

Emanu-El ^S_F

CHRONICLE VOLUME CLXXXI, NO. 33 | DECEMBER 2020
15 KISLEV - 16 TEVET 5781

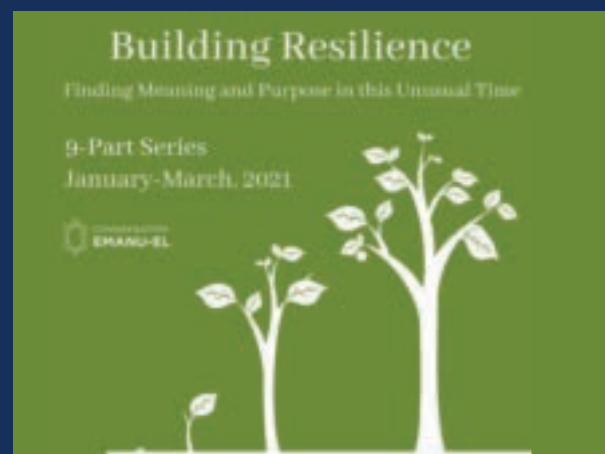


*Wishing you a
Happy Chanukah*

Give light, get light



Emanu-El B'Bayit



Resiliency Series

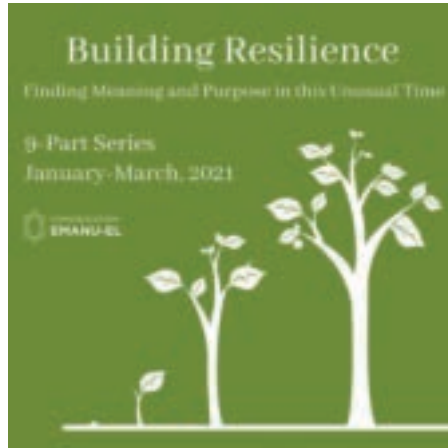
SPOTLIGHT

Building Resilience: Finding Meaning and Purpose in this Unusual Time

During Chanukah, we celebrate the strength and endurance of the Maccabees, who overcame overwhelming odds and discovered the miracle of light in a time of intense darkness. In the spirit of the season,

Congregation Emanu-El is proud to announce a program series to guide our community through the process of finding our own strength and resiliency in this time of isolation, fear, grief, and uncertainty due to COVID-19.

On select Wednesday evenings in early 2021, join us for nine (virtual) sessions that will explore and uncover tools to help build resiliency in thought and practice—as individuals and in community. We will explore Jewish texts and history to illuminate the topic of resilience, and we'll learn from clergy, expert facilitators, and each other as we deepen sacred and communal connections and spark our own light in this dark season. The series is free for members of our congregation (\$10 per class for non-members). You can create your own path by signing up for individual courses or for multiple. You're welcome to enjoy your dinner or a snack while participating in the class.



Program Dates and Information (more details to come!)

All Sessions: Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 pm

January 13 – *Reflections on Resilience: Lessons from Jewish History* (led by Rabbi Stephen Pearce)

January 20 – *Sustaining and Nourishing Relationships During Quarantine* (led by Rabbi Ryan Bauer)

January 27 – *Maintaining Emotional Health in the Face of Social Isolation* (led by Rabbi Beth Singer)

February 10 – *Childcare and Becoming Teachers to our Children* (led by Rabbi Sarah Parris and Early Childhood Education Director Nika Greenberg)

February 17 – *Supporting Your School Age Child and Adolescent Through the Pandemic* (led by Rabbi Ryan Bauer and Marjorie Swig, MS/LMFT)

March 3 – *Finding Resiliency During Bereavement and Loss* (led by Rabbi Sarah Joselow Parris)

March 10 – *Caring for Sick or Aging Relatives* (led by Julie Mayer, Emanu-El's Pastoral Care Provider)

March 17 – *Confronting Uncertainty* (led by Rabbi Jason Rodich)

March 24 – *Creating a Roadmap and Developing Tools* (led by Cantor Marsha Attie)



SHALOM RAV FROM OUR RABBI

By Richard and Rhoda Goldman Senior Rabbi Beth Singer

Do You Believe in Miracles?

Like me, many of you grew up hearing the fable of the eight nights of Chanukah. Remember? The Jews returned

“Days pass
and years
vanish and we
walk sightless
among
miracles.”

to the despoiled Temple and found only enough oil to burn for one night, but instead it lasted for eight days—a miracle! But according to historians, this is not the real story of Chanukah. Some claim that the holiday commemorates a civil war between two camps of Jews: assimilationists versus those who wanted to impose a strict interpretation of Judaism on everyone. Others say that Chanukah really is a belated

eight-day Sukkot celebration, after Jews had been prevented from celebrating before they reclaimed the Temple. And some argue that the Rabbis in the Talmud knew all about the messy internal Jewish conflict but chose to go with the small-jar-of-oil story to place greater emphasis on miracles and de-emphasize battle. We pair this story with the Chanukah *Haftara* from the prophet Zechariah who said that we win “not by might, nor by power, but by God’s spirit.”

Regardless of its true back story, the theme of Chanukah is Miracles. One of my favorite prayers in our Reform prayer

book states: “Days pass and years vanish and we walk sightless among miracles.”

The prayer book instills within us a Jewish idea that to wake up is itself a miracle. To breathe is a miracle. To feel joy and all of our emotions is a miracle. To walk is a miracle. To see a bird or a rainbow or an ocean is a miracle. To feel the warmth of the sun is a miracle. To love and be loved by others is a miracle.

2020 has been a very difficult year for many of us. A year of pandemic. A year of racial and political discord. A year of smoke and fires. Here at Temple, we continue to take measures that keep us safe, holding our celebrations digitally, as we continue our Emanu-El theme—Judaism, no matter what! Join us throughout Chanukah as we find new ways to increase the light and proclaim the miracle each night (see page 4). And join us next month as we partner with Third Baptist Church to shine a light anew on the miracle of our Black-Jewish relationships.

Throughout the Festival of Lights, we put a Chanukah menorah in our window to proclaim the miracle. Some exchange gifts. But Judaism’s gift to us is that simply waking up each day is itself a miracle.



Seeking volunteers to be part of a New Member Welcome Committee

We are looking for current members to help us welcome new members to our community. We all know that personal outreach is the best way to build meaningful connection and long-term communal commitment. The ask is easy: we would pair you with a new member/family and ask that you call them, get to know them, share your experience, knowledge and love for the synagogue, and then check up on them monthly. It’s easy and very meaningful.

If you are interested in sharing your passion and connection to Emanu-El with others, please contact Ariana Estoque at 415-750-7550 or at aestoque@emanuelsf.org.

Celebrate Chanukah with your Emanu-El Community!



One Shabbat — Chanukah Service

Friday, December 11, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

The flames of the Chanukah menorah (*Chanukiah*) are a symbol of Jewish identity and continuity. We light the Chanukiah for eight days to remember the miracle of the human spirit, commemorate the light of rededication, and honor the Maccabees who put their trust in God.

