

# Emanu-El <sup>S</sup><sub>F</sub>

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19 IYYAR - 20 SIVAN 5781



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# SHALOM RAV FROM OUR RABBI

By Richard and Rhoda Goldman Senior Rabbi Jonathan Singer



Richard and Rhoda Goldman  
Senior Rabbi Jonathan Singer

This month we celebrate Shavuot, which commemorates our receiving the Torah at Mount Sinai. Some of our customs for this holiday include holding a Tikkun Leil Shavuot (a night of learning) and reading the Book of Ruth.

The Torah tells us that it was a mixed multitude, a diverse Jewish people, that followed Moses out of Egypt and ultimately into the

promised land. And our tradition illustrates that, from its inception, we were not the “chosen people” without also being those who chose to enter into a covenant. The very first Jews, the matriarchs and patriarchs, chose to connect to the ways of *Adonai*. Those who followed Moses into the wilderness chose to leave the known oppression of Egypt and venture into the unknown, and they became members of the people Israel at Sinai as they chose to accept the Torah. While receiving the Torah, they recited the words: *Na’aseh v’nishmah* — “we will do and we will hear” — thereby binding themselves as a holy community based on a covenant, not on race.

As we read the Book of Ruth, we are reminded that the gates of the Jewish community are always open to those who choose to join us by entering into that same covenant. The story of Ruth tells of a Moabite woman who converted to Judaism with these words spoken to her mother-in-law: “whither thou goest, I will go, thy people will be my people, thy God, my God.” Our tradition teaches that Ruth was the great-grandmother of King David, meaning that the messianic line runs through a Moabite convert!

I mention all of this because I think it is important to understand that Judaism, from its first formation and continuing into the present day, does not reflect a unified genetic or racial perspective. Instead, we the Jewish people are made up of a beautiful diversity that reflects the dynamism of God’s creation. We are of all genders, all colors, standing together as one people united by our values, learning from our history, supported by our rituals and love of learning and community. We are also supported by those who travel with us, who do not choose Judaism, but who do choose Jewish families; for that choice, we are indeed made better and we are grateful for it.

We are hurt when any member of our community (or a person of any community), because of their color, gender identity or sexuality, is discriminated against. An attack on them is an attack on all of us. Over the past few months, the fact that Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans are threatened by a racism that has become more pervasive must alarm all of us. In my conversations with some of our children of color, they have shared with me their fear of going to school or expressed that they’re trying to figure out how to pass and not be bothered.

This is an unacceptable situation and there are some things we can do. We have to keep demanding safety and support for communities of color.

We have to speak out against all forms of hatred. But we ourselves also have to change our self image of who is a Jew. When we gather again in person, do not assume that the Asian person in front of you wasn’t born Jewish. Don’t think that the African-

American congregant is just a guest. Ever since Sinai, we have looked like a mixed group, not just European, and that diversity continues.

We will be working as a congregation to find ways to stand up against this most recent expression of racism. Our Jews of Color (JOC) group, led by board member Paul Pretlow and congregant Kristin Posner, has been organizing along with Rabbi Parris. Also, Rabbi Rodich is working with JOC group leaders as well as Asian members and their families to determine the best ways that Emanu-El can continue to support our community and stand up for Jewish values.

Let us keep working on the ongoing process of celebrating the receiving of Torah together, sharing its blessing and values that ultimately make us the Jewish people.

L’shalom,  
Rabbi Jonathan Singer

“...we the Jewish people are made up of a beautiful diversity that reflects the dynamism of God’s creation.”

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Emanu-El Community,

With your tremendous support and the dedication of our leadership and staff, Congregation Emanu-El continues to face the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic with strength and resilience. We mourn the many lives lost and we reaffirm our commitment to supporting the Bay Area Jewish community as we have since 1850. As we begin to see some glimmers of hope, we want to take this opportunity to update you on the status of our Emanu-El community.

## **A Year of Innovation**

As our city sheltered in place, Emanu-El continued to carry out our mission to serve the needs of our members and the broader community. Some highlights of the past year include:

We convened an advisory committee of experts to help guide our congregational policies. This volunteer committee includes doctors, public health leaders and business leaders. Rabbi Rodich serves as the Rabbinic liaison and has helped me with this article.

While most in-person events paused, Emanu-El never closed during the pandemic. Instead, we immediately shifted our community to online platforms. Worship, youth and adult education, counseling with clergy and so much more all continued online. We've been very busy!

We met the needs of our youngest members by continuing to operate our preschool, primarily outdoors, with a robust set of protocols in place. We recently opened an additional cohort and are currently enrolling students for next fall.

As health regulations permitted, we returned to limited in-person events such as small b'nei mitzvah services in our courtyard, outdoor weddings and funerals, and small group outdoor gatherings among members.

Emanu-El Next, our historic capital campaign, has continued with the tremendous generosity of our community, ensuring a strong future for our congregation.

We supported our public health leaders and resisted the temptation to push the rules. Doing so helped us be safer and made Emanu-El a role model for religious institutions. San Francisco has one of the lowest COVID-19 mortality rates of large cities throughout the world. We are proud of our city and region, despite the great hardship of the past year.

## **Next Steps**

We pray that we are nearing a true turning point and that vaccinations will help us move toward gathering again in our historic synagogue on Lake Street as well as other in-person locales around the Bay Area. As we have done throughout the pandemic, we make decisions based on our values. The safety of our community remains foundational. Moving forward we also consider:

- Inclusiveness
- Flexibility
- Patience
- Optimism
- Embracing Torah

Based on these values, indoor pastoral visits with clergy have resumed when all parties are vaccinated. In addition, we are starting limited indoor lifecycle events at Emanu-El following public health guidelines and will be examining small-scale in-person services over the summer.

## **What about High Holy Days?**

We are very hopeful that, in some way, we will be able to gather for the High Holy Days. We also know that this won't be a viable option for everyone, so we will continue to offer a streaming option regardless of the status of COVID-19. While it's too early to know what will be safe in the fall, our clergy and staff are already meeting regularly to sketch out different scenarios. If we can safely bring our members inside, it will be a top priority to make that possible for every member who wishes to do so.



