Emanuel Synagogue

Bulletin

Emanuel Synagogue Bulletin

March 2026 Adar-Nisan 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.

900 NW 47TH ST.
OKC, OK 73118
Tel: 405-528-2113
https://www.emanuelokc.org/
emanuel_office@coxinet.net

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents	Pg 2
Calendar	Pg 3
Rabbi	Pg 4-5
President	Pg 6-9
Hebrew School	Pg 10-11
Youth	Pg 12
Sisterhood	Pg 13-15
Yahrzeit	Pg 16
We Remember	Pg 17
Birthdays & Anniversaries	Pg 18
Todah Rabah	Pg 19
JTO	Pg 20

THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

2 Taanis Esther & Erev Purim
3 Purim
19 Erev Rosh Chodesh
31 Erev Pesach

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

March

2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Ta'anit Esther Erev Purim	Purim			6:12 PM Candlelighting	9:30 AM Shabbat Service 7:13 PM Havdalah
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
					7:18 PM Candlelighting	8:19 AM Shabbat Service 8:19 PM Havdalah
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
				Rosh Chodesh Nisan	7:23 PM Candlelighting	9:30 AM Shabbat Service 8:25 PM Havdalah
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
					7:29 PM Candlelighting	9:30 AM Shabbat Service 8:31 PM Havdalah
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
		Erev Pesach				

MESSAGE FROM RABBI JACOBSON

The Parade of Family Oddity

How Emanuel Synagogue Strives to Have a Healthy Attitude Toward B'nai Mitzvah

When I was in elementary school, my parents divorced. It was a great idea – they had married young and had grown into very different people. We were all happier when they went their separate ways.

It really inconvenienced our synagogue, though.

I grew up in a small synagogue in a small corner of central Florida – somehow, the non-Jewish section of the Sunshine State. We only had one synagogue in the county, so when my parents divorced but remained close by, they both remained members of the same (the only) synagogue. This perplexed *everyone*. The office had trouble knowing how to list divorced members in the directory – as though it were different from listing two adult siblings, or adult children who had moved out of their parents' homes. There was a long discussion at a board meeting over whether to remove my parents' donation plaque from the stained glass window they had donated, since they were no longer a couple. Parents of my friends assumed that they would have to choose whether to invite my mother or my father to a bar/bat mitzvah based on who had custody of my that weekend – there were many mix-ups, since no one bothered to ask how my parents would like that to be handled, and no one could figure out to send the invitation to me instead. The 1980s in my small Florida synagogue made it feel like divorce was the strangest thing to happen in any family ever.

By the time my bat mitzvah rolled around, there were two (*gasp*) divorced families in my b'nai mitzvah class of fifteen. The other family went first. They felt the scrutiny of the community so keenly that the parents pretended to be happily married for the bat mitzvah weekend. They sat next to one another, they shared the *bimah* for the parents' blessing, and the invitations read "Mr. & Mrs. So-and-So proudly invite you…" just like everyone else. It caused a great deal of discomfort and a great deal of whispering when the congregation should have focused on the happy event itself.

As a rabbi, I wish my synagogue

had done things differently. A bar/bat mitzvah should focus on the child, with a softer focus on the family as a whole. No one should be made to feel like a label, or a bug under glass, during a happy event.

There might be many reasons to wonder about how a family will handle a bar/bat mitzvah: a divorced couple, a single parent, step-parents, an adopted child, an interfaith family, a child raised by grandparents, a family of or containing converts, a child with disabilities. Regardless, our answer is always the same: We will handle the life cycle event with love and respect, and with a focus on how wonderful the child is.

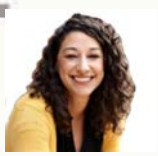
There may be a case where only one parent can take an *aliyah* to the Torah or can say the parent's blessings in Hebrew during the service. Maybe there is only one parent, maybe only one parent is Jewish, maybe only one parent is comfortable speaking Hebrew, or maybe one parent has stage fright. We refuse to make a big deal about it. Families work these things out with me in advance of the event, so that everyone feels comfortable, and so that the entire community can focus on the joy of the occasion.

