Introducing KOLEINU*
Songs of Resilience and Renewal
February 6

Exclusive Interview with President of Israeli Reform Movement, Gilad Kariv

Exclusive Interview with Rabbi Benay Lappe on Svara: A Queer Take on the Talmud

Save the dates for Purim!
UPCOMING EVENTS

Israel Action Committee invites you to attend!
PLURALISM, RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, WORKING FOR HOPE IN THE PROMISED LAND
Thursday, February 15, 7:00 pm

Join our community rabbis in a dialogue with a person working on the front lines to ensure that Israel is a place for all of us – Reform, Conservative and Orthodox – Gilad Kariv, President of the Israeli Reform Movement.

Gilad Kariv, who builds synagogues, engages in court cases and is the face of the Israeli Reform Movement, will dialogue about Religious Freedom, Israel, Women at the Wall, and the work we can do together to insure that our own connection to Israel is not diminished, and show us how to take a stand for hope.

This event is co-sponsored by Peninsula Temple Beth-El, Peninsula Temple Sholom, Congregation Beth Am, and Congregation Sherith Israel.
Please note that registration is required.

ONE SHABBAT SERVICE WITH GILAD KARIV
Friday, February 16, 6:00 pm, Martin Meyer Sanctuary

Gilad Kariv, who is leading the fight for a more pluralistic Israel as head of the Reform Movement, will address our congregation.

Friday, July 27, 1:30 pm to Sunday, July 29, 1:30 pm
Single occupancy $750
Double occupancy $600

Faculty
Rabbi Aaron Pankin, President of the Hebrew Union College
Rabbi Josh Holo, Dean of Hebrew Union College, Los Angeles
Professor Miriam Heller Stern, National Director of the School of Education

We will join together in a beautiful setting to learn, build community, enjoy Shabbat, Sing, Hike, Eat – all those fun West Coast Jewish things! The cost includes meals and lodging as well as the learning.

Questions
Contact Ariana Estoque: aestoque@emanuelsf.org or by phone (415) 751-2541 Ext. 307

TORAH AT ASILOMAR:
Opening the Gates of Meaning - a retreat

Join us at the beautiful Asilomar Retreat Center for a retreat led by our rabbis and leading Jewish studies professors. The Theme is: Hineni, Opening the Gates of Meaning - Empowering ourselves as we step forward and say “Here I am, ready to own my religious tradition.”
RABBI’S LETTER
By Richard and Rhoda Goldman Senior Rabbi Beth Singer

When I arrived at Congregation Emanu-El in 2013, the first thing I did was study up on the Giants. The second thing I did was read Visions of Reform, Fred Rosenbaum’s history of Congregation Emanu-El. My former congregation in Seattle was soon to celebrate its 60th anniversary; Congregation Emanu-El, on the other hand, had been here for well over 160 years!

As I read the book, I realized that Jonathan and I represent a mere chapter in the ever-unfolding story that is our beloved Congregation Emanu-El. At nearly five years in, I now recognize that one of our most important challenges is preserving Emanu-El’s traditional essence, while also changing with the needs of the times. The experience of being a San Francisco Jew, of any age, is very different now than it was back in the mid-1800s, or at any point in the 20th century. For example, 50 years ago, in 1968, a Jewish family moving to a new town would likely join the local congregation as a matter of course. By contrast, in 2018, a Jewish family moving to San Francisco would likely join the local congregation as a matter of course. By contrast, in 2018, a Jewish family moving to San Francisco would likely join the local congregation as a matter of course. By contrast, in 2018, a Jewish family moving to San Francisco would likely join the local congregation as a matter of course. By contrast, in 2018, a Jewish family moving to San Francisco would likely join the local congregation as a matter of course. By contrast, in 2018, a Jewish family moving to San Francisco would likely join the local congregation as a matter of course. By contrast, in 2018, a Jewish family moving to San Francisco would likely join the local congregation as a matter of course. By contrast, in 2018, a Jewish family moving to San Francisco would likely join the local congregation as a matter of course. By contrast, in 2018, a Jewish family moving to San Francisco would likely join the local congregation as a matter of course. By contrast, in

One of my favorite books – which I share with all of my bat and bar mitzvah students – is a timeline of Jewish history that unfolds across the length of my office. That and the 534 pages of Visions of Reform remind us of the enduring nature of Judaism. We have the power to create the future of Judaism that will be a gift and a blessing to our great-great-grandchildren and to their great-great-grandchildren. Who’s in?
SHABBAT CALENDAR

February

**Friday, February 2**
5:30 pm, First Friday Under Five Service (MMS)
6:00 pm, One Shabbat Service (Main)

**Saturday, February 3**
10:30 am, Shabbat Morning Service (MMS)
10:30 am, Shabbat Morning Service (Main)

**Friday, February 9**
7:30 pm, One Shabbat Service (MMS)

**Saturday, February 10**
10:30 am, Shabbat Morning Service (MMS)
10:30 am, Shabbat Morning Service (Main)

**Friday, February 16**
6:00 pm, One Shabbat Service (MMS)

**Saturday, February 17**
10:30 am, Shabbat Morning Service (Main)

**Friday, February 23**
6:00 pm, One Shabbat Service with Rabbi Benay Lappe (MMS)

**Saturday, February 24**
10:30 am, Shabbat Morning Service (MMS)
10:30 am, Shabbat Morning Service (Main)

SPONSOR AN ONEG SHABBAT

Sponsoring an Oneg-Shabbat on Friday evening is a sweet way to honor or remember a loved one or to celebrate a Simcha. When you sponsor an Oneg-Shabbat, you help us welcome Shabbat with the warmth and community that are characteristic of our congregation. For more details, contact Svetlana Leykin at sleykin@emanuelsf.org or call (415) 751-2541 ext. 123.

