

*Emanuel Synagogue*



*Bulletin*



# Emanuel Synagogue Bulletin

May 2026

Iyar-Sivan 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

5 Lag B'Omer  
15 Yom Yerushalyim  
17 Rosh Chodesh  
22-23 Shavuot

### 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](mailto:Office@emanuelsynagogueokc.org)
- [Finance@emanuelsynagogueokc.org](mailto:Finance@emanuelsynagogueokc.org)
- [Rabbi@emanuelsynagogueokc.org](mailto:Rabbi@emanuelsynagogueokc.org)
- [President@emanuelsynagogueokc.org](mailto:President@emanuelsynagogueokc.org)
- [Membership@emanuelsynagogueokc.org](mailto:Membership@emanuelsynagogueokc.org)

# EMANUEL SYNAGOGUE

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# May

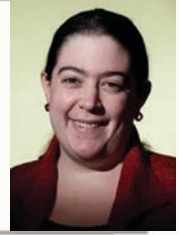
2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
					7:58 PM Candlelighting	9:30 AM Shabbat Service 8:59 PM Havdalah
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Lag B'Omer			8:04 PM Candlelighting	9:30 AM Shabbat Service 9:05 PM Havdalah
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
					8:10 PM Candlelighting	9:30 AM Shabbat Service 9:11 PM Havdalah
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Rosh Chodesh Sivan					Shavuot 1 8:15 PM Candlelighting	Shavuot 2 9:30 AM Shabbat Service 9:16 PM Havdalah
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
					8:20 PM Candlelighting	9:30 AM Shabbat Service 9:21 PM Havdalah

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# MESSAGE FROM RABBI JACOBSON

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## Torah Alone Does Not Cut It

I Didn't Say That – It's in the Mishnah

It is true: The Mishnah says that Torah alone is not enough. Worse, Torah alone could be harmful.

“Rabban Gamliel, son of Rabbi Yehudah haNassi, said: Excellent is the study of the Torah when

combined with a worldly occupation, for toil in them both keeps sin out of one's mind; But [study of] Torah which is not combined with a worldly occupation, in the end comes to be neglected and becomes the cause of sin. . . .” (Pirkei Avot 2:2)

How could this be true?!? How could the Mishnah say that the Torah could ever be harmful to us? God gave us the Torah in order to help establish our relationship with the Divine, and to guide us through our lives and the choices we make. Since when is the Torah “the cause of sin”?

Before looking at the text of the Mishnah, we know that the Torah alone is

not all that God intended for the Jewish people. Many, many more works of Jewish laws, values, and history follow the Torah – the other books of the Tanakh, plus the Mishnah and the Talmud, the collections of Midrash, and so on. The Torah may be God's word sent to us, but it is not the only important book we have.

Despite the great sagging bookshelves full of Jewish text and literature, God did not mean for Jews to become monks, nuns, or any other type of ascetics. Our tradition values people who learn Jewish text frequently, constantly, even bordering on obsessively, but even the most extreme small sect of Judaism teaches that family life, prayer, leisure, and self-care should accompany text study.

Further, the Mishnah also quotes Rabbi Elazar ben Azariah as saying, “There cannot be Torah without bread (or food), and there cannot be bread (or food) without Torah.” (Pirkei Avot 3:17) Without enough to eat, one cannot learn Torah or benefit from its laws, values, and wisdom. This reinforces the idea that

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the Torah cannot be the only thing in our lives. Maybe the idea that we need something else in our lives besides Torah should not surprise us too much.

The aforementioned Mishnaic quotation highlights an important idea about religious learning and God's expectations for the Jewish people: It is not possible to learn Torah (or any other Jewish text) correctly without a deep and real connection to the physical world around us and to the other people who inhabit it.

We can see the dangers of such a lack of real-world connection throughout Jewish history, in small pockets here and there. A certain Ashkenazi rabbi in the 1800s believed that Ashkenazi Jews should stop eating potatoes on Passover, since potatoes could be made into flour. For those of you who, like me, had poor Eastern European ancestors in the 1800s, how does that idea strike you? What would the Jewish community have eaten during Passover without potatoes? Matzah with gravy, and an empty bowl of sadness? Potatoes were one of the staples of the Eastern European diet in shtetls, farming villages, ghettos, and major cities! Such a ridiculous attempt at a rabbinic ruling shows an appalling lack of connection to other Jews and to the realities of home economics in that area at that time.