As it turns out, love and respect fix a lot of problems. So can sharing a nice challah.

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



There is something about Purim that feels different from every other day on the Jewish calendar. It is loud. It is colorful. It is unapologetically joyful. And it is deeply rooted in community.

When I think about Purim, I am instantly transported back to my childhood. I remember carefully choosing my costume — the excitement of transforming into someone new for a day. The synagogue buzzing with energy. The sanctuary filled with laughter instead of whispers.

And of course, the best part: waiting for the name of Haman during the reading of the Book of Esther so we could shout "BOOO!" at the top of our lungs. We shook groggers with all our might, determined to drown out his name completely. As children, it felt like we were part of the story — not just listening to it, but actively standing up against injustice together.

Purim taught me, even at a young age, that Judaism is not only about solemn moments — it is about joy, participation, and collective strength.

And then there were the hamantaschen. The unmistakable triangular cookies that somehow tasted better on Purim than any other time of year. Poppy seed and apricot were classics… but Nutella? That was — and still is — my favorite. There is something beautifully symbolic about gathering around trays of homemade treats, sharing sweets with friends, and delivering mishloach manot to one another. Joy is meant to be shared.

Purim reminds us that our story as a people has always been one of resilience and courage — but it is also a story of celebration. We survive together. We laugh together. We dress up, we make noise, we bake, we gather, and we strengthen the bonds that hold our community together.

As we celebrate this year, may we lean into that childlike joy. May our sanctuary be filled with laughter and grogger-shaking. May our tables overflow with hamantaschen (Nutella included). And may we never forget that the greatest gift of Purim is not just the story — it is the community with whom we tell it.

Chag Purim Sameach!
Paola Klein

President
Emanuel Synagogue

EMANUEL SYNAGOGUE

www.emanuelokc.org

Mark 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

BOOTS & BRACHAS

APRIL 16, 2026

COMMUNITY

Saddle up for an unforgettable evening as we bring the Jewish community together in support of Emanuel Synagogue s vital mission in OKC. Enjoy a night of Western-themed entertainment, dinner & dancing - all for a great cause!

Proceeds from the event will benefit Emanuel Synagogoues daily operations budget.

DINNER & DRINKS

Enjoy a kosher fried chicken meal prepared by Chef Andy from Othello s restaurant.

ADMISSION

$72 per person before April 1
$100 after

Includes dinner

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Grand O le	$10,000
Lone Star	$5,000
High Noon	$3,000
Boot Scootin	$1,500
Barn Builder	$500

See online sales for sponsorship benefits

CHILDCARE

$36 per child
Must preregister

Purchase tickets online: https://bit.ly/4tNf6v0
or call the office: 405.528.2113

Tickets can be purchased online or over the phone.

EMANUEL SYNAGOGUE

www.emanuelokc.org

HEBREW SCHOOL

Fostering a Safe and Secure Environment at Bloom Family Hebrew School

Dear Bloom Family Hebrew School Families,

This past Sunday, February 15th, we were visited by Mr. Jason Knight, the Regional Security Advisor for the Oklahoma/ Arkansas regions for the **Secure Communities Network**. The SCN is the security arm of the North American Federations, advising Jewish communities on how to keep themselves and their members safe in a world where threats evolve almost as fast as we can respond to them. Mr. Knight, a local veteran of the Oklahoma City Police Department visited our school with a Captain of our local Police Department. Together they trained our faculty, leadership, and security personnel through table top exercises designed to identify our strengths and weaknesses in our security coverage.

I am proud to report that our current security procedures and policies were well evaluated by the experts, particularly when contrasted with other similar sized Jewish institutions. As a community we are extremely grateful to our security staff for their involvement with our community, and for our leadership's correct prioritization of security as one of central institutional concerns. Looking forward towards the future, the areas for growth that we detected are being addressed immediately, and you will be informed about them as we prepare a new set of drills in the near future as well as some key security purchases for our classrooms.

