

LIFECYCLE EVENTS

WEDDINGS

Jenny Kutner & Trevor Cook

BIRTHS

Taylor Jane Freedman, daughter of Arin & Henry Freedman; granddaughter of Martha & Don Freedman and Susan & Les Tuerk; great-granddaughter of Betty Freedman and Barbara Tuerk

Richard “Richie” Wynne Treistman, son of Rachel & Jordan Treistman

DEATHS

Lenore Caplan, mother of Katharine & Gary Caplan and Lisa & Jared Caplan; grandmother of Adam and Jacob Caplan; sister of Alan Kamion; aunt of Stephanie Falkenhagen

June Mendonca, mother of Karen Mendonca & Clay Serrahn and Julie Mendonca; great aunt of Cathy & Ronnie Winter

Joanie Murland, significant other of Harry Lewis; mother of Shawna Murland & Tony Beardmore and Lauren & Andrew Murland; their father, Dennis Murland and partner Vinh Phan; grandmother of Lily and Marc Murland; godmother of Geoffrey Singer and Lauren Magenheim

Maxine Reingold, mother of Steven Reingold, Sharon & Brad Rauch, and Beth Reingold; grandmother of Jonathan and Jeremy Reingold, Haley, Adam, and Daniel Rauch, and Ellie and Halia Reingold; great-grandmother of Madden Reingold, Taylor Reingold, and Ethan Rauch

Larry Robertson, husband of Annette Robertson

Jerry Rose, husband of Lanie Rose; father of Deborah & Myles Rose and Jennifer & Darren Rose; grandfather of Lexie, Maverick, Madison, Marin, and Kendall Rose

The following notice was printed incorrectly in our July Bulletin. We apologize for the error.

Jeanne Franklin Samuels, mother of Vicki Samuels Levy & Lawrence S Levy, Maylee & Marc Samuels, and Maurene & Michael Bencal; grandmother of Kristy & Matthew Samuels, Hannah & Benjamin Samuels, Caroline Samuels, Wendy Waterman, Daniel Waterman, Kimberly Bencal, Amy Duke & Jesse Demartino, Colleen & Michael Duke, Lan & David Duke, Samuel Levy, and Rebekah Levy; great-grandmother of Cameron Samuels, Dylan Samuels, Marwa Boukraria, Claire Samuels, Noah Mark Waterman-Loil, Miles Bryant, Cole Bryant, Emmett Duke, Isabel Duke, and Joseph Duke; sibling of Gay Vitemb Jacobs

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.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We are pleased to welcome the newest and returning members to our congregational family from June 15 – July 13. Please be sure to introduce yourself to our newcomers as they become a part of our community.

Arin & Henry Freedman, children Hope, Millie, & Taylor

Anna Leon

Keren Daniel Peres & Yair Peres, children Alma, Ella, & Noa

Lynnie & Jason Roth, daughter Ellie

Carolyn Rubenstein, children Eli & Isabel

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.

HIGH HOLY DAY INFORMATION

Below please find a snapshot of the High Holy Days, featuring the schedule and pertinent information. Additional information including our guest pass policy for this year, parking, and more will arrive to our congregants in an upcoming mailout.

SERVICE SCHEDULE

S'lichot

Saturday, September 9, 9:00 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah

Friday, September 15

High Holy Day Kickoff Reception, 5:00 p.m.

Rosh HaShanah Unplugged, 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 16

Children's Service, 9:00 a.m.

Morning Service 10:30 a.m.

Tashlich, immediately following morning service (Bill Coates Bridge)

OUTDOOR HIGH HOLY DAY FAMILY EXPERIENCE

Sunday, September 17, 9:00 a.m.

Nature Discovery Center (7112 Newcastle)

CEMETERY SERVICE

Sunday, September 17, 5:00 p.m.

Emanu El Memorial Park (8431 Bissonnet St.)

SHABBAT SHUVAH

Friday, September 22, 6:00 p.m.

KOL NIDRE

Sunday, September 24, 7:30 p.m.

YOM KIPPUR

Monday, September 25

Children's Service, 9:00 a.m.

Morning Service 10:30 a.m.

Afternoon Experience:

Community Program, 12:30 p.m.

Learning Opportunities featuring text study, meditation, a social justice showcase, and creative arts, **1:30 p.m.**

Healing & Wholeness, 3:30 p.m.

Yizkor & N'ilah, 4:30 p.m.

Break Fast, 6:30 p.m.

LIVE STREAMING

High Holy Day services can be watched in four ways:

- **Emanu El website:** emanuelhouston.org
- **Facebook:** facebook.com/emanuelhouston
- **Roku:** Congregation Emanu El Houston channel
- **YouTube:** youtube.com/emanuelhoustonvideo

Archived videos of services, musical selections and sermons will be available at the same digital locations.