Please join us on December 11 as we bring the light of community into our homes for this online Chanukah Kabbalat Shabbat Service. Have your Chanukiah and candles on hand for a community candle lighting, infused with beautiful music and a spiritual welcoming of the holiday. This special Shabbat is meant to be enjoyed by families and adults alike. Visit the Emanu-El website for registration and viewing details..

Connecting Cultures Through Chanukah — Latkes & Music

Thursday, December 17, 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Join us for the eighth night of Chanukah with a celebration that interweaves culture, community, and storytelling! We are partnering with Inon Tzadok—the visionary behind the Middle Eastern marketplace “Shuk Shuka”—to create a virtual global culinary tour of latkes from around the world. We’ll learn more about Jewish cultures through their delicious Chanukah recipes, and Cantor Marsha Attie will continue the journey, leading us in songs that draw on diverse cultural influences.

To complement this special evening, Shuk Shuka is creating Chanukah packages, featuring a selection of latkes from around the world, paired with different dips. Pick up, delivery, and shipping options are available, so feel free to send one to a friend or family member this Chanukah, and invite them to join you for the program! Please contact Heidi Sanders at hsanders@emanuelsf.org for more details.

Chanukah Festival of Tail-Lights

Tuesday, December 15

4:30 – 6:15 pm, in front of our Temple on Arguello St.

This holiday season, we are connecting members to our beautiful sacred space for a series of COVID-safe gatherings.

From 4:30-5:30 pm, we invite you to participate in a Chanukah drive-through celebration. Pull up to the front of the building on Arguello, and receive a joyful Chanukah greeting and a treat from our clergy.

At 5:30 pm, we will gather as a community for a socially distanced candle-lighting in front of the building. We ask that you register for the gathering, so we can remain in compliance with all City public health guidelines. Please email hsanders@emanuelsf.org for more details.

Light of Giving: Support Newly Housed Moms & Families

During our third annual Light of Giving, the Tzedek Council invites our Emanu-El community to join us in collecting much-needed supplies for expectant mothers and families experiencing poverty and homelessness through the Homeless Prenatal Program (HPP). Your generosity spreads a message of resiliency and light to families in need this holiday season.

Our donors will have the additional option of assembling items for a special Hamotzi box, filled with kitchen staples to ensure that each HPP family is nourished as they move into temporary or more permanent homes. More details (list of items to be purchased, how to get the boxes, etc.) will be shared upon donation. This is a wonderful project as families can shop for items together, and children will have first-hand experience of the importance of tzedakah to our community.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

\$500: Purchase Infant Car Seat Stroller Combo + Portable Crib

\$250: Purchase Infant Car Seat Stroller Combo

\$118: Purchase Portable Crib

\$50: Gift Card

\$25: Gift Card

For questions, please visit

www.emanuelsf.org/community/get-involved.

SAVE THE DATES:

Sunday, December 6, 1:00 – 4:00 pm: Pick up box from outside Congregation Emanu-El, and bring home to fill and decorate

Sunday, December 13, 1:00 – 4:00 pm: Return the filled and decorated Hamotzi box; Tzedek Council will deliver these to HPP

Young Adult Community

Our Young Adult Community is taking the challenges of this past year and turning them into opportunities for connection and celebration! Through gift exchange, Chanukah kit delivery, and candle lightings, we are thrilled to offer multiple avenues and innovative ways to bring our young adults together in community. Email ishapiro@emanuelf.org for more information.

Tikkun Emanu-El Shuk

As the days get darker, create light in your home and in OUR community! Complete your Chanukah shopping AND support member-owned businesses this year! We are excited to present a re-animated *Tikkun Emanu-El Shuk*, a virtual marketplace for congregants with small businesses to advertise their goods and services to other members of our congregation. Our hope is to provide a boost to small businesses and help them bring in revenue when it is most needed.

Please contact Rebecca Reiner at rreiner@emanuelf.org for more details.

New Member Chanukah Schmoo-Zoom

Friday, December 11

5:30 pm

Are you new to the Emanu-El community (joined since November 2019)? We want to get to know you better and help you get to know others. You will receive a special invitation, but please mark your calendars for a special Chanukah schmooze/zoom session with icebreakers, some Emanu-El history, and other fun stuff. This will lead into the Temple-wide Chanukah Shabbat Service at 6:00 pm. Join us!

Questions or to sign up, please contact Ariana Estoque at 415-750-7552 or at aestoque@emanuelf.org



How to Celebrate the Festival of Lights Safely

Due to COVID-19, there will be a few minor changes to our traditions, but we can all still enjoy Chanukah with its special prayers, fried foods, and menorah lighting!

Chanukah runs from the evening of December 10 through December 18, and with a little inspiration we can still have fun with family and friends while avoiding exposure risk. Don't let caution reduce the fun of what is—in the Jewish tradition—our most popular observance, reaffirming the ideals of Judaism and commemorating the rededication of the Second Temple of Jerusalem.

In celebrating Chanukah, please keep the following in mind:

- 1. Limit your guest list.** Keep your Chanukah activities outdoors, if possible. Gatherings with more people always pose more risk than gatherings with fewer people.
- 2. Consider home-friendly gifts such as books, blankets, or a new tea or coffee mug.** Think cozy.
- 3. Safety.** As we continue spending more time in isolation, we can still mail or drop over something sweet (e.g., kugel, sugar cookies, apple pie rugelach) to make Chanukah feel warmer and more loving.
- 4. Light an outdoor Chanukiah.** Lighting that works best outside includes LED so the flames will never extinguish. Check out www.zionjudaica.com and <https://ahuva.com> for ideas. *[Note: Products purchased from Ahuva directly help the Israeli economy.]*
- 5. Create a different theme each night.** If you have children, consider a craft night, giving them new markers or a gift of extra paints to be creative with. Create a story night where you dress up in costumes and act out Chanukah songs. Or pick a meditation night in which you sit in a circle for at least 30 minutes while candles are burning; turn off mobile phones (and anything else that beeps), close your eyes, and guide friends and/or family through a quiet passing of time. Such meditation is something you might seek more of in your life, even after Chanukah.

Chanukah Recipes for the Whole Family!

(All recipes republished with permission from The Nosh. myjewishlearning.com/the-nosh)

Healthy Spinach Latkes

By Miriam Pascal

This recipe comes together in a frying pan, but don't let that fool you. These latkes are super healthy, yet totally delicious. Make sure to have enough on hand for the non dieters. They might just love them as much as I do!

