# Emanu-Els

CHRONICLE VOLUME CLXXIIX, NO. 30 | SEPTEMBER 2020 12 ELUL 5780 - 12 TISHREI 5781

## High Holy Days 2020/5781 PHYSICALLY APART SPIRITUALLY CONNECTED



HHD Services Schedule



Sukkot

## COMMUNITY

## A Conversation: Synagogues in the Time of COVID-19

A Joint Project with the URJ



Life under COVID-19 has impacted our entire community. In July, our members participated in Emanu-El's survey that was part of a national survey of Jews conducted by the URJ. On August 6, we shared the results and continued the conversation on a video call with members. You can watch the video here: https://tinyurl.com/y6jqva8c

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#### **HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**

91% of members would recommend Emanu-El to friends 93% plan to continue being members

As one participant said, "I am so impressed at the outreach and thoughtfulness of the staff and clergy during this time. From virtual services to calling each and every congregant, the synagogue has really shown its stuff...how much they care about congregants, how they've tapped into spirituality in such a beautiful way virtually."

Yet, we understand that people are struggling. People miss the community, close connections, and moments of intimacy. While we are heartened that Emanu-El has helped a third of members develop "a deeper sense of belonging to a community, something bigger than myself" during this shelter-in-place, we also know we need to do more to connect people and their Jewish practice.

As a result, we have launched new programming that connects small groups of members to one another, to heighten that sense of belonging and community. We've also improved the livestream experience for services by installing state-of-the-art technology in our Main Sanctuary while making our worship services more accessible.

While the ark of life during COVID-19 is not over, we want you to stay connected and remain as members. Let's keep the conversation going.

David Goldman Executive Director

Randi Fields Senior Director of Membership and Engagement Operations



### I Pledge to Vote in 2020!

A s Jews and Americans, we have an obligation to participate in elections to ensure that policies at the local, state, and national levels bring us closer to achieving our vision of a world where all people experience wholeness, justice, and compassion. Rabbi Yitzhak taught, "A ruler is not to be appointed unless the community is first consulted" (Talmud, Brakhot 55a). To ensure that our voices and commitment to social justice are heard in the public sphere, we must educate ourselves on the voting process, register, and show up at the polls. We also have a responsibility to engage across lines of difference and ensure that access to voting is a reality for all.

Emanu-El is setting a goal of having 100 percent of our congregation voting in this year's election. We'll be working over the coming months to give everyone in our community the information and encouragement to vote. This effort is non-partisan. Our goal is not to elect particular candidates or parties, but rather to encourage every eligible citizen to vote and ensure that they are able to do so. This voter pledge form is a way to make a commitment to yourself that you plan to vote. It's also an easy way to ask for help with how to vote, especially given the uncertainty around our elections during COVID-19. The information is private and won't be shared outside of Temple leadership who are organizing these efforts.

Please visit the Emanu-El website and pledge to vote here: emanuelsf.magentrix.com/aspx/Pledge\_to\_Vote.

## ARE YOU A TECH-SAVVY CONGREGANT?

We're in need of a few tech-savvy congregants who are willing to donate a little of their time to helping our more tech-challenged congregants who experience difficulties logging into our website. Please email membership@emanuelsf.org with your contact information and someone from the temple will follow-up with you. Thank you very much!

## SHALOM RAV FROM OUR RABBI

By Richard and Rhoda Goldman Senior Rabbi Jonathan Singer

### Kavanah in a Time of COVID-19

In Mishnah Brachot, chapter two, the ancient Rabbis state that one has fulfilled the obligation to recite the Shema if they directed their heart during the prayer. The term they use for direction of the heart (kiven libo) became the basis for the term kavanah, which means to have spiritual connection during prayer. Interestingly, the Rabbis went on to state in the next Mishnah that one can find oneself in different circumstances and still have kavanah, thus fulfilling the obligation to pray the Shema with true intention (even while working up in a tree or out in an orchard or at the wall of a building when prayer time comes around).

This High Holy Days season, with the effort to ensure the health of our congregants during COVID-19, we certainly find ourselves in different circumstances! When the time comes for our prayers this new year, the challenge we will face during the Yamim Noraim (Days of Awesomeness) is not that of praying in trees or on a wall, but in front of a computer screen, something that many of us might find frustrating. But remember, the Mishnah teaches us that, as Jews, we can and do have our hearts connected, attaining a spiritual uplift that will help us renew our days under many varied circumstances. In this time of COVID-19, with the isolation it brings, we are even more deeply in need of the spiritual renewal that the High Holy Days offer us.

To that end, your clergy at Congregational Emanu-El with the wonderful help of Director and Congregant Becca Wolff and Producer and Congregant Lenore Naxon — are creating portals of spiritual connection that will make these Days of Awe meaningful and engaging, even though we won't be gathering in person in our beautiful sanctuary. Via the miracle of the internet, we will hear the sound of the shofar, encourage each other to do teshuvah, work on return and renewal, sing the Avinu Malkeynu, and recite the Yizkor in ways that, a year ago, we could not have imagined.

The services, music, and teachings we will offer online will be beautiful and moving. The screen will serve as a portal to inspire all of us to open our hearts and begin the holy work of personal return and renewal. And the experience need not be passive. Jewish mystical literature teaches that you can invite the Shechinah to be with you. But you must set the mood. The mystics encouraged their adherents to light candles around the room as well as incense, and to then focus in prayer, having created the atmosphere that encourages true Kavanah.

