

# Everything Emanuel

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## FROM THE RABBI

### *L'HITRAOT AND TODAH RABBAH* **KOBI AND SIMI BENITA!**

**K**obi and Simi Benita have announced their plan to move back to Israel at the end of this year.



I support and understand Kobi and Simi's desire to be closer to family and to return home after years in "Chutz L'aretz." I will miss their great spirit, friendship and support! I am grateful to Kobi and Simi for their many contributions to our Emanuel Family's advancement and growth.

Simi has become a regular at Shabbat services. Her warmth and gracious presence add to the good spirit of our services and kiddush gatherings. Simi prays with heart and spirit and thinks deeply about the Torah portions. Simi has chanted Haftarah with compelling expression and a beautiful singing voice. As a member of our Israel 75 celebration, Simi added authenticity and style to the delicious Israeli meals she prepared with our event team.

In his years as Executive Director, Kobi has guided, urged and persuaded us to advance the growth and strategic functioning of our congregation. He has been tireless in helping to build our membership, retain current members and insure that as much as possible the experience of interacting with the Emanuel Office will be seamless and an extension of all other facets of synagogue life in which people feel respected, cared about and

*(continued on page 4)*







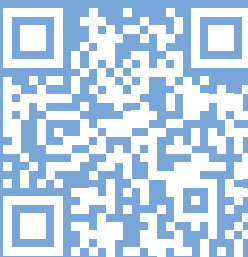
MAY THEIR MEMORY BE FOR

A BLESSING

זיכרוננו לברכה

We will plant a tree in Israel, in memory of your loved one. An enduring legacy for generations to come.

*Glenn & Tiffany Blumenstein*



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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*The following remarks are excerpted from a speech delivered by Emanuel President Reesa F. Olins on Kol Nidre 5784.*

How do I encourage each one of you to open your pockets and make a Kol Nidre pledge?

It is very important to me and many of you sitting here that The Emanuel Synagogue has a strong and viable future. It is a fact that the number of Jewish families living in our area is on the decline and some of those Jewish families believe, unlike all of you, that they have little need for a synagogue.

That thinking could potentially lead to the end of synagogue life as we know it. But, as most of you know, synagogue life, whether you attend a few days a year or every week of the year, is vital to us to maintain our Jewish identity.

The Emanuel is the place where our children and grandchildren are being taught to love and embrace Judaism and enjoy the many wonderful holidays and traditions.

I am pleased to tell you that we are a thriving congregation having welcomed more than 50 new families — totaling close to 180 people — in the past year. Our members are referring their friends — and recently joined members are referring their friends because they feel so welcomed and embraced by clergy, staff, and lay leaders. We are known in the wider Jewish community as **THE PLACE TO BE!**

The Emanuel is the place where we celebrate together — holidays, mitzvahs, and other joyous occasions.

The Emanuel is the place to come together to support others in happy times, to rally together to help others in need, and console one another when a loss of a loved one must be confronted. Our amazing clergy are always here for us!

The Emanuel is the place where



we meet new friends and have a sense of belonging.

The Emanuel is the place where we can address larger Jewish concerns and social issues by addressing anti-Semitism, engaging in Tikkun Olam, and supporting inclusion and civility.

The Emanuel is the place where we form a new link in the chain of Jewish tradition, carrying on values for future generations to inherit while at the same time, being creative, innovative, and welcoming.

The Emanuel is the place where we create meaningful moments — moments of joy, understanding, reflection, and kindness.

The Emanuel Synagogue is important for many reasons. It is a special community which plays an important role in our lives. We welcome and value members of another faith or cultural background who choose to become Jewish or to closely associate with the Jewish people.

It is hard to be Jewish alone.

Through a congregation, one's Jewish life experience is enhanced and expanded by partnering with a community that is lasting and offers a rich menu of experiences throughout the year. At The Emanuel, there are programs for everyone from monthly community Shabbat dinners, Adult Education programs, Religious School family programs, Brotherhood breakfasts and Sisterhood events, Hanukkah and Purim parties, Scotch in the Sukkah, Passover Wine Tasting and for our young children — Kibbitz & Nosh, Tot Shabbat, and Shabbat Jams.

That is what a synagogue like The Emanuel is all about — a place to provide for the spiritual, communal, and educational needs of every generation.

Now some of you may be thinking, let someone else come forward to pay for the privilege of maintaining our synagogue and

*(continued on page 4)*

### Everything Emanuel

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*The Emanuel Synagogue is affiliated with The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.*



## THE EMANUEL PLAYERS ARE BACK WITH *DOMITILLA* ON NOVEMBER 19, 2023

The Emanuel Players will return to the stage Sunday, Nov. 19, with a staged reading of Ben Engel's latest play, *Domitilla*. The performance will be at 7 p.m., with a dessert reception following.

The play recreates encounters between Jewish and Roman leaders in 95 CE, when four Talmud rabbis went to Rome on a diplomatic mission. Working both sides is Domitilla, a

member of the Imperial family living an openly Jewish life in Rome, together with her husband Flavius Clemens. "These Roman aristocrats adhered to Judaism during the violent and unstable reign of their relative, the Emperor Domitian," Engel said.

The play also continues the story of Rabbi Joshua ben Hananiah, which Engel began to tell in his 2016 play, *Rabbi of the Stars*. The playwright said he admires Rabbi Joshua for his wisdom and moderation. "The allure of Domitilla, the rabbis' early exposure to a foundational Western culture, and the opportunity to continue Rabbi Joshua's story proved irresistible as I contemplated this play," Engel said.

The play is part of The Arts at The Emanuel, a program of plays and concerts at the synagogue.

The rabbis' trip is described in the Talmud, but not in great detail. "I admit I've embroidered on the known facts in creating this human and political drama, and I hope you'll enjoy the result," Engel said. "The question is, what was Domitilla really like? What was Rabbi Akiva really like? What did his wife think of Domitilla? Come find out. It will be an entertaining evening," Engel said.

Leading the cast will be **Esther Aronson** as the beautiful and conflicted Flavia Domitilla; **David Epstein** as her husband, Flavius Clemens; and **Eric Hoffman** as her lover, the brilliant and ambitious Rabbi Akiva. **Lesley Weiner** will play Akiva's courageous wife, Rachel bat Joshua. Heading for Rome along with Akiva will be **Rabbi Steven Chatinover** as Rabbi Joshua, **Rabbi David Small** and **Mel Simon**. **Elizabeth Ehrlich**, **Debbie Mehlman**, **Fred Spaeth** and **Ken Simon** complete the cast, and **Carolyn Topol** will be the Narrator. The play is produced by **Ken Simon**, **Alan Parker**, and **Marsha Wolfberg**, and directed by **Adrian A. Durlenster**.

In the run-up to the production, on **Wednesday, Nov. 8**, Emanuel will host **Dr. Steven D. Fraade**, Mark Taper Professor Emeritus Of Religious Studies at Yale, a scholar of the period. Fraade's 7:30 p.m. presentation, which will be free and open to the public, is titled: "Rabbis and Romans." Dr.



Playwright Ben Engel

Fraade will comment on a variety of topics relevant to the play, and then take questions from Engel and the audience. The event will be co-sponsored by the Emanuel Synagogue Adult Education Committee.

"A playwright wants a big crowd so I hope you'll come and bring friends, and of course donate to the Emanuel so we can keep doing this," Engel said. He noted that the play is an important fundraiser for the synagogue and asked people to consider higher level donations as described on the website.

General Admission tickets for the play will be \$36, or \$18 for students. The price for Emanuel school parents will be \$25. Tickets are available at [www.emanuelsynagogue.org](http://www.emanuelsynagogue.org) or by contacting the Emanuel office at (860) 236-1275.



Dr. Steven Fraade

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### *From the Rabbi, continued*

listened to. Kobi has raised staff morale and encouraged personal growth and leadership amongst our terrific team. In Kobi, I have found a wonderful colleague and friend.

