

Emanu-El SF

CHRONICLE NO. 56 | JANUARY 2023 | TEVET/SHEVAT

MLK Pulpit Exchange Weekend

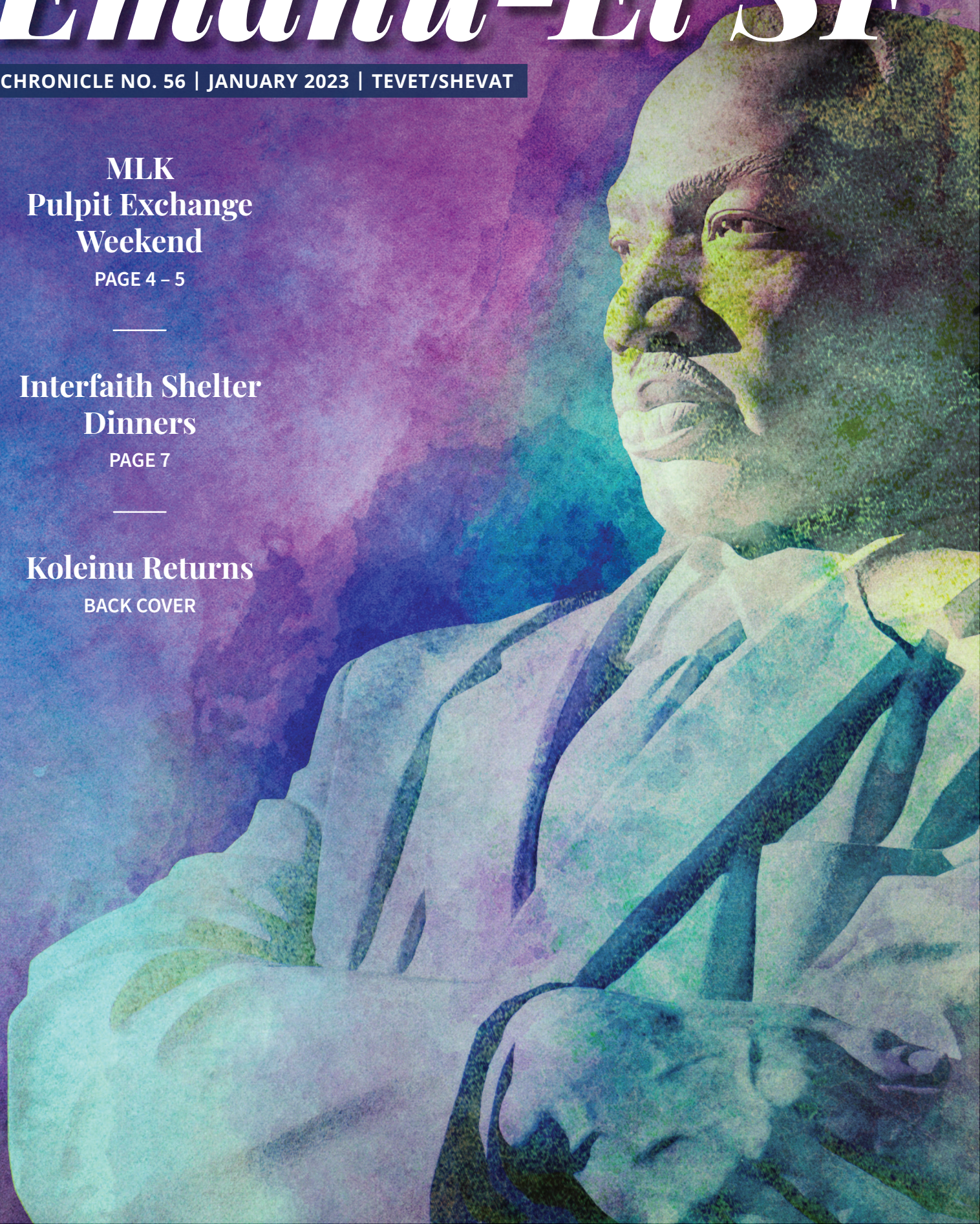
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Interfaith Shelter Dinners

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Koleinu Returns

BACK COVER



Search for Emanu-El's Next Assistant Rabbi

With the bittersweet news of Rabbi Jason Rodich's decision to relocate to Minnesota, we are searching for our next assistant/associate rabbi. As proud members of the Reform movement, we draw the very best candidates from the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), and we follow their thoughtful process in selecting a new rabbi.

Rabbi Beth Singer and Rabbi Ryan Bauer are heading a search process that includes an advisory team to meet finalist candidates. The members of our Advisory Group are: Board President Ellen Fleishhacker, Dr. Jonathan Fuchs, Aaron Mitchell Finegold, Claire Perleman, Paula Pretlow, Robbi Shveyd, and Lisa Sugar.

We hope to update you again soon, as we begin the process this month of Zoom interviews and the scheduling of finalist in person interviews. Our new rabbi will join the clergy team on July 1, 2023.

One thing we hear repeatedly is that Congregation Emanu-El is a very desirable place for a rabbi to serve, and we look forward to bringing you good news in months to come.

Calling All Remaining Lapsed Members

Please continue to be an official part of the Emanu-El Family. Renew your membership before January 15, 2023. Every pledge counts, and we want to count you in.

How To Renew Your Membership:

This year more than ever, please renew online by January 15.

It's easy — just log in to your My Emanu-El account.

Here are some helpful tips for logging in to your My Emanu-El account:

- Can't remember your username? It's often your email address.
- Forgot your username or having issues logging in? Email Irina Leinova at ileinova@emanuelsf.org.
- Remember that passwords are case-sensitive, so ensure your Caps Lock is OFF.
- Additional questions about your membership or renewal? Contact Director of Member Experience, Ariana Estoque at aestoque@emanuelsf.org or (415) 750-7552.

** Note: Our login portal will no longer support Microsoft Internet Explorer 9 and 10. Please consider using another browser.*

Recommitting to Dr. King's Vision

Shalom Rav from Richard and Rhoda Goldman Senior Rabbi Beth Singer

Each year, our Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Pulpit Exchange weekend is second in attendance only to High Holy Days. Friday, January 13th, we hope to once again fill our sanctuary with congregants, guests from Third Baptist Church, and guests (Jewish and non-Jewish) from all around the City to reflect upon, reenergize and recommit ourselves to Dr. King's vision.