—Miriam Pascal

Ingredients

Spray oil, for frying
1 large onion, finely diced
2 cloves garlic, minced
2-lb. bag frozen spinach, thawed
1 tsp kosher salt
½ tsp black pepper
2 tsp lemon juice
4 eggs
¾ cup whole wheat bread crumbs
2 Tbsp olive oil
2 tsp salt, to taste
Additional black pepper, to taste



Directions

Prepare sautéed spinach:

- Sauté onions in spray oil on low to medium flame until translucent.
- Add minced garlic and sauté an additional couple of minutes.
- Add thawed spinach and stir to combine.
- Continue to cook over low to medium flame, stirring occasionally.
- Cook 20–30 minutes, until spinach is heated through and fully cooked.
- Add salt, pepper, and lemon juice.
- You can make the sautéed spinach in advance, and when you are ready to make the latkes, proceed with the following instructions:
- In a large mixing bowl, combine sautéed spinach, eggs, breadcrumbs, oil, and salt.
- Heat a frying pan and spray well with spray oil.
- Roll some of the batter in your hands to form a ball, then press between your palms to form a (relatively thin) patty.
- Fry on a medium flame for 2–3 minutes per side, or until light brown. (I like to taste the first latke to make sure I got the spices right, then fry the rest.)

Notes: When spinach fries, it turns brown and may look burnt, but it isn't! Don't flip the latkes too soon or they will fall apart. Make sure you allow them enough time to cook on the bottom before flipping. Enjoy!

The Latkatini – A Chanukah Cocktail (for the parents)

From ReformJudaism.org.

Ingredients

½ cup sugar
¼ cup water
1 tsp rosewater simple syrup
¾ cup unfiltered apple juice or cider
1 Tbsp fresh lime juice
2–3 Tbsp plain vodka (or horseradish potato vodka – see recipe below)
½ cup milk or milk substitute
¼ cup Hungry Man mashed potato flakes
1 cup ice
Bahārāt spice mix or cinnamon for garnish

Directions

- To make the rosewater simple syrup, combine the sugar and water in a 1-quart saucepan. Bring to a boil and stir once or twice until the liquid is clear. Boil for 1 minute, remove from heat, and stir in the rosewater. Pour into a clean jar and store in the refrigerator until needed.
- Combine 1 tablespoon of the rosewater simple syrup with the next five ingredients in a blender. Blend until combined. Let mixture rest for a minute or two to allow the potato flakes to hydrate.
- Add the ice to the blender and blend on high until ice is totally incorporated. If necessary, add a little more apple juice for desired consistency. Pour into martini glasses and sprinkle with some bahārāt or cinnamon as a garnish.



Horseradish Potato Vodka

Ingredients

4 inch piece of horseradish
2 cups potato vodka

Directions

- Peel the horseradish and rinse.
- Using a vegetable peeler or a julienne peeler/shredder, shred about ¼ cup.
- Place shredded horseradish in a quart jar and add at least 2 cups of potato vodka (I prefer Tito's).
- Let the jar of infused vodka sit on your counter for at least two days, but preferably four.
- Refrigerate with the horseradish until needed.

Additional Note: Rosewater simple syrup will last for months in the refrigerator.

Indian-Spiced Cauliflower Latkes with Cilantro Chutney

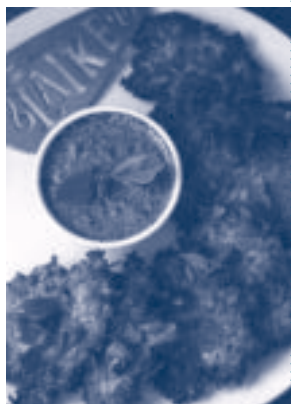
By Samantha Ferraro

Ingredients for the Latkes

2 russet potatoes, peeled and cut into quarters (if using a food processor)
 ¼ white onion (large)
 2 cups cauliflower florets, hard stems removed
 1 tsp turmeric powder
 ¼ tsp coriander
 ½ tsp curry powder
 2 eggs
 3 Tbsp matzah meal
 2 green onions, chopped
 Salt and pepper to taste

Ingredients for the Cilantro & Mint Chutney

1 bunch cilantro, large stems removed (about 1½–2 cups, loosely packed)
 1 small bunch fresh mint, stems removed (about 1 cup, loosely packed)
 2 Tbsp yogurt (if making non-dairy, you can use full fat coconut milk)
 ½ lemon, zested and juiced
 1 tsp honey
 ½ jalapeño, roughly chopped (seeds removed for less heat)
 ½ inch piece of ginger root, peeled and grated
 1 garlic clove
 Salt and pepper, to taste
 Canola or vegetable oil for frying



Directions

- For the latkes, add the cauliflower florets in a food processor and pulse until they are fine and even pieces, then transfer to a large bowl. With the small shred blade attachment of your food processor, shred the potatoes and onion, but do NOT add to the bowl yet.
- Place the onions and potatoes in a clean dish towel and wrap around potatoes, only a handful at a time. Then use your mighty strength and squeeze out as much moisture as you can. Then squeeze a little more. Once they are dry, add them to the cauliflower bowl. Repeat until all potatoes and onions are dry.
- Add the rest of the spices, eggs, matzah meal, and green onion. Mix everything together until well incorporated.
- Heat a large skillet with about ½ inch oil to about 350 degrees F. Test the oil with a small piece of potato. If it sizzles, it's ready.
- Use 2 tablespoons to form latke and place in hot oil. Then use the back of the spoon to gently flatten it out.
- Fry latkes for about 3–4 minutes until golden brown, then turn over and finish frying for another 3 minutes.
- Remove latkes with a slotted spatula onto a paper towel-lined baking sheet and season with a sprinkle of salt if you'd like.
- To make the chutney, add all the chutney ingredients to a food processor and pulse until incorporated. Scrape it down after every few pulses. Pulse until desired consistency and until there are no large leaves left.
- Serve latkes with chutney and garnish with fresh cilantro leaves.

Pull-Apart Pumpkin Challah Rolls With Honey Butter

By Shannon Sarna

Perfectly pumpkin to enjoy all autumn long.

Ingredients

1¼ cups lukewarm water
 1½ Tbsp dry active yeast (instant yeast is fine, too) + ½ tsp sugar
 5½–6 cups unbleached bread flour (preferably King Arthur brand)
 ½ Tbsp salt
 2 tsp dried thyme or sage (optional)
 ½ cup granulated sugar
 ¼ cup oil
 1 cup canned pumpkin
 2 large eggs + 1 egg for glaze
 ¼ cup butter
 3 Tbsp honey
 Flaky sea salt

Directions

- Place the yeast, ½ teaspoon sugar, and lukewarm water in a small bowl. Allow to sit for around 5 minutes, until it becomes foamy on top and smells "yeasty."
- In a large bowl or stand mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, mix together 1½ cups flour, salt, dried herbs (if using), and sugar. After the water/yeast mixture has become foamy, add to the flour mixture along with the oil and pumpkin. Mix thoroughly.
- Add another 1 cup of flour and the eggs, then mix until smooth. Switch to the dough hook attachment if you are using a stand mixer.
- Add the remaining flour, mixing thoroughly, and then remove the dough from the bowl and place on a floured surface to knead for a few minutes. Add additional flour (¼ cup at a time) if the dough is overly sticky, but take care not to add too much flour. The dough is ready when it is smooth and bounces back when touched, though it still may be a smidgen sticky (that's OK!).
- Place the dough in a greased bowl and cover with plastic wrap. Allow to rise for around 2–3 hours at room temperature, or overnight in the fridge.
- Preheat your oven to 350 degrees F. Braid challah into desired shape, or form into 2- to 2½-ounce balls using a digital food scale, using the palm of your hand to roll. If making rolls, place in two greased 9"×13" baking pans. Allow the challah to rise for another 25–30 minutes.
- In a small bowl, beat 1 egg. Brush the egg wash liberally over the challah rolls.
- Bake for 22–24 minutes, or until golden on top and the dough does not look wet or sunken in the cracks.

