

Emanu-El ^S_F

CHRONICLE VOLUME CLXVII, NO. 19 | AUGUST 2019 | TAMUZ - ELUL 5779

BACK TO SCHOOL!



AUG
23 OPEN DOOR
SHABBAT WITH
SPECIAL GUEST:
**Mohammed
Al Samawi**



SEPT
21 **Selichot
Program**



SEPT
22 **SAN QUENTIN
Theatre
Workshop**

EMANU-EL SPOTLIGHT

Interview with Interfaith Activist and Author

Mohammed Al Samawi

BY RICHARD AND RHODA GOLDMAN
SENIOR RABBI BETH SINGER

Mohammed Al Samawi is an interfaith activist, a refugee from Yemen and author of the autobiography, *The Fox Hunt*. This book tells the story of Mohammed's personal journey that led him from harboring a deep suspicion of other faiths to becoming a peace advocate. A critical, powerful encounter with a teacher challenged him to learn about the Bible and Judaism, rerouting him from a path of likely violence. Mohammed's journey to interfaith commitment ultimately saved his life, when four American strangers, through the use of social media, helped rescue him from extremist groups in Yemen. Mohammed remains committed to the exchange of core values that define our religious traditions. He hopes to advance this work through his interfaith organization, Abrahamic House, to build sustainable interfaith learning and action across Muslim, Jewish, and Christian communities in order to foster an environment of learning, respect, and social change.



The Fox Hunt is a 2019 Nautilus book winner and 2019 National Jewish Book Awards Finalist. A film based on the book is now under development by movie producer Marc Platt (*La La Land*) and Josh Singer (who won an Academy Award for best original screenplay for the film *Spotlight*).

Interview continued on page 8

Meet Mohammed Al Samawi at our Open Door Shabbat

Friday, August 23, 6:00 pm, Main Sanctuary. See more information on page 6.

August Shabbat Calendar

Friday, August 2

5:30 pm, First Friday

Under Five Service

(*Martin Meyer Sanctuary*)

6:00 pm, Classic Shabbat Service

(*Main Sanctuary*)

Saturday, August 3

10:30 am, Shabbat Morning Service

(*Main Sanctuary*)

Friday, August 9

6:00 pm, One Shabbat Service

(*Martin Meyer Sanctuary*)

8:30 pm, Young Adult Late

Shabbat Service (*Main Sanctuary*)

Saturday, August 10

10:30 am, Shabbat Morning Service

(*Main Sanctuary*)

10:30 am, Shabbat Morning Service

(*Martin Meyer Sanctuary*)

Friday, August 16

6:00 pm, One Shabbat Service

(*Martin Meyer Sanctuary*)

Saturday, August 17

10:30 am, Shabbat Morning Service

(*Martin Meyer Sanctuary*)

10:30 am, Shabbat Morning Service

(*Main Sanctuary*)

Friday, August 23

6:00 pm, One Shabbat Service

(*Martin Meyer Sanctuary*)

Saturday, August 24

10:30 am, Shabbat Morning Service

(*Martin Meyer Sanctuary*)

10:30 am, Shabbat Morning Service

(*Main Sanctuary*)

Friday, August 30

6:00 pm, One Shabbat Service

(*Martin Meyer Sanctuary*)

Saturday, August 31

10:30 am, Shabbat Morning Service

(*Martin Meyer Sanctuary*)

10:30 am, Shabbat Morning Service

(*Main Sanctuary*)

Sponsor an Oneg Shabbat

Sponsoring an Oneg-Shabbat for Friday evening is a lovely way to honor or remember a loved one or to celebrate a Simcha. When you sponsor an Oneg-Shabbat, you help us welcome Shabbat with the warmth and community that are characteristic of our congregation. For more details, please contact Svetlana Leykin at sleykin@emanuelsf.org or (415) 751-2541 x123.

SHALOM RAV FROM OUR RABBI

By Richard and Rhoda Goldman Senior Rabbi Jonathan Singer

Selah! This word, which appears 74 times in the book of Psalms spelled with the Hebrew letter *Heh*, can be translated as “praise” or “forever.” But when spelled with the Hebrew letter *Ayin*, Selah means “rock” — like the rock that Moses incorrectly struck when seeking water in the wilderness after Miriam (whose name may have meant “water finder”) had died.

I assume that the parents of Selah Schneider, who is now, at the age of ten, the youngest person to have ever climbed El Capitan, named her after the geological formation. This daughter of two mountain climbers has certainly lived up to that designation, but as a 10-year-old record holder doing something that I, with my fear of heights, could never imagine doing, she is also worthy of praise (as the alternative Hebrew meaning of her name implies).

While some might question the wisdom of encouraging one's young child to participate in such a sport, Selah's achievement does serve as a reminder that our kids can do amazing things when given the opportunity. This holds true when it comes to sports, secular school, and social justice opportunities, and must also apply to Jewish education, which includes our Emanu-El Youth and Family Education class offerings.

While many parents tell us they are glad that Emanu-El's school endeavors create such a fun and engaging learning environment, one that builds community, as your synagogue leadership we have been spending much time thinking about how we can do even better. What can we do to meet the needs of children who want to climb higher, to help our youth who want to explore Torah in more creative ways, or build an even stronger sense of youth engagement and community? How can we integrate the latest in Jewish educational advancement, utilize technology, and better engage parents to collaborate in our desire to improve?

As a clergy team, along with our new head of school Lom Friedman, we have been pondering these questions and have already instituted new opportunities in the form of increased Hebrew offerings, expanded family retreats, and at-home self-guided elective enrichment projects.

Out of these conversations has come a desire to implement a new curriculum that will provide more opportunities to our children through track electives, more support to our teachers, and better tools for our parents to share with their children, creating opportunities for

reinforcement at home. We are doing so in consultation with leading experts in Jewish education from the Hebrew Union College and the larger Reform movement.

After having spent a first year getting to know our program, Lom is now working on some exciting projects and an educational vision that will unfold over the next few years. We plan on introducing a new curriculum that supports more Hebrew and Torah learning while offering an experimental Hebrew-focused engagement track that will first be tested in this year's 5th grade. We hope to provide more time for teacher meetings and training, to create a parent/teacher association, and to form a professional educator support team that can help our teachers in the classroom. This fiscal year, we have added new support in our school, investing the precious dollars that you share with us as members and donors, to help build a better Emanu-El and a better Jewish future.

We believe that all children who participate in our school should emerge with a joyful connection to Judaism and the Jewish people and with a love of Torah that can help guide and support them in a challenging world. It is so important for our kids who are overtaxed with schoolwork and extracurricular activities to find value and meaning and joy in the time they spend at synagogue. With that in mind, we will continue to explore ways to grow our program, improve our physical teaching space, and make more resources available to our families.

