Emanuel Synagogue

Bulletin

Emanuel Synagogue Bulletin

January 2026 Teves-Shevat 5786

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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OKC, OK 73118
Tel: 405-528-2113
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emanuel_office@coxinet.net

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents	Pg 2
About Us	Pg 3
Calendar	Pg 4
Rabbi	Pg 5-6
President	Pg 7-8
Hebrew School	Pg 9-10
Youth	Pg 11-13
Sisterhood	Pg 14
Yahrzeit	Pg 15
We Remember	Pg 16
Birthdays & Anniversaries	Pg 17
Todah Rabah	Pg 18
Schusterman	Pg 19
JTO	Pg 20-21

THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

18 Erev Rosh Chodesh
19 Rosh Chodesh

ATTENTION PLEASE

In our efforts to organize, starting this month members can begin using the below email addresses. Cox accounts will no longer be available starting May 2025.

Office@emanuelsynagogueokc.org

Finance@emanuelsynagogueokc.org

Rabbi@emanuelsynagogueokc.org

President@emanuelsynagogueokc.org

Membership@emanuelsynagogueokc.org

October 2024

EMANUEL SYNAGOGUE

MONTHLY BULLETIN

Emanuel Synagogue, the Conservative synagogue for the Oklahoma City area, is home to some 200 member families and individuals. Our congregation is close-knit and friendly, like a big family. Most of us have known each other for years (often for generations), but we're thrilled when newcomers ask to join us, and we do everything we can to make them feel welcome and integrate them into our community.

Our synagogue membership is diverse, including people of all ages and a wide range of Jewish backgrounds (Conservative, Orthodox, Reform, and Jews by marriage or by choice). What we all have in common is our commitment to maintaining our Jewish culture and heritage for ourselves and for our children and grandchildren.

As Conservative Jews, we respect Judaic traditions and study Torah while seeking to make them relevant to busy lives in the modern world.

January

2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
					5:11 PM Candlelighting	9:30 AM Shabbat Service 6:12 PM Havdalah
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
					5:17 PM Candlelighting	9:30 AM Shabbat Service 6:18 PM Havdalah
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
					5:23 PM Candlelighting	9:30 AM Shabbat Service 6:25 PM Havdalah
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Rosh Chodesh Shevat				5:30 PM Candlelighting	9:30 AM Shabbat Service 6:32 PM Havdalah
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
					5:38 PM Candlelighting	9:30 AM Shabbat Service 6:39 PM Havdalah
31						

MESSAGE FROM RABBI JACOBSON

Multifaith Families Take Dedication – and Gratitude

This winter, as every winter, our secular and religious holidays have brought us on a journey. We have celebrated Thanksgiving, then Hanukkah, and finally, the secular New Year – we have moved from the gratitude of Thanksgiving to the rededication of Hanukkah to the renewal of the Gregorian calendar year. In the spirit of these ideas, I have been reflecting on things for which our community is grateful because of strong dedication to our community.

Many different kinds of people and contributions to our community deserve our gratitude and reflect that kind of dedication. Members of the board and volunteers work tirelessly on our behalf. There are those quiet, generous souls who contribute financially to support projects and to keep the building warm and dry. Our staff and our security guards keep the place running smoothly and safely. These and many others in our community rededicate themselves to the Emanuel Synagogue family every year, and like the lights of the *hanukkiah*, they burn brightly! On behalf of the entire community, thank you all.

I would also like to thank the members of our community from multifaith families. In the Torah, non-Jewish community members were called "God fearers," or "those in awe of Adonai." Some are spouses or partners in an interfaith relationship who support the Synagogue community because they love someone who is a member of it. Others are parents raising Jewish children, schlepping them to holidays, to Hebrew school, and to Junior Congregation because it is their children's tradition, even when it is not their own. Still others are the parents, siblings, and friends of converts, who are drawn into relationship with the Jewish community because someone they know is interested in Judaism. Finally, some people make their way into the Jewish community as stepfamily, adopted family, or "bonus"

family. Regardless of how someone comes to it, our community is richer because of that love.

Indeed, I think a comedian would joke here that it must be an act of love. Everyone hates us, anti-Semitism is on the rise yet again, and as a people, we *kvetch* (complain) a lot, we treat guilt like a sport, and we suffer from an over-abundance of rules and rituals. Only love, a comedian might joke, overcomes that many apparent drawbacks.

