

Emanu-El SF

CHRONICLE NO. 62 | October 2023 | TISHREI - CHESHVAN

Scholar-in-Residence

Adam Kirsch

Page 3

Sukkot &

Simchat Torah

Page 4

Adult B'nei Mitzvah

Page 6

Chag Sameach!

Simchat Torah 2023

Activating Your Judaism

Shalom Rav from Richard and Rhoda Goldman Senior Rabbi Beth Singer

My parents loved to throw dinner parties for their friends throughout my childhood. My mom would pull out all her Julia Child recipes and make a fancy French meal. My parents would dress up, and then, about 10 minutes before the start time, my dad would ask nervously, "So, Do you think anyone is going to come?" He asked every time, and the guests showed up every time.

I feel like that sometimes in the weeks leading up to the High Holy Days. We worked so intensively to get the Temple ready for our great High Holy Day family reunion. A day or two before, I always wonder, "Will they show up?"

And yes, throughout last month's High Holy Days, you flooded in. You dealt with the temporary inconveniences of the renovation. You filled the seats. You livestreamed in from all around the globe. You came to the Redwoods, the park, and the beach. You sang, you listened, you did your own *teshuvah*, you were part of the Jewish collective praying for a better year of peace, health and joy.

On Rosh HaShanah morning, I encouraged you to consider your own agency in building the Jewish future. Increasingly, throughout the decades of my rabbinate, I came to realize that it was you who perpetuates Judaism by showing up, by joining, by leading, by participating, by doing what you love Jewishly and by trying new Jewish experiences. I realized that as a synagogue member, it wouldn't matter if you have kids or not, or if you come all the time, or not, but that you are perpetuating the Jewish future in so many different ways.

Mid-October ushers in the Jewish month of Cheshvan, and it is a Hebrew month without holidays. A holiday-free month reminds us that there are so many ways to activate your Judaism. Read a Jewish book. Deepen your own knowledge of Jewish history. Visit a Jewish museum. Take an in-person or online class about Judaism. Give tzedakah. Come to Torah Study. Find one new additional way that you

mark Shabbat. Do a deep dive into what is happening in Israel right now. Mark your calendar to meet one or all of our upcoming Emanu-El scholar/speakers: Adam Kirsch on Friday, November 3. Sigal Kanotopsky on Friday, December 1. Rabbi Matt Green on Friday, December 8. Each speaker will deepen your own Jewish knowledge and understanding.

Before long, it will be Chanukah and we will light up the dark nights with added light each night. Temple will host a number of gatherings, and I have no doubt you will show up! This period of time between the end of the chagim and the start of Chanukah presents a wonderful opportunity to think about one part of your own Judaism that you could deepen, and take some time to do just that. Find your way to embrace the Jewish present in a manner that contributes to the Jewish future. Your rabbis, cantors and engagement team are all here to support you on your personal Jewish journey.



Richard and Rhoda Goldman
Senior Rabbi Beth Singer

Charles Michael Scholar-in-Residence Weekend

Adam Kirsch

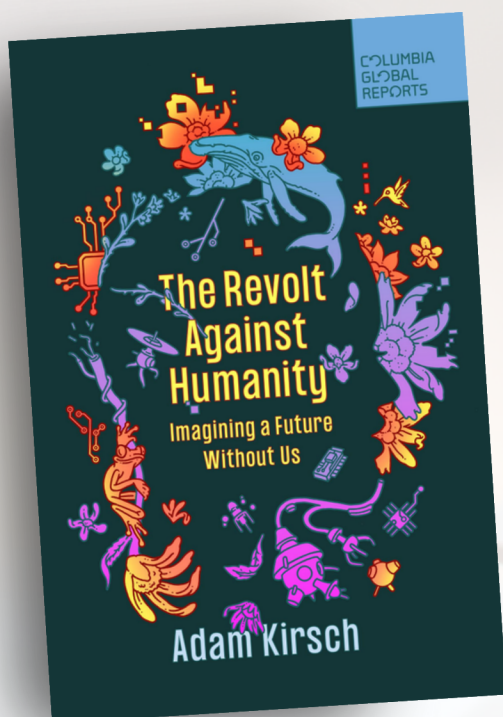
November 3 - 5

We are thrilled to welcome Adam Kirsch, one of the leading writers on Jewish life, and also widely published as a literary critic, poet, and public intellectual. He is a professor at Columbia/Barnard, an editor at the Wall Street Journal, and a regular contributor to the New Yorker, The Atlantic, and The Times Literary Review and Poetry Review, and more!



His latest book is entitled “The Revolt Against Humanity: Imagining a Future Without Us,” and he has also written “The People and the Books, 18 Classics of Jewish Literature,” “Who Wants to Be a Jewish Writer?” and “The Global Novel: Writing the World in the 21st Century,” among others.

This weekend is sure to be moving, uplifting and intellectually engaging.



*It is with special gratitude that we honor the memory of Charles Michael who made this wonderful weekend possible.
Zichrono Livracha*

Friday night, November 3

AI, is it a blessing or a curse?

A Jewish Writer's Perspective

6:00 pm - During Shabbat services

7:00 - 8:30 pm - Shabbat dinner and discussion

Registration required for dinner

Saturday, November 4

Post-Talmud, Post-Roth, Post-Ozick

Is there still such a thing as Jewish literature?

10:15 - 11:15 am

Two Talmud teachers walk into a bar...

Late afternoon - For the Young Adult community

Sunday, November 5

Am I hidden, do I want to hide?

