

# 2026 SPRING BENEFIT



## A CELEBRATION OF EMANU-EL HONORING DEBRA & LARRY COHEN SATURDAY, MAY 2 7:30PM



Debra and Larry Cohen have been at the heart of Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester since 2013, building a life rooted in Jewish connection, community, and service. Larry's nine years of leadership – including service


as President—reflect extraordinary dedication, while Debra's creativity and activism have energized countless programs and initiatives, especially in moments of communal need. We are proud to honor them at this year's Spring Benefit which is sure to be a joyful, meaningful evening celebrating all they have given and continue to give to our community. We look forward to celebrating Debra and Larry with you on May 2!

# Mitzvah Shabbat & Pizza Truck Dinner

## Friday, May 8, 5:30pm Pizza & Projects/6:30pm Shabbat Service

An evening that does a little bit of everything—and does it well. Mitzvah projects supporting organizations, a delicious dinner, and intergenerational connection that makes our community feel like home. This year's recipients include Westchester Jewish Community Services, 914Cares, Lone Soldier Project, Cancer Support Community Greater NY & CT at Gilda's Club, Five Steps to Five, SCOPE, Pleasantville Cottage School, and more. We'll gather for a brief, spirited service and celebrate as we **honor newly ordained Rabbi Zachary Canali**. It's meaningful, lively, and not to miss.

RSVP information for dinner can be found in Emanumail.

**Art Show - Call for Submissions**  
**Deadline: Wednesday, May 14**  
 Whether you're a seasoned artist or just discovering your artistic side, we welcome your contribution to this celebration at Emanu-El. Artists of *all ages* are encouraged to participate. Interested? Contact Jane at [jdubro@c-e-w.org](mailto:jdubro@c-e-w.org). Guidelines: submit up to 3 pieces of art; each piece must have wire on backing/frame. Opening reception is Friday, June 12 at 6:00pm.



**Religious School End of Year Celebration & Carnival**  
**Sunday, May 17, 9:30-11:45am**  
 Parents and families are invited to join their 1st - 7th grade students at our end-of-year celebration with a special ceremony honoring our team of Religious School madrichim and teachers, followed by an awesome carnival!

**Congregant Art Show Opening, Annual Meeting & Sacred Stories Shabbat Honoring Cantor Stone**  
**Friday, June 12, 6:00pm Gallery Opening, 6:30pm Annual Meeting, 7:00pm Service**



The evening kicks off at 6:00pm with the opening of our annual Congregant Art Show. Following the opening, we will gather for our Annual Meeting at 6:30pm. This is an important time to come together to get an update on the state of the congregation, thank outgoing board members and welcome new ones to their leadership positions. We need to have 10% of our congregant families represented to reach a quorum for this state mandated meeting—please come!

We will also take a special moment to **honor Cantor Stone at the Sacred Stories Shabbat** following the Annual Meeting, celebrating her with gratitude for all she has given to our community.

### 6th Grade Retreat

Families had a meaningful weekend at our annual 6th grade retreat in March. Students created their own personalized yads and families shared their hopes for their B'nei Mitzvah journeys. We concluded the day with a beautiful ceremony where everyone got to hold a part of the Torah before receiving their own parsha for their special day.



Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester  
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## B'nei Mitzvah Mazel Tov!

We would like to honor the following students who will become B'nei Mitzvah in May & June

**Chase Berg**  
**Max Feldman**  
**Judah Geller**  
**Drew Kantor**  
**Meagan Kaplan**

**Amelia O'Neil**  
**Marlowe Wagner**  
**Presley Wegweiser**  
**Ziva Wiley-Urh**



On June 20 we will celebrate the commitment and learning of five outstanding adult members of our congregation with a special **Adult B'nei Mitzvah** service at 11:00am.

**Shelly Benerofe, Jane Meryll, Diana Millard, Geoffrey Raicht, and Maj Wickstrom** will ascend the bima to read from the Torah, lead our service, and teach us from our tradition.

**Mazel Tov to them all!**

## Finding Words

My work is all about transitions, about bringing the wisdom of our tradition, the ritual forms that we've inherited, to the lives of our congregants. These awe-inspiring moments can find us speechless. Birth, coming of age, marriage, and death are the big moments, but we have so many others in between - season to season, weekday to Shabbat, changes of relationship, kids leaving home - whatever the moment, I am blessed to put words to moments that would otherwise be ineffable. My goal, always, is to help each person in transition feel connected to something greater: the authentic self, family, community, our people, and, yes, God. And so, I ought to have the words necessary for the immense transition that our congregation will traverse in the weeks to come, the transition from Cantor Stone to Cantor Sonnett-Assor. Yet I find myself... speechless.



So, perhaps, I'll seek that connection to something greater to help me grasp this moment, to help put words to my feelings.

**The Authentic Self** - After 16 years of working together, Cantor Meredith Stone, for me, is first and foremost, a dear friend. We have laughed and cried together, shared our struggles and our triumphs, and built a lasting trust that goes far beyond the walls of this congregation. While I know that our professional paths will begin to diverge, she will always be a trusted friend, confidant, and teacher.

