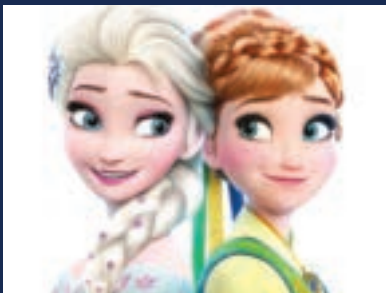


Emanu-El ^S_F

CHRONICLE VOLUME CLXXIV, NO. 26 | MARCH 2020 | 5 ADAR - 6 NISAN 5780

A Very **FROZEN** *Purim*



MAR
8 **Family
Purim
Celebration**



MAR
17 **Ignite Your
Jewish
Learning**



APR
19 **Rabbi
Gary Zola**

JOIN US FOR PURIM!

PurimPalooza 2020 for 20s/30s

**Saturday, March 7, 9:00 pm – 2:00 am,
VERSO, 1525 Mission Street, San Francisco**

The Bay Area's biggest and best young adult Purim party is back and better than ever for its seventh consecutive year! Presented by Congregation Emanu-El's Young Adult Community, PurimPalooza will be a night filled with dancing, drinking, costumes, a photo booth, and more! Join us at one of San Francisco's hottest nightclubs – VERSO! We'll have the venue privately booked for the entire night, with a fantastic DJ spinning on the main stage, making this a party you won't want to miss! In addition to the nightclub, we are excited to share that we have also privately booked The Forgery, a craft cocktail lounge and bar located directly next door and connected to VERSO. We look forward to seeing you there! **To purchase tickets, please visit: emanuelsf.org/purim.**



Family Purim Celebration: Shushan's Bazaar!

**Sunday, March 8, Carnival 2:30 – 5:00 pm,
Purim Spiel 5:00 – 5:45 pm**

Offering festivities for all ages, Shushan's Bazaar will feature carnival games, human foosball, jumpy houses, an animal show, face painting, henna tattoos, twisted balloons, hamantashen baking, a selfie photo booth, music, and art! Get ready for some serious fun with the carnival, the "Spiel," and the annual bake sale! Other food for sale will include pizza, hot dogs, nachos, and cotton candy.



The Whole Megillah: A Reading for Adults

**Monday, March 9, 6:00 – 8:30 pm,
Reuben Rinder Chapel**

On the night of Purim, join us for a lively discussion, a light meal, and the chance to imbibe until you can't tell the difference between Haman and Mordechai as we make our way through the whole Megillah. The book of Esther is about power, sexism, and inflated ego... hmm, that sounds strangely contemporary!



SHALOM RAV FROM OUR RABBI

By Richard and Rhoda Goldman Senior Rabbi Beth Singer

Pop quiz time! Where does this passage come from?

“As it is told, Ze’ri would deposit his dinars with his innkeeper. While he was going about his business, she died, and he did not know where she had put the money. So he went after her to her grave in the cemetery and said to her, ‘Where are the dinars?’ She replied, ‘Go and get the dinars from beneath the hinge of the door in such and such a place and tell my mother that she should send me a comb and a tube of eyeshadow with such and such a woman who will die and come here tomorrow.’”

Is it from:

- A. The Bible
- B. The Talmud
- C. Jewish Midrash
- D. None of the above. This is a made-up story!

If you guessed B, you are correct. The passage comes from a segment of the Talmud called *Berachot*, and this vignette is found on page 18b. When you open a page of the Talmud, the folio is so large, filled with commentaries all around the edges, that in a two-page spread, one page is *a* and the other is *b*. Reform Judaism has always focused on the Torah as our most sacred text and source of daily Jewish learning. The Torah is the common denominator of all branches of Judaism. Torah unifies us as a people. But recently, more Reform Jews than ever before have begun to explore the world of Talmud. This is due to a Jewish tradition called *Daf Yomi*, which invites Jews and everyone to read and study one page of Talmud per day. The Talmud, a compilation of laws, conversations, stories, and debates that happened in the early centuries of the common era (compiled around the year 500), takes seven-and-a-half years to read from beginning to end... if you read one page each day.

Many of the conversations and topics in the Talmud are surprisingly relevant. It starts right out with a long debate over when is the right time to recite the *Shema* prayer. While the minutia of the right moment to say a prayer may not speak to us, the trajectory of the conversation demonstrates that the questions are more important than the answers and that the minority opinions, not just the

correct answers, are important. But as we move through the pages and through the days, topics turn to how we say our prayers with full concentration and attention, the importance of fixed prayers as well as prayers from the heart, how Judaism introduced new prayers (early Reform Jews!), how we preserve human dignity, when to recite a traveler’s prayer, *tefilat haderech*, and my personal favorite: do the dead continue to know what is going on in the world of the living? There is a surprising amount of humor in the Talmud and 6th graders would really appreciate the “toilet talk” about what to do if you are in the middle of reciting the *Shema* and someone near you “passes wind.” There truly is something in the Talmud for everyone.

While you can purchase a hardcover multi-volume Talmud to pass through the generations of your family, there are also many easy ways to access *Daf Yomi* online. My favorite app is *Sefaria*, which has every Jewish text, including the Talmud. My favorite companion podcast is called “Take One” (from Tablet Magazine) and my favorite *Daf Yomi* daily email is a subscription called “Talmud” from the My Jewish Learning website. These are all accessible and focused on finding the meaningful thought from each page. And there are many other online resources as well. If you become enamored with *Daf Yomi* Talmud study, you can sign up for Queer Talmud Camp, Hadar Yeshiva Intensive, or another Talmud in-person learning opportunity.