Kobi has improved our connections to many local partners in the Jewish community and has championed Emanuel's position as a central address for important events in the Jewish community. I have learned a great deal from Kobi about team leadership, project management and the importance of determination and steady work towards important goals. I am grateful to Kobi for his personal and professional support and most of all, for his deep embrace of Jewish values so all the functions of The Emanuel are in alignment with our Jewish ideals and traditions.

**Please join us on Shabbat morning, Dec. 30, when Kobi and Simi will share an aliyah and Simi will chant the Haftarah. The Emanuel will cosponsor the kiddush in honor of Kobi and Simi.**

The kiddush, catered by Brotherhood, will be co-sponsored by Judd and Bella Fink in loving memory of Bella's father, Aron Kravshik. We hope you will come and help us say *L'bitraot* and *Todah Rabbah* to Kobi, Simi and their beautiful family.

— Rabbi David J. Small

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### *From the President, continued*

synagogue life — I already pay my dues.

But dues only fund about 55 percent of our budget. It is your Kol Nidre donations, continuing membership, and support of fundraisers that will take us into the future.

So, I ask each of you to be generous this year when you make your Kol Nidre pledge.

Do it for yourselves, your family, your children, your grandchildren and do it for the generations to come!

On behalf of the entire Board of Trustees, *G'mar Chatimah Tovah* — may you all be written and sealed in the Book of Life.

— Reesa F. Olins

# Chanukah

On Friday, the Chanukah candles are lit before dark and before the Shabbat lights...  
On Saturday evening, the Chanukah candles follow Havdalah, at home after dark.

## הדלקת נרות HADLAKAT NEIROT CANDLELIGHTING

ברוך אתה די *Barukh atah Adonai*  
אלהינו מלך העולם *Eloheinu melekh ha-olam*  
אשר קדשנו במצותיו *Asher kidsbanu b'mitzvotav*  
וצנינו *V'tzivanu*  
להדליק נר של חנוכה. *L'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah.*

Praised are You, Adonai,  
Our God, Ruler of the universe,  
Who made us holy through the commandments  
and commanded us  
to kindle the Hanukkah lights.

## שעשה נסים SHEH'ASAH NISSIM לאבותינו LA'AVOTEINU THE ONE WHO DID MIRACLES FOR OUR ANCESTORS

ברוך אתה די *Barukh atah Adonai*  
אלהינו מלך העולם *Eloheinu melekh ha-olam*,  
שעשה נסים לאבותינו *Sheh'asah nissim la'avoteinu*  
בימים ההם *Ba-yamim ba-beim*  
בזמן הזה. *Ba-z'man ha-zeh.*

Praised are You, Adonai,  
Our God, Ruler of the universe,



CHANUKAH IS  
DECEMBER 7-15,  
2023. LIGHT THE  
FIRST CHANUKAH  
CANDLE THURSDAY  
NIGHT, DECEMBER 7,  
AFTER 5:00 P.M.

*The candles: Set from right to left  
and light from left to right*

## שהחיינו SHEHEHEYANU

WHO HAS GIVEN US LIFE  
(on the first night only:)

ברוך אתה די *Barukh atah Adonai*  
אלהינו מלך העולם *Eloheinu melekh ha-olam*  
שהחיינו *sheheheyanu*  
וקיימנו *v'ki-y'manu*  
והגיענו *v'higiyanu*  
לזמן הזה. *la-z'man ha-zeh.*

Praised are You, Adonai,  
Our God, Ruler of the universe,  
Who has given us life  
and sustained us  
and enabled us to reach  
this season.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

DEBRA GRAINSKY WITH NICHOLAS RODRIGUEZ  
RABBI MARC RUDOLPH AND MIDDY FIERRO  
HELENE & JOSHUA LEDER WITH EVAN  
JENNIFER & KEVIN NEJFELT WITH SADIE AND HENRY  
JENNIFER LEVINE & RYAN ALBRYCHT WITH HAILEY, DANIEL  
AND CAMERON  
AMY & SCOTT LEVINE WITH HANNAH AND BRAYDEN  
DR. GABRIELA SPILBERG WITH LEA  
JAIME SMOLIN WITH BENJAMIN AND ELIZABETH  
HENRY ZACHS  
JUDY ZACHS  
BARBARA DOUGLAS  
KATHIE-JO ARNOFF

## MAZAL TOV TO...

Rabbi David Small & Debbie Chameides on  
the birth of their grandson, Nadav Shaked, son  
of Gabrielle Salomon-Small and Eyal Salomon.  
Mazal tov also to great-grandparents Dr. Leon  
and Jean Chameides

Rona Gollob on the marriage of her son, Marc  
Gollob, to Lindsay Jaworski

Melissa & Guy Graff on the marriage of their  
daughter, Danielle Graff, to Adam Brody

Naomi & Joel Kleinman on the birth of their  
granddaughter, Meredith Frances Kleinman,  
daughter of Aaron & Elena Kleinman



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### *L'HITRAOT AS WE HEAD HOME TO ISRAEL*

I have served as your Executive Director for almost four years, but I never written a column for The Emanuel's newsletter. Previous presidents tried to convince me to write one, but I never felt comfortable doing so. English, after all, is not my mother tongue. (If I could write in Hebrew, it would be a different story.)

I decided to step out of my comfort zone and explain why we have decided to make Aliyah and what is going on in my heart and mind as we prepare to return home, to Israel.

We arrived in the U.S. in 2016 with our two young daughters, then ages 12 and 13. I must admit the beginning was full of difficulties and challenges, especially for the girls, whom we cut off from friends, a cozy and familiar home and a warm and loving family. We brought them to the U.S. — a foreign/unfamiliar new place, far from everyone they love, with no English skills, no friends and no family. It took them several years to adapt, learn English, make new friends, and feel more comfortable in the U.S. When Mai (our older daughter) finished high school, it was clear she was going back to Israel to serve in the IDF, and then Leonne (our younger daughter) finished high school, and she also made Aliyah and volunteered to serve in the IDF. As of today, both girls live in Israel and both serve meaningful roles in the IDF.

**I came to the Emanuel Synagogue for a job, but I was happy to find much more than just a job--I found a family! Simi and I have no family in the area, so in practice we have adopted the Emanuel community as our family. We have made many new friends, who will, without a doubt, remain our lifelong friends.**

For me, Emanuel never felt like a typical workplace but more like a warm and embracing home. Every morning I came to the office with joy and a smile. I never worked for a

nonprofit organization, so coming from a for-profit market and getting used to having so many bosses was certainly a challenge. I needed to make several adjustments, however, it certainly helped having such a professional and talented office staff, clergy, custodians, senior staff, lay leaders and devoted volunteers to work with.

I want to thank my devoted staff: Lisa Lenkiewicz, Lisa Taylor, Kathy Hart, Joe Ward (and the custodians), Josh Cohen and Wendy Greco for being here, day in and day out, taking care of business and making it all look so easy. But do not be fooled. What we do here is not easy; but it is fun, and we do it all with a lot of integrity, care and love.

I found myself constantly juggling between short-term plans/goals and long-term visions. How to keep the Emanuel focused on the best near-term operation challenges, while always remembering the need to build a better future for the synagogue. I hope that I was able to find a good balance between the two, by managing the synagogue with the utmost professionalism, efficiency, and effectiveness with a great dose of love, caring, compassion and empathy.

I worked hard to meet most of our important goals and objectives as your Executive Director, and hopefully was able to place the Emanuel Synagogue in a much better position for years to come.

I hope I was able to bring some of my for-profit experience and practices to the Emanuel Synagogue, helping in securing our future for many more years. We signed a long-term lease agreement with The Children Museum Preschool and Museum. We established a culture of structured



*Kobi & Simi Benita*

fundraising programs such as The Rabbi's Tribute, Israel 75, and the current Torah Scroll Repair Project.

