

Emanu-El ^S_F

CHRONICLE VOLUME CLXXXIV, NO. 36 | MARCH 2021
17 ADAR - 18 NISAN 5781



Building Resilience

Finding Meaning
and Purpose
in this
Unusual Time



Resiliency Series

PAGE 3



Tauber SPARK

PAGE 4



Racial Justice

PAGE 7

SHALOM RAV FROM OUR RABBI

By Richard and Rhoda Goldman Senior Rabbi Jonathan Singer



Richard and Rhoda Goldman
Senior Rabbi Jonathan Singer

Ma nishtanah halaila hazeh mikol haleilot? “Why is this night different from all other nights?” is the first of the four questions we will ask as we sit at our Passover seders this month. Well, after having lived through a pandemic over the past year, we might reply that “while everything is different, nothing has changed.”

Nothing has changed as we prepare for a second

Passover under quarantine. Yes, our Zoom skills may have improved, but the need to remain isolated until more people are vaccinated means that we’re in the same place as we were last year. Like our ancestors near the border of the Nile, we are stuck in our homes awaiting a future redemption.

At the same time, everything is different because we understand that redemption is nigh as the vaccine is being distributed. With the onset of spring this year, we can realistically begin to make plans for going forward — as soon as we are released from the “Egypt” of this pandemic. Some of you have already received your first vaccination or even both shots. Others are still waiting. But don’t get carried away, as we learn at Passover that freedom unfolds over time, not all at once. Our ancestors journeyed forth in stages, just as we must do now.

Like many of you, I had hoped that once we were all vaccinated, we’d be free to go out into the world again, to simply return to life as it was. But we must remember that it took our ancestors awhile after leaving Egypt to be able to taste the true joy of freedom. The Torah teaches us that

they couldn’t just break out and return to life as it existed before slavery, but rather they had to dwell *b’midbar* — “in the wilderness” — for a period in order to adjust to their new life situation. While doing so, they subsisted on *lechem oni* — “bread of affliction,” what we now call matzah — as they gradually made their way toward the Promised Land.

While I pray that our post-vaccination “wilderness” won’t last for years, I think we’re going to be in an in-between place for a while; we’ll have to learn how to re-enter and re-experience the larger world in a safe and sane way, one step at a time, continuing to wear masks, still distancing from each other, starting to gather in small groups. Perhaps this year, the matzah we eat during Passover can represent that process of transition. We will taste the simple joys in life, that which can sustain us, as we continue to move toward the beautiful complexity of life that we previously took for granted.

Remember that the seder celebrates the beginning of our ancestors’ redemption from Egypt; it does not celebrate their having reached the Promised Land. On Passover, we celebrate our people’s willingness to hold onto our sense of self during difficult times and make our way forward, inspired by faith in the holiness we call God. The end of the Haggadah imagines an even greater redemption with the exclamation: “Next year in Jerusalem!”

Perhaps next year, we will be in that place of renewed freedom, having crossed over the wilderness of our current reality. For now, let us celebrate our fortitude, our ongoing sense of hope, and our determination to reach a better place by living our values and patiently moving forward to true freedom, not in a rush, but methodically and smartly, one step at a time, helping each other along the way.

Hag Pesach Sameach — Happy Passover!

COVID and Clergy Support

If you or your loved ones have tested positive for COVID-19 — whether asymptomatic and in quarantine, experiencing symptoms, or in the recovery process — we want you to know that we are here for you. Some of our congregants have already shared their own COVID stories with us and it’s important to not feel any stigma if you have been affected by this terrible virus. If you would like a member of our clergy to reach out to you in support, please do not hesitate to email Ariana Estoque at aestoque@emanuelsf.org. We pray for healing for all who are struggling and we want you to know you are not alone.

Resiliency Series

Join us for the final four classes in this series!

Wednesdays, March 3, 10, 17 and 24, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Cost: Free for members; \$10 per class for non-members

Our **Resiliency Series** wraps up in March for the final four virtual sessions. Led by clergy and expert facilitators, we are exploring Jewish texts and history that illuminate the topic of resilience as we deepen sacred and communal connections and spark our own light during this dark season of the COVID pandemic.

You can create your own path; join for one session or for many. You're welcome to enjoy your dinner or a snack while participating in the class. Register for the series at emanuelf.org/resiliency.

Program Dates & Information

MARCH 3: "Navigating Bereavement and Loss"

Led by Rabbi Sarah Joselow Parrish; co-facilitated by Rabbi Eric Weiss (CEO, Bay Area Jewish Healing Center) and Susan Moldaw (author and Emanu-El congregant).

Grief often leaves us speechless, grasping for words to express our deepest reflections. Poetry and other creative writing can help us find words at a time of great tenderness. Join us for an evening of reflecting on grief and Jewish wisdom that can be found in poems and story.

MARCH 10: "Caring for Sick or Aging Relatives" Led by Julie Mayer, Emanu-El Pastoral Care Provider; co-facilitated by Dr. Patrick Arbore (Institute on Aging), Gwen Harris (JFCS) and Stella Lazo (Family Caregiver Alliance)

This program will address a range of topics specific to caregiving during the pandemic, including long-distance care, up-to-date local resources, and how to best support seniors who remain in their homes at this time. There will be opportunities for questions, and participants will leave the program with resources to help bolster their own unique situations.

MARCH 17: "Confronting Uncertainty"

Led by Rabbi Jason Rodich.

Rabbi Rodich will reflect on the ever-shifting emotional terrain of our pandemic reality. He will provide resources for coming to terms with uncertainty in these times.