We are so lucky to live in a time when ancient Jewish texts can be explored and can guide us as we try to live our best lives. Give *Daf Yomi* a try and let me know what you think.



UPCOMING EVENTS

One Shabbat Special Guest Speaker: Mark Hetfield

Friday, March 20, 6:00 pm

Please join us in partnership with the Anti-Defamation League as we welcome Mark Hetfield, CEO and President of HIAS, at One Shabbat on March 20. Mark will speak about the urgent and pressing issues surrounding immigration and refugee status in the United States.

Mark Hetfield first joined HIAS in 1989 as a caseworker in Rome, Italy. He has worked for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, and a large law firm as an immigration attorney. He has held multiple roles at HIAS over the years. Since being named President and CEO in 2013, Mark has led HIAS's transformation from helping refugees because they were Jewish to helping refugees because we are Jewish.



March YFE Family Shabbat Dinner

Friday, March 20

5:30 pm Welcome Oneg (with mac & cheese)

6:00 pm One Shabbat Service (with story pullout for children)

7:00 pm Dinner (with age appropriate activities)

Join us for our March YFE Family Shabbat Dinner on Friday March 20! Our March YFE Family Shabbat is being **co-planned by Tzedek Council's new Family Tzedek committee**, which is working to infuse the Jewish value of *tikkun olam* into our Shabbat experience. This dinner will feature a **drive for Homeless Prenatal Program**, as well as **educational programming and activities for all children**. This month our drive will involve **collecting children's socks and underwear** for families experiencing homelessness in our city — *we encourage each member of your family to bring one of these items with them to our dinner to contribute!*



Please register for the dinner at: emanuelsf.org/event/march-2020-yfe-family-shabbat-dinner/

Be Counted! with Ditas Katague of California Complete Count — Pre-Oneg Event

Friday, March 20, 5:00 pm, Reuben Rinder Chapel

Ditas Katague, the Director of the California Complete Count — Census 2020 Office, will be instructing us on the State of California's organized effort to contribute to the 2020 U.S. Census. As Rashi teaches us, "because they were dear to God, God counts them all of the time..." and that there is value to being seen. Let's learn what we can do as a congregation to help make certain that ALL members of our community are seen and counted! Please join us for this event.



Shabbat Calendar MARCH

Friday, March 6

5:30 pm, First Friday

Under Five Service

(*Martin Meyer Sanctuary*)

6:00 pm, Classic Shabbat Service

with Rabbi Stephen Pearce
and Cantor Roslyn Barak

(*Main Sanctuary*)

Saturday, March 7

10:30 am, Shabbat

Morning Service

(*Martin Meyer Sanctuary*)

Friday, March 13

6:00 pm, One Shabbat Service

(*Martin Meyer Sanctuary*)

8:30 pm, Young Adult

Late Shabbat Service

(*Martin Meyer Sanctuary*)

Saturday, March 14

10:30 am, Shabbat

Morning Service

(*Martin Meyer Sanctuary*)

10:30 am, Shabbat

Morning Service

(*Main Sanctuary*)

Friday, March 20

6:00 pm, One Shabbat

Special Guest Speaker:

HIAS President and

CEO Mark Hetfield

(*Martin Meyer Sanctuary*)

Saturday, March 21

10:30 am, Shabbat

Morning Service

(*Main Sanctuary*)

Friday, March 27

6:00 pm, One Shabbat Service

(*Martin Meyer Sanctuary*)

Saturday, March 28

10:30 am, Shabbat

Morning Service

(*Martin Meyer Sanctuary*)

10:30 am, Shabbat

Morning Service

(*Main Sanctuary*)

Torah Learning and Socializing

One Wednesday a month, join either of these no-host learning events in your area where a member of clergy will lead a one-hour text study and discussion around a topic of their choice. Just drop in and enjoy!

Brown Bag

**Wednesday, March 4, noon – 1:00 pm,
Emanu-El 4th Floor Library**

Limonata and Learning

**Wednesday, March 4, 4:00 – 5:00 pm, Book Passage,
51 Tamal Vista Blvd., Corte Madera**



Classic Shabbat Service with Rabbi Stephen Pearce and Cantor Roslyn Barak

Friday, March 6, 6:00 – 7:00 pm, Main Sanctuary

Emanu-El is thrilled to announce that our beloved Senior Rabbi Emeritus Stephen Pearce and Cantor Emerita Roslyn Barak will co-lead this Classic Shabbat service.

Mark your calendars now!



What Does Emanu-El Mean to You?

An Invitation to Participate in the Membership Committee Project

The Emanu-El Membership Committee is undertaking a project to articulate the meaning of membership to our congregants. We are seeking a diverse group of congregant volunteers to take part in this effort, beginning this year. The Membership Committee will convene a series of discussions about the meaning of membership, culminating in a set of messages for use in Emanu-El's various public channels (e.g., brochures, website, social media, talking points). Volunteers may also be asked to provide feedback on written products. The volunteer time commitment will be no more than 8 to 12 hours spread out over the course of several months. Input gathered through this process will also be used to shape outreach and member engagement efforts in 2020 and beyond. We welcome all members' thoughts and experiences as part of this process.