Optional: Melt butter and honey in the microwave for 20–30 seconds. Brush the rolls (or challah) with the melted butter and honey mixture, and sprinkle with coarse sea salt, if desired.

A Guide to Lighting Your Menorah

We light the menorah for eight days to remember the miracle of the human spirit, honor the light of rededication and the Maccabees who put their trust in God. Small lights push back darkness just as a small vial of oil for eight nights helped redeem our hope.

What kind of menorah?

The menorah can be any size and made of any material. All eight candles (except the Shamash) should be at the same height, and preferably in a straight line.

How many candles?

One candle is added each of the eight nights — plus the extra helper candle called the “Shamash” (the center candle).

Why 8?

Chanukah is celebrated for eight days, even though the miracle of the oil was really only seven (the first day's light shouldn't count — it's natural) to teach us that everything in the “natural” world is really a miracle. Nothing happens without God willing it.

Where to light?

To publicize the miracle, many light the menorah outside their front doorway. Otherwise, the menorah should be lit in a window facing the street.

What to light?

The candles must be big enough to burn for at least 30 minutes. Many use olive oil, to recall the original miracle in the Temple.

How to light?

Light the Shamash.
Recite the blessings.
Use the Shamash to light the Chanukah candles.

When to light?

The first opportunity to light is at nightfall. Many wait until later, when all the members of the household are present.

Who lights?

In Ashkenazi tradition, each person lights his own menorah. Sephardic tradition is one menorah per family.

Reprinted from aish.com



CHANUKAH BLESSINGS:

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all,
for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, אשר קדשנו
במצותיו, וצונו להדליק נר של חנוכה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam,
asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu l'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all,
who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to kindle the Hanukkah lights.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, שעשה נסים לאבותינו
ואמותינו בימים ההם בזמן הזה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam,
she-asah nisim laavoteinu v'imoteinu bayamim hahaim boz'man hazeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all,
who performed wondrous deeds
for our ancestors in days of old at this season.

FOR FIRST NIGHT ONLY:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, שהחיינו וקיימנו
והגיענו לזמן הזה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam,
shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higianu laz'man hazeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, for giving us life,
for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.

Chanukah Crossword Puzzle

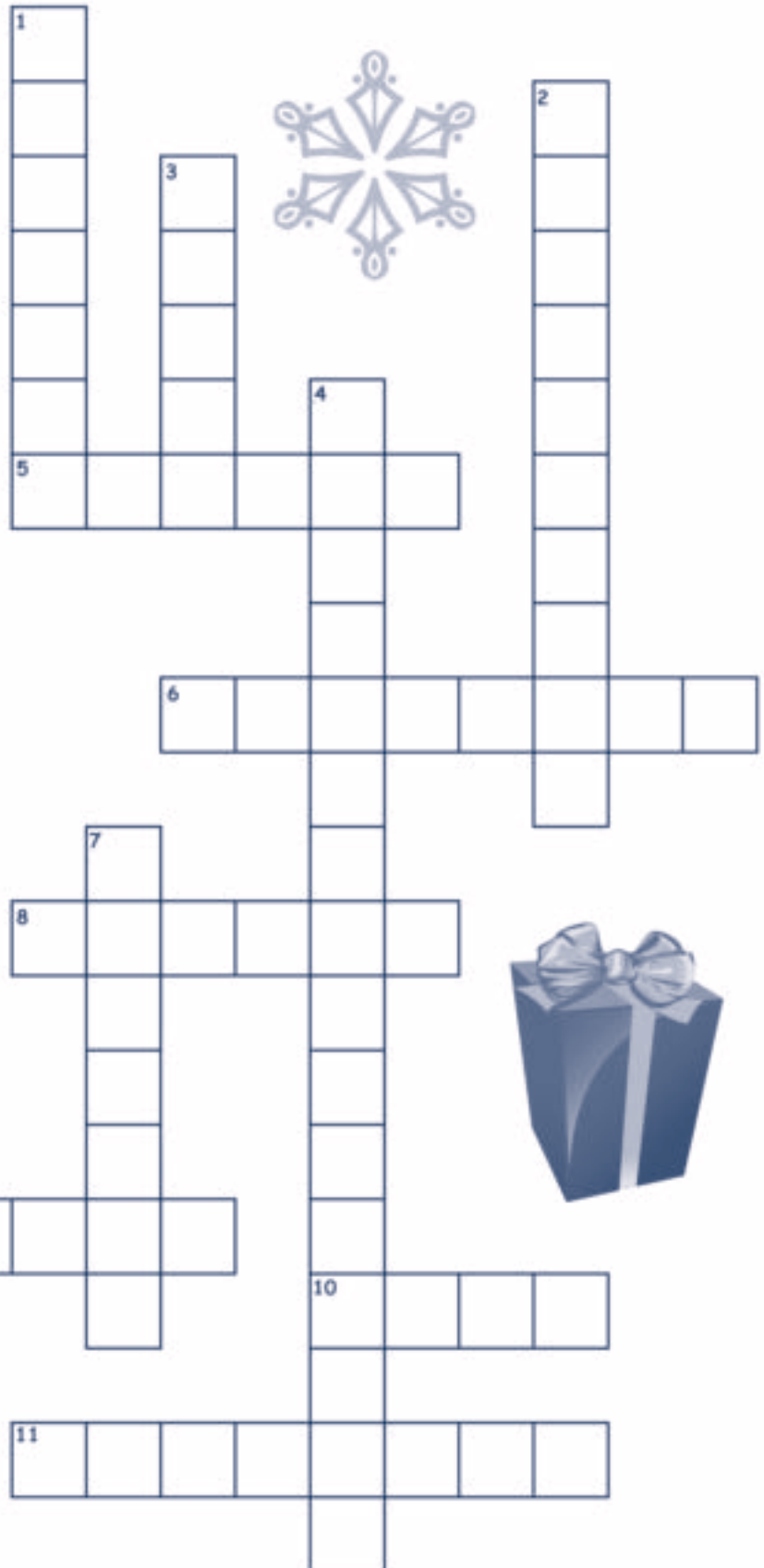


DOWN

1. Spinning top with four sides
2. Jelly doughnuts
3. Number of days of Hanukkah
4. Another name for Hanukkah
7. Special holder of nine candles

