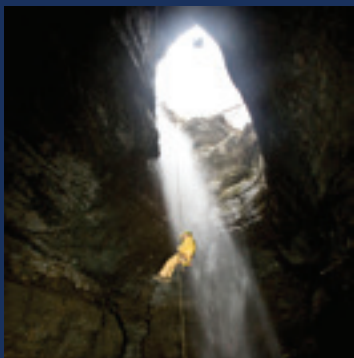


Emanu-El ^S_F

CHRONICLE VOLUME CLXXXV, NO. 37 | APRIL 2021
19 NISAN – 18 IYYAR 5781



Every Family Has a Story

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SHALOM RAV FROM OUR RABBI

By Richard and Rhoda Goldman Senior Rabbi Beth Singer



*Richard and Rhoda Goldman
Senior Rabbi Beth Singer*

Musings on a Year of Judaism in the Pandemic

When I was in college, our Hillel rabbi led a weekly reflection during the Kabbalat Shabbat service; he would intone the days of the past week and ask us to take a moment to remember something that happened the previous

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, etc. In that spirit, this is a good time to think about one year ago in April, May, June, etc. Back in April 2020, still early in the pandemic, we thought we'd probably be gathering in the sanctuary for the High Holy Days. We had no idea. I remember hearing a scientist predict that the pandemic would last well into 2021; at that time, his forecast seemed overly dramatic.

A year ago, we managed to move all of our services and programs online. We conducted our last sanctuary b'nei mitzvah on March 14, 2020. We then scrambled to reschedule b'nei mitzvah, having students keep their original Torah portions but moving the dates to summer, as we felt sure the situation would improve by then. At a certain point, given the number of b'nei mitzvah students, we ran out of summer dates. So we did something we had never done before. We showed families how to set up a sanctuary in their own homes; we brought a Torah scroll to them and then led services via Zoom. Later, when the City changed some COVID-19 regulations, we were able to start conducting services in our outdoor courtyard (weather permitting), restricting them to only a small number of participants and having a precise setup that complies with every health regulation of safety, sanitation and distancing. As you read this, we continue to conduct all of our life-cycle ceremonies for congregants, either with a very small, spatially distanced setup in the Temple courtyard or via Zoom. To my knowledge, not one person has contracted COVID-19 as a result of attending a Temple event.

One year ago, Jonathan and I were invited to Zoom into a wedding as guests of a young man whom we had known since childhood. Like everyone, this couple had planned a big fat Jewish wedding, but ended up with a backyard ceremony in Chicago that included 15 spatially distanced guests plus hundreds on Zoom. Jonathan and I settled ourselves onto some outdoor furniture here on the west coast as we attended the wedding online. Jeff, whom we

had known as a little boy, was attired in his suit and tallit. I was emotionally overcome when I saw him at the huppa. I cried and smiled throughout the ceremony, which we would not have been able to attend if it weren't for Zoom.

April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December, January, February, March, April. Take a few moments and think about how you lived through each of these months. Schools were closed. Restaurants shut down. Emanu-El went online. But Jewish ritual endured! During each one of the past months, we welcomed babies; dozens of Emanu-El 13 year-olds were called to the Torah; we officiated at weddings; and we stood at the graveside, often holding up a cell phone so that family members from afar could safely witness the mitzvah of burying their loved one. The ability of Jewish ritual to transcend even a pandemic is powerful. Reflect back. Biblical times. Rabbinic times. The Middle Ages. The Modern Age. The Tech Age. Throughout it all, Jewish ritual has endured.

Recently, a bat mitzvah parent, participating in her third child's ceremony, reflected with me about how her family was focused much more on the ritual itself since there was no giant party to plan. We look forward to the day when it will be safe to gather in person, dance a Hora, hug each other, eat together, and celebrate our rituals with friends, family and the Temple community.

It is a core value that, under normal circumstances, b'nei mitzvah services are celebrated in person in the sanctuary and all are welcome to attend as we officially accept each 13-year-old into the community. Until that time, you can hop online every Friday night at 6:00 p.m. for a warm service with music and a teaching; join Torah study at 9:15 a.m. every Shabbat morning with one click on our website; send your kids to Zoom or an outdoor Wilderness Torah experience; and celebrate holidays (and all of our Jewish rituals) in whatever way is deemed safest on any given day and week. Judaism has a long history of keeping the lights on. With our extraordinary Jewish rituals, we will continue to do just that.

“The ability of
Jewish ritual to
transcend even
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Reflect back.
Biblical times.
Rabbinic times.
... Throughout it
all, Jewish ritual
has endured.”