ACCESSIBILITY

For wheelchair or disability accessibility, please contact Christian Simmons at 713.529.5771, ext. 262 or christians@emanuelhouston.org.

The only reserved seats during the High Holy Days are for those who request this access ahead of time. When contacting Christian, please include the services you plan to attend. Those requesting accessible seating may be granted a maximum of four additional seats for family members. Please note this seating will be released 15 minutes prior to the beginning of services.

The deadline for Rosh HaShanah is **Sunday, September 10**, and Yom Kippur is **Tuesday, September 19**.

HEARING LOOP

The Barish Sanctuary is equipped with an Induction Loop System which transmits audio signals directly to one's telecoil (T-coil)-equipped hearing aid.

CLOSED CAPTIONING

To ensure those who are hard of hearing can enjoy and participate in our beautiful High Holy Day services, we will be providing closed captioning for all Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur services in the Barish Sanctuary except for the children's services.

For those watching remotely, we intend to use the StreamText platform for a second straight year and will provide the appropriate URL in upcoming synagogue communications.

Going out of Town for High Holy Days? Let Us Help You!

Will you be out of town for Rosh HaShanah and/or Yom Kippur? Through our affiliation with the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), our congregation enjoys reciprocity with hundreds of synagogues nationally. Please contact Sue Lewis at SueL@emanuelhouston.org. We will work with our partners to ensure your seat at your destination synagogue.

Need an ASL Interpreter for High Holy Days? Let Us Know!

If you or a loved one are in need of an ASL interpreter, please contact Heidi Suprun at 713.529.5771 or heidis@emanuelhouston.org by **Friday, August 11** in order to ensure the availability of these services.

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CHILDCARE

Childcare for children ages 15 months to 8 years is available during both Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur morning services. Registration in advance **MUST** be received in order to prepare for the appropriate number of caregivers. The cost is \$10 per child, per service. A light snack will be provided; however, children with allergies are encouraged to bring their own snacks. The registration deadline for Rosh HaShanah is **September 12**; the Yom Kippur registration deadline is **September 19**. Visit us online to register at emanuelhouston.org/hhdworship or contact Sarah Kronman at 713.529.5771 or sarahk@emanuelhouston.org.

HUNGER FUND

Last year, your generosity allowed us to contribute \$5000 each to the Emergency Aid Coalition, Second Servings, the Houston Food Bank and Meals on Wheels.

Congregation Emanu El's longstanding commitment to fighting hunger is made possible by contributions to the Edward Wayne Hunger Fund.

Donations to the Hunger Fund support emergency food needs in the Houston area, our partners in the community helping to fight hunger, and our ongoing projects with SEARCH Homeless Services and Kids' Meals.

Donations can be made online at emanuelhouston.org/giving. You may also drop off a check at the rotunda during High Holy Days. Please indicate "Hunger Fund" in the memo of your check.

We Need You!

We know that there will be a learning curve with our digital passes for High Holy Day services, and we need your help to make our transition seamless and smooth. We will need ushers to assist our board members in scanning the digital tickets as well as our normal tasks of assisting our members to find appropriate seating. Would you help us with this important task? Other than attending a mandatory training session in August, volunteers can commit to as little as one service during the holidays.

We ask that all ushers be at least 18 years old; however, if you have a minor who would like to assist you while you are serving as an usher, we will welcome that!

Please complete the form online at emanuelhouston.org/hhdworship. We will reach out to confirm and provide details about the training brunch.

If you have any questions, please email Fredi Bleeker Franks, Interim Operations Manager, at fredif@emanuelhouston.org.

NEW for High Holy Days 5784



Emanu El is excited to announce that we will be using digital passes for our High Holy Day services this year. We will email each adult member of your household a digital pass which may be used for all holidays and services. You must be a member in good standing to receive High Holy Day passes. You will receive an email from orders@simpletix.com which will be sent to the email address on file in your ShulCloud account in early September. You can print your

pass at home or simply save it on your phone to be scanned when you arrive at the building for services. Passes will be scanned before you can enter the building. Your name will be on your pass, and passes are **NOT** transferrable.

Please be sure that you have a current email address on file with the congregation. If you aren't sure, log into your account to check at members.emanuelhouston.org, or contact Jessie Cassorla at jessiec@emanuelhouston.org.

Watch for more information about our new digital passes in your email and in our High Holy Day information packet that will be mailed in August.

*Members in Good Standing are those who do not have a balance from the prior fiscal year and have returned their 2023-2024 Annual Commitment form.



Congregation Emanu El

SCHMOOZE & SCHMEER

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.

The image shows several bagels on a wooden board, some with cream cheese and seeds, and a small bowl of cream cheese.