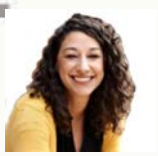
I would challenge that Jews are not so hard to put up with, but I would agree that it is a profound act of love to support a family member or close friend whose religious ideals and practices we do not share. It seems to get harder every year to contemplate having a civil discussion with someone who holds a vastly different viewpoint from our own. The possibility of argument looms large over any discussion of things that we hold dear – we might feel vulnerable to attack, or we might feel impatient with listening to someone whose point of view makes no sense to us. This love shows itself through balance, and through negotiation that runs far deeper than what color wrapping paper to use when wrapping gifts in December.

Diversity is rarely easy, but it is worth the effort.

Drop in for tea and a chat with Rabbi Jacobson!
Office Hours are Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
Feel free to drop in, or schedule a meeting time that is more convenient for you.
(Hours subject to change to accommodate an emergency in the congregation, and Rabbi Jacobson will not hold office hours on Jewish holidays, federal holidays, or any other time when the Synagogue offices are closed.)

Do you know someone who is sick, or who could use some cheering up? One way to help someone who is sick or feeling down is to let Rabbi Jacobson know to contact him/her/them. Another great way is to add someone to the Misheberach list, for the congregation to pray for their health. However, please remember to ask that person's permission first!
*Please note: We read the names on the Misheberach (sick prayer) list out loud during Shabbat services and Evening Minyan. For the sake of their privacy, we read people's Hebrew names, or if they do not have a Hebrew name, we only read their first name in English. We want to comfort people with our prayers, not to invade their privacy.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Looking Ahead Together

As we welcome 2026, your Board of Directors continues to work diligently on behalf of Emanuel Synagogue. With just six months remaining before our annual meeting, there is still a lot of important work ahead—and we are committed to moving forward thoughtfully and transparently.

One major focus continues to be the ongoing maintenance of our building. In November, the Board approved an incredible opportunity that came our way, allowing us to replace one of our aging air-conditioning units at half the cost. This was a significant step forward in addressing long-standing maintenance needs. A heartfelt thank you to Cody Boswell for helping make this possible, and deep gratitude to the church that graciously offered us the first opportunity to acquire this much-needed unit. Acts of partnership like these truly strengthen our community.

We are also in the process of evaluating our membership criteria to ensure alignment with current Conservative Movement recommendations and, importantly, to secure the long-term sustainability of Emanuel Synagogue. Our dues structure has not changed since the mid-1990s. In today's economic climate, with rising costs across the board, it is necessary to thoughtfully update our approach so we can continue to thrive for generations to come.

Equally vital is member involvement beyond dues. Emanuel runs on more than finances—it runs on people. Your time, talents, and willingness to volunteer are what keep the wheels turning. I urge you to consider volunteering, or to continue giving of your time, as your service truly makes a difference.

Building community remains at the heart of our mission. In 2025, we made renewed efforts to bring people back into the building through expanded programming, and I am confident that in 2026 we can continue to build on that momentum. I welcome your ideas and invite you to share your vision for how we can grow together.

Speaking of community—please save the date for April 16! Join us for a Country Music Night featuring Joe Buchanan, bringing ruach, fundraising, and fun to OKC with a country twist. This will be Joe's first time playing in OKC, and we hope you'll be there to make it a memorable evening.

2026 holds tremendous opportunity for continued modernization and growth at Emanuel. Your Board cannot do it alone. You—our members, our volunteers, our community—are the heartbeat of our future. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together.

L'Shalom,
Paola
President
Emanuel Synagogue

HEBREW SCHOOL

Dear Bloom Family Hebrew School Families,

One of the great blessings of our congregation is the Bloom Fund, a generous endowment by the Bloom Family that funds a generous percentage of our activities, as well as scholarships for Jewish Camps, Youth Events and Travel, and even the Pilgrimage Trip to Israel for our High School Seniors. Our Education Committee has been working hard reviewing all the information and coming up with updated guidelines for the funds' future stewardship. Please join us this coming Sunday January 21st during Hebrew School for breakfast and a short but very important meeting on the new guidelines.