This year, our service will focus on the topic of hate and hate crimes against different minority groups including Jews, Blacks, Muslims, AAPI people, Hispanic people, Native Americans, LGBTQAI+ people, people with disabilities, and women. We will name it. We will condemn it. We will commit ourselves to standing up to hate against any minority group.

I hope you will bring yourself and your friends and help us fill up our sanctuary, but not for the purpose of creating a large service, and not for the purpose of coming to a heartfelt service with great music and food, and not for the purpose of hearing Reverend Amos Brown's rousing message (all good motivators).

Come because this year's service will acknowledge the reality of crimes based on hatred of individuals because of their association with a particular race, religion, ancestry, sexual orientation, disability or gender identity.

Come because you are feeling disgusted with the ongoing reports of hate crimes in this country and you want to publicly take a stand against hate.

Come because you have had your own experiences with antisemitism and you want to stand together with others who experience hate for no other reason than that they are part of a minority group.

Come because Jewish people (including Black Jews) and Black people have a historic allyship, and we reject any attempts to pit one against the other.

Services can be many things. They create space for us to take a much needed pause, a deep breath and to express deep gratitude for life, itself. Services create

an opportunity to sit with community and feel less alone. When everything feels like it is falling apart, services remind us of the enduring nature of Jewish tradition, values and hope.

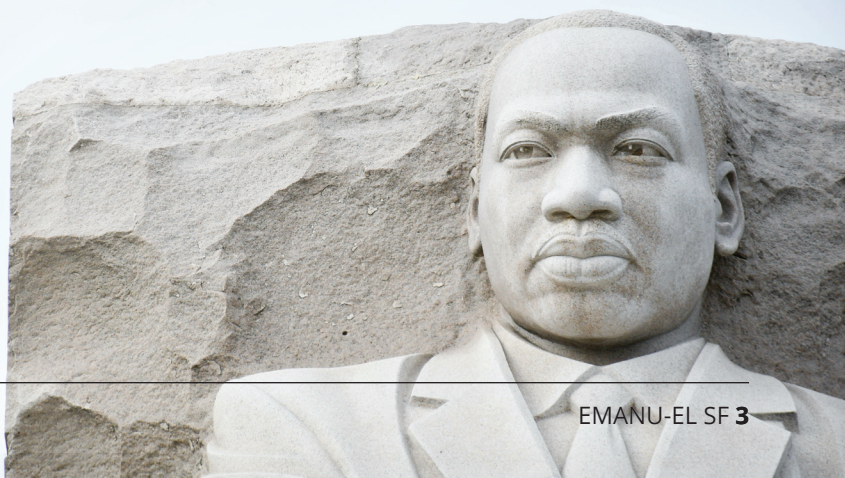
And to all this, our annual MLK Pulpit Exchange service gives us the opportunity to open our doors wide

to welcome in people of all faiths, sexual identities, abilities and disabilities, and ethnicities. Then we go in great numbers on Sunday, January 15th (Dr. King's actual birthday!) to the 10:00 am Third Baptist service where Rabbi Jonathan Singer will deliver the message, Cantor Attie will sing, and our Temple President Ellen Fleishhacker will deliver greetings from Emanu-El. Rather than meet once a year for a feel-good service then go on our own ways, we partner with Reverend Brown all year long to fight antisemitism and racial injustice. Reverend Brown organizes all year long against hate, and so do we. We invite you to find the information online to join the Black and Jewish Unity Coalition that meets the second Thursday of each month.

When you join us Friday night, January 13 at 5:00 pm for dinner and 6:00 pm for services (MLK Late Young Adult Shabbat services at 8:30 pm), you are not just coming to services. You are making a statement against hate. See you in shul.



Richard and Rhoda Goldman
Senior Rabbi Beth Singer





36th Annual MLK Pulpit Exchange Weekend *January 13 - 16*

Friday through Monday, January 13 - 16, 2023, Congregation Emanu-El and Third Baptist Church join together once again for a weekend of worship, sermons, music, and the opportunity to connect.

With all the strife, division, racism and antisemitism of this time, we all need this weekend. So, thank you for working together to create sacred space standing together clearly against hate directed at any and all minority groups.

Friday, January 13, 5:00 - 8:00 pm

Annual MLK Pulpit Exchange Shabbat



Congregation Emanu-El welcomes our friends from Third Baptist Church and the wider community to stand together against hate.

5:00 pm Gather for buffet supper; **6:00 pm** Services with music from Emanu-El and Third Baptist

Sermon: Reverend Amos Brown

Festive dessert gathering following services

Sunday, January 15, 10:00 am

Emanu-El Joins Third Baptist for Sunday Services

Join us at Third Baptist Church for a beautiful, important service followed by a luncheon with our partners at Third Baptist. With those trying to pull all of us apart, this is a chance to show that we are standing together. The music by Cantor Attie alongside the choir of Third Baptist and camaraderie will be beautiful and joyful and Rabbi Jonathan will be giving the message to a crowd that likes to shout out and respond!

