Emanuel Synagogue

Bulletin

Emanuel Synagogue Bulletin

February 2026 Shevat-1 Adar 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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THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

16 Erev Rosh Chodesh
17 & 18 Rosh Chodesh

March 2nd is Taanis Esther & Erev Purim

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

EMANUEL SYNAGOGUE

www.emanuelokc.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.

February

2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	6	7
					5:45 PM Candlelighting	9:30 AM **Sisterhood** Shabbat Service 6:46 PM Havdalah
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
					5:52 PM Candlelighting	9:30 AM Shabbat Service 6:53 PM Havdalah
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Rosh Chodesh Adar	Rosh Chodesh Adar		5:59 PM Candlelighting	9:30 AM Shabbat Service 7:00 PM Havdalah
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
					6:05 PM Candlelighting	9:30 AM Shabbat Service 7:07 PM Havdalah
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
					6:12 PM Candlelighting	9:30 AM Shabbat Service 7:13 PM Havdalah
31						

MESSAGE FROM RABBI JACOBSON

The Taste of a Modern Shabbat

"Tradition" is Not a Seasoning

There is a story usually called "The Taste of Shabbat." In this story, a king imposes on a commoner from his kingdom for dinner one evening, and happens into a Jewish household for Friday night dinner. The king is amazed at the food and does everything in his power to have the meal recreated in the palace, failing each time. The Jewish person says that the king will never successfully recreate the food unless he has it prepared and served for Shabbat – the "taste" of Shabbat will not be in the challah, the matzah ball soup, or the kugel otherwise.

Most foods that we associate with Shabbat or Jewish holidays have similar ingredients, motivated by a similar reasoning. In Ashkenazi culture, challah, matzah balls, and kugel all contain eggs. Dairy kugels contain sour cream, cottage cheese, or farmer's cheese. Many challah recipes contain raisins – especially for holidays – and many dairy kugels similarly contain fruit. Matzah ball soup is a great way to bring meat, in the form of bones and chicken feet, to an otherwise meatless table. Gefilte fish and herring bring a *bissel* (a "little bit of") fish to a table that might not be able to afford more than that. Traditional desserts include eggs, sugar, and fruit. These ingredients represent a tiny bit of extravagance on a Shabbat or a holiday table.

Most of the Jewish community that emigrated to the United States in previous generations came fleeing poverty – either generational poverty or the recent poverty of losing everything to anti-Semitism. In the "old country," a great many of our ancestors had very little, and when they found cause to celebrate, they added the small comforts and little extras that they could. For this reason, we see the many repeated ingredients in festive cooking – these were the extras they could get.

Today, despite the sharp increase in the price of eggs in recent months, we are lucky to find ourselves able to have all of these formerly extravagant items more often than once a week. Even with the higher cost of kosher meat, many of us could have these foods every day, if we chose. More than being festive foods anymore, foods like challah, deli sandwiches, herring, lox, and kugel feel more like foods that connect us to Jewish culture and family heritage. Chicken soup tastes like feeling better when we have a cold, and babka and black-and-white cookies taste like a trip to the grocery store. Hanukkah tastes like fried foods from many different cultures – latkes and sufganiyot are so messy to fry at home anyway.

It is natural and good for the significance of foods to change as circumstances and tastes change. I cannot claim a love for pickled tongue or calves' brains, as my ancestors had, nor do I want to try to pass those foods down to my children. I am glad that I can serve herring on a Tuesday, and that gefilte fish need not wait for Passover.

So, what does Shabbat taste like today? More than that, what *should* Shabbat taste like today?

When answering a question of Jewish ritual, I always go back to the traditional sources. In this case, those sources are the kitchens of our ancestors. They added small amounts of the things that were in short supply as little treats to their Shabbat (and holiday) foods. It stands to reason, then, that a modern Shabbat table should be filled with small amounts of things we love but do not have much of.

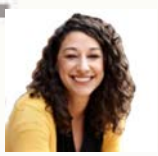
I suggest that this ingredient is time.

When we sit down to a meal together, we give our time. When someone cooks or bakes from scratch, even though foods could be store-bought, that is a gift of time. When Shabbat candles are lit before Friday night dinner, when the children are blessed, when kiddush and hamotzi are said, when prayers after the meal are said, these are gifts of time. Giving our time creates a Shabbat (or holiday) meal environment unlike the rest of the week, transforming Shabbat into the Palace in Time that Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel said it should be. Each brick and feature of that Palace will be built from the time you have dedicated to it, and the food served therein will taste of Shabbat, regardless of what is served.