How we are seen and how we see ourselves in popular media

9:30 - 11:00 am

Join Emanu-El for the End of Sukkot

Registration info at emanuelsf.org

Sunday, October 1 - Marin Family Sukkot Gathering

4:00 - 7:00 pm, *The Junction in Tam Junction / Mill Valley*

Join your fellow North-Bay Emanu-El friends for a fun family evening celebrating Sukkot with Rabbi Ryan Bauer and Cantors Arik Luck and Marsha Attie. Order a pizza and join us in the Front Patio of Pizza Hacker for music and games. We will be under the sky, shake the lulav, smell the etrog and enjoy the festival of Sukkot.



Thursday, October 5 - Jewish Trivia and Cocktail Night for Members Ages Mid 30s-50s

7:00 pm, *Emanu-El Sukkah - Main Sanctuary Foyer*

Think you know a lot about the Jewish people? Test your knowledge at Emanu-El's first Jewish Trivia Night for members in their mid/late 30s through 50s. Topics will include Jewish pop culture, Jewish history, religion, Jewish music and more! Cocktails and snacks provided.

Yizkor Service

Friday, October 6

5:30 - 6:00 pm, *Main Sanctuary*

Everyone is welcome to join Rabbi Beth Singer and Cantor Arik Luck for a Yizkor Service to remember our beloveds on Friday, October 6 at 5:30 - 6:00 pm in our Temple Main Sanctuary. Whether you have experienced the death of a loved one this past year or in years past, we will gather together collectively to remember our loved ones.

Emanu-El offices will be closed the day of our Yizkor service, **October 6**

Simchat Torah Parade and Celebration

Torah, Pizza, Marching Band!

Sunday, October 8

11:45 am - 2:00 pm, *Starting at Star of the Sea, parading to Mountain Lake Park and on to the Temple*



That's right - join us for a joyful Simchat Torah with pizza by the park (*Mountain Lake Park, near 8th Ave. and Lake St.*) or begin with our YFE students and families, who will meet at the library across the street from Star of the Sea at **11:45 am**.

We will follow the band up to the pizza gathering spot (*Mountain Lake Park / steps entrance near 8th Ave. and Lake St.*) at **12:15 pm** as we then march down Lake Street, with Torahs leading a marching band, candy to be enjoyed, words from our clergy as we make our way to the Temple foyer at **12:45 pm**.

There we will dance *Hakafot* led by Cantor Attie, consecrate our new students, and unfurl the scroll so we can both conclude our annual Torah cycle and begin again with the story of creation.

What a great way to conclude our High Holy Day cycle. This is a moment not to be missed, but for all ages - for we all can carry the Torah with joy throughout the entire year!

New Member & Legacy Member Shabbat Services

October 27, January 26, and April 26 at 6:00 pm

We invite all new members, as well as members who have been with Emanu-El for 20+ years for three special Shabbat services to honor your participation in this community. The services will feature Emanu-El's rich musical legacy, with new additions as well.

Contact Ariana Estoque at aestoque@emanuelsf.org for more information. Special invitations to come.

League Champs!

A Word from Paul Ginocchio,
Emanu-El's BATS 2023 Season Manager



After the Congregation Emanu-El Dome Giants lost their opening co-ed softball game of the season 24 to 3 to the Lionhearts of Sherith Israel/Brandeis, our team looked like it would be wandering in the desert all summer. As the manager, I had a hard time finding anything good to talk about as we gathered at the end of that initial game. Emanu-El hadn't fielded a softball team in years and we were having typical expansion team issues. Luckily, Andrew Hanes had signed up for

the team and was a baseball manager at USC while in college. Rabbi Bauer, in some form of cosmic kismet, had introduced Andrew to me five years earlier as we both have similar paths to Judaism. When Andrew managed the team the Dome Giants won every time. Not only did we end the season with the best record (8-4), but we beat that same Lionheart's team in the championship game 2-1, coming full circle. We were the first San Francisco synagogue ever to win the trophy.

The Bay Area Torah Softball (BATS) league has been happening for 10 years and was created by both the Rodef Shalom (Rebels) and Kol Shofar (Maccabees) synagogues in Marin. Beth Sholom (Avenues) fields a team so with the addition of The Dome Giants, there were again five teams playing all summer long.

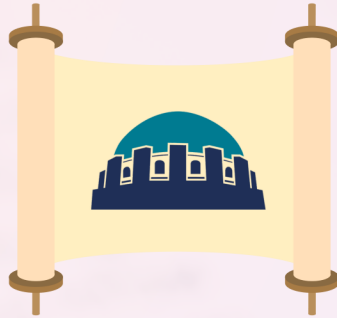
I want to personally thank the championship roster of Congregation Emanu-El members who came out and played for the Dome Giants, sometimes for just one game and a few members for every game: Brian Bank, Brent Daniel, Dylan Fiesel, Jeff Fluhr, Pam Ginocchio, Gray Ginocchio, Andrew Hanes, Scott Kay, Doug Kadlecek, Elliot Kopstein, Ethan Kopstein, Laura Kaminski, Laura Loofbourrow, Ben Portnoy, Mira Rao, Joel Satovsky, Laura Schall, Teddy Schall, Lucas Segal, Ned Segal, Robbi Shveyd, Leo Shveyd, Scott Snow, Ben Spero, David Stinnette, Ben Tulchin, and Sam Zimmerman.

While it was amazing to win and celebrate the BATS championship in August, even better was the team comradery by season end, and that 'teammate' feeling and excitement that adults don't enjoy often enough. But the best part was making a ton of new friends, an unusual gift for an adult. Based on the serendipitous and joyous conversations between teammates at High Holy Day services, I know we are all looking forward to seeing each other next summer and welcoming some new friends.