EVERY FAMILY HAS A STORY

IN COMMEMORATION OF YOM HASHOAH

Please join us to honor the families, their descendants and their advocates, who together have transmitted an unforgettable story of survival in the Holocaust through testimonies, literature, and the docudrama *No Place On Earth*.

No Place On Earth brings to light the untold story of thirty-eight Polish Jews who survived World War II by living in caves for eighteen months, the longest-recorded sustained underground survival. Built upon interviews with survivors, as well as Chris Nicola, the caving enthusiast who unearthed the story, *No Place On Earth* is an extraordinary testament to ingenuity, willpower, and endurance against all odds.

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021

PDT: 12:00-1:15 PM

UK: 8:00-9:15 PM

CDT: 2:00-3:15 PM

CET: 9:00-10:15 PM

EDT: 3:00-4:15 PM

Israel: 10:00-11:15 PM



**GO TO emanuelsf.org/npoe
TO REGISTER FOR THE
EVENT & RECEIVE A LINK
TO THE DOCUDRAMA FOR
FREE STREAMING**

A CONVERSATION WITH



Randi Fields, Congregation Emanu-El, whose relatives survived in these caves



Dr. Natalia Romik, Holocaust Scholar of the unusual places where Jews hid in WWII



Chris Nicola, Expert Caver, who discovered this story and appears in the film



Moderator Shana Penn, Taube Philanthropies



Janet Tobias, Documentary Filmmaker, *No Place on Earth*



TAUBE CENTER
FOR JEWISH LIFE & LEARNING



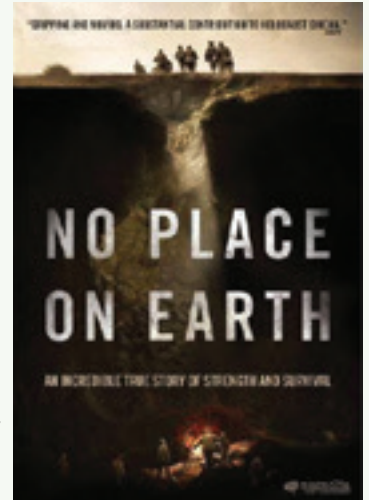
JEWISH FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES
HOLOCAUST CENTER

Commemorating Yom HaShoah Every Family Has a Story

In October, 1942, 38 people from five Jewish families in western Ukraine fled the Nazis and hid underground for nearly a year and a half. Their harrowing story of living in near-total darkness in two damp caves and their will to survive are told in the docudrama film *No Place on Earth*.

On April 6 from 12:00 - 1:15 pm, Congregation Emanu-El, in partnership with Taube Philanthropies, Taube Center for Jewish Life and Learning, JCCSF, and JFCS Holocaust Center, will host a virtual panel discussion with the caver who unearthed the story, the filmmaker, a Holocaust scholar, and our own Director of Membership and Engagement Operations, Randi Dodick Fields, a descendant of survivors featured in the film. The panel will be moderated by Shana Penn, author and scholar of Central European Jewry and Executive Director of Taube Philanthropies, which has helped revitalize Jewish life in Poland.

In advance of this special event commemorating Yom HaShoah, Randi had the opportunity to speak with Shana about the film and the continued importance of cultural memory.



Randi: As a scholar of the Jewish communities of Central Europe, you've no doubt seen many films about the Holocaust and heard many powerful stories. Why did this one stand out?

Shana: This story stands out for several reasons. It is the only known example of Jews hiding in a cave during the Holocaust. For almost one-and-a-half years — more than 500 days — 38 people hid together in several caves, including the famous Priest's Grotto, which National Geographic calls a "massive underground sanctuary." The Jews dwelling in these caves, ranging in age from 2 to 76, survived with no serious illnesses or deaths during their time underground. For expert caver Chris Nicola, who is featured in the film and will speak at our April 6th event, it is remarkable that these families stayed virtually intact.



Sam Stermer and Saul Stermer inside Verteba Cave in *NO PLACE ON EARTH*, a Magnolia Pictures release. Photo courtesy of Magnolia Pictures.

The story of the five Jewish families hiding in the caves figures among the more unusual experiences of hiding during the Holocaust, some of which researchers are still discovering today. In recent years, for example, it was discovered that some Jews dug a hiding place beneath tombstones in the Warsaw Jewish cemetery; two brothers carved a shelter in a 650-foot oak tree named Josef in

Wisniowa, a small town south of Krakow; and still others were sheltered in a dugout beneath a family's cottage in another Polish town. In Lvov, now part of Ukraine, 12 people hid in the city sewers for 14 months with the aid of a local gentile who provided food and other supplies. This true story is recounted in the 2011 feature film *In Darkness*, directed by Agnieszka Holland.