Please enjoy the rest of your winter break. See back in School on **SUNDAY, JANUARY 11th, 2026.**

Kol tuv,

Rabbi Juan Mejia

Bloom Family School Director
Emanuel Synagogue
900 NW 47th Street
OKC, OK 73118

405-245-8138
juan@emanuelsynagogueokc.org
www.emanuelokc.org

MANDATORY

Parent Meeting

January 25, 2026
10am

Hart Auditorium

Breakfast Provided

UPDATED INFO:

Bloom Fund &
Israeli
Pilgrimage

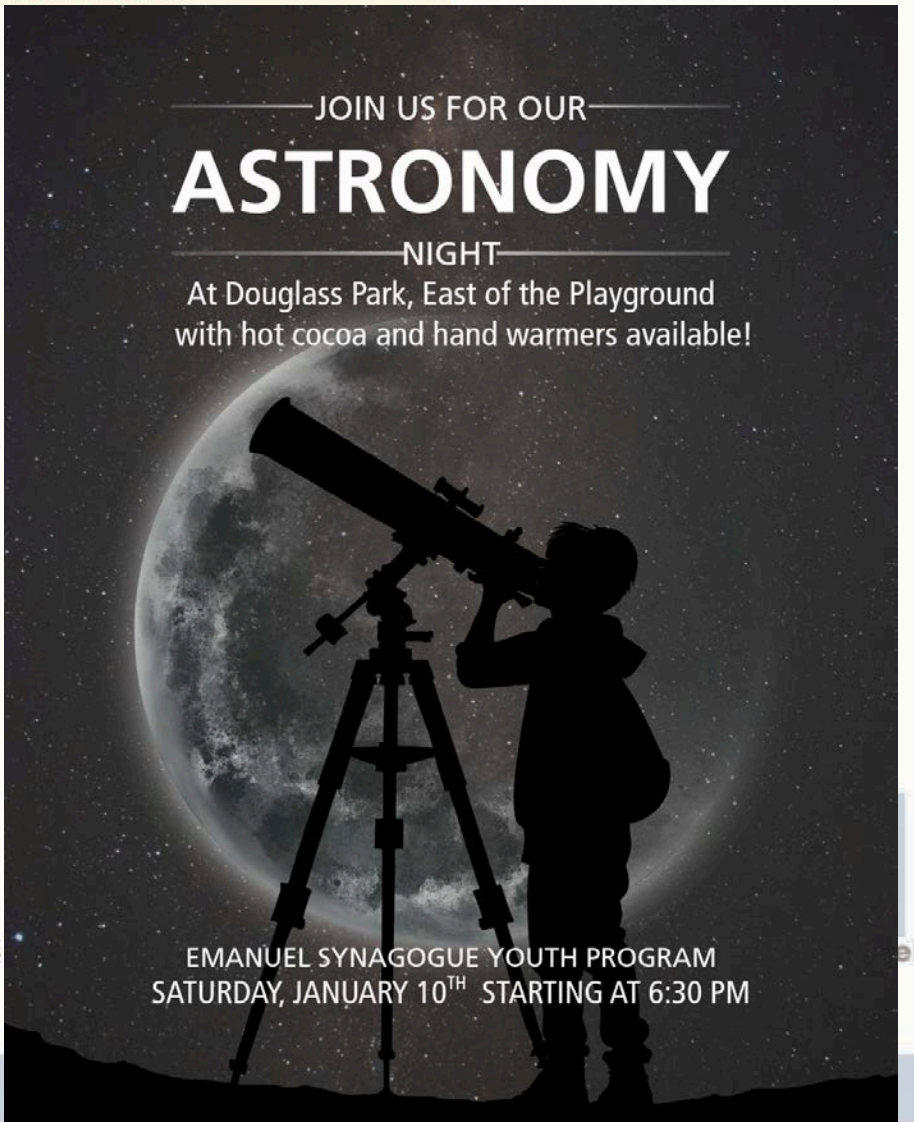
EMANUEL SYNAGOGUE

www.emanuelokc.org

YOUTH

"Hello everyone,
With the coming of 2026 we can expect a pick up in our youth programming, and I'm excited to share a few of the fun and meaningful activities that we have planned.
This month, we'll be hosting an **Astronomy Night** in **Douglas Park** starting at **6:30pm on the 10th**. Where we'll gather east of the playground to stargaze together and explore the wonders of creation through the night sky. The stars of the show will be the moon, whose craters we will be able to see very clearly, and with clear enough weather we should be able to find a few astronomical sights like Jupiter, 4 of its moons, the Pleiades star cluster, the Orion Nebula, and maybe even hints of the Quadrantids, a meteor shower that peaks this month. come and learn about the Winter Hexagon from an astronomy expert, who will happily talk your ear off for hours. We will be providing cocoa and hand warmers.
We'll also be heading to **Sparrow Park at 12:30 on January 25th** for a short trivia-style program called *"**Creation – The Game**."* This interactive activity will introduce our youth to the cultural context behind the story of Adam and Eve, giving them a deeper framework as they prepare to watch ***The Apple Tree***, the musical being performed by the Jewish Theatre of Oklahoma at **2pm at the Oklahoma Shakespeare**.
Participants who wish to attend the musical as part of our group must **RSVP by January 11th** through the QR on the poster, or by reaching out to me via text at 678-431-4243.