Emanu El Young Families Playdate
Sunday, August 6, 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Levy Park (4400 Bellaire Blvd)



Congregation Emanu El
YOUNG FAMILIES

PLAYDATES IN THE PARK

AUGUST 6 | 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

RSVP ON OUR CALENDAR AT EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG

The image shows children playing in a park with trees in the background.

We have another splash pad playdate scheduled in August! Let's enjoy each other's company, drink some cold brew coffee and catch up while the kiddos get the wiggles out! Please join us for the last Young Families Park Playdate Splash Pad Summer Series (and stay posted for our upcoming School Year Playdate Series beginning in September)! If your child is five years old or younger, we would love to meet up with you. Wear a swimsuit, and don't forget to bring sunscreen and a towel. As always, older siblings are welcome!

Please RSVP online by visiting our web calendar at emanuelhouston.org so we can get an accurate count. If you have questions, please contact Tewlyn Yoburn at tewlyn@gmail.com.



Congregation Emanu El

ART OF THE CELEBRITY APOLOGY: *Forgive Me, Ted Lasso*

AUGUST 30
7:00 PM

RSVP ONLINE
EMANUELHOUSTON.ORG/YP

The image features a man with a mustache, wearing a blue and red jacket, holding a red and white cup and saucer.

Young Professionals: Art of the Celebrity Apology
Wednesday, August 30, 7:00 p.m.

The theme of the High Holy Day season is apology and forgiveness. Coincidentally, this is also the theme of the most recent season of the Apple TV+ show *Ted Lasso*. Using ancient texts and scenes from the show, we will explore what Judaism and England's favorite football coach can teach us about saying sorry, repairing hurt, and finding forgiveness.

You do not have to have finished *Ted Lasso* to join us for this conversation but there will be spoilers.

Drinks and appetizers will be provided! Please register in advance online by visiting emanuelhouston.org/yp. Contact Becca at beccas@emanuelhouston.org with any questions.

SAVE THE DATE



TOT SHABBAT RETURNS!

SEPTEMBER 1ST

DINNER 5:45 PM | SERVICE 6:15 PM

The image features a blue background with white and yellow text, and illustrations of two lit candles and a golden chalice.

Tot Shabbat Returns!
Friday, September 1
Dinner: 5:45 p.m., Service: 6:15 p.m.

Following a two-month break, we are thrilled to invite families with young children to join us for this monthly joyous Shabbat experience geared toward ages 0-6. Beginning with an optional dinner in Feld Hall for \$5 per person (vegetarian and gluten-free options available), the shortened service to follow is guaranteed fun family time.

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

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

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FALL ISRAEL SPEAKER Dr. Meron Medzini, “Golda during the Yom Kippur War: an Eyewitness Account”

Wednesday, September 6, 7:00 p.m.

Congregation Emanu El is pleased to welcome Professor (Emeritus) Meron Medzini, of Hebrew University in Jerusalem, as our Fall Israel Speaker. Dr. Medzini, who in his capacity as Director of the Israel Government Press Office, Jerusalem, in the Office of the Prime Minister, served as spokesman for Prime Ministers Levi Eshkol, Golda Meir and Yitzhak Rabin, is a compelling speaker with a unique insider’s perspective on Israel’s political history.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War, a brief but tremendously impactful conflict that began with surprise attack on Israel by a coalition of Arab states led by Egypt and Syria, triggered a confrontation between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R., and ultimately set the stage for the 1978 Camp David Accords. A new film, *Golda*, starring Helen Mirren as Israel’s prime minister during this pivotal moment in history, will be released later this month. Dr. Medzini, who in addition to his experience in public office is the author of the 2016 book, *Golda Meir: a Political Biography*, served as a consultant on the film. He will share with us his firsthand knowledge of the behind-the-scenes political drama, both during and after the war, and its far-reaching implications.

To RSVP for this program, visit our web calendar at emanuelhouston.org.

This program is generously underwritten by the Barish Israel Fund. A reception will follow the presentation.



The State of Women’s Equity in 2023 Thursday, September 7, 7:00 p.m.

Join us for an enlightening discussion featuring esteemed guests Abbie Kamin, Houston City Council Member; Elizabeth Gregory, Professor of Gender & Sexuality Studies at the University of Houston; Sheila Katz, CEO of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW); and moderated by Rabbi Fixler. Gain valuable insights into the progress and challenges faced by women in achieving equity in various spheres, and explore potential solutions for a more inclusive and empowered future. Don’t miss this engaging panel, highlighting voices at the forefront of the fight for gender equality.

Morocco 2024: Orientation & Informational Meeting Sunday, September 10, 12:00 p.m.



Join Rabbi Hayon for this information session to have all of your questions answered and learn everything there is to know about our upcoming Jewish journey through Morocco in March 2024.