To be clear, *no one* follows the ruling of that particular rabbi, so I hope that you continue to enjoy potatoes year-round, including on Passover.

The Talmud, not heeding the warnings for the Mishnah, records a shocking debate about whether a man may save a woman from drowning, based on several different laws and expectations about physical contact between men and women at the time. Once again, the text analyzes the various legal and moral prohibitions against a man having certain kinds of physical contact with a woman, and circumstances that might make those prohibitions more stringent. Rabbis and Sages puzzle over these ideas in the abstract, as though there were no human life at stake in this decision. Jewish ideas like “Do not stand idly by on the blood of your brother,” or “You shall not murder,” or “Even human is made in the image of God,” or “A person who saves a life is accounted as having saved the entire world,” never come up. There are also even more obscure Jewish ideas that would have been appropriate in such a conversation but which do not appear. For example, “In a place where there is no one, prepare yourself to be that one.” Such conversation would have benefited greatly from some time spent among other people, living in the world for a while rather than debating about it from afar.

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Please don't misunderstand me: I love debating about the world with a stack of Jewish texts and three dictionaries. It is a holy endeavor, as well as an enjoyable one. However, when done in isolation, we are cautioned that it will lead us to commit bad acts and to neglect what Torah actually is – a rigorous and joyous guide to live a Jewish life that God and we ourselves can be proud of.

We can see similar temptations in the secular world, as well. How many of us have encountered someone who read something on the internet (or in a book, or in the newspaper) which makes no sense but to which that person clings like a life preserver? How many people lose their empathy from absorbing information isolated from contact with other people? How often do we wish our lawmakers experienced what “real people” go through every day before they make laws that affect the community?

The Talmud believes that learning is the path to peace, and in order to follow that path faithfully, the Mishnah reminds us to fill that path with connections to the physical world and to the community of people around us. May God spread this idea to the four corners of the earth, and may we all be the beneficiaries of it.

Drop in for tea and a chat with Rabbi Jacobson!

Office Hours are  
Mondays - 9:30-12:30 pm  
Wednesdays - 12:30 pm-3:30 pm  
Thursdays - 9:30 am-12:30 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.

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# Faith Coalition Training: Partnering to Address Homelessness

When: May 20th, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Where: Disciples First OKC

1701 N Pennsylvania Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73107

Hosted by Oklahoma City Key to Home Partnership

LOOKING FOR 5 JEWISH REPS—  CONTACT RABBI J TO ATTEND

## What You'll Learn at This Training



Debunk common myths about homelessness



Understand key challenges leading to housing instability



Learn about Key to Home's strategy, progress toward our goals, and how you can help



Identify clear examples of impactful ways faith volunteers can make a difference in OKC and work alongside service providers to fill gaps and address community needs

You're the Key.

Ready to help open the door to someone's next step?

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JOIN US FOR

# SHAVUOT LUNCH & SERVICE

A COMMUNAL GATHERING

**MAY 23, 2026**

SERVICES 9:30AM  
YIZKOR AFTER TORAH  
SERVICE

LUNCH TO FOLLOW WITH  
COMMUNITY MEMBER LED  
LEARNING



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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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## **Boots, Brachas, and a Beautiful Night of Community**

What an unforgettable evening we shared at our Boots and Brachas fundraiser!

Our synagogue auditorium was filled nearly to capacity—not just with people, but with something far more meaningful: laughter, light, connection, and joy. From the moment the doors opened, the energy in the room was electric. Friends gathered, new connections were made, and the dance floor stayed alive all night long with the sounds of Jewish country music and celebration.

Boots and Brachas was more than just a fundraiser—it was a reflection of who we are as a community. It was a night where we came together under the roof of our shul, united in spirit and purpose. In a world that can sometimes feel uncertain, this evening reminded us of something deeply important: our strength is in our togetherness.

No hate, no darkness, can diminish the

power of a community that shows up for one another with joy, pride, and resilience.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all of our generous donors whose support made this incredible evening possible. Your commitment to our synagogue and our shared future is what allows moments like this to come to life.