I am truly looking forward to all of the great events the synagogue has put together this month, and I'm so excited to see everyone and share these experiences together."

Scan QR code or text 678-431-4243
to RSVP by January 11th



elokc.org

January Youth Calendar 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Notable Dates

HEBREW SCHOOL
10 - 12

HEBREW LEARNING LAB
4:30 - 6:00

ASTRONOMY NIGHT
10TH AT 6:30PM
AT DOUGLAS PARK
EAST OF THE PLAYGROUND

CREATION - THE TRIVIA GAME
12:30 - 1:30
SETTING THE SCENE FOR THE APPLE TREE

THE APPLE TREE
1:45 - 4:30
MUSICAL AT THE OKLAHOMA SHAKESPEARE

CONTACT THE YOUTH PROGRAM AT
YOUTH@EMANUELSYNAGOGUEOKC.ORG

SISTERHOOD

Beginner: https://buytickets.at/emanuelsynagogue/1957110

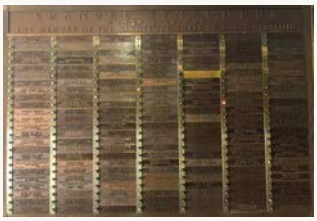
Masters: https://buytickets.at/emanuelsynagogue/1957112

RSVP for both events together: https://www.emanuelokc.org/upcoming-events--rsvp.html

Sisterhood Gift Shop

Buy your Bar & Bat Mitzvah, Wedding, and Baby Gifts. Plus, Yahrzeit and Shabbos candles, Jewelry, pottery and so much more.

With Affection We Recall...



Thursday, January 1,
12 Tevet
Camille Merson

Friday, January 2,
13 Tevet
Lorraine Gardner
Bernice Lipkin

Sunday, January 4,
15 Tevet
Henry Ellis

Monday, January 5,
16 Tevet
Harold Ginden

Tuesday, January 6,
17 Tevet
Albert Bateshansky
Markus Fritz
Mary Juaneta Goldsberry
Adolf Neuwald

Wednesday, January 7,
18 Tevet
Reuben Cohen
Charles Craig
Sarah Weiss

Friday, January 9,
20 Tevet
Larry Emmer

Saturday, January 10,
21 Tevet
Myra Lichtenstein
Vivian Young

Sunday, January 11,
22 Tevet
Harvey Kushner
Amy Plotkin
Harold Tanenbaum
Sidney Zaben

Monday, January 12,
23 Tevet
Ruth Fineberg
Martin Weise

Tuesday, January 13,
24 Tevet
Shirley Hellman
Florence Lederman Schneider
Lisa Wagner

Wednesday, January 14,
25 Tevet
Ruth Goldberg
Anne Rothbard

Thursday, January 15,
26 Tevet
Mildred Kowaloff
Elizabeth Sherman

Friday, January 16,
27 Tevet
Joan Weinberg
Henry Moore Winthrop

Sunday, January 18,
29 Tevet
Jerry Arvine
Blanche Goldberg
Joe Levy
Lillie Stackhouse
Ann White