Thank you to the following for co-sponsoring recent Oneg-Shabbat receptions:

- Amalia, Miriam, Marco, and Robert Freedman, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Miriam Freedman
- Mr. and Mrs. Alex Mann, in honor of the B’nei Mitzvah of Victoria and David Mann

APPRECIATED STOCK GIFTS

Did you know that you can make charitable donations – including your Emanu-El membership dues and Impact Fund gifts – from your appreciated stock? With the Dow continuing to break new records, now is an excellent time to avoid potential capital gains taxes while generously supporting the congregation. You may also reduce your taxable estate by donating stock.

If you are making a stock gift, please use the following information:

- First Republic Securities Co, LLC
- Account Name: Congregation Emanu-El
- For Further Credit to Account Number: 33L064574
- Clearing Firm: Pershing LLC
- Pershing LLC DTC# 0443

**Note:** Please make the Development Office (tbrown@emanuelsf.org or (415) 750-7554) aware of your stock gift before it is transferred so your donation can be tracked and appropriately directed as you wish.

Corporate Matching

Many Bay Area companies, including Yelp, Clorox, Google, and Salesforce, will match your gift dollar-for-dollar. Please contact your company’s matching gifts coordinator to obtain a matching gift form and determine whether your gift to Congregation Emanu-El can be matched.

Thank you to the following companies for matching our member’s donations:

- Apple
- Clorox Corporation
- Google
- Black Rock
- Deloitte & Touche LLP
- Salesforce

Donate Online and save postage, paper, and time!

Don’t let unexpected simchas, mitzvahs, and Life-Cycle events catch you off guard!

Donating online is a quick and easy way to honor friends and family while supporting the synagogue. Just go to our website (www.emanuelsf.org), select “Click to Donate,” and follow the steps to make a credit card gift over a secure server. Be sure to include all dedication information and let us know if we should notify someone. You will receive an electronic confirmation, followed by an acknowledgment letter in the mail. That’s all there is to it! If you need assistance, contact Tyler Brown in the Development Department at tbrown@emanuelsf.org or (415) 750-7554.
KOLEINU* 2018
SONGS OF RESILIENCE AND RENEWAL

Koleinu* is a musical collaboration with an octet of beautiful voices from around the country that draws inspiration from a Jewish theme and explores the music that surrounds it. “Songs of Resilience and Renewal” showcases music from liturgical sources, the labor movement, the Shoah, American folk, Broadway, and comedic sources

Purchase tickets at
www.emanuelsf.org/koleinu-hear-our-voices

KOLEINU* Concert

Tuesday, February 6 | 7:00 pm | Martin Meyer Sanctuary

Premium Admission: $75 ($50 tax deductible)
reserved section with premium seating
General Admission: $25

Performers include Cantor Marsha Attie, Cantor Emerita Roslyn Barak, and Ben and A. Jess Shenson Cantor AriK Luck of Congregation Emanu-El; Cantor Leigh Korn of Temple Isaiah, Lafayette, CA; Cantor Josh Breitzer of Congregation Beth Elohim, Brooklyn, NY; Cantor Jennifer Strauss-Klein of Mount Zion Temple, St. Paul, MN; cantorial soloist Jason McKinney, Winston-Salem, NC; and singer/songwriter Chava Mirel, Seattle, WA.

Musical direction by Cantor Jonathan Comisar of the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music, Hebrew Union College.

EXCLUSIVE DINNER WITH KOLEINU* ARTISTS

Monday, February 4 | 5:30 pm
Private residence

Cost: $150 per person ($100 tax deductible)

A bonus private dinner with our guest artists will take place on the Sunday evening before the concert. This limited-capacity event at the residence of one of our congregants will provide you with the opportunity to share in an exclusive evening of music and memory with the Koleinu* performers.

Order Dinner Tickets:
$150 per person | $100 tax deductible
eventbrite.com/e/koleinu-artists-dinner-tickets-40155321648

We are grateful to Bob Tandler and Valli Benesch for their in-kind support for this project.

General support for this series comes from the Ingrid D. Tauber Fund.
ADULT LEARNING

RABBI BENAY LAPPE, SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE, BEIT MIDRASH WEEKEND

Rabbi Benay Lappe is the founder and Rosh Yeshiva of SVARA. Ordained by The Jewish Theological Seminary in 1997, Benay also currently serves as Senior Fellow at the Institute for the Next Jewish Future in Chicago, and as an Associate at CLAL—The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership. An award-winning educator specializing in the application of queer theory to Talmud study, Benay has served on the faculties of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Temple University, American Jewish University, The Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, The Graduate Theological Union’s Center for Jewish Studies at UC-Berkeley, Milken Community High School, and The Wexner Institute.

This Scholar-In-Residence weekend is made possible by the generosity of Jon Holman and Diana Grand.

Friday, February 23, 6:00 – 9:00 pm, Martin Meyer Sanctuary

ONE SHABBAT SERVICE AND DINNER

Rabbi Lappe will deliver the evening’s sermon to our congregation on the following subject: An Unrecognizable Jewish Future

Following Rabbi Lappe’s sermon, there will be a teaching dinner beginning at 7:30 pm.

