

# Emanu-El SF

CHRONICLE NO. 46 | FEBRUARY 2022 | SHEVAT - ADAR I

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# Tauber Spark!

## *Ignite Your Jewish Learning*

**Tuesday evenings via Zoom: March 8, 15, 22 from 7:00 – 8:30 pm**

**\$18 for members, \$36 for non-members**

Allow yourself to dive into our tradition and SPARK your imagination. Take part in this innovative, community-wide Jewish learning experience — a mini university experience. Let your heart be moved by Torah; be open to a transformative and mind-opening journey. This year we are offering three outstanding tracks to explore some major themes in Jewish tradition. Select one pathway for three weeks and enjoy the **Spark!**

*A Tauber Jewish Studies Program*



### **Track 1: The Jewish Family: Past, Present, and Future**

**With Rabbi Dvora Weisberg, Ph.D.**

This session will explore the biblical and rabbinic constructs of family. We will follow the evolution of the family from the tribal and clan-based vision of the Torah to the household or nuclear family described in the Talmud.

### **Track 2: Essential Jewish Philosophers: Hillel, Maimonides, and Spinoza**

**With Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan**

Leo Strauss (d. 1973) provocatively suggested that “modern Judaism is a synthesis between rabbinical Judaism and Spinoza.” We can draw a line back in time from Spinoza to Maimonides to Hillel. Each are located in liminal moments in the lifeline of the developing Jewish people: Hillel and Rabbinic Judaism beyond sovereignty and territoriality, Maimonides systematizing Jewish philosophy and law, and Spinoza’s critique of unearned authority and the pursuit of reason.

### **Track 3: Why it's our obligation to take care of Mother Earth (the Torah says so)**

**With three special educators: Rachel Siegal of Hazon, Dr. Barak Gale, and Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz**

“Take care not to damage and destroy My world, for if you damage it, there is no one to repair it after you.”

-Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:13 As global warming wreaks havoc on our world, we have already been warned about these affects in the Torah. We are the only ones who can clean up our mess and care for the world we have been gifted.

This course will highlight issues of land use, food insecurity, kashrut and more. Explore environmentalism from a Jewish perspective with three wonderful and nuances educators.

**More information, including registration links, will be posted soon at [emanuelsf.org/spark/](https://emanuelsf.org/spark/)!**



**Rabbi Dvora Weisberg, Ph.D.**



**Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan**



**Rachel Siegal**



**Dr. Barak Gale**



**Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz**

# Every Day Is Justice Day

Shalom Rav from Richard and Rhoda Goldman Senior Rabbi Beth Singer

When we were little, our parents observed all the Hallmark Holidays, including Mother's Day and Father's Day. We asked, "When is Children's Day?" They always replied, "Every day is Children's Day."

Last month we celebrated Tu B'Shvat. On that one day, the 15th of the Hebrew month of Shvat, we considered the implications of climate change from a Jewish lens and from a social justice lens. Coincidentally, Tu B'Shvat fell on the same day we honor the legacy of Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. We gathered virtually with our brothers and sisters and we celebrated the power of coming together for racial justice. We celebrated alliances against racial hatred and against antisemitism. This entire month of February is dedicated to a celebration of Black history. March is Women's History Month.

Judaism teaches us what my parents taught me: Every day should be environmental consciousness day. Every day should be Commitment to Stand Up Against Antisemitism Day, and every day should be Racial Justice, LGBTQ+ Rights and Women's Equality Day.

Judaism teaches us to think about and protect all the things that God creates: a natural world of fragile beauty that sustains us, people of all skin colors and faiths, and all the different ways there are to be a human being on this planet. Judaism demands a daily Tzedek consciousness of each of us at home, in our work and in our community. Judaism imbues us with a purpose on earth as God's sacred partners. Our purpose is simply this: to make the world a more just place. *Tzedek! Tzedek! Tirdof.* (Justice! Justice! Every day it is our purpose to pursue it.)

Concerned about rising antisemitism? Get involved with our Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) and other groups that are always on the front lines. Want to stand up against systemic racism? Get involved in our Black and Jewish Unity Coalition. Want to be sure that we continue to create a world that is safe for people of all sexual and gender identities? Support the work of organizations like Keshet. Worried sick about the health of our planet? Find a group like the Jewish Climate Action Network, the Natural Resources Defense Council, or one of many effective environmental organizations.

Support Congregation Emanu-El and visit our website regularly. Emanu-El is a social justice organization every day, not just a few Fridays and Sundays throughout the year. The Emanu-El Tzedek Council webpage is filled with opportunities to be a practitioner of justice every day.