MARCH 24: "Creating a Roadmap and Developing Tools"

With Cantor Marsha Attie and Nina Kaufman (coach).

Draw on the lessons of the past twelve months (and the previous eight Resiliency courses), and learn how to create meaningful change in your life. Cantor Attie will kick us off with some Jewish wisdom, and Nina Kaufman will present a social-emotional tool and lead participants through thought exercises intended to support sustainable new action through the remainder of the pandemic, and beyond.

Youth and Family Education

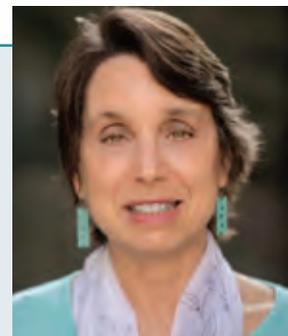
The holiday of Passover celebrates the exodus from Egypt. The Hebrew word for Egypt is *Mitzrayim*, which contains the root letters tzaddi and resh, "tzar," meaning narrow. In retelling the story of the exodus, we experience the transition from living in the narrow confines of slavery, through the parted waters of the sea, into the open expanse of the unknown freedom of the wilderness. As we approach this second year of seders in the "narrow spaces," we look forward to the "sea parting" for us once again. Midrash teaches us that, while Moses and the people were praying, Nachshon ben Aminadav dared to take the first steps into the sea, having faith that he would not drown. When he was in the water up to his nose, the miracle happened: the waters parted and the Israelites soon crossed safely to the other shore, leaving Egypt and the Egyptian army behind. Then they danced with relief as Miriam and the women played their timbrels.

Throughout this challenging year, both our YFE staff and families have bravely jumped into uncharted waters. Teachers who were reluctant users of technology now confidently host Zoom classes, share learning materials, create games and showcase student work in many ways. Students make their own games for their classmates; run through their homes to find objects for scavenger hunts; create and post their art projects; and bring jokes, joy and

smiling faces to their classes. Families juggle schedules and prioritize our classes, sometimes helping their kids join classes from the back seat of their cars. Our high school students teach classes, participate in their own TEF classes, and provide each other with support and friendship. Jonathan Bayer leads us in song and prayer every week, keeping T'fillah more fun and engaging than ever. Ava's art videos, demonstrations and in-person outdoor programs make the projects real and easily accessible to all. The YFE full-time team creatively navigates and manages program development, communication, tech support, individual contact and countless details for our 475+ students and their families, not to mention the B'nei Mitzvah process, which is a whole new adventure now.

We appreciate your continued support and trust as we slowly make our way out of the narrowness, through the sea and back into whatever our renewed freedom will bring. We are grateful to be with you on this journey and look to the future with hope and faith. May your seders be filled with tradition, learning, laughter and delicious foods!

Flora Kupferman
YFE Acting Director



Flora Kupferman
YFE Acting Director

Tauber SPARK 2021

Ignite Your Jewish Learning

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

Tuesdays, March 9, 16 and 23, 7:00 pm

Cost: \$18 for members; \$36 for non-members

Take a deep dive into Torah, Talmud or Kabbalah with this innovative communitywide Jewish learning opportunity — a mini university experience! Let your heart be moved; be prepared for a transformative, mind-opening journey. This year we're offering three different three-week courses, each with an outstanding and renowned educator. Select one to attend for all three weeks and enjoy the SPARK!

Learn more and register at emanuelsf.org/spark.

Course Offerings for 2021

Reading Repetition in the Torah

Taught by Professor Robert Alter of UC Berkeley.

Many readers are likely to be puzzled that the biblical stories, famous for being laconic, abound in repetitions. Upon consideration, however, the repetitions turn out to be artful and deliberate, complicating and enriching the narrative. Professor Alter's first lecture will examine the use of repetition of words, phrases and whole sentences in Genesis. The second talk will focus on repetition of story — what looks like the same story being told more than once, but with different characters, again in Genesis as well as beyond.

Robert Alter is a professor in the Graduate School and Emeritus Professor of Hebrew and Comparative Literature at UC Berkeley, where he has taught since 1967. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society and the Council of Scholars of the Library of Congress, and he is past president of the Association of Literary Scholars and Critics. He has twice been a Guggenheim Fellow; he has also been a Senior Fellow of the National Endowment for the Humanities, a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Jerusalem, and an Old Dominion Fellow at Princeton University. He has written widely on the European novel from the 18th century to the present, on contemporary American fiction, and on modern Hebrew literature. He has also written extensively on literary aspects of the Bible. His 26 published books include two prize-winning volumes on biblical narrative and poetry and award-winning translations of Genesis and of the Five Books of Moses.

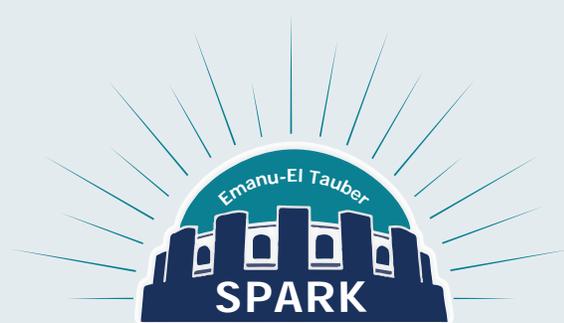
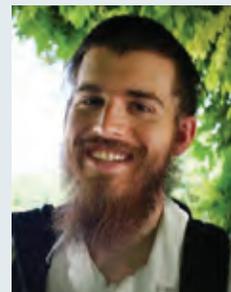


Of Mind and Myth: Religious Thinking in Jewish Mysticism

Taught by Professor Ariel Evan Mayse of Stanford University.