There are always new heights to climb, and atop the highest rock, we are always trying to receive Torah. Educating our youth to fulfill their Jewish future is the job of the entire synagogue and it is our gift to our people. As your clergy, we welcome your support, engagement, and partnership in this holy work. Most importantly, we want you to encourage your children to come and study with us and to place Jewish education as a higher priority in their lives.

Amen Selah!



The Temple leadership is proud to announce that we have chosen to honor Rabbi Sydney Mintz and Rabbi Ryan Bauer each with the title of Senior Associate Rabbi. This honorific is an acknowledgement of their length of outstanding service to Congregation Emanu-El. We are so grateful to them for being such vital members of our clergy team and for all they do to build and sustain Jewish life in the Bay Area. Please join us in wishing each of them mazal tov on this distinction.

- Richard and Rhoda Goldman Senior Rabbis
Beth and Jonathan Singer



Rabbi Ryan Bauer



Rabbi Sydney Mintz

YOUTH & FAMILY EDUCATION

No Place Like YFE



Lom Friedman

As the end of summer approaches, we look forward to welcoming back families, teens, and teachers for another great year of YFE programs.

Last year we reached new heights with a record-breaking enrollment of over 700 students! You could FEEL the ruach in the room as all of the families joined together for tefillah and gathered at the end of the day, bringing a diversity of Jewish experience and goals. OUR goal for all of our YFE programs is to experience and understand our

common Jewish wisdom and traditions while helping each family find personal meaning in our shared inheritance.

YFE focuses on learning that is uniquely Jewish — Jewish holidays, Torah stories, Hebrew language, Jewish history, Jewish values — all of which is not taught at secular institutions or exhibited by the world in general. We are laying a foundation in the lives of our youth for both joyful and sad times. We are preparing them to create their own Jewish life when they go off to college, to walk into any Jewish community and feel as if they fit right in, to be able to proudly and authoritatively answer the question: “What does being Jewish mean?” We are providing them with the tools to face a troubling world, to know right from wrong, and to be courageous and kind in their actions.

Some exciting new highlights for this year include:

- **2nd & 3rd Grade Badge Program** — Inspired by scouting, YFE kids will be able to track their own growth in both knowledge and skills as they earn badges over a two-year period. Some projects will be done in groups; some they can choose individually; and others will be completed at home with grandparents, parents, and friends. It’s a “Choose Your Own Adventure” model that feeds into this age group’s intrinsic drive to master skills, be recognized for their milestones, and explore their personal interests.
- **4th Grade/6th Grade Family Retreat** — Based on the success of our 6th grade family Shabbaton, this retreat will involve building community between families from both 4th and 6th grades. The families will spend the same weekend (October 25–27) at the same location (Westminster Woods), sharing meals and Shabbat services, while enjoying separate programming time and living areas. Save the date!
- **5th Grade Specialty Track** — For their last year of weekly religious school, we are excited to offer 5th graders an innovative “honors program” option, providing scholastically minded students with accelerated Hebrew (in addition to regular weekly classes), Jewish skills

(e.g., leading parts of a seder), and deeper philosophical conversations on texts. For students who love school, this is bound to be a great learning as well as social experience!

- **Curriculum Enhancements** — Based on a year of observation and evaluations, as well as input from teachers, students, and parents, we are spending the summer significantly increasing curricular resources for the coming year. This includes designing progressive units for grade clusters (pre-K/Kindergarten, 1st/2nd grades, and 4th/5th grades) and an online library of lesson plans, videos, music, stories, and other educational resources. This catalogue will be an incredible resource for new teachers and will help to avoid an accidental repeat of material from earlier grades. The grand scale of this project is not just for a single summer, but will be our new model of educational intention, collaboration, transparency, and evolution. We will build on the shoulders of giants (including the URJ’s CHAI curriculum, Jewish camp programs, and synagogues from around the country) and we will tap into our homegrown talent of educators and clergy. Look forward to regular updates throughout the year, including resources for families to use at home!

- **YFE Parent Group** — While Sunday mornings, Wednesday afternoons, and retreats are great ways to build community and teach Jewish values to children, YFE can also be a special place for parents to connect — and for more than just carpools! This year, we’re introducing three easy ways for parents to join the fun:

1. **New Family Welcome Buddies.** Volunteer to be paired with a family that is new to Emanu-El (ideally, one near your own home). You will welcome them, show them the ropes, and be a friendly face they can recognize at big events. The pairing will mostly focus on the first couple of months of the year, but could lead to lifelong new friendships!
2. **Room Parents.** Connect with teachers and help build community among families in your grade.
3. **YFE Parent Association.** Once a month, we will host open meetings on a Sunday or Wednesday to share school updates, involve you in the conversation about ways to continue growing the program, and offer ways in which you can support and be involved in the school. These meetings will be social and productive!

Last May, all of our students went home with the summer homework I received from my Rabbi when I was a Sunday school student: “Read a new book, think a new thought, make a new friend, and sing a new song!” Amidst family vacations, overnight camp, barbecues, and other summer fun, I hope you all had a great time achieving these goals! We are excited to see your smiling faces again for another year of Jewish community, celebration, learning, and pride.

— Lom Friedman
Director of Education

YFE Dates to Remember:

- **YFE Sundays, Wednesdays, and Hebrew:** September 15-18
- **TEF (8th through 12th grades):** September 22 (12:30 – 2:00 pm)
- **6th Grade Shabbat Experience & Orientation:** October 12 (10:00 am – 2:30 pm)
- **4th/6th Grade Family Retreats:** October 25-27

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY:

REGISTER for YFE Sun, Wed, Hebrew, 6th Grade, Mitzvah Corps, & TEF on MyEmanuEl before August 1st

SIGN UP to be a Welcome Buddy Family (on registration form or via email) to help new families find a friend before the school year starts

EMAIL Tori (tstarks@emanuelsf.org) to say hello or have your 8th grader apply for our excellent Madrichim Teacher Training program

EMAIL Natalya (ngomes@emanuelsf.org) if you are interested in being added to the waitlist for the new 5th Gr Specialty Track

EMAIL Flora (fkupferman@emanuelsf.org) if your child has special learning needs their teachers should be aware of

Mazal tov to 12th grade Havurah Reuben and to the Confirmation class of 1969!

Confirmation 2019 Class ►

Isabel Aks, Jordan Bach-Fox, Ike Beckman, Michael Berler*, Josephine Berler, Kaya Brown, Charlotte Haber, Benjamin Jeremy, Sophie Levine, Eleanor Levinson-Muth, Emma Marino, Aliza Mayer, Eric Mosheim, Laurel Nelson*, Ezra Parkhill*, Hanna Persky*, Avram Rosenzweig*, Nicole Shaw, Ulrika Shragge, Hezekiah Smithstein, Isaiah Starks, Adrien Stroumza, Marissa Torrano, Wes Wellner *Not pictured



◄ 1969 Reunion Participants

Pam Byrnes, Lance Davidson, Bob Denebeim, Judi Hyman, Sandra Hyman, Ellen Judell, John Knox, Madeleine Lehman, Judy Ann Klein Maier, Robert Pollak, Adele Regensburger, Cindy Salans Rosenheim, Michelle Schulz, Bruce Simon, Frank Sperling, Debra Surkin, Maurice Tani

Welcome Tori!