Richard and Rhoda Goldman Senior Rabbi Beth Singer

It's great to plant a tree on Tu B'Shvat. We love connecting with our Black sisters and brothers on MLK weekend. We gather to call out antisemitism when an antisemitic event occurs. But let's remember that we are commanded to wake up each and every day, to thank God for restoring our souls and giving us another day — and then to celebrate each day with action. Judaism challenges us to make every day Tzedek Day.





# Congregation Emanu-El Establishes Endowment to Support Early Childhood Educators

Providing high-quality education programs for our community's youngest members is one of Emanu-El's highest priorities. To ensure the continued excellence of Congregation Emanu-El Preschool (CEEP), Emanu-El must attract and retain highly skilled and dedicated educators. The San Francisco Bay Area is one of the most expensive places to live across the United States, however, and those high costs of living significantly increase turnover rates for preschool teachers. Research in the field of early education clearly demonstrates that children benefit significantly from continuity of care through stable and long-term relationships with teachers, but retention is difficult when the cost of living exceeds educator compensation.

To address this issue, Emanu-El has established an endowment to support early childhood educators - an effort which only became more important in the wake of COVID-19 and decreased stability for Bay Area residents and teachers. In a short time, the program has already proven its worth by decreasing teacher turnover and incentivizing educators to remain at CEEP.



▲ Pre-K & TK Instructional Mentor Brad Wagner

Alejandro Urruzmendi radiates warmth. A teacher at Congregation Emanu-El Preschool (CEEP) for over a decade, he's the kind of person who gets down on the floor with his students and helps them work through their challenges, whether it's navigating the complex dynamics of inclusion during dramatic play or overcoming the occasionally torrential sadness of saying goodbye to a caregiver.

Abiba Bola has dedicated nearly a decade of her career to working with the youngest CEEP students, gently guiding young, barely verbal two-year-olds (and their parents) through their first educational experiences. Raised by a single mother in the Bay Area, Abiba began taking Early Childhood Education classes at San Francisco State when she had her own daughter in 2006. She did it "just to be a better mom," she says. "I love working with kids. I always say the field chose me; I did not choose the field."





▲ Lead Teacher  
Alejandro Urruzmendi

While it's a job they love, it comes with challenges, primarily financial. Several teachers in the school live in rent-controlled apartments in San Francisco, fearing eviction and the resulting need to leave the city because their salaries put them dangerously close to poverty level.

Bola is in a similar predicament. Like many preschool teachers, she struggles to afford the cost of living in the Bay Area, especially with the costs of



raising a family. Commuting across the Bay — most educators can't afford to live in San Francisco — they warily watch the rising price of gas and bridge tolls.

Odds are, this is not the first story you've read about hardships caused by the high cost of living in San Francisco. But because it's about the people responsible for cultivating emotionally safe and supportive learning environments for the children of *our* community during their most formative years, the dissonance is more noticeable. We know well that teachers play a critical role within our community, yet, despite the increase in visibility the pandemic has brought to this field, very little has changed for early educators, who are recognized as essential workers but rarely treated as such.

Nika Greenberg, Senior Director of Early Education at Emanu-El, outlines the extent of the challenge. "We provide teachers with a supportive work environment, full health benefits, access to professional development, a food pantry, and above-average salaries. But the reality of the situation we face in the Bay Area is that the cost to cover basic needs is completely out of proportion with salaries." For years, Emanu-El leadership has been seeking additional ways to support their teachers and shelter them from the regional cost-of-living stress, motivated by the beliefs that early education is the foundation of a vibrant Jewish community.

"These are remarkable, dedicated professionals who have chosen this as their life's work," Greenberg continues. "They deserve to be compensated in a way that doesn't leave them vulnerable to the economic pressures of living in one of the most expensive cities in the world."

Anna Kovinsky and Jennifer Saslaw, parents of current and alumni CEEP students, were horrified to discover that some of their children's teachers were on public assistance, struggling to keep a roof over their heads. The preschool administration had even set up a food pantry stocked with donations from parents and other community members to supply additional food to educators struggling with cost of living. Turns out, this well-deserved outrage was all it took to catalyze *tikkun olam* in our very own community.

Three years ago, they came to Nika determined to create a solution. Together, they found that augmenting

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◀ Lead Mentor Teacher Abiba Bola



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teacher wages with a stipend offered the most immediate impact. Each year since, they've raised enough money to fund an Educator's Stipend that pays \$10,000, above and beyond yearly salaries, to every qualifying preschool teacher in the



▲ Educator Sarah Overton

Early Childhood Education program. Since the fund's inception, it has disbursed over \$300,000 to 17 different educators and increased staff retention by nearly 10%. Having proven the efficacy of the program in such a short time, Congregation Emanu-El now plans to cement it in place through an endowment. "By being self-funding, an endowment can support a stipend in perpetuity while growing over time," Kovinsky explains, "so the amount that teachers receive adjusts to meet the rising cost of living. It's the most logical solution given the institutional constraints to increasing salaries."