If you are interested in volunteering to participate in this project, please send a brief paragraph describing your interest and noting which Emanu-El communities (e.g., LGBTQ, preschool parent, retired, young adult) you are a part of. Please submit your statement via email to membership@emanuelsf.org. Let us know if you have any questions or feedback.

Thank you in advance for sharing your thoughts about what Emanu-El means to you!



Tauber SPARK 2020

Allow yourself to dive into our tradition and SPARK your imagination!

Tuesdays, March 17, 24, and 31, 6:45 – 9:00 pm

Cost: \$40 for members; \$50 for non-members



We want EVERYONE to take part in this innovative communitywide Jewish learning experience. Let your heart be moved by Torah; be open to a transformative and mind expanding experience. Join your friends, Rabbis, and guest teachers for three nights of SPARK, a powerful Jewish learning offering of Congregation Emanu-El.

Our evenings will begin with schmooze time for participants to mingle and nosh together, followed by an hour engaged in one of four hot-topic SPARK study sessions with Rabbis and leading guest educators. Each evening will end with a communitywide keynote address with a special scholar/speaker.

COURSE OFFERINGS:

Discovery and Surprise in Jewish History:

The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Cairo Geniza

Instructors: Ken Cohen and Fred Astren, San Francisco State University Professors

Two sets of discoveries in modern times have completely altered the way we think about the history of Jews and Judaism. The discovery of the Cairo Geniza in the 19th century and the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947 remind us that entire Jewish societies and Judaisms can remain utterly unknown but for the lucky break of discovery. The Dead Sea Scrolls reveal an astonishing range of religious variety from the time of the Second Temple, while the Cairo Geniza includes granular detail about the lives and religion of Arabic-speaking Jews in 11th- and 12th-century Egypt and the Mediterranean. At the heart of this mini-course is an historical riddle posed by a textual link between these two massive collections of once-forgotten Jewish writing!

Session 1: "The World of the Dead Sea Scrolls"
(Ken Cohen)

Session 2: "The Story of the Damascus Document: Connecting the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Cairo Geniza"
(Fred Astren)

Session 3: "The World of the Cairo Geniza" (Fred Astren)

Fred Astren is a professor in the Department of Jewish Studies at San Francisco State University, now in the faculty early retirement program. He holds a Ph.D. in Near Eastern Studies and an M.A. in Arabic from the University of California, Berkeley. His current book project, *Before the Geniza: Jews and the Early Middle Ages*, looks at Jewish history in the years 500–950 from a Mediterranean perspective.



Ken Cohen is co-editor of the "FLAME Hotline," a weekly email news alert by *Facts and Logic About the Middle East*. Ken served for 12 years (until 2003) as the President of Lehrhaus Judaica, and he served as an adjunct professor in Jewish Studies at San Francisco State University for 20 years. His first career was in high technology, where he held technical, marketing, and executive management positions at IBM, McDonnell Douglas, and Perkin Elmer, and at Oracle Corporation where he served as a chief marketing executive during the mid-1980s.



LGBTQ Inclusion in Jewish Life: Where do we fit and how can we all belong together?

Instructor: Randi Reed, Keshet Bay Area Educator

The makeup of our Jewish world is changing; we now understand and describe gender, identity, and individuality differently than ever before. This three-part session with Keshet's Bay Area educator Randi Reed will explore LGBTQ+ language, identity, and inclusion, not only in the secular world, but also in our Jewish community. Participants will leave with a better understanding of the LGBTQ+ community and how to be an ally. Discover the rich history of Bay Area LGBTQ activism and how it intersects with our San Francisco Jewish history. Participants will dive deeply into Talmud and Torah texts on gender and find a new lens through which to read these ancient writings.

Randi Reed brings her passion for creating safer, more inclusive spaces for the LGBTQ+ community as Keshet's Bay Area LGBTQ Education and Training Manager. Prior to joining Keshet, Randi helped build LGBTQ teen and community programs for the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco. She also managed volunteers, community programs, and donations for Covenant House California, the largest youth shelter in Northern California.



Forgiving the Unforgivable? The Ethics of Apologies

Instructor: Aaron Hahn Tapper, University of San Francisco Professor

The notion of forgiveness is central to the human experience. It is a component of one's relationship with other individuals, other collectives, and even oneself. But what does forgiveness mean? When someone forgives someone else, what happens? This three-part seminar explores forgiveness in terms of interpersonal, intranational (between those within the same country), and international situations alongside the interdependent idea of apologies. After looking at forgiveness and apologies in terms of our everyday lives, we will study the ritualization of national apologies, including for example, the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions in Sierra Leone and South Africa; political apologies in the context of the United States, for example, enslaved Africans, imprisoned Japanese Americans, and the mistreatment of Native Americans; and reconciliation efforts made by the predominantly white Australian government with the indigenous Australian communities of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders.

Aaron J. Hahn Tapper, the Mae and Benjamin Swig Professor in Jewish Studies and founding Director of the Swig Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice, has been at the University of San Francisco since 2007. An educator for more than two decades, Aaron's primary academic interest is the intersection between identity formation, social justice, and marginalized groups.