Tauber Anshei Mitzvah

Adult B'nei Mitzvah Program



When

Tuesday evenings from 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Location

In-person, with Zoom additions

Cost

\$360 (for Emanu-El Members only)



2022 Anshei Mitzvah class

Congregation Emanu-El is thrilled to offer the Tauber Anshei Mitzvah, our adult B'nei Mitzvah training program. The next cohort will convene in the Fall of 2023. This is an 18-month program that will meet almost weekly during the academic year, **starting on October 24**. This course will culminate with a meaningful group B'nei Mitzvah service. Content will include practical Torah/Haftarah chanting skills, as well as continued academic study and enrichment with our cantors and rabbis.

The 2023 – 2025 cohort will have classes two to three times a month on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 – 8:30 pm with additional online/zoom opportunities as well. Classes will be held at Star of the Sea (350 9th Avenue, 94118).

Students are encouraged to know the Alef-Bet before entering the class, although we will take students through the basics. Cantor Attie will help you learn as you go. We can also recommend fantastic Hebrew tutors should you wish to speed up the process.

Please contact Ariana Estoque, at **415-750-7550** or at aestoque@emanuelsf.org if you have any questions.

Discover the Talmud with Rabbi Noah Westreich

Monthly sessions

Tuesday evenings, 7:00 – 8:30 pm at Star of the Sea (350 9th Avenue)

The Talmud is the record of narrative and legal change in Jewish tradition and is a whole lot of fun to study—if you know how. This discovery class provides an encounter with the text that will shift your perspective and reveal mysteries about the Talmud. Classes will consist of an introductory lecture, word-by-word translation of a Talmudic passage in its original language, a small group discussion, and a large group discussion.



Join us in November and on the following dates moving forward:

November 28, December 12, January 16, February 13, March 19, April 16

Each class stands alone—you can register for one or more sessions. No prior experience with Hebrew or Talmud is necessary, though the ability to sound out the alef-bet is suggested.

Torah Study Update

New Time

Our Clergy Torah study is switching on **October 14 to 10:15 - 11:15 am** to allow participants who join in person to then attend the Shabbat Morning service at 11:30. It will still be hybrid and all are welcome, including those who have never studied Torah before.

And don't forget that you can also choose to attend Rabbi Kushner's Shabbat Torah Hevra that meets on Zoom, Saturdays from 10:00 - 11:00 am. This is an opportunity to study with one of the leading Jewish teachers and thinkers of our day as he focuses on the *Sefat Emet*: The Torah Commentary of Rabbi Yehudah Leib Alter of Ger.

Jewish Journalism: New Realities

Forward Editor-in-Chief, Jodi Rudoren
in conversation with Rabbi Jonathan Singer
Thursday, October 12 at 7:30 pm
Main Sanctuary Foyer

With antisemitism spiraling, protests filling the streets in Israel and shifts in Jewish communal life, Jodi Rudoren, Editor-in-Chief of the *Forward*, will join Rabbi Jonathan Singer for a candid, wide-ranging in-person conversation about the issues, challenges and responsibilities Jewish journalists face today.



Exposing, documenting and understanding antisemitism is the *Forward's* top journalistic priority. Rudoren, a former *New York Times* Jerusalem bureau chief, is building on the *Forward's* 126-year legacy to create a 21st century digital news source that tells the stories of today's American Jews in all their complexity. Driving conversations on critical issues that divide us, the *Forward* is helping to deepen our understanding of what it means to be Jewish in the modern world.



Save the Date! Friday, December 1

Special Shabbat Guest Speaker, Sigal Kanotopsky

Jewish Agency for Israel



Sigal Kanotopsky joined the Jewish Agency for Israel in 2021 as the Northeast Regional Director. Based in Philadelphia, Sigal is responsible for cultivating partnerships and relationships between the Jewish Agency and local organizations and philanthropies. Sigal is the first Ethiopian Israeli to hold a regional Jewish Agency position.

In 2022, Sigal was featured as one of the Jerusalem Posts' 50 Most Influential Jews. Sigal is a member of International Women's Federation (IWF) and the Center for Ethiopian Jewry Heritage.



Partnering with Kehilat Kodesh V'Chol

Congregation Emanu-El is excited to announce a partnership with the Israeli Reform Synagogue, Kodesh V'Chol, a member of the Israel Movement for Reform & Progressive Judaism (IMPJ). The partnership, endorsed by our board, is chaired by Alan Warshaw under the auspices of our Israel Action Committee.

Kehilat Kodesh V'Chol in Holon, led by synagogue founder and dynamic Rabbi Galit Cohen Kedem, is located on the southern edge of Tel Aviv, easily accessible from the center of Tel Aviv by train, bus, and ride-sharing ("Gett" in Israel). It is a synagogue in a middle-class/working-class area, made up of younger families, primarily born in Israel, who seek Jewish connection and have found a gateway in a nascent Reform synagogue that currently meets in a community center.

This partnership aims to develop mutual long-term relationships between members of both communities. We have so much to share with the growing non-Orthodox movement in Israel, and they are a window for us into everyday Israeli life and concerns.

This is not just an Israel Action Committee "project" - It is a synagogue opportunity! Initial activities will include visiting Kodesh V'Chol on the next congregational visits to Israel, some Zoom meetings and videos so both groups can get to know each other, and individuals visiting Israel are invited to meet with Kodesh V'Chol. We will use opportunities to connect on holidays, special events, and more.



There is no financial obligation to IMPJ or the IMPJ synagogue for Congregation Emanu-El. IMPJ encourages voluntary donations from Emanu-El and congregants.