Sermon: Rabbi Jonathan Singer

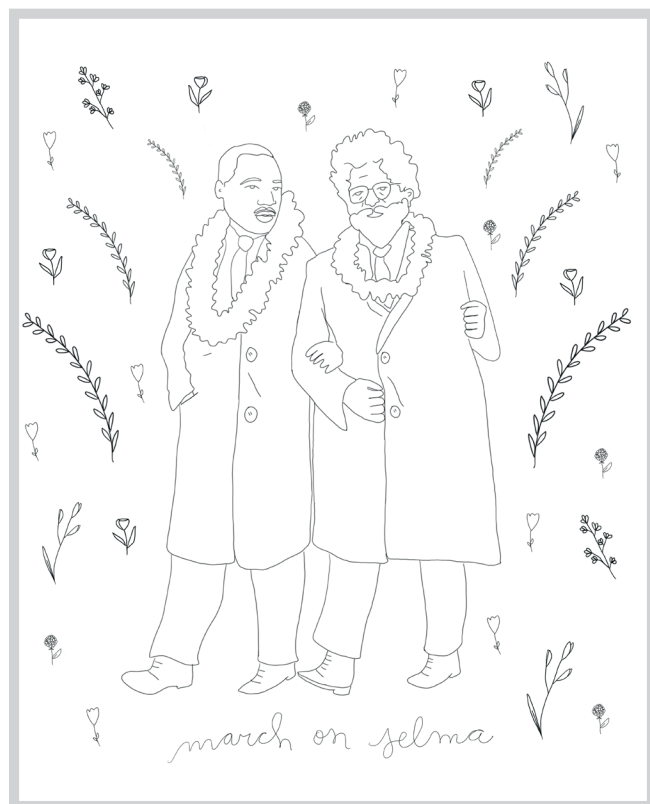
Greetings from Congregation Emanu-El Board President Ellen Fleishhacker

Monday, January 16, 11:00 am

San Francisco Black & Jewish Unity Coalition March

This 1.5-mile march starts at SF's Caltrain Station (4th and King) and crosses over the Lefty O'Doul Bridge near Oracle Park. It then stops in the Willie Mays Plaza to commemorate the Edmunds Pettus Bridge crossing of the famous Selma-to-Montgomery, Alabama march, a symbol of violence and victory during the civil rights era.

After stopping for a few minutes, the march will continue north to the Yerba Buena Gardens.



Additional Events

Friday, January 13, 5:30 – 6:00 pm

New Member Wine and Cheese Reception



Calling all new members to join us for a special wine and cheese reception before this special shabbat service.

5:30 pm in the Reuben Rinder Chapel.

RSVP to Ariana Estoque, aestoque@emanuelsf.org or at (415) 750-7552

Saturday, January 14 and 28, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

In-Person Minyan Services, Saturday morning January 14 and 28

Join us these Saturday mornings at 10:30 am for clergy and lay led Shabbat morning minyan services. Meeting in the Chapel, this is an opportunity to daven, study, read Torah and celebrate Shabbat together in a more intimate setting.

Thursday, January 19, 7:00 pm

Men's Group Poker Night

Join Rabbi Jonathan for a men's group poker night. Snacks. Libations. And a little Torah too! Location to be announced with registration. Please register online at EmanuelSF.org

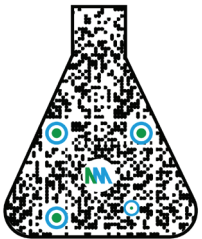


Sunday, January 22, 9:30 – 11:00 am

Is Israel the Next Middle East Energy Powerhouse?

Presented by the Israel Action Committee

"Moses dragged us for 40 years through the desert to bring us to the one place in the Middle East where there was no oil" - Golda Meir.



NewMed Energy — Israel's leading energy partnership in the exploration and sale of natural gas — is changing the narrative.

NewMed Energy's natural gas discovery has altered the course of history and fostered unprecedented agreements with Egypt, Jordan, and the UAE. NewMed Energy has been a critical partner in almost every gas discovery made in the last thirty years.

NewMed Energy holds 45.34% of the Leviathan Reservoir, the largest gas reservoir in the Mediterranean. The Leviathan gas production serves as a critical energy source for the State of Israel and the region's countries. NewMed Energy has helped accelerate the recent maritime border deal with Lebanon and its evolving relations with Turkey and Europe as Israel seeks to supply Europe's natural gas needs considering the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Please join us for a presentation with NewMed Energy CEO Yossi Abu as we explore the potential of Israel as an energy powerhouse and how it's reshaping political and economic ties within the region.

*This event will be held virtually over zoom.

**Registration is required. Please see the Emanu-El website to register.



SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, March 8

The Israel Action Committee is honored to host award-winning journalist and commentator **Bret Stephens** for an in-person presentation at Emanu-El. Look out for more details coming soon.



January 23 – 30

Winter Interfaith Shelter Dinners

For close to 20 years, Emanu-El has participated in the Annual Interfaith Winter Shelter Dinners. This program is run by the San Francisco Interfaith Council to help house and feed our community's homeless population. From November to March, local churches open up their spaces to allow homeless people to eat a warm meal and spend the night out of the cold. Emanu-El signs up for 8 nights of dinners to participate in this much needed program. This year we have taken the week of January 23 – 30, 2023. This opportunity is not only a wonderful mitzvah, but also a great way to build relationships with your fellow congregants. Emanu-El groups hosting a night are the Tribe for Men and Teens to name a few.

We would love to have you join us to help cook, serve, and provide a hearty, healthy and homemade meal for the homeless clients at St. Mark's. If you would like to participate, please contact Ann Jackson, Volunteer Coordinator at ajackson@emanuelf.org.



Thursday, January 26, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Martin Meyer Sanctuary

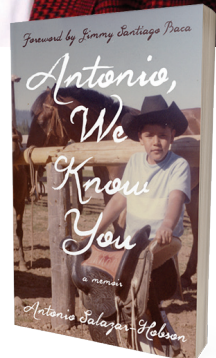
"Antonio, We Know You."

Special Author Interview: Rabbi Sydney Mintz in conversation with congregant, civil rights attorney and author Antonio Salazar-Hobson

Antonio Salazar-Hobson's story is hard to fathom. He was born into a farm-working migrant family in Arizona, the 11th of 14 children. At just 4 years old, he was kidnapped by the Hobsons — the next-door neighbors his family had grown to trust. For years, Salazar-Hobson was sexually abused and trafficked at a guest ranch in central California. To outsiders, he was believed to be the Hobsons' adopted son. Despite his attempts to run away and even take his own life, the abuse continued. "I realized that I only had one way out, only one escape," he said. "If I could just get that education, I wouldn't be here anymore." The Hobsons enrolled Antonio in school, where he quickly flourished. While in high school, Salazar-Hobson had a chance meeting with workers' rights activist Cesar Chavez, which changed his life forever.