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



As we move into the heart of winter, your Board of Directors continues to work diligently behind the scenes to ensure the long-term strength and sustainability of our synagogue building. From much-needed kitchen repairs to ongoing HVAC work, these projects are essential investments in Emanuel's future. Thoughtful infrastructure care today helps ensure our sacred space remains welcoming, functional, and safe for generations to come.

Sustaining our future also requires meeting rising operational costs. If you have not yet had the opportunity to fulfill your Yom Kippur pledge, it is not too late to do so. Your generosity directly supports our ability to maintain our building, programming, and staff.

In that same spirit of responsibility, the Board has recommended a review of our fair share dues structure. Our dues recommendations have not increased since the 1990s, despite significant changes in expenses and needs. The Membership Chairs and committee will be working on this effort and expect to present a proposal at our Annual Meeting in June. Transparency and fairness will remain central to this process.

I also want to take a moment to address the current state of our nation. As a Jewish people, we carry a collective memory shaped by deportation, targeting, and persecution. As President of Emanuel Synagogue, I support USCJ's decision to join other regional and national Jewish and Christian organizations in filing a lawsuit addressing new

immigration raid rules. If you have not yet read USCJ's statement, I encourage you to do so here: https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/story/conservativemasorti-movement-joins-filing-suit-over-new-immigration-raid-rules

I understand that many communities are living in fear and panic. Houses of worship should never become places where government officials feel empowered to exert control. I will continue to stay informed of USCJ's work and recommendations on this issue. My highest priority remains the safety and well-being of our community and staff.

As we enter the second month of 2026, I encourage all of us to check in on one another. Attend shul, participate in events, and stay connected. It is only when we are strong together that we can bring love, support, and strength to those who need it most.

L'Shalom,
Paola Klein President

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Make your calendars, April 16, 2026!!! Emanuel Synagogue is excited to bring Joe Buchanan to OKC for a night of dinner and dancing!! We thank our donors the Singer Foundation and Temple Israel for their contributions to make this possible. Ticket sales coming in February! Questions?
Email president@emanuelokc.org.

Texas-born and river-raised, Joe Buchanan makes country music steeped in Torah and Jewish spirit. After discovering his wife's Jewish heritage, Joe began a journey that led to conversion, healing, and a vibrant new path. Blending classic Texas sound with deep faith, his music tells stories of belonging, struggle, and celebration. He's toured across the U.S., leads residencies for Jewish communities, and hosts a thriving online community known as the *Small Town Tribe*. Now, with the release of his third album, *Heaven & Earth*, Joe continues to open doors through music rooted in tradition and spirit. Find our more at www.joebuchananmusic.com

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HEBREW SCHOOL

Dear Bloom Family Hebrew School Families,

Despite the snow, it has been an exciting restart of our learning at Hebrew School. I take this opportunity once more to emphasize how important our upcoming **February 1st informational meeting** is. Our education committee has been working hard with the Bloom Fund committee to review our requirements for the allocation of important grants for **SUMMER CAMP, PILGRIMAGE and YOUTH ACTIVITIES-** It is extremely important that you come and learn about the new requirements. The meeting will start promptly at 10 AM after student drop off. A bagel breakfast and coffee will be served.

Hope to see you all there.
Rabbi Juan Mejia

Bloom Family School Director
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405-245-8138

juan@emanuelsynagogueokc.org
www.emanuelokc.org

MANDATORY

Parent Meeting

February 1, 2026
10am

Hart Auditorium

Breakfast Provided

UPDATED INFO:

Bloom Fund &
Israeli
Pilgrimage

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YOUTH

"With the chilly weather coming in I am glad that we got to hold our astronomy night in January before things got too crazy. Unfortunately the January 25th scavenger hunt had to shift and will now be combined with the planting event that was going to be held on the 8th at noon. We will do our best to squeeze both in. In addition to that we have a small come and go at your own time event on February 25th between 4:30 and 6, where kids can paint a gragger in prep for Purim. If they have it with them at the Megillah reading and are ready to make some noise they will get a small treat! I can't wait to see everyone!"

Tu'Bishvat Scavenger Hunt

February 8th from 12 to 2pm

the kids will be able to unlock the elements of the Tu'Bishvat celebration. They will be able to say the blessings and learn the basics of why we eat the foods that we do in the fun new way to look at Tu'bishvat.

Come and paint your own noise maker

Bring your gragger with you to the Purim Party on March 2nd and get a small treat

Feb 25th

anytime between

4:30 - 6:00

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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

Dates to Note

Hebrew School

Hebrew Learning Lab

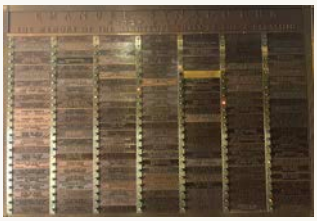
Tu'Bishvat Scavenger Hunt
12 - 2

Geared to all ages, This will combine the event from January 25th that was canceled

Purim Gragger Decorating
4:30 - 6

Come at your convenience and paint your gragger for Purim, Meant to be around the Hebrew lab lessons

With Affection We Recall...



