

*Emanuel Synagogue*



*Bulletin*





### SERVICE TIMES

Join us on Zoom, using the same link as all services: <https://zoom.us/j/6574911810>.

Please remember that we still have Evening Minyan Sundays through Thursdays at 8:00 pm, and Morning Minyan every Thursday at 8:30 am.



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### THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

# 28 Tu B'Shevat



## Rabbi's Rostrum



### There are Two Types of Jewish Law...

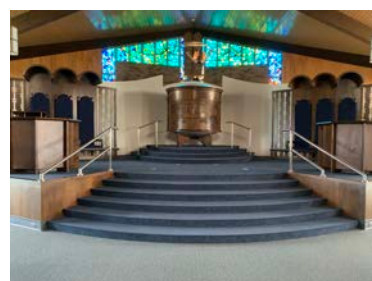
A Couple of Ways Jewish Law is Codified

An old joke says that there are two types of people in the world: those who divide the world into two types of people, and those who don't. Along those same lines, many rabbis and academics have said, "There are two ways to categorize Jewish tradition...." (I realize that I did the same thing last week, by dividing between *halakhah*, "Jewish law," and *minhag*, "Jewish custom.") Here is yet another way to divide Jewish law into two categories.

Jewish law did not have any sort of written systematization during the Second Temple period. Rather, the written word was reserved for the Tanakh – the Prophets and the Writings used to be kept on their own parchment scrolls read during Shabbat services, in the same manner as the Torah was and is read. Jews took the idea that direct communication from God should be kept in writing and went one

step further, maintaining that only direct communication from God *ought* to be kept in writing. Human laws and customs could never reach the importance of those laws and customs in the Torah, and keeping human interpretations and additions orally kept the ideas fluid, preventing stagnation.

While the Mishnah and the Talmud were eventually written down, these works focus more on the whys and hows of Judaism than the whats and whens. Geographic expansion seems to have contributed to the desire to record Jewish law in its entirety, covering every facet of Jewish life and every possible question about ritual, criminal, civil, and family law. With such a careful and complete record of Jewish law, communities on the periphery of the Jewish world (which usually had no rabbi nearby) did not need to wait months for answers to



every question they had about proper Jewish practice. This genre of Jewish legal writing began with Yehudai Gaon's eighth century legal codex *Halakhot Pesukot* ("Decided Laws"). In English, we call these Jewish Law Codes, or more often, simply "Codes." Some of the best known law codes are Maimonides' *Mishneh Torah* and the *Shulchan Aruch* (by Rabbi Yosef Karo, with Ashkenazi community norms added by Rabbi Moshe Isserles). The Conservative movement relies heavily on the English-language law code *A Guide to Jewish Religious Practice*, written in the mid-twentieth century by Rabbi Isaac Klein.

Codes work well when searching for information and for Jewish text study. However, the objective nature of law codes makes them impersonal and often not fit to respond to the intricate, complex, often messy nature of regular life. For those occasions, Jews have historically turned to their rabbis to sort out both new challenges to Jewish law and complicated, human predicaments. Interpretations of Jewish law in these instances provides a stunning look at the thought process of the answering rabbi, and for future scholars, a window into the small-time realities of "normal" life in the past. This genre of Jewish text is referred to

as *She'elot uTeshuvot* (literally, "Questions-and-Answers"), or the abbreviated *Teshuvot* ("Answers" or "Responsa"). Rabbis writing responsa break down the situation posed into its component Jewish legal issues, as they see it, then track each related issue from the Torah through today, before synthesizing the existing Jewish legal ideas into a coherent answer. Although they are not particularly helpful in answering broad questions of Jewish practice, responsa are valued for the Talmud-like depth of explanation that accompanies each answer. In the Conservative movement, responsa on important and common issues are vetted and voted on by the Committee of Jewish Law and Standards for publication and use throughout any part of the Jewish world that would like.

When looking at a new issue of Jewish law, rabbis today consult both Codes and collections of Responsa, along with Torah, Mishnah, and Talmud, before making a determination. If you are interested in learning more, [www.sefaria.org](http://www.sefaria.org) has a section of Codes ("Halakhah") and Responsa (click "More," then "Responsa").



## Principal's Podium



Dear Emanuel Synagogue Families,  
I hope that you have had a restful  
Winter Break and that our students  
return refreshed to continue growing  
despite the difficulties of the current  
circumstances.