Another element that is unique about the families who hid in the caves is that they were not helped by local townspeople. These families had to fend for themselves. The bravest and strongest among them would stealthily move in and out of the caves to find food and other supplies. When they departed from the cave, no one knew if they'd be returning. The suspense must have been terrible to bear.

These families were amazingly resourceful. None of them had any caving experience or equipment. How did they figure out how to create shelter, find water, feed themselves, and tend to bodily functions? How did they figure out how to "befriend" the cave?

Chris Nicola was also astounded by some of the artifacts he found in the cave, particularly the millstone, which was too heavy for Chris himself to move. Yet, as we see reenacted in the film, Nissel Stermer carried the millstone on his back for several miles to the cave. The millstone was used to grind grain for bread. It was their life force.

Another reason this story stands out for me is more personal. The story is connected to a member of our Bay Area Jewish community — our very own Randi Fields — and I always take note of such familial connections to a story to learn their personal meaning for someone I know, as well as for their historical value. I appreciate that you, Randi and your husband Bob brought the story to my attention.



(left) Réka Gavaldi as Leiche Wexler, Norbert Gogan as Leo Wexler and Dániel Hegedűs as Sol Wexler. (right) Chris Nicola examining a lamp found in Pries's Grotto cave on 10/12/2010. Photo by Fabio Burtin. Photos from *NO PLACE ON EARTH*, a Magnolia Pictures release. Photos courtesy of Magnolia Pictures.

Randi: This story came to life when a caver, Chris Nicola, discovered artifacts in a cave in western Ukraine in 1993 and began to ask questions. Chris, who is not Jewish, kept searching for answers and finally, 20 years later, the story was vividly told in the docudrama film *No Place on Earth*, made by a director who also is not Jewish. What do the roles of people who are not Jewish tell us about the resonance of the Holocaust beyond the Jewish world?

Shana: The making of this film certainly stands as testament to the importance of the Holocaust for people who are not Jewish. In a recent first meeting with Chris, the caver (via Zoom), I marveled at his cultural sensitivity and respect for the survivors of the cave dwelling whom he sought out over a decade in the 1990s. It took so long to locate them because they had never made their experience known publicly. By connecting with them 50 years later, he was asking them to revisit and share their experiences, to trust him as witness to the miracle of their survival. Because Chris took the needed time to build trust, evidence of his fine character, they agreed to be interviewed by him and later to be filmed for Janet Tobias' documentary.

At our April 6th event, attendees will meet Natalia Romik, a 30-something Polish architect, museum curator, and Holocaust researcher, whose current project is titled "Architecture of Survival." Natalia is not Jewish, but growing up in Poland, she has always lived in close proximity to the Holocaust. Like many Poles who are not Jewish, understanding the Holocaust has particular resonance because this horrific drama unfolded not faraway but in Europe and especially in their country, where the largest prewar Jewish population had lived, and where Hitler built the most ghettos, concentration camps and death camps to carry out his genocidal plan. In recent years, Poland has become the site of some of the most rigorous Holocaust scholarship, much of which is conducted by scholars who are not Jewish. For me, this is not unusual, because I've worked in Poland for many years and have observed the impressive academic and cultural production taking place there. And also because I worked at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in the late 1990s, where many American scholars and educators pursued Holocaust studies though they were not Jewish. Holocaust education became mandated in many states in the U.S. starting in the 90s. The challenge now as before, is how to deal with Holocaust denial and other forms of antisemitism, which as we know are on the rise again. There is little more atrocious than reading about elderly

Holocaust survivors who are attacked while taking public transportation or walking or in their homes. To be victims of violence and hate after all they have already suffered breaks my heart. This is an uphill battle which we must fight again and again, with allies from all religions and ethnicities.

Randi: That 6 million Jews were killed in the Holocaust is widely known, and we mourn this tragedy each year. The story of *No Place on Earth* involves only 38 members of five families. What accounts for the power of this particular story — which affected relatively few individuals in just a handful of families?

Shana: Stories of survival are powerful. Whether of one individual or a group and especially of a whole family, such stories give us glimmers of hope and faith in humankind, especially after contemplating the atrocities, devastation and tragic losses in the Holocaust. Yom Hashoah is a time to remember and commemorate the millions who perished, including 1.5 million children, and to feel deep gratitude for all who miraculously survived. In so many instances, survival was due to a combination of wit, ingenuity, connections, and sheer luck. Oftentimes, random circumstances enabled another day of life, not knowing what lay ahead.