KEYNOTE SPEECHES:

“Bro-Mitzvahs: The Black-Jewish Dialogue on TV” by Professor Shaina Hammerman

March 17, 8:00 – 9:00 pm

White Jewish comedians like Larry David, Ilana Glazer, and Jon Stewart bring black characters or themes of blackness to their routines at those moments when they seek to challenge their status as unmarked white people. But is the inverse also true? When black comedians and characters engage with ideas surrounding Jewishness, what are the motives and outcomes? Examining shows like *Blackish*, *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, *The Nanny*, and *Broad City*, this talk asks what comedy has to teach us about how African-Americans, Jews, and black Jews understand themselves and each other off screen.

Shaina Hammerman is the author of *Silver Screen, Hasidic Jews: The Story of an Image from Indiana University Press*. She teaches Jewish cultural history for the Swig Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice at the University of San Francisco. Hammerman holds a Ph.D. in Jewish History and Culture from the Graduate Theological Union.



“Refugees in America” by Rabbi Lee T. Bycel

March 24, 8:00 – 9:00 pm

Each chapter of Rabbi Bycel's book *Refugees in America: Stories of Courage, Resilience, and Hope in Their Own Words* focuses on an individual from a different country—from a 93-year-old Polish grandmother who came to the United States after surviving the horrors of Auschwitz to a young undocumented immigrant from El Salvador who became an American college graduate, despite being born impoverished and blind. Some have found it easy to reinvent themselves in the United States, while others have struggled to adjust to America, with its unfamiliar culture, language, prejudices, and norms. *Copies of the book will be available for purchase, and the profits from these book sales will be donated to HIAS and IRC.*

Rabbi Lee T. Bycel is a humanitarian activist, Rabbi, teacher, and author, who serves as the Sinton Visiting Professor of Holocaust, Ethics, and Refugee Studies at the University of San Francisco. Rabbi Bycel has visited refugee camps in Darfur, Chad, South Sudan, Rwanda, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Haiti. He has written extensively about the plight of refugees, and has secured much-needed funding for medical clinics in refugee camps. In 2014, Rabbi Bycel was appointed by President Obama to the United States Holocaust Memorial Commission, and served his full term to 2019.



“Jewish Scientists, Hitler, and the Laws of Economics” by Auritte Cohen-Ross

March 31, 8:00 – 9:00 pm

Within two months of rising to power, Hitler banned Jews from working in state-owned institutions. Overnight, 12,000 academics lost their jobs. The stories of German Jewish scientists immigrating to Britain and the U.S. are filled with suspense, thrill, drama, humor, perseverance, humility, cowardice, and courage. From Einstein to Max Born, through the stories of individual scientists, you will hear about the numerous ways these scientists left Germany, along with the organizations and individuals who assisted them. The exodus of these scientists had severe long-term implications for the scientific communities in Germany, the United States, and Great Britain. We will conclude by connecting the past to today's pressing issues of immigration, investment in science research, and the Jewish community's social and humanitarian goals.

Auritte Cohen-Ross is the Founder and Director of *Celsius and Beyond*, an award-winning science enrichment program for children in San Francisco. She previously served in the IDF, and later spent 12 years in the high-tech industry in Silicon Valley. Auritte is a cum laude Economics honors graduate of Temple University in Philadelphia.



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. 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

Senior Director of Membership and Engagement Operations
rfields@emanuelfs.org, x119

Rabbi Sarah Joselow Parris

Director of Congregational Engagement
sparris@emanuelfs.org, x124

Ariana Estoque

Director of Member Experience
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Leah Shapiro

Senior Engagement Associate
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Ann Jackson

Membership and Engagement Assistant
ajackson@emanuelfs.org, x138

Georgina Garcia

Front Desk Officer
ggarcia@emanuelfs.org, x0

Rebecca Reiner

Community Engagement Coordinator & Assistant to Rabbi Bauer
rreiner@emanuelfs.org, x170

CONGREGANT GATHERINGS

Weekday activities at the Temple — choose one or more and participate!

Cooking for Congregants

Thursdays, March 5, 19, and 26, 9:00 – 11:00 am, Emanu-El Kitchen

No charge.

Be one of two volunteers, under the guidance of former restaurant owner Gail Laghi and chef Sari Swig, helping to make meals for congregants in need. New participants are always welcome. Registration is

required on the Temple website by the Tuesday before cooking day. Questions? Contact Rebecca Reiner at (415) 751 2534 x170.



Gen E Potluck Havdallah

Saturday, March 21

6:00 pm

Join the Emanu-El 30s and 40s community for a potluck Havdallah at a private home in Marin (address provided upon registration). We'll mix and mingle from 6:00 – 9:00 pm, so join when you can- Havdallah will happen around 6:30 pm. Please register via website.

Future Fertility Panel

Tuesday, March 17

6:30 – 8:00 pm

Martin Meyer Sanctuary

Wondering about egg freezing, still looking for the right partner or feeling pressure about having children? With three experts from the field, we will discuss the issues and emotions women experience when thinking about their fertility and the possibility of having children in the future.

To register, please email Johanna Meckel at johanna@hasidah.org

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

Monday, March 2, 10:00 am – noon, Room 53

(Additional dates to be determined.)

No charge.

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 group facilitator Nancy Alpert, LCSW at nalpo@igc.org.

Scrabble

Mondays (except when the Temple is closed),

11:00 am – 3:00 pm, 5th floor

No charge; drop in.

Do you enjoy the challenge of putting letters together to form words? Join our 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. All ages and experience levels are invited!

Bridge Club – Lessons and Game

*Tuesdays, March 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.