For these holidays, we can act similarly by creating



an ambiance in our homes that encourages spiritual intention. Try setting your table with a white festival cloth and placing the screen on it, like a bimah, surrounded by flowers. Place holiday candles around the room to shed beautiful light. Also, put out Kiddish cups filled to the brim, ready to be blessed, with a round challah, and, if you own one, a shofar as well. Dress in white or in your most comfortable festive clothing. When the service starts, be all in, standing for the prayers when asked, singing with the Cantor and musicians, texting in your thoughts and hopes for the new year. Perhaps you can even keep a journal with you to write down your wishes for the new year, and remember those you need to honor or make amends with.

Especially in this time, we have personal work to do — teshuvah — turning to our better selves as we seek renewal. The coronavirus pandemic will not stop Emanu-El Jews from engaging with our heartlines, connecting to the essence of ourselves and to the holy all around us! With each others' help, with preparation and bringing the synagogue into our homes, we can build the bridge of connection and renew our days this year as of old!

Shanah Tovah! Wishing you health, blessing, and renewal.

## CONGREGATION EMANU-EL HIGH HOLY DAYS 2020 - 5781

Physically Apart. Spiritually Connected.

Visit our brand new High Holy Days website for all updated information: www.hhd.emanuelsf.org For those without online access, there will be a phone-in option for "Under One Dome" services and Yizkor/Neilah. Please call (415) 751-2535, ext. 138 for more details.





We invite all member households to join us for a special way of coming together in our sanctuary: During the month of Elul (August 21 to September 17), the month leading up to Rosh Hashanah, all members are invited to sign up for a special private blessing with a member of our clergy in the Emanu-El courtyard, followed by a private (just for you and your household) 5- to 10-minute period of prayer in front of one of our Arks. This personal Temple moment will be structured to comply with all social distancing public health rules. Alternatively, if you feel safest pulling up to the front of the Temple in your car, a clergy person of your choice will stand 6+ feet away to offer you a special blessing while you remain in your car.

We would love to offer your family a new years blessing, and send you into the sanctuary with suggestions for how to have a meaningful moment in our sacred space. We would love to offer your family wishes for a sweet new year and an opportunity for all congregants to spend a moment in our sacred space.

If you want to stay healthy and safe but need your moment at Temple, the Ark Moment is for you! You can schedule your Ark Moment online or call the Temple to set up your appointment.

For those without internet access, please call our main office to schedule your Ark Moment.



SMALL GROUPS EMANU-EL B'BAYIT



Emanu-El B'Bayit groups are a new way for you to find your people at Emanu-El, get to know a small group of fellow congregants more in-depth, and help make our large congregation feel smaller. One of Emanu-El's strengths is the breadth and scope of our large congregation, and Emanu-El B'Bayit groups are an opportunity to help you find a sense of home and belonging within our community.

Formed by interests, geography, needs, or demographics, each member-led group will consist of 3 to 20 individuals or families who join together regularly to celebrate, play, pray, and/or learn with each other.

All Emanu-El B'Bayit groups will meet virtually or in person (if determined safe by each group) during fall 2020 (August through December). The groups will launch together with a special Havdalah to mark the start of Elul on Saturday, August 29, with Rabbi Parris, and all groups will conclude with a candle lighting for Chanukah.

Individuals/families may enroll in B'Bayit groups on our website.

### SERVICES SCHEDULE



All of our livestreamed High Holy Day services are open to the community! The services will be beautifully and professionally produced so the magnificence of the sacred season can be felt by all who join online. Please check the website (hhd.emanuelsf.org) 15 minutes prior to start times. [Please note that the schedule is on Pacific Time.]

Our "Under One Dome" services combine the grandeur & majesty of the Early Service with the warmth & intimacy of the Late Service, featuring a hybrid of styles that our community has grown to love.

The Rabbis leading each "Under One Dome" service are noted below. Cantors Marsha Attie and Arik Luck will provide music with their accompanists.

#### **EREV ROSH HASHANAH**

#### Friday, September 18

#### Shofars Across the Bay — 11:00 am

Listen for the shofar blast to awaken us to the new year! On Erev Rosh Hashanah day, you might hear the shofar on your street as we send out shofar blowers to bring that unique sound of joy and hope to your window. In addition, we will send the call of *tekiah* right to your cellphone as a clickable message. Although we are physically apart, our community is spiritually connected as we sustain hope and work for redemption!

#### Team Shofar: Service for Elementary Children and their Families (ages 6+) — 5:00 to 5:30 pm

Stream into this worship service, conducted in a participatory, educational style by our clergy and musicians. Led by Rabbi Ryan Bauer and Jonathan Bayer.

## UNDER ONE DOME: Erev Rosh Hashanah Service — 6:00 to 7:30 pm

Led by Rabbi Beth Singer and Rabbi Ryan Bauer. Sermon by Rabbi Sydney Mintz.

#### **ROSH HASHANAH DAY**

#### Saturday, September 19

Apples & Honey: Service for Young Children and their Families (ages 0-6) — 9:00 to 9:30 am

Family worship service conducted in a participatory, educational style by Rabbi Sarah Joselow Parris and Jonathan Bayer.