*David Goldman,  
Executive Director*

*Continued on page 5*



# WORSHIP

## Tikun Le'il Shavuot — A Night of Learning

*In Celebration of the Giving of Torah*

Sunday, May 16th

Join us on Sunday evening, May 16, for a Short Shavuot service followed by a night of learning in honor of Shavuot. There is a custom of staying up as long as possible studying Jewish texts just as our ancestors stood at Sinai and received it.

Our clergy team will be offering the following classes in celebration of the ongoing giving and receiving of Torah.

**To learn more and register, please visit [www.emanuelf.org/shavuot](http://www.emanuelf.org/shavuot). Sign on for more than one!**

**6:30 – 7:00 pm**

**Shavuot Service (led by Rabbi Jason Rodich with Cantor Marsha Attie)**

**7:00 – 7:45 pm**

**The Origins and Hebrew Etymology of Tikun Le'il Shavuot (Cantor Marsha Attie)**

In this session we will explore the origins and the language of Tikun Le'il Shavuot. We will seek to understand the Jewish spiritual calendar at this time of the year as well as having some fun with The Hebrew of the day.

OR

**Torah for our Lives: Three Jewish Strategies for Confronting Chaos and Uncertainty (Rabbi Jason Rodich)**

Rabbi Rodich will explore ways that three Jewish paradigms (rabbinic innovation, faith in God and sacred order) can help us cope with and respond to life's surprises.

**7:45 – 8:30 pm**

**The Challenge of Honoring your Mother and Father (Rabbi Beth Singer)**

You know it is one of the Top 10 Commandments, but why is it sometimes easy and other times a challenge, and occasionally downright impossible to honor your father and mother? We will study some commentaries on this commandment and talk about the joys and oys of our relationship with our parents, whether they are still living or not.

OR

**Standing at Sinai: What Torah Teaches Us About Seeking God's Presence (Rabbi Sarah Joselow Parris)**

In celebration of receiving the Torah, we will explore together what it means to meet God "face to face", and reflect on the ways we can seek divine connection in our hybrid virtual world.

**8:30 – 9:15 pm**

**The Book of Ruth: How Do You Make Caring Happen In An Uncaring World? (Rabbi Ryan Bauer)**

Rabbi Bauer will examine how the Torah enables us to tap into emotion, and how we can tie this into action that benefits the greater good.

OR

**The Music of the Modzitzer Chassidim (Cantor Arik Luck)**

Cantor Luck will guide us through some of the countless beautiful melodies of this small Chassidic sect, known widely for their compositions.

**9:15 – 10:00 pm**

**Radical Women, Radical Text in the Tanach (Rabbi Jonathan Singer)**

Join Rabbi Jonathan for a deep dive into anti-misogyny, and how it makes its way into the biblical tradition.

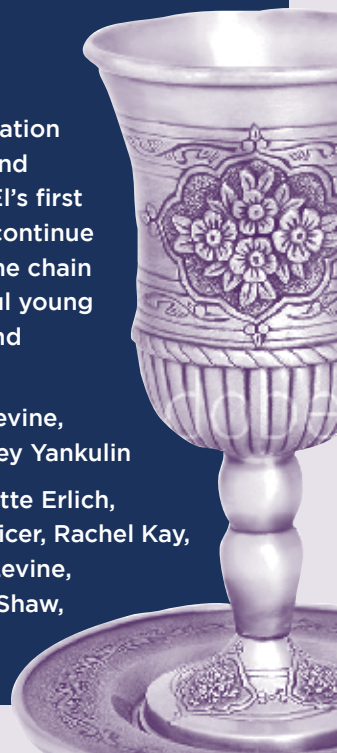
## Confirmation Shabbat

Friday, May 21, 6:00 pm

Join us as we celebrate the Confirmation of our graduating classes of 2020 and 2021. Although this will be Emanu-El's first virtual Confirmation service, it will continue our 168-year legacy of passing on the chain of tradition. The following wonderful young adults will lead us in song, prayer and reflection:

**CLASS OF 2020:** Leah Atkins, Ari Levine, Alexandra Singer, Taylor West, Ashley Yankulin

**CLASS OF 2021:** Ava Becker, Charlotte Erlich, Benjamin Friedman-Hibbs, Shea Galicer, Rachel Kay, Isaiah Koenig, Dylan Krim, Samuel Levine, George Rumsey, Emma Shaw, Julia Shaw, Lucy Ugar, Samuel Yolles



## Support a Hamilton Family with a Welcome Home Kit!

*Partner: Hamilton Families*

Help us welcome home families in Hamilton Families' Rapid ReHousing program by giving them the household necessities and creature comforts that families experiencing homelessness need as they move into their new homes. 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. The approximate value of each kit is \$150 to \$200.

## We are Back with G-House!

**Volunteer for Sunday Dinner Delivery for Youth!**

*Partner: G-House*

We need volunteers for both May and June Sunday dinners, so please sign up and help us continue this important mitzvah. 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.

## Bring Lunches to Jelani House Shelter for New Moms

*Partner: Homeless Prenatal Program at Jelani House*

Jelani House is a transitional housing shelter for new mothers experiencing homelessness. The shelter opened

in February 2020 in San Francisco's Bayview District. The volunteer's responsibility is to drop off lunch on Wednesdays between 11:00 and 11:30 a.m. The food 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 of San Francisco's African-American community to create the SF Black-Jewish (& Allies) Unity Group. Since then, our 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 Rachel Montana, [rmontana@emanuelf.org](mailto:rmontana@emanuelf.org).



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

***For a thank you to our Tzedek Council volunteers, see page 18.***

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*continued from page 3*

### Moving Forward

Safety and government guidelines are changing quickly. We know that nearly anything we say today, will be out of date soon. That's why we've established a page on our website to post updates.

### Gratitude

One truth that the enormous pain of the past year highlights is that we need one another. We need strong and resilient community to celebrate times of joy and to endure times of sorrow. As leaders of Congregation Emanu-El we extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone in our community. Your membership and continued engagement with one another help us thrive in the face of challenges. We are so proud to be stewards of our sacred community in this generation, and we are hopeful about a bright future for our congregation.