There are currently 54 Reform synagogues in Israel (double in the past ten years) that are diverse in geography, membership size, age, politics, and other characteristics. As Israel goes through a time of challenge, this is an extraordinary opportunity for us to support a Jewish community that wants to embrace Torah from a Reform perspective, that works to protect Israeli democracy, and that wants to promote Zionism and pursue peace.

For anyone who is interested in getting involved or want more information, please email Alexa Asher at aasher@emanuelsf.org. What a great way to get involved!



Ukraine Resettlement Initiative

Welcome Circle

The Welcome Circle, eleven congregants brought together by our co-chairs Lisa Krim and Josh Cohen, are unwavering in their commitment to the Ukraine Resettlement Initiative. Each month in our Chronicle, we will feature a few members of our Welcome Circle. All have built connections with the Taranov/a family, comprised of Kolya, Natasha, Nelli (13) and Nikol (9), through frequent video calls and are diligently preparing for their arrival in their specific area of expertise. Their dedication to the Ukraine Resettlement Initiative exemplifies the power of individual commitment in shaping a future of empathy, resilience, and hope. Our three features this month have personal journeys, rooted in Ukraine, Romania, and South Africa, woven with threads of family history, which has led them to dedicate their time to helping others start anew.



Ron Hirson

**“It's not just our responsibility;
it's a source of meaning and joy in life.”**



*Ron with his wife Lorie and sons
Noah and Ari*

Born in South Africa, Ron Hirson's family made a profound decision to immigrate to the United States when he was just 7 years old. Their anti-apartheid stance and determination to provide a better environment for their children propelled them across continents. It's a journey marked by resilience and determination, reminiscent of the experiences of his great-grandparents, who escaped Eastern Europe to South Africa to evade pogroms. In both generations, the challenges of starting life anew were immense, encompassing cultural adjustments, financial hurdles, logistical complexities, employment struggles, and the heartache of leaving behind friends and family. Ron's personal history underscores his deep commitment to helping those who must begin again, especially those forced to leave their homelands due to atrocities like war, echoing the experiences of his ancestors who fled Prussia and Lithuania.

Ron's commitment to the Ukraine Resettlement Initiative is further fueled by the poignant stories from his family's history. He vividly recalls his great-great-grandfather's escape from Poland in the back of a hay cart, narrowly avoiding soldiers wielding pitchforks and poking into the hay. Upon their arrival in South Africa, they faced the daunting challenge of surviving on a single loaf of bread for a week after losing the wages they had. These stories serve as enduring reminders of the resilience and fortitude that characterize the refugee experience.

Within the program, Ron takes on the crucial role of employment. He derives immense satisfaction from helping individuals find work, having personally experienced the emotional toll of job searching. His commitment to placing anyone who seeks his assistance has resulted in 17 successful job placements, exemplifying the profound impact that one person's dedication can have on the lives of others.

The Ukraine Resettlement Initiative aligns seamlessly with Ron's values and beliefs. It echoes the universal story of migration and the challenges of leaving one's homeland to start anew. The Passover story, which resonates deeply in Jewish tradition, reminds Ron of the importance of treating others with empathy and understanding, as "we were slaves in Egypt" and have faced similar challenges. This sense of responsibility and empathy drives him to offer assistance, no matter how small, to those in need.

Ron shares: "There is always room for help, whether it's your time, a donation, or expertise. It's not just our responsibility; it's a source of meaning and joy in life. So, get out there and help."

Looking ahead, Ron's hopes for the program and the families it serves are deeply rooted in the desire for them to live full and meaningful lives. He dreams of a future where peace arrives, allowing these families to choose between making a new home or returning to their homeland—a future where their journeys are defined by hope and choice rather than necessity and hardship. Ron Hirson's dedication to this cause is a shining testament to the boundless impact of compassion and the resilience of the human spirit.

Simona Dumitru-Rose

“We are no longer just bystanders; we are active participants in helping refugees.”

Born in Bucharest, Romania, Simona Dumitru-Rose's life took a profound turn in 1991 when her family arrived in the San Francisco Bay Area as refugees, following the Romanian Revolution. Their journey was a mixture of optimism and heartache, marked by the challenges and uncertainties that come with starting anew. It was the kindness of others that helped them navigate this tumultuous path, and it's this very kindness that drives Simona to extend her hand to Ukrainian families embarking on a similar journey today.

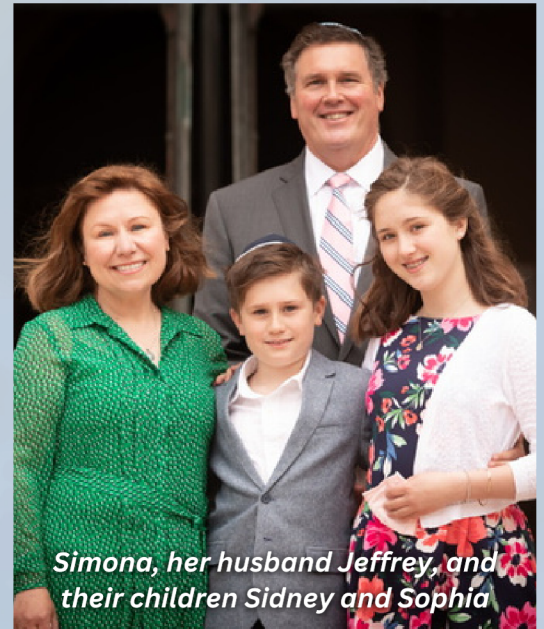
Immigration stories often shape the lives of individuals and families, and for Simona, the memories of her teenage years stand as a motivating force. The fear and anxiety of being surrounded by the unfamiliar still resonate deeply. Adapting to a new language, embracing unfamiliar customs, and adjusting to different foods and manners were formidable hurdles. Through it all, Simona's family and their small apartment provided a sanctuary amidst the chaos.