## UNDER ONE DOME: Rosh Hashanah Morning Service — 10:00 to 11:30 am

Led by Rabbi Jonathan Singer and Rabbi Sarah Joselow Parris. Sermon by Rabbi Jason Rodich.

## Return Again: Teen-led Rosh Hashanah Service — 2:00 to 3:00 pm

Community service led by our teens and alumni who will inspire us in song, worship, poetry, and prose. Led by Cantor Marsha Attie and musical accompanists.

#### **Your Own Personal Tashlich Moment**

Pikuach nefesh (preservation of life) is the highest mitzvah. In order to keep everyone safe, we are asking that you observe Tashlich in safe family pods and refrain from large gatherings. We will offer a Tashlich audio service via the SoundCloud platform for you to use anytime during the 10 Days of Awe, at any body of water. Please do not congregate at Baker Beach on Rosh Hashanah.

#### **ROSH HASHANAH SECOND DAY**

#### Sunday, September 20

#### Second-Day Service — 10:00 am to Noon

Main Sanctuary service led by Rabbi Jonathan Singer, Rabbi Ryan Bauer, and Cantor Arik Luck with accompanists. This will be a full Rosh Hashanah service with riveting readings, including the story of Jonah, with music and songs and full shofar blasts.

#### **KOL NIDRE**

#### Sunday, September 27

## Team Shofar: Service for Elementary Children and their Families (ages 6+) — 5:00 to 5:30 pm

Stream into this worship service, in a participatory, educational style by our clergy and musicians. Led by Rabbi Jonathan Singer and Jonathan Bayer.

#### Dinner at Home - 5:30 to 7:00 pm

Enjoy your own festive family dinner before starting your fast.

**UNDER ONE DOME: Kol Nidre Service – 7:00 to 8:30 pm** Led by Rabbi Jonathan Singer and Rabbi Sydney Mintz. Sermon by Rabbi Ryan Bauer.





#### YOM KIPPUR DAY Monday, September 28

Stay Engaged and Pray for the Day



Apples & Honey: Service for Young Children and their Families (ages 0-6) — 9:00 to 9:30 am Family worship service conducted in a participatory, educational style by Rabbi Sydney Mintz and Jonathan Bayer.

The Best of the Best: Gleanings from Five Decades of Preaching and Teaching — 8:45 to 9:45 am Zoom learning session with Emanu-El Taube Scholar, Rabbi Stephen Pearce, PhD. For Members

#### UNDER ONE DOME: Yom Kippur Day Service – 10:00 to 11:30 am

Led by Rabbi Jason Rodich and Rabbi Ryan Bauer. Sermon by Rabbi Beth Singer.

The Seasons of Life: Judaism's Take on Making Existence Holy — 12:30 to 1:30 pm Zoom learning session with Emanu-El Scholar, Rabbi Lawrence Kushner. For Members

Healing Service — 12:30 to 2:00 pm Livestreamed opportunity led by Rabbi Beth Singer. For Members

A Journey to Social Justice — 1:30 to 3:00 pm Event led by Emanu-El's Tzedek Council. For Members

## Return Again: Teen-led Yom Kippur Service — 2:00 to 3:00 pm

Community service led by our teens and alumni who will lead us in song, worship, poetry, and prose. Led by Cantor Marsha Attie and musical accompanists.

Afternoon Yom Kippur Service — 3:00 to 4:00 pm Community Mincha service livestreamed from the Main Sanctuary with Rabbi Jonathan Singer, Cantor Arik Luck, and accompanists.

#### Guided Meditation – 4:00 to 5:00 pm

Livestreamed opportunity led by Rabbi Ryan Bauer. For Members

**Yizkor, Neilah, and Havdalah – 6:00 to 7:15 pm** Yizkor led by Rabbi Beth Singer and Rabbi Jason Rodich, with sermon by Rabbi Sarah Joselow Parris. Neilah led by all Emanu-El clergy, with sermon by Rabbi Jonathan Singer.

### Sukkot 2020/5781—How to Build a Sukkah

or 40 years, as our ancestors traversed the Sinai desert prior to their entry into the Holy Land, miraculous "clouds of glory" surrounded and hovered over them, shielding them from the dangers and discomforts of the desert. In the words of the verse (Leviticus 23:42-43), "For a seven-day period you shall live in booths. Every resident among the Israelites shall live in booths, in order that your [ensuing] generations should know that I had the children of Israel live in booths when I took them out of the land of Egypt. I am the L-rd, your G-d."

Ever since, we remember G-d's kindness, and reaffirm our trust in His providence, by "dwelling" in a sukkah for the duration of the Sukkot festival, from the 15th through the 22nd of the Hebrew month of Tishrei (in Israel, through the 21st only).

#### Where Do I Build My Sukkah?

Construct your sukkah outdoors, ideally in a spot that's most accessible to your residence. Popular sukkah locations include: porches, backyards, courtyards, lawns, balconies and rooftops. Basically, any location under the open sky.

An important requirement is that there should be nothing between your sukkah and the open sky. So make sure that there are no trees,

canopies or roofs of any sort overhanging your sukkah.