Chavez recognized how smart Salazar-Hobson was and encouraged him to become a labor lawyer. Though the Hobsons still tried to ruin his life while in college by attempting to get his scholarships revoked, Salazar-Hobson became one of the most successful labor lawyers in the country — just as Chavez predicted.

Antonio's story is featured in the podcast, "LA Stories Unfiltered" with Emmy Award-winning reporter Giselle Fernandez this month.



‘Open up your hearts and hands and *‘pray with your feet!’*”

— Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

As the world opens up, we open up our hearts and souls and reinforce our congregant-to-congregant connections.

We would love to have you join us as a volunteer for any or all of the following volunteer programs. Please email Ann Jackson Volunteer Coordinator, at ajackson@emanuelsf.org to find out more.

Cooking for Congregants

Prepare healthy and hearty meals for congregants who are ill, grieving or celebrating the birth/arrival of a child.



Care Calls

Reach out to community members during life-cycle moments



Card writing

Write and send greeting cards for birthdays, congratulations and condolences



Shabbat Greeting

Welcome fellow congregants and guests to Shabbat services



January Events Spotlight *at Emanu-El*

New Member Wine & Cheese Reception
January 13 @ 5:30 pm



Annual MLK Pulpit Exchange Shabbat
January 13 @ 5:00 pm



In-Person Minyan Services
January 14 and 28 @ 10:30 am

Emanu-El Joins Third Baptist for Sunday Services
January 15 @ 10:00 am

San Francisco Black & Jewish Unity Coalition March
January 16 @ 11:00 am

**IAC Presents: "Is Israel the Middle East's
Next Energy Powerhouse?"** **January 22**



Shelter Dinners
January 23 - January 30

For more events, visit emanuelsf.org/calendar

Looking Ahead

*Keep an eye out for these upcoming events,
with registrations to come!*

January

MLK
Pulpit Exchange
Weekend

February

Koleinu 2023

March

Purim Party
for Families
Journalist
Bret Stephens

April

Second Night
Passover Seder

Youth & Family Education

Tuesdays at Temple

During our monthly Tuesday sessions, our focus has primarily been on Jewish Identities. We watched clips from the documentary American Jerusalem (2013), a film about the Jews who helped build up San Francisco into what it is today. In groups, they explored one of the founders of the City (for example, Levi Strauss and Adolph Sutro) and we also talked about our own families' paths to San Francisco. American Jerusalem is a beautiful film directed by Marc Shaffer, who is a Bay Area native.

For our December class, we made a Mizrach together to hang up during our Sunday T'fillot at City Hope. A Mizrach (which means "east" in Hebrew) is an art piece to symbolize which direction east is, where Jerusalem is. We discussed why Jews face Jerusalem and focused on our own Jewish identities. We asked ourselves how it feels to be an American Jew in the Bay Area, and what community looks like.

Starting in January, our sessions will look a little different as they will focus completely on our Tzedakah projects. Each student will explore what topics they are passionate about within their community. They will partner with an organization and create a "project" to help that organization. By doing this, we hope the students will become more involved in their community as Jewish adults.

Upcoming Youth Group Events

14

JANUARY

JETV Havdallah Bowling night

20

JANUARY

ETV Paint and Sip

4

FEBRUARY

Tu B'Shevat beach cleanup

5

FEBRUARY

ETV Tu B'Shevat Seder

17-20

FEBRUARYURJ Camp Newman
NFTY West Coast Party
for grades 9-12

ETV (Emanu-El Temple Youth) is
9th-12th graders
JETV (Junior Emanu-El Temple Youth) is
6th-8th graders

Stay up to date with our events and RSVP links by following our instagram! @emanueltempleyouth



Sundays at City Hope

At City Hope, students come together to learn, make Jewish deli-style food, and serve it to residents of the Tenderloin. Led by City Hope Founder and Director Reverend Paul Trudeau, Cantor Arik Luck, and Teen Program Manager Tori Starks, along with parent volunteers, they are not only feeding people but building community. Through this powerful and meaningful experience students have found a new level of understanding of the houseless population in San Francisco. Parents walk away proud of their kids; at City Hope, it is "challenge by choice"- they don't have to do something if it makes them uncomfortable, but it is also encouraged for them to get out of their comfort zone in this safe space. Some students prepare the dishes as the chefs, while others are hosts and servers. They truly are building a community with each other, City Hope, and their clients.

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:** Congregation Emanu-El, 2 Lake Street, San Francisco, CA 94118. Please make it out to Congregation Emanu-El – ATTN: Development.
- **Visit Our Website:** emanuelsf.org/support-us/
- **Appreciated Stock Gifts:** The Congregation accepts all contributions made via stock transfers. You will enjoy an immediate tax deduction for the value of the stock transfer and avoid paying capital gains.
- **Corporate Matching:** Many Bay Area companies will match your gift dollar-for-dollar. Please contact your company's matching gifts coordinator to determine whether your gift to Congregation Emanu-El can be matched.
- **Planned Giving:** Including Congregation Emanu-El in your estate planning is a promise to your children, grandchildren, and future generations that Emanu-El will continue to be a thriving home for worship, study, and community.
- **QR Code:** Scan the code to the right with your phone's camera to access our Development web page.



If you need assistance, please contact the Development Office at 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 October 24, 2022 – November 30, 2022.

CANTORS' MUSIC FUND

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

Lynne Baer

in celebration of Kaleya Kaslofsky's Bat Mitzvah

Marcy Belfer

in appreciation of Cantor Marsha Attie

Ronda & Stanley Breitbard

in appreciation of Cantor Marsha Attie's leadership

Mark & Stephanie Breitbard

in celebration of Boden Breitbard's Bar Mitzvah

Conrad & Sandra Donner

in celebration of Stuart & Myrna Aronoff's 55th wedding anniversary and Stuart's 90th birthday

EMANU-EL COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND

Promotes and supports social action and community service programs.