Save the following dates for Bridge Club in 2020: April 14 & 28; May 12 & 26; June 9.

Baby Group Available!

Bagels and Babies

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

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



Drop in with your little one (birth to 2 years) 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.

COMMUNITY GROUP EVENTS

Men's Group

*March 22, 9:30 – 11:30 am,
location provided upon online registration*

Men of Congregation Emanu-El have a monthly opportunity to socialize and study with a member of the clergy at a private home. This cross-generational group provides a small group experience so important to building community. Men's Group events are congregant only and require registration. All events are from 9:30 to 11:30 am, unless otherwise noted. If you have questions, contact Rebecca Reiner at rreiner@emanuelf.org or (415) 751-2534 x170.

Thanks to a donation from a member of the Men's Group, the majority of gatherings are now offered for free.



The Tribe for Women:

“A NOT by the Book Women's Seder”

April 1, 6:15 pm, Guild Hall II

We invite everyone in the Emanu-El community to participate in our annual intergenerational Women's Seder! Join us for a night of song, conversation, thought, good food, sisterhood, and even a few pages from our women's Haggadah. Please register on the MyEmanu-El portal.

Side By Side

*Tuesdays and Thursdays,
9:30 – 11:30 am*

*Cost: \$360 for members;
\$485 for non-members*

Emanu-El's Side by Side program introduces our youngest children

(18 months to 2.5 years) to a preschool environment with their parent or caregiver by their side. Our Side by Side program is rich in Jewish content, celebrating Jewish traditions and holidays. This program is a wonderful introduction to preschool that deepens relationships in our community and launches a meaningful beginning to the school experience for both parents and children. There are two sessions per week for 8 weeks (16 total sessions). Register now by contacting Katie Saleh, Administrative Coordinator, via email at KSaleh@emanuelf.org!



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT *(cont'd.)*

TZEDEK COUNCIL

Dinners at Geary House

Sundays, 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Sponsor a Sunday night dinner for homeless youth: Cook, eat, and socialize with residents of Geary House, a transitional housing program of Larkin Street Youth Services.

Geary House, run by Larkin Street Youth Services, is a 20-bed housing program for San Francisco homeless young adults (ages 18–24) who are transitioning from adolescence to adulthood. Geary House provides residents with tools to remove obstacles in their life that threaten a successful transition to independent living. Emanu El has partnered with Geary House to support the youth integrating into the community by bringing volunteers on Sunday evenings to cook, eat, and build meaningful relationships with the residents.

Be Counted! with Ditas Katague of California Complete Count — Pre-Oneg Event

Friday, March 20, 5:00 pm, Reuben Rinder Chapel

Ditas Katague, the Director of the California Complete Count — Census 2020 Office, will be instructing us on the State of California's organized effort to contribute to the 2020 U.S. Census. As Rashi teaches us, "because they were dear to God, God counts them all of the time..." and that there is value to being seen. Let's learn what we can do as a congregation to help make certain that ALL members of our community are seen and counted! Please join us for this event.



Thank you to our Winter Interfaith Shelter Dinner Volunteers!

We are grateful for the many congregants that cooked and served for more than 75 homeless men each night for eight nights:

Shelley Abramson	Gray Ginocchio	Jeanne Miller
Toni Barba-Salan	Pam Ginocchio	Laurie Miller
Aaron Bergman	Paul Ginocchio	Evan Orloff
Adam Bergman	Sloan Ginocchio	Rotem Perelmutter
Julia Bergman	David Ginsburg	Ben Portnoy
Elyse Blatt	Lauren Goldman	Wendy Reicher
Zoe Blatt	Carolyn Goor-Hutchinson	Jeffrey Rose
Wendy Brauner	David Hershenson	Susie Roy
Michael Brody	Lorie Hirson	Fred Salan
Lori Coleman	Jordan Jaffe	Rachel Schwartz
Simona Dumitru-Rose	Marla Kadlecek	Stacey Scott
Sophia Dumitru-Rose	Portia Kadlecek	Leo Shveyd
Michael Edelstein	Matthew Kaufman	Michael Seider
Ariana Estoque	Matthew Kelemen	Raya Shveyd
Calen Estoque	Laura Klapper	Rebecca Shveyd
Ellery Estoque	Anna Kovinsky	Robbi Shveyd
Ever Estoque	Matthew Kovinsky	Stacey Silver
Marc Estoque	Andrew Kowal	Scott Snow
Lisa Faulkner	Lauren Kowal	Tori Starks
Nathan Fell	Brian Krim	Justin Taplin
Samuel Fell	William Lee	Adriana Vermut
Randi Fields	Seth Linden	Isadora Vermut
Leo Fuchs	Gwendolyn Litvak	Mathias Vermut
Zachary Fuchs	Alexander Litwin	Julie Weinberg
Alla Gershberg	Patsy Lurie	Marissa Wertheimer
Gigi Ginocchio	Hugh Macmillan	Sasha Yolles



ISRAEL ACTION PROGRAMS

The goal of Emanu-El's Israel Action Committee is to increase the engagement of our congregation with the State of Israel through education, celebration, and involvement. The committee will present Israel-related programs, including those of political, social, economic, and religious interest. Our Israel Action Committee is committed to creating an atmosphere in which our members can engage passionately and respectfully about their views, perspectives, hopes, and dreams for Israel.

Superpower or Superlost?

