

## Emanu-El Next: Investing for our Jewish Future

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

### Donor Spotlight: Richard and Rebecca 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.



Richard and his son Raphael

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!”



**Emanu-El Next is less than \$2 million away from its \$97 million goal! With a generous 1:1 match from The Koret Foundation, now is the time to contribute and help finish our effort to revitalize our home. You can visit our website, [next.emanuelsf.org](https://next.emanuelsf.org) to learn more 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.**