ACROSS

5. Potato pancakes
6. Kind of lamp oil used by priests
8. Place of worship
9. "Rededication" in Hebrew
10. Given as a Hannukah gift
11. Song in Hebrew sung after lighting



Answers- Down: 1. Dreidel 2. Sufganiyot 3. Eight
4. Festival of Lights 7. Menorah 5. Latkes
6. Olive oil 8. Temple 9. Hanukkah 10. Gelt 11. Maot Tzeit

Spotlight on Emanu-El B'Bayit

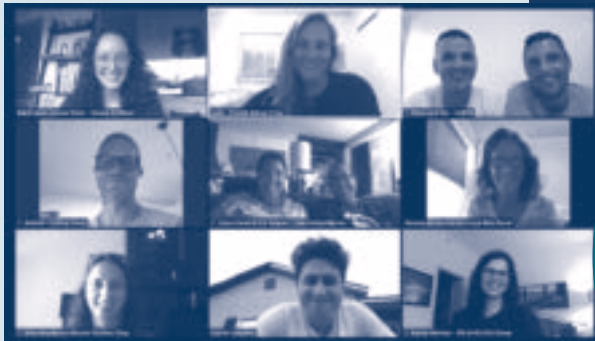
This fall, more than 265 Emanu-El households in search of meaningful connections joined Emanu-El B'Bayit, our new small groups initiative that aims to bring community to you. Take a look at what some of the participants had to say!

"When we went around to introduce ourselves, three families (including ours) realized that we live within two blocks of each other and had never met. So when the Zoom ended, we all just walked to the top of our block and met in person. It was a great way to highlight how making these types of connections can bring Jewish neighbors together!" — Vanessa J

"I can say with confidence that my Zoom meetings with both the JCL group and Marin Boomers have brought a smile to my face and a feeling of connection with a broader community. Both of these reactions are much needed these days." —Joanne V



◀ Jewish and Israeli Movies Group



▲ B'Bayit Leaders

"It was so special to connect in person with a group from synagogue after such a long time." —Rachel B



▲ Surfing Group

"Emanu-El B'Bayit has been a great opportunity to connect with peers and discuss relevant topics to our Jewish identities. The first few meetings were on Zoom, and the third meeting will be an in-person outdoor meeting. I'm looking forward to getting to know the folks in my group on a deeper level." —Anna W



▲ Marin Boomers Group



"We are the leaders of the New Parents Under 35 B'Bayit group, and it has done wonders for our family during the pandemic. It's difficult to find other young parents in San Francisco without the pandemic (in fact, we're the only ones of our close friends who have a baby), so to have this group as a resource has been remarkable. And as our babies/kids grow and reach new milestones each month, it's been invaluable to be able to discuss swaddles, sleep training, bottle feeding, daycare, etc. with other new young parents." — David K and Brooke T

"At the end of the session, we were a group of friends."

—Shelley A

"It was great for Emanu-El to develop these engagement groups. When not being able to gather in the Sanctuary, it was very nice to have a touch point to help get ready for the holidays." —Mike K



▲ SF Boomers Group



▲ B'Bayit Leaders



▲ Interfaith Families Group

"This is exactly what I need right now."
—Member of the Accent on Brooklyn Group

More Emanu-El B'Bayit small groups will launch in January 2021, and we encourage you to join! Stay tuned for more information about these groups at the start of the year. If you have an idea for a new group that you'd like to lead, contact lshapiro@emanuelsf.org.



Book of Life Project

Thursdays, December 3 and 17
4:00 – 5:00 pm

Join Rabbis Sydney Mintz, Matthew Gewirtz, and Yoshi Zweiback as we gather together coast to coast to write ourselves into our “Book of Life.” Rosh Hashanah may be 10 months away, but it is never too soon or too late to begin the process of writing ourselves into our own Book of Life! What’s new is that we will gather twice each month beginning December 3 and 17. Join us for an hour of focused learning, meditation, and reflection as we share our Jewish journeys with one another. This project is free, but registration is required (www.thebookoflifeproject.org).



SAVE THE DATES

Social Justice No Matter What! **Online Shabbat in Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,** **and a Digital Gathering with Third Baptist Church**

Friday, January 15 and Sunday, January 17, 2021

Join us on two dates in January for festive music, worship, sermons, and multiple opportunities for safe and warm digital interaction between the members of Congregation Emanu-El and Third Baptist Church.

Zoom Baby Groups — **Mimi’s Virtual Music and Fun**

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 11:00 – 11:45 am

zoom.us/j/802983751

Families with young children can stay connected with the Emanu-El community without leaving the comfort of home! Mimi Greisman’s baby groups via Zoom—introducing little ones to Jewish stories, songs, puppets, dancing, and the weekly rituals of Shabbat and Havdalah—will continue every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday until December 18.

Please read our interview with Mimi Greisman on page 14.

Zoom baby groups are free, but we invite you to make a direct donation to our Early Education programs at Emanu-El to continue supporting such important programming (select “Emanu-El Preschool Fund” from the dropdown menu). Thank you!





Northern California Board of Rabbis Honors Rabbi Stephen S. Pearce

This past November 15, the Northern California Board of Rabbis honored Rabbi Stephen S. Pearce, DD, PhD, past president of the Board of Rabbis and Senior Rabbi Emeritus of Congregation Emanu-El.

"I was honored to serve as the president of the Board of Rabbis, an organization that provides a collegial environment for rabbinic colleagues to exchange ideas, and be kept up on matters of local, national, and international interest and shared concerns about anti-Semitism, social concerns of all kinds, and innovative congregational and institutional innovations. I am grateful for the recognition the Board is affording all of the Rabbis who have given so generously of their time and wise counsel."

—Rabbi Stephen S. Pearce

Rabbi Mintz On Sabbatical

Over the next six months, we will see less of Rabbi Mintz as she takes a well-deserved sabbatical. About a year ago, Rabbi Mintz requested leave to focus on creative and scholarly projects that are difficult to accomplish amongst the normal flow of rabbinic duties. We were thrilled to be able to grant this request for our longest-tenured clergy member. Even during her time away, Rabbi Mintz will continue to be an indispensable member of the Emanu-El team, supporting our Young Adult program and teaching courses (including the Book of Life project). She will return to her full duties on May 15, 2021. Until then, join us in wishing Rabbi Mintz a productive and meaningful sabbatical!



Yasher Koach Melissa Koenigsberg!

Please join us in honoring Melissa Koenigsberg for her strong leadership and vision as co-chair of the Tzedek Council for the past three years. There are not enough words to thank her for her dedication to elevating our congregation's efforts to repair the world.

She has built a vibrant community from youth to seniors, and under her guidance we have translated our Jewish values into social justice action. We are grateful she will continue as member of the council in her seventh year. Melissa will be honored at Friday Night Services on December 4.