This notice is the first in a series of planned correspondence. We will keep you posted as matters progress and you can always check our website for updates. We can't wait to see you again in person.

With gratitude,

David Goldman, Executive Director

# EVENTS

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

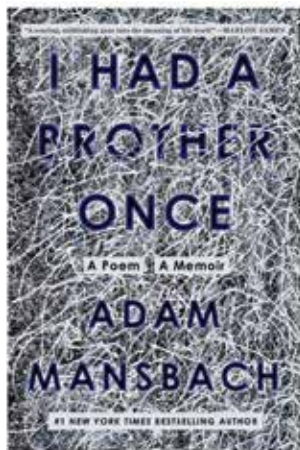
Thursday, May 6, 7:00 – 8:15 pm, virtual

"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 reckons with the loss of a brother, exploring what a loved one leaves us with and searching for closure that just won'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.

This event is free and open to the community.

Adam Mansbach is the author of the #1 New York Times bestseller *Go the Fuck to Sleep* as well as the novels *Rage is Back*, *Angry Black White Boy*, *The End of the Jews* (winner of the California Book Award) and a dozen other books. Most recently, he co-wrote the bestselling *A Field Guide to the Jewish People* with Dave Barry and Alan Zweibel. Mansbach wrote the award-winning screenplay for the Netflix Original "Barry" and his next feature film, "Super High" (starring Andy Samberg, Craig Robinson and Common), is forthcoming from New Line. His work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, the *New York Times* Book Review, *Esquire*, *The Believer* and *The Guardian*, and has been heard on National Public Radio's "This American Life," "The Moth" and "All Things Considered." His memoir in verse, *I Had A Brother Once*, will be published by One World/Random House on April 13.



Adam Mansbach

## Beginning Hebrew with Cantor Marsha Attie

8-week virtual course,  
Friday afternoons from  
12:00 – 1:00 pm

May 7 – June 25

**\$36 for members;  
\$54 for nonmembers**

In this 8-week course you will learn to read the aleph bet as well as begin to build some basic prayer book 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, *Aleph Isn't Tough: An Introduction to Hebrew for Adults*.



Cantor Marsha Attie

## Stitching a New Nation: Fashion, Identity, and Israel's Nation Making

Brought to you by the Congregation Emanu-El Israel Action Committee and the Friends of Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, San Francisco Chapter

Sunday, May 23  
11:00 am – 12:15 pm  
virtual

Like people, countries have "clothes" that represent who they are and what they stand for. Keren Ben Horin will share with us the story of fashion in Israel, with all of the unexpected twists and turns, from its inception in 1948 all the way to the present. From biblical fantasies to cutting-edge technologies, we will experience how a young nation forged its identity, stitch by stitch. Join us for this unforgettable virtual event — free and open to the community — as we explore the key moments and the designers who shaped what it means to be Israeli. There will be a Q&A session following the presentation.

**Keren Ben-Horin** is a fashion historian, curator and author.

**Anat Pilovsky**, the moderator for this event, is Chair of the Bezalel Academy and a member of the Israel Action Committee.





## Emanu-El's 172nd Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 26, 5:00 – 6:00 pm

Join us for our 172nd (Virtual) Annual Meeting to hear our leadership deliver a "state of the congregation," vote on a nominee to our Board of Directors, and reflect on where we've been in the past year and where we want to go in the future.

We are pleased to announce that Leesa Miao Romo has offered to join the Board. In addition, we will seek to re-elect Paula Pretlow, who currently serves as a Vice President on the Executive Committee.

This has been an extraordinary year for our community. We look forward to a moment of reflection and celebration. For more information, visit our calendar at [emanuelf.org/calendar](http://emanuelf.org/calendar)



Leesa Miao Romo

**Leesa Miao Romo** has deep roots at Temple Emanu-El. She's been a member since 1976 and has celebrated many life events at the temple. She attended Sunday School, was confirmed, and had her wedding at Emanu-El. Her husband, Martin Romo, completed his conversion on a Temple trip in Israel under the guidance of Rabbi Jonathan Jaffe.

Leesa's daughters, Alyssa and Abigail celebrated their Bat Mitzvahs at Emanu-El. Leesa earned a B.A in political science from the University of California, Berkeley, and a JD from USF. She has worked as a CPA/Auditor for KPMG and was a corporate tax attorney with Ernst and Young.

While raising her family, Leesa has been very involved with her children's schools and community. Previously, Leesa served on the board of The Thacher School, The Hamlin School and The Jewish Community Center of San Francisco. Currently, Leesa is the CEO of the Romo Family and supports various non-profits, mainly focused on education, underprivileged children, financial aid, and homeless/neglected animals.

## The Book of Life Project

**May 27:** Author Noa Tishby in conversation with the Book of Life Rabbis to explore her new and highly acclaimed book: *Israel: A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country on Earth*

**June 24:** CNN Chief Pandemic Correspondent, Epidemiologist, Technologist, Philanthropist, and Author Dr. Larry Brilliant speaks with the Book of Life Rabbis about the challenges and hopes in the days ahead as the COVID19 vaccines become a reality.

For more information and to register, visit [thebookoflifeproject.org](http://thebookoflifeproject.org).

## Conversation with Rabbi Sydney Mintz and Bari Weiss

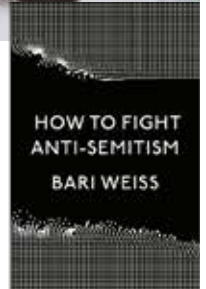
Thursday, June 3, 7:00 – 8:00 pm



Bari Weiss

**Join us for this free virtual event!**

**Bari Weiss** is a journalist and the author of *How to Fight Anti-Semitism*, which won a 2019 National Jewish Book Award and a Natan Notable Book Award. From 2017 to 2020, Bari was an opinion writer and editor at *The New York Times*. Before that, she was an op-ed and book review editor at *The Wall Street Journal* and a senior editor at *Tablet Magazine*.



Bari is this year's winner of the inaugural Per Ahlmark award in recognition of her moral courage. She also won the Reason Foundation's 2018 Bastiat Prize, which honors writing that "best demonstrates the importance of freedom with originality, wit and eloquence." In 2019, Vanity Fair called Weiss the *Times*' "star opinion writer" and *The Jerusalem Post* named Bari the seventh most influential Jew in the world.