Sunday, February 1,
14 Shevat
Sally Fried
Herbert Langsam
Nathan Rothbard
David Schneider
Leon Settles

Monday, February 2,
15 Shevat
Joy Guile
Neil Strassman

Tuesday, February 3,
16 Shevat
Thomas Lalond

Wednesday, February 4,
17 Shevat
Bernice Butler Gardner
Edward Skalovsky

Thursday, February 5,
18 Shevat
Dr. Herman Fagin
David Goss
Frances Marwil
Joe Rodman

Friday, February 6,
19 Shevat
Israel Slutzky

Saturday, February 7,
20 Shevat
Albert Skalovsky

Sunday, February 8,
21 Shevat
Jeanette Lemson

Monday, February 9,
22 Shevat
Nathan Lichtenstein

Tuesday, February 10,
23 Shevat
Shirley Redlich

Wednesday, February 11,
24 Shevat
Eva Green
Edward Sureck

Saturday, February 14,
27 Shevat
Louis Bendorf

Sunday, February 15,
28 Shevat
Reba LeFever

Monday, February 16,
29 Shevat
Anna Leviton Papermaster
Michael Sloan

Wednesday, February 18,
1 Adar
Donald T. Kumm

Friday, February 20,
3 Adar
Jose Farina

Saturday, February 21,
4 Adar
Richard Evans
Kate Finkelstein

Sunday, February 22,
5 Adar
Bernard Shanker

Tuesday, February 24,
7 Adar
Milton Kamber
Martin Rich

Wednesday, February 25,
8 Adar
Julius Bendorf
Donald Esrig

Friday, February 27,
10 Adar
Doug Tolliver

WE REMEMBER

ANNELIS BENDORF
Jerry & Jacqueline Bendorf

CARRIE BYERS
Harry & Hedra Merson

REUBEN COHEN
Dr. Martin & Laura Levine

LARRY EMMER
Sharon Cohen

HOWARD EPSTEIN
Dr. Robert H. & Carol Epstein

RUTH FINEBERG
Rise' Stefani

ALICE GARDNER
Dr. Robert H. & Carol Epstein

MARY J. GOLDSBERRY
James Goldsberry

HALI GOSS
Lynda & Jeff Markowitz Charitable fund
Shirley Skalovsky

LOU GREYSON
Richard Greyson

RUTH GREYSON
Richard Greyson

JEROME ROSE
Jay Shanker & Sara Jane Rose

DAVID SCHNEIDER
Anita Barlow

IDA SHANKER
Robin Shanker & Joseph Anzelmo

SAM SKALOVSKY
Shirley Skalovsky

DOUG TOLLIVER
Stacy Coe
Coe Plumbing Inc.

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

5 Mark & Linda Kanter

17 Drs. Steve & Roberta Sloan

27 Michael & Cheri Mannes

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Michael Alpert
Shaelynn Meek
4 Tom Carlson
Mike Mittleman
Leon Shepkaru
5 Marc Levine
6 Leah Hanna
Scott Nachatilo
Jay Shanker
7 Shoshi Beasley
Jocelyn Smith
8 Katherine Nash
Liliana Schechter
14 Stefani Nachatilo
15 David Seelig
17 Gail Meltzner
19 Tammy Weiss
20 Dr. Cynthia Skelly
Nancy Meoli
22 Cheryl Boswell
26 Hilary Levenson

תודה רבה

TODA RABAH

Donation to Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
Shelley Savage
Drs. Stephen & Roberta Sloan

Congregants Assistance Fund Donation
Dr. Yona Rebbetzin Alter &
Dr. Rabbi Levi Alter
Bernard Backer
Rhonda Seidelman & Yair Pincu
Meredith Willis

In honor of Bat Mitzvah of Argo Mejia-Jacobson
Ari & Paola Klein

In Memory of Hali Goss and Jeff Goss hosting USY on Wheels this pass summer
United Synagogue of Con. Judaism

A belated Thank you for officiating at the unveiling of my sister's monument
Michael Rock

Cemetery Fund Donation
Richard Greyson
Abby Phillips

General Donation
Joan Darrow

Israel Youth Fund
Lynda & Jeff Markowitz
Charitable fund of the Dallas Jewish Community Foundation

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 2026 SEASON:

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

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