**Family** - When colleagues ask about our staff, I always sing their praises - passion and attention to detail, care for our congregants, eye on the mission, all of the things that organizational consultants would suggest. But the real special sauce is that we are, in so many ways, a family. We are there for each other when times are hard, whether that means listening with an open heart or covering someone else's responsibilities. We've got each other's back. Meredith is so central to that family-staff dynamic. That bond, too, can never be broken.

**Community** - Her central role at Congregation Emanu-El is self-evident. If "a prayer without a melody is like a body without a soul," she has been the soul of Emanu-El. Bringing melodies old and new to connect us to the past and help us chart our course to the future. She has served two full generations of congregants - now officiating at the b'nei mitzvah of children whose parents she once guided through their own b'nei mitzvah. Imagine that! To each child, she taught Torah and blessings that have stayed with them throughout their lives. She has built community well beyond b'nei mitzvah children with her beloved Women's Study Group, Reflections Workshop, and countless other initiatives that have built the connections among congregants that provide meaning and depth to Emanu-El.

**Our People** - Meredith is deeply committed to the Jewish people. For her, Jewish peoplehood is not an abstract thing, it is about actual humans. Her rabbi brother in Maryland, her Israeli sister of blessed memory who made her home in Florida, her nephew in Israel, and countless colleagues around the country with whom she shared conferences and ideas, innovative teaching and beloved music. I think back to her trip to Israel for her nephew's wedding - in early October 2023. The grace with which she handled being in Israel on and after October 7th, the admiration she showed for the way Israelis came together, and the way that she conveyed the story to us, connecting us all to the half of our people who live between the Mediterranean and the Jordan River. Clergy life can be somewhat lonely, but those deep Jewish connections have nurtured and supported her over four decades.

**God** - During one of my first High Holy Days at Emanu-El, Rabbi Emeritus Daniel Wolk z'l gave the sermon on Yom Kippur morning. Following the sermon, Meredith led our quartet Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*. Rabbi Wolk sat back in his chair, closed his eyes and let that music carry him to a spiritual place. During funerals when Meredith gives voice to the Psalmist's declaration "Adonai li v'lo yeira - God is with me, I shall not be afraid," the burden of the mourners is ever so slightly, though visibly, eased. On Rosh Hashanah each year we read the Akeidah, the story of the binding of Isaac from the Torah. She chants the Hebrew, I tell the chilling story in English. And then, at the climax we both say, "Avraham! Avraham!" There is a feeling of something... greater. Cantor Stone has surely brought the holy and the divine into our lives.

I wish I had words that would tie this up in a neat bow, words that would make me feel okay when her office is cleaned out, and dialing the Cantor's phone extension no longer leads to her voice. I know that our future is bright with Cantor Sonnett-Assor - a true musical and spiritual talent who will build on the foundation laid by Cantor Stone. I take comfort knowing that Meredith will continue as our Cantor Emeritus - continuing to serve our congregation in ways that reflect everything I've written above. Most of all, I know that the indelible mark that she has made on me, our staff, our congregation, and our people will be an enduring source of holiness and inspiration for Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester long into the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Howard J. Goldsmith, Rabbi

## Last Notes: Some Thoughts on the Past, Present and Future

A year ago, at our Spring Benefit, I had the great pleasure of standing before you as the recipient of the Emanu-El Prize, marking my 40th year at the temple. That evening, I quoted Reb Nachman of Bratslav: "Friends, do not despair; though a difficult time has come upon us, joy must fill the air." Though my sister, Teva, was too ill to attend, and Martin was still in the throes of chemo, I was surrounded by my family - Martin, Mirit, Lila, my brother Warren and sister-in-law Elaine, my nephew Etai and his wife, Alexandra—along with beloved congregants and dear personal friends. It was a joyous evening, filled with love. I will always treasure the memory of celebrating together.



In the time since, my life has changed profoundly with the loss of both my sister and my husband. Through it all, the temple has been exceptionally gracious and understanding as I navigate this new terrain and prepare to shift my role to Cantor Emerita. Transitions are rarely easy. Congregation Emanu-El has been my home for more than two-thirds of my lifetime; it has shaped who I am in many ways.

And yet, I know that this is the right decision—one I made thoughtfully, and in conversation with my friend and mentor, Rabbi Dan Wolk z'l. It is in keeping with the wisdom of Ecclesiastes: "To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." There is a natural and necessary rhythm to life that calls us, at certain times, to let go and make way for what comes next. We cannot hold onto things forever. The beloved Israeli song *Al Kol Ele* expresses how we hold the bitter together with the sweet. We can experience both at the same time—gratitude and grief, joy and sadness, all intertwined.

When I reflect on the past four decades, I am filled with gratitude for all that this congregation has given me. It has been a wonderful run, rich with meaning, belonging, and community. I have been grateful for a career that has enabled me to share my love of singing in ways that inspire and lift up our community.