The foundation of the Strategic Committee, which led to the formation of the Membership Committee, currently chaired by Michalee Merritt, has been able to recruit a significant number of new members and families with children. Thanks to that, and to the efforts of our school principal, Barbara Fink, and our Hazzan, Daniella Risman, our Hebrew School has grown significantly — reaching record numbers of students as compared with the numbers from the early pandemic days. We have elevated our facility rental program, which is generating considerable income for the synagogue and helps position us as a leading meeting venue among Jewish and non-Jewish organizations in the Greater Hartford area. Having Josh Cohen creating and spearheading many wonderful events certainly elevated the Emanuel as “the place to be!”

I am proud of our efforts in obtaining meaningful Federal FEMA grants, which will make the Emanuel Synagogue a safer place. Special thanks to the FEMA squad: Howard

*(continued on page 7)*

Smith, Tom Mastronarde and Joyce Hyde for leading and managing this significant effort. Together with Jon Colangelo from the Jewish Federation and our internal security team, we made sure our members and guests felt safe during the High Holy Days.

I was also heavily involved with membership retention and membership recruiting, speaking with significant number of current and potential members every week, resulting in higher retention and higher recruitment rates.

Most of all my accomplishments were made possible thanks to collaboration with others. I hardly did anything totally by myself! I am happy I had the privilege of working with an excellent and diverse team, all having one thing in common: the interest and good and welfare of the synagogue. I cannot possibly name all the wonderful people I worked with; however, I must mention several key volunteers with whom I worked very closely: Howard Smith, Tom Mastronarde, Bonnie & Rick Lasker, Amy Dembo, Regina Miller, Ken Malley, Alan Goodman, Arlan Lieblick, Lisa Sadinsky, Mitchell Jaffe, Sheila Silverman, Joanne Pasternack, Michael Kamins, Mickey Libbin, Jeff

Adler, Fern Cohen, Tamar Margolis, Randie Fierberg, Jeff Cohen, Joel Kent, Ben Engel, Marsha Wolfberg and many others. Thank you to all of you from the bottom of my heart. It has been a bumpy road at times, but what a ride!

I would like to thank Mel Simon for thinking out of the box and hiring me without any nonprofit experience. When he did that, he certainly took a risk, but I hope I was able to prove to Mel and to others that it was well worth the risk. I remember working closely with Mel during the pandemic, doing all we could to keep our members and guests safe and, with Barry Feigenbaum's leadership, installing advanced cameras for Zoom and livestreaming services, which we still use regularly today.

I would also like to thank Rabbi Small for being my biggest supporter and partner from day one and for being my mentor, advisor and confidante. Thank you Rabbi Small, for all you have done for me, for your trust, love and friendship.

Special thanks to Ken Simon, our past president, and to Reesa Olins, our current president, for the countless hours we spent working together, for the trust, collaboration

and for your continuous support.

I am also proud of creating healthy relationships and establishing a culture of teamwork and collaboration among staff, clergy, lay leaders and volunteers, making work at the Emanuel less stressful, more collaborative, and much more enjoyable and fun. I always make efforts to keep employees happy and content; after all, research proves that happy employees are more productive and efficient. Having a healthy sense of humor also helped in making a more pleasant workplace for all.

The decision to return home to Israel is rooted in my desire to be closer to my 92-year-old father, who is in poor health. I would like to spend time with him before it is too late. Simi and I also want to be close to our young daughters, to our older kids and to the rest of the family.

Dear Emanuel members, I am saying *L'bitraot* (in Hebrew, "See you again") and not goodbye, as I know we shall see each other again, here in West Hartford or in Israel. We will be sure to pass on our contact information when we find a home in Israel.

With much love,  
Kobi (and Simi) Benita

## THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS

A huge Todah Rabbah to all the volunteers who sat in the lobby for 2 weeks and helped distribute High Holiday tickets. Thank you also to Arlan Lieblick for organizing the volunteers! The volunteers include: **Arlan Lieblick, Barbara Snyder, Bella Fink, Bonnie Lasker, Deb Kent, Elaine Smith, Gail Adler, Geri Kaizer, Joni Fine, Joanne Pasternack, Miriam Chaiklin, Ona Mastronarde, Paula Baram, Regina Miller, Rochelle Fierston, Sandi Needelman and Sheryl Kopel.**

Todah Rabbah to the volunteers who spent hours polishing the silver Torah crowns, breastplates and Torah pointers in preparation for the holiday of Simchat Torah. They include: **Renee Zetoff, Ona Mastronarde, Judi Farber, Elaine Cohen, Arlan Lieblick, Toby Sidrane, Rochelle Fierston, Bella Fink, Audrey Yanofsky, Debbie Goldberg, Devora Ginsberg and Marshall Soltz.**

Thank you to **Gladys Mondshein** for handling the mailing of the "Everything Emanuel" bulletins.

Thank you to **Joanne Pasternack** for selling gift cards. Please note — this longtime fundraiser will be discontinued at the end of December, so buy your gift cards for Chanukah now!

## TODAH RABBAH!

Once again, thank you very much to Emanuel members **Glenn & Tiffany Blumenstein** for designing and printing the Emanuel 2023-2024 Calendar and for printing the September/October *Everything Emanuel* newsletter and the *Book of Remembrance*. We are grateful for this generous donation from Blumenstein Funeral Home.

Once again, thank you also to **Weinstein Mortuary** for their generous sponsorship of another year's *Yizkor Book*.

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

by Barbara Fink

Our kids returned from summer with an enthusiasm to learn, and there has been an incredible buzz throughout the building when they are here. They have all taken to heart the words of the *bracha Lasok b'divrei Torah* — to soak themselves with Torah. We truly hope they are coming home and telling you about the great things they are learning.

We had amazing High Holiday Services led by Janice Barshay, Max Silverstone, Sarah Baden, Doron Feller, Josh Cohen and The Children's Museum. I can't thank them enough for their time and thought that was put into each program.

Our Sukkot Family program, "Make a Lulav Shake," was a huge success. Thirty-one families with school aged children ordered a lulav and etrog this year!

The Torah commands parents to "teach your children" (*V'shinantam L'vanecha*). I want to thank all the parents for partnering with us to help teach your children. We are looking forward to a wonderful Chanukah!

### Upcoming Events

- Nov. 3:** Shabbat Dinner @JCC
- Nov. 4:** Havdallah and Hayrides at Westmoor Park  
6:30 pm
- Nov. 5:** Teen Symposium on antisemitism sponsored by JTConnect
- Nov. 12:** USY Sigd celebration
- Nov. 18:** Shabbat morning programming for kids and families
- Nov. 19:** 6th grade Zoom with author Gregg Forbes; JTConnect pie bake at CBI
- Dec. 1:** First and second grade participate in Friday night services followed by dinner
- Dec. 3:** 7th grade family program
- Dec. 13:** Chanukah Glow Party after Religious School
- Dec. 16:** Shabbat morning programming for kids and families
- Dec. 17:** 3rd grade family program

### SUPPORT EMANUEL — BUY GIFT CARDS NOW! PROGRAM DISCONTINUED IN DECEMBER

The Emanuel is still selling gift cards, but only until the end of this calendar year. As of Dec. 31, 2023, Emanuel is discontinuing the gift card program as it is now. We have VISA, Amazon, Dunkin' Donuts, Starbucks, Panera, Dick's and GAP available for \$10 and \$25. These are just a few of the many cards still in stock. Please be in touch with Joanne Pasternack for any questions at [sauljo66@gmail.com](mailto:sauljo66@gmail.com) or (860) 243-0442.