With time, patience, and unwavering resilience, Simona found her footing and built a new life. Today, she is happily married, a mother of two, and a cherished member of the Emanu-El community. She understands the transformative power of perseverance and the importance of having a place to call home. Now, through the Ukraine Resettlement Initiative, she aims to help others find their own safe havens.

Simona's role within the Welcome Circle focuses on Healthcare and Benefits. She's dedicated to connecting Ukrainian families with essential healthcare services and benefits, ensuring that they have access to the support they need to thrive in their new home. The Ukraine Resettlement Initiative perfectly aligns with Simona's values and beliefs, instilled in her by her generous grandmother, who always welcomed strangers in need to her table. This sense of responsibility to give back has become a guiding principle in Simona's life.

Her message to those considering getting involved or supporting the program is clear: "In our daily busyness, it's easy to feel overwhelmed and helpless in the face of global refugee crises. However, the Ukraine Resettlement Initiative is different—it's a small group of people taking action. We are no longer just bystanders; we are active participants in helping refugees. I encourage others to join us and make a difference, one family at a time."

Looking ahead, Simona's hopes for the program are that it will continue to expand its reach. She acknowledges the strength and courage it takes for individuals to leave their homes and loved ones behind. The program's mission is to provide shelter, safety, and a warm welcome during these chaotic times. Simona envisions a future where the Ukraine Resettlement Initiative grows, offering refuge and support to those in need, one family at a time.



Simona, her husband Jeffrey, and their children Sidney and Sophia

Irina Kovriga

“Jewish history is woven with tales of refugees spanning continents and generations.”

As a teenager in 1987, Irina and her parents arrived in the U.S. from Ukraine, which at the time was still part of the USSR. Their journey was marked by limited language skills and a lack of understanding of life beyond the Iron Curtain. However, it was the compassion and care of volunteers from North Shore Congregation Israel in Glencoe, Illinois, that allowed Irina's family to make a swift and dignified transition into American life. Now, years later, Irina sees it as her calling to extend the same helping hand to Ukrainian families facing similar challenges.

Irina's immigration story, like many, has deep roots in her family's history. Her father, a refusenik in the USSR during the 1980s, was unjustly jailed in Siberia for "anti-Soviet activities." He authored a book, "Memories of 1984," a chilling echo of George Orwell's dystopian vision. Today, witnessing the suffering of Ukrainians under Putin's regime, Irina is driven by a desire to aid those who bear the brunt of these Orwellian horrors. While she can't change the course of the war, she believes she can help Ukrainian refugees find safety and build new lives.



Irina and her husband Sasha with their daughters Maya, Isabelle, and Mimi

Irina's involvement in the Ukraine Resettlement Initiative is both heartfelt and hands-on. Fluent in Russian, she plays a crucial role in bridging communication gaps. She translates calls with the Ukrainian family and facilitates conversations between Ukrainian and American children, recognizing the importance of giving young voices a platform in this process. When the Ukrainian family arrives in San Francisco, Irina will be there, providing direct assistance with their resettlement.

For Irina, the Ukraine Resettlement Initiative aligns perfectly with her values and personal beliefs. She recognizes that Jewish history is woven with tales of refugees spanning continents and generations, from ancient Egypt to the shores of America. On a deeply personal level, Irina is forever grateful to the volunteers from North Shore Congregation Israel who played a pivotal role in her family's settlement in the U.S. She hopes that their circle can pay it forward, making Ukrainian families feel a little less like strangers in their new adopted country.

To those considering getting involved or supporting the program, Irina has a heartfelt message: "Please get involved. The situation in Ukraine is unpredictable, and our help is needed and deeply appreciated by the Ukrainian refugee families. Despite the dire situation, the Ukrainian family we are sponsoring is open, optimistic, and ready to do whatever it takes to succeed in their new life."

Looking ahead, Irina's greatest hope is for a peaceful and independent Ukraine, where the program is no longer needed. Until then, she envisions our community living out its Jewish values, helping one family at a time, and raising the necessary funds to sponsor more Ukrainian families as they strive to become Ukrainian Americans.

**To donate to the Ukraine Resettlement Initiative,
please reach out to Lauren Wardle.
lwardle@emanuelsf.org**

Mishpachot Emanu-El

MISHPACHOT



Friday

6

October 2023
5:00 - 6:00 pm

Tot Shabbat

Join us in our new location at **St. John's**! Just across the street from our beloved temple. Come by at 5:00 pm to connect with fellow families while children nosh. Followed by a joyful and engaging 30-minute service from 5:30 to 6:00 pm.

PJs are highly encouraged!

Saturday

14

October 2023
10:00 - 11:00 am

Shabbat B'Gan

Join us for a delightful, family-friendly gathering in the heart of nature at **Argonne Park** (18th Ave. and Geary)! Mingle, nosh, and connect. Bring your picnic blanket and family for a fantastic opportunity to meet and connect with fellow families in a relaxed and joyful atmosphere.

This event is for young families with children under 6.

Monday

16

October 2023
10:00 - 11:00 am

Mazel Tots

After a Summer Hiatus, we are BACK! Join us at our new location, **Star of the Sea**, 350 9th Avenue! Jonathan Bayer will lead a music class, Havdalah, nosh, and we'll have a kibbitz with Emma Kelly. \$10 for members, \$18 for non-members.

For babies and toddlers under 2.

Friday

20

October 2023
10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Mishpachot Meetup

Join fellow parents and Sarah Balagey for a coffee date at **Breck's** at 2 Clement St.! This is an opportunity to connect, have meaningful conversations, and form new friendships!