It is with great pleasure and excitement that we welcome Tori Starks to the full-time Youth & Family Education team as our new Teen Programs Manager!

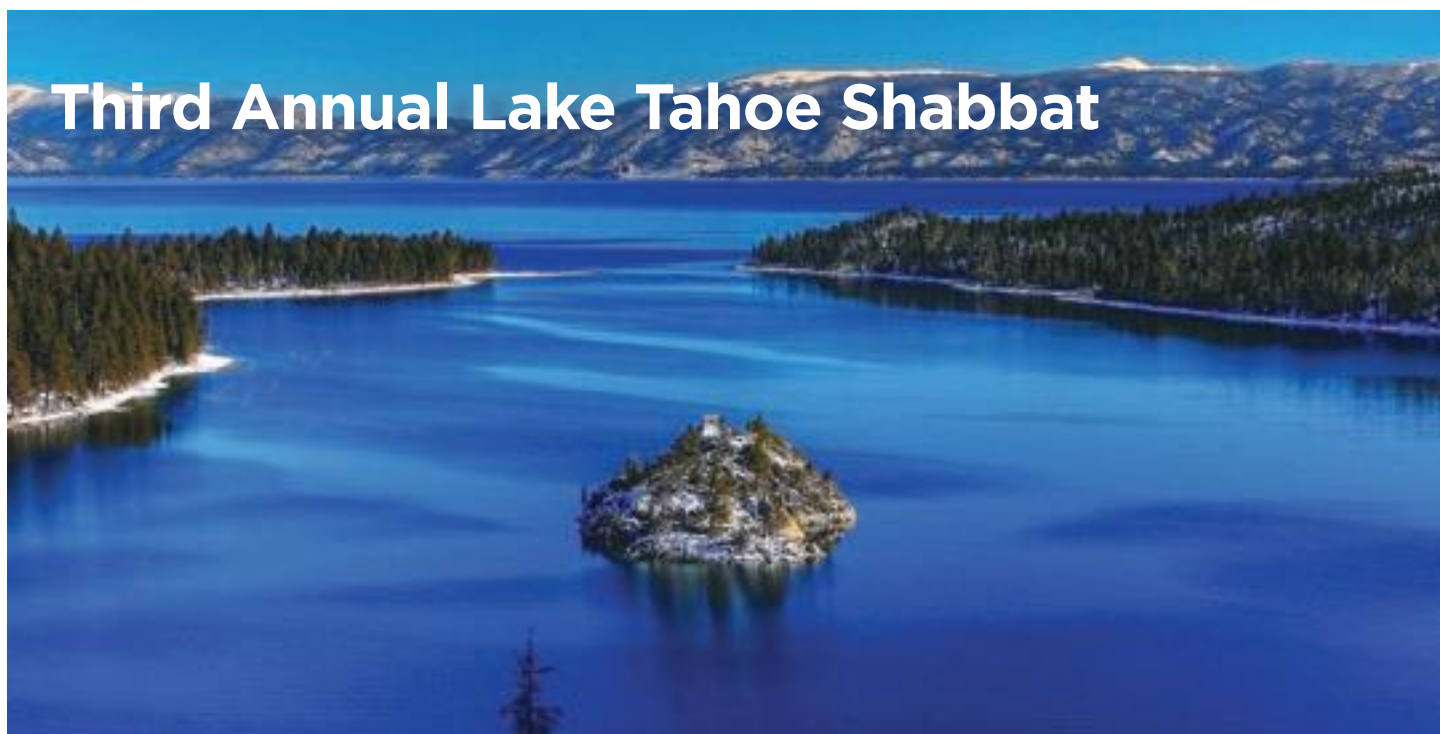
Tori is a third-generation Emanu-El member, and she in turn raised both of her children (Sarah and Isaiah) in this community. Tori was an exemplary teacher in our CEE Preschool for over ten years, working closely with countless children and their families. She has also been a mentor to new teachers, and has taught in our Sunday morning YFE program, Mitzvah Corps (7th grade), and College Connection.

As the Teen Programs Manager, Tori will be responsible for all 6th through 12th grade YFE programs — including retreats, 6th Grade Shabbat Experience, 7th Grade Mitzvah Corps, Madrichim Teen Teacher Training, 8th through 12th Grade Emanu-El Fellowship (TEF), teen trips to Los Angeles and New York City, Confirmation, and YFE Sunday Teen Teachers. She will also be a core member of the overall YFE team that collaborates on everything touching Emanu-El families with children in grades K-12. (Note that all things B'nei Mitzvah will still be managed by Flora and Lauren.)

We consider ourselves lucky to have someone as creative, intelligent, energetic, and connected to Emanu-El as Tori to lead these programs into the future. Feel free to send her a welcome email: TStarks@emanuelsf.org



UPCOMING EVENTS



Friday, August 2, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, home of Stuart Corvin and Marissa Wertheimer
(address provided upon registration)

A brief, warm Kabbalat Shabbat service, led by Rabbis Beth and Jonathan Singer, will be followed by dinner provided by Stuart and Marissa. You are welcome to bring a dessert or beverage of your choice to share.

All Emanu-El families and individuals are welcome. Please arrive by 6:00 pm. To register, visit emanuelsf.org/register

Open Door Shabbat

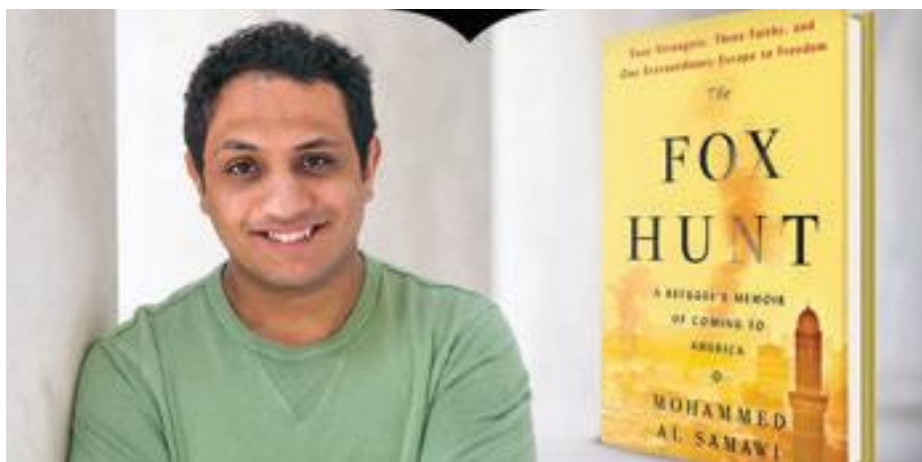
A Community-Wide Interfaith Service

**Friday, August 23, 6:00 pm,
Main Sanctuary**

The San Francisco Interfaith Council and Grace Cathedral are partnering with Emanu-El to celebrate an Open Door Shabbat service. This service will allow us to welcome Shabbat with our interfaith

community partners as a display of support, not in a time of crisis or despair, but simply to exemplify love for all. Our special guest, author Mohammed Al Samawi, will inspire us with his incredible story of escape from the Yemeni civil war. He will also discuss his new venture, [Abrahamic House](#), the culmination of his vision for breaking down the barriers between different faiths.