I have had the honor of participating in the most significant moments of your lives—celebrating b'nei mitzvah, weddings, and marking losses at funerals. Bearing witness at these sacred occasions is a privilege. It has been especially meaningful to teach the children of my former b'nei mitzvah students, and to connect over decades with generations of family.

I have also cherished the joys of collaboration - working alongside gifted clergy and dedicated staff,

together building a temple culture that is vibrant, warm and welcoming. My years of partnership with Rabbi Goldsmith have given me so much opportunity to grow and expand. I am deeply thankful.

In turn, I have tried to give this congregation the best of myself. I have strived for excellence, but also for joy, for artistry, and a spirit of flexibility and openness. Central to that has been a musical legacy rooted in both tradition and evolution. My cantorial training immersed me in the classic repertoire of the "Golden Age" of postwar European-trained composers; I delighted in filling our sanctuary with the grandeur of choral works, chamber ensembles, dance, orchestras and even opera along with cantorial concerts.

As our culture—and the Reform Movement—evolved, I have tried to keep our music up to date as well, with contemporary songwriters, exceptional musicians, and rollicking Purim productions. I hope the music of our prayers has helped connect you, our congregants, more deeply with Judaism, just as music brought me closer to our tradition years ago.

I've been lucky in recent years to be given creative license to bring what I think is fun and engaging to both children and adults; from lively songs with movement and dancing, to art projects, to "Haikus for Jews," introspective writing workshops and so much more.

As I look ahead, I do so with a full heart and the desire to continue on as Cantor Emerita, a role that will evolve with time. I am so pleased to welcome my successor, Cantor Isaac Sonnett-Assor. Already beloved by his community, he brings talent, intelligence, and a genuine warmth and compassion that will serve this congregation well. I look forward to seeing how Isaac will tap new potential and lead in directions based on his unique gifts. I'll also enjoy collaborating with him from time to time. I am confident that Isaac will be a steward of our musical legacy, building upon the foundation laid not only by me, but also by my predecessor, Cantor Earl Rogers.

And so, even as this season of my life begins to shift, I remain deeply grateful—for what has been, for what is, and for all that is yet to come.

Meredith Stone, Cantor

## From Student to Rabbi

The Reform rabbinical school, Hebrew Union College, uses a matching process to place student interns in congregations. After we matched with Zach Canali, I took him to lunch so we could begin to get to know one another. He spent much of that lunch telling me about his love of traditional worship and of wrapping tefillin. As he spoke, I remember thinking to myself, "Oh boy - he's going to have quite an adjustment to our congregation where the worship is contemporary and no one wraps tefillin." And yet, even in that moment, I recognized in Zach something that I knew would serve him well: a deep and genuine sincerity.

Over these three years, Zach has grown from an earnest rabbinical student into an authentic rabbi. Through teaching our religious school students, leading services, preaching from the bimah, lifting our voices in song, engaging our adults, and connecting with every corner of our congregation, Zach has learned how to bring Jewish life and spirit to a Reform community. And along the way, that very passion he shared so earnestly at our first lunch did not disappear - it deepened, matured, and found its voice. He came to embody that balance so fully that his Rosh Hashanah sermon on - of all things - tefillin was an absolute homerun.

We have been the recipients of so many blessings through Zach - blessings of faith and intellect, of spirit and enthusiasm, of humor and compassion, of thoughtful critique and fresh perspective. These are gifts in any context, but when they come from a student, they carry a particular energy and openness that lifts an entire community.



On May 3rd, Zach Canali will ascend the bimah of Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York to receive rabbinic ordination. That we played a role in his journey and growth is something in which our entire congregation can take real pride. When

Rabbi Zachary Canali steps down from the bimah and begins his rabbinate, he will be a credit to Hebrew Union College, a point of pride for the Jewish people, and a continuing blessing to all who have the privilege of learning from him in the years ahead.

Mazel tov, Rabbi Canali!

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## Social Action Collections & Events

We are committed to tikkun olam, repairing our world. Help make our community a better place and participate in the important drives scheduled throughout the year. For more information, contact co-chairs Hedy Cardozo at [hedozo@aol.com](mailto:hedozo@aol.com) and Lauren Shalem at [lauren.beitman@gmail.com](mailto:lauren.beitman@gmail.com).



### Join the Emanu-El Caring Community

Being there for one another in difficult times is a vital piece of who we are. The Emanu-El Caring Community is a volunteer-run group that makes certain that our congregants experience a sense of support after the loss of a loved one.

We are looking for volunteers to help assemble and deliver bereavement baskets on an as-needed basis. If you are interested in learning more about volunteering with the Caring Community, contact Michelle Schwartz at [pretypaper1@gmail.com](mailto:pretypaper1@gmail.com).

### New or Gently Used Book Drive for Kids & Young Adults Through May 30

We are collecting *new or gently used* books for babies all the way up to young adults for 914Cares. Books can be dropped off in the temple lobby throughout the month of May.