SUBJECT: WHEN JUDAISM IS CRASH-ING, WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

DESCRIPTION: In this Q&A and discussion with Rabbi Benay Lappe, we’ll flesh out the theory of CRASH, a philosophy of the Talmud and the rabbinic revolution that gave rise to it, and how we can apply it to our own time. You must register in advance for the dinner/discussion.

Saturday, February 24, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

SATURDAY MORNING SERVICE AND INTENSIVE STUDY

TRADITIONALLY RADICAL TALMUD STUDY

Description: All you need is your basic alef-bet in order to take part in this SVARA pop-up bet midrash. Come with a friend to be your chevruta (learning partner) or we will find you a partner. We will learn a complete Talmud text, start to finish, in this multi-level, radically intensive bet midrash.

9:00 - 10:00 am Services + Schmooze
10:00 am - 12:30 pm Bet Midrash Session Part 1
12:30 - 1:30 pm Lunch
1:30 - 3:00 pm Bet Midrash Session Part 2

HEBREWS READING CRASH COURSE: LEARNING TO DECODE THE ALEF BET WITH CANTOR MARSHA ATTIE

Sunday, February 11, Noon – 2:00 pm AND Tuesday February 20, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

This crash course is designed for those who want to learn how to read Hebrew as well as those who just need a refresher. Course participants MUST attend both sessions. A light nosh will be provided. Must register in advance.

NOTE: This course is open to anyone!

However, if you plan on attending Rabbi Benay Lappe’s Beit Midrash on Saturday, February 24 (see above), you MUST be able to decode Hebrew Alef-Bet. This course can help you prepare for that experience.

SPARK

Tuesdays, March 6, 13, and 20, 6:45 – 9:00 pm

Please visit www.emanuelsf.org/spark/ to register for all sessions with our guest educators.

Join your friends, rabbis, and guest teachers for three nights of SPARK, a powerful Jewish learning opportunity that is open to entire community! Our evening will begin with schmooze time for participants to mingle and nosh, followed by a full hour to engage in one of three hot-topic SPARK study sessions with rabbis and leading guest educators. Each evening will be followed by a community-wide keynote address or seminar with special scholars/speakers.

Mussar - Transform Yourself Through Jewish Wisdom with Greg Marcus, PH.D.

Ilan Vitemberg 70 Faces of Israel: Exploring Israel Through Popular Culture

Sue Reinhold, Ph.D. The Lessons of Joseph

Emanu-El, a Reconstructionist Congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism

THEOLOGICAL UNION'S CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES AT UC-BERKELEY

This Scholar-In-Residence weekend is made possible by the generosity of Jon Holman and Diana Grand.

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FEBRUARY
TWO JEWS MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE
Congregation Emanu-El is incredibly lucky to be able to feature two individuals this month who are leading influencers in the world of Judaism: Rabbi Benay Lappe and Rabbi Gilad Kariv! We were able to reach out to both for exclusive interviews!

INTERVIEW WITH RABBI BENAY LAPPE

Rabbi Benay Lappe is an award-winning educator specializing in the application of queer theory to Talmud study. She is the founder and Rosh Yeshiva of SVARA, a traditionally radical Yeshiva.

Emanu-El: You’ve said that queer Jews are finally learning Talmud as queer Jews. And you’ve begun a formalized way of teaching Talmud to queer folk. Can you elaborate on how Talmud speaks to queer people?

Lappe: The story goes that if donkeys could read the Torah, all of the donkey stories would jump out at them. Each time they’d come across a story with a donkey in it, they’d see themselves. “Hey, that’s about me!” The same thing is true for people. We read through the lens of our life experience. A generation ago, in “Queer version 1.0,” queer people began finding stories of people who were like us, people who were in loving, intimate, sometimes sexual relationships with people of the same gender – the Ruth and Naomi stories, the Jonathan and David stories, the Rabbi Yochanan and Resh Lakish stories. But by the time I got to rabbinical school, we were in “Queer 2.0,” and as soon as I began learning Talmud, what was jumping out at me were not the stories of same-sex love. Now the stories that were screaming out to me from the pages of the Talmud were the stories of the rabbis overturning Torah when they found something that violated their moral sensibilities or their understanding of what God wanted of us. As a person who had been at the receiving end of people pointing at Leviticus and essentially saying to me, “See what it says here?! You can’t be gay and Jewish!,” learning that what it says in the Torah was never the end of the story for the rabbis, but sometimes just the beginning, was very empowering. I saw in the Talmud an instruction manual for how to improve the tradition, how to use authorized mechanisms of Jewish legal change to constantly upgrade the tradition, sometimes radically. It was obvious to me that it was essential that queer people have a place at the table in those conversations. And that’s the era we’re in now. Queer people are learning Talmud, learning Jewish law, and rolling up our sleeves and being “players” in the ongoing evolution of the Jewish tradition.

Emanu-El: You claim that the concept of svara has been central to the philosophy and evolution of the Jewish tradition for two millennia, but has been carefully guarded and to some extent hidden by Talmudic scholars and rabbis for thousands of years. Why? What were these scholars and rabbis afraid of?

Lappe: The mechanisms of legal change carry with them enormous power. They literally empower those who are able to use them to overturn the entire tradition itself, in order to save it, when it is no longer working or when its functioning alienates those who no longer recognize it as sacred as it is being played out. And in times of radical change in the world around us or in our own moral sensibilities, radical change in how we understand our sacred texts is sometimes necessary. During times like that (and I would posit that we’re living in such a time), many leaders will take a “batten down the hatches!” approach and attempt to preserve the status quo at all costs. They fear that if any change is allowed, all will be lost. These people tend not to trust themselves or their peers to make thoughtful, intelligent, necessary change, “What if we get it wrong?!” But they inevitably end up fatally distorting the tradition they are trying to save. Any tradition that lasts more than a generation, changes. And change always comes from the players on the margins – the “queer folk,” if you will.