#### What Materials Do I Need?

If you're building your own sukkah, here are the basic materials you will need:

The Walls: The walls of a sukkah can be made of any material, provided that they are sturdy enough that they do not move in a normal wind. You can use wood or fiberglass panels, waterproof fabrics attached to a metal frame, etc. You can also use pre-existing walls (i.e., the exterior walls of your home, patio or garage) as one or more of the sukkah walls. An existing structure that is roofless or has a removable roof can also be made into a sukkah by covering it with proper sechach.

**The Roof Covering:** The sukkah needs to be covered with sechach — raw, unfinished vegetable matter. Common sukkah roof-coverings are: bamboo poles, evergreen branches, reeds, corn stalks, narrow strips (1×1 or 1×2) of unfinished lumber, or special sechach mats.

Mats made of bamboo, straw or other vegetable matter can be used only if they were made for the purpose of serving as a roof covering. The sechach must be detached from its source of growth — thus a live trellis, or branches still attached to a tree, cannot be used.

You may use only vegetable matter that has not been previously used for another purpose. Additionally, it must never have acquired the status of a utensil (through being used as part of a crate or tool), nor have been capable of becoming ritually impure. You may also need some plain, unfinished wood beams to construct a framework on which to lay the sechach.

**Lighting:** If you'd like to set up a lighting system, and your sukkah is built close to an outlet, purchase a lightbulb with a rain protection cover and electrical cord.

**Chairs and Tables:** Remember, you will be taking all your meals in the sukkah for the duration of the festival. Plus, it is a special mitzvah to invite guests to share your sukkah.

**Decorations:** Many communities decorate the sukkah with colorful posters depicting holiday themes, by hanging fresh fruits or other decorations from the sechach beams, or both. (The Chabad custom is not to decorate the sukkah, as the mitzvah itself is considered to be an object of the greatest beauty.)

#### The Dimensions and Other Requirements

**The Walls:** A sukkah must have at least two full walls plus part of a third wall (the "part" needs to be a minimum of 3.2 inches wide). It is preferable, however, that the sukkah have four complete walls.

The walls must be at least 32 inches high, and the entire structure may not be taller than 30 feet. In length and breadth, a sukkah cannot be smaller than

22.4 inches by 22.4 inches. There is no size limit in how large - in length and width - a sukkah may be.

**The Sechach:** There must be sufficient sechach to provide enough shade so that in a bright midday there is more shade than sun seen on the floor of the sukkah. The sechach has to be spread out evenly over the entire sukkah, so that there should not be any gap larger than 9.6 inches.

Anything that is directly supporting the sechach should not be made out of materials that are not fit to be used as sechach. Thus, if the sechach rests directly on the sukkah walls, strips of wood may need to be used to support the sechach. In addition, the sechach should not be tied with wire or fastened with any metal object.

#### **Some More Details**

A sukkah must be built anew every year for the purpose of the mitzvah. This requirement, however, applies only to the sechach, since it is the sechach that makes the sukkah a sukkah. Thus, one can leave the walls standing all year, and place the roof covering before the festival. If the sukkah and the sechach have been up all year, one can simply lift up and replace the sechach, which allows the sukkah to be considered as new.

It is best that a sukkah have four solid walls (aside from the doorways and windows).

(Excerpted with permission from Chabad.org/420823.)



## YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

t's September. Many schools have started and others will be starting soon. YFE is preparing for our September 13 opening day. In March, we couldn't have imagined that we wouldn't be greeting each other in person on our first day. But here we are, and we're trying



to make the best of a truly unfathomable situation. Our hearts go out to families of all kinds who are coping with the cancellation of so many important aspects of their lives and routines. Everyone has been deeply affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and as people suffer from social, emotional, academic, and financial strains, as well as feelings of isolation, anxiety, and grief, we are moving forward with our plans to provide our children and families with support,

education, and connection. We know that this is not "business as usual," and we understand that people have doubts about participating in our programs during these uncertain times, so I'd like to address some of the concerns that we've heard in recent weeks.

## My kids really didn't like the Zoom classes you offered in the spring.

To guote an elementary school teacher I heard on the radio, "In the spring, we weren't doing distance learning. We were doing crisis learning." That's for sure. We turned all our programs into Zoom classes within a couple weeks of the shelter-in-place, and we were literally learning as we went, every single time. We told teachers to hold their classes on Zoom before some of them even knew what Zoom was! We did our best, and some of that was pretty darn good, and some of it wasn't. To improve in that area, our teachers participated in several professional development opportunities in August. Most of our lead teachers participated in a four-part course, "A Relational Approach to Learning," led by Mindy Gold, an exceptional educator. This course taught us to use a blend of digital and non-digital tools. Our YFE team now has a foundation of common knowledge upon which to build. We also hired an Israeli master teacher to work with all of our Hebrew teachers, and we learned how to employ technology and games to engage the students and manage the class. We will continue to learn and practice our skills to improve the quality of our distance learning classes.

## I can't face forcing my kids to sit in front of a screen in addition to all of the school screen time, and I need a break from it, too.