Charles & Lenore Bleadon

Stuart & Debra Eisendrath

in observance of the *Yahrzeit* of Harriet Kesselman Hansher

Joel & Amy Kassiola

in celebration of Abraham Bruce Lee-Udell's birth

EMANU-EL LIFE-CYCLE FUND

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

Jason Rose & Katherine Mitchell

in observance of the *Yahrzeits* of Barbara Mitchell and Bernice Rose

Melanie Sperling

in observance of the *Yahrzeit* of Frank Sperling

EMANU-EL PRESCHOOL FUND

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

Anonymous

Heather Barondess & Jesse Byler

Simon Barsky & Nirla Jara

Ari Baruth & Clara Hatcher Baruth

Jeffrey & Dana Decker

Judith Hellman

Jason & Rebecca Karsh

Nicholas Pezeshki & Michelle Hu

Terry Platchek & Kirsten Salmeen

Andrew & Jennifer Rosenthal

Kenneth & Lisa Schmier

in honor of Kevin & Nelli Boykoff Perkins

Lauren Wasserman & Barry Fisher

Lauren Weitzman & Bruce Falck

Lisa & Alex Yakubovich

Reem Yusuf & Daniel Zoughbie

in honor of Gerald

FLOWERS FOR THE BIMAH

Lynne Baer

in celebration of Kaleya Kaslofsky's Bat Mitzvah

Michael & Sharon Dans

in celebration of Emma Dan's Bat Mitzvah

Edward Kavalerchik & Danelle James

in celebration of Daniel Kavalerchik's Bar Mitzvah

FOR THE ROOSEVELT FOOD PANTRY

Harry & Marilyn Nebenzahl

in observance of the *Yahrzeit* of Berty Nebenzahl

Harry & Marilyn Nebenzahl

in observance of the *Yahrzeit* of Margaret Miller

Stephanie Scott (2)

in observance of the *Yahrzeit* of William M. Scott

ONEG SHABBAT AND KIDDISH SPONSORSHIP FUND

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

Mark & Stephanie Breitbard

in celebration of Boden Breitbard's Bar Mitzvah

Michael & Sharon Dans

in celebration of Emma Dans's Bat Mitzvah

Edward Kavalerchik & Danelle James

in celebration of Daniel Kavalerchik's Bar Mitzvah

RABBIS' DISCRETIONARY FUND

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

Lynne Baer

in celebration of Kaleya Kaslofsky's Bat Mitzvah

Ronda & Stanley Breitbard

in appreciation of Rabbi Ryan Bauer's leadership

Mark & Stephanie Breitbard

in celebration of Boden Breitbard's Bar Mitzvah

Helene Ferris

in appreciation of Rabbi Beth Singer and
Rabbi Jonathan Singer

The Lisa and Douglas Goldman Fund

in appreciation of Rabbi Sydney Mintz

Marilyn Higuera

in memory of Stephen Dobbs

Scott & Vicki Kahn

in celebration of Stuart & Myrna Aronoff's 55th wedding
anniversary and Stuart's 90th birthday

Sonia Melnikova-Raich & David Raich

in observance of the *Yahrzeits* of Abraham Raich, Adelyn
Raich, Mikhail Melnikov-Eichenvald, Maya Israilevich,
Yerukhim Israilevich and Leah Kholodovskaya

Roslyn Payne

in appreciation of Rabbi Beth Singer

Adrienne Rovens

in observance of the *Yahrzeit* of Florence Farber

Albert Villa

Judy Wolfenstein

in appreciation of Rabbi Sarah Parris, Zachary,
Lia and Brisket

TZEDEK COUNCIL**Lesley Bunim & Michael Jensen****Kayla & David Kissling****Judith Kneeter & Rabbi Edward Zerlin****Robert & Joyce Kurtz****Leslie Tyler****Hilary Zarrow****YOUTH EDUCATION FUND****Supports special programming and materials
for the Youth and Family Education Program****Roberta Cohn**in celebration of Stuart & Myrna Aronoff's 55th wedding
anniversary and Stuart's 90th birthday**Roberta Goldman****Frana Price & Rick Ohlrich**

in appreciation of Rabbi Beth Singer

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS**Marvin & Stephanie Anzel**

in honor of Joshua, Christina, Dylan and Isabel Anzel

Joseph Breall

in memory of Ann Fay Breall

Jon & Brigitte Churninin observance of the *Yahrzeit* of Douglas Churnin**Rissa Coplan**in observance of the *Yahrzeit* of Rita Coplan**Erwin Diller & Molly Forrest**

in memory of Stuart Chesler

Cantor Howard & Gloria Drewin observance of the *Yahrzeit* of Tessie Androwitz**Paula Freedman**in observance of the *Yahrzeits* of
Aaron and Judith Freedman**Susan Friedman & Michelle Jean**in observance of the *Yahrzeit* of
Marvin and Joyce Friedman**Robert & Jennifer Futernick**

in celebration of Lenore Schlactus's birthday

Milton Galant

in honor of Michelle Galant

Elizabeth Goldbaum

in appreciation of the High Holy Days

Susen Grossman

in memory of Martin (Marty) Roher

Craig & Deborah Hoffmanin observance of the *Yahrzeits* of Harland &
Ruth Hoffman**Judith & Daniel Katsin**

in celebration of Rita Semel's 101st birthday

Joyce Lampertin observance of the *Yahrzeit* of Fritz Steinberg**Julie Levine**in observance of the *Yahrzeit* of Al Beckerman**Erin Medlin & Andrew Miklas**in appreciation of Emanu-El clergy for performing
Evan's baby naming ceremony**Frana Price & Rick Ohlrich**

in appreciation of Rabbi Jonathan Singer

Mark Rosen & Belle Lingin observance of the *Yahrzeit* of Lenny Rosen**Rita Rosenbaum & Ivan Silverberg**in appreciation of Congregation Emanu-El for their High
Holiday Days services**Stephanie Scott**in observance of the *Yahrzeit* of William M. Scott**Bruce Spiegelman**in observance of the *Yahrzeit* of Craig Spiegelman**Vera Stein**

in memory of Harold Stien

Beth Thurlow

in memory of Leon Balshone

Barbara Weinberg

in honor of the Elana & Daniel Weinberg family

Loren Woo

in memory of Karen Liberman



Divrei Torah Excerpts From Our 2022 Anshei Mitzvah Students

From this day forward, I will never refer to my life before finding my way back to Judaism and to the people I love.