There will be two opportunities to attend: **Sunday, September 10, at 12:00 p.m.** and **Thursday, October 5, at 7:00 p.m.** (in the Sukkah).

Please RSVP in advance and allow us to make appropriate accommodations for the meeting. Sign up for one of the orientation sessions and find additional information regarding the itinerary and registration for the trip on our Morocco 2024 information hub, located at emanuelhouston.org/morocco2024.

SISTERHOOD NEWS & HAPPENINGS

August 2023



Evening Mah Jongg Tuesday, August 15, 5:30 p.m.

One bam, two crak! Enjoy a light dinner and wine for \$7, then play mah jongg! Please register online or by contacting the Sisterhood office at sishood@emanuelhouston.org or 713.529.5771, ext. 233.



BOOK REVIEW:

The Last Rose of Shanghai by Weina Dai Randel
Thursday, September 7, 7:00 p.m.

The Last Rose of Shanghai is a powerful story involving the relationship between a Shanghai heiress and a penniless Jewish refugee. Sophisticated heiress Aiyi takes a chance when she hires Jewish pianist Ernest to play jazz in her nightclub. She has no idea that she will be risking everything that she loves and holds dear as a forbidden love blossoms between her and Ernest. Weina Dai Randel's poignant unforgettable love story is a page turner filled with suspense, while revealing a little-known segment of World War II history.

This event will be held in the Oshman Multi-Purpose Room, and refreshments will be served. There is no charge for this event. Please RSVP online or by contacting the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771, ext. 233 or sishood@emanuelhouston.org.

NEW TRADITIONS SALE



New Traditions, the Sisterhood gift shop, is happy to offer 20% off all tallitot during August and September. Do you have children or grandchildren having a Bar or Bat Mitzvah this year? Have you decided to get a new tallit (or even your first one) this

year for the High Holy Days?

We have a fantastic selection of traditional and classic styles as well as colorful and modern styles of tallitot.

SUMMER HOURS:

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

Sundays 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., when

Helfman Religious School resumes.

OR! Call for an appointment!

713.529.5771, ext. 234



Sisterhood's Birthday Bash & Opening Dinner! Wednesday, August 30, 6:30 p.m.

*Come celebrate with us, it's our big birthday,
Sisterhood has come a long, long way.
Eighty years strong, working toward a common cause,
Supporting our congregation and
community without pause.
August 30 is the night of celebration,
Don't miss this stupendous occasion!*

The covert for this event is \$25 for Sisterhood members and non-members. \$5 of each payment will be donated to the WRJ YES Fund (Youth, Education and Special Projects), which nurtures future leaders in the Jewish community through grants at local and national levels.

Please **RSVP by Friday, August 25**, either online by visiting our web calendar at emanuelhouston.org or by contacting the Sisterhood office at 713.529.5771, ext. 233 or sishood@emanuelhouston.org.

MAYORAL CANDIDATE FORUM

AUGUST 29 | 6:30 PM
CONGREGATION EMANU EL

UNIVERSITY PLACE ASSOCIATION MUSEUM PARK SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD Congregation Emanu El

Mayoral Candidate Forum at Emanu El Tuesday, August 29, 6:30 p.m.

Mark your calendars to join our congregation's civic engagement team, Emanu El Votes, along with our neighbors, University Place Super Neighborhood and the Museum Park Super Neighborhood, as they host a Mayoral Candidate Forum. The forum, which will be held at Emanu El, will focus on issues which are of particular importance to both our congregants and our neighbors.

As of the printing of this *Bulletin*, five Mayoral candidates have confirmed their attendance. Emmy award winning Miya Shay from Houston's Channel 13 will be the moderator. Miya's focus is covering Houston City Government as well as the breaking news story of the day.

This event is free and open to the public.

Attention All Recent Emanu El Alumni

Calling on all recent high school graduates! We know that you are in different places and have different needs this year, but we hope to continue to provide you with the same fun, heartwarming connection that our alumni have come to expect.

To ensure that we know the best ways to reach you this fall, please reach out to Jessie Cassorla at jessiec@emanuelhouston.org with your name, new address, contact information, and plans for the fall, or complete the form online at emanuelhouston.org/form/eealumni2023.





Helfman Religious School

Meet Lucy!



say hello to
Lucy Mosbacher
Helfman School Principal

“ We want our kids to learn and have fun, and we want them to enjoy being Jewish!

We often say that if we can get them to enjoy being Jewish, to want to be here with friends and community, then that's a huge win. ”

Join the Helfman Religious School Team!

Do you love helping young learners? Are you interested in teaching at Helfman Religious School but don't want the year-long commitment? Be a substitute! We are always looking for friendly faces to fill in when our teachers are absent. Our PreK-7th grade classes meet on **Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** Contact our Principal, Lucy Mosbacher, at lucym@emanuelhouston.org with questions or to get involved!