Today, the children and grandchildren of survivors — the second and third generations — help keep their families' survival stories alive in testimonies and in creative works. For example, here in the Bay Area alone, we can cherish memoirs such as *Out on a Ledge*, by Eva Libitzky, mother of Moses Libitzky; musical concerts of interwar compositions by the famous Bajgelman brothers, Riva Berelson's father and uncles; a documentary film in progress by JFCS Executive Director Anita Friedman about the town where her maternal family lived before the war; the Jewish Partisans Education Fund, which has been shaped and supported by the Felson and Orbuch families, among others. Every family has a story to tell.



Register for the panel discussion at emanuelf.org/npoe and receive a link for a free screening of the film. Advance registration required. Film length: 84 minutes. Cost: Free and open to the community

Renowned Polish historian of wooden synagogues Maria Piechotkova (left) receiving the 2016 Irena Sendler Memorial Award from Taube Philanthropies Executive Director Shana Penn. Photo by Maciek Jaźwiecki. Used with permission.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Communitywide Yom HaShoah Commemoration

April 7, 8, & 9



We Remember

Join the JFCS Holocaust Center and greater Bay Area community for Holocaust Remembrance Day

On April 7th, come together for a virtual reading of the names and community yizkor service featuring a special conversation between guest scholar Dr. Deborah Lipstadt and Dr. Anita Friedman, Executive Director of JFCS. The service will be led by clergy from San Francisco synagogues with participation from the Israeli Consul General.

5:00 pm (PT) — Reading of the Names (*To remember loved ones on this day, please submit their names here.)

7:00 pm (PT) — Memorial Ceremony and Program

We invite you on April 8th and 9th to participate in a series of commemorative workshops, including Holocaust survivor testimony and expert-led conversations focused on the lessons and legacies of the Holocaust.

The 2021 virtual commemoration of Yom HaShoah is presented by the JFCS Holocaust Center in partnership with San Francisco synagogues, schools, and community organizations.

4:00pm — reading of the names

5:30pm — Ceremony with Dr. Deborah Lipstadt as the keynote speaker

Friday, April 9 — Interactive educational workshops

For more information go to: holocaustcenter.jfcs.org

What are We Talking About When We Talk About Zionism?

Virtual Lunch-and-Learn
with Rabbi Jonathan Singer

Wednesdays

April 7 through May 12

12:00 noon – 1:00 pm

Cost: Free and open to the community

Join Rabbi Jonathan for a six part lunch and learn with guests from different perspectives sharing about the beautiful complexity of Zionism, both from historic and contemporary perspectives. Zionism is both celebrated by some as being the miraculous expression of Jewish nationalism and questioned by others as an ideology that has become disconnected from Jewish values. As is our approach at Emanu-El, we want to bring in many voices and so will include Orli Bein from the New Israel Fund, Rabbi Josh Weinberg leader of ARZA — the Reform Movement's Zionist Wing, a board member from IF NOT NOW, a speaker on Orthodox Zionism, and our own John Rothmann, who brings a wealth of historical knowledge and capacity for political analysis.

We will use Gil Troy's updated version of Arthur Hertzbergs' *The Zionist Ideas: Visions for the Jewish Homeland — Then, Now, Tomorrow* as our text.



Rabbi Jonathan Singer

2nd Annual Lag Ba'Omer Community Talent Show

Thursday April 29

7:00 – 8:15 PM (virtual)

Lag Ba'Omer is the 33rd day of the counting of the Omer and is often celebrated with campfires that include music and celebration. Please join our clergy for our 2nd Annual Lag Ba'Omer Community Talent Show. We will gather around a virtual zoom campfire and entertain each other with music, dance, stories — whatever your talent — this is an opportunity to share with our community.

Please send inquiry to Cantor Attie who will take the first 18 acts to sign up. mattie@emanuelsf.org



Cantor Marsha Attie



San Francisco District Attorney Cheska Boudin

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

Wednesday, April 7, 5:00 pm

Cost: Free and open to the community

This discussion will revolve around District Attorney Cheska Boudin's professional role, his relationship with the police and the news media, and more. Boudin will also speak to how Judaism inspires his life, both personally and professionally.

Registration is required for this event.