As recipients, teachers are relieved by the breathing room that the additional funds provide.



▲ Curriculum Coordinator Frances Wittman-Rosenzweig

"Teachers don't just serve the community," Urruzmendi says. "We are part of it. And all members of this community deserve to live stable lives."

In addition to attracting and retaining high quality educators at Emanu-El, the CEEP Educator Compensation and Retention Endowment envisions a new way for our society to support educators. The voices behind it agree that this endowment isn't just for the teachers and children of the Congregation — it sends a message to the broader community. "We can't wait for this problem to be solved on a societal level," Saslaw says. "But the Jewish community can solve it in our own backyard. And our hope is that what we do at Emanu-El will be



▲ Lead Teacher Dalia Auerhahn

emulated by other preschools across the city and beyond."

"This stipend sets an example," Abiba said. "When I spoke about it at the African

American Early Educator Council, they were amazed. It was an eye-opener for other teachers. San Francisco cares about preschool for all. And here's an example of what one preschool is doing to directly support their teachers. So we need to encourage others to step up by helping teachers and giving kids the care and education they deserve."

To learn more about the **CEEP Educator Compensation and Retention Endowment**, contact Director of Development, Julie Weinberg at [JWeinberg@emanuelsf.org](mailto:JWeinberg@emanuelsf.org).





## Congregation Emanu-El Teens Host Successful Chanukah Havdallah

Teen programs here at Emanu-El have been celebrating a lot of firsts. And as is our tradition, with firsts, we've been saying the *Shehechyanu* as a way to mark the moment in time by thanking God for bringing us right here, right now. An exciting *Shehechyanu* moment for our teen program was hosting its first-ever event, the Chanukah Havdallah with NFTY-CWR (North American Federation of Temple Youth-Central West Region), on December 4. Over 70 high schoolers from around the Bay Area and beyond gathered in the courtyard to light the Chanukiah, schmooze, bond, play Chanukah-themed games, and bid farewell to Shabbat as they welcomed in the new week. We can't wait to see what *Shehechyanu* moments will come our way next.



# Ethiopian Jews: Helping Our Overlooked Brethren

Our Congregation Emanu-El community has raised over \$100,000 to help bring fellow Jews from Gondar, Ethiopia, to Israel. Jordan Hymowitz was able to interview Joseph Feit, an expert on Jewish Ethiopian communities, about the history behind these communities and how we can continue to help them.

Joseph Feit, an attorney, has been chairman of the non-profit Struggle to Save Ethiopian Jewry (SSEJ) for three decades. Mr. Feit has received awards from the Knesset, the Jewish Agency and the Jewish communities of Addis Ababa and Gondar for his work on behalf of the Ethiopian Jewish community.

Jordan Hymowitz is the Chairman of the Israel Action Committee (IAC) at Temple Emanu-El. The IAC mission is to support Israel by bringing in a variety of speakers on political, educational, and cultural topics. If you would like more information on the IAC, please contact Ariana Estoque at [aestoque@emanuelsf.org](mailto:aestoque@emanuelsf.org).

A recording of our October 2021 Ethiopian program with former MK Shlomo Motto is also available at [emanuelsf.org/israel](http://emanuelsf.org/israel).

## **Jordan: Joe, tell us a bit about the Jews remaining in Ethiopia.**

Joseph: There are currently 160,000 Ethiopian Jews in Israel. Approximately 14,000 have been left behind. Having left their homes and villages an average of 15 years ago in the expectation that they would be allowed to immigrate to Israel, they are desperately poor, living in appalling conditions.

## **Jordan: Do they have family in Israel?**

Joseph: Yes. Around 70% have first-degree relatives in Israel. Many families are broken: children separated from parents, brothers separated from sisters.

## **Jordan: Why doesn't Israel allow them to make *Aliyah*?**

Joseph: Israel says that their grandparents or great-grandparents converted under great pressure, either



actually or nominally, to Christianity and they, therefore, do not qualify under the

Law of Return. But these people returned to the practice of traditional Judaism after they left their villages. They observe the Sabbath, keep kosher, pray in synagogues and send their children to Jewish schools.