Become a Helfman TA!

Being a TA is an excellent way to build relationships with other Emanu El teens, develop teaching and leadership skills, and mentor younger students. It's a great first job experience and looks strong on a college application. TAs work Sunday mornings and are paired with our Helfman Religious School teachers or staff members for mentoring and growth opportunities and work closely with their adult partners throughout the year.

All TAs must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and be enrolled in a Jewish Day School or our Upper School program. Upper School enrollment is currently open and can be found on the Helfman page of the Emanu El website.

Interested in applying or have questions? Please contact Youth and Young Adult Engagement Coordinator Becca Schwartzberg at beccas@emanuelhouston.org.

Helfman Enrollment Is Underway!

Enrollment takes place online using Congregation Emanu El's online portal.

1. Visit emanuelhouston.org/learning/helfman and click "Enrollment", then log on 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, 2023**.

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



Becker School



say hello to
Erika Roberts
Becker School Interim Principal

“ At Becker, the image of the child is one that nurtures and believes that all children are competent, capable, and true protagonist in their education. Nurturing those capabilities is the foundation of our roles as educators as we research, document, and learn alongside the children. ”



say hello to
Brooke Lewis
Child Development Coordinator

Brooke collaborates with teachers, specialists, and families to make sure every child has access to a wonderful education. She also handles child files and coordinates with therapists and early childhood professionals who visit our school. Brooke loves game nights, traveling to tropical destinations, and cheering on the Houston Cougars!



say hello to
Bubbles Francis
Teacher and Parent Engagement Coordinator

Bubbles is a former Becker teacher with over 12 years of education experience. She has a passion for teaching and building a better world. She loves to travel and visit new and exciting places.



say hello to
Judy Lazor
Director of Admissions

Judy knows every child and family who has walked through the Becker doors over the past 25 years. She is your go-to for all tuition questions and helps with absolutely everything – except for the chickens! She loves Stephen Spielberg movies, British mysteries, Broadway musicals, and the Astros.



say hello to
Elizabeth Townsend
Education Assistant and Helfman Registrar

Elizabeth keeps the entire education department running smoothly. She has worked for Congregation Emanu El for nine years, doing everything from teaching to engagement. She loves traveling and spending as much time at the beach as possible.



say hello to
Sarah Kronman
School Receptionist

Sarah is the smiling face that greets our families each day. She also helps to keep us all organized and efficient. Sarah began her career at Congregation Emanu El as a teaching assistant in Helfman Religious School. Sarah loves to spend her free time with her family by the pool.



We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who remember and honor their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions through July 11, 2023.

**AUBREY & SYLVIA FARB
COMMUNITY SERVICE
FUND**

*To support small and
emerging organizations
that improve life for
underserved Houstonians*
In Honor of
**Vicki Samuels – Jewish
Herald Voice**
Laurie Bricker

In Memory of
Stacy Farb

Barbara Berger
Roberta Farb Colton
Sylvia Farb
Susan & David Morris
Beth & Mendel Nock
Marla & Dick Parvey
Helene & Robert Scolnick

Joanie Murland

Steven Fenberg
Maxine Reingold
Steven Fenberg
Saranne & Livingston
Kosberg

**BECKER EARLY
CHILDHOOD FUND**

*To provide and enhance
Becker School programs*
In Memory of
Joanie Murland

Sandy & Michael Wexler

**BECKER EARLY
CHILDHOOD
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

*To provide Becker
Early Childhood Center
scholarships*
In Memory of
Jerry Bader

Judy & Allan Lazor
Joanie Murland
Paulette & Mel Levine
Maxine Reingold
Sandy & Van Lessig

**CARY PASTERNAK
CEMETERY FUND**

*To maintain and enhance
Emanu El Memorial Park*
In Memory of
Cary Pasternak
Jan Pasternak

**CERSONSKY CEMETERY
BEAUTIFICATION FUND**

*To maintain and enhance
Emanu El Memorial Park*
In Memory of
**Rose Ann Martin Finkel
Stephanie Barthlow
Fradkin**
Pat & Aaron Fradkin
Roni Light
Sharon & Herb Cohn
Sandy & Robert Light

**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

**The Anniversary of Susie &
David Askanase**

Gail & Louis Adler
Susie & David Askanase
Ellen & Franklin Gittess
Carol & Barry Goodfriend
Marilyn Hassid & Marc
Gessner
Linda Hayon & Barbara
Loeser
Ellie & Jon Totz
Linda & Richard Zoll