The U.S. Role in the Middle East in the Era of Trump: A Strategic Interests and Prospects Going Forward with Former State Department Negotiator, Aaron David Miller

Sunday, April 19, 3:30 pm,
Martin Meyer Sanctuary

America confronts a broken, angry, dysfunctional Middle East where protecting U.S. interests has become increasingly more complex. In a sense, America is like a modern-day Gulliver wandering around in a region that it had never properly understood, tied up by smaller powers whose interests are not always its own, and burdened by its own illusions. Indeed, the U.S. is stuck in a region that it can neither transform nor leave, a dangerous position for the world's most consequential power. Gulliver's troubles are neither a Democratic nor Republican challenge, but an American one that requires a policy based on tough-minded realism and prudence. It must also clearly define U.S. interests in the region without any illusion that protecting them will be a simple, easy, or even completely manageable task.

Aaron David Miller is currently a Senior Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace where he focuses on American diplomacy and U.S. foreign policy. Prior to his fellowship at Carnegie, Miller was the Vice-President for New Initiatives, Distinguished Scholar, and Director of the Middle East Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. Between 2003 and 2006, he was President of Seeds of Peace, an internationally recognized program in conflict resolution and co-existence. Over the previous two decades, Miller served in the State Department as an historian, analyst, negotiator, and adviser on Middle Eastern issues to both Republican and Democratic



secretaries of state. Miller received his Ph.D. in Middle Eastern and American Diplomatic History from the University of Michigan in 1977. He has written five books, including his most recent, *The End of Greatness: Why America Can't Have (and Doesn't Want) Another Great President*. His articles have appeared in the Washington Post, the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, Politico, Foreign Policy, and USA Today. He is a CNN global affairs analyst and a frequent commentator on NPR, the BBC, and Sirius XM radio.

This event is free and open to the community. Co-sponsored by the New Israel Fund and in partnership with American Jewish Committee.

Emanu-El Spotlight

Our temple community is made up of people with many different backgrounds, identities, and paths to Judaism. We wanted to shine a light on one member of our community, congregant Kristin Eriko Posner, who converted to Judaism at Emanu-El and recently opened an online specialty Judaica shop (<https://nourish-co.com/>) reflecting her Jewish identity and Japanese American heritage.

Q. Please tell us about yourself and how your blended heritage has infused your life?

I am fourth-generation Japanese American on my father's side. He grew up in Hawaii. I'm second-generation Japanese American on my mother's side. She is from Japan and moved here almost 50 years ago. Growing up, I went to Japanese language school, but only really spoke English at home since my dad doesn't speak Japanese. Food was really how my mom taught me about my Japanese heritage. Yet, I've always felt like I wasn't Japanese enough, or as the daughter of an immigrant, American enough. I've spent my entire life feeling like my heritage was slipping away from me, so that has informed a lot of decisions I've made in life.

Q: What religious affiliation were you raised with?

My parents both come from Buddhist families and my grandmothers were both somewhat practicing Buddhists, so I did experience some Buddhist ritual as a child. But like many in my parents' generation in America, they did not continue that tradition in the home I grew up in.

Q. Did you look to your grandparents' Buddhist thinking when approaching your spiritual journey that led you to Judaism?

I did not. I think, especially now, people often are called to spiritual traditions different from those practiced in their lineages. I didn't have a particularly negative experience with Buddhism. All I really remember was that I had to sit for really long periods of time listening to chanting I didn't understand. Which is funny, since my husband Bryan (who is Ashkenazi Jewish) had a similar childhood experience with Judaism.

Q. Talk to us about your Jewish journey. When did this begin and was there a specific "aha" moment for you?

I have close friends and mentors who are Jewish, and I remember participating in Jewish rituals and thinking they were so beautifully symbolic and meaningful. Bryan comes from a very secular Ashkenazi Jewish family. Though he became bar mitzvah, Judaism is not a big part of his adult life and the messages don't resonate with him. Since learning about and preserving culture has always been important to me, I knew that it would be my responsibility to teach our future children about the Jewish culture and faith. We started taking Intro to Judaism classes at Emanu-El and I fell in love with Judaism. It feels as if Judaism is the spiritual navigation I have been searching for all my life.



photo by Hannah Bauhofer

Q. In 2014, you met with Rabbi Ryan Bauer to discuss the possibility of conversion. Describe that experience, and how your Japanese heritage came into play in your approach to Reform Judaism.

Just a few days before my conversion ceremony, I had this existential crisis of sorts where I worried that, by converting, my Japanese American heritage wouldn't have room to thrive. I turned to Rabbi Bauer who looked at me point blank and said, "Why shouldn't there be room for both?" In that moment, I realized that there was plenty of room for both to thrive. I also realized that I surely wasn't the only person who celebrated two rich cultural traditions now, who grappled with that question.

Q. You and your husband were married at Emanu-El in 2016. What prompted you to start an online Judaica store?

Bryan is a mechanical engineer and I'm a former residential interior designer. When we were registering for our wedding and building our Japanese and Jewish home, we noticed a lack of beautifully designed, high-quality ritual objects that maintained a certain contemporary aesthetic. Many of our friends have expressed a similar desire. The design of the first collection, which I launched at the end of last year, takes design notes from my Japanese heritage and can be used for (but is not limited to) Jewish rituals.



At the same time, I know that the rigidity around tradition can bring up many uncomfortable feelings for some. That's why I also believe it's important to update our traditions, so they resonate with our modern lives. That's how we will ensure that they will continue for generations to come, and I believe it's what our ancestors, across cultures, have been doing from the beginning of time anyway.