An immediate recommendation that we are instituting is a one-way TEXT ALERT system to be used only in cases of EMERGENCY to instantly connect with the parents of

our students. We promise not to overuse this channel for scheduling or other school business, but we do require parent buy-in for this alert system to be useful. We will be sending our families an email with the relevant information this month. We hope to see you all during our Purim activities and our educational programming during this joyous month of Adar.

All the best,
Rabbi Juan

YOUTH

For March the youth program is happy to support the Purim event on the 2nd, if the kids bring their granger from the paining event to the Purim Party they will receive a sweet treat!

We are launching the new parent's group me, and hoping to start an email blast. Send an e-mail to me to get added. This will be a once a month email with the calendar and posters to be offset by updates in group me!

I hope to see everyone soon at the Purim event!"

SISTERHOOD

Thanks to Sisterhood members who participated in this year's Sisterhood Shabbat on February 7th, and to Laura Levine for making the delicious lunch served after the services. It was announced on Sisterhood Shabbat that this year's Martha Weiss Sisterhood Volunteer of the Year is Stefani Nachatilo. Stefani has volunteered her time and efforts to many of Sisterhood's projects, and we will honor her on a day yet to be determined.

This year's Hamantashen cookie fund raiser was led by Amy Settles and Jan Green, and several members volunteered their time to bake and package the Hamantashen. We hope everyone enjoys their purchase which is not only a treat, but also helps Sisterhood meet its obligations to the synagogue.

We hope you're making plans to attend Sisterhood's Rummage Sale on May 14th, 15th, 17th and 21st (times to be determined). Your donations of clean, lightly used items are needed, so please contact Jan Green to make arrangements for your items to be accepted at the synagogue.

Sisterhood is always looking for more members and volunteers, so please contact Sisterhood President Shirley Meek if you'd like to join Sisterhood to make sure all of our projects successful.

Sisterhood Gift Shop

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

OK
LAHO
MA

IntraContinental Region Conference is coming to Oklahoma City

Hello Sisters at Emanuel Synagogue! My name is Louise Raber and I am the Conference chair for IntraContinental Region (ICR) in Oklahoma City.

We are all looking forward to visiting your beautiful city soon, May 2-May 5, 2026. For those of you unaware, Women's League International (Women's League for Conservative Judaism) our parent organization is located in New York City. But the rest of North America is divided into Regions. ICR covers the largest in area starting in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada to Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada (home of the Winnipeg Jets) 500 miles East, then we head South to Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas! Over 2 million square miles and over 22 Conservative congregations!

Every spring ICR sisterhood affiliates join together to discuss timely topics of interest, Torah Fund membership, and programming. We pray together, play a little Mahjong, meet the host city's Rabbi's and create many new and lasting friendships. We are from all over the centre of North America but we are Jewish Women, who enjoy meeting women with similar backgrounds and having fun.

We'd love to meet as many Emanuel Synagogue Sisterhood members (new and old) at Conference. We'd love to share our knowledge of Women's League and make new friends.

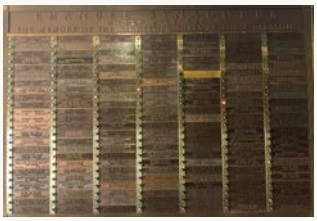
Meet our President Denise Mosk and Margie Miller our Conference Consultant and past International President. Heather Zarfati is the local chair. Reach out to her, Jennifer Weiss or Kari Jonscher who are on her committee.
You can always send me an email (works faster than dog sled to Canada)

Until May,

Louise

Louise Raber
ICR Conference chair
(204)291-0663 (Canada, if you don't have an international phone plan, email me at louiseraber1@gmail.com and I will call you)

With Affection We Recall...