**The Anniversary of
Barbara & Allen Pauly**

Marilyn Hassid & Marc
Gessner

The Birthday of Paula Levy

Adele & Steve Croft

In Memory of
Sara Astrich

Julie Muntz & Peter
Johnson
Robert "Bobby" Berenson
Joan & Steve Dinerstein
Jack and Michael Fink
Perri & Aaron Fink

Joanie Murland
Hildy & Mike Caplan

Maxine Reingold
Lynn & Armand Shapiro

Larry Robertson
Arlyne & Maynard Gimble

June Silverblatt
Mary Axelrad

**ED WULFE YOUTH
LEADERSHIP FUND**

*To support programming to
train young leaders*
In Memory of
Sara Astrich
Sydney Greenblatt
Sherri & David Parker
Susie & Alvin Zimmerman

**EDWARD WAYNE HUNGER
FUND**

*To feed the hungry in
Houston and to support
Kids Meals*
In Honor of
**The Anniversary of Susie &
David Askanase**
Marsha & Joseph Cohen

In Memory of
Sara Astrich

Vivian & Stanley Lipman
Maxine Reingold

Sandy Frieden

Marvin J. Ross
Sondra Ross

**ELLEN HURWITZ PENNER
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND**

*To promote the spiritual
growth of Helfman
Religious School students*
In Honor of
**Cheryl Levy – 2023 Ernest
Krautkopf Congregant of
the Year**
Shari Penner

ETERNAL FLAME FUND

*To provide for the general
needs of Emanu El and its
facilities*
In Memory of
Sara Astrich
Myra Lipper
Richard Westerman
Jan & Rick Sander and
Ashley & Van Voorhees

**FLORENCE & BEN BLUM
LEADERSHIP FUND**

*To send Emanu El
leadership to URJ Biennials
and underwrite leadership
programs and speakers*
In Memory of
Maxine Reingold
Myra Lipper

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

*To enhance musical
programming*
In Honor of
**The Anniversary of Susie &
David Askanase**
Lindy & Sam Dorn
Kathy & Stephen Parven
Marlene Rubin & Ron
Kronberg

**HAROLD REINGOLD
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND**

*To enhance Helfman
Religious School programs*
In Memory of
Maxine Reingold
Julie & Drew Alexander
Jacquelyn Barish
Leslie & Stephen Beckman
Sandy & Jean Beckman
Carol & Barry Goodfriend
Alfred Kahn
Tracy Kapiloff
Eva Loeb
Kathy & Stephen Parven
Cindy & Brett Perlman
Jason Plotkin
Marlene Rubin
Ed & Susan Septimus
Ellie & Jon Totz
Irene Weingarten
Lorraine Wulfe

**JULIA KAPLAN RELIGIOUS
SCHOOL ENRICHMENT
FUND**

*To enhance Helfman
Religious School programs*
In Memory of
Maxine Reingold
Susan & Richard Speer

continued next page

**MARIANNE GREENFIELD
SISTERHOOD FLOWER
FUND**

*To provide flowers in our
worship spaces*

In Honor of

Rabbi Pamela Silk

Jo Ann Levine

**The Anniversary of Susie &
David Askanase**

Debra & Aaron Askanase,
Eric & Anca Askanase, &
Julie & Jonathan Lass

In Memory of

Sara Astrich

Larry J. Greenfield and
Family

Susan & Richard Speer

Rose Garey

Arlyne & Maynard Gimble

Rose Goodfriend

Her Family

Marianne Greenfield

Larry J. Greenfield
Elizabeth & Matt Krohn
and Family
Michelle & Howard Stone
and Family
Debbie Zissman and
Family

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Bagelman**

Elaine Helfman

Louis Loeser

Larry J. Greenfield and
Family

Joanie Murland

Elizabeth & Matt Krohn
and Family

Antoinette Price

Arlyne & Maynard Gimble

Maxine Reingold

June Silverblatt

Larry J. Greenfield and
Family

**MILTON POPKIN
LIFELONG ADULT JEWISH
EDUCATION FUND**

*To promote an
understanding of other
religions and cultures*

In Memory of

Maxine Reingold

Stephen & Linda Popkin
Paine

**RABBI ROY & LINDA
WALTER ENRICHMENT
FUND**

*To support spiritual and
cultural enrichment*

In Appreciation of

Rabbi Roy Walter

The Murland Family
The Slusky & Konig
Families

In Honor of

**The Anniversary of Diane
& Fred Konig**

Joan Shafran

**The Birthday of Julian
Silverblatt**

Abbe & Jeff Ricken

In Memory of

Robert “Bobby” Berenson

Barbara & Donnie
Roseman

Lenore Caplan

Arlene & Marshall
Hoffman

Howard Kaplan

Sondra Ross

Joanie Murland

Phyllis & Allen Applebaum

Richard Westerman

Carol & Michael Wilk

**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

*To provide Helfman
Religious School
scholarships*

In Memory of

Joanie Murland

The Helfman Religious
School Faculty & Staff

**RICKY SCHNURR
CAMPERSHIP FUND**

*To provide Greene Family
Camp scholarships*

In Memory of

Maxine Reingold

Cindy & David Senior

Rose Schrabner

Sondra Ross

**ROBERT I. KAHN GALLERY
FUND**

*To maintain and enhance
the Robert I. Kahn Gallery*

In Honor of

**The Anniversary of Susie &
David Askanase**

Libby & Buz Marvins

**ROBERT I. KAHN SOCIAL
JUSTICE FUND**

*To send congregants
to the Consultation on
Conscience at the Religious
Action Center*