This course will cover the rich intellectual world of Jewish mysticism, both medieval and modern, with a particular focus on the Zohar, Hasidism and neo-Hasidism. We will explore tales of mystical teachers, enter Zoharic poetics of interpreting biblical stories, and investigate daring Hasidic homilies and their bold new theological visions. These sources will be considered with an eye to modern moral, spiritual and intellectual questions (including environmental ethics), exploring the wisdom of the mystical tradition for contemporary Jewish thinking as well as its challenges.

Ariel Evan Mayse joined the faculty of Stanford University in 2017 as an assistant professor in the Department of Religious Studies, and he serves as Rabbi-in-Residence at Atiq: Jewish Maker Institute (atiqmakers.org). Previously, he was the Director of Jewish Studies and Visiting Assistant Professor of Modern Jewish Thought at Hebrew College in Newton, Massachusetts. Mayse holds a Ph.D. in Jewish Studies from Harvard University and rabbinic ordination from Beit Midrash Har'el in Israel. His most recent publications include *Speaking Infinities: God and Language in the Teachings for Rabbi Dov Ber of Mezritsh* (University of Pennsylvania, 2020); *Hasidism: Writings on Devotion, Community and Life in the Modern World* (Brandeis University Press, 2020), edited with Sam Berrin Shonkoff; and *The Language of Truth in the Mother Tongue* (Magnes Press, 2020, in Hebrew).



Talmud: Explore Big Jewish Questions of the Past, Present and Future

Taught by Professor Charlotte Fonrobert of Stanford University.

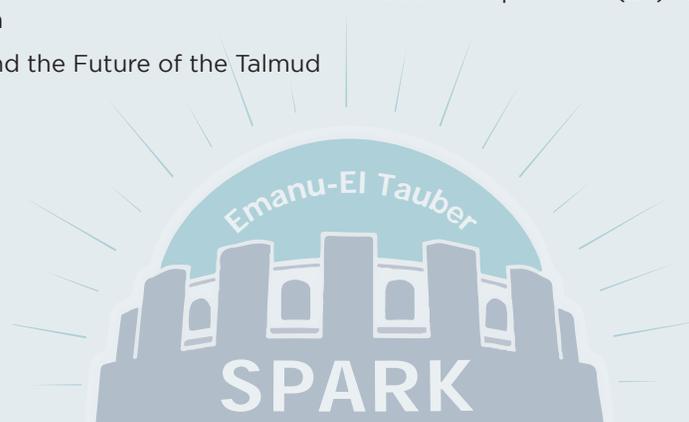
In this three week course we will explore Talmud in a temporal line in order to examine the larger questions of Judaism: How do we deal with the past? What kind of social structures enable the Jewish present? What are our commitments to guaranteeing a future?

Session 1: Whatever happened to God? The destruction of the Jerusalem Temple and the Beginning of Talmudic Literature

Session 2: My Home is My Castle and Fortress? Talmudic Religion as Household Religion

Session 3: Talmudic Futures and the Future of the Talmud

Charlotte Fonrobert is the Director of the Taube Center for Jewish Studies at Stanford University, and a professor of talmudic literature and culture in the Department of Religious Studies. Among many other academic writings, she has published *The Cambridge Companion to the Talmud and Rabbinic Literature* (2007). In the past, she has taught at the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles, and she currently guest teaches in the School of Jewish Theology in Potsdam, Germany. Professor Fonrobert is originally from Germany, where she met Rabbi Joseph Asher (z"l) when in college.



ADULT EDUCATION

How to Chant Haftarah With Cantor Arik Luck

A four-week virtual course leading up to the Passover festival service.

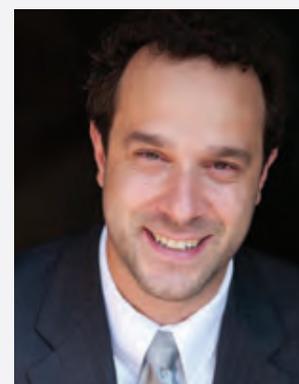
Wednesdays; March 3, 10, 17 and 24, 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Cost: Free for members; sliding scale for non-members

Did you know that there are different methods of chanting various types of Hebrew texts? In this four-part class, Cantor Arik Luck will provide a basic overview of biblical Hebrew chants, and will provide all of the tools you'll need to chant ANY weekly Haftarah portion (the biblical readings that coincide with the weekly Torah portion). The class will be invited to participate in the Haftarah chanting for our Passover morning service on Sunday, March 28! Learn more and register at emanuelsf.org/adult-education.

Please purchase the following book before the first class: *The Art of Cantillation, Vol. 2: A Step-By-Step Guide to Chanting Haftarah and Megillot*, by Marshall Portnoy and Josee Wolff.

(Notes: Participation in our Passover service is not mandatory. A rudimentary understanding of the Hebrew alphabet and vowels is required for this course, but no previous musical or chanting experience is needed.)



COMMUNITY

Tzedek Council

To learn more or sign up, please visit emanuelsf.org/community/get-involved



We are Back with G-House! Volunteer for Sunday Dinner Delivery for Youth!

Partner: G-House, Larkin Street Youth Services.