## **Jordan: Sounds compelling. Anything else?**

Joseph: Yes. They are recognized as Jewish by all major streams of Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform. Even Former Chief Rabbis and leading rabbis of Religious Zionism recognize them as Jewish. And for good measure, over 98% satisfy the rigorous requirements for conversion of Israel's Chief Rabbinate once they are permitted to make *Aliyah*. Tens of thousands have already done so.

## **Jordan: What is their situation?**

Joseph: Awful. In one of the poorest countries in the world they are the poorest of the poor. As a result,



**Photos from the compound in Ethiopia. We have raised over \$100K for their cause to help bring Jewish Ethiopians to Israel.**





60% of their children under five are chronically malnourished, a condition which leads to significant adverse physical, mental and educational deficits which are often irreversible. And the situation has gotten worse.

#### **Jordan: How?**

Joseph: The afflictions currently besetting the Jewish communities are biblical in nature: war, plague (COVID), famine, and locusts. Additionally, the community has been affected by internal unrest in Gondar. Food prices have escalated dramatically. Community members have lost their jobs as poorly paid day laborers because of the economic consequences of COVID and the war. Funds from Israeli relatives have dried up. Community members are being drafted. Eleven people have been shot and

killed recently; some have been kidnapped for ransom.

#### **Jordan: What is the prognosis?**

Joseph: No one can predict the fortunes of war. But if the roads to Gondar and Addis are cut and food supplies become unavailable or if the city is invaded, unlike their neighbors, they have no place to go. Their neighbors can flee to their families in the villages: the families of the Jews are already in Israel.

#### **Jordan: Is anyone helping them?**

Joseph: Not the organized Jewish community. Out of 147 Federations, only two — none in California — have provided any assistance to the Jews. The Joint Distribution Committee, funded by the federations, provides help to non-Jews in Ethiopia, but none to the Jewish community. The Jewish Agency generally provides assistance only to community members who have been approved for Aliyah prior to their flight to Israel, a period of about 45 days.

#### **Jordan: What is the name of your organization and what help do they provide?**

Joseph: Struggle to Save Ethiopian Jewry (SSEJ) is the only American non-profit organization registered with the Ethiopian government to provide help to the Ethiopian Jews. SSEJ runs food programs for malnourished children under five and pregnant women and nursing mothers, medical care to 1200 children under five and 700 elderly, Jewish summer camps, supplementary Jewish education and recently arranged for COVID vaccines for the most vulnerable.

#### **Jordan: How has the response from Congregation Emanu-El been since the program we hosted in November?**

Joseph: Overwhelming. Your members have donated nearly \$150,000 from roughly 30 donors. I can't thank your temple enough.

#### **Jordan: What can people still donate?**

Joseph: They can donate generously to SSEJ so that it can continue its programs. Donations can be made through SSEJ's website, [ssej.org](http://ssej.org), or by check to SSEJ, 459 Columbus Avenue, Suite 316, NYC, NY, 10024. If anyone has ties to senators, Jewish Federations, or other senior politicians they can help raise this issue.

#### **Please stay tuned for upcoming Israel Action Committee Programs in 2022, including:**

US Ambassador to Israel  
Thomas Nides

Israel Absorption Minister  
Pnina Tamaro-Shata

MK Gilad Kariv—the first Reform  
rabbi elected to the Knesset

# COVID Policy Updates: Staying Safe & Informed

Because of an ever-changing COVID landscape, temple policies are constantly evolving. Where can you go to always have the most accurate information?



Congregation Emanu-El continues to strive to maintain an environment that promotes the health and well-being of our congregants, employees, and those who visit our synagogue. As part of this effort, we consistently take into account congregant feedback, the latest evidence about COVID-19, and recommendations from our COVID-19 Advisory Team. We ask that you follow these policies and procedures, which will be updated to reflect the most current best practices. As updated guidance is available, we will be prepared to make appropriate changes, while always prioritizing your safety and upholding our Jewish value of *pikuach nefesh*, to preserve individual and communal health.

For the most up-to-date information, make sure to check the COVID safety page on our website for the temple's current policies and guidelines:

[emanuelsf.org/covid-safety](https://emanuelsf.org/covid-safety)

## Special Conversation with Knesset Member, Rabbi Gilad Kariv

**Sunday, February 6, 9:00 am, via Zoom**

Join Rabbi Gilad Kariv, a member of the 24th Knesset, for a virtual conversation with Congregation Emanu-El. Rabbi Kariv is a member of the 36th Government of Israel and Chair of the Constitution, Law and Justice Committee. Previous to his Knesset term, Rabbi Kariv was the President and CEO of the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism (IMPJ). Rabbi Kariv also previously served as the Associate Director of the Israel Religious Action Center. This event is open to the community. Advanced registration is required. Please visit [emanuelsf.org/calendar](https://emanuelsf.org/calendar) for more information and to register.