I am so "Zoomed" out, I can't even tell you. But we want to stay together, and until we can do that in person, this is all we have. During these stressful and trying times, we all crave and need the connection and comfort that a community can provide. Our teachers will concentrate on building community and support among the children and the teaching team. When we look back on 2020, we probably won't remember the dates we memorized in history class or some of the facts we learned about Jewish heroes or even all of the Hebrew words in that blessing. But we will remember the feelings we had when we sang together or played those games with the friends in our classes. Content is important; but right now, connection is even more important, and our goal for this year is to keep our connections strong. Teaching assistants and Madrichim will lead small break-out rooms where the children will be called on by name, where they can have real conversations with each other and work on projects together. And because we can't sit in front of screens for too long, either, the class times will be limited to 1 hour. We will provide activities, resources, and suggestions for follow-up family activities during the week. Virtual T'fillah will be the first activity on Sunday mornings and the final one on Wednesday afternoons. There will be a short break between T'fillah and class so everyone can take their eyes away from the screen, grab a snack, take a bio break, or work off some energy.

#### I think we just need to take the year off.

Let's return to the above paragraph. If our children lose the momentum of their Jewish education and the connections with their friends in class, it will be harder to go back in a year. The shared experience of this coming school year will bring us closer together, carry us through this completely unique and inexplicable year, and provide a shared foundation for the future. There will be friendship, fun, laughter, and learning. Together we'll get through this. Together we'll be stronger. We don't want you or your children to miss this year with us!

We wish that we could gather together in person, and as soon as we can do that safely, we will. We hope you'll join our educational adventures this year by enrolling in YFE. Our doors (and Zoom rooms) are always open, so if you can't start with us on September 13, please consider starting when you can. We'll keep enrollment open and do everything we can to keep all our families connected and involved.

If you have questions, please reach out to me at fkupferman@emanuelsf.org.

Flora Kupferman YFE Acting Director

### Introducing our Brand New 6th/7th Grade Curriculum!

Rabbinic intern Leo Fuchs made time available to discuss our new plans for 6th and 7th grade students this fall. Before he entered rabbinical school, Leo worked in the Oakland public schools for 18 years, in elementary and middle schools. During that time, he led the design of a new small elementary school and served as its principal for 11 years. We're excited about this fall's curriculum and look forward to seeing your kids participate. Now let's hear from Leo!

## Please explain what this new 6th/7th grade curriculum is all about?

This design brings families together who live in close geographic proximity. Students will meet each week, and families will join students once or twice a month in person at a park local to the families. The school year will be broken into three trimesters: Torah (study of our sacred texts), Avodah (understanding of the prayer service), and G'milut Chasidim (the role of action in Judaism).

During each trimester, students will experience two fourweek rotations. The first week, students will learn about a topic area. The second week, students will work in pairs to learn about and prepare to present information about a subtopic. The third week, students and their families will meet in person in a park near their home where student pairs will present what they learned and engage in discussion with the group (chavurah) of approximately 10 families. (Of course, this will be modified depending on health guidelines). The fourth week, students will engage in traditional T'fillah online, and afterwards meet in their chavurah groups for brief discussion about chavurahbased activities they would like to plan and acts of tzedek they have engaged in over the past month.

#### Why the need for a new curriculum?

Retreats at Camp Newman are no longer an option. Those retreats, along with Shabbat morning service attendance, previously formed the core of the 6th-grade program. Similarly, 7th-graders had a terrific Mitzvah Corps curriculum. But in-person services are not an option in COVID-19 times. In addition, many YFE parents have expressed the desire for a content-rich religious school experience and for opportunities to build their Jewish community, so this new design aligns with the small group work that Emanu-El is launching for the purpose of building community.

## Any new concepts to be addressed in this new 6th/7th grade curriculum?

We are excited about the idea of bringing families together who live near one another. We hope this will support the development of chavurot that choose to stay connected for many years beyond their students' 6th- and 7thgrade years. We also hope that students come out of this program with a deep knowledge of Jewish content that enriches their experience of Jewish prayer and action going forward.

#### What are the expectations for students?

Students will work in a chevruta (pair) each month to learn about a subtopic and present what they have learned to their chavurah of approximately 10 students and their families. By the end of the year, we hope they speak meaningfully about the major Jewish texts — including

Torah, Prophets, Writings, Mishnah, Gemara (Talmud), and Midrash. They will explore examples of how an issue of their choice is treated by each of these major types of text. They will understand the outline of a Jewish prayer service, be able to identify the different parts of a service and the types of prayer within a service, and explore prayers they find personally meaningful. They will understand the role of action in Judaism in terms of service to others and in terms of daily everyday interactions.



## Is this curriculum being modeled off of another school's curriculum?

This curriculum is a specific response to the COVID-19 crisis. In the course of working on it, I learned that Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan led a curriculum also based on Torah, Avodah, and G'milut Chasidim for this age range, and I am currently in the process of learning about that curriculum, so there may be elements of it that we integrate into our new program. In addition, the wisdom of educators such as Ariana Estoque, Rabbi Sarah Parris, Rabbi Jonathan, Rabbi Bauer, and Rabbi Jonathan Jaffe, as well as Flora Kupferman, Shanah Kushner, and Tori Starks, have supported the development of the program.

Good curriculum in the hands of good teachers stimulates lots of talk and questioning, with students engaging the teacher and one another. Is that what you're going for? Teachers will definitely be taking this curriculum and making it their own. They will have lots to start with and build on. Absolutely, we are going for lots of student talk, questioning, and also creativity and new thinking. We are calling the program Be'er V'Aish, which means the Well and the Fire. Jewish tradition views each of these as symbols of creativity and ongoing growth and change. A central idea is that students are our next generation of Torah, and we need them not only to learn what has been taught in the past, but to add their unique ideas and wisdom so Torah can continue to grow and thrive.