Part of my D'var Torah during my Anshei Mitzvah ceremony at Emanu-El was a talk I heard from Rabbi Benay Lappe of S'vara. In her Eli talk, she says that after the destruction of the second temple, Judaism was completely reinvented by a small, radical group of innovators (who we now call Rabbis). If you are Jewish today, you are the descendants (biological or spiritual) of those innovators. I believe that if our descendants are to be Jewish one day, it will be because of innovators like us, even if their Judaism looks nothing like ours today.

Q. You started your online store, Nourish, with the goal of helping multi-ethnic households create, as you describe it, "nourishing new rituals, drawn from time-honored wisdom." Is this a niche that you see developing further?

I don't see my audience as a niche; I see it as the reality. Not just in Judaism, but worldwide. Last year, the Jews of Color Field Building Initiative released a report in which they discovered that Jews of Color are consistently undercounted, miscounted, or not counted at all by most major Jewish population studies. The report estimates that of the United States' 7.2 million Jews, at least 1 million are Jews of Color.

Q. What would you like to say to other individuals from multi-cultural backgrounds who are interested in Judaism but might be reluctant to join a Reform synagogue like Emanu-El?

There is no right or wrong way to blend cultures, or to do Judaism, except what feels right to you. Emanu-El is a very special place for me; its clergy, community, and Judaism really resonate with me. As a designer, space is one important way in which I connect to Judaism, and we are incredibly fortunate to have such a beautiful sanctuary to pray in. If you want to speak with a Jew of Color at Emanu-El, please reach out to me. I can only share my own experience, but I will share it honestly and openly. I'd love to connect with you!

Q. How did your prior experience as an interior designer influence your new online heirlooms shop? Give us a few examples from your collection.

As an interior designer, I've worked with artisans to craft custom furniture, so the modern heirlooms shop is similar but on a smaller scale. Each piece was made by hand and in very limited editions by a U.S.-based female artisan. Here are some details about each item:

Ritual Cup: Ritual cups have been used in cultures and spiritual traditions spanning the globe for thousands of years. We were inspired by the 500-year-old Japanese art of kintsugi, the art of golden repair. The lip of each porcelain cup has been brushed with white gold prior to firing.



photo by Nicole Morrison

Challah Cover: We were inspired by the seven sacred species listed in the Torah as being grown and consumed during Biblical times. Jewish mystics have attributed spiritual energies to the medicinal properties of each of the seven species.

Candlestick Tray: The custom color brings to mind the shade of sakura or cherry blossom blooming in the spring.



photo by Nicole Morrison

Q. Why do you believe we need rituals in our lives?

Our ancestors have historically used ritual to mark life cycles and seasons, to celebrate and to heal. In our increasingly stressful world, celebration, connection, and healing are deeply and universally needed.

LIFE-CYCLES

Condolences to Our Members Who Have Suffered Recent Losses

Marilyn Waldman on the death of her husband; Peter Waldman (Charene Zalis) and Jan Waldman-Brown (Jeffrey Brown) on the death their father; Peter Yolles (Jill Einstein) and Jonathan Yolles (Stacey Silver) on the death of their stepfather; and Albert and Anna Brown, Jenna, Mikela, and Kira Waldman, Samuel and Amanda Yolles, and Sasha and Mia Yolles on the death of their grandfather, **Murray Waldman**

Martin Bloch on the death of his wife, Kenneth Perlmutter (Jacqueline) on the death of his mother, and David and Jeffrey Perlmutter on the death of their grandmother, **Dr. Deborah Bloch**

Rebecca Susser (Phil) on the death of her father, and Nathan, Leo, and Julia Susser on the death of their grandfather, **Floyd Whelan**

Dr. Thomas Sampson (Jill) and Cathryn Hilliard on the death of their brother, and Joshua and Aaron Sampson on the death of their uncle, **Jeffrey Sampson**

Lida Clebaner on the death of her mother, and Rabbi Misha Clebaner and Natasha Bogopolskaya on the death of their grandmother, **Radema Klibaner**

Micah Broude (Janet) and Marla Broude (Bernard Stein) on the death of their parents, and Danielle Yokell (Abe) and Allison Broude-Friedberg (Dave) on the death of their grandparents, **Judith Broude** and **Rabbi Samuel Broude**

Allan Aks (Kate) on the death of his father, and Isabel and Simon Aks on the death of their grandfather, **Robert Charles Fink**

Daniel Coleman (Eileen Kahaner) on the death of his father, and Sean Coleman on the death of his grandfather, **Richard Coleman**

Harry Nebenzahl (Marilyn) on the death of his sister, **Mickey Wapner**

Pascal Levensohn (Melanie) on the death of his mother, and Amanda, Marshall, and Aurelia Levensohn on the death of their grandmother, **Rita Levensohn**

Eric Reading (Belen Stanford) on the death of his father, and Beatrice Reading on the death of her grandfather, **Paul E. Reading, Jr.**

Ronna Stone (Tim Smith) on the death of her father, and Tobyn, Aaron, and Corey Smith on the death of their grandfather, **Ira J. Stone**

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.emanuelsf.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 Shelby David in the Development Office at sdavid@emanuelsf.org or (415) 751-2541 ext. 177.