A special thank you to our talented musicians—the klezmer band for setting the tone with such joyful energy, and to Joe Buchanan and his band for bringing an unforgettable performance that had everyone on their feet.

Thank you as well to everyone who attended, supported, organized, and brought such incredible energy to the night. Events like these don't just happen—they are built by a community that cares.

We are already looking forward to the next time we can gather, celebrate, and continue building something special—together.

President  
Emanuel Synagogue

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# **AND BRACHAS**



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# HEBREW SCHOOL

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Dear Bloom Family Hebrew School Families,

We have built some exhilarating momentum around the holidays. From the Purim under the Big Top with such wonderful turnout! Tales coming back from family sedarim with friends and family! So many Hebrew Schoolers in the Western Best dancing at the Boots and Brachas! And now, we sneeze from all the amazing allergies in the Oklahoma breeze, and it is the Marathon! Which means our community shifts from School to Summer and Camp Fun.

We will have one last of regular SUNDAY learning (May 3th). **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON MOTHER'S DAY (May 10th).** Celebrate your imas and savtas. We will close with a **Summer / Camp Blessing** from the rabbis and a **Shavuot themed cooking party** on **SUNDAY 17th** were we will get our precious mezuzot back.

Hebrew Tutoring will operate

normally until **MAY 20th**. From then on, only some of the pre-benei mitzva will be tutoring with Rabbi Juan for the rest of the summer.

Our academic year of 5786 will truly end in joy as MYLIN KLEIN and CLAIRE BOSWELL will be doing the **CONFIRMATION KABBALAT SHABBAT**. Join us, their teachers, families, and friends on **FRIDAY, MAY 22nd** at **6 PM** as they bring in the double blessing of **Shabbat and Shavuot!** Reminisce and Rejoice with a proud community as Mylin and Claire conclude their Hebrew School Education. We are sure to see them soon as Morah Mylin and Morah Claire, leading services, tutoring, and teaching in our community for years to come. Special thanks to your teachers, many of who will be present, and to **MORAH REBEKAH SILVERSTEIN** for leading you in the necessary skill of finding your Torah in your broadening and maturing interests. Delicious dairy dessert!

Our Hebrew School community then migrates to far off or far nearer fun

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places in the sun. **Yet Junior Congregation and Gan Shabbat**, often with board games and vegetarian lunch attached, will be our recurring home for those spending those long summer shabbatot in the Metro. Don't miss the fun activities Ms. Maayan is planning for our Youth and Children. Come have fun with your **OKC Jewish family!**

For those going to far off places, may you travel and return in peace. May a piece of Torah, a prayer, a Hebrew letter you learned, a historical fact, a recipe, a memory that you made this YEAR of 5786 in the walls of Emanuel, connect you to God and to your family in far off places. Make Jewish memories to bring back. Take care of your EMANUEL siblings (by blood or by shul) in your different camps and fun activities.

We will be praying in the heat that you do well. Missing you, until you return. Ready to keep learning in the Fall!

Rabbi Juan Mejia

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



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# YOUTH



Hello everyone,

Thank you to all of the parents and families that came out to the Astronomy night and the Prince of Egypt screening this past month!

As we are about to go into the summer months I do want to get more feedback about timing from parents on programing. Feel free to join the Youth GroupMe and give your input! For activities this month we have a Pre-Lag B'Omer S'mores cookout on May 3rd starting at 11:45am in the side yard! Feel some blankets and seating will be provided, but feel free to bring your own.

We will likely also be picking a time to have an outing to the Zoo or host an 8 years old and up archery class. it will be at the end of May or the begining on June. I will have a poll up to see what timing is more convenient and which we should do first.

Thank you, and don't forget to come and check out our group me!

Ma'ayan

## Join the Youth program for **S'MORES IN THE YARD!**

With our Lag Ba'Omer pre-game get together

**MAY 3<sup>RD</sup> / 11:45<sup>AM</sup>**

Sunday School will release the children fifteen minutes early so that they can enjoy a S'mores in the yard and be released from there to parents at noon.