## EMANUEL'S B'NAI MITZVAH



*Lilien Woodward and her grandmother, Dianne Rothkopf, will become B'not Mitzvah in a twinning ceremony, on December 2, 2023.*



*Samuel Alexander Weiss, son of Dr. Daniel and Danielle Weiss, will become a Bar Mitzvah on December 23, 2023.*



*Mason Fink proudly displays the Israeli flag at a solidarity rally for Israel at the West Hartford Town Hall in October.*



## ADULT EDUCATION NEWS

by Ona Mastronarde

Rabbi David Small and Student Hazzan Max Silverstone opened the series on “Preparing Your Heart for the High Holy Days” with a dialogue on getting ready for the month of Elul, followed by a talk by Rabbi Lazowski on the challenges of asking and giving forgiveness. Hazzan Risman and Hazzan Pinchover concluded the series with a musical demonstration of how melody and mode elevate our spiritual journey. In October, 50 years after the Yom Kippur War, Itzhak Brook, M.D., recounted the background of the war and described his experiences as a physician in the Sinai.

Partners in Jewish Programming (PJP) is presenting a new Zoom series, “What Jews Think.” Please see “Coming Up” below for more details.

The Natalie Ziplow study group has resumed Thursday mornings with stimulating study of current events and traditional texts, led by Rabbi Small. All are welcome. Please contact Lisa Taylor at [lisat@emanuelsynagogue.org](mailto:lisat@emanuelsynagogue.org) to receive the Zoom link if you would like to join the group.

### COMING UP:

**Wednesday, Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m.**, in person at The Emanuel and on Livestream: **“Rabbis and Romans”** — **Dr. Steven Fraade**, Mark Taper Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies at Yale University will speak about events and topics relevant to the staged reading of Ben Engel’s next play “Domitilla”, which will premiere at the Emanuel Sunday, Nov. 19 at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Fraade will also take questions from Ben Engel and from the audience.

**Sunday, Nov. 19, 1:00 p.m.**, on Zoom: **Tour of Jewish Cuba with Abel Hernandez Eskenazi**, who was born in Havana, Cuba in 2000 and is an active member of the Jewish Community of Cuba. This presentation will present a panoramic view of the Jewish presence in Cuba from the first group of Jews who arrived in Cuba until today. It will emphasize the different historical periods of the Cuban Jewish Community, the presence of Jews in different cities of the country, the most important Jewish places, and the most important Jewish personalities.

**Thursday, Dec. 14, 8:30 p.m.**, on Zoom: **Dr. Brian Gordon Hillman**, assistant professor in the department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Towson University, will examine **“The Beginnings of Kabbalah”** examining the fundamental theological questions that gave rise to the tradition of Jewish texts and ideas known as Kabbalah. The program historically locates Kabbalah’s origins in Medieval Europe and considers how Kabbalah arose, in part, as a response to philosophical

conceptions of the divine. The program will then explore some early Kabbalistic texts to understand how Kabbalists understood both the nature of divinity and the relationship between G-d and the world with a focus on humanity’s place therein.

**Sunday, Dec. 17, 1:00 p.m.**, on Zoom: **Evan Kapros**, who was born in Greece, moved to Ireland, and now lives in Barcelona, will conduct a **Tour of Jewish Greece**, including the history of Greek Jewry, a unique combination of Sephardic, Ashkenazi, and Romaniote communities with roots in Spain, the Balkans, and going back all the way to the Roman Empire. He will explain this rich history, and will talk about the social perceptions prevalent in contemporary Greek society concerning Jewish identities, including the language, food, and music of the community.

We look forward to another stimulating year of learning. Please let us know if there is a topic, speaker or Jewish program that interests you. You can send your ideas to me at [otmastron@sbcglobal.net](mailto:otmastron@sbcglobal.net).

Please check your weekly Emanuel Updates, the Emanuel Synagogue website, and the Emanuel Mishpacha Facebook page for information on upcoming programs and registration links. We remind you that Pre-registration is required for Emanuel Adult Education programs on Zoom in order to ensure a secure and meaningful experience.

## THANK YOU TO OUR KIDDUSH SPONSORS

### AUGUST

**Ann Rosenthal**, in honor of her move to Virginia; and The Emanuel

**Rhoda Kaplan & Ken Malley**, in honor of Aaron and Alanna Malley and their August Haftorah readings

**Judy Silver**, in gratitude for her birthday and in memory of her husband, Dr. Herb Silver, on his 7th yahrzeit

### SEPTEMBER

**Marshall Soltz**, with gratitude for everything Emanuel

**Nir & Mira Godel**, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Daniel Godel

**Wendy & Alan Mandelbaum**, wishing the members of the Emanuel Synagogue a joyous new year

**Pam & Ken Simon**, in honor of their 40th wedding anniversary

## SCENES FROM SUKKOT AND SIMCHAT TORAH



*Michael Altschuler and Rabbi Small spend some time in the sukkah at the McCauley retirement center in West Hartford.*

*Bella Fink is one of the many volunteers who spent hours polishing the Torah ornaments in preparation for Simchat Torah.*



*New member Rabbi Marc Rudolph shows Zachary Arnett (white kippah) and Levi Jacobson (blue kippah) the Torah during the Torah Repair Project Rollout on Erev Simchat Torah.*



*David, Seth, Brian & Will Fierston*

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# News From The BROTHERHOOD

by Philip Thierman, President

The Emanuel Brotherhood has been active as usual with our signature events, guest speaker dinners, breakfast events and delicious food prep for our members on their joyous occasions. In August, we held our BBQ meeting for all Brotherhood members and prospective members. Thank you to all those who attended and provided great feedback/suggestions on how we can improve our programming.

We also built the brand new Levin sukkah without any power tools. It was so much simpler to put together! We also had fun assembling the sukkah, and it created a great sense of camaraderie all around. I am glad we were able to incorporate some materials from the old sukkah to maintain a similar look.

Please be on the lookout for our upcoming Brotherhood events such as:

**Dec. 6** Dinner with Rabbi Small, "The Invention of Hanukah" at 6:30 p.m.

**TBA** Dinner with Hazzan Risman

**April 13** Brotherhood Shabbat

Looking forward to seeing you at shul and at our events.

## BROTHERHOOD ASSEMBLES NEW LEVIN SUKKAH



*This fall, Brotherhood members assembled on a Sunday morning to build the new Levin Sukkah. The new sukkah is of tubular construction and simply requires snapping parts together with no tools. Helping out were Josh Cohen, Rick Lasker, Don Miller, Paul Kornman, Jeff Adler, Joel Kent, Al Landerman, Eric Goldberg, Rob Teitelman, Ken Malley and Philip Thierman. Photo by Bob Tellar*

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# News From The SISTERHOOD

by Rachel Arnett, President

Can you believe we are this close to reaching 2024? Time continues to fly! This time of year, it has been a pattern for my kiddo, Zachary, and me to spend a lot of time together without spending much time actually doing things together. Between his school and my job, his homework and my gym time, his tech time and my tech time, it can feel like we are running circles around one another. When Chanukah begins, that changes. Along with my family, we light the candles, we pray and we sing together. And miracle of miracles, Zachary and I sit down and play dreidel together, and eat my Dad's famous latkes together and my family always always *always* harmonizes when we sing *Maoz Tzur*.

Only a few movies have been made that reflect on the meaning of Chanukah; if you see me in shul, stop me and tell me about your favorite! Through Hebrew School and services, I learned the historical and religious importance of Chanukah, but only after Zach was born did I begin to reflect on the personal significance of previous celebrations, the "miracles" of Chanukah in my life. I can remember so many beautiful Chanukah moments. I remember my Grandpa's and Grandma's voices leading my family in prayers, my elementary school classmates' enthusiasm for latkes (I was the only Jewish student in my grade) and my friends' kindness in setting aside menorah-lighting time during a weekend away. I can remember Chanukah carnivals when I was younger and the time I was surprised with a homemade banana-norah after misplacing my menorah in storage.

There have been so many hundreds of tiny "miracles" that brought light to my life like so many flickering candles, and when I think of those miracles, I genuinely feel my inner light growing stronger. There is nothing like

the gentle light of beautiful memories to break through the bleak dark of winter. We are all busy, and our families are busy, and our lives are busy. It can be hard to find time just to exist in the same space as the people about whom you care the most. During the next few months, it is my hope you are all also blessed with tiny miracles during time together with your loved ones. Enjoy Chanukah, and I will see you in 2024!