Monday, January 19,
1 Shevat
Bessie Bennett

Tuesday, January 20,
2 Shevat
Cece Jefferson

Wednesday, January 21,
3 Shevat
Howard Epstein
Jerome Rose
Florette Shanker

Thursday, January 22,
4 Shevat
Dorothy Kurlender
Zel Rozin

Friday, January 23,
5 Shevat
Diane Albrecht
Aaron J. Levy
Albert Waintroob

Saturday, January 24,
6 Shevat
Evelyn Craig

Sunday, January 25,
7 Shevat
Albert Bleiweiss
Ida Shanker

Monday, January 26,
8 Shevat
Kitty Arvine

Tuesday, January 27,
9 Shevat
Alice Gardner
Nandor Klein
Johnathan Sparks

Wednesday, January 28,
10 Shevat
Jarvis Craig
I. H. Gardner
Rebecca Gardner
Amparo Restrepo

Thursday, January 29,
11 Shevat
Jacob Colodesch

Friday, January 30,
12 Shevat
Charles Jacobson

WE REMEMBER

MICHAEL BARLOW
Anita Barlow

DOROTHY COHEN
Dr. Michael & Diana Robinson

ALBERT EMMER
Sharon Cohen
Dr. Michael & Diana Robinson

DR. PERRY GETHNER
Dr. Michael Rabens

BEN E. GOLDBERG
Dr. Michael & Diana Robinson

FANNIE GOLDBERG
Dr. Michael & Diana Robinson

HALI GOSS
Dr. Robert B. Epstein
Dr. Robert H. & Carol Epstein
Helene Harpman
Sandra Katz
Steven, Paula & Edward Levin
Dr. Michael & Diana Robinson
Edward Rochman
Jerome & Stacey Schneider & Family
Judy Silverstein
Dr. Mark & Debra Wolraich

FLORA LIVINGSTONE
Dr. Martin & Laura Levine

ELEANOR KAMBER
Mark & Janet Price

CHARLES I. MILLER
Eleanor Miller

JEROME MUHLBERG
Richard & Judy Muhlberg

HENRIETTA D. OSHERWITZ
Tom Osherwitz

EDWARD ROBBINS
Elaine Weise

CHARLES ROBINSON
Dr. Michael & Diana Robinson

ELAINE ROBINSON
Dr. Michael & Diana Robinson

TAWNYA ROZIN
Arlette & Doug Berlin & Danya Levinson
Dr. Robert B. Epstein
Helene Harpman
Judy Silverstein

MARY LEE WAINTROOB
Dr. Michael & Diana Robinson

BELLE WEISE
Elaine Weise

JOSEPH YOURMAN
Mark & Janet Price

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

14 Dr. Michael & Diana Robinson

22 Larry & Mary Trachtenberg

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Amanda Blumenthal
Ronna Davis
2 Arie Meoli
5 Tina Rothblum
9 Ronnie Grinberg
11 Sharon Neuwald
14 Harry Merson
16 Mylin Klein
19 Larry Trachtenberg
23 Helena Nechtow
25 Jay Farber
Carol Krasnow
26 Lizzy Moore
27 Sherry Silverstein-Alpert
29 Jorje Rose
Howard Stein

תודה רבה

TODA RABAH

Donation to Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
Sherry Barton
Dr. Charlotte Malasky
Shelley Savage

Congregants Assistance Fund Donation
Dr. Yona Rebbetzin Alter & Dr. Rabbi Levi Alter
Bernard Backer
Elijah Khoronov
Meredith Willis

In honor of Rabbi Abby Jacobson & Rabbi Juan Mejia on the Bat Mitzvah of daughter, Argo Mejia-Jacobson
Dr. Charlotte Malasky
James Goldsberry

In honor of Bob & Tammy Weiss
Amanda Schwartz

Cemetery Fund Donation
Eleanor Miller

General Donation
Bernard Backer
Joan Darrow
Elijah Khoronov

Hebrew School Donation
Arlette & Doug Berlin & Danya Levinson

Israel Youth Fund
Fidelity Charitable
Steven, Paula & Edward Levin
Sandra Katz

SCHUSTERMAN CENTER FOR JUDAIC AND ISRAEL STUDIES
The UNIVERSITY *of* OKLAHOMA

To get on their mailing list or for inquiries, please feel free to contact us directly:

SCHUSTERMAN CENTER FOR JUDAIC AND ISRAEL STUDIES
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
OFFICE: DAHT 305D
MAIL: 455 W. LINDSEY DAHT 403A, NORMAN, OK, 73019
judaicstudies@ou.edu |
405-325-6508

EMANUEL SYNAGOGUE

www.emanuelokc.org

Jewish Theatre of Oklahoma Announces it's 25/26 Season

We're thrilled to unveil our 2025–2026 Season — a powerful lineup of stories that span generations, continents, and emotions. This year, our productions dive deep into **legacy, love, identity, conflict, and community.**

Whether you're a long-time subscriber or joining us for the very first time, we invite you to share in these unforgettable stories with us.