Emanu-El: Sounds a lot like the age-old debate we continue to have in the United States, especially as it concerns the Constitution. Would you agree?

Lappe: Absolutely. The Constitution is a sacred document. But while the words on the parchment remain the same, people don’t. We’re not fixed, unchanging beings. And the way we understand the world or our sacred documents can’t be either. Our insights into the Constitution are in flux. We’re always having arguments over its meaning and implications. On the Supreme Court, for instance, you have conservative interpreters who try to stay as close to what the founding fathers originally intended. But then you also have more liberal-leaning interpreters, who try and adapt the Constitution to meet the needs of present-day society. To say that a piece of parchment can only mean what its original founders wanted it to mean is to actually prevent that document from remaining a living source of authority. The same applies to the Torah. And the Talmud is the manual – from the leaders of our past to the leaders of the future, in every generation – to learn how to reinterpret and renew our tradition in Jewish ways, to ensure that it remain Judaism, even if it becomes unrecognizable to us, and that it continue to create a certain kind of human being.

continued on page 8
BENAY LAPPE continued from page 7

Emanu-El: You claim that Judaism in 100 years is likely to be unrecognizable to us. What do you think it will look like?

Lappe: I think it’s still too early to be invested in what Judaism will look like in the future. It’s not time to do that. What matters now is bringing as many people as possible to the table – particularly those on the margins, the current outsiders, the “queer folk” who are queer in a thousand different ways, far beyond gender and sexual orientation – to learn the tradition well, to learn the rules of the game, the mechanisms for change, and to empower them to have the courage to roll up their sleeves, bring their outsider insights to bear, and to use those mechanisms to experiment and to come up with a thousand new ways to do Jewish and to create Jewish human beings. We should be playing with prayer, worship, community, rituals, and every Jewish practice. And those who are the queerest are the most well-suited to be doing the playing. They’re the boldest, most courageous; they know, deep down, what it means to listen to their own truth and bring that to bear on what the world around us says is true when we know very well that it isn’t. And there will always be queer folk. And as the insights of each group of queer folk are inevitably taken into the mainstream, it will leave an ever queerer-yet group on the margins to listen to. We Jews used to be pretty queer. We’re not that queer any more. So we have to be sure we actively seek out the queer folk, bring them to the table, let them play, and listen to them!

Emanu-El: You recently received a grant from the Jim Joseph Foundation to further expand SVARA’s initiatives. What is the significance behind this? What is your vision?

Lappe: I think funders have been watching what’s been happening at SVARA for a number of years now. And those who have chosen to fund us get that a “queer yeshiva” is actually not just a yeshiva for LGBT people. What we’re about is using the insights of queer people for the benefit of the entire Jewish tradition and the world at large. And by queer folk we mean not just LGBT people, but anyone who has a profound experience of marginality or otherness that affords them the unique insights that they then bring to critique the mainstream for the benefit of everyone. The Jim Joseph grant is to help us train teachers to use the SVARA method and to scale “traditionally radical” beit midrash-centered Talmud learning communities to every city, and on every college campus, in the country. That’s our vision.

We have been invited to join the URJ’s next cohort of a system of congregational assessment. Through this process, each congregation can take an inward look at itself every few years and use the information to assess its strengths and areas for advancement, as well as to help set the congregation’s agenda and priorities for its development in the coming years.

You should have received an email with a survey link at the end of January, and we hope you will take the few minutes necessary to complete the survey online. Please note that the survey will remain active until February 20, 2018. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact Monica at mpevzner@emanuelsf.org.
INTERVIEW WITH RABBI GILAD KARIV

Rabbi Gilad Kariv is president and CEO of the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism.

Emanu-El: Congregation Emanu-El recently hosted a debate between national conservative radio pundit Dennis Prager and Alan Elsner of J Street. Prager continues to make the case that the job of American Jews is not to try and dictate Israeli policy. For Prager, every Jew (who lives outside of Israel) has one obligation and one obligation only: to support Israel and to do so without any criticism of how Israel functions as a democratic Jewish state. Alan Elsner counters that “words matter” and equates silence about Israel’s policies with indifference. For Elsner, it’s not a question of telling Israel what to do, but entering into a dialogue with Israel and being able to talk to each other. So as Executive Director of the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism, what do you wish to say to the San Francisco Bay Area Reform Jewish community about how it can make a difference in the lives of Reform Jews in Israel and how Israel treats Reform Judaism?

Kariv: First, I want to say that I’m very excited to be coming to San Francisco next month. It is a fantastic opportunity to learn from you and at the same time tell you about the incredible progress we are making as a movement in Israel. I actually agree with both of the statements. It is not the role of American Jews to “dictate” Israeli policy. We are a vibrant democracy, and at the end of the day, just as is the case in the United States, we in Israel will have to live with our decisions. Nonetheless, I believe that the world Jewish community in general, and the largest and most influential Jewish community in particular in North America, has the right and duty to engage with Israel and express opinions. This is especially true on issues that have to do with the unity of the Jewish people like the kotel and conversion issues. However, in today’s world, how you frame an opinion is just as important as the substance. It’s important that these opinions (and I’m not sure that the U.S. Jewish community has one opinion) are framed in a way that shows love, concern, and connection with Israel as the state of the Jewish people. One of the core messages that I will deliver to the Bay Area Jewish community is the absolute responsibility to engage with Israel through our movement in Israel and many other venues. If we desire to secure the engagement of the younger generation of American Jews with Israel and the notion of Jewish peoplehood, we must enable an open and honest discussion, and without this exchange of views that sometimes includes disagreements, debates, and controversies, we will not be able to maintain and build the relationships. It is clear that, aside from this dialogue, we need to cultivate the engagement with other communal and spiritual tools, but the notion that true relations can be cultivated without an open and sincere dialogue is a false one.