Cheska Boudin is the elected District Attorney of San Francisco. DA Boudin's commitment to the promotion of social justice and the concept of *tikkun olam* stems from his early identity and experiences growing up in the Jewish faith. Personally impacted by parental incarceration and the failings of the criminal justice system, DA Boudin's career has focused on reforming the system

from the inside. As DA, Boudin works to make our communities safer by developing data-driven policies to expand alternatives to incarceration and treat the root causes of crime. In his first few months in office, he ended the DA office's practice of asking for cash bail, eliminated status enhancements, implemented California's first diversion program for primary caregivers, and ended the prosecution of charges resulting from racist pre-textual traffic stops. He has also implemented numerous police reforms; started an innovative "Economic Crimes Against Workers Unit" to protect workers from exploitation; and succeeded in reducing the jail population in San Francisco as crime rates also declined. His office has initiated historic prosecutions to hold law enforcement officers accountable when they break the law. DA Boudin remains committed to being a *rodef shalom* by pursuing reforms that promote racial and economic justice, center crime survivors, and protect public safety.

WELCOME

Welcoming Our New Director of Youth and Family Education, Leo Fuchs

We are thrilled to welcome Leo Fuchs as our new Director of Youth and Family Education. Leo is currently completing his third year of rabbinical studies at the Hebrew Union College — Jewish Institute of Religion (Ordination in Spring 2023). He and his wife, Liz and children, Zachary and Jeremy have been members of Congregation Emanu-El for nearly fifteen years. Prior to entering rabbinical school, Leo worked in the Oakland public school system as a special education teacher, assistant principal, and for eleven years as the founding principal of Learning Without Limits, an elementary school in the Fruitvale neighborhood, for which he led the design. In the summer of 2020, he served as Rabbinic Intern at Congregation Emanu-El and designed the 6th and 7th grade YFE program for the current school year. He holds an M.A. in Non-Profit Management from the Heller School at Brandeis University and an M.A. in Education from U.C. Berkeley. In the summer of 2019, Leo served as the Rabbinical Intern at the San Francisco Campus for Jewish Living, and currently serves as the Student Rabbi at Congregation B'nai Torah in Brentwood, CA. Stay tuned for opportunities to engage and learn more about our plans for YFE as we reopen.



Leo Fuchs, YFE Director

TZEDEK COUNCIL

PROGRAMS

Changing Lives: Supporting LGBTQ+ Youth

Tuesday, April 13, 5:00 pm



Host Homes Program

Join us for a discussion of the issues affecting LGBTQ+ youth in our community. This event will highlight the SF LGBT Center's unique approach to addressing the needs of marginally housed youth through its "Host Homes" program. The discussion will include the perspectives of staff and youth who are actively participating in the program.

The speakers will include Ali Schlageter, Youth Program Manager at the San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, and Karessa Irvin, Program Manager of the SF LGBT Center's Host Homes program. Rabbi Ryan Bauer will moderate the discussion.

Co-hosted by the Tzedek Council, the SF LGBT Center, and the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing.

Family Homelessness in 2021: A Virtual Fireside Chat

Tuesday, April 27, 7:00 pm

Congregation Emanu-El's Tzedek Council welcomes Hamilton Families new CEO, Kyriell Noon in conversation with Rabbi Ryan Bauer. The conversation will explore the current state of homeless families in the city, how Hamilton Families has risen to meet the unique challenges of the past year, and what is on the horizon for the organization whose mission is to end family homelessness in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Kyriell Noon joined Hamilton Families in October 2020 as their Chief Executive Officer. Prior to Hamilton Families, Noon served for 20 years in the SF non-profit sector at Juma Ventures, San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and GLIDE. Originally from New York City, Noon attended Vassar College and Harvard University, is engaged to be married, and has two teenage sons.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Create a Toolkit for Homeless Prenatal Program

During Passover, we remember the Jews' journey from slavery to freedom and the challenges faced by our ancestors including homelessness. The Tzedek Council invites you to join us in support of Homeless Prenatal Program families by collecting Toolkits with necessities. This is a wonderful project as families can shop for items together, and children will have firsthand experience of the importance of tzedakah to our community.

Detailed shopping list of items to be purchased and supply pick-up/drop-off dates can be found on the Tzedek Council's webpage. Approximate cost of items to be purchased is \$85-100.

Support a Hamilton Family with a Welcome Home Kit!

Partner: Hamilton Families



Congregation Emanu-El and Hamilton Families are coming together to help families in our community. Along with friends and family, you can sponsor "Welcome Home" move-in kits for families in Hamilton's programs — including such items as dish sets, pots and pans, towels, bedding, kitchen appliances, and so much more.



For more information on these
volunteer opportunities, visit
**[emanuelsf.org/community/
get-involved](https://emanuelsf.org/community/get-involved)**

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

Partner: G-House



G-House Volunteers.

While our traditional G-House dinners have been cancelled due to social distancing, the youth still need our support, so we are re-launching our efforts to alleviate food insecurity for the youth living at G-House. Each Sunday evening, we need a volunteer to purchase a meal for 25 to 30 youths.