### ICSS

These are the educational offerings for  
our Inter-Congregational Sunday  
School:

Sunday, January 3rd- PRAY AND  
PLAY 9:30 AM / ELECTIVES 10 AM  
(First Session of our Third Cycle)

Sunday, January 10th- PRAY AND  
PLAY 9:30 AM/ ELECTIVES 10 AM

Sunday, January 17th- PRAY AND  
PLAY 9:30 AM / ELECTIVES 10 AM

Sunday, January 24th- PRAY AND  
PLAY 9:30 AM / ELECTIVES 10 AM  
(Last Sunday of the Third Cycle)

Sunday, November 31st-PRAY AND  
PLAY 9:30 AM / ELECTIVES 10  
AM (First Sunday of the Fourth  
Cycle)

### ELECTIVES

As a way to continue educating our  
students during the pandemic, ICSS  
will be offering a growing and diverse  
catalogue of Electives for our older  
students (5th grade and up). These 1  
hour virtual classes will run for 4  
Sundays and then change, allowing  
our most engaging educators to cover  
Jewish topics they are passionate  
about in small, bite sized chunks.

#### Offering for 5th-7th grades:

##### **Practical Civics with Madeline**

**Scott:** ICSS teacher and Oklahoma  
House hopeful, Madelyn Scott will  
teach our students how to write a letter  
to your congressman, how to inform  
yourself before voting, and how to run  
for office.

#### Offering for 8th-10th grades:

##### **Intro to Popular Israeli Culture and Modern Hebrew with Eytan Penn:**

Dive into Modern Israeli culture and  
life with Mr. Eytan Penn. From  
shawarma to shalom!

**Future offerings:** Jewish Fitness,  
Rikudim (Israeli Folk Dancing),  
Jewish Cooking, Jews in Places You  
Never Heard Of, Jewish Meditation

## **HEBREW SCHOOL**

It has been incredible to see how well  
our students and faculty have adapted  
to the new normal. Virtual classes are  
going well and we are making  
progress in our learning goals.

Wednesday, January 6th - **NO**  
**HEBREW SCHOOL (Teacher**  
**Training)**

Wednesday, January 13th- HEBREW  
SCHOOL CLASS 4:30-5:30 PM (First  
Day of Class Spring Semester)

Wednesday, January 20th- HEBREW  
SCHOOL CLASS 4:30-5:30 PM

Wednesday, January 27th- HEBREW  
SCHOOL CLASS 4:30-5:30 PM

## **GAN SHABBAT**

Every Saturday at 9 AM, we will be  
hosting in the main Zoom of the  
Synagogue our kids service before the  
adult service begins at 10.

**Meeting ID: 657 491 1810**  
**Passcode: 9005781**

Yours in education,  
Rabbi Juan Mejia  
*Bloom Family Hebrew School*  
*Director*  
*Inter-Congregational Sunday School*  
*Co-Director*  
*Emanuel Synagogue*  
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Dear Emanuel Family,

This January marks my thirteenth year working with the synagogue youth. Here are thirteen special memories created by our kids:

13. Sand Art Menorahs – 11 years ago, the art project for a Moses Friday night service was Sand Art Menorahs. I still see the Menorahs being used on Facebook all over the country every year!

12. Parents' Nights Out – From snowball fights in the auditorium, drive in movie with giant decorated boxes, the bigs playing and leading the littles with love, or kids crying because they want to stay at the synagogue; PNO is the best!

11. Conventions – Seeing hundreds of Jewish kids love being Jewish, and creating many

innovative and fun ways to be Jewish. It is amazing.

10. Limo Scavenger Hunt – For a few Purim, SOONER divided into two limos and did a photo scavenger hunt. Limos + Purim = FUN

9. SOONER Leadership Overnight – Every chapter president has planned a night of energizing team-building games. Yasher Koach to them all.

8. Ta'anit Dibbur – The "Fast of Silence" or kids not talking for 24 hours was a big hit with adults. (Thanks Rabbi)

7. Rosh Hashanah Study Food – Great study sessions & tasty treats like Ethiopian, Sushi, omelets, blintzes, cookies, and cakes bring the adults to the youth lounge.

6. Shabbatonim – Planning, participating, and joining other congregations for a weekend in Dallas, Houston, El Paso, Austin, New Mexico, or Las Vegas is a blast!

5. March For Our Live – It was an honor to chaperone our kids as their voices were heard to make schools safer.

4. Operation Noah's Bark – The annual animal food and supply collection has been a special hands on experience. (Thanks Amy Settles)

3. The MLK Overnight – This exceptional program has honored Dr. King for the past three years, and it will move to Zoom this year. The intense study sessions and the Silent March to the Capital are very moving.

2. Pilgrimage – What a fabulous gift to give our teens, and it is wonderful to hear and see the memories and pictures they share at the annual Burgers Bar event.