Due to social distancing, our traditional dinners at G-House (a transitional home for youth, run by Larkin Street Youth Services) have been cancelled. However, the youth living at G-House still need our support, so we are re-launching our efforts to alleviate their food insecurity by having meals delivered to them. Currently, Larkin Street is not comfortable with homemade or hand-delivered meals, so they are requiring that the delivered meals come directly from specified local restaurants. These include The Melt, Giorgio's, Tsing Tao and Chipotle. Specific menus have already been chosen by the G-House Program Manager, and the cost for each meal (which feeds 25-30 youth) ranges from \$200 to \$500 (an estimate that does not include tax, tip, or service fees).



Lisa Krim, Temple Volunteer, with G-House residents.

If this cost is too steep for individual volunteers, we suggest going in together with friends and/or other congregants. Each Sunday, we need one volunteer (or volunteer group) to purchase a G-House meal. The menus and ordering instructions will be provided to volunteers via email.

Notes: G-House meal delivery volunteer groups must be organized by the volunteers themselves. Emanu-El is not able to offer reimbursement.

Thank you for your generosity and flexibility in accommodating the needs of G-House during the pandemic. We look forward to resuming in-person dinners when it is safe!

Bring Lunches to Jelani House Shelter for New Moms

Partner: Homeless Prenatal Program at Jelani House.

What are Jelani House and HPP?

Jelani House, which opened a little over a year ago (February 2020) in San Francisco's Bayview District, is a transitional housing shelter for new mothers. The Homeless Prenatal Program (HPP) facilitates programs at Jelani House to create a healing home that fosters stability while residents acclimate to motherhood. These women need specialized support, as homelessness poses a significant risk to birth outcomes. Along with housing assistance, HPP offers classes in health, parenting and finances, with the aim of boosting homeless women and their children into permanent housing and a better future.

How can you help?

As a volunteer for this program, your responsibility is to drop off lunch for 15 on Wednesdays between 11:00 and 11:30 am. Please bring a main course, a vegetable or fruit salad, and a dessert to feed 15 women. The food may be cooked at home or purchased (note that we are unable to offer reimbursement). Your coordinator will be in touch with reminders and more information a few days prior.

“The meals prepared by the congregants at Congregation Emanu-El are the best meals of the week!”

-Martha Ryan
(HPP Founder)

**THANK YOU
TO OUR COMMUNITY**

See our list of
invaluable participants
on page 13.

Support a Hamilton Family with a “Welcome Home” Kit!

Partner: Hamilton Families.

What is Hamilton Families?

Established in 1985, Hamilton Families is San Francisco’s leading service provider for families experiencing homelessness. Hamilton Families works tirelessly to help families find housing and transition into their own homes, ensuring they have the resources and services to stabilize and thrive. Congregation Emanu-El and Hamilton Families are now working together to assist Bay Area homeless families in locating a safe place to sleep.



How can you help?

You can support Hamilton Families’ Rapid ReHousing program by providing household necessities and creature comforts that families experiencing homelessness need as they move into their new homes. Sponsor “Welcome Home” move-in kits — including such items as dish sets, pots and pans, towels, bedding, kitchen appliances and so much more. The value of a kit is approximately \$150 to \$200.



Hamilton Families’ Rapid ReHousing

Join the San Francisco Black - Jewish (& Allies) Unity Group

Partner: San Francisco Black - Jewish (& Allies) Unity Group.

Second Thursdays of the month, 6:00 - 7:15 pm, via Zoom

What is the SF Black - Jewish (& Allies) Unity Group?

In 2016, when Rabbi Beth Singer and congregant Malcolm Gissen collaborated with leaders within the African-American community in San Francisco to create the SF Black - Jewish (& Allies) Unity Group. Since then, the two communities have been working together to fight injustice and bring about change.



How can you help?

All are welcome to join the group. As of now, the Unity Group will not hold in-person meetings. To sign up or for more information, check our website.

Help Emanu-El Weigh in on Selecting RAC-CA’s Statewide Priority Campaigns

Wednesday, March 10, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Thursday, March 11, 12:00 - 1:30 pm



Did you participate in getting out the vote for the election, or wish you did? There is more to do and more fun to have doing it together. The California

Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-CA) is the advocacy project of our movement. RAC-CA leaders have been researching potential opportunities for our statewide network to bring our Jewish values to bear on important policy decisions. On March 10 and 11, members of Reform congregations across California will have the chance to hear about campaigns being considered and share which ones we are motivated to support.

Please plan to join Emanu-El members for one of these webinars. The two meetings will share the same information and are held at two separate days/times to accommodate more people’s schedules.

PASSOVER

For more information and to register for the below events, please visit emanuelsf.org/passover

Zoom Seder Tips 2021 Next Year in Person, This Year Still on Zoom!

Once again, we will be on Zoom for the Seders. And while you have mastered Zoom, here are some tips to make your Seder even more meaningful:

- Choose a virtual Haggadah — there are many resources out there, including free flipbooks. One we love is *The Velveteen Rabbi's Haggadah for Pesach*, a non-denominational Haggadah with a lot of readings in English, transliterations for Hebrew text, and good jumping-off points for discussion.
- Create a Passover pick-up basket with hats, plastic frogs, or a treat so everyone can share a fun moment in common.
- Ask people to prepare a part. Spotlight them as they chant the 4 Questions, or present on how we were strangers and engage in a discussion on how we treat the “stranger” today.
- Take a zoom poll — Which of the 4 Children are you this year?
- In reciting the plagues, ask each person to share what it meant for them to be in darkness in their homes this year. What will bring light in the year to come?
- Unmute everyone for Dayenu and let zoom be zoom!
- Play hide the Afikomen somewhere in the world and let people take guesses.