Interview with **Emanu-El's Mimi Greisman**



At the end of this calendar year, we bid a fond farewell to our beloved Baby Groups with Mimi. These programs have included Bagels and Babies, Mazel Tots, and Side by Side. The last Baby Groups via Zoom will take place on December 18.

We wish to thank Mimi Greisman for her incredible contributions to Emanu-El over the past 30+ years. During this time,

Mimi has educated hundreds of tots and their families—celebrating Jewish holidays and traditions with interactive music, stories, guitar/singing, and puppets. Many of the young ones went on to attend our preschool and ultimately returned to Mimi's programs as adults with children of their own!

We will be reimagining our programs for infants and toddlers post-COVID, and we look forward to sharing more information with you soon. In the meantime, we invite the Emanu-El community to join in a festive Shabbat celebration honoring Mimi (on December 18) for all the joy she has brought to children and families over the past three decades!

We spoke with Mimi, asking her to reflect on her time at Emanu-El, discuss the evolution of her baby classes, and share advice for mothers-to-be.

When did you first begin working at Emanu-El?

Mimi: In the mid-1980s, I started my first round at Emanu-El teaching in the Sunday preschool under my good friend Pam Schneider, the preschool director. After that, I directed a couple of other preschools, then came back to Emanu-El for a second round. I then worked with children with learning differences and emotional issues at a couple of different schools. And then I ended up returning to Emanu-El for a third round to teach 2-year-olds under my friend David Worten who was the director at that time.

How did your baby classes evolve over time? What things did you know were a surefire hit with both the children and their parents?

Mimi: When the position to lead baby groups (always one of my big professional goals) became available, I immediately applied for the position with the wonderful Terry Kraus. Membership and young families has always been a good fit for me; I enjoy getting families involved, forging friendships and community, and creating a welcoming environment to bring in new members to Emanu-El. So I have created programs featuring music, snacks, puppets, wonderful toys, books, and other fun for children to enjoy while their parents schmooze and relax a little.

What has been the most exciting or rewarding part of your work at Emanu-El?

Mimi: I can remember many times when parents would come in looking lonely and overwhelmed. Parenting young

children is hard work, and some young parents don't have any support because they've moved away from families and friends and are basically alone in San Francisco. So I've always made sure they felt welcomed and that the other parents also welcomed them. This gave them a "home" to come to and some much needed support.

What drew you to early childhood education?

Mimi: I have always been fascinated by babies and young parents. The tremendous change that happens when you become a parent is such a huge rite of passage. All of your relationships change, especially with your own parents (and grandparents), your best friends who don't have babies yet, your in-laws, and even your siblings! It can be quite an identity question—now you are a parent, how do you do this? Having a community to share with can make such a big difference. I have witnessed the lasting affect of a synagogue welcoming young families and creating meaningful Jewish experiences for them.



How has your work with children informed your parenting?

Mimi: I have been an early childhood educator since I was 18, so it is an integral part of my life. I believe there are many ways to parent well, and it is fascinating to see how other people parent. Besides loving their children, it helps for parents to keep a sense of humor and to remember to apologize if they do something that might not have been the best choice. This teaches children that we all make mistakes, but that their parents are still there for them.

What advice would you give to new parents?

Mimi: Childhood goes by so fast. So take the time to breathe and be present for your children without interruptions (no computers, no cell phones, etc.). Nothing takes the place of eye contact and really listening to your children and other family members. One silver lining to this very difficult COVID time is families gathering together in parks and on beaches, just hanging out and enjoying each other. This is how we will all get through this... by being together and having gratitude. As parents, you should also take time to nurture yourselves, to make sure you're getting what you need emotionally and physically, so you can then be there for your families. Young families are dealing with very hard circumstances during this pandemic, and it has felt good for me to contribute by providing programs via Zoom.

YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION

We usually talk about Chanukah (the Festival of Lights) being “early” or “late,” based on the date in December, or sometimes November, on which it falls. This year, Chanukah is on the earlier side, with the first night on Thursday, December 10. Going by the Jewish calendar, however, Chanukah always arrives on the same date: the 25th of Kislev.

Chanukah is one of the holidays that we celebrate at home with our families—lighting the Chanukiah, playing dreidel, eating oily fried foods, singing songs, and opening gifts. Below are some fun facts about the Festival of Lights, which occurs during the darkest part of the year, which we hope add to your enjoyment of the holiday.

The Second Book of Maccabees hints that the first Chanukah celebration was actually a delayed Sukkot observance. Because the Jews were still in caves fighting as guerrillas during the month of Tishrei in 164 BCE, they were unable to honor the eight-day holiday of Sukkot, which required bringing offerings to the Temple in Jerusalem. Therefore, the pilgrimage holiday was postponed until after the recapture of Jerusalem and the rededication of the Temple. Many scholars believe it is this connection to Sukkot, rather than the story of the small jar of oil that miraculously lasted for eight days, that accounts for the holiday being eight days long.

Chanukah is not mentioned in any of the books of the Tanach (Torah, Prophets, Writings) and it does not have its own section in the Talmud; candle lighting is mentioned in the tractate about Shabbat.

We place the candles in the Chanukiah from right to left and we light them from left to right. This practice is a compromise between the houses of Hillel and Shammai who disagreed about most things during Talmudic times. Hillel taught that we should start with one light and add an additional light for each night (as we do today), while Shammai taught that eight lights should be lit on the first night, and the lights should be decreased each night. Back then, they used oil and wicks rather than candles.

In 1951, President Harry Truman received a Chanukiah as a gift from David Ben Gurion, the first prime minister of Israel. In 1979, Jimmy Carter was the first U.S. president to recognize Chanukah. The first Chanukiah was present outside the White House in 1989, during George Bush's administration. And the first U.S. president to actually light a Chanukiah was Bill Clinton, in 1993.

Time magazine has claimed that there are 16 ways to spell Chanukah. Because it's a Hebrew word transliterated into English, none of the spellings are right or wrong. How many ways can you spell Chanukah?

Adam Sandler's “The Chanukah Song” made its debut on *Saturday Night Live* in 1994. He added part 2 in 1999, part 3 in 2002, and part 4 in 2015.

Playing dreidel may date back to the days when the ancient Greeks did not allow Jews to study Torah; the students kept dreidels nearby to fool Greek authorities into thinking they were playing a gambling game. Our dreidels have the letters Nun, Gimel, Hay, and Shin, which stand for *Nes Gadol Haya Sham*: a great miracle happened there. However, on Israeli dreidels, the Shin is replaced with a Pey for *Nes Gadol Haya Po*: a great miracle happened here.

Using chocolate coins—*gelt* (Yiddish for money)—in dreidel games is a more recent custom, dating back about 100 years. There is disagreement over whether an Israeli or American chocolate company started this practice.