Baruch HaShem

– **Ted Hiscox**

Finally, this process helped give me the clarity and courage to embark on another unconsummated journey which I'll begin in the fall — that of becoming a therapist. So, I might just become a dream interpreter like Joseph after all... Shabbat Shalom.

– **Jennifer Hochschild**

As I stand here before the Torah today, I realize that my bat mitzvah is more than a culmination of my search for what it means to be Jewish. My bat mitzvah is only a mile stone in a continuing study of Judaism, it's history, culture and practice, which I know will sustain and enrich the remaining years of my life.

– **Judy Nadel**

Completing the Anshei Mitzvah program is a tremendous milestone for me. I feel a deeper connection to myself, my religious identity, and my community. And in the words of my favorite novel: "...I have a new love for that glittering instrument, the human soul. It is a lovely and unique thing in the universe. It is always attacked and never destroyed — because 'Thou mayest.'"

– **Emily Dubinsky**

Joseph's story in this portion links me to powerful forces of transformation, forgiveness and leadership that can be gathered from a strong tradition of guidance and action. I look forward to continuing my study and practice of this ever-mysterious path.

– **Cynthia Scott**

These studies have brought added meaning to my Jewish life. I am learning a lot and feel more grounded in my Jewish history. For me, this belated journey into Judaism has been a joy and I can't wait to find out what's next!

– **Cindy Redburn**

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of a community that promotes open dialogue, deep thinking and reflection as we make connections between ancient text and the challenges of real life in the 21st century. On this bat mitzvah journey, I have barely scratched the surface of Jewish learning and sincerely look forward to the next chapter. In the words of Rabbi Hillel, which always seem relevant to me, "if not now, when?"

– **Adrienne Green**

I'm so fortunate to be able to stand here today in front of my friends and family, my parents, husband and kids, and I can't tell you how much I appreciate having all of you in my life.

– **Clare Raj**

As we do a deep reading of the primary texts, and then bring our own interpretations to these stories, we join in the tradition of the Talmudic scholars who interpreted these texts themselves in past generations. In this way we are in dialogue with our ancestors about the meanings to be found in these stories, and we have permission to disagree about these interpretations. By constantly reconsidering and rethinking the same ancient sacred texts, we can keep our traditions but make them relevant for us in the present.

– **Susanna Benningfield**

I feel very fortunate to have gone through this process at this point in my life, at this synagogue with these teachers, and that it has provided the basis for further study. And while there are so many paths to explore, I can choose those that have the most meaning to me. The timing of my B'nei Mitzvah was truly bashert.

– **Laurie Isenberg**

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 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: Leela de Souza and Peter Bransten

How does the son of a pioneering San Francisco Jewish family meet and marry a woman raised in Chicago by a Jewish mother with Eastern European ancestry, and a Catholic father from India? This remarkable *shidduch* was made by Peter's first cousin, Lisa Bransten, in 2004. Leela and Peter knew soon after their first date that they could build a loving partnership rooted in shared values, common goals, a firm commitment to family, and Temple Emanu-El. They were married at the Temple and it became an important constant in their family life as they raised their daughter Arielle. She attended preschool and Hebrew school at the Temple, and celebrated her Bat Mitzvah in 2019 under the guidance of Rabbi Jonathan Singer.

But let's start at the beginning. In 1850, Joseph Brandenstein, Peter's great-great-grandfather, emigrated to the United States from Germany during the Gold Rush, determined to build a new life and a family amidst the promise of America. Joseph was one of the founders of Temple Emanu-El and served on the Board of Directors. He was the third President of Mt. Zion Hospital and a member of the board of the Pacific Hebrew Orphan Asylum, which eventually became Jewish Family and Children's Services. With his large family — 11 children — Joseph participated in the business, political, and arts communities of San Francisco and was proud of his Jewish heritage. He thrived in the City by the Bay and devoted much of his life to philanthropic causes. Three of Joseph's sons founded the MJB Company, which they built into a major coffee company in the United States.



Leela, Arielle and Peter

Peter's grandfather, Joseph M. Bransten, who served as President and Chairman of MJB, amassed an important collection of rare books about coffee and tea, which he donated to the Bancroft Library at U.C. Berkeley. When he died in 1980, Rabbi Joseph Asher spoke of his limitless pride in his family and his mastery of the "Art of Living." Peter's late father, John, was also Chairman of MJB, a former President of the Board of the Berkeley Art Museum, and a trustee of SFMOMA. He went on to become a passionate collector of contemporary art and developed a deep appreciation for Irish poetry. John's funeral, like his father's, was held in the main sanctuary at Temple Emanu-El. Peter's mother, Rena Bransten, is the founder of one of San Francisco's most prominent art galleries. She was also a founding board member of the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and continues to be a vital figure in the San Francisco arts scene.

Peter grew up within walking distance of the Temple, attended Town School, Lowell High School, and U.C. Berkeley. He is now an attorney at the Los Angeles-based firm Glaser Weil. He inherited his family's passion for the arts, and over the course of his annual trips to India with Leela and Arielle, he developed a keen interest in collecting contemporary Indian art. Reflecting on his childhood in San Francisco, Peter relates that his family identified as Jews but did not practice Jewish rituals and rarely attended services or events at Temple Emanu-El. What did anchor his experience of Jewish life, however, was a community of like-minded people with a shared sense of values, humor, and empathy.

Leela's journey as a Jew was strongly influenced by her maternal grandmother, Augusta Tannenbaum, the principal of a Hebrew school in Chicago. Growing up in a Conservative congregation, Leela went to Hebrew school three times a week and had her first of two Bat Mitzvahs at Anshe Emet Synagogue. While she strongly identified as Jewish, she didn't really feel a deep connection to Judaism. Leela attributes this disconnect to being instructed to read, write, and pray in Hebrew without understanding the meaning of what she was learning. In addition, the clergy in Leela's Chicago synagogue was dominated by men, which prompted her to question the lack of leadership roles for women in Jewish communities.