Don't worry about glitches; be patient — Enjoy this night of joy!



A Collection of Passover Recipes

RECIPE DUE DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 8

For those community members who've spent the past year upping their cooking game, we have an outlet for you. You are warmly invited to submit your favorite Passover dish for inclusion in our virtual recipe book! The books will be compiled and shared throughout our community the week of March 15. All recipes are a form of storytelling and we'd love to hear yours! Whether a family recipe or your own personal favorite, you can submit yours by emailing it to engagement@emanuelsf.org, with the subject line “Passover Recipe.”

An Hour of Passover Prep

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 4:00 – 5:00 PM

Learn the basics of the Passover seder, then dive a little deeper into the meaning behind the holiday rituals. Led by Rabbi Ryan Bauer.

JCRC Freedom Seder with Rabbi Jonathan Singer

TUESDAY MARCH 16, 2021 | 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Join our Senior Rabbi Jonathan Singer at the JCRC Multicultural Passover Freedom Seder. This seder celebrates our community as a bastion of freedom. Be part of this participatory, cross-cultural, interfaith exchange, and honor one of the most important Jewish holidays of the year!

Women's Passover Gathering

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Join us for a night of song, conversation, thought, good food and sisterhood! We invite all women and female-identifying individuals at Emanu-El to gather so that we may deepen our community connections at this time. Members are welcome to bring non-member guests.

Passover Festival Service

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 10:00 – 11:30 AM

Join us for this special festival service, led by Rabbi Jason Rodich with music by Cantor Arik Luck.

Emanu-El Family Seder

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 4:00 – 4:45 PM

Families are invited to attend this fun seder, emceed by Jonathan Bayer and including special clergy appearances. Use this as your standalone seder OR play it in the background while preparing for the adult seder event that evening. Open to the entire community!

Adult Seder

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 6:00 – 8:30 PM

Join us for a Zoom seder of discussion, songs and engagement. This seder is for adults and youth (ages 11-17) who want a full seder experience. It will be led by Rabbi Jonathan Singer with music provided by Senior Cantor Emerita Roslyn Barak. We will follow the order of the Haggadah and end with the *Birkat Hamazon* and songs. Stay for as much as you like, be ready for discussions during breakouts, and have fun with a holiday that is so beautiful and meaningful.

Passover Book Club: *Made in China*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 12:00 AND 7:00 PM
(CHOOSE ONE)

In the spirit of Passover, Rabbi Beth Singer will lead a Book Club discussion connecting biblical Hebrew enslavement with slavery that is happening right now. Using Amanda Pang's book titled *MADE IN CHINA: A Prisoner, an SOS Letter, and the Hidden Cost of America's Cheap Goods* as a starting point, we'll discuss themes relevant to Passover, and how we can address these modern-day plagues. The book club is being offered at two different times — noon and 7:00 pm — to accommodate varying schedules (please sign up for one but not both). Consider supporting a local bookstore when purchasing this book. Alternatively, the book can be purchased online at bookshop.org.

Preschool Virtual Exodus Experience / Video

In lieu of the preschool's annual Passover Experience, we've created our second Virtual Passover Exodus Experience for the entire community to enjoy! This resource is for families and children of all ages, providing an opportunity to retell the Passover story interactively, at your own pace.

Yizkor Service

SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 10:15 AM
(WITH TORAH STUDY BEGINNING AT 9:15 AM)

Everyone is welcome to join us for Yizkor memorial prayers on Saturday, April 3 at 10:15 am. Feel free to join Torah study first at 9:15 am and remain on for Yizkor, or hop on at 10:15 am using the website's Torah Study link. We will sing, say prayers of remembrance and say Kaddish together for those we have loved and lost.

Young Adult Seder

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 7:00 PM

20s & 30s are invited to join Rabbi Rodich, Rabbi Mintz, and Cantor Attie for Emanu-El's annual second night Young Adult Seder! Check our website for more information, including event time.

Passover Opportunity with Tzedek Council

Perform a mitzvah this Passover with the Tzedek Council in partnership with JFCS. Show homebound seniors, people with disabilities, and families in crisis that they are not alone!

To volunteer to deliver Passover holiday bags to our clients, please contact Samantha Kahn at (415) 449-3812 or samanthak@jfcs.org. Pick-up and delivery dates are from March 22 through March 26.

To donate to the JFCS "Seder Sacks" fundraising campaign, please contact Lois Wander at (415) 449-1264 or loisw@jfcs.org. A gift of \$36 helps cover a Seder Sack filled with Passover foods. Due to the pandemic, the need is even greater this year, especially among isolated seniors. Please consider offering a Chai Five for \$90 (helping five households). Make your gift in honor or in memory of someone dear to you, and JFCS will send a Passover greeting or memorial card on your behalf.



Emanu-El Next: Investing for our Jewish Future

We believe that Judaism guides us on our journey to be better people, create community, and repair the world. Our historic home has long been cherished as a magnificent building that symbolizes Jewish arrival and integration into our city. But the building no longer adequately serves the need of the Emanu-El community and hinders our ability to effectively support and engage our congregation. The demands of the 21st century Jewish community and Emanu-El's 1,800 congregant families are quite different than those of the 300 families in the 1920s who created our current building. That's why we have embarked on an ambitious effort to revitalize and reimagine our home to meet the expanding needs of our current members and those of generations to come.