Most of us are familiar with the practice of cooking oily foods during Chanukah to remember the oil that lasted for eight nights. The most common food among Ashkenazi Jews is potato latkes, while Israelis tend to eat a lot of *sufganiyot* (jelly donuts). Sephardic, Mizrahi, and Eastern Jews make other fried treats for the holiday. For example, *bumuelos* (Ladino translation of “manna”) originated in Spain and traveled with the Sephardic Jews as they migrated to other countries in the 15th century. In Greece, such fried Chanukah treats are known as *loukoumades* or *luqmat*, and in Syria, as *zalabieh*. They are all a type of fritter (dough fried in oil), usually covered in warm honey. Here's a recipe I'm interested in trying this year: theglobaljewishkitchen.com/2010/11/26/bumuelos/.

YFE families are creative, always up for art and cooking projects. Please share photos of your Chanukah creations in our art gallery! We'll be happy to send you the link if you'd like to add your latest projects.

No matter how you celebrate Chanukah this year, we hope you find light and laughter to fill your days and nights, and that you continue to notice the miracles, both large and small, in your lives. And we urge you to share the light of your own special soul with others as we do all we can to stay connected until we can be together in person again—singing, eating, and playing dreidel.

Flora Kupferman
YFE Acting Director



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 October 1, 2020 – October 31, 2020.

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

Jonah Becker & Lena Brook
in honor of Talia Becker's Bat Mitzvah

Lenore Naxon & Bill Black
in memory of Gary Luck

Lenore Naxon & Bill Black
in honor of Cantors Marsha Attie and Arik Luck

Samantha & Brad DeJean
in honor of Remy DeJean's Bar Mitzvah

Stuart & Debra Eisendrath
in memory of Gary Luck

Leslie Friedman & Jonathan Clark
in observance of the Yahrzeit of Sterling Friedman

Barbara Goldman
in honor of Cantor Arik Luck

Sharyn Henry
in appreciation of Cantor Marsha Attie

CARING COMMUNITY FUND — supports our temple families by offering care and support to congregants in times of need

Laura Salzman
in observance of the Yahrzeits of Julius and Leona Salzman and Harry Rubino

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

Charles & Lenore Bleaden (2)

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

Samantha & Brad DeJean
in honor of Remy DeJean's Bar Mitzvah

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

Zandra Krischer
in appreciation of Nersi Boussina

Andrew & Jennifer Rosenthal

Aviva Stroe

Dinah & Noah Stroe
in appreciation of Mimi Greisman

Lisa & Alex Yakubovich
in appreciation of Nika Greenberg

FOR THE ROOSEVELT FOOD PANTRY

Leslie Friedman & Jonathan Clark
in observance of the Yahrzeit of Harvey A. Friedman

Leslie Friedman & Jonathan Clark
in observance of the Yahrzeit of Keith S. Clark

Stephanie Scott
in celebration of Ariana Estoque's birthday

Stephanie Scott
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.

Stacy Ban
in celebration of High Holidays 2020

Jonah Becker & Lena Brook
in honor of Talia Becker's Bat Mitzvah

Shira Blatt

Samantha & Brad DeJean
in honor of Remy DeJean's Bar Mitzvah

Victoria Dobbs
in memory of Stephen Dobbs and Bettye Roos

Brenda Friedler
in honor of Susan Whalen

Brenda Friedler
in honor of Michael Pearce and Sima Chitrick

Ira Haber
in appreciation of Rabbi Sydney Mintz

Sharyn Henry
in appreciation of Rabbis Jonathan and Beth Singer

Fred Levin
in observance of the Yahrzeit of Nancy Livingston Levin

Alex Nichamin & Alison Harrigan
in appreciation of Rabbi Jason Rodich

Kory & Brett Orlanski

Kevin Perkins & Nelli Boykoff

Allen Root
in honor of Dr. Jonathan Root, Ms. Betsy Blumenthal, and Max and Arthur Root

Albert Villa

Robert & Susan Wolfe
in appreciation of Congregation Emanu-El's Clergy

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.

Jerome & Marilyn Jacobson

Frada Shapiro
in observance of the Yahrzeits of Sarah & Jacob Rosenberg

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

Roni Silverberg
in honor of Gabriel Darsky's Bar Mitzvah

Roni Silverberg
in honor of Henry Pluim's Bar Mitzvah

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

Jewish Community Federation

Fred Levin
in observance of the Yahrzeit of Irving Levin



EMANU-EL
LEGACY
CIRCLE

Congregation Emanu-El Legacy Circle Message from Steve Cohen

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**.

Steve Cohen is a former member of Congregation Emanu-El's Board of Directors, immediate past Chairman and current member of Emanu-El's Home of Peace Cemetery Committee. He contributes his time and financial support to help make our community stronger and is a member of Emanu-El's **Legacy Circle**.



Steve Cohen

Congregation Emanu-El is literally a part of my home, as I live just across the street. While starting off as a stranger from a strange place (Milwaukee), I have experienced an evolving and strengthening connection to this special place; a place where the present and the future of the Jewish people is renewed and assured.

Serving on the Board of Directors and as the Chairman of our Home of Peace Cemetery Committee have been wonderful opportunities to both give and receive. Given the world situation for the Jewish people, our Congregation is taking on increasingly important roles in securing a healthy and vibrant future for the Jewish community.

So, in the spirit of L'Dor V'Dor, or Generation to Generation, I have joined the Legacy Circle and made Congregation Emanu-El a part of my estate plan. I am grateful for what the congregation has provided for me, and to have the opportunity to participate in "paying it forward." - Steve Cohen

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

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.emanuelf.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@emanuelf.org.

LIFE-CYCLES

Condolences to Our Members Who Have Suffered Recent Losses

Rabbi Jason Rodich (Francis Benjamin) on the loss of his grandfather, **Erwin Rodich**

Dr. Elizabeth McMahon (Charles Ehrlich) on the loss of her father, and Laura Ehrlich on the passing of her grandfather, **Dr. Edmond Brown McMahon**

Robin Reitzes on the loss of her mother, and Aidan Rosenberg on the passing of his grandmother, **Phyllis Atterbury Loyko**

Dr. Martin Robinson on the loss of his wife, **Edis Robinson**

Jeff Rubin (Marcia Pope) on the loss of his mother, and Abbie and Samantha Rubin on the passing of their grandmother, **Seena Rubin**

Don Schlessinger on the loss of his mother, **Janet Schlessinger**

Jamie Freedman on the loss of her husband, and Lori Freedman on the passing of her father, **Paul Ross**

Alexander Chuzhoy (Sheryl Decker) on the loss of his mother, and Daliah Chuzhoy on the passing of her grandmother, **Mila Chuzhoy**

Joshua Einhorn (Melissa Nemer) on the loss of his father, and Samson and Ayla Einhorn on the passing of their grandfather, **Jules Einhorn**

Our community mourns the loss of **Trudy Cohen**

Welcome New Members

Diane Assayag Banner

Ariella Banner

Joel Banner

John Banner

Claire Conly

Charlie Dishotsky

Gabriella Dishotsky

Jon Dishotsky

Sam Dishotsky

Kevin Gough

Corinna King-Brown

Lauren Schuller

Beth Steinberg

Babette-Marie Wallenberg

Jeremy Wallenberg

Welcome Back to Returning Members

Jakoby Gershman

Jaydon Gershman

Joshua Gershman

Joyce Kurtz

Robert Kurtz

Andrea Madden

Mazel Tov to Our Members Who Have Experienced Joy

Annika Ehrlich on being selected a Top Nurse Practitioner from the Point of Care Network

Lisa and Doug Goldman on the birth of their first grandchild, River Rosalie Wallis, born October 26, 2020

Amy and Dr. Sarah Rosenwohl-Mack on the birth of their son, Noah Rosenwohl-Mack, born October 28, 2020

Ariana Estoque on being selected for the Shalom Hartman Bay Area Fellowship.