People of all faiths are welcome to attend. Mohammed will stay after the service to sign copies of his books. Bring your copy!



San Quentin Theatre Workshop with Marin Shakespeare Company

Sunday, September 22, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm



Experience the power of rehabilitation through the arts! Marin Shakespeare Company invites Emanu-El congregants to participate in two Shakespeare Workshop opportunities at San Quentin State Prison. Each workshop will include theatre exercises and Shakespeare readings with inmate actors from San Quentin. You will visit the prison, interact with inmates, and participate in workshop activities. The workshops are open to anyone age 18 or older, and there is no cost to sign up. You will leave with a new perspective on our criminal justice system and the power of the arts to heal. Workshops are led by Marin Shakespeare Company's Lesley Currier.

Participation is limited. You must sign up in advance, and you will need to submit the following information to obtain clearance:

- Full Legal Name
- Date of Birth
- Social Security Number
- Driver license number and state of issue (or other photo ID, such as a passport)

Note that the deadline to sign up is August 5.

Send your information directly to Lesley Currier at lesley@marinshakespeare.org or call (415) 499-4485. Be sure to mention that you are a member of Congregation Emanu-El.

Volunteers Needed

Ushers Needed For the High Holy Days

We need energetic and reliable congregants (teens welcome!) to serve as ushers for the High Holy Days.

What you give: Your time, energy, and love to other members of our community to help them feel safe and cared for during the holidays.

What you get: Special seating at the services you are working, endless smiles and appreciation, mitzvah brownie points, and additional snacks on Rosh Hashanah.

To sign up, please contact Ariana Estoque at aestoque@emanuelsf.org or (415) 750-7552.

Shabbat Ushers Needed

We're looking for a group of dedicated members to greet and welcome the community to our Friday night One Shabbat Services. Responsibilities include distributing prayer books, welcoming everyone with a smile, and sharing your love of Shabbat! This new opportunity would begin after the High Holy Days with a rotation schedule to be determined.

Time commitment: 5:30-7:15 pm.

Contact: Rabbi Sarah Joselow Parris at sparris@emanuelsf.org



Our Voorsanger Library Needs Your Help!

We are looking for volunteers with library skills to help organize and update our Voorsanger Library.

For details, please contact Ariana Estoque at aestoque@emanuelsf.org or (415) 750-7552

Continued from page 2

A few years ago, I read about the Yemenite Muslim refugee who was rescued by Jews and Christians and crossed the Red Sea to freedom during Pesach. So when he came to speak at a local Bay Area event just before the High Holy Days last year, I broke my “no going out until the sermon is done” rule and attended his talk. I purchased a copy of his book just so I could meet him personally. Mohammed Al Samawi and I have since become friends and I give away copies of his book left and right.

On August 23, our community will host Open Door Shabbat (see details on page 6). Together with our interfaith neighbors, all of us at Congregation Emanu-El will have the opportunity to meet this amazing man who is a testament to the power of any person to overcome hate and to work every day for mutual understanding with those who are raised differently than ourselves. In preparation for Open Door Shabbat, I want you to meet the wonderful Mohammed Al Samawi!

Rabbi Beth: I won't start by asking you to tell us your story, because for that, every person reading this should immediately go buy a copy of your book, *The Fox Hunt*, soon to be a major motion picture. But, let's just say that you made a dramatic escape from your home country in Yemen and now you are moving to Los Angeles to open an Abrahamic House. Tell us about that.

Mohammed: Thank you for hosting me! Abrahamic House (AH) is a continuation of my activism. When I came to the US, I never guessed I would write a book that would become a movie. I became a little busy. I feel so lucky that I get to open Abrahamic House, which is inspired by Moishe House. [Moishe House is a Jewish initiative to provide housing to a group of young adult Jews who host warm and welcoming Shabbat dinners and other Jewish events for their peers and themselves]. I was the first Mohammed ever to speak at Moishe House! I was the first Muslim to sleep in a Moishe House! I thought, why don't I do the same with a Muslim, a Jew, a Bahai and a Christian? Together, we will host events for the whole community. There has been a lot of violence against Jewish and Muslim communities. So, this is my dream. The first Abrahamic House will open in Los Angeles in March 2020. My dream over the next five years is to open five houses.

Rabbi Beth: Once you have opened your AH, what are your hopes for it? What difference would you like to see as a result?

Mohammed: I really hope AH will be motivation for others to live with people of different backgrounds and faiths, I want to create a movement that starts in the United States but it doesn't stop there; I hope the Abrahamic House will exist in the near future in Europe and even the Middle East, like Morocco. Unfortunately, we live in a world full of misunderstanding, and my goal is to change our community by creating a pluralistic present built on shared experiences. I want to maintain the positive elements of religious traditions while simultaneously integrating those traditions into an intersectional model of community across faiths, backgrounds, and beliefs.



“We also want people to experience joint holiday celebrations and create an inclusive culture of curiosity, learning, and excitement about the religious practices of all members of our society.”

Rabbi Beth: What kinds of topics do you imagine AH guests will discuss?

Mohammed: Strategy teach-ins on organizing and intervention against anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. Also, service projects focusing on meeting defined needs of marginalized neighbors facing racism, immigration challenges, homelessness, abuse. We also want people to experience joint holiday celebrations and create an inclusive culture of curiosity, learning, and excitement about the religious practices of all members of our society.

Rabbi Beth: Tell me what you said about a word we share in common.

Mohammed: Yes, one of many examples is *Tzedakah*. In Arabic, we call it *Sdaqah*. It's the same thing where we help each other. This is a goal. Part of the Abrahamic House program is to help the neighborhood around all of the Abrahamic Houses we build. As needed, we will clean streets or help homeless who need help near the House. We will help people who don't speak English. If, say, a mosque or synagogue is damaged or attacked, we will be there to help as best we can.