#### Parents want their children to come home from school excited or stimulated about what they are learning. What do you want to say to parents right now about this new curriculum?

Parents, this program will be a new approach to religious school at Emanu-El. If you want your students to be the carriers and creators of the next generation of Torah, this program is a great place to start.

## ADULT EDUCATION .

## Introduction to Judaism — Fall Trimester 2020

#### Tuesdays - October 13, 20, and 27 / November 3, 10, and 17 / December 1 and 8

#### Cost: \$54 for members; \$75 for nonmembers

Join with Emanu-El clergy to learn about the breadth and wonder of Jewish tradition. This class is a pathway for the adult learner who wishes to discover or deepen Jewish knowledge, for non-Jews who are marrying a Jewish partner, and for those who are considering conversion to Judaism.

Each trimester requires separate registration. Please register online.

### Chuppah and Beyond: Marriage Enrichment for Engaged or Newly Married Couples

#### Wednesdays - October 14 and November 18, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

#### Cost: \$200 per couple for members; \$300 per couple for nonmembers

Chuppah and Beyond is designed to help couples shape foundational tools for a successful, happy, lifelong relationship, while simultaneously building community with other like-minded couples. Classes are led by Senior Rabbi Emeritus Stephen S. Pearce, the Taube Emanu-El Scholar, who earned his doctorate in Counseling Psychology at St. John's University (NY) with a specialization in Marriage and Family Counseling. For 20 years, Dr. Pearce taught counseling and human relations at Hebrew Union College (the rabbinical seminary of the Reform Movement). Rabbi Pearce will co-facilitate each class, along with members of the Emanu-El clergy team and invited guests. Topics will include:

- Communication, Realistic/Unrealistic Expectations, Escalating/Deescalating, and Managing Conflict
- Intimacy, Honesty, and Commitment
- Money Matters and Financial Planning
- Equality, Jealousy, Insecurity, and Addictions
- Parental Models, Child Rearing, and Outside Family Interference
- Building a Faith-Based Home

Please register online and bring an electronic device to the first session so you can connect to the internet for an online activity.

### **Zoom Baby Groups**

When: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Where: zoom.us/j/802983751

Our Side by Side classes will continue to be available via Zoom this summer. Join "Mimi's Music and Fun Group" with Mimi Greisman every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning!

While these online offerings are currently free for all participants, we invite you to make a direct donation to our Early Education programs at Emanu-El, in lieu of your Side by Side tuition, to continue supporting this important programming. To do so, please select "Emanu-El Preschool Fund" from the dropdown menu. Thank you for your consideration!

Mimi will introduce your little one to Jewish stories, songs, puppets, dancing, and the important weekly rituals of Shabbat and Havdalah.

Stay connected with your Emanu-El community of young children and families without leaving the comfort of your home. We look forward to seeing you under our digital dome!

## **2020 IMPACT FUND** CONGREGATION EMANU-EL

### **IMPACT FUND DONORS**

We sincerely appreciate all donors who have contributed to Congregation Emanu-El's 2020 Impact Fund from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. We rely on gifts to the Impact Fund to keep our community financially stable and thriving. Your participation empowers us to build a spiritual community that provides opportunities for transformative social justice work, lifelong learning and cultural expression that reinforces positive elements of Jewish history and life.

This list has been reprinted from last month due to contributors who gave after the last edition was printed. We thank all contributors for your incredible generosity to Emanu-El.

#### Sustainers (\$20,000+)

The Donald and Carole Chaiken Foundation Stuart Corvin and Marissa Wertheimer Doris Fisher Donny and Janie Friend Gaia Fund Lisa and Douglas Goldman Fund Hellman Foundation Stephen and Maribelle Leavitt Nellie and Max Levchin Phyllis Moldaw Susan Moldaw and Bob Stallings **Eleanor and Laurence Myers** Foundation John Pritzker Family Fund Lisa Stone Pritzker Family Foundation Lydia and Doug Shorenstein Foundation Paul and Sheri Siegel

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#### Hatikva (\$1,000 to \$2,499) (continued)

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### LEGACY CIRCLE



EMANU-EL LEGACY CIRCLE Including Congregation Emanu-El in your estate planning is a promise to your children, grandchildren, and future generations that Emanu-El will continue to be a thriving home for worship, study, and community. By making this generous contribution, you will become an honored member of Emanu-El's Legacy Circle.

Legacy Circle member Yvonne Levy z"l (April 14, 1937-September 30, 2019) was a lifelong Bay Area resident and a member of Emanu-El for 57 years. Born in Berkeley, Yvonne attended UC Berkeley and graduated Summa Cum Laude with both a Bachelor's and a Master's degrees in Economics. Brilliant and dedicated to her field, she worked at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco for 27 years before retiring as a Senior Economist. During her career, Yvonne published nearly one hundred articles and contributed to many comprehensive studies on the regional economy, the aerospace and energy industries, and other subjects of importance.