In Honor of

**The Anniversary of Susie &
David Askanase**

Carol Desenberg
Rozanne & Howard Rubin
Bobbi Samuels

In Memory of

Sara Astrich

Alfred Kahn

Maxine Reingold

Susan & Eddie Kahn

**THE ROBERT REICHEK
YOUTH AND YOUNG
ADULT ENDOWMENT
FUND**

*To provide outstanding
programs for young adults*

In Memory of

Mike Kahn

Vicki & Herb Pasternak
and Family

**RONALD BROCHSTEIN
EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND**

*To enhance preschool
education*

In Memory of

Sara Astrich

Sandy & Richard
Brochstein

TEMPLE FUND

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

In Honor of

**The Anniversary of Susie &
David Askanase**

Susan & Milton Altschuler
Vicki & Robert Birenbaum
Joan Brochstein
Barbara & Raymond
Kalmans
Marilyn & Joel Kay
Cheryl & Haran Levy
Susan & Syd Waldman

**The Anniversary of Carol &
Michael Wilk**

Barbara & Raymond
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Sheila & Jerry Kaplan

**The Birthday of Rabbi Roy
Walter**

Carol & Michael Wilk

**The B’nei Mitzvah of
Levi Leibman & Chloe
Pinsky**

Maurice & Suzanne
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**The Speedy Recovery of
Rick Goldfarb**

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Cheryl & Haran Levy
Ina Perlman
Donna & Philip
Tenenbaum
Dolores Wilkenfeld

Richard Westerman

Sandy & Ken Kopel

CONGREGATION EMANU EL ENDOWMENTS:

Leadership Funds that Bridge the High School, College and Young Adult Journey

Congregation Emanu El has long valued the resources and opportunities it offers members who are building their adult identities, Jewish family values, and careers. With the help of several Endowment Funds like the Robert Reichel Young Adult Engagement Fund, the Ed Wulfe Youth Leadership Fund, and the Shirley Barish Memorial Fund, rising high school graduates and young professionals are enjoying meaningful and inspiring Jewish-themed experiences.

Guidance from our past, growth for our future



front row: Anna Chaikin, Megan Carson, Scout Brooks;
back row: Talia Kalmans, Riley Greene, Hailey Frank

Helfman Graduates

In May of this year, six special young men and women graduated from the Helfman Religious School, marking the completion of twelve or more years of religious school at Emanu El. Their evolution from unique students into a tight-knit group of close friends was shared at a moving Shabbat service celebrating their milestone achievement. Each student shared a bit about their experiences, and many noted the life-changing role that their trip to Israel, funded by the Shirley Barish Memorial Fund, played in their final year.

Rabbi Pam Silk, who watched this group evolve, explained it best: "The goal of the 12th grade is to create and promote a mindset and framing to help launch our students into the next stage of life. Through speakers, field trips, and teaching opportunities, we help them focus on what a Jewish future looks like. The students attend by choice, not parental pressure. It is invaluable to witness."

Stefani Carlson, Director of Lifelong Learning, adds that the Teaching Assistant program has been integral in providing continuity and connection to our Jewish tradition and values. "Serving as a TA is a visible example of what our students' future can look like as a young professional. TAs give back to younger students, of course, but is the opportunity to see themselves as congregational leaders that matters most. It is often their first real job. It is an opportunity to develop responsibility and be depended on. They are called 'teaching' assistants because they are in fact the next generation of Jewish educators. So many of our current teachers started out as TAs. Many go on to become Jewish professionals and teachers for other congregations. But it all began here. The TA program is a shining jewel in our congregation."

“The Shirley Barish Memorial Israel Experience totally lived up to its reputation, and my fellow students were so great to travel with. The spiritual encounter I felt attending my first Orthodox Shabbat service, and feeling the wind as God, moved me to write music I now get to sing as a song leader for Cantor Simmons. I am so grateful.”

— SCOUT BROOKS

“Wednesday nights became a constant in my life, and a chance to build a strong foundation for expanding my Jewish identity. I learned so much about Jewish holidays and traditions and built life-long friendships.”