Rabbi Beth: I think that anyone who reads your book suddenly starts to focus on the news from Yemen. The war is so painful and destructive. I can't even imagine how you bear it with your family all there during the war. What would you like from us? How can we participate in ending this war?

Mohammed: Every day it is painful for me to see my family, my friends, and my beautiful country destroyed by this war. I always ask myself, "Why is this happening?" It would help if the US would stop selling weapons that keep this war going. People can read up on this issue and contact your representatives and say you are against selling weapons. Yemenis need help. Find an organization you trust that is getting food and medicine into Yemen.

Rabbi Beth: You are a Muslim, but according to my social media sources, Jews sure seem to like you. What do you think accounts for that?

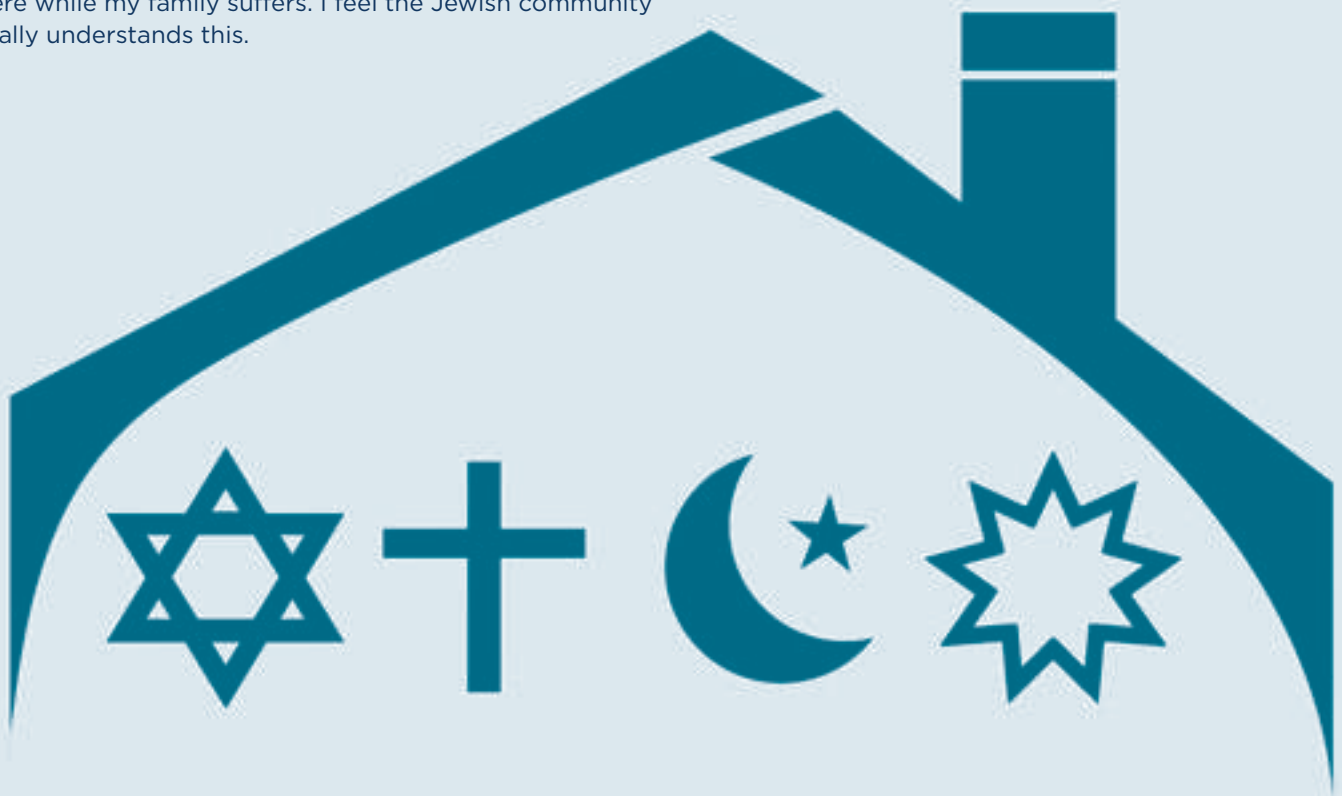
Mohammed: Some of my Jewish friends call me Moshe! When I escaped from Yemen, I crossed the Red Sea, but in the wrong direction! At the American embassy to Djibouti, my number was 36. They explained to me *double chai*. This was my lucky number. With that number, I was able to receive a visa. People from multiple faiths helped me to come here to the US. I came without family. A lot of Jews also came here and had lost their family. I am thankful to God every day. Every day is painful for me because I live here while my family suffers. I feel the Jewish community really understands this.

Rabbi Beth: I think so much about how you were raised to hate Jews and Christians. I don't know what to think about all those people who continue to hate entire religions.

Mohammed: There is a story of a man who brings a cheese sandwich to work every single day. He starts to complain. Day after day. It gets unbearable to hear his ongoing misery about this daily cheese sandwich. Finally, his co-workers can take it no more. They say to him, "Have you tried asking your wife to make you a different kind of sandwich?" "What?!" he responds, "What makes you think I have a wife? I make these myself every day." Change is very hard. We like to keep complaining. But that is what my work is about. We need to continually reach out to others who disagree with us or don't like us, then it is possible that they, like me, will change.

"We need to continually reach out to others who disagree with us or don't like us, then it is possible that they, like me, will change."

Rabbi Beth: I know our congregation can't wait to welcome you to Emanu-El. Thank you for the remarkable work you do.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As a large congregation, we recognize the importance of small group connection, so we create many opportunities for learning, socializing, and enjoying local culture together. These group gatherings generally occur in the evening hours or on weekends. Refer to the Community or Social Justice pages on our website for more information and staff contact information. Remember to register online in the MyEmanu-El portal for all of these programs (unless otherwise noted below) so we know to expect you.

Your Community Engagement Team:

Randi Fields

rfields@emanuelsf.org, x119

Rabbi Sarah Joselow Parris

sparris@emanuelsf.org, x124

Frana Price

fprice@emanuelsf.org, x0

Rebecca Reiner

rreiner@emanuelsf.org, x170

Weekday Activities at the Temple

Cooking for Congregants

*Thursdays, August 1, 8, and 22, 9:00 – 11:00 am,
Emanu-El Kitchen*

No charge.

Be one of two volunteers preparing meals for Emanu-El congregants who are facing significant life challenges. You'll work under the guidance of former restaurant owner Gail Laghi and chef Sari



Swig. New participants are welcome! Register at the Temple website by the Tuesday before each cooking day, or call Rebecca Reiner at (415) 751-2541 x170.

While volunteer slots for Cooking for Congregants are limited due to the layout of our kitchen, you can help by calling the Temple office when you become aware of congregants who are grieving or ill or have become new parents. By law, hospitals will not release patient information, so clergy and staff rely on the congregant network to enable us to reach out.