### Volunteer to Teach Adult English Language Learners at the Carver Center in Port Chester Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 - 10:30am

Volunteers are needed to tutor adult English language learners, no experience necessary, just a passion to help others. Contact the office to learn more.

## A FAREWELL REFLECTION FROM RABBI ZACHARY CANALI

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Life is filled with hellos and goodbyes. We come into each other's lives, and, hopefully after our time together, we part ways better than who we were before. Having spent the past three years at Congregation Emanu-El, learning from and working alongside Rabbi Goldsmith and Cantor Stone, and serving the wonderful people here, I can confidently say that I have been bettered by this amazing community.



When I began here three years ago, I was a third-year rabbinic student; inexperienced, less-flexible, and a little overly serious in the position. I thought that I had to fit a particular stentorian mold to be a "rabbi." Yet, as nineteenth century Rabbi Zusya realized on his deathbed, when we stand before our Creator, we will not be asked, "Why were you not more like Moses," or "Why were you not more like Solomon or David?" we will be asked, "Why were you not more like Zusya?" - Why were you not more like yourself? This encapsulates what I learned here.

Each moment has been both lesson and sacred experience, as represented by leading Shabbat services. Each week gave me the opportunity to experiment with songs and prayers, discovering what worked and what didn't work. Some experiments, like my attempt to teach Psalm 96 mid-service, did not work so well, while others, such as leading a song-heavy service solo proved more successful. Perhaps most informative, however, were the hand motions, teaching me that even the most dour-faced teen could be convinced to join along for "Roll into Dark," and other joyous melodies.

As my seventh grade Hineini students may recall, I enjoy providing "Jewish grounding" to each act of service that we did together, connecting modern social action with the ancient values of our religion. Yet, far more valuable are the insights and ideas that each student shared after learning these "groundings." They understood our ancient values (visiting the sick, feeding the hungry, repairing the world, etc.) and made them their own. Ours is a tradition of *L'dor Vador*, "generation to generation," and seeing this next generation grow up as people, and as curious Jews, makes me confident that Judaism will be in capable hands.

Teaching eager (and sometimes uneager) students has been a privilege. We can only learn so much by ourselves, so hearing new perspectives from adult students in Beit Midrash, brought in by lived experience or sudden discomfort with a problematic verse not only enhanced our own learnings, but shed light on ways to direct the conversation. I always love preparing a

source sheet and then going "off script" to follow the interests and passions of students. To do so, is to learn for the sake of learning, and is always enjoyable.

These years together have helped me not only become a rabbi but *be* a rabbi. To serve a congregation is exactly what I aspire to do with my life; to share in our simchas and struggles. It is, therefore, a great simcha and struggle to leave this community in June.

As of May 3<sup>rd</sup>, I am an ordained rabbi, and my tenure as Rabbinic Intern will come to an end so that my next chapter as the Assistant Rabbi at Congregation BJBE in Deerfield, IL may begin. I am forever grateful to this community, to those who allowed me into their lives, to the staff, and to the clergy, for all the warmth and support that you have shown me over these past three years. Thank you for shaping me into the rabbi that I am today and thank you for sharing yourselves - for being your own "Zusyas." To serve Congregation Emanu-El is a blessing.

Now, while this may be a formal "farewell," it is not necessarily an end. So, whether our paths cross again, or simply because we need an extra blessing at this moment, I would like to offer the words of *Tefilat HaDerekh*, the Traveler's Prayer:

*May it be Your will God, our God and God of our ancestors, that You should lead us in peace, direct our steps in peace, and cause us to reach our destination in life, joy, and peace. Save us from every enemy and ambush, from robbers and wild beasts on the journey, and from all kinds of dangers that come to the world. May You bestow blessings upon the work of our hands and grant us grace, kindness, and mercy in Your eyes and in the eyes of all who see us. Bestow upon us abundant kindness and hearken to the voice of our prayer, for You hear the prayers of all. Blessed are You God, who hears prayer.*

Amen v'Amen. Thank you Congregation Emanu-El.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zachary M. Canali". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Zachary Canali, Rabbinic Intern

## Mitzvah Shabbat & Celebration of Zach Canali's Ordination

On Friday evening, May 8, our congregation will come together at Mitzvah Shabbat for a warm and meaningful celebration of community, kindness, and Jewish learning, along with a special moment of pride as we celebrate the ordination of Rabbi Zach Canali. This beautiful evening will bring together families, students, and congregants of all ages to share in the joy of serving others and living our Jewish values together.



Mitzvah Shabbat is designed for the whole community; children, teens, parents, and grandparents working side-by-side to make a difference.

Our tradition teaches that even the smallest acts of kindness can help sustain the world. In Pirkei Avot (1:2) we learn: "The world stands on three things: on Torah, on worship, and on acts of loving-kindness (*gemilut chasadim*)." Mitzvah Shabbat brings this teaching to life, turning our values into action and reminding us that each of us has the power to help repair the world.

Over the years, Mitzvah Shabbat has become one of the most beloved gatherings in our community. It is a special night when we slow down, reconnect with one another, and share the experience of giving back. There is something deeply meaningful about watching families create, serve, and reflect together on the importance of compassion and responsibility.