Rabbi Gilad Kariv



# Ways to Give

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

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

*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. The following gifts were received from December 1 – December 31, 2021.*

## CANTORS' MUSIC FUND

**Supports the Congregation's music programs and is used for charitable giving at the Cantors' discretion**

Anonymous

Jennifer & Noah Berland

in celebration of Jacob Berland's Bar Mitzvah

Betty Dvorson

Jordan & Sarah Hymowitz

in honor of Cantor Marsha Attie

Mitchell & Sharyl Portugal

Jerome Rossen & Sandra Bragar

in celebration of Natalia's Bat Mitzvah

Betsy Scherzer

in memory of Shoshanna Grace Gombeski

Gilda Schine

in memory of Joseph Ehrman III

## EMANU-EL COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND

**Promotes and supports social action and community service programs**

Ilya Berman & Larisa Lisitsa

in observance of the *Yahrzeit* of Aaron Berman

Judi Leff & Kevin Brown

in honor of Rita Semel's birthday

Susan May

in memory of Jane Graham

### **EMANU-EL LIFE-CYCLE FUND**

**Enables all congregants to celebrate significant milestones, regardless of economic circumstances**

Jennifer & Noah Berland  
in celebration of Jacob Berland's Bar Mitzvah

Beth Thurlow  
in memory of Leon Balshone

### **EMANU-EL PRESCHOOL FUND**

**Provides scholarships and support for our Preschool programs**

Zachary & Ashley Edell

Steven & Elyse Eisenberg  
in honor of Ari & Olivia Eisenberg

Nicholas Goldberg

Joshua & Jenny Herbach

David & Le Klein

Koret Foundation

Shirley Lin

Jerusha & Kole Roybal

Kenneth & Lisa Schmier  
in honor of Kevin & Nelli Perkins

James Kort & Ina Smeets  
in celebration of Dalia Power's birthday

### **FLOWERS FOR THE BIMAH**

Jennifer & Noah Berland  
in celebration of Jacob Berland's Bar Mitzvah

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

Stephanie Scott  
in celebration of Ever Ariyeh Estoque's Birthday

Stephanie Scott  
in memory of William Scott

### **ONEG SHABBAT AND KIDDISH SPONSORSHIP FUND**

**Provides for the weekly Shabbat Oneg, Kiddush, and other congregational receptions**

Steven Polevoi & Kate Kardos-Polevoi and  
Zeeva Kardos  
in memory of Zvi Harry Zaretsky

### **RABBIS' DISCRETIONARY FUND**

**Used for charitable giving at the Rabbis' discretion**

Anonymous

Carly & Daniel Abbott  
in celebration of the birth and naming of  
Sadie and Jordan

Jennifer & Noah Berland  
in celebration of Jacob Berland's Bar Mitzvah

Eric Diamond  
in memory of Maria Diamond

William & Melanie Grossman  
in appreciation of Rabbi Beth Singer

Ralph & Marsha Guggenheim  
in honor of Jennifer & Bob Futernick's  
50th Wedding Anniversary

Sharon Miller  
in honor of Rabbi Ryan Bauer

Kenneth & Deborah Novack  
in memory of Robert L Novack

David Rak & Oren Henry  
in honor of Rabbi Jason Rodich

Ditka Reiner  
in observance of the *Yahrzeit* of George Reiner

Jerome Rossen & Sandra Bragar  
in celebration of Natalia's Bat Mitzvah

Holli Thier  
in celebration of Jaqueline Thier's Bat Mitzvah



**Albert Villa**

**Naftali & Schirley Zisman**

in observance of the *Yahrzeit* of Ida Zisman

## **YOUTH EDUCATION FUND**

**Supports special programming  
and materials for the Youth and  
Family Education Program**

**George Landau**

in observance of the *Yahrzeit* of Henry Landau

## **OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS**

**Ron Blatman & Emerald Yeh**

Israel Action Programming

**Trudy & Joseph Burger**

in celebration of the engagement of  
Michael Burger to Angeline Vuong

**Andrew & Suzy Colvin**

in appreciation of the support and services the  
Congregation has provided during this hard time