Please feel free to reach out any time with any questions, concerns, event ideas, or anything else!

Be well.

## Upcoming Dates:

**Nov. 7** Paid-Up Membership Dinner

**Nov. 13** "Get Healthy; Stay Healthy - Together!"

**Dec. 16** Game Night (more information to come!)

**Dec. 21** "Get Healthy; Stay Healthy - Together!"

## STOP BY THE JUDAIC SHOP FOR ALL OF YOUR CHANUKAH NEEDS

The Emanuel Synagogue Sisterhood Judaic Shop is open for your shopping pleasure. Chanukah will be here before you know it, in early December! We have you covered with gifts galore. We are proud to display vendors such as Michael Aram, Emanuel, Gary Rosenthal and Beames Designs, to name just a few. With new items arriving on a regular basis, you are sure to find what you are looking for. If not, we will gladly special order that particular item for you.

Come visit us on Sunday mornings from 9:00 am -12:00 pm while Hebrew School is in session, or contact Debbie Bettan, 860-798-9355 or Carol Fishman, 860-930-4424 to shop by appointment.

— Debbie Bettan & Carol Fishman



*At the Sisterhood Meet and Greet, Rabbi David Small discusses the relevance of the arba minim (four species) for the holiday of Sukkot.*



*Hazzan Daniella Rismann shows Deb Kent how to hold the lulav and etrog and recite the blessing. Debbie Mehlman looks on, at the Sisterhood Meet and Greet in the Levin Sukkah.*

Photos by Rachel Arnett



# EMANUEL SYNAGOGUE HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT OCTOBER 2023

by Rick Lasker, Alan Goodman, Howard Smith, Emanuel House Committee

## Grant Applications

**2023 NAA – Neighborhood Assistance Act:** Energy related grant through State of CT. We have been approved for up to \$150,000 for our HVAC replacement project. We have contacted Avangrid and Eversource for possible participation.

## NSGP/FEMA Projects Report from Tom Mastronarde

- Installation of the Video Door Intercom and Entry System is 100% complete and is operational.
- Installation of the Security Camera System is 100% complete. The system is operational and the new digital camera images have been interfaced with the Mutualink police emergency notification system.
- Proposals for the Courtyard Security Fence are under review. Pending approval by FEMA grant administrators, installation projected for November.
- Proposals for decorative Safety Bollards on the outer perimeter of the Sukkah Garden area are being reviewed. Pending approval by FEMA grant administrators, installation projected for November.
- An updated Purchase Order for the Cell Phone Booster System is ready to be placed pending approval by FEMA grant administrators of budget adjustments for the five projects within the overall Emanuel grant project plan. It is expected that equipment will be installed within one month of the issuance of the Purchase Order.
- Bids for the Chapel Window Protection project have been received. Further action is on hold.
- Water leaks in the roof above the Silverman Hall have been repaired. Additional heavy rains did not result in additional leaks. The solar collectors were removed by the solar installer and the roof shingles were stripped in that area by the roofing contractor. The cause of the leak was discovered to be a hole through the shingles and the roof deck for a mounting device. This hole was drilled in the wrong location by the solar installers and improperly patched. The existing roof shingles in that area have been stripped and replaced with all new material. The ceiling will need to be repainted in the area where paint flaked after water destroyed the bond of the paint to the ceiling tiles.
- Sanctuary and Koret Hall rooftop HVAC Systems have been replaced. Items to be completed are installation of a safety guardrail and permit inspection.
- Electronic Yahrzeit Displays in the Sanctuary and Chapel have been installed and are operational. The lettering above the sanctuary unit is to be installed, but due to the nature of the existing paneling material, the method of attaching the letters is being revised.
- Mutualink System is complete and functioning with the West Hartford Police.

## Future Projects

- **HVAC** – The HVAC units serving the Library and the Youth Lounge are also 34 years old. The Youth Lounge unit recently had a minor fan failure and was repaired at a cost of \$951.28. Quoted replacement cost of the two units, including a rooftop electrical panel and wiring is \$30,000 at this time. The decision has been made to defer this project.
- **Parking Lot and Two Catch Basins Repair** — Contractor has been hired. Repairs expected this month.
- **Carpet in Emanuel School Classrooms and Hallway Level 3** is worn, faded, stretched and damaged by plumbing repairs. It is a tripping hazard, and is in need of replacement. Estimated cost for replacement is \$15,000.

Thank you to Gail Weinstein, Kobi Benita, Joe Ward, Tom Mastronarde, and Joel Kent for their help and support. We welcome additional assistance and expertise on any House Committee project.

## NEHAMA

### *Heartfelt condolences and support to the families of:*

**Dorothy Berman**, mother of Barbara, Stephen & Harry Berman

**Elaine Feldman**, mother of Stuart Feldman, Garry Feldman and Renah Feldman

**Bella Glazer**, mother of Helene Leder (Joshua) and Jennifer Levine (Ryan Albrycht); grandmother of Evan Leder, Hailey Albrycht, Daniel Albrycht and Cameron Albrycht

**Dr. Laurence Goldstein**, husband of Rae Goldstein

**Mark Gordon**, husband of Deborah Gordon; father of Joshua and Noah Gordon

**Stewart Kleinman**, past president of The Emanuel (1983-85)

**Marjorie Krems**, sister of Dan (Joni) Fine

**Sylvia Rosenfeld**, mother of Linda (Marty) Stein, Jed (Sharon) Rosenfeld and Daniel (Lauren) Rosenfeld; grandmother of Julie (Evan) Schiff and Jon (Angela) Stein; and great-grandmother of Avery & Abigail Schiff, Madelyn & Freddy Stein

**Dr. Jay D. Smith**, father of Andria Smith (Ed Cassorla), Eric (Sheryl) Smith, and Ira Smith (Dorothy Rogers)

**Marvin Smith**, brother of Howard (Elaine) Smith

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 Susan & Paul Goldberg

*In Memory of*  
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 ALVIN SCHLOSSBERG  
 Philip, Karen, Esther & Aaron Schlossberg

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*In Honor of*  
 The birth of our granddaughter, MEREDITH  
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*In Honor of*  
 BRUCE BERGMAN's 80th birthday and the 67th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah  
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*Wishing Good Health to*  
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### BH ALEX B. LEBED FAMILY FUND

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*In Honor of*  
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*In Memory of*  
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*In Memory of*  
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 The birth of RABBI SMALL & DEBBIE  
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*In Appreciation of*  
 HAZZAN DANIELLA RISMAN's inspirational presentations  
 Jay Smith

*In Honor of*  
 The birth of ARLENE & DAN NEIDITZ' great-granddaughter  
 Don & Regina Miller  
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*In Honor of*  
 The birth of MILTON & RITA ROSENBERG's great-grandchild

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 The birth of RABBI SMALL & DEBBIE  
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*In Memory of*  
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SIMI BENITA's first Haftorah reading

Beth S. Goldberg  
ILAN SMALL receiving his white coat on his entrance  
to Einstein Medical School

Beth S. Goldberg  
LEON CHAMEIDES being elected to the Immigrant  
Hall of Fame

Beth S. Goldberg  
The birth of RABBI SMALL & DEBBIE  
CHAMEIDES' first grandchild

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The birth of LEON & JEAN CHAMEIDES' great-  
grandson

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The birth of RITA & MILT ROSENBERG's first great-  
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*In Memory of*  
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Loretta Levy

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*In Appreciation of*  
MARSHALL SOLTZ  
Joyce Flescher

*In Honor of*  
JUDY SILVER, for chanting the Haftorah  
Dan & Joni Fine  
The birth of RABBI SMALL & DEBBIE  
CHAMEIDES' first grandchild  
Merle & David Harris