Emanu-El: The ultra-Orthodox in Israel continue to show just how much power and influence they have over the Reform Jewish community. This past year, the Netanyahu government made the decision to suspend a plan to establish an egalitarian prayer space at the Western Wall, following pressure from ultra-Orthodox parties. This angered many in the Reform Jewish community; in particular, those women who continue to fight for just such a space, such as the organization Women at the Wall. You’ve talked about the tragedy of Israeli Judaism being the Orthodox monopoly. The Orthodox still have too much influence in Israeli government. How can this change?

Kariv: The national political situation in Israel is complicated (and I’ll be presenting this in my talks and meetings in the Bay Area), and indeed the ultra-Orthodox monopoly has a lot of political strength, yet we need to identify the fact that there are other strong political and public forces in Israel who support our values and perspectives. For example, those forces are preventing the ultra-Orthodox parties for decades from legislating expansion of the Orthodox monopoly in the area of conversion. Because Israel is a strong and vibrant democracy, we need to understand that, without creating a critical mass of progressive reform Israelis, we will not be able to ensure a pluralistic environment in Israel. The challenging news is that it is a marathon. The good news is that, on the ground throughout Israel, our movement is making incredible progress in this strategic effort. In the last decade, we have more than doubled our presence in congregations – from 23 congregations in 2010 to 50 today. In a survey by one of Israel’s most respected polling companies lead by Professor Camil Fuchs, we had some very encouraging findings, including that 7 percent of all Israeli Jews identify as Reform Jews (doubling from a similar survey 5 years ago), and that close to two-thirds of secular Israelis support stands of our movement on issues like the Western Wall, egalitarian prayer, and a host of other issues.

One out of every two Jewish Israelis has attended a Reform wedding or other life cycle event over the last couple of years. From my point of view on a local level, we are slowly but surely winning. The survey shows to a great degree that the old adage often said in Israel that the “shul that the Israelis don’t go to is an Orthodox shul” is now completely wrong, and today we can say that we are the place that secular Israeli Jews relate to for their religious spiritual life. On a municipal local level, we are having incredible success. To some extent, our success on a local level is what caused the reneging of the Kotel compromise plan, which at first the ultra-Orthodox tacitly agreed to. The level of anti-Reform rhetoric by the ultra-Orthodox has grown because we are succeeding. I believe that we are in a long road, but changes will eventually take place on a national level due to our continued success on a local level. And we need the support of our friends here in north America to continue that success and ensure that within a few minutes of every secular and even traditional Israeli there is a Reform egalitarian option. Today, we have 50 such options; we need to reach 200. It is because of our understanding of the complexity of the situation that we are working simultaneously on a national level through legal and advocacy and on a grassroots level through growing our congregations, educational programs, youth, young adults, and tikun olam.

continued on page 14
Cooking for Congregants

**Thursdays, February 1, 8, and 22, 9:00 – 11:00 am, Kitchen**

Do you enjoy working in the kitchen and helping others at the same time? Sign up for **Cooking for Congregants**, led by two Emanu-El members, where you will prepare meals for congregants facing a recent illness, death, or birth.

When someone we know is going through a challenging time, our natural reaction is to help, although we may not know exactly what to do. For those in need, food frequently becomes a low priority, so the support provided by Cooking for Congregants can make a huge difference! As volunteer Sari Swig says, “There is no better gift to yourself than to help others,” while a recipient of meals expresses how “It is such a lovely gesture of community… I was most grateful.”

Register now to fulfill this mitzvah! All menus, ingredients, and storage containers are provided. And if you know a congregant who would benefit from a few delivered meals, please let us know.

**The Stories of Your Life: Guided Autobiography and Life Review Writing**

No charge; any skill level welcomed.

**Monday, February 5, 10:00 am – Noon**

Join this monthly group to share your unique life in writing while getting to know yourself and others better. The writing is done at home, and then shared in class in a safe and structured way.

**Scrabble**

No charge; drop in; all ages and experience levels welcomed.

**Mondays, February 5, 12, and 26, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm**

Do you enjoy the challenge of putting letters together to form words? Join the Scrabble group and play a rousing game or two! Expand your vocabulary along with your social circle. Bring a Scrabble set (optional) and, of course, your appreciation of words.

**Mah Jongg**

No charge; drop in; all levels welcomed.

**Rinder Chapel**

**Tuesday afternoons, February 6 and 20, 1:30 – 4:30 pm**

**Tuesday evenings, February 13 and 27, 6:00 – 9:00 pm**

Join us for Mah Jongg! There will be no teaching at these Tuesday sessions; play time only.

**Bridge Club – Lessons and Game**

Drop in; Cost: $15 for members, $20 for friends of members.

**Tuesdays, February 6, 13 and 27, 10:00 am – Noon**

If you are beyond the level of beginner, join this very popular and lively group for duplicate-style bridge. Play while improving your game. No partner needed. Deborah Murphy is the instructor.