For parents of children under 2.

Saturday

28

October 2023
10:00 - 11:30 am

Park Shabbat

Looking for a unique and spiritual way to welcome Shabbat? Look no further! We invite you to join us for our first Park Shabbat, at **Elk Glen Picnic Area** in **Golden Gate Park**! With the acoustic stylings of our musicians, clergy, a bouncy house, and light nosh. This is a great opportunity to join in community and celebrate Shabbat, together.

Elk Glen is on the north side of MLK Drive, just across the street from Mallard Lake.

This event is for young families with children under 6.

Visit us at emanuelsf.org/mishpachot

Investing in our Jewish Future

The top floor of our newly renovated building will be dedicated to education, with a safe preschool playing area for young children and families to enjoy. Emanu-El NEXT will maintain the historical integrity of our beloved sanctuary and allow us to adapt our facilities to best serve Emanu-El's community for generations to come.

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

Nelli and Kevin Perkins

Nelli's family kept their Jewish heritage a secret while they lived in the Soviet Union. They never went to synagogue, kept kosher, or even so much as talked about the holidays. No acknowledgment whatsoever did Nelli have that her Judaism existed.

It wasn't until her family left St. Petersburg among the Soviet emigres in 1989 that she found out she was Jewish. Via Austria they came to Italy, where they waited for a US visa for several months. As they waited for permission to come to the US, Nelli's family revealed to her that they were Jewish. She cried in disbelief.

The San Francisco Jewish Federation helped them settle in the Sunset district as they helped many Russian and Ukrainian Jews

at the time. They arrived to the US on Thanksgiving Day 1989, with no English and little money, but freedom from the antisemitism to which they had grown accustomed.

It was Nelli's enrollment in the Hebrew Academy of San Francisco as a first grader that reconnected her and her family with Jewish life. Her grandparents took over childcare so her mother, who was a doctor in Russia, could complete her residency and medical board exams in order to practice medicine in the US. Nelli learned about Judaism among a host of Russian speaking classmates who came from similar backgrounds. "What I brought home

from school became much of the Judaism my family came to know,” Nelli says, as she remembers instilling in them practices like fasting on Yom Kippur. She precociously prohibited the Yolka under their roof; the traditional Russian New Year pine that mirrors a Christmas tree was banned by 6th grade.

Carrying on tradition into the present day, Nelli now raises her two kids in a Jewish home with her husband Kevin Perkins. Both children have been enrolled in Emanu-El’s Preschool. Ryan, 4, is a current student, and Brandon, 6, attended for the last 2 years before starting at Brandeis this fall. They have only hired Russian speaking nannies in the home to help their children maintain the Russian language – just one of the ways they keep the past alive.

Kevin’s maternal family immigrated to the US from Germany in the 1880s, first to Georgia, then to California where he was born. His paternal grandmother fled Germany as a child in 1936. Growing up in Santa Monica, attending Brentwood High School, and belonging to Wilshire Boulevard Temple all formed what Kevin would call, “a pretty standard Jewish kid upbringing in LA at the time.” When he went to UC Berkeley for his undergraduate degree, his grandmother encouraged him to visit Berkeley Hillel so he could meet a nice Jewish girl. But a different introduction lay in wait. In time, through a connection he made at Hillel, he met Moses Libitzky, a philanthropist, champion of causes, and successful real estate developer.

They’ve been working together ever since. Kevin is Senior Vice President of Libitzky Property Companies, where they own, develop, and operate commercial real estate. But you can’t work with Moses without being struck by his unquenchable generosity. “His story is inspiring, and he brought me to think about my community and philanthropy in a serious way,” Kevin says. For one, Moses taught Kevin that everyone has a philanthropic budget. For some it’s \$10M, for others it’s \$180. But generosity can’t be calculated by the number of zeros in a check – it comes from the spirit with which a gift is given. “Every gift matters. Every gift inspires others to give,” says Kevin.

Kevin is currently on the board of the JCCSF and UC Berkeley Hillel. He also manages the Mautner Perkins Memorial Lectures, an endowment started by his grandparents which gives out scholarships to UCLA graduate students in the life and physical sciences. Nelli and Kevin recently expanded the endowment to allow for a scholarship for first generation women in science. This was important to Nelli because she completed her undergraduate biology degree at UCLA. Dr. Perkins is currently the Medical Director of Headache Medicine at Sutter/California Pacific Medical Center, specializing in headache and migraine care. “Migraine is a life altering neurological disorder that impacts 1 billion people worldwide, disproportionately affecting women during some of their most productive years,” Nelli says. “I want to help them get their lives back.”

Kevin has been a member of Emanu-El since moving to San Francisco in 2008, when he also attended Emanu-El’s Late Shabbat services to “meet a nice Jewish girl.” But finding modern solutions to ancient problems, Kevin and Nelli met in 2013 on OkCupid, an online dating site where she was screening profiles for eligible bachelors who identified as Jewish. At that time, Nelli was a senior Neurology resident at Stanford. They dated “long distance” for 2 years until she completed her Headache Fellowship and moved back to San Francisco to start her first job.

They were married by Rabbi Jonathan Singer of Congregation Emanu-El, and have since become involved in Temple activities, primarily helping to raise money for the preschool’s annual fund which raised over \$100K and reached 100% participation from school families. Of great inspiration to their Emanu-El NEXT campaign gift was their gratitude for the role the preschool continues to play in their lives. They like that the Congregation Emanu-El Preschool is intimate enough for them to meet parents from other classes and form a community. “The teachers at Emanu-El are what make the preschool excellent,” Kevin adds. “Once we give them a state-of-the-art facility, it’s going to take our school to another level.”