**Some blankets and chairs will be provided for seating, feel free to provide your own**



Emanuel Youth Program



Join on GroupMe

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# HOLOCAUST BOOK Drive

For Teachers

WE ARE COLLECTING GENTLY USED HOLOCAUST  
BOOKS, BENEFITTING HOLOCAUST EDUCATORS

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Thank you on behalf of the teachers  
attending the 2026 Eva K. Unterman  
Conferences for Holocaust Educators (SB  
1671 Oklahoma Holocaust Legislative  
Coalition) who spend hundreds and often  
thousands of their own dollars to provide  
their students with materials that matter.

PLEASE DROP OFF BELOW

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Questions? Email [NancyP@sb1671.org](mailto:NancyP@sb1671.org)



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On Sunday morning, March 22, Emanuel Synagogue Sisterhood honored our Martha Weiss Sisterhood of the Year Volunteer, Stefani Nachatilo. A lovely, lively brunch was served, the food provided by several Sisterhood members. Heather Zarfati made the formal presentation to Stefani, enumerating her many talents which she has shared over the years with Sisterhood. How very special the morning was as there were three generations of Stefani's family there to share this honor, mother Anna Sterne and daughter Siva. Be sure and check out the new plaque with Stefani's name on it!



מזל טוב

to Stephanie  
Nachatillo:  
sisterhood's 2025-2026  
Volunteer of the Year!





A Great Time  
Was Had By  
All!



מזל  
טוב





# With Affection We Recall...



**Friday, May 1,  
14 Iyar**  
Abraham Henson

**Saturday, May 2,  
15 Iyar**  
Ida Goldberg

**Monday, May 4,  
17 Iyar**  
Etta Silberg

**Tuesday, May 5,  
18 Iyar**  
Meyer Josephson  
Myrna Kopp

**Thursday, May 7,  
20 Iyar**  
Estelle Farber

**Friday, May 8,  
21 Iyar**  
Phyllis Black  
Doris Caplan  
Sam Kushner

**Saturday, May 9,  
22 Iyar**  
Larry Bialick  
Harry Sogolow

**Sunday, May 10,  
23 Iyar**  
Nathan Weiss

**Monday, May 11,  
24 Iyar**  
Judith Cohen

**Tuesday, May 12,  
25 Iyar**  
Dr. Benjamin Colton  
Laura B. Ellis

**Wednesday, May 13,  
26 Iyar**  
Sylvia Allen

**Thursday, May 14,  
27 Iyar**  
Greti Neuwald

**Friday, May 15,  
28 Iyar**  
Julian A. Colton

**Monday, May 18,  
2 Sivan**  
Dr. Bernard R. Allen  
Erwin Alpern  
Jake Robinson  
Shirley Shanker  
Albert Weise

**Tuesday, May 19,  
3 Sivan**  
Sue Goldfarb  
Cissy Levine  
Dorothy Mandell

**Thursday, May 21,  
5 Sivan**  
Phyllis Epstein

**Friday, May 22,  
6 Sivan**  
Sarah Skalovsky

**Saturday, May 23,  
7 Sivan**  
Stanley Caplan  
Ellis Levine  
Dr. Leonard Rozin  
John Sorenson III

**Monday, May 25,  
9 Sivan**  
Ben Sophie Shaul

**Tuesday, May 26,  
10 Sivan**  
Justin Gardner  
William "Bill" Miller

**Wednesday, May 27,  
11 Sivan**  
Pearl Acevedo

**Thursday, May 28,  
12 Sivan**  
Rose Levine  
Abraham Unger

**Friday, May 29,  
13 Sivan**  
Israel Sutton

**Saturday, May 30,  
14 Sivan**  
Nathan Alpern  
Judith Raider  
Bill Vegh

**Sunday, May 31,  
15 Sivan**  
Allen H. Jefferson  
Jacques Orenstein  
Alladee Settles

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# WE REMEMBER

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**CLAUDINE  
BURDETT**  
James Goldsberry