— TALIA KALMANS

“Helfman is not just a school, it's a community, and a safe place for cultivating Jewish values and advice. As a Teaching Assistant, I gained important skills working with younger kids and b'nei mitzvah students. None of us attends a Jewish day school, so our Helfman experience gave us a leg-up on college preparation and staying connected to other Jewish youth.”

— HAILEY FRANK

“As the only Jewish student in my high school, being with other Jewish kids my age made learning Jewish values a fun experience. Going to Israel felt like coming home, and we all became dear friends. I believe Emanu El will always be a place I belong, and the relationships I made here will stand the test of time.”

— ANNA CHAIKIN

“I was never the best student, but I kept coming back because of the people and the dinners we shared. Our trip to Israel and time at Emanu El have made me better understand who I am and prepared me for being a Jewish adult. The trip also gave me affirmation that I want to study sustainability and major in environmental science.”

— RILEY GREENE

“I never knew many Jewish kids until I entered this program. Our trip to Israel not only cemented some amazing friendships, it was an incredible out-of-body spiritual, religious and cultural experience.”

— MEGAN CARSON



front row: Jeff Coburn, Becca Schwartzberg, Voodoo Priest Robi, Lilach Pasvolsky;
middle: Mary Windham, Brandon Epstein, Rabbi Fixler, Stephanie Yurchyk, Advait
Balaji, Mari Katz O'Leary, Erica Zhuravel; back row: Ashley Mills, Andrew Burnett

Young Professionals and Families

"Programs addressing the interests and needs of young professionals are pivotal in growing a base of support in our spiritual community," shares Becca Schwartzberg, Youth and Young Adult Engagement Coordinator. "Happily, our young professionals' program at Emanu El (aimed at those who are between 21-40) has thrived and evolved, with the valuable support of the Robert Reichek Fund." Each month, the temple plans a program on a variety of topics to engage and enlighten young professionals, e.g., a Chanukah-themed cocktail event, or 'Torah on Tap,' a gathering at a local venue to hear a talk of interest given by Rabbi Fixler. There have been "JED Talks," where community members have spoken about their journey, and how it has affected their Judaism...or how Judaism has impacted their course in life. And once a quarter, the temple hosts its signature event, Warehouse Shabbat, for young professionals and anyone young at heart.

For the past two years, Emanu El has taken young professionals on a three-day Southern Jewish Heritage trip, first to Memphis, and most recently, to New Orleans. The Reichek Fund underwrites all expenses, enabling both singles and couples to enjoy a transformative weekend, reinforcing their southern Jewish identity and generating interesting conversations. "The Reichek Fund has generously addressed the financial and time barriers young professionals may feel, creating opportunities for expanded Jewish community and education," explains Rabbi Fixler.

These experiences have been a win-win for everyone involved. "I have received multiple thank you notes from participants who went on these trips," shares Robert. "We can see how it's making a difference and we are excited to continue our support. It's so satisfying to watch this unfold...and more than I ever hoped for."

Leading by Example

Both Emanu El students and young professionals have benefited from a concept former Board president Ed Wulfe, of blessed memory, envisioned for developing leaders in our congregation. "Ed always expressed the importance of consensus building and listening, and making sure that everyone's voice counted," shares his wife, Lorraine. "He echoed the need for 'servant leadership,' a phrase coined by Robert Greenleaf in his essay, *The Servant as a Leader*. A servant leader focuses on the growth and well-being of people and the communities to which they belong. They share the power, put the needs of others first, and help people develop and perform as highly as possible. In Ed's mind, the best leader is one who can touch your heart," she explains. "The Ed Wulfe Youth Leadership Fund was established with this goal in mind."



BE A PART OF IT

On any financial level, we all have the capacity to impact the future. For more information about contributing toward the temple's Endowment through planned giving and legacy gifts, please contact Anna Shabtay at annas@emanuelhouston.org, or scan the QR code with your cell phone camera.

July 4th Celebration



BETTER TOGETHER
PICKLEBALL
JEWISH SINGLES OVER 50

CONGREGATION BETH YESHURUN

**REGISTER FOR OPEN PLAY
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**PLEASE ENTER COURTS THROUGH SCHOOL
 ENTRANCE**

SUNDAYS
 5/21, 6/11, 6/25, 8/20, 9/10,
 10/15, 10/29, 11/5, 11/19,
 12/3, 12/17

**12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.
 MUST ARRIVE BY 1PM**

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- 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

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Watch Your Inbox!

High Holy Day packets will be arriving to your mailbox shortly.

Please make sure we have your current email address on file so we can send your digital High Holy Day pass to the appropriate email address.



Verify your email address on file by logging into the member portal at members.emanuelhouston.org. Need help? Contact fredif@emanuelhouston.org.



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