This event is provided by the generosity of Jon Holman and Diana Grand.



### A Night of Jewish Stand-Up Comedy

Thursday, June 9  
7:30 – 8:30 pm

Cost: \$8 for members;  
\$10 for non-members

Join us for a night of laughter and levity!  
Open to adults 18+. This event will be emceed by Rabbi Sydney Mintz.

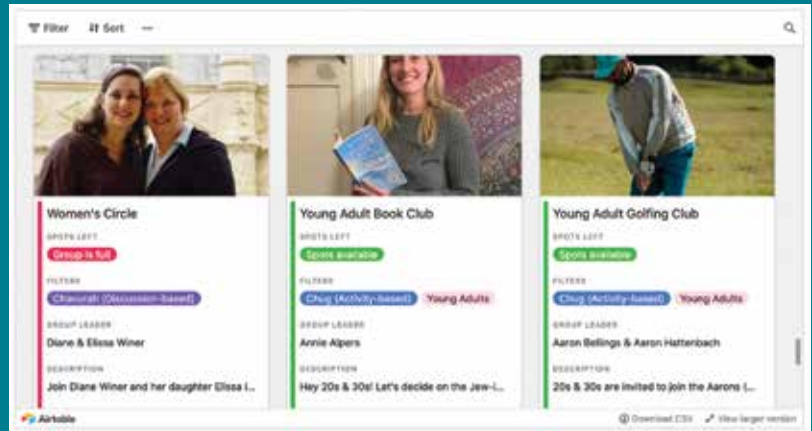
# COMMUNITY

## An Update from Emanu-El B'Bayit Small Groups

**E**manu-El B'Bayit is our synagogue's new small groups initiative. B'Bayit groups enable you to get to know fellow congregants and help make our large congregation feel small. New groups will launch in Fall 2021. Keep an eye out for more information in our July issue or learn more at [emanuelsf.org/bbayit-groups](http://emanuelsf.org/bbayit-groups).

*"The Young-ish and Senior-ish B'Bayit group brings Emanu-El's Young Adult Community together with our senior members to build meaningful relationships. We've all been feeling isolated during the pandemic, and what better way to counteract some of those feelings than creating new bonds across generations? We started meeting in February and have had a wonderful time getting to know each other through regular one-on-one conversations. We even have a zoom "party" for both young-ish and senior-ish members in the works! These relationships have not only helped us feel connected to each other but are a great way to learn from one another. Through listening and engaging we open ourselves up to grow and be inspired... both the young(ish) and senior(ish)!"*

- Jenna Stoltzfus, Leader of Young-ish & Senior-ish B'Bayit Group



B'Bayit group search engine.

### Interfaith Families



8 SUMMER 2021

### New Parents > 35



### Accent on Brooklyn



### New Parents < 35





## Thank you, Young Adult Leadership Committee!

Emanu-El's Young Adult Leadership Committee (fondly known as YALC), which is made up of 12 wonderful volunteers in their 20s & 30s, supports our robust Young Adult Community. Throughout the last year, YALC has continued to create innovative ways to support and connect with our Young Adults. The dedication and heart they've brought to their volunteer work during this challenging year has been an inspiration.

Thank you for all that you do, YALC!



Aaron Bellings



Lila Cantor



Vince Celli



Aaron Hattenbach



Misha Kestler



David Kielsmeier



Gahl Levy



Claire Perelman



Grant Purcell



Sarah Raitzin



Cara Walden



Anna Weinstein

## Dad's Challah Recipe *(Makes 2-3 loaves)*

"After sharing one of my challah creations with our community during a recent Friday night service, Cantor Joseph Portnoy's son, Robert, sent me a photo of his father's beloved recipe. Cantor Portnoy loved to share his challah and especially looked forward to baking special High Holiday versions for all the clergy. Here is our Cantor of blessed memory's recipe — please send me pictures of your Portnoy Challah creations." - Rabbi Ryan Bauer

- 5-6 cups white unbleached flour (*1 cup of gluten flour can substitute for 1 cup of white*)
- 2-3 teaspoons salt
- 3-5 tablespoons sugar or honey
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil or butter-flavored oil
- 3-6 beaten egg yolks
- 2-3 cakes fresh yeast (*dry yeast can be used*)
- ½ cup warm water (*for yeast*)
- 1 ½ cups hot water
- Dash of yellow food coloring or saffron
- Poppy or sesame seeds

*Preparation is based on hints from a master baker, Mr. Joseph Goldshine of Miami Beach, Florida. He maintains that the secret of good challah is to avoid overworking the dough by excessive hand kneading; the less manual manipulation, the better. All measurements are approximate. Add more or less to suit individual taste and texture desired. I use a 3-5 gallon plastic bucket and a large Italian wooden paddle for mixing ingredients and partial kneading. My kitchen temperature is between 75-85° and is free of drafts.*

1. Add yeast and 1 tablespoon of the sugar to ½ cup warm water. Stir until smooth. Set aside.
2. Put hot water into bucket or large mixing bowl. Add salt, sugar, oil, food coloring or saffron. Stir until thoroughly dissolved.
3. Add lightly beaten egg yolks to water mixture. Stir.
4. Add 1 cup flour and yeast mixture to water mixture. Stir vigorously.
5. Continue adding flour while stirring.
6. When mixture becomes thick and stringy, stop adding flour but continue stretching the dough back and forth with ladle (about 5-8 minutes).