This year, our 7th grade Hineni families will play a special leadership role by supervising each mitzvah project station. Their participation highlights the powerful example our students set as they prepare for the next steps in their Jewish journeys. By guiding younger students and leading these projects, they demonstrate that leadership often begins with kindness, empathy, and a willingness to help others.

The Torah reminds us that mitzvot are not meant to remain ideas, instead they are meant to be lived. The prophet Micah teaches: "What does God require of you? To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8). Through the many projects offered during Mitzvah Shabbat, we will have the opportunity to do just that—expressing our love of kindness through meaningful acts of service.

Our sages teach that acts of chesed are unique because they uplift both the person who gives and the person who receives. When we prepare meals for

families in need, assemble care packages, write letters of encouragement, or create small tokens of comfort, we share something deeper than a gift—we share connection, dignity, and hope. These moments also allow us to model our values for the next generation, showing our children that kindness is something we practice every day.

Mitzvah Shabbat also reminds us that our responsibility reaches far beyond our synagogue walls. Some of our projects will support neighbors here in Westchester, while others extend our care to communities across the country and to Israel. In this way, we strengthen not only our local community but also the larger Jewish family.

During the evening, we will also celebrate a very special milestone—the ordination of honor newly ordained Rabbi Zachary Canali. This achievement reflects years of dedication, study, and commitment to Jewish learning and leadership. As a congregation that values education and spiritual growth, we are proud to share in this moment of joy and celebrate Zach and his family. His ordination is an inspiring reminder of the strength and continuity of our Jewish tradition.

This year's Mitzvah Shabbat will include a wide variety of meaningful projects. Each project reflects a simple but powerful truth: when we come together with open hearts and willing hands, even small acts of kindness can help repair the world—*tikkun olam*—one mitzvah at a time.

We hope you will join us for this uplifting evening of food, service, celebration, and connection. Together, we will share in the joy of giving, strengthen the bonds of our community, and continue building a world rooted in compassion and hope.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane".

Jane Dubro, Director of Programming & Engagement

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES

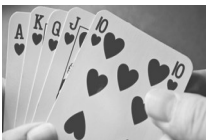
### Next Step

**Sunday, May 3, 11:00am**

This group of men meet to discuss personal issues that they face in retirement. The bonds of friendship and a deep sense of trust have allowed this group to continue for many years. Next Step is facilitated by Paul Spindel. For more information, contact Paul at 914-632-1264.

### Canasta

**Tuesdays, May 5, 12, 19, 26  
& June 2, 9, 1:30 - 3:45pm**



Come play on Tuesday afternoons. Friends and family are welcome!

RSVP information can be found in Emanumail.

### Books & Bites: *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi Thursday, May 7, 7:00pm

This group meets monthly for dinner and discussion at a local restaurant. If you're interested in attending, contact Marcie at marciena33@gmail.com.

### Reflections Workshop with Cantor Stone Monday, May 11, 12:00pm

Daily life experiences and observations, or perhaps poetry or words of Torah, provide inspiration for the personal writing we do in this ongoing workshop. Our words, when woven into a Shabbat service, expound upon the meaning of our prayers and enrich our worship. Through writing and sharing we strengthen connections to one another and our tradition. Light lunch provided. RSVP to Cantor Stone at mstone@c-e-w.org.

### Film: *The Year My Parents Went On Vacation* Thursday, May 14, 7:00pm



Set against Brazil's military dictatorship and the nation's fervor for the 1970 World Cup, this heartfelt coming-of-age drama follows 12-year-old Mauro, whose parents vanish under political threat. Left in

the care of a vibrant Jewish community in São Paulo's Bom Retiro district, Mauro navigates identity, belonging, and resilience amid upheaval and hope. Blending themes of political exile, cultural intersection, and youthful longing, the film offers a poignant exploration of Jewish life in Latin America during turbulent times. RSVP information will appear in Emanumail.



### Single Malt Torah Thursday, May 14, 8:00pm

Men of the congregation join together for fine scotch and Torah learning with Rabbi Goldsmith. Topics range from contemporary questions of Jewish society to issues in Israel to exploration of our sacred texts. Whatever the topic, we enjoy our time together.

### Musical Treasures Shabbat Service Friday, May 15, 7:30pm

Join us for a special Shabbat service featuring music from the Golden Age of synagogue composition, created primarily by postwar composers who fled Europe. These musical gems, written for both *The Union Prayer Book* and its successor, *Gates of Prayer*, inspired generations of worshippers and can still move us today.

### Beit Midrash Saturday, May 16, 9:00am



Each week, the Torah connects deeply with Jewish life as we know it today - in our homes, in our communities, and in the rituals we practice. This year in Beit Midrash, we will explore how the weekly portion links to a familiar Jewish custom, holiday observance, or lifecycle ritual. From Kiddush and Shabbat candles to the wedding veil and the Passover seder, each session will bring out the ancient roots of practices that are still vibrant today. We'll draw from a variety of texts and sources - biblical, rabbinic, historical, and contemporary - to uncover meaning and relevance for modern Jewish living.