**Got Shabbat?**

**Saturday, February 10, 10:15 – 11:30 am**

Led by early childhood and family educator Mimi Greisman, we will celebrate Shabbat with loads of fun activities that include a Torah Parade, playing musical instruments and singing, playing with toys, reading Shabbat Stories, eating yummy snacks, a puppet show (sure to bring smiles galore!), and last but not least, a parachute and bubble time! Please join us.

**THE TRIBE FOR WOMEN**

The Tribe for Women is for moms with children ages 0–18.

**Roller Skating at the Church of 8 Wheels**

**554 Fillmore Street, San Francisco**

Please check our website (www.emanuelsf.org/community/congregant-gatherings/#thetribeforwomen) for specific date, time, and registration details.

**THE WOMEN’S GROUP**

The Women’s Group is for all adult women of Emanu-El.

**Shalom Bayit**

Join other women of Congregation Emanu-El in an evening focused on shalom bayit (peace in the home). We will explore the concept of shalom bayit and complete an art project together.

Please check our website (www.emanuelsf.org/community/congregant-gatherings/#womensgroup) for specific date, time, and registration details.

For more information on these events please call (415) 751-2535 or email at mail@emanuelsf.org.
EMANU-EL IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Build Emanu-El in your community with neighborhood gatherings.

Do you love your local coffee shop or farmers market? And does bringing a little Emanu-El into your neighborhood appeal to you? If you're looking for a volunteer opportunity close to home, consider becoming a neighborhood liaison to reach out to congregants in need, coordinate neighborhood events, and welcome new congregants in the city. Or volunteer to host a local community get-together in your home. Interested? Let us know!

FRONT PORCH

This innovative program assembles congregants into groups and gives them the tools they need to build deep and meaningful relationships at home-hosted gatherings. The gatherings include short videos filmed by one of our rabbis and discussion questions on Jewish topics relevant to life today. Would you like to join a Front Porch group this fall? Fill out the interest form at https://www.emanuelsf.org/front-porch/

Special Event: An Evening Calling In “The One”

Lovers don’t finally meet somewhere. They were in each other all along. –Rumi

February 13, 7:00 pm

Join us for an evening of conversation and interaction about the transformative program that has helped thousands create a miracle in their love lives, presented by Dale Sparage, a certified Calling in “The One” coach. Dale was trained and mentored by New York Times best-selling author and therapist Katherine Woodward Thomas. In this program, you will learn:

• How to become empowered in your quest for love
• How to create miracle-minded intentions
• How to identify the patterns that are holding you back
• How visioning can lead to manifesting the love of your life

Bring your journal as we will be doing some exercises that require writing!

Stay tuned to future editions of the Chronicle for information on gatherings with our:

• Interfaith Group (gatherings for interfaith members and families of Emanu-El)
• Men’s Group (a group for men of Congregation Emanu-El focused on Torah study and socializing)
• The Tribe for Men (a group of active and committed Emanu-El dads ages 30–50 with children ages 0–12, regardless of gender and/or sexual identity)

As a large congregation, we recognize the importance of small group connection, so we create many opportunities for learning, socializing, and enjoying local culture together. These group gatherings generally occur in the evening hours or on weekends. Refer to the Community or Social Justice pages on our website for more information and staff contact information. Remember to register online in the MyEmanu-El portal for all of these programs (unless otherwise noted below) so we know to expect you.

Your Community Engagement Team:

Terry Kraus (tkraus@emanuelsf.org, Ext. 111)
Monica Pevzner (mpevzner@emanuelsf.org, Ext. 124)
Rebecca Reiner (rreiner@emanuelsf.org, Ext. 170)
Rachel Schonwetter (rschonwetter@emanuelsf.org, Ext. 171)
MAZEL TOV TO OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED JOY
Trisha and Adam Siegel on the birth of their daughter, Eleanora Dorothy Siegel

CONDOLENCES TO OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE SUFFERED RECENT LOSSES
Friends and family of long-time member Marian Levy
Angel Alvarez-Mapp on the death of his mother, Berta Mapp de Alvarez
David Rosenberg-Wohl (Katherine) on the death of his mother, and Sarah and Jacob Rosenberg-Wohl on the death of their grandmother, Donna Rosenberg
Ken Novack (Debby) on the death of his mother, Dorothy Louise Scheinbron Novack
Shira Blatt (Peter Wright) on the death of her mother, Ellen Rosenberg
Katherine Tick (Fred Raker) on the death of her father, and Samuel and Emma Tick-Raker on the death of their grandfather, Stanley Tick
Josh Goldstein (Jamie) on the death of his father, and Layla and Willow Goldstein on the death of their grandfather, Alan Saul Goldstein
Sam Jaber on the death of his son, Yacob Jaber
Jaimie Sanford (Ted Storey) on the death of her father, and Ella, Abraham and Nathan Storey on the death of their grandfather, Laurence Sanford
Amy Alterman on the death of her father, Mike Alterman
Alexandra Salkin (Sam) on the death of her mother, Margaret Boyd
Gayle Starr (Eric) on the death of her father, and Daniel Starr on the death of his grandfather, Seymour Phillips Jeffrey Green (Janie) on the death of his mother, and Alison Bradshaw on the death of her grandmother, Dr. Elinore Green
Silvia Cheskes (Brian Poger) on the death of her father, and Daniela and Adriana Poger on the death of their grandfather, Manuel Cheskes
Mark Erman (Monique Soltani) on the death of his mother, and Ayla and Josephine Erman on the death of their grandmother, Ruth Erman