**MARVIN KOPP**  
Phil & Janelle  
Kopp

**ELAINE  
MUHLBERG**  
Richard & Judy  
Muhlberg

**BEN COHEN**  
Sharon Cohen

**MANYA  
KORNBLIT**  
Michael & Joan  
Korenblit

**ESTHER  
REMENTER**  
Richard & Louise  
Fritz

**SIEGRIED  
FRITZ**  
Richard & Louise  
Fritz

**OLA RAY  
LEIBS**  
Jerry &  
Jacqueline  
Bendorf

**LILLIAN  
ROCHLIN**  
Sharon Cohen

**HALI GOSS**  
Barry & Gay  
Golsen

**SHARON  
MONTGOMER  
Y**  
Richard & Louise  
Fritz

**HARRY  
SCHAEFER**  
Shira Michael

**BLANCHE  
KOPP**  
Phil & Janelle  
Kopp

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### MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5 John & Helena  
Sorenson  
Bruce and Barbara  
Wilbur  
16 Cody & Cheryl  
Boswell  
24 Drs. Howard Stein &  
Nance Cunningham  
25 Gerry & Angie  
Hodge  
27 Ari & Paola Klein  
30 Jan & Jenny  
Goldberg  
31 Mark & Leslie Bravo  
Don & Anna Sterne



### MAY BIRTHDAYS

3 Nathan Hodge  
5 Michelle Seelig  
7 Joseph Strassman  
9 Helene Harpman  
10 Nora Carson  
Benjamin Marrs Steele  
Jane Whatley  
12 Kasi Shelton  
Marvin Slutzky  
14 Mark Kanter  
Hunter Tortorello  
15 Lesley Bell  
Cheri Mannes  
16 Dellora Cohen  
17 Dr. Michael Robinson  
18 Frances Stewart  
19 Jennifer Weiss Dennis  
21 Scott Epstein  
22 Jan Goldberg  
Dr. John Raizen  
26 Martin Levine  
27 Laura Barlow  
Rise` Stefani  
Pam Thurman  
Mary Trachtenberg  
28 Nathan Duffy  
29 Paola Klein  
31 Diane Klein

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תודה רבה  
TODA RABAH

**Donation to Rabbi's  
Discretionary Fund**

Shelley Savage  
Christy Smith

**Cemetery Fund Donation**

Bernard Backer  
Jan & Jennifer Goldberg

**Israel Scholarship Fund**

Barry & Gay Golsen

**Congregants Assistance  
Fund Donation**

Dr. Yona Rebbetzin Alter &  
Dr. Rabbi Levi Alter  
Bernard Backer  
Meredith Willis

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah  
of **Yael Sylvie Stolzenberg**  
March 7, 2026, with love to  
the synagogue where she  
was named with love in  
community.

**General Fund Donation**

Bernard Backer

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# 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.

**THE CEMETERY CLUB**  
BY IVAN MENCHELL  
MAY 2 & 3  
SQUARE CARPENTER THEATRE

**"LUCILLE"**  
AMY SETTLES

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!  
JEWISHTHEATREOK.ORG JTOTICKETING@GMAIL.COM

**THE CEMETERY CLUB**  
BY IVAN MENCHELL  
MAY 2 & 3  
CARPENTER SQUARE THEATRE

**"DORIS"**  
ANITA BARLOW

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!  
JEWISHTHEATREOK.ORG JTOTICKETING@GMAIL.COM

**THE CEMETERY CLUB**  
AMY SETTLES MOLLY JOHNSON ANITA BARLOW  
CARPENTER SQUARE THEATRE  
MAY 2 | 8PM MAY 3 | 2PM

THREE LIFELONG FRIENDS MEET ONCE A MONTH TO VISIT THEIR HUSBANDS' GRAVES, SHARING LAUGHTER, MEMORIES, AND SUPPORT AS THEY NAVIGATE WIDOWHOOD TOGETHER. THEIR LONG-STANDING RITUAL IS COMFORTABLE AND FAMILIAR, UNTIL A NEW ROMANCE ENTERS THE PICTURE AND UPENDS THE BALANCE OF THEIR FRIENDSHIP. AS JEALOUSY, FEAR, AND HOPE COLLIDE, THE WOMEN MUST DECIDE WHAT IT MEANS TO HONOR THE PAST WHILE STILL EMBRACING THE FUTURE.

JEWISH THEATRE OF OKLAHOMA

GET YOUR TICKETS AT JEWISHTHEATREOK.ORG EMAIL INQUIRIES TO JEWISHTHEATREOK.ORG

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