7. Turn spongy dough mixture out on a well-floured wooden surface. Add flour and knead lightly until dough has lost its sheen and stickiness (about 3-5 minutes).
8. Shape into a ball. Place in a warm, greased bowl (revolve dough in bowl to oil all surfaces). Cover and let stand in a warm place for about 1 ½ to 2 hours until almost double in size.
9. Punch down risen mixture. Turn out on floured board. Sprinkle more flour to remove stickiness and knead for a moment.
10. For 2 loaves, cut dough into 8 even pieces (4 pieces for each braided challah). For 3 smaller loaves, cut dough into 12 even pieces. If you prefer 3-braided challahs, cut larger pieces — 6 pieces for 2 loaves, or 9 pieces for 3 loaves.
11. For each, cut piece into a ball, cover, and let rise for another half hour.
12. With heel of hands, roll out each ball into a strand about 10-12 inches long. Make a tight braid with four (or three) pieces of dough and pinch or fold ends under each end of the challah.
13. To ensure even browning, place each challah on a separate, lightly greased, flat baking tin. (Tins can be sprayed with Pam or lined with parchment paper.)
14. Cover challahs and let rise in warm places for 1 to 1 ½ hours until almost double in size.
15. Remove cover and paint challahs with beaten egg yolk. Use a soft, moistened 3-inch paint brush for even distribution. Sprinkle with poppy or sesame seeds.
16. Place small pan of water in over that has been preheated to 400°. The water helps retain moisture as dough bakes. Place baking tins in the center of oven. Keep oven door open slightly for 3-5 minutes until egg coating forms a shiny glaze. Close oven door and bake for 20-25 minutes. Then turn baking tins around in oven to ensure even browning; reduce oven temperature to 350° and bake an additional 15-20 minutes, or until a rich brown color.
17. Remove from oven, transfer from baking tin to wire rack for cooling,



# Emanu-El Next: Investing for our Jewish Future

**W**e 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 needs 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: Kirsten Wolberg

**G**rowing up in Alaska, Kirsten Wolberg never thought of herself as religious. But as time went on and she had her own family, she realized she wanted her family and children to be part of a spiritual community. During this process, she rediscovered her own personal connection to Judaism, which changed her life in ways she now shares with her kids.

"I made the decision to become part of Congregation Emanu-El when they were young," Kirsten says, "in kindergarten and 2nd grade. I wanted them to know the synagogue as well as they know their own home — to have a second home, and a part of that sacred space."

She and her two daughters, Annika and Margeaux, have embraced their Jewish identities. They have engaged with Emanu-El in a variety of ways. Margeaux taught in the preschool, was a founding member of the Tzedek Council, and sings at services, and Annika is currently involved in

a teen discussion forum about Israel on campus and plans to be confirmed this year. As Kirsten puts it, "I created my Jewish path at Emanu-El. And I want to role model that for my daughters."

The concept and practice of tzedakah has been a particular focus of the family. They have conversations about the importance of tzedakah, and Kirsten has taught

her kids that whatever money comes in — through work or gifts — they split equally between savings, tzedakah, and personal use.



*Kirsten Wolberg, center, with her daughters Annika and Margeaux*

In addition to tzedakah, the family supports their community in many ways. Both Annika and Margeaux will be counselors at Camp Newman this summer. Margeaux dreams about joining the clergy at Emanu-El one day. And Kirsten, someone for whom service deeply matters, is an involved board member at Jewish Vocational Services and has been on the board of Year Up for 13 years, two organizations that reflect her passion for workforce development.

In this context, it is no surprise that the Emanu-El Next project is also a priority for Kirsten. She recognizes the importance of this effort, believing that "modernizing and evolving with the needs of today will allow Emanu-El to continue playing an important role in keeping families, young adults, and kids engaged in our congregation."

That's especially important to Kirsten because prayer and community became essential during the toughest chapters of her life. Kirsten is proud to give back to the community that has given her and her family so much, noting that "No other community has had such a meaningful impact on our family."

"I created my Jewish path at Emanu-El. And I want to role model that for my daughters."

## Renovating While Restoring the Essence of Emanu-El

Lead architect of Emanu-El Next, Mark Cavagnero takes his task to renovate our synagogue enormously seriously. “Fear has always brought about my best work,” Cavagnero says, “and this is a project that warrants a little fear and a lot of thought.”

What began as a project to ensure Emanu-El’s seismic safety has grown into a transformative endeavor to bring the temple into the 21st century. “Temple Emanu-El is easily one of the most beautiful buildings in the City. It’s flattering to be asked to work on a project of this importance both to the congregation and to the city of San Francisco. Our redesign is grounded on the original architecture, what the congregation needs, and what my gut tells me about the spirit of Emanu-El. I love renovating and repurposing.”

Cavagnero and his team at Mark Cavagnero Associates believe that restoring the entrance on Lake Street is returning to the vision of the founders. Arthur Brown,

Emanu-El’s original architect in the 1920s, modeled the linear, step-by-step ascension to the main sanctuary on the entrance of the Second Temple in Jerusalem.

“As they walk up the procession, congregants let go of the distractions of the busy world, gain the ability to focus, and prepare themselves for soul searching, thought and prayer,” says Cavagnero.

Today, congregants enter the synagogue through Arguello Blvd. “But the 2,000-year-old tradition of the Second Temple that was brought all the way to the West coast was lost when congregants slip into the synagogue sideways from Arguello,” Cavagnero says. “We want to bring that inspirational entrance back.”



Mark Cavagnero

*Continued on next page*



***By restoring the original entrance to Emanu-El on Lake Street, congregants will be able to enjoy the procession to the main sanctuary the way the founders intended.***



*Continued from previous page*

After the redesign, the Lake Street entrance will have everything the Arguello entrance has and more — enhanced security and a welcoming presence to answer questions. The sidewalk will be level to the front door to provide easy access. Congregants will enter the building the way it was intended to be entered.

The main sanctuary itself will remain untouched by the renovations. The redesigned courtyard will function as a grand atrium with soft light filtering through the glass ceiling. People will be drawn to linger and socialize after service. The rooms surrounding the courtyard will be easily adjustable to accommodate events as small as birthday parties or as large as High Holiday services.

Remodeling a historic building poses its own unique challenges, and Cavagnero is careful to make sure

he honors the legacy of past generations while also responding to 21st century problems.

100 years ago people weren't knowledgeable about seismic stability, environmental sustainability, and accessibility to name a few. Emanu-El Next will address modern concerns. The renovation will make the building work for today while honoring the best elements of the original design. Cavagnero assures our congregation that, "it will feel like the 21st century in the spirit and body of a 1920s building."

"Years from now, Temple Emanu-El will show the intent and values held by the people who made this transformation happen," Cavagnero says. "I look to those who came to San Francisco generations before us who made this synagogue so profound. But we also have to ask: how can we make it even better for ourselves and future generations?"