CELEBRATING A SHEHECHEYANU MOMENT?
Congregation Emanu-El is an ever-present partner in the transitional moments of our members’ lives. Be it a baby naming or brit milah, a bar or bat mitzvah, a conversion or wedding ceremony, or a recovery from illness, Emanu-El clergy and staff strive to ensure that each sacred “Shehecheyanu Moment” is deeply fulfilling and personal. A donation to the Emanu-El Life-Cycle Fund is a beautiful way to mark a personal milestone, to honor friends or family celebrating a happy experience, or to show gratitude for the services provided by our clergy during these profound moments. Please donate online at www.emanuelsf.org or call the Development office at (415) 750-7554.
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS ON THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS
Lisa Bransten, Partnerships Director for the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, on being a 2017 Spirit of Philanthropy Award recipient by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Golden Gate Chapter; Lisa was sponsored by the San Francisco Parks Alliance
Rabbi Stephen Pearce on being a 2017 Spirit of Philanthropy Award recipient by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Golden Gate Chapter; Rabbi Pearce was sponsored by the SF-Marin Food Bank
Rabbi Lawrence Kushner on being honored by the Jewish Community Library celebrating the 40th anniversary of his groundbreaking Jewish books
Shabana Siegel on being recognized by Institute on Aging for her effort and support of its Friendship Line, the only 24-hour toll-free accredited crisis line in the U.S. for people age 60 years and older and adults living with disabilities
Roean Iscoff on being honored at this year’s Institute on Aging Dinner a la Heart for being involved for 26 years, serving on the Auxiliary Board and as Co-Chair of the Dinner a la Heart, and being an active member of the Jewish community
Sue Morris on her election as president of the board of Sinai Memorial Chapel

NEW MEMBERS - Welcome!
Cole Charas, Ms. Candace Tam, Natasha Charas, Dr. Orrin Ailoni-Charas • Ms. Alexandra Corvin, Mr. Eric Walder • Mrs. Samantha Dossa, Aria Dossa, Mr. Rameez Dossa • Mr. Matthew Leopold, Ms. Natalie Leopold, Hannah Leopold, Aaron Leopold, Noah Leopold • Ms. Bidrea Alnasser, Dr. Matthew Levy • Mr. Eugene Mann, Mrs. Judith Mann, Ms. Barbara Mann • Ms. Lauren Fox, Zachary Wallick, Bradley Wallick

REJOINED MEMBERS - Welcome Back!
Mr. Adam Weinstein, Mrs. Lisa Weinstein, Sydney Weinstein

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT continued from page 11
Help Keep Our Community Warm This Winter!
Did you know that nearly 15 percent of Americans are living in poverty? And that many struggle through the winter trying to keep themselves and their families warm? You can help! Each winter, we partner with “One Warm Coat” to host a coat drive, and all of the coats we collect are provided to our local neighbors in need. Your donations are needed!
Please note that we are only accepting new or gently used coats and jackets for this drive – nothing with stains, rips, or holes.
Collection barrels are located inside the front gate throughout the month of February. Let’s show our community that Emanu-El cares! For more information, please visit our Driven to Care webpage at: www.emanuelsf.org/emanu-el-driven-care/.

EMANU-EL SF
GILAD KARIV continued from page 9

Emanu-El: Back in 2016, Israel’s Knesset passed legislation to exempt ultra-Orthodox (Haredi) schools from teaching core curriculum subjects such as Hebrew and English language skills, science, and mathematics. While this can only serve to further ignorance in the ultra-Orthodox community, you’re quoted as saying that the ultra-Orthodox world’s success is also the secret to its collapse. Due to demographic growth and political standing, it will ultimately become impossible for the old ultra-Orthodox world to survive. But according to recent projections by the Central Bureau of Statistics released by the Israel Democracy Institute, just under half of Israel’s population (49 percent) will be made up of Arabs and ultra-Orthodox Jews by 2059. In 42 years, the ultra-Orthodox, or Haredi, community will have grown to 5.25 million people, or some 29 percent of the Israeli public. Does this worry you? Do American Reform Jews have an obligation to be more active in the domestic affairs of Israel to counter this dangerous influence in the Israeli government?

Kariv: I don’t deny the statistics, but there are signs of a quiet “revolution” in the ultra-Orthodox world happening in spite of their rabbis and other leaders – gradually more and more Orthodox women and now men are becoming educated and joining the work force for the simple reason that they don’t want to continue to live in poverty just from government handouts. I truly believe that as the ultra-Orthodox become more involved in academia and the workplace, they will become more tolerant to different forms of Judaism and different ways of life, and like every other group will also have less children. There is no question that this is a gradual process, but I remain a believer that this world will look very different in the future. The most important thing that American Jewry can contribute to this process is to be engaged with us in building the Israeli movement, which will help ensure a Judaism among the majority of Israelis that is confluent with liberal democratic values. Our mission is to ensure Israel’s future as a democratic and Jewish state, and this is the mutual mission of the whole Jewish people. And I am optimistic that we will continue to succeed.

Emanu-El: You’ve talked about religion coercion. That there is corruption of Judaism in Israel. We as reform Jews in the United States desire to see Israel as a place for the whole Jewish community. Where Reform rabbis are officially recognized as such by the State of Israel. Share some examples on how American Reform Jews can further engage in dialogue with Israel about religious freedom.