**Alison Datz & Joel Kamisher**

in memory of Boris and Betty Kamisher

**Eric Diamond**

in observance of the *Yahrzeit* of  
Milton Stanley Diamond

**Richard & Sylvia Dorfman**

in memory of Benjamin and Edith Dorfman

**Cynthia & Eliot Fried**

in memory of Campbell Ehrlich

**Friend Family**

Preschool Educators Stipend Fund

**Paula Freedman**

in observance of the *Yahrzeits* of  
Aaron & Judith Freedman

**Robert & Jennifer Futernick**

in memory of Rabbi Joseph Asher

**Leonard & Nancy Goldberg**

in celebration of Alexander Goldberg's  
Bar Mitzvah

**Jerome & Dorothy Goldstein**

in honor of Rabbi Stephen Pearce

**Julie & David Levine**

**Doug Levy**

in memory of Joe Whelan

**Estate of Meterparel**

**Robert & Jan Newman**

in memory of Charlene Tuchman

**David & Wendy Price**

in observance of the *Yahrzeit* of William G Price

**Rebecca & Eric Stone**

Preschool Educators Stipend Fund

**Lani Zinn**

in honor of Mandy Losk & Hans Wallage



# 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: Richard and Rebecca Goozh



**Richard and Raphael Goozh**

Congregation Emanu-El is grateful to have Richard and Rebecca Goozh among the many supporters of Emanu-El Next. Richard has served on the Emanu-El Finance Committee for almost seven years and been involved with our congregation for more than twenty years. "It's amazing that we can support our congregation

through the next generation, and even longer," Richard says, "with the biggest change to the infrastructure of the temple since it was built."

Richard grew up on the east coast with a conservative Jewish background. "The services at Emanu-El remind me of my childhood services, but with more music and singing to bring in a more accessible reform and liberal aspect." An entrepreneur working in strategic and financial consulting with biotech and high-tech companies, he feels, "it's important that Emanu-El be financially accessible because our congregation consists of community members from all walks of life." In order to secure a future with a vibrant membership

from diverse backgrounds, Emanu-El Next will make a significant investment in our reserves and endowment.

His wife Rebecca, an artist, joined our congregation through her husband's involvement. Her acceptance into the fold means a lot to her because she was raised Episcopalian. Judaism was always part of her life, since her parents' closest friends were Jewish and she grew up going to seders and bar mitzvahs. "I've felt so comfortable with Emanu-El over the years," Rebecca says. "It's been a home for us." She works on various philanthropic causes, from serving on the board of the Bhutan Foundation, to working with organizations in marine conservation and Native American issues like the American Indian College Fund.

"Even though Emanu-El is such a big community, there are so many at Emanu-El who I feel a great deal of warmth, appreciation and thankfulness toward for the help they've given us over the years," Rebecca says.

Richard and Rebecca met on Match.com. Their first date, a walk on Ocean beach, took place on a weekend between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. "Richard was coming from a Kabbalah event with Wilderness Torah,"



Rebecca remembers, “and I thought that was so interesting! We just kept walking and walking, and finally he said: how about we get together next week for lunch or dinner? And I said to him: why not right now?” It didn’t take long for the two to hold their marriage (on a glacier in Alaska) and start a family of two sons: Raphael and Curtin.

The family of four celebrates Shabbat every Friday night, creating a cadence of ritual that punctuates their lives.

“The boys really like it,” Richard observes. “When we sit down to dinner, everyone quiets down, we do the blessings for the candles, wine and bread, and it forms a transition to the weekend for all of us.”

Over the years, Richard has seen Emanu-El Next come together step by step — architecturally and

financially. “I find the vision of Emanu-El Next to have so much in store for our whole congregation,” Richard says. “And the generosity of the entire community has been inspiring.”

“Our temple is just a brief glimpse into Jewish life,” Richard continues. “which goes back for millennia and more to the First Temple in Jerusalem, and even beyond that to the creation of the religion itself. That’s why it’s profound for us to have a part in that continuum that hopefully will last many more generations to come.”

To the congregation, Richard and Rebecca say: “We’d love to have you over for Shabbat dinner, get to know you and talk about Emanu-El Next further!”



**Please visit our website [next.emanuelsf.org](http://next.emanuelsf.org)  
to learn more about Emanu-El Next and make a gift.  
Or, 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.**

# Emanu-El Next Contributors

**W**e 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 November 18th, 2021, and January 7th, 2022. A full list of all donors can be found on our website: [next.emanuelsf.org](http://next.emanuelsf.org)**

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\* Emanu-El Board of Directors

\*\*Former Emanu-El Board of Directors

**TOTAL RAISED**  
**\$96,638,308**

**Thank you for your generosity to Emanu-El Next, your dedication  
to our congregation and your strong belief in its future!**

**To participate, please contact Julie Weinberg, Director of Development, at: [jweinberg@emanuelf.org](mailto:jweinberg@emanuelf.org)  
or (415) 750-7557. You can also make a contribution online at [www.emanuelf.org/emanu-el-next](http://www.emanuelf.org/emanu-el-next).**



# Thank you Light of Giving sponsors!

Since its inception 170 years ago, our Emanu-El community has scattered its light across the city. These congregants have helped continue this beautiful tradition this holiday season. Because of their generosity during our Fourth Annual Light of Giving, the Tzedek Council was able provide brand new home goods to the 141 residents moving off the streets and into HomeRise's newly-constructed Mission Bay South Block 9 (MB9) permanent housing beginning this spring.