Donor Spotlight: Rita Semel

Rita Semel lives her life hand in glove with her view of what it means to be Jewish. "What drives me is the basic tenet of Tikkun Olam, to repair the world," she says, "I look at a broken world and I figure that we each have to do something to repair it."

Now at 99 years, she has labored tirelessly in service to her ideals. Learning at the feet of her parents, her core belief took root as she was raised in the

Great Depression. "My father suffered from the Depression like many others," she recalls, "But no matter how little we had, we always shared with other people. That was a tenet of my life growing up that you always had to do for others."

Over the years she held prominent roles in many organizations, including the Jewish Community Relations Council, the S.F. Interfaith Council, and the United Religions Initiative, just to name a few. Today, she is a member of the board of Congregation Emanu-El, a community she's been a part of since the end of World War II.

After her husband was discharged from service, they had their first child, and felt it was important to join a congregation.

So they toured, visiting all the congregations in town until they came to Emanu-El, where they met Alvin Fine. "We were immediately drawn to Rabbi Fine because of the values he expressed when he preached and his feelings of social justice. We've been members of Emanu-El ever since."

As Rita looks to the future, she reflects on her own motivations to give to Emanu-El Next. "Years from now when I won't be here, we will still need a home for our work," she says. "As I thought about the campaign, I realized we've got to make sure that the synagogue has a safe and solid future so that it can continue."

And Rita is the first to admit that anything worth doing can't be done alone.

"I've been fortunate to work with so many wonderful people over the years who care about the same issues as I do. Nobody does anything alone, if they say they did, they're not telling you the truth. We must work with others to do what needs to be done."

"I look at a broken world and I figure that we each have to do something to repair it."

Thanks to Everyone Working on Emanu-El Next

We would like to thank everyone at Congregation Emanu-El who is working on making Emanu-El Next a reality. Thank you to the incredible staff and volunteers whose performances under the pressures of the quarantine have been absolutely remarkable. Your ability to adapt to the many changes of the past year and continue to push this project forward reflects your resolve to fulfilling the project's ambitious goals.

In particular, we would like to thank the Board of Directors, the Building Committees, the Steering Committee, the Ambassador Circle, Emanu-El Next donors, and everyone who has attended community meetings and made their voices heard during the planning process. This has truly been a collective effort to shape the future of our community.

Because of your hard work and extraordinary leadership, we have currently secured \$79M in gifts toward our

\$97M goal. This is a remarkable testament to how much Emanu-El means to this community and demonstrates our commitment to ensuring that future generations will continue to enjoy our landmark home in San Francisco. We have always been a place for people who are not afraid to dream and build for the future of San Francisco, and we are proud to see how our community has embraced this bold new vision.

Please visit the project website (next.emanuelsf.org) to see our complete donor list, get the latest updates on the campaign, and find ways to get involved. If you would like to make your financial commitment for Emanu-El Next, please contact Julie Weinberg, Director of Development, at jweinberg@emanuelsf.org or 415 750 7557. Or you can visit the Emanu-El Next donation page (emanuelsf.org/emanu-el-next) today to make your contribution and help assure the success of this project and our community's future.



Emanu-El Next: Investing for our Jewish Future will transform the congregation — both its physical infrastructure, and its capacity to serve the community, bringing Jewish values to life in meaningful and inspiring ways and connecting members to their Judaism and to each other.

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 January 1, 2021 – January 31, 2021.

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

Douglas & Lisa Goldman
in appreciation of Cantor Marsha Attie

Herbert Weiner
in observance of the Yahrzeit of Olga Magda Weiner

Eva Sheppard Wolf & Sven Wolf
in celebration of Ezra Wolf's Bar Mitzvah

Mark & Beth Wolly
in appreciation of Cantor Marsha Attie

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

Ilya Berman & Larisa Lisitsa

Paula Pretlow
in observance of the Yahrzeit of Mary McMullen Brown

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

Mark & Beth Wolly
in appreciation of Carolyn Hutchinson

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

Anonymous (4)

Elisabeth & Jeremy Avnet

Andrea & Nakia Baird

Abigail & Brian BloomKing

Blake Felson & Ashley Ein

Todd & Megan Golden

William Goldfarb & Heidi Adams

Judith Hellman

David & Le Klein

Naomi Kort

David & Ashley Lubeck

Allen Mathis & Elizabeth Clark-Mathis

Leah Pincus Sharabi & Yoel Sharabi

Andrew & Jennifer Rosenthal

Elizabeth Santos & Ethan Davidoff

William & Sunny Shapiro

FOR THE ROOSEVELT FOOD PANTRY

Stephanie Scott
in memory of Gustav "Gus" ERNST

TO SUPPORT THE TZEDEK COUNCIL EFFORTS

Ditka Reiner

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

Robert & Dana Blum
in appreciation of Rabbi Ryan Bauer

Christopher Boyd
in appreciation of Rabbi Beth Singer

Douglas & Lisa Goldman
in appreciation of Rabbi Sydney Mintz

Scott & Deborah Kay
in memory of Howard Gilman

Perri Kramer & Bryan Donaldson
in honor of Elliot and Louisa May Donaldson Kramer's baby naming

Stuart & Anita Tanenberg
in honor of Lonnie & Diedre Tanenberg

Eva Sheppard Wolf & Sven Wolf
in celebration of Ezra Wolf's Bar Mitzvah

Mark & Beth Wolly
in appreciation of Rabbi Ryan Bauer

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

Emanu-El B'Bayit Women's Challah-Baking Group
in memory of Howard Miller

Jordan & Sarah Hymowitz
Gunda Trepp

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:** 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.
- **Planned Giving:** 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.