***The new courtyard at Emanu-El will serve as the bustling community center of the congregation, gaining the ability to host a wider variety of large and small events, and instilling the space with soft, beautiful light.***

**If you would like to make a commitment to Emanu-El Next, please contact Julie Weinberg, Director of Development, at [jweinberg@emanuelsf.org](mailto:jweinberg@emanuelsf.org) or (415) 750-7557. Or you can visit the Emanu-El Next website ([next.emanuelsf.org](http://next.emanuelsf.org)) to learn more or make your contribution and help assure the success of this project and our community's future.**



We would like to thank our generous donors for making Emanu-El Next a reality. 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.

The following list contains the names of new donors to Emanu-El Next who contributed between December 14th, 2020 and March 31st, 2021. A full list of all donors can be found on our website: [next.emanuelf.org](http://next.emanuelf.org)

## New Campaign Donors

Anonymous (8)	Alia* & Travis Gorkin, Caryn & Steven Wechsler	Jessica Dines & Ivan Resnikoff
Allison & Ron Abta	Joan & Donald Green	Lorie & Baxter Rice
Anjali Alban, Jake & Lily Gosline	Monica Banchero-Hasson & Bruce Hasson	Anne & Martin Roher
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Lorna Altshuler	Marcy Lynn & David Hersenson	Toby & Sally Rosenblatt
Stephanie & Milton Assang	Lynn Altshuler & Stanley Herzstein	Kelly Jane & Alexander Rosenblatt
Cantor Roslyn Barak	Lorie & Ron Hirson	Amy M. Ross
Lana Nguyen & Scott Barshack	The Hochschild Family	Andrea Rouah
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Meredith Goldsmith	Justin & Maxine Raphael	
Julia Vetromile & David Goldstein		

\* Emanu-El Board of Directors  
 \*\*Former Emanu-El Board of Directors

# TOTAL RAISED: \$81,387,863

With the incredible support of these recent contributors listed above, we have surpassed \$81 million in pledges towards our goal of \$97 million. Thank you all for your generosity to our campaign, your dedication to our congregation and your strong belief in its future!