Yvonne Levy z"l

Yvonne and her late husband Fred were active and devoted members of Emanu-El — retaining their connection and membership even while living on the Peninsula. She often spoke about her spirituality and relationship with the Emanu-El community as a source of comfort throughout her life, and particularly when coping with the burdens of caring for ill family members and while grieving. Calling Emanu-El "my soulful, sacred, and supportive house of God," she included the congregation in her estate planning to ensure that it would continue to thrive for future generations.

Yvonne contributed a beautiful testament to the power of making a legacy gift in 2014, here excerpted:

"My husband Fred and I were members of Emanu-El throughout our 45 years of marriage...We knew, as early as 1998 when we established our Trust, that we wanted the Temple to receive a substantial portion of our hard-earned estate. Although we had no children, we felt compelled to help ensure that Emanu-El would remain a sacred space where such qualities could pass from generation to generation — within the Temple and spreading throughout the broader community.

I learned the principle of tzedakah at an early age, stressing it as President of B'nai B'rith Girls (Berkeley Chapter), and keeping it as a lifelong commitment. The Temple's Legacy Circle extends the hand of tzedakah to its most important mission — building a Jewish future that's stronger than ever. It is tremendously worthy of your support."

- Yvonne Levy

## Richard and Rhoda Goldman Senior Rabbi Jonathan Singer remembers Yvonne and her passion for Judaism and Emanu-El:

"Yvonne Levy made an impression! She impressed you with her love of the Jewish people, of Emanu-El, and her connection to holiness (spirituality). She believed with all her heart that there is a deep need for an inclusive Judaism that is welcoming, egalitarian, and joyful and so wanted to support the synagogue even after her time here had come to an end. Her memory is for a profound blessing."

- Rabbi Jonathan Singer

#### For more information about Emanu-El Legacy Circle, please visit www.emanuelsf.org/support-us/planned-giving/ or contact Julie Weinberg, Director of Development, at jweinberg@emanuelsf.org or (415) 751-2535.

### DONORS

Thank you for your generosity and participation. Your contributions will help ensure we meet the needs of the Emanu-El community — now and for future generations. Thank you for giving! The following gifts were received from July 1, 2020 – July 31, 2020

CANTORS' MUSIC FUND — supports the Congregation's music programs and is used for charitable giving at the Cantors' discretion

#### **Fred Levin**

in observance of the Yahrzeit of Rose Shenson

**Fred Levin** *in observance of the Yahrzeit of Ben Shenson* 

EMANU-EL COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND — promotes and supports social action and community service programs

Fran and David Meckler in memory of Bobbi Greenberg

EMANU-EL LIFE-CYCLE FUND enables all congregants to celebrate significant milestones, regardless of economic circumstances

#### Roni Silverberg

EMANU-EL PRESCHOOL FUND provides scholarships and support for our Preschool programs

**Caren Alpert** *in appreciation of the TEEP PA Presidents* 

Angela and Alan Braverman in appreciation of Mimi Greisman

Bradley and Devra Posner

Lauren Weitzman and Bruce Falck

Lisa and Alex Yakubovich

FOR THE ROOSEVELT FOOD PANTRY

Valli Benesch and Robert Tandler Leslie Friedman and Jonathan Clark Stephanie Scott (2) *in memory of William M. Scott* 

RABBIS' DISCRETIONARY FUND — used for charitable giving at the Rabbis' discretion. Contributions to Rabbis' Discretionary Fund are currently supporting COVID-19/ Emergency relief efforts. Thank you for your support.

Yigal and Rely Banker in honor of Tom and Madison's wedding and Rabbi Beth Singer

**Stephen and Jeanne Cohen** *in memory of Gertrude Pickoff Cohen* 

**Stephen and Jeanne Cohen** *in memory of Ingrid Cohen* 

**Brenda Friedler** 

Brenda Friedler in appreciation of Max Hyman

Laurie Kahn

Tristi and Damon Marshall in honor of Tallulah Marshall

Albert Villa

Naftali and Schirley Zisman in observance of the Yahrzeit of Greta Winter EMANU-EL'S CRISIS RELIEF INITIATIVE — provides essential funds to COVID-19/Emergency relief efforts to keep our synagogue operating, while also assisting our members with dues, tuition and scholarship relief. Thank you for your support.

Julie Levine, Patricia Lurie, and Susie Roy Miller in appreciation of Lisa Goldman

Scott and Vicki Kahn

Sands Tucker in observance of the Yahrzeit of Edwin Tucker

#### YOUTH EDUCATION FUND —supports special programming and materials for the Youth and Family Education Program

Roslyn Payne in memory of Aaron Braeman

Morton Rivo in observance of the Yahrzeit of Ida Gold Rivo

#### **OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS**

Mahdokht Frouzan

To support Israel Action Programming, in observance of the Yahrzeit of Mordecai Moallem

Lisa Goldman

Patricia Lurie

#### WAYS TO GIVE

Making a gift to Emanu-El is a meaningful way to honor friends and family while supporting the synagogue. The Temple offers a variety of donation opportunities so all members can participate in the mitzvah of tzedakah at whatever level is comfortable. For additional information about our different funds and various ways to give, please visit our website.