Kariv: Our mission as the Israeli Reform Movement is to make Reform egalitarian Judaism accessible to as many Israelis as possible. When we do that, we succeed. By helping us build our movement in Israel – increase our congregational presence, educational programs, youth programs, tikkun olam activities, and our advocacy through the Israeli Religious Action Center – you are helping us make that change in Israel. When Israelis – whether famous, influential, or young Israelis – come to your communities, make sure that they experience pluralistic Judaism. And then, when they return to Israel, they will join us or at least support us. At the same time, we work on an Israeli grassroots level, of course, we are continuing to work in the legal system through the supreme court and in the political system through the Knesset. Reform Jews in North America should support us both philanthropically, but also and no less important, make your voices heard through writing to the prime minister, Knesset members, talking to Israeli consulates and other representatives. Rabbi Rick Jacobs, the head of our movement, has called for increased engagement by American Reform Jews with Israel through partnerships with our movement in Israel, and even through a reverse birthright where Israelis would be exposed to our form of pluralism.

Now more than ever, we must ensure that Israel remains a vital democratic and Jewish society where engagement is vital. If we do these steps systematically, there will be change in Israel in spite of the complicated political situation, because the vast majority of Israelis support this. For years, diaspora Jews were called to plant trees and build settlements and help integrate new immigrants. Now we call on you to “plant” seeds of religious pluralism through engaging with us. We need to be honest as Reform Jews. Seventy years ago, we as Reform Jews didn’t play a strategic role in defining the character of the newly born state. Today, when Israel reaches its 70th birthday, we as Reform Jews have a second opportunity to impact the character of the Jewish state for the future. Let’s embrace this opportunity and ensure Israel’s pluralistic Jewish democratic character for the future.

Emanu-El: Recently, President Donald Trump announced that he supported the move of the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and recognized Jerusalem as the official capital of Israel. The Reform Jewish Movement in the United States described the announcement as “ill-timed” and having “significant concerns” about this recognition and how it will affect the peace process. What are your thoughts? Was it helpful? Do you see donations from Reform Jews to Israel having decreased because of it? Where do you see the realities of a two-state solution go from here?

Kariv: Unfortunately, the initial statement by the North American Reform Movement was misinterpreted by many Israelis as meaning that the Reform Movement is not supportive of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Although clarifications followed, and in Rabbi Jacobs’ speech to the Biennial on Israel (Shabbat morning Dvar Torah), he stated clearly that the Reform Movement stands in solidarity with the recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital. Some damage was done to our image in Israel, which we are working hard to repair. Jerusalem is a special case in Israel, and statements have to be made with care. There is no question, though, that it’s important that, as a leading American Jewish organization, the American Reform Movement has a responsibility to make its voice clear as well on the importance of the peace process.

There is no doubt that the Israeli-Palestinian peace process is in a very fragile situation. The North American Reform Movement has a long-standing policy of supporting the two-state solution. I believe this policy reflects the commitment of the American Reform Movement to the future of the State of Israel and its core values. The voice of Reform Judaism in that regard is important and, like always, it should be presented with the necessary sensitivity to the complicated reality in Israel, and to our need to be inclusive and welcoming to as many Jews and lovers of Israel as possible. I do not think that donations from Reform Jews will go down, but I do believe that this is the time to double and triple the efforts and to direct this commitment to Israel strategically to the values of the Reform Movement and to build the influence and capacity of our movement there.
JOIN US FOR PURIM!

At the Royal Table: An Adult Megillah Experience

Wednesday, February 28, 6:30 pm

Join us for a fun night with the King and Queen. A fun adult megillah reading awaits, which will include discussing the elements of feminism, sexism, chance and humor that pervade this ancient yet timely text. Fine wine and good treats will accompany the reading. Visit emanuelsf.org/purim for registration details.

Shushan’s Bazaar
Family Purim Celebration

Saturday, March 3, 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Get ready for some serious fun, including carnival games, human foosball, jumpy houses, an animal show, face painting, henna tattoos, twisted balloons, hamantashen baking, a selfie photo booth, music, and art! Food for sale will include pizza, hot dogs, nachos, cotton candy, and more!

The Totally Rad 80s Purim Spiel!

Saturday, March 3, 6:00 pm, Martin Meyer Sanctuary

Wear your favorite 1980s costume! Make sure your neon and “Material Girl” shirts are pressed and ready! Perm that hair and pull out the old shoulder pads! This event will include plenty of crafts, food, and games, and is open to people of all ages.

Information on all of our Purim events can be found at emanuelsf.org/purim.
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.

Jonathan Singer, Richard and Rhoda Goldman Senior Rabbi
Beth Singer, Richard and Rhoda Goldman Senior Rabbi
Sydney B. Mintz, Rabbi
Ryan Bauer, Rabbi
Carla Fenves, Rabbi
Jason Rodich, Rabbi
Marsha Attie, Cantor
Arik Luck, Ben and A. Jess Shenson Cantor
Roslyn Barak, Senior Cantor Emerita
Rabbi Lawrence Kushner, Emanu-El Scholar
Stephen Pearce, Senior Rabbi Emeritus
David N. Goldman, Executive Director and General Counsel
Terry Kraus, FTA, Director of Membership Services
Elena Gary, Chief Financial Officer
Ariana Estoque, M.Ed, Director of Adolescent and Adult Education
Flora Kupferman, Interim Director of Youth Education
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Shushan's Bazaar
SATURDAY MARCH 3
4pm to 6pm
Annual Purim Spiel for all ages
6pm
Annual Purim Bake Sale

Festivities for all ages will include carnival games, crafts, food and entertainment!

Come in your favorite costume!

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