# DONATIONS

## 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 March 1, 2021 – March 31, 2021.

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

**Lisa & Chris Babel**

*in celebration of Drew Babel's Bar Mitzvah*

**Jeffrey Bornstein & David Bornstein**

*in memory of Oren Bornstein*

**Dale Rogers & Lee-Lan Yip**

*in honor of Cantor Arik Luck*

**Lisa Stern & Rebecca Wolff**

*in honor of Rosalind Wolff's baby naming*

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

**Charles & Lenore Bleadon (2)**

**Stuart & Debra Eisendrath**

*in observance of the Yahrzeit of Mrs. Betty Eisendrath*

**Dina Morell**

*in celebration of Drew Babel's Bar Mitzvah*

**Michele Woolfe-Avramov**

*in honor of Rabbi Beth Singer*

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

**Lisa Stern & Rebecca Wolff**

*in honor of Rosalind Wolff's baby naming*

**Stuart & Anita Tanenberg**

*in observance of the Yahrzeit of Max Oishan*

**Michele Woolfe-Avramov**

*in observance of the Yahrzeit of Louis Liebert*

**Michele Woolfe-Avramov**

*in honor of Julie Mayer*

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

**Caren Alpert (3)**

**Cassie & Ian Cooney**

**Alexander & Sarah Papoff**

*in appreciation of Nika Greenberg*

### **FOR THE ROOSEVELT FOOD PANTRY**

**Leslie Friedman & Jonathan Clark**

*in observance of the Yahrzeit of Samuel M. Friedman*

**Leslie Friedman & Jonathan Clark**

*in honor of Dr. Paul & Dr. Fran Dickman*

**Leslie Friedman & Jonathan Clark**

*in observance of the Yahrzeit of Ida Seidel Friedman*

**Stephanie Scott (2)**

*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.**

**Tristi & Damon Marshall**

*in celebration of Abe Marshall's Bar Mitzvah*

### **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.**

**Lisa & Chris Babel**

*in celebration of Drew Babel's Bar Mitzvah*

**Jeffrey Bornstein & David Bornstein**

*in memory of Oren Bornstein*

**H. Michael Feldman & Christine Glastonbury**

*in celebration of Elinor Feldman's Bat Mitzvah*

**Marsha Felton**

*in observance of the Yahrzeit of Stuart "Buddy" Felton & Mollie Bloom Felton*

**Ron & Barbara Kaufman**

*in memory of John M. Greenberg*

**Ila Lewis**

*in memory of Phillip Greenberg*

**Ila Lewis**

*in memory of Syed Abdul Majid Quadri*

**Ila Lewis**

*in memory of Jesse Levy*

**Jerome Rossen & Sandra Bragar**

**Lisa Stern & Rebecca Wolff**

*in honor of Rosalind Wolff's baby naming*

**Albert Villa**

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

**Stephanie & Milton Assang**

**Karen Lee**

*in celebration of Drew Babel's Bar Mitzvah*

**Bonnie Magid**

*in observance of the Yahrzeits of F. Armand Magid and Jacob Magid*

**Pamela Wellner & Eugene Dickey**

*in observance of the Yahrzeit of Eva Wellner*

**OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS**

**The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation**

*Youth & Family Education Programs*

**Melissa Koenigsberg & William Lee**

*Preschool Educators Stipend*

**John Pritzker Family Fund**

*Young Adult Programming and Impact Fund*

**Alan Warshaw**

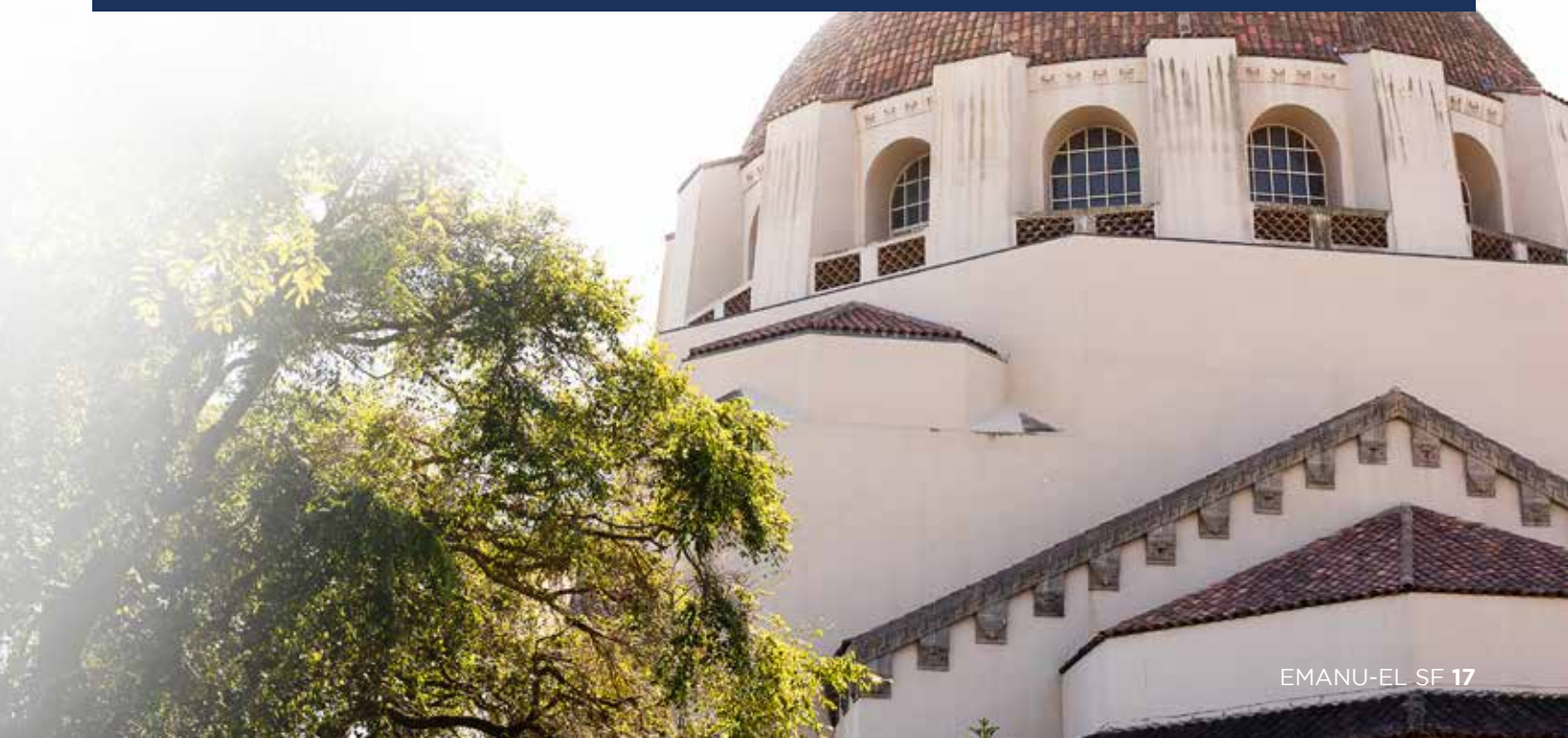
*in honor of the Emanu-El Next Campaign, clergy and Board of Trustees*

## 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](http://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](mailto:development@emanuelsf.org)**





# LIFECYCLES

## Condolences to Our Members Who Have Suffered Recent Losses

Paul Tandler on the loss of his wife; Robert Tandler (Valli Benesch) on the passing of his mother; and Michelle and Jaclyn Tandler on the loss of their grandmother, **Iris Tandler**

Joel Lewenstein (Lora Allan) on the loss of his grandmother, and Gideon Lewenstein on the passing of his great-grandmother, **Marion Lewenstein**

Alyce Brown on the loss of her brother, **Irving Gordon**

Antonio Salazar-Hobson (Katherine Salazar-Poss) on the loss of his brother, and Gilberto and Adela Salazar-Poss on the passing of his uncle, **Armando "Mando" Salazar**

Jennifer Kodner (Mark Goldberg) on the loss of her stepmother, and Sadie Kodner on the passing of her step-grandmother, **Heidi DeArmond**

Dr. Kristen Saleem (Terry Platchek) on the loss of her father, and Theodore Platchek on the passing of his grandfather, **Irving Saleem**

Gunda Trepp on the loss of her aunt, **Inge Bruns**

Evan Krow (Catherine) on the loss of his father, and Nyree and Taryn Krow on the passing of their grandfather, **Paul Allen Morris Krow**

Diana Grand (Jon Holman) on the loss of her brother, **Stephen Grand**

Wendy Kesser on the loss of her father, and Nathaniel and Ariella Yanowitch on the loss of their grandfather, **M. Barron "Barry" Kesser**

Jessica Peralta Ullman (Jordan) on the passing of her father, and Olivia and Gabriel Ullman on the loss of their grandfather, **Omar Nicolas Peralta**

Ellen Rothmann (John), Renee Rothmann (William), Alice Russell-Shapiro (William), and Christine Russell (Mark Schlensinger) on the loss of their cousin, **Peter Lawrence Block**

Marc Axelbaum (Katherine Dowling) on the loss of his grandmother, and Charles, Cameron and Phoebe Axelbaum on the passing of their great-grandmother, **Maurine Axelbaum**

Christina Anzel (Joshua) on the loss of her father, and Dylan and Isabel Anzel on the passing of their grandfather, **Edward Greene**

Our community mourns the loss of **Adele Reich**

## Welcome, New Members!

Marcy Belfer	Shoshana Friedman
Alexandra Diengott	Ava Oram
Saraya Diengott	Frankie Oram
Emily Ducker	Ollie Oram
Jackson Finerman	Mariya Rosenbaum-Cree
Stacey Finerman	Stacey Rubin
Kenan Frager	Reid Sherman
Rachel Frager	Hannah Trumbull

## Welcome Back, Rejoined Members!

Alexandra Halbeck

## Thank you to our Tzedek Council March Volunteers and Donors

### JELANI HOUSE

Kimberly Boigon  
Emily Bold  
Guillemette Brouillat-Spiegel  
Steve Cohen  
Malcom Gissen  
Douglass Kadlecsek  
Brooke Levy  
Howard Lindsay  
Allen Mathis  
Erin Medley  
Jason Mitchell  
Laura Weinstein