### Shavuot Yizkor Memorial Service Friday, May 22, 7:30am



We remember and honor our loved ones at this final Yizkor memorial service of the year.

### Poetry Reading with Rabbi Pam Wax Tuesday, May 26, 7:00pm

Rabbi Pam Wax, a valued contributor to our Women's Study Group, will be reading from her new collection of poetry, *Every Single Beast of My Heart*, followed by a conversation with Emanu-El congregant Jane Meryll and a book signing. RSVP information will appear in Emanumail.

## Celebrating the School Year

It is hard to believe that we are already wrapping up another school year. It seemed to just fly by! This year has been filled with joy, growth, laughter, and meaningful moments of connection. I have loved watching our students learn, explore, and make meaning of their Jewish identities.



This year, our classrooms buzzed with energy and curiosity. For many of our students, this was their first introduction to formal Jewish learning, and it is always so rewarding to see how they come into the year with little knowledge and leave with a greater sense of purpose and understanding of why they are here. We learned stories, celebrated holidays, prayed and sang together, mastered the Hebrew alphabet, and we learned how Judaism teaches us to appreciate our bodies through our movement program.

I always love having families join us for our days of learning, and this year we had some truly special ones. Our 1st and 2nd graders made their own beautiful seder plates (my daughter used hers at our seder and got so many compliments!), our 3rd graders created their own "bedtime Shema" stuffed animals, and our 4th and 5th graders experienced all of the Jewish holidays of the year in under two hours. Our sixth grade families came together for our annual Sixth Grade B'nei Mitzvah Retreat, where we shared both our hopes and anxieties about our special days. We finished the day by creating personalized yads and learning our Torah portions. This event always helps everyone feel more connected, both to one another and to the experience of becoming B'nei Mitzvah.

Through skits and immersive experiences like our "Exodus Escape Room," our students embodied biblical characters like Moses and Rebecca in our 4th and 5th grade Torah Time sessions and we studied the Joseph story in depth through project-based learning activities in 3rd grade. Our sixth graders examined what it means to be upstanders and to take pride in being Jewish as they learned about antisemitism and the Holocaust, and they also experienced the joys of Israeli culture, from sports to music. Our 7th grade Hineini students lived their Jewish values through action, spending the year giving back to communities around us through Midnight Run, at Pleasantville Cottage, and at Afya. I hope to have many of our 7th graders continue on in our school program as madrichim next year, as they make the best role models! I am also fortunate to teach our 8th and 9th grade students, who shared a meaningful year of thoughtful conversations around important and

sometimes complex topics, balanced by joyful moments of baking together and leading fun programs for younger students.

This year also marked an exciting milestone for our school: we welcomed 63 new students, a record number! Our community is growing, and it is truly something to celebrate. With that growth comes an opportunity to continue strengthening our program. Our goal is to create smaller class groupings and an environment that allows for even more connection, engagement, and meaningful learning. We are deeply committed to providing the best possible experience for every student and family, and we are looking forward to sharing more information with you in the coming weeks.

Our school would not be possible without our extraordinary teachers and madrichim, and I am so grateful to each of them for the dedication that they bring to their work. They bring warmth, creativity, patience, and passion into every classroom, every week and we are so lucky to have such a wonderful team! We are also so excited to celebrate a special moment within our school family, as Taylor and Aviel, two of our incredible teachers, became parents this spring! They are planning on bringing their beautiful baby girl to our end-of-year carnival, and we're all excited to share in their joy!

The year is not quite over, as we still have one of the best highlights of the year, our Mitzvah Shabbat program on May 8. It is such a beautiful evening for us all to come together for meaningful social justice work, and of course, the amazing pizza truck. I always love seeing our community gathered together in one place for an evening of giving and connecting.

As we close out the year, I'm extremely grateful for this community: our students, our parents, our madrichim, and our teachers. Thank you for partnering with us in this important work of instilling a love and appreciation for Judaism in your children's lives.

Wishing you all a restful, joyful summer and I can't wait to continue with you on this journey next year!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jackie".

Jackie Kurland, Director of Education

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## **Our community offers our deepest condolences to**

The family of Frances Friefeld  
Sandy Grundman on the death of her son-in-law, Jay Grossman  
Andrew Hodes on the death of his father, Jeffrey Hodes  
Cliff Kaplan on the death of his mother, Rita Kaplan  
Bob Lehrman on the death of his wife, Jane Lehrman  
Jack Moore on the death of his father, John Timothy Moore

### **Yahrzeit Remembrances for the Memorial Fund**

In memory of:

Rose Adler  
Tony Aiuvalasit  
Anita Barishaw  
Dr. Sidney Bernstein  
William Birnbaum  
Alina Cantoni de Leon  
Penny Carroll  
Pamela Joan Carton  
Arlene Cole  
Maurice A. Deane  
Khasya & Natan Devchtyar  
Otto Engelhard  
Andrew William Ettelson  
Lawrence Fried  
Andrew David Friedland  
Sharon Adrienne Goldman  
Harry H. Goldstein  
Albert Gottlieb  
Martin Grossman  
Samuel Grundman  
Andrea Harland  
Rosalind Kahn  
Jacob Kassan  
Sol Kazlow  
Philip Kirshen  
Ira Lerner  
Edy Levitt  
Joyce Levy  
Etta Lobel  
Dr. Irving Madoff  
Carol B. Mann  
Ralph L. Masinter  
Barbara Mayrsohn  
Barbara Mayrsohn  
Ethel Mayrsohn  
Daniel Melnick

Remembered by:

John & Amy Tanenbaum  
Marcie Aiuvalasit  
Lilian Sicular  
Amelia Bernstein  
Maj Wickstrom & Sarah and Noah Birnbaum  
Martin & Patricia Bernstein  
Kathy & Geoff Raicht  
John Carton & Wendy Rowden  
Stacey Cole  
Jill Deane Sheppard  
Alya Belilovsky  
Elisabeth Handelsman  
Sandra Ettelson  
David Fried & Kathy Marks  
James & Jane Stern  
Scott & Stefanie Goldman  
Myra Hersh  
Anne Gottlieb  
The Grundman & Grossman Families  
The Grundman Family  
Phillip & Karen Drogen  
Shari & Mark Fredericks  
Arline & Rich Josephberg  
The Chestler Family  
Nina Fixler & Mark Rosenstein  
Mark & Fran Lerner  
Valerie Levitt, Drew DiVittorio, Samantha & Rachel Schmaier  
Jerry Lawton  
Evelyn Lobel  
Harriet Madoff Parker  
Bob Mann  
Margery & Edgar Masinter  
Janet Mayrsohn  
Mark & Kathy Mayrsohn  
Janet Mayrsohn  
Helena Sokoloff

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## **Yahrzeit Remembrances for the Memorial Fund**

In memory of:

Sylvia Miller  
Nancy & Paul Nebenzahl  
Eugene G. Neimark  
Lillian Neimark  
Frederick Perl  
Roslyn Reiffel  
Lester Rod  
Jerry Rosenberg  
Alan H. Rosenblut  
Myra Salzer  
Kenneth Schneider  
Sam Sheppard  
Adele Sicular  
Paul Sicular  
Frances Nelson Skolnick  
Jack I. Stein  
Ruth Steiner  
Samuel Sternberg  
Herbert J. Stotter  
Elizabeth Stuart  
Gloria Tannenbaum  
Michael Temple  
Charles Winter  
Randi Zuckerman

Remembered by:

Phillip & Karen Drogin  
Marcie Aiuvalasit  
Robin Neimark Seegal  
Robin Neimark Seegal  
Meredith & Jim Kornreich and Family  
Lauren, Dave, Lilah & Harrison Marcus  
Helene, Jonathan & Marc Rod  
Julie & Jerry Levy and Family  
Hedy R. Cardozo & Michael N. Rosenblut and Family  
Tom & Peggy LoCastro  
Ellen & Jan Linhart  
Jill Sheppard  
Lilian Sicular  
Lilian Sicular  
Bob Fishbein and Family  
Phyllis & Tim Alexander  
The Steiner Family  
The Sternberg Family  
Sandra Ettelson  
Jackie Stuart  
Cara Tannenbaum  
Susan Lefler  
Martin & Pamela Winter  
Terry Zuckerman Feldman

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## **Annual Fund: 2025-26 Year End Appeal**

Marcie Aiuvalasit

## **General Contribution to the Annual Fund**

Robert & Carol Wolf

## **Jared Dubro Legacy Fund**

Marcie Aiuvalasit

## **Memorial Fund**

Sanford & Brianne Goldstein in memory of Murray Goldstein & Gladys Goldstein

## **Offit-Sekulow Internship Fund**

Susan Sekulow in memory of Eugene Sekulow

## **Rabbi Daniel S. Wolk Memorial Scholarship Fund**

The Glezer Family

## **Rabbi Goldsmith Discretionary Fund**

Marcie Aiuvalasit

Amy Blumstein in honor of Caleb becoming Bar Mitzvah

Peter & Anne Klein in honor of Peter's 80th birthday

Judy & David Schustack in appreciation of the Mishloach Manot sent to their granddaughter at college

David & Peggy Tanner in memory of Yvonne Tropp Epstein, with gratitude for the outreach and kindness after her passing

Faith Wolitzer in honor of Michael Cohen's birthday

## **Religious School: The Farah Family Hineini Fund**

Roger & Vivian Farah

## **Social Action Fund**

Marcie Aiuvalasit

Tom & Peggy LoCastro in honor of Caleb Blumstein becoming Bar Mitzvah

Tom & Peggy LoCastro in memory of Jay Grossman

**Donations processed after April 15, 2026, as well as all Spring Benefit donations, will be acknowledged in the next bulletin.**