1. THE LEADERS – The chapter has had and has many wonderful, creative, smart, and dynamic young leaders. Most of the great youth programming comes from

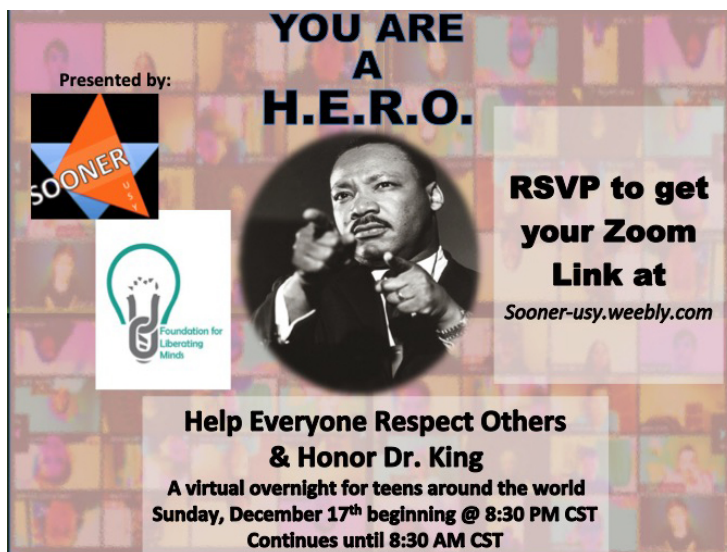
them, and I get to watch them do it all. I am proud of all the chapter leaders; and those that chose to lead at school, on their teams, on the stage, took up a cause, or USY. THANK YOU!

Jan 3 - Game Day  
Jan 17 - 18 - MLK overnight  
Jan 23 - Drive-In Movie

SOONER USY & The FLM  
Present MLK Overnight HERO  
Teens from anywhere, Jewish or non Jewish teens, any teens interested in a night of dialogue are welcome (Please share with any teens you know)

See you around the Shul (*Come to the Drive-In Movie and bring your favorite snack and beverage to enjoy in your vehicle*)

Jeff Goss  
ES Youth Director



**YOU ARE A H.E.R.O.**

Presented by:

**SOONER USY**

**Foundation for Liberating Minds**

**RSVP to get your Zoom Link at**  
[Sooner-usy.weebly.com](https://sooner-usy.weebly.com)

**Help Everyone Respect Others & Honor Dr. King**  
A virtual overnight for teens around the world  
Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> beginning @ 8:30 PM CST  
Continues until 8:30 AM CST





The Men's Club is in hibernation. We are looking to wake up closer to spring.



Special thanks to Bill Marwil for his donation to the sukkah.

## Men's Club

Emanuel Synagogue



The Mens Club is raising money for a new Sukkah. We are looking for donations to build a new sukkah. Please donate at the bellow address;

[www.emanuelokc.org/sukkah-gazebo.html](http://www.emanuelokc.org/sukkah-gazebo.html)



### JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

14 Michael & Diana  
22 Larry & Mary  
27 Myrna & Ivan  
29 Murray & Sharon



### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Amanda  
Ronna  
2 Arie  
Arlette  
5 Martin  
Tina  
Jean  
7 Levi  
9 Ronnie  
Dawn  
11 Margaret  
Sharon  
14 Harry  
16 Mylin  
18 Robert  
19 Larry  
21 Samuel  
25 Jay  
Carol  
Dean  
26 Lizzy  
27 Sherry  
29 Jorja  
Howard  
30 Sophie  
31 Liev