Volunteers bring lunch to Jelani House Shelter.

Bring Lunches to Jelani House Shelter for New Moms

Partner: Homeless Prenatal Program at Jelani House

What is Jelani House? Jelani House, a transitional housing shelter for new mothers experiencing homelessness, opened in the Bayview District in February 2020. The volunteer's responsibility is to drop off lunch on Wednesdays between 11:00 and 11:30 am. The items may be either cooked at home or purchased.

Join the SF Black-Jewish (& Allies) Unity Group!

Second Thursday of each month



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

To sign up or for more information, email Georgina Garcia at ggarcia@emanuelf.org.

THANK YOU to our February Volunteers and Donors!

G-HOUSE VOLUNTEERS

Joel Lewenstein
Erik Rice
Daniel Spier
Stacey Silver

JELANI HOUSE VOLUNTEERS

Barbara Sobel
Shaina Li
Elyse Blatt
Rebecca Katz

TZEDEK COUNCIL DONORS

Sally and Daniel Sherrard
David Lutterkort and Tamara Troy
German and Cynthia Shegalov

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: Sandi Bragar and Jerome Rossen

Sandi Bragar and Jerome Rossen are thrilled to support Emanu-El Next. To them, this project is an incredible opportunity for the entire congregation to make an impact on our spiritual home today and in the future.

Sandi, a partner at Aspiriant, an independent wealth management firm, has been a longtime board member at Emanu-El, and chair of the Development Committee. "I believe people have meaningful relationships with money when they use their resources for what

matters most to them. This is tied to the work I've done with Emanu-El for years."

Her husband Jerome is a professional musician and composer whose work has been heard in Temple Emanu-El. "Cantor Attie has been generous enough to include an Oseh Shalom I wrote," Jerome says. "It's an amazing moment for me when, at the end of the Rosh Hashanah morning service, we all get up and start singing the Oseh Shalom. It's not about me anymore, it's about everyone else being moved through music."

Their connection to Emanu-El began early on in their relationship, soon after Jerome moved from New York City to San Francisco to be with Sandi. Together, they began a journey of touring temples to find the best fit for them, and were awestruck with Emanu-El.

"We popped in and walked through the courtyard," Sandi recollects, "And if the angels sing, that's what we heard. It felt like a place we needed to be in." "Emanu-El had me at the fountain," Jerome adds.

Sandi and Jerome, who both come from families that were active with their synagogues, have seen their own children, Ben and Natalia, grow up at Emanu-El. They've felt that the community has been there for every milestone in their children's lives.

In Sandi's words, their family's Jewish engagement embodies the notion of *l'dor v'dor*. Jerome agrees, reflecting on the multi-generational impact of Emanu-El Next: "It's incredible to be able to provide for people in the future who we will never meet. Knowing that our children have grown up in this synagogue and that other families could have that experience too is extremely moving."

Jerome and Sandi are excited to watch the collective generosity of the community come alive and are deeply grateful for everyone helping to making this project a reality. As a community effort that relies on everyone's contributions, Emanu-El Next will elevate our congregation's sacred moments and create a lasting legacy for those who come after us.

"And if the angels sing, that's when we heard it. It felt like a place we needed to be in."

- Sandi Bragar

Echoing the Ethos of our Founders

Our award-winning architectural firm Mark Cavagnero Associates has designed a building renovation that not only honors our cultural heritage and the historic significance of Emanu-El in San Francisco, but also encompasses innovation, modernity, and sustainability.

Congregation Emanu-El's current home on Lake Street is the third synagogue that our founders built in San Francisco. They saw America as Zion and thought: if America is Zion, then San Francisco is Jerusalem. And if San Francisco is Jerusalem, we need to build a Third Temple. So they took the design of the Second Temple, and used that, not just as inspiration, but as the blueprints for our current home.

In the Temple of Jerusalem, you follow a procession from the secular to the sacred to the Holy of Holies. At Emanu-El, we move from Lake Street through the courtyard into the sanctuary. Not only are we going from the mundane to the sacred, but this design shows the ethos of the founders. They're thinking in grand terms, very much

in tradition with the culture of San Francisco. The 300 families who built a 2,000-person Main Sanctuary in the 1920s asked: how do I disrupt and scale and change the world? They're thinking much bigger than themselves.

When you sit in the seats of the Main Sanctuary today, those seats were made for you. They were always there for you, and will continue to be there for those who follow. And that's what Emanu-El Next is – it's a 100-year vision that's much grander than any of us will ever know.