Abta Family  
Allouche Family  
Atkins Family  
Baker Family  
Berman Family  
BloomKing Family  
Blum Family  
Borelli and Fowler Family  
Breitbard Family  
Brown Family  
Bunim Family  
Burger Family  
Cessna Family  
Corvin and Wertheimer Family  
Davidson and Vezina Family  
Denker and Chuzhoy Family  
Dubinsky Family  
Dumitru-Rose and Rose Family  
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Fox Family  
Ginsburg and Jackson Family  
Goldman and Lin Family  
Green Family

Grossman and Sintov Family  
Hilleboe Family  
Hochschild Family  
Jacobson and Taplin Family  
Jacoby Family  
Kadlecek Family  
Kaslofsky Family  
Katz-Curtis Family  
Kissling Family  
Kneeter and Zerin Family  
Koenigsberg and Lee Family  
Krim Family  
Lake Family  
Leigh Family  
Litvak Family  
Lutterkort and Troy Family  
Manshel and Rusitzky Family  
Mayer Family  
Miller Family  
Mitchell Family  
Nisson and Confer Family  
Nystrom and Rice Family  
Obstfeld Family  
Olshansky Family  
Platchek and Salmeen Family  
Reiner family

Rich Family  
Rivo Family  
Rose Family  
Rosenbaum and Silverberg Family  
Rosen Family  
Rothenberg Family  
Rubenstein and Ramonas Family  
Salan Family  
Salven-Blatt Family  
Sanner Family  
Shapiro Family  
Shveyd Family  
Smith Family  
Soofer Family  
Spiegel and Brouillat-Spiegel Family  
Spier Family  
Steinberg and Collentine Family  
Stein Family  
Stolzoff and Alexander Family  
Susser Family  
Swig Family  
Topkis Family  
Wintroub Family  
Yakubovich Family  
Yolles and Einstein Family  
Zwibelman Family  
Zwibelman Family



## Condolences to Our Members Who Have Suffered A Recent Loss

Melanie Maier on the loss of her husband; Diane Maier (Ethan Kaplan) and Michele Fisher (Michael) on the loss of their father; and Gabe and Max Fisher, and Jesse Kaplan-Maier on the loss of their grandfather, **Peter Maier**.

Our community mourns the loss of **Jane Graham**.

Louis Imersheim (Sarah) on the loss of his uncle; Benjamin and Sophie Imersheim on the loss of their great-uncle, **Richard E. Imersheim**.

Our community mourns the loss of **Lawrence Goldberg**.

Paula Pretlow on the loss of her nephew, **Miguel Nicoletti-Brown**.

Ted Storey (Jaimie Sanford), Jill Storey (Richard Fisher) and Meg Storey (Sam Cuddeback) on the passing of their mother; Sara and Talia Storey-Cuddeback, Kate and Rye Storey-Fisher; Ella, Abraham and Nathan Storey, on the passing of their grandmother, **Sylvia Storey**.

Jirina Truneckova on the loss of her spouse; Samuel Novack on the loss of his father; Deborah and Kenneth Novack on the loss of their son, and Gary and Sandra Schnitzer on the loss of their nephew, **Kevin Novack**.

Roger Low and Virginia Lopez on the loss of their daughter; Jesse and Gabriel Lopez Low on the loss of their sister, **Sarah Lopez Low**.