Temple offices will be closed from December 25 through January 1
and will re-open on January 4.

B'NEI MITZVAH



Brooks Wagonfeld

Bar Mitzvah:

December 12, 2020

Parents:

Lisa and Joel Wagonfeld

Torah Portion:

Vayeshev



Rose Etta Mays-Smith

Bat Mitzvah:

December 19, 2020

Parents:

Juliet Sampson and
Simon Mays-Smith

Torah Portion:

Mikketz



Jacob Wolly

Bar Mitzvah:

December 19, 2020

Parents:

Beth and Mark Wolly

Torah Portion:

Mikketz

Projecting Light in a Time of Darkness: An Original Art Installation

This Chanukah, although we cannot gather in person, we are committed to bringing our community together to celebrate with socially distant experiences. Emanu-El is thrilled to announce an innovative art project by Ben Wood Studio, to light up our beloved dome for the eight nights of Chanukah. This large-scale light installation will feature an original display of holiday-themed visuals, and images from Emanu-El's historic archive, thereby reanimating our own history. You are invited to drive or stroll past our building to celebrate and bask in the miracle of the Festival of Lights!





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*

Ryan 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*

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alan Greinetz, *President*

Paula Pretlow, *Vice President*

Joel Roos, *Vice President*

Mark Lehmann, *Treasurer*

Ellen Fleishhacker, *Secretary*

Robert Blum

Nersi Boussina

Sandi Bragar

Barrett Cohn

Stuart Corvin

Sue Diamond

Jill Einstein

Lara Ettenson

Alia Gorkin

Sasha Kovriga

Julie Levine

Robert Newman

Dr. Larry Rand

Rita Semel

Lisa Stern

Robert Tandler

Gunda Trepp

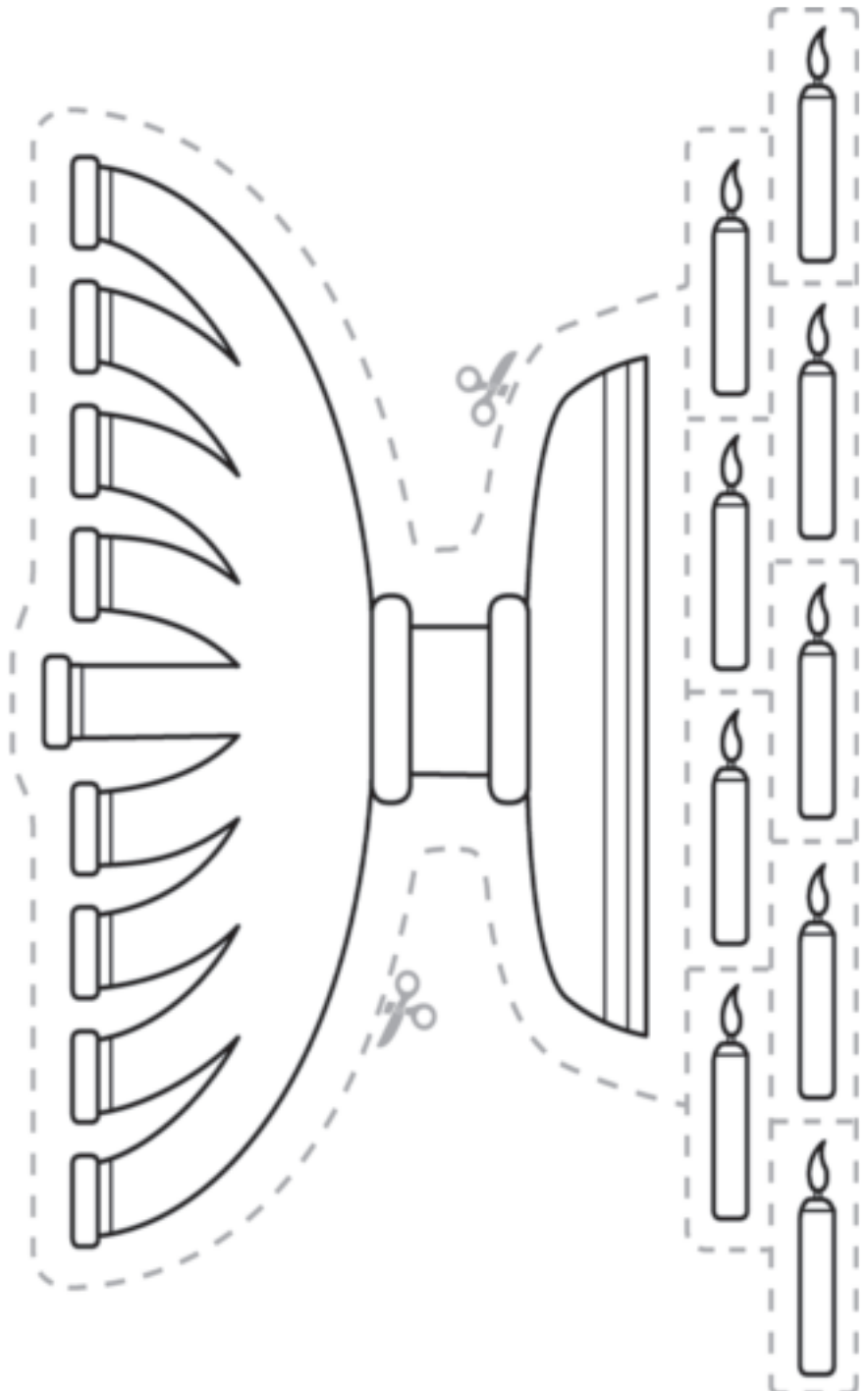
Matt Van Horn

Noah Wintraub

Hilary Zarrow

Make a Menorah for Chanukah!

Please cut out this chanukiah. Color it, decorate it, and put it in your window to share light with others.



The Temple Chronicle (USPS 023-317) is published monthly except June and July for \$36 per year by The Congregation Emanu-El, Two Lake Street, San Francisco, CA 94118. Periodicals Postage Paid at San Francisco, CA, and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Temple Chronicle* at Congregation Emanu-El, Two Lake Street, San Francisco, CA 94118.

PERIODICAL