After retiring from her career as a principal contemporary ballet dancer, Leela attended the University of Chicago and moved to the Bay Area to earn her MBA at Stanford University. Upon graduation, she joined the San Francisco office of McKinsey & Company, as a management consultant, where she met long-time congregant Jennifer Futernick. In 1996, Jennifer invited Leela to join her for High Holy Days. To this day Leela remembers her first service in the main sanctuary: the stunning architecture of the sanctuary, Rabbi Helen Cohn's inspirational sermon on choosing one's unique path in life — professionally and religiously — and Cantor Roslyn Barak's transcendent rendition of *Kol Nidre*. Particularly meaningful was the fact that much of the service was in English. Almost instantly, Leela knew she'd found the Jewish home she'd been looking for, with two women clergy leading more than 500 congregants that night in song and prayer—and also

feeling intellectually challenged by the many questions posed throughout the service. She began attending Shabbat services every Friday evening, became a member of the Temple, joined several committees, and had an adult Bat Mitzvah guided by Cantor Barak. This second time around Leela had the desire to more fully embrace the richness of her Jewish heritage and its traditions. Today her professional journey is guided by the principle of *tikkun olam*. As Chief Development & Marketing Officer for College Track for the past ten years, Leela is dedicated to increasing access to higher education for students from low-income communities.

Falling in love with Peter, whose family is connected to the history of Temple Emanu-El, and being married by Rabbi Cohn and Cantor Barak in Martin Meyer sanctuary gave Leela the opportunity to further anchor her sense of a "home" in San Francisco. After nearly twenty years of marriage, Leela and Peter are deeply appreciative of the kindness and guidance they have received from the Temple's clergy as well as other congregants. And it has been a joy for them to share their relationship to Judaism with Arielle, a sixth-generation San Franciscan, who now attends the Temple's 11th-grade Youth & Family Education program.

From generation-to-generation, Leela and Peter are committed to being part of the movement to ensure that Temple Emanu-El thrives through the 21st-century and beyond. They strongly believe that, long-term, our building must be a place that allows the Temple to grow its membership by being a space that brings Jews, young and old alike, together in new and inspiring ways that reflect the needs of our community. That is why they have pledged to the Emanu-El NEXT campaign. "We believe in the importance of sustaining Jewish life in the Bay Area so that generations to come are proud to be Jewish, actively participate in Jewish life, and abide by the hopeful principle of *tikkun olam*. For that is what Temple Emanu-El will forever foster in its congregation."

Please visit our website, next.emanuelsf.org to learn more. Or, if you would like to make a commitment to Emanu-El NEXT, please contact Julie Weinberg, Senior Director of Philanthropy, at jweinberg@emanuelsf.org or (415) 750-7557.

Condolences to Our Members Who Have Suffered A Recent Loss

Helen Wen (Jason Zaler) on the loss of her brother;
Sydney Zaler on the loss of her uncle, **Frank Wen**.

Betty La Vine on the loss of her husband,
Robert La Vine.

Beth Wolly (Mark) on the loss of her father; Evan and
Jacob Wolly on the loss of their grandfather,
Frederick Robert Geiger.

Mazel Tov to Our Members Who Have Experienced Joy

Rabbi Doug Kahn and Ellen Kahn on the birth of their
grandson, Yonggil Meir Kahn-Song, son of Daniel Kahn
and Euhbin Song. He is the great grandson of Myer
Kahn, past president of Temple Emanu-El, for whom he
has received his middle name.

Achievements

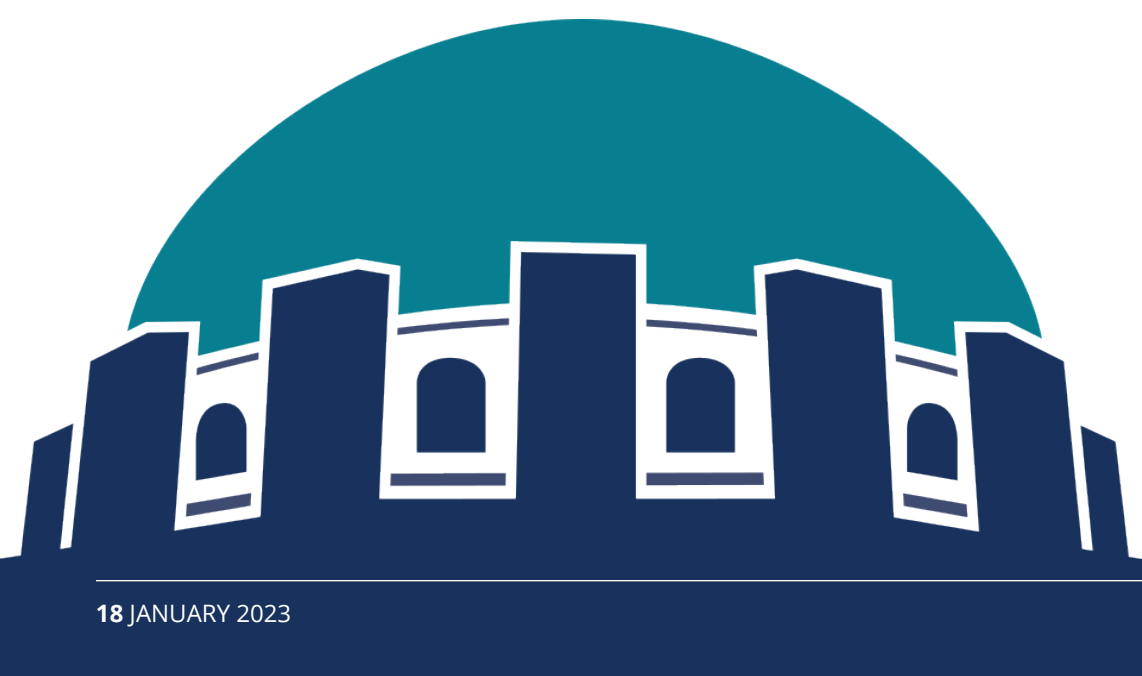
Jeremy Moser, son of David and Barbara Moser;
brother to Joshua Moser was included on the
"Forbes: 30 under 30" list.