- Send us a Check: 2 Lake Street, San Francisco CA, 94118. Congregation Emanu-El Attn: Development.
- Visit Our Website: www.emanuelsf.org/support-us/
- Appreciated Stock Gifts: The Congregation accepts all contributions made via stock transfers. You will enjoy an immediate tax deduction for the value of the stock transfer and avoid paying capital gains.
- **Corporate Matching:** Many Bay Area companies will match your gift dollar-for-dollar. Please contact your company's matching gifts coordinator to determine whether your gift to Congregation Emanu-El can be matched.

If you need assistance, please contact the Development Office at development@emanuelsf.org

## LIFE-CYCLES

#### **Condolences to Our Members Who** Have Suffered Recent Losses

Patricia Davis on the loss of her husband, and Micah Davis on the passing of his father, **Rabbi David Davis** 

Antonio Salazar-Hobson (Katherine Salazar-Poss) on the loss of his sisters and brother, and Gilberto and Adela Salazar-Poss on the passing of their aunts and uncle, **Helen, Stella, and Rudy Salazar** 

Laurie Kahn on the loss of her husband, and Michael Schneider (Pamela) on the passing of his cousin, **Alan Schneider** 

Bill Black (Lenore Naxon) on the loss of his mother, and llana Black on the passing of her grandmother, **Evelyn Black** 

Elizabeth Clark-Mathis (Allan Mathis) on the loss of her father, and Isaac Mathis on the passing of his grandfather, Larry Clark

Dr. Steven White (Emma) on the loss of his daughter, and Terry, Samantha, and Rachel White on the passing of their sister, **Alice White Malson** 

Kathleen Safer on the loss of her daughter, Davida Safer

Cynthia Ostroff on the loss of her brother, and Benjamin and Jason Ostroff on the passing of their uncle, **Ken Rosenbaum** 

Audrey Sterling on the loss of her husband, Joy, Laurence, and Terry Sterling on the passing of their father, Justine, Mike, Barrie, and Joseph Sterling on the loss of their grandfather, and Calvin Sterling on the passing of his great-grandfather, **Barry Sterling** 

Scott Youkilis (Stacey) on the loss of his father, and Everett, Charlie, and Honor Youkilis on the passing of their grandfather, **Michael "Bear" Youkilis** 

Guiv (Deborah) and Kaveh (Lida) Soofer on the passing of their father, and Elliott, Hudson, Sydney, Devon, Tyler, Dylan, Blake, and Bryce Soofer on the passing of their grandfather, **Fereydoon Eliahoo Soofer** 

Rebecca Goldfader (Bevan Duffy) on the loss of her mother, and Sidney Goldfader-Duffy on the loss of his grandmother, **Cara "Gigi" Lesser Goldfader** 

Pamela Lyss-Lerman (Jason Lerman) on the loss of her mother, and Noah, Etai, and Ezra Lerman on the passing of their grandmother, **Esther Lyss-Greenstein** 

Noah Wintroub (Carey) on the loss of his grandmother, and Bennett, Dylan, and Quinn Wintroub on the passing of their great-grandmother, **June Shulman** 

Bob Fields (Randi) on the loss of his father, and Jessica and Matthew on the passing of their grandfather, **Dr. Jerome Fields** 







#### Jessica Summer Feldman

Bat Mitzvah: September 5, 2020 Parents: Elizabeth Lougee and Jonathan Feldman

**Torah Portion:** *Ki Tavo* 

#### Rebecca Shveyd Bat Mitzvah:

September 5, 2020

Parents: Robbi and Leo Shveyd

**Torah Portion:** *Vayikra* 



#### Sasha Silver Yolles

**Bat Mitzvah:** September 5, 2020

**Parents:** Stacey Silver and Jonathan Yolles

Torah Portion: Vayakhel-Pekude







#### Isaac Henry Friedman

**Bar Mitzvah:** September 5, 2020

Parents: Ellen Friedman

**Torah Portion:** *Ki Tavo* 

#### **Isaac Chalmer Grossnickle**

**Bar Mitzvah:** September 12, 2020

**Parents:** Hope Schmeltzer and Joshua Grossnickle

Torah Portion: Korach

### Calen Gabriel Estoque

**Bar Mitzvah:** September 12, 2020

Parents: Ariana and Marc Estoque Torah Portion: Naso



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.

#### STAFF

Beth Singer, Richard and Rhoda Goldman, Senior Rabbi Jonathan Singer, Richard and Rhoda Goldman, Senior Rabbi Sydney B. Mintz, Senior Associate Rabbi Rvan Bauer, Senior Associate Rabbi Sarah Joselow Parris, Rabbi Jason Rodich, Rabbi Marsha Attie. Cantor Arik Luck, Ben and A. Jess Shenson, Cantor Roslyn Barak, Senior Cantor Emerita Stephen Pearce, Ph.D., Senior Taube Emanu-El Scholar and Rabbi Emeritus Rabbi Lawrence Kushner, Emanu-El Scholar David N. Goldman. Executive Director and General Counsel

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#### Welcome New Members!

Tomer Banker Dana Bloom Howard Bloom Micah Bloom Madison Gaynor Gabriel Greschler Jodi Hirsch Raphael Hirsch Jacob Miller

#### Welcome Back Rejoined Members!

Rachel Jacobs Andrew Nesbit Kristen Nesbit Madelyn Nesbit Daniel Steiger Marley Steiger Angus Strawbridge Forrest Strawbridge Robin Strawbridge