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*In Honor of*  
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Jan & Syd Elkin

*In Memory of*  
SIDNEY FINEBERG  
Lori Gottlieb  
KURT LEOPOLD  
Michael Glazier & Jody Brown

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*In Appreciation of*  
RABBI LAZOWSKI, for the holiday cemetery service at  
the Beth Hillel Cemetery  
Alan Goodman  
RABBI LAZOWSKI  
Michael Birnbaum

*In Memory of*  
JENNIE K. GRUBER  
Beth Gerber  
HERB SILVER  
Bob & Carol Tellar  
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*In Honor of*  
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CHAMEIDES' first grandchild  
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& Bruce Bergman  
The birth of LEON & JEAN CHAMEIDES' great-  
grandson  
Don & Regina Miller, Hedyth Fishman and  
family, Sue & Bruce Bergman

### RABBI SMALL DISCRETIONARY FUND

*In Appreciation of*  
RABBI SMALL, for his kindness and his nice words  
after my aliyah wishing me well on my move  
Ann Rosenthal  
RABBI SMALL, for his beautiful words and blessing for  
Adam Topol's birthday  
Carolyn & David Topol  
RABBI SMALL, for his efforts and review of the naming  
certificates for our grandchildren  
Gail & Jeff Adler  
RABBI SMALL  
Howard Whidden, Sarah Morel  
RABBI SMALL, for his Rosh Hashanah remarks  
Jay Smith  
RABBI SMALL, at our time of loss  
Lee Doron  
RABBI SMALL, for his thoughtfulness  
Lotte Hershfield & Leonie Kramer  
RABBI SMALL's birthday blessing and kind words at my  
aliyah on Shabbos Nachamu  
Marshall Soltz  
RABBI SMALL, for his beautiful blessing for our  
anniversaries  
Rick & Jenn Molinari  
RABBI SMALL, for Barbara Canter's unveiling  
Steven Canter

*In Honor of*  
The birth of RABBI SMALL & DEBBIE  
CHAMEIDES' first grandchild  
Allen & Judith Kronick, Anita Mancoll, Anne  
Martha & John Pitegoff, Audrey & Marty Yanofsky,  
Bella & Judd Fink, Bob & Carol Tellar, Carolyn &  
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Olins & Robert Teitelman, Renee Zetoff, Rhoda E.  
Kaplan, Rona Gollob, Seymour & Judy Melnick,  
Sharon Lea Sperling, Stephen & Barbara Berns,  
Susan & Paul Goldberg  
The birth of LEON & JEAN CHAMEIDES' great-  
grandson  
Allen & Judith Kronick, Anita Mancoll, Judy  
Levine, Seymour & Judy Melnick, Sharon Lea  
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The engagement of our granddaughter, GABRIELLE BERN'S to JACOB SAVONA

Stephen & Barbara Berns

Our granddaughter, NICOLE SCHAFFER, on her new position as Director of Development at Solomon Schechter Day School

Stephen & Barbara Berns

RABBI SMALL

Wendy & Alan Mandelbaum

*In Memory of*

LILLIAN BERMAN

Alan & Jeanne Berman

NORMAN HANENBAUM

Barry & Helaine Hanenbaum

RUTH EDELSON

Caryl Blum

LOUIS LOPEZ JR.

Fern & Joel Cohen

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Gerald Kalb

WILLIAM NAWY

Janet Camhi

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Linda Domenitz & Charles Schmidt

DAVID PAUL FITZGERALD, FREDERIC PERSKY & JOSEPH SALOZZI

Linda Rose Fitzgerald

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Lori Gottlieb

COLEMAN SCHWARTZ

Martha Moss

MURIEL SCHWARTZ, CIVIAN BLOCH, GERTRUDE KAIZER & JEROME HAUER

Marvis Gersten

ELAINE FELDMAN

Renee Zetoff

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MARK GORDON

Sharon Lea Sperling

RUTH SHUMAN TUCKER

Stephen & Barbara Berns

*Wishing Good Health to*

RABBI SMALL

Miriam & Dick Goldberg

JANET WALLANS

Sharon Lea Sperling

## RITUAL DIRECTOR DISCRETIONARY FUND

*In Appreciation of*

MOSHE PINCHOVER, for his Hazzan duties

Jay Smith

MOSHE PINCHOVER

Michael Birnbaum

*In Memory of*

MILTON LEVIN

Anita Mancoll

LOUIS LOPEZ JR.

Anita Mancoll

ROSE & SEYMOUR SIMPSON

Michael Simpson

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*In Memory of*

SARAH SLIVKA

Hilda Slivka & Ralph Rosenberg

## ALAN & BARBARA ROSENBERG FUND

*In Memory of*

MILTON LEVIN

Alan & Barbara Rosenberg

## SATURDAY KIDDUSH FUND

*In Appreciation of*

Our aliyah in honor of our wedding anniversary

Robert & Sandi Rudnicki

*In Honor of*

STEPHEN & BARBARA BERN'S anniversary and wishing good health to Steve

Fern & Joel Cohen

SIMI BENITA, for chanting her first Haftorah

Howard & Elaine Smith

*In Memory of*

ELAINE FELDMAN

David & Merle Harris

NORMAN KNOPF and in appreciation of daily minyan

Ilana Knopf

MILTON LEVIN

Stephen & Barbara Berns

MURIEL KOVALSKY & JOSEPH KOVALSKY

Steven Kovalsky

## SECURITY FUND

*In Appreciation of*

JOEL KENT, for all his help at the Beth Hillel cemetery

Alan Goodman

*In Memory of*

MARVIN SMITH

Dan & Joni Fine

*Wishing Good Health to*

STEVE ZELMAN

Phyllis Lehman

## HERBERT & JUDY SILVER FUND

*In Appreciation of*

JUDY SILVER, for her efforts in completing the naming certificates for our two grandchildren

Gail & Jeff Adler

JUDY SILVER, for all the good she does

Susan & Paul Goldberg

*In Honor of*

JUDY SILVER's birthday and in memory of DR. HERB SILVER

Fern & Joel Cohen, Marty & Sue Waterman,

Stephen & Barbara Berns

JUDY SILVER's birthday

Marc & Sandi Needelman, Sue & Bruce Bergman

*In Memory of*

DR. HERB SILVER

Judy Silver

SADYE NOVOSON, MAURICE NOVOSON,

NANCY ROSE & PHIL HANDLER

Judy Silver

*Wishing Good Health to*

JUDY SILVER, on her birthday, and much happiness

Helaine & Barry Hanenbaum

## KEN & PAM SIMON FUND

*In Honor of*

PAM & KEN SIMON's 40th wedding anniversary

Nancy & Darryl Garfinkel

## SISTERHOOD TRIBUTE FUND

*In Memory of*

MARSHA KAMINS

Arlan Lieblick

## HARRY & HYL A SKLAR FUND

*Wishing Good Health to*

HYLA SKLAR

Fern & Joel Cohen, Miriam & Dick

Goldberg, Miriam Chaiklin, Sue & Bruce Bergman

## HOWARD & ELAINE SMITH FUND

*In Memory of*

MARVIN SMITH

Barbara & Stephen Berns, David & Merle

Harris, Don & Regina Miller, Hilda Slivka

& Ralph Rosenberg, Reesa Olins & Robert

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*In Memory of*

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*Wishing Good Health to*

STEVE ZELMAN

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*In Memory of*

JOSEPH SPIVAK & MORRIS SPIVAK

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*In Honor of*

The Bat Mitzvah of SUE & MARSHALL SEIDMAN's granddaughter

Faith & Bruce Parker

*In Memory of*

MARVIN SMITH

Faith & Bruce Parker

MARSHA KAMINS

Norman & Linda Hecht

*Wishing Good Health to*

STEVEN ZELMAN

Faith & Bruce Parker

DAN FINE

Faith & Bruce Parker

## TOPOL & LeVINE FAMILY FUND

*In Honor of*

ADAM TOPOL, on his 33rd birthday

Carolyn & David Topol

JENN & RICK MOLINARI, on their wedding anniversary

Carolyn & David Topol

*In Memory of*

MARK GORDON

Carolyn & David Topol

## TORAH REPAIR FUND

*In Memory of*

DORA GOLDSTEIN

Rae Goldstein

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*In Honor of*

The birth of NAOMI & JOEL KLEINMAN's granddaughter

Francene & Jeremy Weingast

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*In Memory of*

BERNARD WALDMAN

Jaime & Mark Seltzer

SHIRLEY & RALPH SELTZER

Jaime & Mark Seltzer

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CLAUDETTE LEVY's mother

Karen Kaye

*Wishing Good Health to*

THELMA COHN

Karen Kaye

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*In Memory of*

ROSE RÖTTKOV

Gail Weinstein

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LINDA & MARTIN STEIN's special anniversary