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

Thank You to Our Tzedek Council Participants

THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING LUNCH TO JELANI HOUSE IN JANUARY 2021 – we could not do it without you!

Kimberly Boigon
Rebecca Katz
Trela Caler
Esther Levandoski

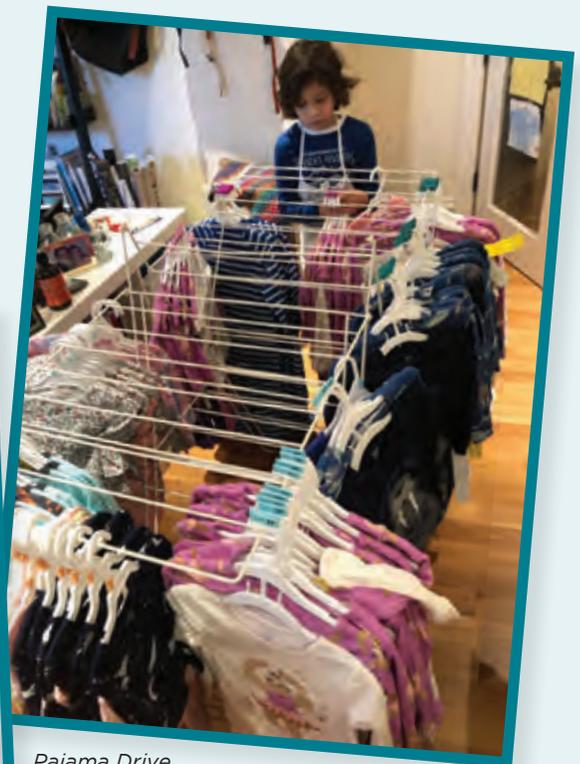
THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE PAJAMA DRIVE FOR HOMELESS PRENATAL PROGRAM (HPP) A SUCCESS!

As a community we provided a new pair of pajamas for 772 children in 410 families that HPP serves!

Atkins Family
Avnet Family
Bergman Family
Blatt Family
Bold Family
Boussina Family
Brody Family
Brown Family
Campbell Family
Cohen and Keizer Cohen Family
Cohen and Magid Family
Cohn Family
Daniel Family
Decker Family
Denker and Chuzhoy Family
Dwares Family
Ehrlich Family
Endler Family
Estoque Family
Ettenson Family
Faulkner Family
Feldman and Glastonbury Family

Felton Family
Gadaldi Family
Goldberg Family
Goldblatt Family
Goren and Shapiro Family
Gyemant Paris and Paris Family
Heller and Kutner Family
Hoffman and Morris Family
Jacobson and Taplin Family
Jaffe Family
Jungreis and Lipsky Family
Kadlecek Family
Kaslofsky Family
Keller Family
Kleiner and Williamson Family
Klein Family
Koenigsberg Family
Kort Family
Kovinsky Family
Kowal Family
Kraus Family
Krim Family
Laghi-Starks and Starks Family
Lake Family
Lauter Family
Leopold Family
Lesovoy Family
Liegl Family
Lisker and Norton Family
Magen Family
Marson and Lu Family
Mayer Family
Nisson and Confer Family
Ohanneson Family

Patchen Family
Phillips Family
Rivo Family
Rothmann Family
Roybal Family
Rubinstein and Sherr Family
Saraf Family
Schick Family
Seligman Family
Semel Family
Shveyd Family
Sicklick Family
Sidley Family
Silver and Yolles Family
Silverman Family
Smollin and Yuan Family
Soofer Family
Spiegel and Brouillat-Spiegel Family
Stone Family
Sugarman Family
Thau and Menger-Anderson Family
Villa Family
Weitzman Family
Wintroub Family
Zagorie Family
Zarefsky Family



Pajama Drive

LIFE-CYCLES

Condolences to Our Members Who Have Suffered Recent Losses

Lou Aronow (Susan) on the passing of his brother, **Robert "Bob" Aronow**

Erika Coplon (Dovid) on the passing of her mother, and Daphne and Trixie Coplon on the loss of their grandmother, **Hanne Johnson**

Jonathan Rubens (Barbara Sobel) on the passing of his father, and Miles and Ethan Rubens on the loss of their grandfather, **Barry Rubens**

Deborah Kay (Scott) on the passing of her father, and Rachel, Andrew, Elijah and Noah Kay on the loss of their grandfather, **Howard Gilman**

Rabbi Sydney Mintz (Ellen Spiro) on the passing of her cousin, **Tess Rosenbush**

Paula Freedman on the passing of her great-niece, **Sophia Lambert**

Gina Silverman (Reagan Richey) on the passing of her grandmother, and Eva Richey on the loss of her great-grandmother, **Pauline Liebowitz**

Eleanor Miller on the passing of her husband, Jeannie Miller and Susie Roy (Denis) on the loss of their father, and Zachary, Taylor and Tucker Roy on the loss of their grandfather, **Howard Miller**

Andrew Kowal (Lauren) on the passing of his sister, and Ella and Chloe Kowal on the loss of their aunt, **Alison Small**

Sean SeLegue on the passing of his husband, and David Vapnik on the loss of his father, **Dr. Richard Zuniga**

Lauri Paul (Mark Hamilton) on the passing of her father, and Dylan and Oliver Hamilton on the loss of their grandfather, **Leonard Paul**

Robin Gayle and Janet Levy on the passing of their father, **Jesse Levy**

Shabana Siegel (Charles) on the passing of her father, and Hannah and Leah Siegel on the loss of their grandfather, **Syed Abdul Majid Quadri**

