

HCRJ

March 2014

HOUSTON CONGREGATION FOR REFORM JUDAISM



HCRJ will be holding a Garage Sale Extravaganza on May 10, 2014 to raise money for our Youth Programming. We are looking for "gently used" furniture, sports equipment, appliances, electronics, household items, clothing, shoes & more.

Please bring your donations Monday - Friday to HCRJ (801 Bering Drive, 77057). Please call to arrange a time.

Special drop-off dates for large bulk items:

Sunday, March 9, 2014 (9am-12 pm) Sunday, March 30, 2014 (9am-12 pm) Sunday, April 6, 2014 (9am-12 pm) Sunday, April 27, 2014 (9am-12 pm)

Pick up for LARGE items can be arranged by contacting Hilary Kamin at 713-782-4162 or hilaryk@hcrj.org (no mattresses please)

Tax deductible receipts will be available upon request

Mark your calendars now for the Big Day!
HCRJ Extravaganza
Garage and Bake Sale
Saturday, May 10, 2014 from 8:00AM—2:00PM



MARCH CALENDAR

1	4:30 PM	B'nai Mitzvah of Alex and Jonathan Frumovitz
2	9:00 AM 9:30 AM 10:00 AM 10:30 AM	Religious School Family Breakfast Religious School Torah Tots Hamantashen Making
7	6:00 PM 6:15 PM 7:15 PM	Tot Shabbat Family Dinner Family Shabbat Services
8	10:30 AM	Bat Mitzvah of Sloane Andrews
9	9:30 AM 10:00 AM	Religious School & Purim Celebration Torah Tots
11	11:30 AM 7:00 PM	Knitzvah Group Board Meeting
12	10:30 AM	Interest Group
14	7:15 PM	Purim Shabbat
16		No Religious School
21	7:15 PM	got shabbat? Contemporary Melodies
22	7:30 AM	Habitat for Humanity
23		No Religious School
25	11:30 AM	Knitzvah Group
26	7:00 PM	Book Club
28	7:15 PM	Shabbat Services
29	10:30 AM	Bat Mitzvah of Eleanor Spain
30	9:30 AM 10:00 AM	Religious School Torah Tots

got shabbat?

Take a journey with us on a year long, congregation-wide program called *got shabbat?* Loosely based on the popular *got milk?*® campaign, *got shabbat?* seeks to draw attention to the idea that the Sabbath is a value that nourishes the soul. The cornerstones of our programming take place on the third Sabbath of every month.

March 21: A Sabbath of Contemporary Melodies Debbie Freidman, Jeff Klepper, Craig Taubman and many

others have shaped the sounds of Shabbat for generations. Uplifting melodies that are growing in popularity throughout the country will be the featured music of this Sabbath eve.

April 18: A Sabbath in the Classical Reform Tradition

Family Shabbat March 7, 2014 at 6:15PM

March Rodeo Menu: Vegetarian chili, meat chili, salad, chicken nuggets and mac-n-cheese.



Dinner is \$5 per person over 4 years old.

2nd and 3rd Graders Featured at Family Shabbat: This presentation represents the culmination of our religious school rotation called "Shabbat in Song."

For our Tots:



Tot Shabbat Services on March 7 at 6:00 PM. Join Elmo and Rabbi Gross for Shabbat fun.

Knitzvah Group

We chat, we eat, we knit/crochet, all for good causes! Join us the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 11:30 to 1:00. Newcomers are always welcome. Basic instruction is provided.



Interest Group March 12 at 10:30AM

Wendell Rodgers, a historian and Director of the Claire Chennault Museum in Monroe, Louisiana, will be the guest speaker at the March Interest Group. He will give us insight into the history of Jews in the South including their participation in the Civil War. Coffee and bagels will be served. Please bring a friend.



HCRJ BOOK CLUB



Join us March 26 for tasty food & lively conversation.

The Dovekeepers by Alice Hoffman

Save the Date: April 30
A Dual Inheritance: A Novel
by Joanna Hershon

If you have any questions, please contact the temple at adulted@hcrj.org. HCRJ Book Club Reading List can be found on our website.

Sup and Swap

There will be no Sup and Swap in March. Save the date for the next Sup and Swap which will take place on April 6. Details to come.

Stream HCRJ Services

Attend Shabbat services from home by live streaming on your computer. Visit our homepage at www.hcrj.org and click on "click here to stream services."

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Honors and Memorials

In memory of Jaclyn Hauser

From Miriam and Allan Graber In honor of Gloria Herman's speedy recovery

From JoAnn and Mikal Innerarity

From Marcia and Bill Chaffin

In memory of Shel Mitelman

From Miriam and Allan Graber From Marcia and Bill Chaffin

From Harriet and Alan Faden

In memory of Shirley Strauss

From Marcia and Bill Chaffin From **Doris and Larry Bernard**

In memory of Bertha Mayerhofer

From Stephen and Lila Shain

In honor of Justin Williams' Bar Mitzvah and Eleanor Spain's Bat Mitzvah

From Julie and Paul Herman

In honor of Beckye Gross leading services

From Tevin Marks and Kayla Marks

Scholarship Fund

In memory of Bertha Golden

From Barbara Golden Maidenberg and family

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

From Randy Smith

In memory of Shel Mitelman

From **Donna Siegel**

From Judy and David Bell

General Operating

From Ted and Maria Johnson

Welcome New Members

Anne and Don Graubart Amy and Sean McGuire Samantha Gilley and Jeffrey Rachlin

BRAG AND BOAST



Mazel Tov to Alex and Jonathan Frumovitz, children of Karen and Michael Frumovitz, who will become B'nai Mitzvah on March 1, 2014.