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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Account Name: Congregation Emanu-El

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Note: Please make the Development Office aware of your stock gift before it is transferred so your donation can be tracked and appropriately directed as you wish. Email Shelby David at sdavid@emanuelsf.org or call (415) 751-2541 ext. 177.

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 members' donations.



B'NEI MITZVAH

**Jessica Parish Galloway****Adult Bat Mitzvah:**

March 5, 2020

Torah Portion:*Tetzaveh***Sasha Yolles****Bat Mitzvah:**

March 21, 2020

Parents:Stacey Silver and
Jonathan Yolles**Torah Portion:***Vayakhel-Pekude***Shaya Gilden****Bat Mitzvah:**

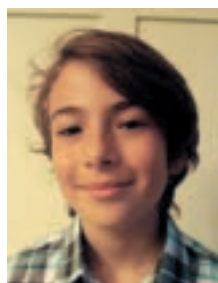
March 7, 2020

Parents:Alisa Gilden and
Lisa Inman**Torah Portion:***Tetzaveh***Ruth Keith****Bat Mitzvah:**

March 28, 2020

Parents:

Jennifer and Peter Keith

Torah Portion:*Vayikra***Aiden Goldsztejn****Bar Mitzvah:**

March 14, 2020

Parents:Laurent Goldsztejn and
Deborah Stein**Torah Portion:***Ki Tissa***Rebecca Shveyd****Bat Mitzvah:**

March 28, 2020

Parents:

Robbi and Leo Shveyd

Torah Portion:*Vayikra***Maxwell Fluhr****Bar Mitzvah:**

March 14, 2020

Parents:

Jeff and Claire Fluhr

Torah Portion:*Ki Tissa*

New Members

Mr. Avishai Abrahami
Maude Audfray
Lucille Audfray
Mr. Melvin Axelrod
Mr. Brad Berdow
Jessica Berdow
Mrs. Kunny Berdow
Mrs. Michele Boeglin
Mr. Ted Boeglin
Mrs. Aubrey Carstenson
Ms. Sidney Forester

Mr. Robert Friedman
Nico Meisel
Mr. Jeffrey Meisel
Ryder Meisel
Mr. Matthew Seiler
Ms. Olha Shainoha
Wyatt Singerman
Mrs. Sara Singerman
Mr. Kevin Singerman
Annabel Singerman
Mr. Mark Solomon
Dr. Erica Weiss

Rejoined Members

Mr. Raphael Nulman
Ms. Jessica Stolbach



Congregation Emanu-El
Two Lake Street
San Francisco, CA 94118
www.emanuelsf.org

We are a vibrant, sacred Jewish community that is dedicated to advancing our members' lifelong involvement in Judaism through worship, learning, good deeds, and congregant to congregant connections.

PERIODICAL

Beth Singer, Richard and Rhoda Goldman,
Senior Rabbi

Jonathan Singer, Richard and Rhoda
Goldman, *Senior Rabbi*

Sydney B. Mintz, *Senior Associate Rabbi*

Ryan Bauer, *Senior Associate Rabbi*

Carla Fenves, *Rabbi*

Jason Rodich, *Rabbi*

Marsha Attie, *Cantor*

Arik Luck, Ben and A. Jess Shenson, *Cantor*

Roslyn Barak, *Senior Cantor Emerita*

Stephen Pearce, Ph.D., *Sr. Taube Emanu-El
Scholar and Rabbi Emeritus*

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SAVE THE DATE!

Weekend with our Holman/Grand Scholar-in-Residence: Rabbi Gary Zola, Ph.D.

Join us on Friday, April 3 through Sunday, April 5 for an exciting weekend with Rabbi Gary Zola, Ph.D., the Executive Director of the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, as well as the Edward M. Ackerman Family Distinguished Professor of the American Jewish Experience and Reform Jewish History at HUC-JIR.

Friday, April 3, 6:00 pm, Shabbat Sermon

"He was one of us: American Jewry's Relationship with Abraham Lincoln"

Friday, April 3, 7:30 - 9:00 pm, Dinner & Discussion

"I am an American and I am a Jew: Jews, Civil Liberty, and the American Nation"

Saturday, April 4, 9:15 am, Torah Study

"What this week's Torah portion teaches us about American Jewish History"

Sunday, April 5, 9:30 - 11:00 am, Lecture

"They will think of me for a century: Bicentennial reflections on Isaac Mayer Wise"

Rabbi Gary Zola is a historian of American Jewry who specializes in the development of American Reform Judaism. His published volumes include *The Americanization of the Jewish Prayer Book and the Liturgical Development of Congregation Ahawath Chesed, New York City* (New York: Central Synagogue, 2008); *A Place of Our Own: The Rise of Reform Jewish Camping* (co-edited with Michael M. Lorge and published by the University of Alabama Press, 2006); *The Dynamics of American Jewish History: Jacob Rader Marcus's Essays on American Jewry* (Brandeis University Press, 2004); *Women Rabbis: Exploration and Celebration* (HUC-JIR Alumni Press, 1996); and *Isaac Harby of Charleston 1788-1828* (the University of Alabama Press, 1994), a major biographical study on the life of one of the founders of the first organized effort to reform Judaism in the United States. Rabbi Zola is currently completing a new volume on Abraham Lincoln and the Jews as well as a Primary Source Reader on American Jewish history. In addition, he has published several articles, monographs, and book reviews, and has lectured at several academic conferences and colloquia.