## Mazel Tov to Our Members Who Have Experienced Joy

**Megan Schuller and Nitzan Sherman** on their engagement.

## Welcome New Members

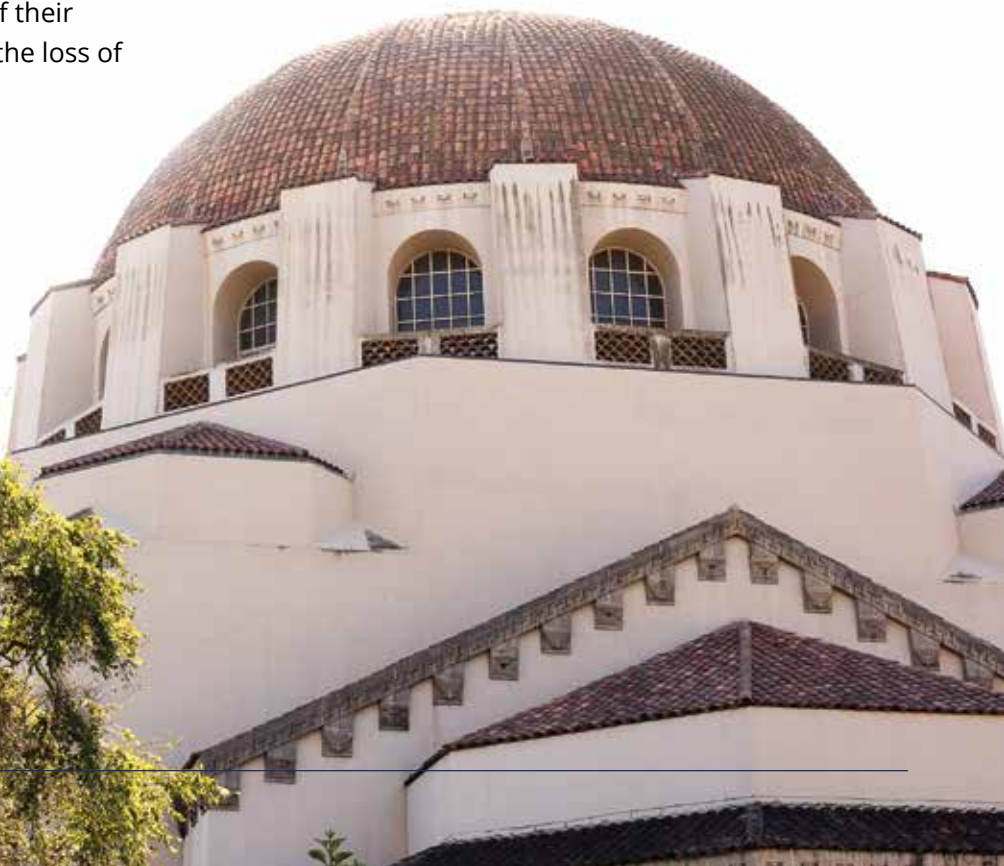
Aaron Malki  
Giovanna Nossiter  
Jason Nossiter  
Samuel Nossiter  
Benjamin Peretz

Cheryl Peretz  
Rafael Peretz  
Remiel Peretz  
Caroline Vieira Barros

## Welcome Back Rejoined Members

Evan Ben-Artzi  
Ezra Ben-Artzi  
Elizabeth Hausman  
Joel Hausman  
Diana Levin  
Gibson Meyer

Lindsay Meyer  
Michael Meyer  
Waverly Meyer  
Amy Shenkan  
Edward Shenkan  
Madeline Shenkan





# B'nei Mitzvah



**Charlie Weinstein**

**Bar Mitzvah:**

February 5, 2022

**Parents:**

Caroline and  
Andrew Weinstein

**Torah Portion:**

*Terumah*



**Mira Saltiel**

**Bat Mitzvah:**

February 12, 2022

**Parents:**

Deborah Hartog and Steven  
Saltiel

**Torah Portion:**

*Tetzaveh*



**Calmon Makunas**

**Bat Mitzvah:**

February 5, 2022

**Parents:**

Jennifer and  
Michael Makunas

**Torah Portion:**

*Terumah*



**Asa Bauer**

**Bar Mitzvah:**

February 19, 2022

**Parents:**

Alisa Arquilevich and  
Rabbi Ryan Bauer

**Torah Portion:**

*Ki Tisa*



**Hazel Richter**

**Bat Mitzvah:**

February 5, 2022

**Parents:**

Rachel Levin and  
Joshua Richter

**Torah Portion:**

*Terumah*



**Ione Cohen**

**Bat Mitzvah:**

February 26, 2022

**Parents:**

Nancy Keizer and Daniel  
Cohen

**Torah Portion:**

*Ekev*



**Congregation Emanu-El**  
Two Lake Street  
San Francisco, CA 94118  
[emanuelsf.org](http://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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# Congregation Emanu-El Preschool Accepting Applications Now!



**Congregation Emanu-El  
Preschool is accepting  
applications for the  
2022-2023 school year!**



*Children must be two years old by August 2022 to be eligible.*

**Apply at [emanuelsf.org/preschool-app](http://emanuelsf.org/preschool-app)**

## Questions?

Contact Liana Miyamura, Director of Preschool Operations,  
at [lmiyamura@emanuelsf.org](mailto:lmiyamura@emanuelsf.org) or call (415) 751-2535.