Katherine Dowling (Marc Axelbaum) on the passing of her mother, and Charles, Cameron and Phoebe Axelbaum on the loss of their grandmother, **Marianne Dowling**

Our community mourns the loss of **Elizabeth Meterparel**

Mazel Tov to Our Members Who Have Experienced Joy

Sarah Nathan and Adam Shapiro on the birth of their son (and **Carol and Dr. Richard Nathan** on the birth of their grandson), Sidney Ellis Shapiro, born on March 8, 2020

Molly Nathan and Azriel Relph on the birth of their daughter (and **Carol and Dr. Richard Nathan** on the birth of their granddaughter), Minnie James Relph, born on May 22, 2020

Sam and Jordi Pollock on the birth of their son, Charles Jackson Pollock, born February 5, 2021

Lisa Stern and Becca Wolff on the birth of their daughter, Rosalind Rose Wolff, born on February 6, 2021

Hez Wollin and Javier Nova Rosa on the birth of their daughter (and Hillary and Lawrence Wollin on the birth of their granddaughter; Charles Wollin on the birth of his niece), Noemi Burdock Rosa-Wollin, born on February 10, 2021

Ellie Bibas and Briana Quindazzi on the birth of their son, (and Dolorice Bibas on becoming a big sister), Jack Bibas, born on February 10, 2021

Congratulations to Our Members for Their Achievements

Constance Norton on being promoted to Member, Board of Directors at Littler

Sue Diamond and Marty Schenker on receiving the Jewish-Civic Leadership Award

Welcome, New Members!

Amanda Minsky
Jacqueline Peterson
Sam Pollock
Charles Pollock

Jordi Pollock
Dorie Shapiro
Iris Shields

Welcome Back, Rejoining Members!

Peter Friend
Matthew Friend
Max Friend
Taylor Gerard
Paul Gerard
Megan Holland

Charlie Jaeger
Michael Jaeger
Russell Rubinstein
Dean Rubinstein
Sharon Rubinstein

B'NEI MITZVAH



Ruth Keith
Bat Mitzvah:
March 6, 2021

Parents:
Jennifer and
Peter Keith

Torah Portion:
Vayikra



Vivienne Endler
Bat Mitzvah:
March 13, 2021

Parents:
Jacqueline and
Joshua Endler

Torah Portion:
Vayekhel Pekude



Chloe Dwares
Bat Mitzvah:
March 6, 2021

Parents:
Leilani and
Peter Dwares

Torah Portion:
Ki Tisa



Zachary Schuman
Bar Mitzvah:
March 20, 2021

Parents:
Isabelle and
Ben Schuman

Torah Portion:
Vayikra



Drew Babel
Bar Mitzvah:
March 6, 2021

Parents:
Lisa and
Chris Babel

Torah Portion:
Ki Tisa



Elena Paris
Bat Mitzvah:
March 20, 2021

Parents:
Anne Gyemant-Paris and
Michael Paris

Torah Portion:
Vayikra



Dylan Anzel
Bar Mitzvah:
March 13, 2021

Parents:
Christina and
Joshua Anzel

Torah Portion:
Vayishlach



Save the Date for these special events (more details to come):

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 12:00 NOON - 1:15 PM

Special Yom HaShoah film and discussion event cosponsored with the JCCSF, Taube Philanthropies and JFCS:
Learn the remarkable true story told in the film, *No Place On Earth*, about a group of Ukrainian Jews who sought refuge from the Nazis during WW2 by hiding underground for more than 500 days — longer than anyone in recorded history. Discussion with the filmmaker, Janet Tobias, caver, Chris Nicola, and Dr. Natalia Polik, a Polish expert on hiding places during the Holocaust. The program will be moderated by Shana Penn, Executive Director of Taube Philanthropies, and introduced by our own Randi Fields, Senior Director of Membership and Engagement Operations, who is a descendant of the survivors.

Link to the film will be provided upon registration for advance screening.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 5:00 PM

Conversation with Rabbi Jonathan Singer and San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin





Congregation Emanu-El
Two Lake Street
San Francisco, CA 94118
emanuelsf.org
(415) 751-2535

PERIODICAL

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., *Taube Emanu-El Scholar and Senior 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

Julie Levine

Nersi Boussina

Robert Newman

Sandi Bragar

Dr. Larry Rand

Barrett Cohn

Rita Semel

Stuart Corvin

Lisa Stern

Sue Diamond

Robert Tandler

Jill Einstein

Gunda Trepp

Lara Ettenson

Matt Van Horn

Alia Gorkin

Noah Wintroub

Sasha Kovriga

Hilary Zarrow

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.

Tauber SPARK 2021

Ignite Your Jewish Learning

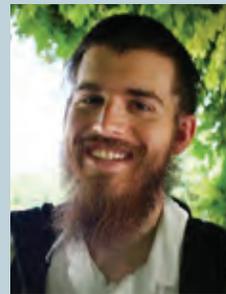
Take a deep dive into our tradition and SPARK your imagination. Join the following classes in March:

- **Reading Repetition in the Torah**
Robert Alter
- **Of Mind and Myth: Religious Thinking in Jewish Mysticism**
Ariel Evan Mayse
- **Talmud: Explore Big Jewish Questions of the Past, Present and Future**
Charlotte Fonrobert

More information on SPARK Programs can be found on pages 4-5.



Robert Alter



Ariel Evan Mayse



Charlotte Fonrobert