## *In Memory Of Our Loved Ones*

**MICHAEL  
BARLOW**

Anita Barlow

**ANNELIS  
BENDORF**

Jerry & Jackie  
Bendorf

**CARRIE BYERS**

Harry & Hedra  
Merson

**HENRY H. ELLIS**

Gail Meltzner, Jamie  
Spann & Leslie  
Hellman

**HANNAH  
ELMALEH**

Fred & Arlette Poplin

**YEHUDAH  
ELMALEH**

Fred & Arlette Poplin

**ALBERT EMMER**

Murray & Sharon  
Cohen

**FAYE EPSTEIN**

Dr. Robert B. &  
Phyllis Epstein

**ABE GOLDSTEIN**

Don Goldstein

**PEARL GOSS**

David & Lindy Goss

**S. A. HARPMAN**

Helene Harpman

**JULIUS**

**JOSEPHSON**

Martin & Shirley  
Rich

**ELEANOR**

**KAMBER**

The Mark Price  
Family

**OLGA LAZARUS**

Jerry & Jackie  
Bendorf

**CHARLES MILLER**

Eleanor Miller

**JERRY MUHLBERG**

Elaine Weise  
Dr. Mark & Debra  
Wolraich

**JUDITH ROSE**

David & Lindy Goss  
Martin & Shirley Rich

**ROSE ROSE**

Elaine Weise

**HOWARD  
SILVERMAN**

Elaine Weise

**SAMM WECHSLER**

Erin Lofties

**JOSEPH  
YOURMAN**

Mark & Janet Price





# With Affection We Recall...



## **Friday, January 1, 17 Tevet**

Albert Bateshansky  
Markus Fritz  
Max Gethner  
Mary Juaneta Goldsberry  
Adolf Neuwald

## **Saturday, January 2, 18 Tevet**

Reuben Cohen  
Sarah Weiss

## **Monday, January 4, 20 Tevet**

Larry Emmer  
Meyer Sobol

## **Tuesday, January 5, 21 Tevet**

Myra Lichtenstein  
Vivian Young

## **Wednesday, January 6, 22 Tevet**

Philip Colton  
Harvey Kushner  
Amy Plotkin  
Harold Tanenbaum  
Sidney Zaben

## **Thursday, January 7, 23 Tevet**

Sara Dagan  
Ruth Fineberg  
Martin Weise

## **Friday, January 8, 24 Tevet**

Shirley Hellman  
Florence Lederman Schneider  
Lisa Wagner

## **Saturday, January 9, 25 Tevet**

Ruth Goldberg  
Anne Rothbard

## **Sunday, January 10, 26 Tevet**

Mildred Kowaloff  
Elizabeth Sherman

## **Monday, January 11, 27 Tevet**

Allan Stone  
Joan Weinberg  
Henry Moore Winthrop

## **Wednesday, January 13, 29 Tevet**

Jerry Arvine  
Blanche Goldberg  
Joe Levy  
Lillie Stackhouse  
Ann White

## **Thursday, January 14, 1 Shevat**

Bessie Bennett  
Adeline Gratch

## **Friday, January 15, 2 Shevat**

Cece Jefferson

## **Saturday, January 16, 3 Shevat**

Howard Epstein  
Jerome Rose  
Florette Shanker

## **Sunday, January 17, 4 Shevat**

Lisa Anne Fogle  
Dorothy Kurlender  
Zel Rozin

## **Monday, January 18, 5 Shevat**

Diane Albrecht  
Aaron J. Levy  
Albert Waitroob

## **Tuesday, January 19, 6 Shevat**

Evelyn Craig  
James Rodgers  
Bruce Routman

## **Wednesday, January 20, 7 Shevat**

Albert Bleiweiss  
Ida Shanker

## **Thursday, January 21, 8 Shevat**

Kitty Arvine

## **Friday, January 22, 9 Shevat**

Alice Gardner  
Sylvia Golsen  
Nandor Klein

## **Saturday, January 23, 10 Shevat**

James Beauchamp  
Jarvis Craig  
I. H. Gardner  
Rebecca Gardner  
Amparo Restrepo

## **Sunday, January 24, 11 Shevat**

Jacob Colodesch

## **Tuesday, January 26, 13 Shevat**

Charles Jacobson

## **Wednesday, January 27, 14 Shevat**

Herbert Langsam  
Nathan Rothbard  
David Schneider  
Leon Settles

## **Thursday, January 28, 15 Shevat**

Joy Guile  
Neil Strassman

## **Saturday, January 30, 17 Shevat**

Bernice Butler Gardner  
Edward Skalovsky

## **Sunday, January 31, 18 Shevat**

Dr. Herman Fagin  
Frances Marwil  
Joe Rodman



תודה

רבה

TODA RABAH

## **Cemetery Donation**

Eleanor Miller

## ***General Donation***

Bernard Backer

David Gipson



Jewish Federation of  
Greater Oklahoma City

The Yom HaShoah commemoration and the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum trip are both cancelled. Opportunities to do them at a later date will be investigated.



Due to the coronavirus and CDC guidelines, Jewish Theatre of Oklahoma will be presenting its inaugural staged reading of “OH G-D” by beloved Israeli playwright, Anat Gov, in the fall. We look forward to bringing you plays that explore Jewish themes and giving voice to Jewish and Israeli playwrights and ideas. Through performances and discussion, we hope to strengthen our Jewish community and its ties to the broader multicultural community. Thanks to all of our patrons and donors. Your support helps to make Jewish Theatre of Oklahoma, a reality. Wishing you health and safety during these challenging times.