Under the skilled leadership of chefs Gail Laghi and Sari Swig, volunteers prepare delicious meals. Here's just one of many expressions of appreciation:

"Thank you so much. Sari just dropped off a week's worth of meals for my family and me. I can't tell you how surprised I am by this generosity. Please let the Cooking for Congregants team know that I am so grateful for this lovely gift. With lots of gratitude."

The Stories of Your Life: A Guided Autobiography and Life Review Writing Group

*Mondays, August 5 and September 9,
10:00 am – noon, Room 53*

No charge; any skill level welcomed.

This is a great opportunity for self-reflection and the chance to tell your unique story while also getting to know other warm and wonderful members of our congregation. Join this friendly group that meets monthly to share stories on assigned themes. It's about the story, so no writing experience is necessary.

New participants are always welcome! Online registration is required. For more information, contact the group facilitator Nancy Alpert, LCSW at nalpo@igc.org.

Scrabble

*Mondays, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm,
Room 57*

No charge; drop in; all ages & experience levels welcome.

Do you enjoy the challenge of putting letters together to form words? Join the Scrabble group and play a rousing game or two! Expand your vocabulary along with your social circle. Bring a Scrabble set (optional) and, of course, your appreciation of words. *Scrabble meets every Monday except when the Temple is closed.*



Mah Jongg

Tuesdays, 1:30 – 4:30 pm

No charge; drop in.

These sessions are open to all levels of experience, but you must know the basics as there will be no teaching — play time only! Arrive within the first half hour if you have any questions. *Mah Jongg meets every Tuesday except when the Temple is closed.*

Bridge Club – Lessons and Game

Tuesdays, August 27, September 10 and 24, 10:00 am – noon, Rinder Chapel

Cost: \$20 for members; \$25 for friends of members
Drop in.

If you are beyond the level of novice, join this very popular and lively group for duplicate-style bridge. Play while improving your game. Certified bridge instructor and American Contract Bridge League champion Deborah Murphy is the instructor.

Congregant Groups & Gatherings

The Tribe for Men's Annual Summer Rustic Camping Retreat!

Friday, August 9 through Sunday, August 11, Camp Cazadero, Cazadero, CA

Rabbi Bauer and Cantor Luck welcome you to our Tribe for Men camping retreat where our Emanu-El kids enjoy nature with one another and their dads.* This year, you have the option of tent camping or sleeping in a cabin! The weekend will include Shabbat services, pool swimming, outdoor sports, hiking, guitar strumming, s'mores, and of course queso (with late-night bourbon for the dads).

**Single mothers and LGBTQ+ families are welcome! Please contact Rabbi Bauer or Cantor Luck to discuss how your family's participation will work best for you.*

For more information, please contact Rebecca Reiner at rreiner@emanuelf.org.

The Tribe for Women Sonoma Gathering

Saturday, August 10, 10:00 am – 10:00 pm

Please join us for a special Tribe for Women gathering at a congregant's home near Healdsburg (75–90 minutes from San Francisco) for a day of relaxation, wine-tasting, and fun! This event is meant to coincide with the Tribe for Men's camping trip so you can take advantage of your brief child-free situation. This is a great way to get to know other members of the Tribe for Women.

If you plan to stay for dinner, please bring a bottle of wine or other beverage to share, and please bring something to share for lunch. Register for this event at emanuelf.org/register.



Bagels and Babies

Mondays and Fridays, 9:30 – 11:00 am, Martin Meyer Reception

Cost: Members FREE; \$10/session for non-members (first session free)

Drop in with your little one and spend time with other parents. Join us as we prepare to welcome Shabbat on Fridays and celebrate Havdalah on Mondays. Enjoy music, stories, puppets, and more with Early Childhood Educator Mimi Greisman. Take advantage of a wonderful opportunity to connect with other parents and create lasting friendships!



Starting up again in September, be on the lookout for dates and times for the following groups:

The Men's Group

Cross-generational men's social and study group

The Women's Group

Gatherings throughout the year for all adult women of Emanu El

Interfaith Group

Gatherings for Emanu-El interfaith members and families

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT *(cont'd.)*



What is the Tzedek Council?

The Emanu-El Tzedek Council was launched in August 2015 as a congregant, board, and clergy-run group charged with the task of raising our participation and impact in the social justice arena.

www.emanuelsf.org/youthhomelessness/

A Panel on San Francisco's Homeless Crisis

Wednesday, October 9 (Yom Kippur), 2:00 pm, Guild Hall

Please join us for a critical discussion and update on the Tzedek Council's efforts to reduce the number of youth experiencing homelessness in San Francisco. We will talk about the successes we've achieved so far in serving this population and our plans for further social justice work in the coming year. You'll also learn about opportunities for you to get involved in this mitzvah. Save the date!

Tzedek Council's August Collection Drive:

Help San Francisco's Homeless Youth Obtain Basic Supplies

As part of our year-long effort to help serve youth experiencing homelessness, please join the Tribe for Men and the Tribe for Women in collecting essential items for Larkin Street Youth Services, which is hosting this drive. Larkin Street Youth Services is a non-profit organization that provides housing, education, employment training, and more to help young people. Throughout the month of August, drop off your donation in our collection bin located in the front office foyer OR check our website for the link to our Amazon Wish List.

Our goal is to donate 50 EACH of the following items:

For Men

- Reusable water bottles
- T-shirts
- Socks
- Men's underwear

For Women

- Reusable water bottles
- Tampons & panty liners
- Socks
- Bras
- Women's underwear

Sunday Dinners at Geary House

Sunday evenings, 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Sponsor a Geary House Sunday night dinner for youth experiencing homelessness! Run by the Larkin Street Youth Services, Geary House, a 20-bed housing program for San Francisco homeless young adults (ages 18–24, transitioning from adolescence to adulthood), provides residents with the tools they need to remove obstacles that threaten their successful transition to independent living. Emanu-El has partnered with Geary House to support these youth by bringing in volunteers on Sunday evenings to cook, eat, and build meaningful relationships with the residents.

Adventure Tikkun Olam

This year, congregants Alanna Klein and Congregant/Tzedek Council Member Guillemette Brouillat-Spiegel started a Social Justice Action group called "Adventure Tikkun Olam." This group of 1st graders (all Emanu-El preschool alumni) was started to reinforce the bonds and values that were built in preschool, most notably the Jewish value of Tikkun Olam. The goal was to actively demonstrate to the children how they can make a big impact even as small people on this planet.

Eleven children and their families met monthly for Shabbat to discuss how they can help change things for the better. The children identified problems in their community that they found upsetting, and together they worked to "repair the world, one spark at a time." Adventure Tikkun Olam made paintings to put into the Tzedek Council's Welcome Baskets, helping to brighten the new homes of youth transitioning out of homelessness.