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**.

October B. Mitzvah



Jonah Bilsker
Bar Mitzvah:
October 7, 2023

Parents:
Avi Downes
David Bilsker

Torah Portion:
Shmini Atzeret



Taylor Katz
Bar Mitzvah:
October 21, 2023

Parents:
Lisa Katz
Jed Katz

Torah Portion:
Noah



Georgia Pincus
Bat Mitzvah:
October 14, 2023

Parents:
Alison Gelb / Danny Abrutyn
Mark Pincus / Hilary Shaw

Torah Portion:
Bereshit



Dayze Chocron
Bat Mitzvah:
October 21, 2023

Parents:
David Chocron
McLain Bennett

Torah Portion:
Noah



Carmen Pincus
Bat Mitzvah:
October 14, 2023

Parents:
Alison Gelb / Danny Abrutyn
Mark Pincus / Hilary Shaw

Torah Portion:
Bereshit



Alexandra Salky
Bat Mitzvah:
October 28, 2023

Parents:
Joy Sisisky
Jonathan Salky

Torah Portion:
Lech Lecha



Annabelle Garfinkel
Bat Mitzvah:
October 14, 2023

Parents:
Jonathan Garfinkel
Kimberly Garfinkel

Torah Portion:
Bereshit



Layla Goldstein
Bat Mitzvah:
October 28, 2023

Parents:
Jamie Goldstein
Joshua Goldstein

Torah Portion:
Lech Lecha

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:** www.emanuelf.org/support-us/
- **Appreciated Stock Gifts:** The Congregation accepts all contributions made via stock transfers. You will enjoy an immediate tax deduction for the value of the stock transfer and avoid paying capital gains.
- **Corporate Matching:** Many Bay Area companies will match your gift dollar-for-dollar. Please contact your company's matching gifts coordinator to determine whether your gift to Congregation Emanu-El can be matched.
- **Planned Giving:** Including Congregation Emanu-El in your estate planning is a promise to your children, grandchildren, and future generations that Emanu-El will continue to be a thriving home for worship, study, and community.
- **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@emanuelf.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 August 1, 2023 - September 6, 2023

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

Lance Bayer

Jeffrey & David Bornstein

in memory of Veronica Sanchez

Andy & Melissa Cohen

in celebration of Taylor Cohen's Bat Mitzvah

Melissa Kleinbart

in celebration of Lydia Kleinbart's Bat Mitzvah

Fred Levin

in observance of the Yahrzeit of Ben Shenson

Frada Shapiro

in memory of Carl Hartog

Craig Smollin & Jean Yuan

in celebration of Noah Smollin's Bar Mitzvah

EMANU-EL COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND

Promotes and supports social action and community service programs.

Charles & Lenore Bleadon

EMANU-EL LIFE-CYCLE FUND

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

Andy & Melissa Cohen

in celebration of Taylor Cohen's Bat Mitzvah

Leslie Friedman & Jonathan Clark

in observance of the Yahrzeit of Ruth Rubenstein

Craig Smollin & Jean Yuan

in celebration of Noah Smollin's Bar Mitzvah

Michele Woolfe-Avramov

in observance of the Yahrzeit of Phillip Woolfe

EMANU-EL PRESCHOOL FUND

Provides scholarships and support for our Preschool programs

Joshua & Jenny Herbach

FLOWERS FOR THE BIMAH

Andy & Melissa Cohen

in celebration of Taylor Cohen's Bat Mitzvah

Craig Smollin & Jean Yuan

in celebration of Noah Smollin's Bar Mitzvah

ONEG SHABBAT AND KIDDISH SPONSORSHIP FUND Provides for the weekly Shabbat Oneg, Kiddush, and other congregational receptions.

Kevin & Ayesha Barenblat

in celebration of Asher Barenblat's Bat Mitzvah

Melissa Kleinbart

in celebration of Lydia Kleinbart's Bat Mitzvah

Jeff & Eryn Kurin

in celebration of Logan Kurin's Bar Mitzvah

Craig Smollin & Jean Yuan

in celebration of Noah Smollin's Bar Mitzvah

RABBIS' DISCRETIONARY FUND Used for charitable giving at the Rabbis' discretion.

Jeffrey & David Bornstein

in memory of Veronica Sanchez

Andy & Melissa Cohen

in celebration of Taylor Cohen's Bat Mitzvah

Brenda Friedler

in honor of Jeff and Debbi Hayman

Lindsay & Karen Leveen

in memory of Trudy Cohn

Steven Polevoi & Kate

Kardos-Polevoi
in celebration of Danielle Polevoi & Buddy Wartell's wedding

Craig Smollin & Jean Yuan

in celebration of Noah Smollin's Bar Mitzvah

Bruce Spiegelman

Albert Villa

TZEDEK JUSTICE COLLECTIVE **UKRAINE RESETTLEMENT** **INITIATIVE**

Rochelle Anixter

Linda & Sanford Gallanter

Melissa Koenigsberg & Billy Lee

Lisa & Brian Krim

Dee & Larry Seligman

in memory of Martina Knee

Sands Tucker

in observance of the Yahrzeit of Edwin Tucker

Peter Yolles & Jill Einstein

Rebecca Zucker & Doug Kanigher

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Stewart and Carol Axelbaum

in celebration of Cammie's Bat Mitzvah

Leslie Friedman & Jonathan Clark

in observance of the Yahrzeit of Dorismae Hacker Friedman

Leslie Friedman & Jonathan Clark

Ingrid D Tauber Fund, INC.