# May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> 6:00pm Early Shabbat Service	<b>2</b> 11:00am Amelia O'Neil Bat Mitzvah  7:30pm Spring Benefit
<b>3</b> 9:30 - 11:45am Religious School 11:00am Next Step	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 1:30pm Canasta 3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom 4:00pm Boot Camp	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom 7:00pm Books & Bites	<b>8</b> 5:30pm Mitzvah Shabbat Dinner & Projects 6:30pm Mitzvah Shabbat Service	<b>9</b> 9:00am Meagan Kaplan Bat Mitzvah 11:30am Ziva Wiley-Uhr Bat Mitzvah
<b>10</b> No Religious School	<b>11</b> 12:00pm Reflections Workshop	<b>12</b> 1:30pm Canasta 3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom 4:00pm Boot Camp 7:30pm Board Meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom 7:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm Film 8:00pm Single Malt Torah	<b>15</b> 7:30pm Musical Treasures Shabbat	<b>16</b> 9:00am Beit Midrash 11:30am Judah Geller Bar Mitzvah 5:00pm Drew Cantor Bar Mitzvah
<b>17</b> 9:30 - 11:45am Last Session of Religious School & End of the Year Carnival	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 1:30pm Canasta 3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom 4:00pm Boot Camp	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom	<b>22 Shavuot</b> 7:30am Shavuot Yizkor Memorial Service 6:00pm Lay Led Zoom Shabbat Office Closed for Shavuot	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25 Memorial Day</b> Office Closed for Memorial Day	<b>26</b> 1:30pm Canasta 3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom 4:00pm Boot Camp 7:00pm Poetry Reading 7:00pm Confirmation	<b>27</b> Office Closed for Staff Retreat	<b>28</b> 3:30pm Hebrew Tutoring on Zoom	<b>29</b> 7:30pm Confirmation & Shavuot	<b>30</b> 9:00am Marlowe Wagner Bat Mitzvah 11:30am Chase Berg Bar Mitzvah
<b>31</b>						

# June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 1:30pm Canasta 4:00pm B'nei Mitzvah Boot Camp	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 6:00pm Early Shabbat Service	<b>6</b> 11:00am Presley Wegweiser Bat Mitzvah
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 1:30pm Canasta 4:00pm B'nei Mitzvah Boot Camp	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6:00pm Gallery Opening 6:30pm Annual Meeting 7:00pm Sacred Stories Shabbat	<b>13</b> 5:00pm Max Feldman Bar Mitzvah
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19 Juneteenth</b> Office Closed for Juneteenth 6:00pm Early Shabbat Service	<b>20</b> 11:00am Adult B'Nei Mitzvah
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6:00pm Lay Led Zoom Shabbat	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>JULY 1</b> WELCOME CANTOR ISAAC SONNETT-ASSOR!			

## A Journey Through Amsterdam

The congregational trip to Amsterdam in April was an unforgettable blend of history, culture, reflection, and community.

The group traced the deep Jewish story woven through Amsterdam's streets and canals. Exploring sites like the Portuguese Synagogue, Jewish Historical Museum, and Spinoza Monument, they saw first-hand the richness, resilience, and creativity of Jewish life come alive. Moments at the Hollandsche Schouwburg and the Anne Frank House grounded them in the profound tragedy of the Holocaust, while stories like the February Strike was a reminder of the courage and moral clarity that can emerge even in darkness. Alongside these powerful experiences, the group embraced the beauty and vibrancy of the Netherlands – from the Rijksmuseum to the Keukenhof Gardens – returning home with full hearts, lasting memories, and a renewed commitment to carry these stories forward.



*Portuguese Synagogue*



*Keukenhof Gardens*



*Spinoza Monument*



*Rijksmuseum*

**Name**  
**Street Address**  
**City, State Zip Code**

## MAY & JUNE SHABBAT SCHEDULE

### May 1

6:00pm Early Shabbat Service

### May 8

5:30pm Pizza Truck & Mitzvah Projects

6:30pm Mitzvah Shabbat Service 🎵😊

### May 15

7:30pm Musical Treasures Shabbat 🎵

### May 22

6:00pm Zoom Lay Led Shabbat

### May 29

7:30pm Confirmation & Shavuot Shabbat 🎵

### June 5

6:00pm Early Shabbat Service

### June 12

6:00pm Congregant Art Show Opening

6:30pm Annual Meeting

7:00pm Sacred Stories Shabbat 🎵

### June 19

6:00pm Early Shabbat Service

### June 26

6:00pm Zoom Lay Led Summer Shabbat

**Key:** 🎵 Band    😊 Especially Family Friendly



### Assistive Listening Available in the Sanctuary

Emanu-El offers ListenWifi, a Wi-Fi streaming solution for those attending in-person services and events in the sanctuary. This service enables individuals with hearing devices to connect to sanctuary audio via Bluetooth-enabled hearing aids or earbuds, creating a more seamless, enhanced listening experience. It helps ensure that everyone, including those with hearing challenges, can fully engage in the community. Ask about ListenWifi the next time you're at Emanu-El.