We did it! Thank you!

The Tzedek Council is proud to announce that we completed our goal of collecting donations from the Emanu-El community, and then assembling 30 welcome baskets that we gave to Larkin Street Youth Services graduates who are transitioning out of homelessness and settling into permanent housing.

The welcome baskets included necessities such as pillows, sheets, blankets, and cleaning supplies. For a personal touch, a group of Emanu-El preschool graduates who are now in 1st grade (Adventure Tikkun Olam) made beautiful paintings for each basket to brighten up the new homes. Similarly, our Adventure Pre-K preschool class made pottery and collected *tzedakah* to buy succulent plants to bring nature into the new homes.



SECURITY UPDATE

Threats and hateful comments against Jews, people of color, and certain ethnic groups are deeply disturbing. These days, there is no way to take in the news without becoming concerned for the safety of our community, but be assured that Emanu-El actively monitors potential threats and takes action to increase security accordingly. Following is information on our security efforts, including recent changes in procedures.

Continuous Improvement

Our security is focused on continuous improvement. We do not wait for emergency events to upgrade our systems. People and systems are in place to monitor processes daily. Many of the improvements are made in the stream of continual oversight rather than in reaction to events, and we frequently adjust our security procedures to meet specific situations. Quite simply, there is no one best way; different tactics work better in different situations. So we routinely conduct security reviews and make adjustments as situations warrant.

We improved our security stance over the past decade in response to the changing environment. The number of anti-Semitic incidents has increased since 2009, and particularly since 2015 (ADL, *Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents*, 2018). While the number of incidents in the Bay Area is small and the percentage of incidents that results in assaults is less than two percent of the national total, we are doing our best to ensure that no harm comes to anyone at Emanu-El. Key improvements include additional guards, doubling our annual budget for security, making a seven-figure investment in the building and technology, more active partnerships with local police and other Jewish agencies, and expanded training for staff.

We know that security is a team effort. We work with a range of experienced security professionals to make informed decisions about what is best for our community. Our team includes the security firm that manages operations with experts from the local police, FBI, and Homeland Security. We work in concert with private security companies at the JCRC, the Federation, the ADL, and the SFPD's Jewish Community Relations Board to provide multiple layers of protection. When a potential threat arises — for example, someone locally spouting virulent anti-Semitic views on social media — Emanu-El immediately coordinates with these public and private security professionals to put safeguards in place.

Emanu-El members working in the security field also serve on our security advisory group. This group includes our precinct's police captain and a representative from the SFPD. The Board is involved in this oversight, making strategic decisions, and supporting efforts to implement best practices.

Recent Changes

Since the tragic Pittsburgh shooting, we now employ more guards out front, more often. We increased the use of enhanced bag checks, metal detector screening, and police presence. And we've made additional improvements "under the hood" that we don't publicize.

We also increased our staff training so that we can assist in case of an emergency. In May, the internationally recognized security experts from Gavin DeBecker provided active shooter training for all clergy and staff.

What's Next

We recently conducted a security audit through an outside agency. We are currently reviewing the results of that audit and will soon make recommendations to the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.

We Need Your Help

We are incredibly lucky to have access to many security experts, but creating safe space is everyone's job. If you notice anything suspicious, please report it immediately to an on-site security professional. Ask questions. Comments and suggestions from members have always been helpful. Some ideas get implemented, often without the member realizing it, while other suggestions prove to not be the right course. In every case, we welcome suggestions. Please email us directly.

We have a responsibility to keep each other safe, and working together, we can!

- David Goldman, Executive Director
- Lawrence Francis, Director of Security
- Penny Mika, Director of Operations and Office Management

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Thank you to all of our donors. The following gifts were received from April 1, 2019 - June 30, 2019

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B'NEI MITZVAH



Sophia Levinson

Bat Mitzvah:
August 3, 2019

Parents:
Juliet and Dan Levinson

Torah Portion:
Masei



Miles Krim

Bar Mitzvah:
August 24, 2019

Parents:
Lisa and Brian Krim

Torah Portion:
Ekev



Noah Fernandez

Bar Mitzvah:
August 10, 2019

Parents:
Laura Brief and
Richard Fernandez

Torah Portion:
Devarim



Lillian Lutterkort

Bat Mitzvah:
August 24, 2019

Parents:
Tamara Troy and
David Lutterkort

Torah Portion:
Ekev



Margot Katzman-Tranah

Bat Mitzvah:
August 10, 2019

Parents:
Shana Katzman and Gregory
Tranah

Torah Portion:
Devarim



Noah Lerman

Bar Mitzvah:
August 31, 2019

Parents:
Pamela Lyss-Lerman and
Jason Lerman

Torah Portion:
Reeh



Charlie Zwibelman

Bar Mitzvah:
August 17, 2019

Parents:
Audrey and Michael Zwibelman

Torah Portion:
Vaetchanan



Leo Susser

Bar Mitzvah:
August 31, 2019

Parents:
Rebecca and Phil Susser

Torah Portion:
Reeh



Daphne Coplon

Bat Mitzvah:
August 17, 2019

Parents:
Erika and Dovid Coplon

Torah Portion:
Vaetchanan

Celebrating a Shehecheyanu Moment?

Congregation Emanu-El is a partner in the transitional moments of our members' lives. Be it a baby naming or brit milah, bar or bat mitzvah, conversion or wedding ceremony, or a recovery from illness, the Temple clergy and staff strive to ensure that each sacred "Shehecheyanu Moment" is deeply fulfilling and personal. A donation to the Emanu-El Life-Cycle Fund is a lovely way to mark a personal life-cycle experience, to honor friends or family celebrating a happy milestone or in gratitude for the services, the clergy provide during these profound moments.

Please donate online at www.emanuelsf.org/donate-now/ or call the Development office at (415) 750-7554.