Welcome New Members

Cora McHale Ahoobim
Mrs. Erin McHale
Kian McHale Ahoobim
Mr. Oren Ahoobim
Ms. Delaney Arrick
Mr. Zach Arrick
Mr. Bryan Rosenstein
Ms. Alexis Denz
Mr. Richard Lesch
Ms. Susan Victor
Ms. Rita Weikal
Ilana Barsky
Mr. Simon Barsky
Nirla Jara
Ms. Alice Ballard-Rossiter
Leonard Cohn
Roberta Cohn
Ms. Katharine Wheeler-Dubin
Rosemary Bellber

Welcome Back Rejoined Members

Mr. Andrew Mosson
Mrs. Laura Mosson
Spencer Mosson
Theodore Mosson
Edgar Ortenberg
Mr. David Ortenberg
Ms. Monica Pevzner
Mrs. Mary Rose



B'nei Mitzvah



Ever Estoque

Bar Mitzvah:

January 7, 2023

Parents:

Ariana and Marc Estoque

Torah portion:

Vayechi



Julia Rivo

Bat Mitzvah:

January 21, 2023

Parents:

Lily and Michael Rivo

Torah portion:

Vaera



Henry Rivo

Bar Mitzvah:

January 21, 2023

Parents:

Lily and Michael Rivo

Torah portion:

Vaera

Family Journey to Israel

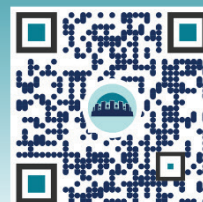
with Congregation Emanu-El

Led by Cantor Arik and Rachel Luck

June 18, 2023 - June 30, 2023



View Itinerary and Register:
bit.ly/emanuelisrael





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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Arik Luck, Ben and A. Jess Shenson Cantor
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and Senior Rabbi Emeritus
Rabbi Lawrence Kushner, Emanu-El Scholar
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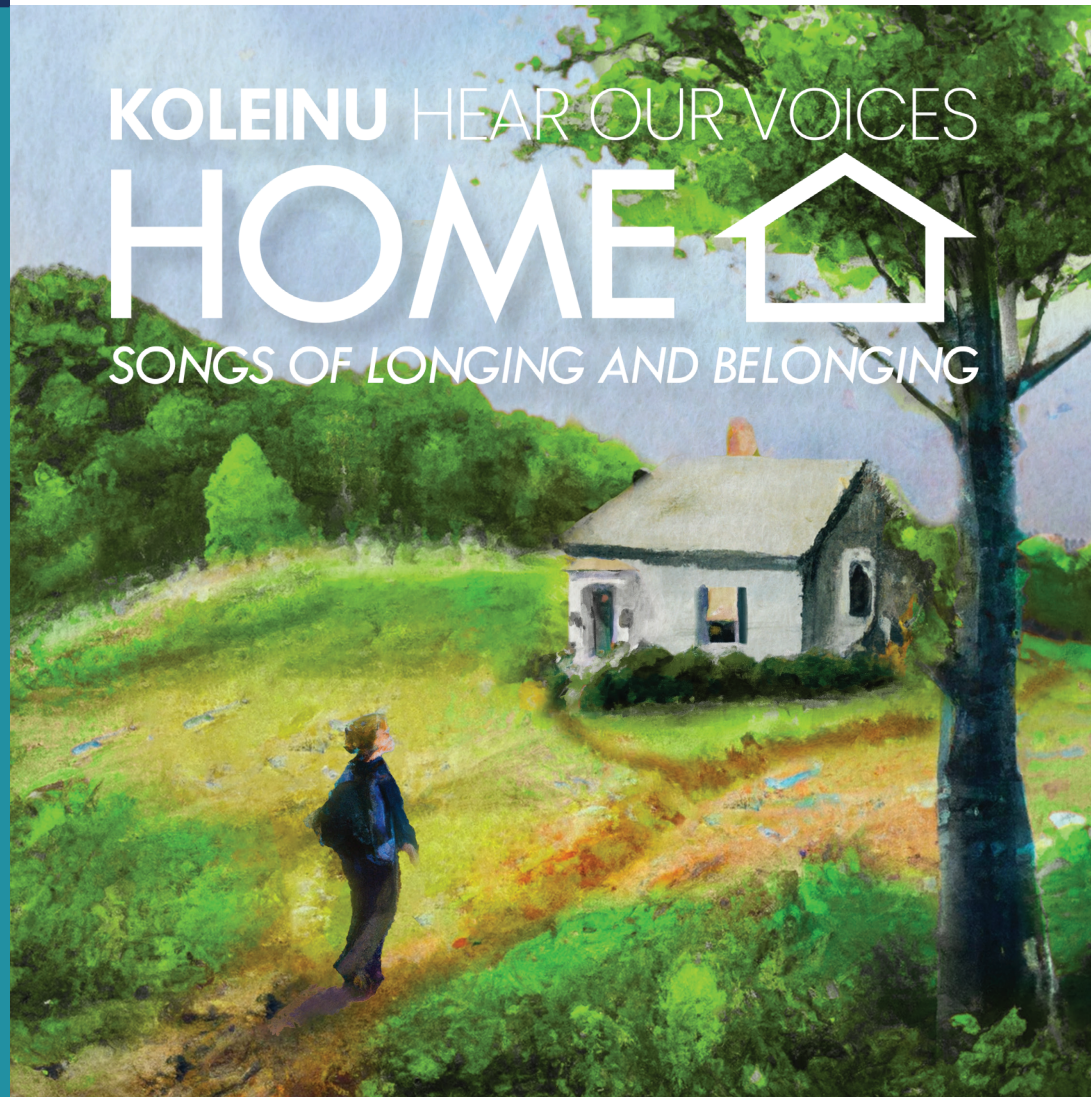
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After a three-year hiatus, we are delighted that Koleinu returns to Congregation Emanu-El!

Koleinu | Hear Our Voices Home: Songs Of Longing And Belonging

Tuesday, February 7, 7:30 pm

Martin Meyer Sanctuary

Register at emanuelsf.org/koleinu2023