Fern & Joel Cohen, Marilyn & Brian Rothberg

The Bat Mitzvah of SUE & MARSHALL SEIDMAN's granddaughter Romy

Lorraine & Tom Barber

*In Memory of*

MARSHA KAMINS

Paula & David Baram

# REFLECTIONS ON THE MONTH OF ELUL: INSPIRATION, MOTIVATION, CELEBRATION

by Judy Silver

*The following are excerpts from a d'var Torah delivered by Judy Silver in the Emanuel Sanctuary on Shabbat Shoftim August 19, 2023.*

**T**he Hebrew month Elul connects the past year with the coming year. It is a time to reflect on where we stand, and where we should be going.

It is a month during which every day except Shabbat we blow the shofar during morning minyan and both morning and evening recite the 27th Psalm that begins:

“The Lord is my Light and my Salvation. Whom need I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life — whom (and I often say what) need I dread?”

The month of Elul is considered the month of Divine mercy and forgiveness. Elul is the “getting ready” time for the New Year.

For some it is cooking and cleaning and calling. I strongly believe it is more importantly a spiritual preparation, a time when after looking back on the past, we need to gather INSPIRATION, MOTIVATION, and CELEBRATION to be our best in the coming year.

Biblically, Elul represents the time period when Moses ascended Mt. Sinai for the third time.

The first time going up the mountain, he received the stone tablets of the 10 Commandments.

After seeing the debacle of the Golden Calf incident and smashing the tablets, he ascended the mountain a second time to ask G-d's forgiveness for what the people had done.

When he went up the third time, he asked G-d to re-inscribe the 10 Commandments...that last trip lasted from the first of Elul to the 10th day of Tishrei when we celebrate Yom Kippur, during which time Moses obtained G-d's whole-hearted forgiveness and reconciliation with the people of Israel.

For me personally, Elul is yahrzeit month — a time when I am observing 5 yahrzeits and remembering 5 people who had a profound influence at different stages of my life.

Nana was the first widow I knew on a day-to-day basis, as she came to live with us after Grandpa died on my 16th birthday. Much of what I have been able to do as a widow, I learned from Nana for the next 33 years. She was and is my INSPIRATION to move forward on my own, knowing there is much life left to be lived.

Gentle, loving Grandpa taught me all about wrestling during my Friday night sleepovers. I was 5. Sitting together on the sofa in front of the little TV with our Ginger Ale, neither of us were dreaming that I would one day have two sons who would wrestle, and I would need to be present



and understanding about that sport, putting aside my feelings to understand theirs. A successful businessman, Grandpa had a kindness in dealing with people every day that I like to think I inherited from him.

Nancy Rose came into my life more than 50 years ago at a meeting at The Village for prospective adoptive parents. That was only the beginning of the many things we had in common and what we shared over the years. She was a very special friend who INSPIRED everyone and me who knew her with her amazing creativity, unselfishness, thoughtfulness, and loyalty. The flowers on our luncheon tables today are cut from a bush I planted at the time of Nancy's first yahrzeit 18 years ago.

If Nancy was like a sister, Phil Handler of blessed memory was like a brother, especially when mine passed away.

The only times we ever held hands was at the end of Havdalah service in the chapel on Saturday nights. Phil's hand would be in my right and Cantor Sandy Cohn, of blessed memory, had his hand in my left.

Not at all a romantic relationship, Phil and I shared a special kinship that formed when we each lost the love of our lives six days apart. Twice a day every day Phil and I attended minyan services, in person and then on Zoom, for 5 years. Phil, ever the professional photographer, had a lens aside from the one on his camera that allowed me to see much of life from a different perspective. He also gave me some new family who then honored me by asking me to preside at his unveiling last August.

Phil always MOTIVATED me to continue to try my hardest at every task I undertook.

Herb, my best friend and soulmate for more than 50 years, was my everything. He taught me so much in our years together, there would not be time to list them all. The most important lessons concern what I have learned during the past 7 years since he has been gone: that the “everything” did not die with him. That everything is everywhere, every day, including in this room.

My INSPIRATION, my MOTIVATION, my CELEBRATION...

As I observe these 5 yahrzeits I am reflecting on the past, of course, But I am trying to concentrate on what they taught me and what they gave me, that I can refresh and take with me into the New Year.

Elul is a time to look back, but it is especially a time to look ahead and to plan how we will journey forward in the coming year. I believe that in asking for forgiveness we also need to make changes in how we live.