LIFE-CYCLES

Mazel Tov to Our Members Who Have Experienced Joy

Betty Dvorson (the late Mel Dvorson) on the birth of her great-grandson, Itai Maxwell Fisher

Paula Pretlow on the birth of her grandson, Miles Pretlow

Susan and David Dossetter on the birth of their son, Liam Kind Dossetter

Emily and Michael Millman on the birth of their daughter, Emma Rose Millman

Anna and Brett Nowak on the birth of their son, and Marsha and David Veit on the birth of their grandson, Churchill Peter Nowak

Heike Kaiser and Itay Levy on the birth of their daughter, Alma Kaiser-Levy

Rebecca and Daniel Afergan on the birth of their daughter, Mira Afergan

Lydia Shorenstein on the marriage of her son, Brandon Shorenstein, to Danielle Snyder

Amber and David Brenner on the birth of their son, Beau Levi Brenner

Karen and Jason Brein on the birth of their daughter, Nina Alivia Brein

Marcia and Murray Schneider on the birth of their granddaughter, Audrey Rebecca Windsor-Wells

Jackie Frey and Benji Friend on the birth of their son, and **Janie and Donny Friend** on the birth of their grandson, Reuben Eugene Friend

Rabbi Sydney Mintz and Ellen Spiro on their marriage

Miki Habryn and Eden Gallanter on the birth of their daughter, and **Linda and Sanford Gallanter** on the birth of their granddaughter, Stefania Gallanter Habryn

Jena and Jonathan Goodman on the birth of their son, Joah Levi Goodman

Patsy Lurie on the birth of her granddaughter, and **Jane Lurie** on the birth of her great-granddaughter, Penelope Rose Wright

Rebecca and Monie Hussain on the birth of their daughter, Adrienne Hussain

Yannie and Felix Gernburd on the birth of their son, Austin Gernburd

Condolences to Our Members Who Have Suffered Recent Losses

Rabbi Sydney Mintz on the death of her father, and **Eli and Gabriel Newbrun-Mintz and Sienna Mintz** on the death of their grandfather, Arthur Mintz

Friends and family of longtime member Carlos Archbold

Friends and family of longtime member Janet Raznick

K. Bruce Friedman on the death of his wife, Lois Friedman

Manuela Kogon on the death of her husband, Martin Schneider

Susan Dossetter (David) on the death of her father, Yitzhak Ben Avraham

Carol Vollen on the death of her brother-in-law, Barry Kahan

Friends and family of longtime member Geraldine Regensburger

Mark Miller (Pam Mann) on the death of his father, and **Melissa and Morgan Miller** on the death of their grandfather, William Miller

Monica Pevzner (Loal Isaacs) on the death of her grandmother, Lubov Savransky

Lawrence Mansbach (Bette Caan) on the death of his mother, and **Arthur and Liza Mansbach** on the death of their grandmother, longtime member Ruth Mansbach

Friends and family of longtime member Hope Eisenberg

Evelyn Krimen on the death of her brother, Robert Ersepke

Kazue Lowenstein on the death of her husband, and **Barbara Lowenstein-Weglein (Jesse Weglein)** on the death of her father, and **Kennedy Weglein** on the death of his grandfather, longtime member Ralph Lowenstein

William Wolfe (Sheri Weiser) on the death of his mother, and **Sara and Amelia Wolfe** on the death of their grandmother, Marge Wolfe

Karen Solomon (Matthew Schaefer) on the death of her stepfather, and **Emmett and Desmond Solomon Schaefer** on the death of their step-grandfather, Harold Lieberman

Andrew Mosson (Laura) on the death of his mother, and **Spencer and Theodore Mosson** on the death of their grandmother, Jane Bryk

Harry Battat on the death of his wife, and **Jennifer Battat** on the death of her mother-in-law, and **Jared and Lillian Battat** on the death of their grandmother, Patricia Battat

David Friedman (Paulette Meyer) on the death of his mother, longtime member Phyllis Friedman

Otilia Schachter on the death of her brother, **Bart Schachter (Charlene)** on the death of his uncle, and **Simone and Noa Schachter** on the death of their great-uncle, Radu Herescu

Friends and family of longtime member Eva Levi

Congratulations to Our Members on Their Achievements

Frances Wittman-Rosenzweig, Temple Emanu-El Preschool Curriculum Coordinator, on receiving the Helen Diller Family Award for Excellence in Jewish Education

Jonathan Ferris on receiving the Helen Diller Family Award for Excellence in Jewish Education

Helen Mamber on being named Chief of the Dermatology Division of California Pacific Medical Center

Sandra Gordon on receiving the Outstanding Volunteer Award by the National Council of Jewish Women at their 2019 awards luncheon

Terri Forman on becoming Executive Director of First Graduate

Barbara Kaufman on being awarded the Jewish Community Federation Judith Chapman Memorial Women's Leadership Award

Sean Taube on being awarded the Jewish Community Federation Lloyd W. Dinkelspiel Award for Young Leadership

Ever Estoque on winning the YMCA's Bay Area Thingamajig® STEAM Invention contest

Welcome New Members! (as of June 3)

Mrs. Marsha Davidoff
Mr. Steele Davidoff
Mr. Alex Grab
James Grab
Mrs. Erika Grab
Mr. Gary Lerhaupt
Mae Lerhaupt
Ms. Zoe Mercer-Golden

Olivia Mornyk
Ms. Sarah Paff
Mr. Zachary Parris
Rabbi Sarah Parris
Mr. Grant Purcell
Mr. Miguel Rivera
Ms. Susan Solomon
Dr. David Tompkins

Welcome Back Rejoined Members!

Ms. Allison Feinstein
Ms. Catherine Gellis
Naomi Kaplan
Owen Kaplan
Mrs. Tracy Kaplan
Mr. Jonathan Kaplan
Ms. Julie Miller
Jared Miller-Sciar

Zoe Morgan-Weinman
Mr. Randall Sclar
Mr. Barry Traub
Mrs. Marjorie Traub
Eli Weinman
Max Weinman
Mr. Michael Weinman
Mrs. Jami Weinman

DEVELOPMENT

Donate Online!

Making a contribution to Emanu-El is a meaningful way to honor friends and family while supporting the synagogue. Please visit our website (www.emanuelf.org/support-us/), select "Donate Now or Annual Giving," and follow the steps to make a gift. You will receive an electronic confirmation, followed by an acknowledgment letter in the mail. If you need assistance, contact Talia Rothman in the Development Office at trothman@emanuelf.org or (415) 750-7554.

Appreciated Stock Gifts

Did you know that you could make charitable gifts — including your Emanu-El Membership Dues and Impact Fund gifts — by donating your appreciated stock? This is a great way to avoid capital gains taxes while supporting the Congregation.

If you are making a stock gift, please use the following information:

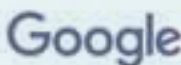
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Corporate Matching

Many Bay Area companies will match your gift dollar-for-dollar. Please contact your company's matching gifts coordinator to obtain a matching gift form and determine whether your gift to Congregation Emanu-El can be matched.

Thank you to the following companies for matching our member's donations:





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PERIODICAL



SAVE THE DATE!

Selichot Program — HaMapah/The Map: Finding Forgiveness

**Saturday, September 21, 7:00 pm Shmooze & Havdalah /
7:30 pm HaMapah performance / 9:00 – 9:30 pm Selichot service**

For Selichot, Congregation Emanu-El welcomes DNAWORKS and its program entitled “HaMapah/The Map: Finding Forgiveness,” which incorporates both live and filmed dance performances. Founded in 2006 by Daniel Banks, Ph.D. and Adam McKinney, M.A., DNAWORKS is an arts and service organization dedicated to furthering artistic expression and dialogue, focusing on issues of identity, culture, class, and heritage.

