

Ritual Committee Report to The Emanuel Synagogue Board of Trustees for June 2018

The Ritual Committee met 9 times over the past fiscal year.

Highlights of our accomplishments include:

1. The Ritual Committee worked with the Torah Cover committee to resolve how existing Torah breastplates would be used going forward.
 - The breastplates will not be used except for during the High Holiday season.
 - The new Torah covers (designed by Jeanette Kuvin Oren) are a continuous design that would be obscured if the breastplates were used. The High Holiday Torah covers were designed to showcase the breastplates.
 - We have recommended that during the year, the breastplates be displayed in shadow boxes mounted on the bimah.
2. We began a review of the congregational booklet, *Guide to the Traditions and Rituals of Jewish Burial Practices*. Don collected input from the committee and will work with the Rabbi to update appropriately.
3. The committee proposed updates to the Yizkor booklets, specifically to include a blank line to indicate where a mourner would insert the name of their loved one and to add a prayer for siblings.
4. The committee is studying the issues related to providing streaming Shabbat services. The goal would be to provide a community connection for those who are home or hospital bound, remote or unable to attend services for any reason.
5. The committee continues to look for ways to offer honors to more congregants. The addition of a third gabbai has helped in this effort, but we continue to look for additional opportunities.
6. We worked with the Rabbi to decide whether the names of individuals with no mourners remaining in the congregation should still be read before Mourners Kaddish. We decided that the names would continue to be read to honor their memories regardless of existing congregational connections.
7. Committee members work to support congregational prayer by attending:
 - Shabbat and Holiday services
 - Minyanim, including mobile minyanim which allow Emanuel to bring minyanim to house-bound congregants
 - Shiva minyanim
 - Services shared with other local congregations: Tisha B'Av, Selichot, Israel's 70th Birthday, Shavuot
8. The committee sponsored kiddushim on Sukkot, Simchat Torah and Shavuot
9. We continue to support
 - The work of clergy and lay leaders
 - The World-Wide Wrap
 - The work of the Cemetery Committee in their goal to include an interfaith burial area for members and their partners
 - The review and approval of the daily minyan schedule
 - The review and support of all holiday services, including Yom HaShoah and Tisha B'Av
 - The Emanuel Board of Trustees with regular reporting
10. Yasher Koach to Cantor Sanford Cohn and Moshe Pinchover for their efforts to increase the number of lay Torah readers, lay service leaders and lay Haftarah readers.
11. Yasher Koach to Rabbi Small for implementing Torah at 10 which has encouraged more people to arrive earlier in the service.
12. Yasher Koach to Brotherhood for sponsoring and organizing the Oneg following Friday evening services which has had a very positive impact on attendance and socializing.
13. Yasher Koach to Regina Miller for taking the lead to organize kiddushim following Shabbat morning services when there is no Bar or Bat Mitzvah and following Yom Tov services which has increased socializing following services and people stepping up to be kiddush sponsors.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald N. Miller, Ph.D. and Charlotte Bower

Co-chairs Emanuel Synagogue Ritual Committee