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Annette Blum  
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### HAMILTON FAMILIES MOVE-IN KITS

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### HOMELESS PRENATAL PROGRAM TOOLKIT SPONSORS

Adventure Tikkun Olam  
preschool class  
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Avnet Family  
Blatt Family

Spiegel and Brouillat-Spiegel  
Family  
Cohn Family  
Deitz Family  
Grunberg and Dravland  
Family  
Endler Family  
Fogel Family  
French American  
International School  
Feldman and Glastonbury  
Family  
Lynn and Hershenson Family  
Hochschild Family  
Kahaner and Coleman Family  
Kay Family  
Koenigsberg Family  
Krim Family  
Lake Family  
Lipman and Ellis Family  
Lubeck Family  
Obstfeld Family  
Patterson and Graham  
Family  
Portnoy Family  
Rich Family  
Rivo Family  
Rossen and Bragar Family  
Salan Family  
Sampson and Mays-Smith  
Family  
Sanner Family  
Segal Family  
Goren and Shapiro Family  
Miller and Shelton-Miller  
Family  
Sicklick Family  
Smolins Family  
Spier Family  
Strasburg Family  
Taylor Family  
Smollin and Yuan Family

# B'NEI MITZVAH



**Henry Ugar**  
**Bar Mitzvah:** May 1, 2021  
**Parents:** Julie and Mark Ugar  
**Torah Portion:**  
*Nitzavim Vayelech*



**Tobiah Cohen**  
**Bar Mitzvah:** May 1, 2021  
**Parents:** Sylvia Magid and Andrew Cohen  
**Torah Portion:** *Emor*



**Nathaniel Eisler**  
**Bar Mitzvah:** May 1, 2021  
**Parents:** Jessica and Michael Eisler  
**Torah Portion:** *Emor*



**Ari Pearlmutter**  
**Bar Mitzvah:** May 8, 2021  
**Parents:** Lisa Douglass and Steve Pearlmutter  
**Torah Portion:** *Behar Bechukotai*



**Morgan and Adam Sicklick**  
**B'nei Mitzvah:** May 15, 2021  
**Parents:** Jennifer and Jeremy Sicklick  
**Torah Portion:** *Bemidbar*



**Benjamin Dade**  
**Bar Mitzvah:** May 15, 2021  
**Parents:** Victoria and Rick Dade  
**Torah Portion:**  
*Shemoth*



**Kai Smollin**  
**Bar Mitzvah:** May 15, 2021  
**Parents:** Jean Yuan and Craig Smollin  
**Torah Portion:** *Bemidbar*



**Charlie Fridman**  
**Bar Mitzvah:** May 22, 2021  
**Parents:** Biana Shikhman  
**Torah Portion:**  
*Naso*



**Zoe Schauer**  
**Bat Mitzvah:** May 22, 2021  
**Parents:** Janet Wojcicki and Gregor Schauer z"l  
**Torah Portion:** *Naso*



**Jaqueline Thier**  
**Bat Mitzvah:**  
 May 22, 2021  
**Parent:** Holli Thier  
**Torah Portion:** *Naso*



**Ellie Smorgon**  
**Bat Mitzvah:** May 29, 2021  
**Parents:** Jennifer and Tony Smorgon  
**Torah Portion:** *Behaalot'cha*



**Ariella Albukerk**  
**Bat Mitzvah:** June 5, 2021  
**Parents:** Tania and Laurence Albukerk  
**Torah Portion:** *Shelach L'cha*



**Eyla Bauer**  
**Bat Mitzvah:** June 12, 2021  
**Parents:** Alisa Arquilevich and Rabbi Ryan Bauer  
**Torah Portion:** *Korach*



**Emerson Cutler**  
**Bat Mitzvah:** June 19, 2021  
**Parents:** Laura Jernigan and Lawrence Cutler  
**Torah Portion:** *Shelach L'cha*



**Dylan Soofer**  
**B'nei Mitzvah:** June 19, 2021  
**Parents:** Deborah and Guiv Soofer  
**Torah Portion:** *Shelach L'cha*



**Tyler Soofer**  
**B'nei Mitzvah:** June 19, 2021  
**Parents:** Deborah and Guiv Soofer  
**Torah Portion:** *Shelach L'cha*



**Samuel Haims**  
**Bar Mitzvah:** June 19, 2021  
**Parents:** Kendra Haims and Joshua Haims  
**Torah Portion:** *Hukkath*



**Sophia Dumitru-Rose**  
**Bat Mitzvah:** June 26, 2021  
**Parents:** Simona Dumitru-Rose and Jeffrey Rose  
**Torah Portion:** *V'zot Hab'rachah*



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.**

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

Sydney B. Mintz, *Senior Associate Rabbi*

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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, Ph.D., *Taube Emanu-El Scholar and Senior Rabbi Emeritus*

Rabbi Lawrence Kushner, *Emanu-El Scholar*

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## Membership Renewal Time — we can't do it without you!

It's that time of year again! Please remain a part of this wonderful community by renewing your membership, by no later than June 15, in time for our new fiscal year. There's room for everyone under our dome and no one is turned away for financial reasons. It's easy to renew online by following these steps:

- **Visit** [www.emanuelsf.org](http://www.emanuelsf.org)
- **Log in** to your MyEmanu-El account (top right of the home page)
- **Click** on the "Membership Renewal" tab along the top

If you prefer, you may instead mail in your renewal pledge by June 15. Feel free to contact Ariana Estoque at [aestoque@emanuelsf.org](mailto:aestoque@emanuelsf.org) if you need further assistance.

***Be part of the present and future of Congregation Emanu-El!***

### SAVE THE DATE

## Shabbat Service Featuring Cantor Emerita Roslyn Barak

**Friday, July 2, 6:00 pm**

Join us for a special Shabbat with music led by Emanu-El's Cantor Emerita Roslyn Barak. This service will be livestreamed on our Facebook page and at [emanuelsf.org/live](http://emanuelsf.org/live).



*Cantor Emerita  
Roslyn Barak*