Monday, March 2,
13 Adar
Dora Robinson
Esther Skalovsky

Tuesday, March 3,
14 Adar
Margarite Eidsness

Wednesday, March 4,
15 Adar
Bertha Adickman
Gussie Ginden
Barbara Goldfarb
Sammy Kornblit
Helen Smith Levy
Shirley Stavinsky

Thursday, March 5,
16 Adar
Edward Kaswan
Faye Rose
Rose Rubenstein
Rose Unger

Friday, March 6,
17 Adar
Mollie Bleiweiss
Irving Kushner
A.B. (Bum) Sandler
Elaine Sogolow
Charles D. Stein

Saturday, March7,
18 Adar
Siegried Fritz
Dr. Stanley Silberg
David Stavinsky

Sunday, March 8,
19 Adar
Gertrude Cooper

Monday, March 9,
20 Adar
Sharon Montgomery
Dorothea Tanenbaum

Tuesday, March 10,
21 Adar
Celie Klein
Irving Slutzky

Wednesday, March 11,
22 Adar
Margaret Lessmann
C. David Rose

Thursday, March 12,
23 Adar
Rachamim Hirschman
Esther Rementer
Sybil Sureck
Joel Wolraich

Saturday, March 14,
25 Adar
Sally Colton

Sunday, March 15,
26 Adar
Ada May Israel

Monday, March 16,
27 Adar
Louis Emmer
Elaine Muhlberg
Ann Singer

Tuesday, March 17,
28 Adar
Samuel Friedman
Collis Walker

Thursday, March 19,
1 Nisan
Charles Haskell Caylen
Dr. Michael Levine

Friday, March 20,
2 Nisan
James Epstein
Andrew Sontheimer

Saturday, March 21,
3 Nisan
Mike Skalovsky

Sunday, March 22,
4 Nisan
Lena Bendorf
Harriet Chudnow
Edward Cohen
Goldie Nichols

Tuesday, March 24,
6 Nisan
Arlette Poplin

Wednesday, March 25,
7 Nisan
Rev. Aaron Hardin

Thursday, March 26,
8 Nisan
Gertrude Alpert
Moshe Farber
Mervin Leibs
Sylvia Oberstein

Saturday, March 28,
10 Nisan
David Elmaleh

Sunday, March 29,
11 Nisan
Meyer Kushner

Monday, March 30,
12 Nisan
Celia Besansky

WE REMEMBER

JERRY ARVINE
Ronald & Julie Arvine

KITTY ARVINE
Ronald & Julie Arvine

DONALD ESRIG
Elaine Weise

MARGIE FREMEN
Rhonda Young

EVA GREEN
Harold & Jan Green

HERBERT LANGSAM
Shelley Savage
Elaine Weise

MYRA LICHTENSTEIN
Amy Settles

NATHAN LICHTENSTEIN
Amy Settles

ALBERT SKALOVSKY
Shirley Skalovsky
Elaine Weise

MARTIN WEISE
Shirley Skalovsky
Elaine Weise

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

4 Ronald & Julie Arvine

11 Yaniv & Jennifer Damitsian

16 Kyle & Tiffany Logsdon

20 Richard & Louise Fritz

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 Gabriel Hodge
2 Hedra Merson
4 Sara Jane Rose
8 Faith Fox
Anna Sterne
12 Amalissa Kline
16 Dr. Joyce Friedman
19 Karen Jonscher
Diana Robinson
20 Don Karchmer
Georgie LeFever
Nancy Weiss Meoli
Dr. William Nechtow
22 Angelina Dunn
Deborah Duren
Stephanie Meek
23 Cody Boswell
Xavier Jeffries
24 Avivah Dunn
25 Jerry Bendorf

תודה רבה

TODA RABAH

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

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

Thank you for letting me remember my husband & honor his soul in a community setting
Dr. Fatima Abrantes-Pais

Cemetery Fund Donation
Harold & Jan Green

General Donation
Bernard Backer
Joan Darrow

Shabbat Lunch in memory of Racheline Dayan Seidelman
Rhona Seidelman

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

EMANUEL SYNAGOGUE
www.emanuelokc.org