David & Charito Mittelman

in observance of the Yahrzeit of Michael Mittelman

Roslyn Payne

in memory of Aaron and Sophie Braeman and Lisle Payne

Frana Price & Rick Ohlrich

in observance of the Yahrzeit of Mollie Price

James & Diana Rogers

in observance of the Yahrzeit of Ernest S. Rogers

Susan L Rothstein & John Koeppel

in observance of the Yahrzeit of Sylvia Rothstein

Susie & Denis Roy

in memory of Peter Gerstle Levison

Stephanie Scott (2)

in memory of William M. Scott

Craig Smollin & Jean Yuan

in celebration of Noah Smollin's Bar Mitzvah

Bruce Spiegelman

in observance of the Yahrzeits of David, Betty, Craig, Keith, Max, and Jane Spiegelman

Elizabeth Winograd

in memory of Elliott and Susan Winograd

Michele Woolfe-Avramov

in observance of the Yahrzeit of Arthur Liebert



Condolences to Our Members Who Have Suffered a Recent Loss

Ruth Levison on the death of her husband, **Peter Levison**.

Laurie Pearce, Ph.D. (Rabbi Stephen Pearce, Ph.D.) on the loss of her father; Michael (Sima Chitrik) and Sarah Pearce on the loss of their grandfather, and Freda Baara Pearce on the loss of her great-grandfather,

Dr. Gilbert H. Young.

Lynne Newhouse Segal (Edward) on the loss of her sister, Ned Segal (Maya) and Matthew Segal (Aimee Feinberg) on the loss of their aunt, and Lucas, Laney, Ellis and Lilah Segal on the loss of their great-aunt, **Barbara Newhouse Reiss**.

Our community mourns the loss of **Rabbi Morris Hershman**.

Our community mourns the loss of **Sonya Gordon**.

Brian Bloomking (Abigail) on the loss of his mother, Lucas, Eleanor, Arthur, Isabel, and Esther Bloomking, on the loss of their grandmother, **Barbara Jean Carter**.

Cathy Manshel (Bill Rusitzky) on the loss of her mother, Isabel and Mitchell Rusitzky on the loss of their grandmother, **Bernice Manshel**.

Mazal Tov to Our Members Who Have Experienced Joy

Mark Schlesinger and Christine Russell on the birth of their granddaughter, Violet James Russell-Schlesinger

Carolyn Goor Hutchinson and Rick Hutchinson on the marriage of their daughter, Maya Hutchinson, to Baxter Hagen.

Vera and Nic Neinken on the birth of their son, Charles (Charlie) Finn Neinken.

Anne and Matthew Bertenthal on the birth of their daughter, Sylvia Frances Bertenthal.

Welcome New Members

Mitchell Regenstreif
Melissa Agnello
Jay Sharma
Ms. Shira Albagli
Mr. Erik Aplin
Ms. Julia Becker
Ennio Aplin
Mr. Charles Bello
Ms. Yael Birman
Ms. Chelsea Blumenthal
Mr. Erik Bolog
Michelle Bolog
Mr. Alexei Oreskovic
Luc Oreskovic

Ms. Jessica Branson
Ms. Rose Brief
Dr. Arthur Brief
Ms. Jennifer Burton Flier
Eli Dinkelspiel
Emma Dinkelspiel
Ms. Sophie Edelman
Ms. Lauren Friedman
Ms. Ashley Gallagher
Lillian Fuleky
Tricia Gellman
Mr. Evan Ginsburg
Ms. Anna Baxter
Eli Ginsburg

Sherry Goldstein
Isabel Greenfield
Daniel Selvig
Ms. Danielle Heller
April Hopcroft
Jacob Kahn
Ms. Liliane Kaissar
Mr. Jeffrey Leon
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Mr. Mathew Johnson
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Philip Loeb-Johnson
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Ms. Mary Catherine Gagliano
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Leah Novarr
Mr. Jason Novarr
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Clark O'Bannon
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Gaël Côté
Sacha Côté
Noah Zweben
Noah Westreich
Kourtney Williams
Kalu Kalu
Ari O'Rourke
Allison Wu
Ms. Ariel Zbeda

Thank You to Returning Members

Mr. Jeffrey Dastin
Mr. Lee Diamond
Jonah Diamond
Micah Diamond
Ms. Rebecca Ets-Hokin
Mr. William Freiberg
Mrs. Demi Freiberg
Elijah Freiberg
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Mrs. Leslie Gleser
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Luc Oreskovic
Ms. Jessica Branson
Ms. Rose Brief
Dr. Arthur Brief



Congregation Emanu-El
Two Lake Street
San Francisco, CA 94118
emanuelsf.org
(415) 751-2535

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.

Congregation Emanu-El's mailing address during construction is:

**350 9th Avenue
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PERIODICAL

ELIJAH

FELIX MENDELSSOHN

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2023 - 7:00 PM
AT CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Calvary Chancel Choir & Orchestra

San Francisco City Chorus

Arik Luck, *Elijah* - Kristin Clayton Knezevic, *soprano*
Leandra Ramm, *mezzo-soprano* - John Bellemer, *tenor*
Michael Conley, *conductor*



Free Admission with suggested donation

Registration information coming soon to **emanuelsf.org**



Preview Lecture: "Becoming Elijah"

with Dr. Daniel Matt

Monday, November 13 - 7:00 pm

Who is this mysterious prophet, Elijah? How does he evolve over the course of Jewish and Christian history, from a Biblical miracle-worker to the forerunner of the Messiah and an annual guest at each Passover Seder?

Calvary Presbyterian Church, 2515 Fillmore Street - www.calpres.org