Everyone here has someone to remember who is no longer here. Rather than a sadness or thoughts of an empty chair, let the gifts those people gave you be what MOTIVATES, INSPIRES, AND CELEBRATES you in 5784.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Please refer to our website (<a href="http://www.emanuelsynagogue.org">www.emanuelsynagogue.org</a>) and our eblasts for upcoming programming.</p>			<p><b>1</b> 17 Cheshvan <i>Shacharit 7am</i> Religious School 4pm Executive Comm. 7:00pm <i>Mincha/Maariv 5:30pm</i></p>	<p><b>2</b> 18 Cheshvan <i>Shacharit 7am</i> Ziplow Study Group 10:30am Kibbitz &amp; Nosh 11am Voices of Hope Honors Rabbi Lazowski 7pm <i>Mincha/Maariv 5:30pm</i></p>	<p><b>3</b> 19 Cheshvan <i>Shacharit 7am</i> Family Shabbat &amp; Dinner 5:30pm <i>Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv 5:15pm</i> <i>Candles 5:25pm</i></p>	<p><b>4</b> 20 Cheshvan <i>Parashat Vayera</i> Services 9am Havdalah and Hayrides 6:30pm <i>Mincha/Maariv 5:30pm</i> <i>Havdalah 6:22pm</i></p>
<p><b>5</b> 21 Cheshvan <i>Shacharit 8am</i> Religious School 9am JTConnect Symposium on Antisemitism 9am <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:30pm</i></p>	<p><b>6</b> 22 Cheshvan <i>Shacharit 7am</i> <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:30pm</i></p>	<p><b>7</b> 23 Cheshvan <i>Shacharit 7am</i> Sisterhood Membership Dinner 6:30pm Ritual Committee 7:45pm <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:30pm</i></p>	<p><b>8</b> 24 Cheshvan <i>Shacharit 7am</i> Adult Ed/ Emanuel Players Speaker 7:30pm <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:30pm</i></p>	<p><b>9</b> 25 Cheshvan <i>Shacharit 7am</i> Ziplow Study Group 10:30am Kibbitz &amp; Nosh 11am Adult Ed Board 7:30pm <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:30pm</i></p>	<p><b>10</b> 26 Cheshvan <i>Shacharit 7am</i> <i>Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv 4:30pm</i> <i>Candles 4:17pm</i></p>	<p><b>11</b> 27 Cheshvan <i>Parashat Chayei Sarab</i> Veterans Day Shabbat Services 9am Chapel Minyan 9:30am <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:30pm</i> <i>Havdalah 5:14pm</i></p>
<p><b>12</b> 28 Cheshvan <i>Shacharit 8am</i> Religious School 9am JTConnect 10:30am <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i></p>	<p><b>13</b> 29 Cheshvan <i>Shacharit 7am</i> Brotherhood Board 7:30pm <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i></p>	<p><b>14</b> 1 Kislev <i>Shacharit 7am</i> <b>Rosh Chodesh Kislev</b> Sisterhood Board 7:30pm Torah Repair Comm 7:30pm <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i></p>	<p><b>15</b> 2 Kislev <i>Shacharit 7am</i> Religious School 4pm <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i></p>	<p><b>16</b> 3 Kislev <i>Shacharit 7am</i> Ziplow Study Group 10:30am Kibbitz &amp; Nosh 11am Mind/Body Class 7pm <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i></p>	<p><b>17</b> 4 Kislev <i>Shacharit 7am</i> <i>Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv 4:15pm</i> <i>Candles 4:11pm</i></p>	<p><b>18</b> 5 Kislev <i>Parashat Toldot</i> Shabbat Services 9am Tot Shabbat/Family Services 10:30am <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i> <i>Havdalah 5pm</i></p>
<p><b>19</b> 6 Kislev <i>Shacharit 8am</i> Religious School 9am Adult Ed Zoom: Jewish Cuba 1pm JTConnect @CBI Emanuel Players "Domitilla" 7pm <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i></p>	<p><b>20</b> 7 Kislev <i>Shacharit 7am</i> <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i></p>	<p><b>21</b> 8 Kislev <i>Shacharit 7am</i> Mind/Body Class 7pm Board of Trustees 7:30pm <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i></p>	<p><b>22</b> 9 Kislev <i>Shacharit 7am</i> No Religious School <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i></p>	<p><b>23</b> 10 Kislev <i>Shacharit 8am</i> <b>Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed</b> <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i></p>	<p><b>24</b> 11 Kislev <i>Shacharit 7am</i> <i>Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv 4:15pm</i> <i>Candles 4:06pm</i></p>	<p><b>25</b> 12 Kislev <i>Parashat Vayetzei</i> Services 9am <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i> <i>Havdalah 5:04pm</i></p>
<p><b>26</b> 13 Kislev <i>Shacharit 8am</i> No Religious School No JTConnect <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i></p>	<p><b>27</b> 14 Kislev <i>Shacharit 7am</i> <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i></p>	<p><b>28</b> 15 Kislev <i>Shacharit 7am</i> Torah Repair Comm 7:30pm <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i></p>	<p><b>29</b> 16 Kislev <i>Shacharit 7am</i> Religious School 4pm <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i></p>	<p><b>30</b> 17 Kislev <i>Shacharit 7am</i> Ziplow Study Group 10:30am Kibbitz &amp; Nosh 11am Mind/Body Class 7pm <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i></p>		



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## December 2023

## Kislev/Tevet 5784

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b> 18 Kislev <i>Shacharit 7am</i>  <i>Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat/</i> <i>Maariv 4:15pm</i> <i>Candles 4:03pm</i>	<b>2</b> 19 Kislev <i>Parashat Vayishlach</i> Services 9am B'not Mitzvah: Dianne Rothkopf & Lilien Woodward  <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i> <i>Havdalah 5:01pm</i>
<b>3</b> 20 Kislev <i>Shacharit 8am</i> Religious School & 7th Grade Program 9am JTConnect 10:30am  <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i>	<b>4</b> 21 Kislev <i>Shacharit 7am</i>  <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i>	<b>5</b> 22 Kislev <i>Shacharit 7am</i> Ritual Committee 7:30pm  <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i>	<b>6</b> 23 Kislev <i>Shacharit 7am</i> Religious School 4pm Brotherhood Dinner with the Rabbi 6:30pm  <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i>	<b>7</b> 24 Kislev <i>Shacharit 7am</i> Chanukah 1 Candle Ziplow Study Group 10:30am Kibbitz & Nosh 11am Sushi & Sake 6:30pm Exec Comm 7:00pm <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i>	<b>8</b> 25 Kislev <i>Shacharit 7am</i> Chanukah 2 Candles  <i>Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat/</i> <i>Maariv 4:15pm</i> <i>Candles 4:02pm</i>	<b>9</b> 26 Kislev <i>Parashat Vayeshev</i> Chanukah 3 Candles Services 9am  <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i> <i>Havdalah 5pm</i>
<b>10</b> 27 Kislev <i>Shacharit 8am</i> Chanukah 4 Candles Religious School 9am JTConnect 10:30am  <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i>	<b>11</b> 28 Kislev <i>Shacharit 7am</i> Chanukah 5 Candles Brotherhood Board 7:30pm  <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i>	<b>12</b> 29 Kislev <i>Shacharit 7am</i> Chanukah 6 Candles Sisterhood Board 7:30pm Torah Repair Committee 7:30pm  <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i>	<b>13</b> 1 Tevet <i>Shacharit 7am</i> Chanukah 7 Candles <b>Rosh Chodesh Tevet</b> Religious School 4pm Chanukah Party 5pm  <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i>	<b>14</b> 2 Tevet <i>Shacharit 7am</i> Chanukah 8 Candles Ziplow Study Group 10:30am Kibbitz & Nosh 11am Mind/Body Class 7pm Adult Ed Zoom Program 8:30pm <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i>	<b>15</b> 3 Tevet <i>Shacharit 7am</i>  <i>Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat/</i> <i>Maariv 4:15pm</i> <i>Candles 4:03pm</i>	<b>16</b> 4 Tevet <i>Parashat Miketz</i> Services 9am Chapel Minyan 9:30am Tot Shabbat/Family Services 10:30am Sisterhood Game Night 7pm <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i> <i>Havdalah 5:01pm</i>
<b>17</b> 5 Tevet <i>Shacharit 8am</i> Religious School & 3rd Grade Program 9am Adult Ed Zoom: Jewish Greece 1pm JTConnect 10:30am  <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i>	<b>18</b> 6 Tevet <i>Shacharit 7am</i>  <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i>	<b>19</b> 7 Tevet <i>Shacharit 7am</i> Board of Trustees 7:30pm  <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i>	<b>20</b> 8 Tevet <i>Shacharit 7am</i> Religious School 4pm  <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i>	<b>21</b> 9 Tevet <i>Shacharit 7am</i> Ziplow Study Group 10:30am Kibbitz & Nosh 11am Mind/Body Class 7pm <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i>	<b>22</b> 10 Tevet <i>Shacharit 7am</i>  <i>Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat/</i> <i>Maariv 4:15pm</i> <i>Candles 4:06pm</i>	<b>23</b> 11 Tevet <i>Parashat Vayigash</i> Services 9am Bar Mitzvah: Samuel Weiss  <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i> <i>Havdalah 5:04pm</i>
<b>24</b> 12 Tevet <i>Shacharit 8am</i> No Religious School or JTConnect <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i>	<b>25</b> 13 Tevet <i>Shacharit 8am</i> <b>Christmas Day -</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i>	<b>26</b> 14 Tevet <i>Shacharit 7am</i> Torah Repair Committee 7:30pm  <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i>	<b>27</b> 15 Tevet <i>Shacharit 7am</i> No Religious School  <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i>	<b>28</b> 16 Tevet <i>Shacharit 7am</i>  <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i>	<b>29</b> 17 Tevet <i>Shacharit 7am</i>  <i>Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat/</i> <i>Maariv 4:15pm</i> <i>Candles 4:10pm</i>	<b>30</b> 18 Tevet <i>Parashat Vayechi</i> Services 9am Kobi & Simi L'hitraot Kiddush  <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i> <i>Havdalah 5:09pm</i>
<b>31</b> 19 Tevet <i>Shacharit 8am</i> No Religious School or JTConnect <i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i>		<i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i>	<i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i>	<i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i>	<i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i>	<i>Mincha/Maariv 4:15pm</i>