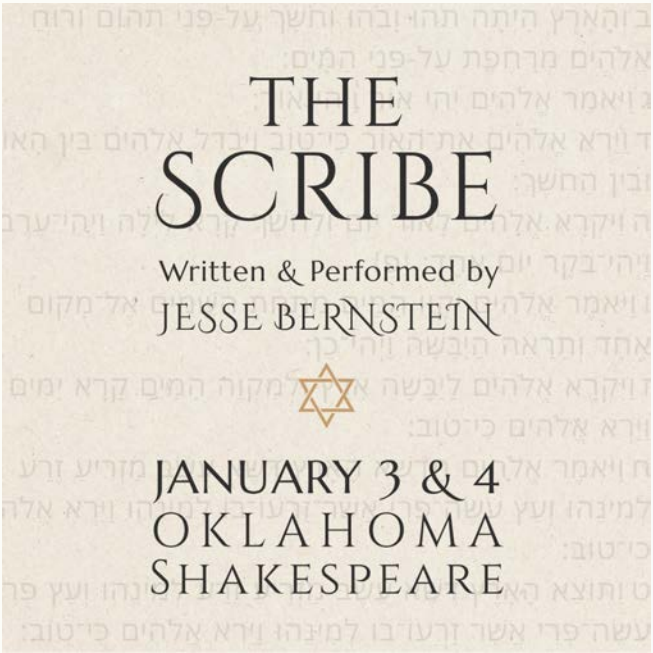
THE 2025–2026 SEASON LINEUP

THE SCRIBE
Written & Performed by Jesse Bernstein

📍 Oklahoma Shakespeare

🗓️ January 3 at 8:00 PM | January 4 at 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM

In an exclusive reprise, Jewish Theatre of Oklahoma welcomes back a favorite from our 2021 season! In this one-man show, Jesse Bernstein reveals the untold (and maybe truthful) story of how the Torah was created.



EMANUEL SYNAGOGUE
www.emanuelokc.org

✨ *Subscriber Exclusive*
This premium event is normally **$50 per ticket** — but included *free* with the top two Premium Subscription packages. A perfect reason to upgrade!

THE APPLE TREE
Music by Jerry Bock, Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick
Starring Amanda Lee

📍 Oklahoma Shakespeare

🗓️ January 24 at 8:00 PM | January 25 at 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM
The classic tale of Adam & Eve with a comedic twist. Through songs and humor, this show asks timeless questions about love, choice, and truth.

ON THE EDGE
by Motti Lerner
Starring Ford Austin and Rob May

📍 Oklahoma Shakespeare

🗓️ March 14 at 8:00 PM | March 15 at 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM A tormented Israeli widower and his estranged son confront the ghosts of the past in a political, psychological thriller set in the shadow of war.

THE CEMETERY CLUB
by Ivan Menchell

📍 Carpenter Square Theatre

🗓️ May 2 at 8:00 PM | May 3 at 2:00 PM
Three widows gather at the cemetery—until new love, old grief, and shifting friendships begin to change everything.

SEASON SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW OPEN
Want to see every show? Subscribers enjoy the **best seats, biggest savings, and special perks.** Our intimate venues fill quickly — don't miss your chance to join us!

We now offer **three tiers of subscription packages**:

$120 Entry-Level Subscription
One ticket to five productions (*The Scribe not included*).

$260 Premium Subscription
Two tickets to all six productions — including *The Scribe* (normally $50 per ticket).
Plus, exclusive perks for the best value.

$1000 Producer's Club
Two tickets to all six productions and recognition in our programs.
A perfect way to support the arts at the highest level.

SUPPORT THIS SEASON
From costumes and props to venues and artists, bringing these stories to life takes tremendous heart — and your generous support.

Every gift, big or small, helps us raise the curtain. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation today

EMANUEL SYNAGOGUE
www.emanuelokc.org