Rabbi Ryan Bauer
Senior Associate Rabbi

If you would like to make a commitment to 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 website (next.emanuelsf.org) to learn more or make your contribution and help assure the success of this project and our community's future.



This representation of the Second Temple in Jerusalem shows the procession ascending to the main sanctuary. The Second Temple was the inspiration for Arthur Brown's original design of Emanu-El in 1924-1927, where the Lake Street entrance was intended to echo this heritage. Mark Cavagnero's design reestablishes the beautiful Lake Street entrance as accessible, safe, and welcoming.

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 February 1, 2021 – February 28, 2021.

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

Alpert & Alpert Foundation

Fred Levin

*in observance of the Yahrzeit of
A. Jess Shenson*

Myriam Malka-Arnold & James Arnold

*in celebration of BenNoah Noach's
Bar Mitzvah*

**Stefanie Rosenberg &
Christopher Gross**

in honor of Everett Gross' Bar Mitzvah

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

Charles & Lenore Bleadon

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

Michele Woolfe-Avramov

*in observance of the Yahrzeit of
Nettie Hester Woolfe*

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

Caren Alpert

Cassie & Ian Cooney

Nick Gianos & Brynna Deaver Gianos

Elizabeth & Todd Fox

Melissa Koenigsberg & William Lee
in memory of Howard Gilman

Matthew & Anna Kovinsky

Ariel & David Parrish

Rebecca & Eric Stone

FOR THE ROOSEVELT FOOD PANTRY

Stephanie Scott (3)

in memory of William M. Scott

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.

Terri Forman

*in appreciation of the Amazing team
at First Graduate*

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.

Alpert & Alpert Foundation

Shelley Bransten

*in honor of Elliot Perelmutter's
Bar Mitzvah*

Brenda Friedler

in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Harold Miller

Brenda Friedler

*in honor of Rabbi Stephen and
Laurie Pearce*

Eileen Kahaner & Daniel Coleman

in memory of Richard Coleman

**Myriam Malka-Arnold &
James Arnold**

*in celebration of BenNoah Noach's
Bar Mitzvah*

Jim & Sarah Rose

in memory of Rosalie Goode Fried

**Stefanie Rosenberg &
Christopher Gross**

in honor of Everett Gross' Bar Mitzvah

Susie & Denis Roy

Adam & Hilary Seligman

Shulamit Sofia

*in honor of Rabbis Beth and
Jonathan Singer*

Albert Villa

Marilyn Waldman

in memory of Murry J. Waldman

TO SUPPORT THE TZEDEK COUNCIL EFFORTS

David Lutterkort & Tamara Troy

German & Cynthia Shegalov

Sally & Daniel Sherrard

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

Frana Price & Rick Ohlrich

in honor of Mimi Greisman

Mahdokht Frouzan

*in observance of the Yahrzeit of
Souter Frouzan*

Daniel & Alla Klionsky

*in observance of the Yahrzeit of
Tsivia Gluzman*

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

Nick Gianos & Brynna Deaver Gianos
to Preschool Educators Stipend

Judi Leff & Kevin Brown
to Ben Wood Project

Maxine & Justin Raphael
to Preschool Educators Stipend



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:** 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.
- **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@emanuelf.org

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



Adam Mansbach

Reckoning with the Joys and Pain of Life: A Conversation with Adam Mansbach

Thursday, May 6, 7:00 pm, virtual

"David has taken his own life."

These are the words Adam Mansbach heard his father say ten years ago. In his new book, *I Had a Brother Once*, the New York Times bestselling author of *Go the F' to Sleep* reckons with the loss of a brother, exploring what a loved one leaves us with and searching for closure that just doesn't come. Join us for a conversation about death and depression, joy and fun, the comfort of prayer and religious doubt, and how all of the above might be connected.

Registration is required.



Cantor Marsha Attie

Beginning Hebrew with Cantor Marsha Attie

Fridays, May 7 through June 25, 12 noon – 1:00 pm, virtual

Cost: \$36 for members; \$54 for non-members

In this eight-week course, you will learn to read the aleph bet as well as begin to build some basic prayerbook vocabulary. Cantor Attie has a deep love for the Hebrew language and is excited to share her passion for the *mama loshen* (mother tongue) with you.

Students must purchase the book titled *Aleph Isn't Tough: An Introduction to Hebrew for Adults*.

LIFECYCLES

Condolences to Our Members Who Have Suffered Recent Losses

Barry, Jerry, and Lewin on the loss of their mother, **Brigitte “Gitta” Lewin**

Janet Haas on the loss of her daughter, and Jeffery Haas on the passing of his sister, **Deborah Haas-Izenberg**

Terry Platcheck (Kirsten Salmeen) on the loss of his father, and Theodore Platcheck on the passing of his grandfather, **Frank Platchek**

Anne Gyemant Paris (Michael Paris) on the loss of her father, and Elena and Sophie Paris on the passing of their grandfather, **Rob Gyemant**

Maureen Terris (Micheal) on the loss of her mother, and Paul, Charles, and Spencer Terris on the passing of their grandmother, **Adrienne O’Toole**

Harris Ziskroit (Serena) on the loss of his father, and Seraphina, and Luca Ziskroit on the passing of their grandfather, **Saul Ziskroit**

Larry Colvin (Kimberlee) on the loss of his mother, and Jacob Colvin on the passing of his grandmother, Andrew Colvin (Suzanne) on the passing of his aunt, and Matthew (Jessica) and Michael Colvin on the passing of their great-aunt, **Thelma Colvin**

Mazel Tov to Our Members Who Have Experienced Joy

Kelsey and Dr. Jonathan Kaplan on the birth of their son, Emilio Louis “Leo” Kaplan, born on February 4, 2021

Jordi and Dr. Sam Pollock on the birth of their son, Charles “Charlie” Jackson Pollock, born on February 5, 2021

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

Briana Quindazzi and Ellie Bibas on the birth of their son, Jack Bibas, born on February 10, 2021

Jaime-Alexis Fowler and Adam Borelli on the birth of their son, Harper Gabriel Fowler Borelli, born on February 25, 2021

Welcome, New Members!

David Jacobson

Joseph Luck

Shulamit Luck

Leon Rassouli

Luba Rassouli

Rita Rosenbaum

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.

Weekly Minyan

Every Wednesday from 5:00 to 5:15 pm.

We are offering a weekday evening minyan during the week for our community to say kaddish together. Join our sacred ‘zoom room’ to be with each other and create space for memory. For more information, visit emanuelsf.org.



B'NEI MITZVAH

**Samuel Snow**

Bar Mitzvah:

April 10, 2021

Parents:

Scott Snow and
Jill Snow z'l

Torah Portion:

Shmini

**Leila Fraschetti**

Bat Mitzvah:

April 22, 2021

Parents:

Deborah and
Paolo Fraschetti

Torah Portion:

Tazria Metzora

**Charlotte Hughes**

Bat Mitzvah:

April 17, 2021

Parents:

Jessica Kogan and
Cameron Hughes

Torah Portion:

Tazria Metzora

**Sophia Mittelman**

Bat Mitzvah:

April 24, 2021

Parents:

Charito and
David Mittelman

Torah Portion:

Ahare Kedoshim

**Charley Goldstein**

Bat Mitzvah:

April 17, 2021

Parents:

Allison and
Kevin Goldstein

Torah Portion:

Tazria Metzora

**Charles Axelbaum**

Bar Mitzvah:

April 24, 2021

Parents:

Katherine Dowling and
Marc Axelbaum

Torah Portion:

Ahare Kedoshim





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*

Jason Rodich, *Rabbi*

Sarah Joselow Parris, *Rabbi*

Marsha Attie, *Cantor*

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

Roslyn Barak, *Senior Cantor Emerita*

Stephen Pearce, PhD, *Taube Emanu-El Scholar and Senior Rabbi Emeritus*

Rabbi Lawrence Kushner, *Emanu-El Scholar*

David N. Goldman, *Executive Director and General Counsel*

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What are We Talking About When We Talk About Zionism?

Virtual Lunch-and-Learn with Rabbi Jonathan Singer

Wednesdays, April 7 through May 12

12:00 noon – 1:00 pm

Cost: Free and open to the community

Join Rabbi Jonathan for a six part lunch and learn with guests from different perspectives sharing about the beautiful complexity of Zionism, both from historic and contemporary perspectives. Zionism is both celebrated by some as being the miraculous expression of Jewish nationalism and questioned by others as an ideology that has become disconnected from Jewish values. As is our approach at Emanu-El, we want to bring in many voices and so will include Orli Bein from the New Israel Fund, Rabbi Josh Weinberg leader of ARZA — the Reform Movement's Zionist Wing, a board member from IF NOT NOW, a speaker on Orthodox Zionism, and our own John Rothmann, who brings a wealth of historical knowledge and capacity for political analysis.

We will use Gil Troy's updated version of Arthur Hertzbergs' *The Zionist Ideas: Visions for the Jewish Homeland — Then, Now, Tomorrow* as our text.



Rabbi Jonathan Singer