Mazel Tov to Sloane Andrews, daughter of Shayna Andrews, who will become a Bat Mitzvah on March 8, 2014.



Mazel Tov to Eleanor Spain, daughter of Bruce and Harriet Spain, who will become a Bat Mitzvah on March 29, 2014.



Mazel Tov to Betsy and Ed Schreiber, who were honored at the JCC Children's Scholarship Ball for their commitment and dedication to the Jewish community.



Mazel Tov to Jay and Shirley Marks on the birth of their grandson, Jack Clarkson, son of Robin and Steve Clarkson, who was born on December 30, 2013.

Eleanor Spain's Mitzvah Project: Presents for Patients

For her Mitzvah project, Eleanor Spain is donating toys to kids at Texas Children's Hospital. Please bring unwrapped gifts to HCRJ for boys and girls ages 3 to 12 by March 8. Suggested Items to donate would be simple puzzles, dolls & action figures, Play-Doh, matchbox cars, simple board games, activity books, craft/paint/model sets, Etch -a-sketch, coloring books, Crayons & markers, and DVDs. Thank you for your help!

Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences...

On the death of Shirley Strauss, sister of Dr. Herb Fred, who passed away on January 31, 2014.

May the memory of our beloved ones always remain a blessing to those who were graced by their presence.

March Sabbath Oneg Sponsorships

A wonderful mitzvah opportunity awaits you!

Celebrate a life cycle event or honor a loved one by sponsoring a Friday Night Oneg (Sabbath reception), a Family Sabbath Dinner or a Religious School Breakfast. These events represent just some of the ways our community gathers in fellowship, and your sponsorship enables us to frame these occasions with additional beauty and joy.

If you wish to sponsor a meal or a Sabbath reception, please let us know by filling out the form below or by contacting the temple at least two weeks prior to the event. We hope you will consider this special sponsorship opportunity. Thank you for your ongoing support of HCRJ.

□ Sabbath Oneg —\$100.00	 Religious School Breakfast—\$100.00
□ Family Shabbat Dinner —\$150.00	 Contribution to Arrangements Fund—\$
In honor/memory of:	Date of event:
Your name:	

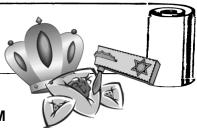
March Sabbath Oneg Sponsorships:

March 1: Oneg sponsored by the Frumovitz Family in honor of Alex and Jonathan's B'nai Mitzvah March 7: Oneg sponsored by the Andrews Family in honor of Sloane Andrew's Bat Mitzvah March 14: Available
March 21: Available
March 28: Oneg sponsored by the Spain Family in honor of Eleanor Spain's Bat Mitzvah

Please contact Melissa Wolfson at hcri@hcri.org if you are interested in sponsoring on one of the open dates.



HCRJ Purim Celebrations





Hamantashen Baking Day: Sunday, March 2 at 10:30AM

Join us to make hamantashen that will be used for our Religious School as well as for our Oneg during Purim. In addition to needing bakers, we will also need volunteers to prepare the dough ahead of time. (It can be frozen and then defrosted for baking day). Please email Carol Danek for the recipe at cdanek22@gmail.com or to volunteer for baking day.



Religious School Purim Celebration: Sunday, March 9

The Religious School Purim celebration will take place on Sunday, March 9th. Students will enjoy Hamentashen snacks and a Megillah reading by our Ozrim. Families are invited to join us for the Megillah reading at 11:30 am.



Purim Shabbat: Friday, March 14 at 7:15pm

Join us for a Megillah reading and special Sabbath shaped by the melodies and themes of Purim. Lots of delicious hamantashen will set the stage for a fabulous Purim celebration at our oneg following services.



Torah Tots is Back



Join us on Sunday mornings from 10:00 AM to 10:45 AM for hands-on activities and active involvement as we explore together Shabbat, Purim and Pesach over an 8-week period. For ages 18 months to 3 years, accompanied by an adult. Free to the public. Bring your friends! HCRJ believes children learn best by doing!



On March 9 at 10:00AM, Torah Tots will join with The Evelyn Rubenstein Aishpacha & Me Jewish Community Center's Mishpacha & Me program for a Purim puppet show FAMILIES and costume party. Wear your best costume and join other Jewish families for a super fun-filled morning at Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism! The

program includes a puppet show, snacks and lots of fun with new friends and old. Made especially for kids ages 0-6 and their grown ups, too! Please RSVP to Hilary Kamin at hilaryk@hcrj.org.

Upcoming HOUSTY Events — Hey 6th-8th Graders!

A reminder that the NFTY-TOR Junior Youth Group Retreat is this March! It is the week-end of March 21-23rd. Registration is open now at http://www.nfty.org/tor/. So be sure to sign up soon for early registration!

NFTY (North American Federation of Temple Youth) is divided into regions. The region that we are a part of is NFTY-TOR (Texas Oklahoma Region). All over this region there are Youth and Junior Youth Groups for Jewish teens. This retreat will have all the other synagogues and their respected Junior Youth Programs, including HOUSTY. This retreat is an amazing opportunity for your child for a few reasons. One reason being that they will get to meet and make friends with other Jewish kids their age from around the states of Texas and Oklahoma. It is a great introduction to the kids about how NFTY works on national, regional, and local levels. Also, it is a great way for your kids to truly experience all the great things that Greene Family Camp has to offer. So remember to sign up today for a great week-end full of activities!

Our goal is to have 20 HOUSTY kids sign up and represent HCRJ at the JYG Retreat. If we do reach that goal, then I will be shaving my head at the retreat. So whether you want to go to participate in the fun activities or see me get my head shaved, please sign up because it's going to be a blast!

got shabbat?

A Contemporary Sabbath Experience

Fill your soul with the rhythm of modern Jewish worship music. Fill your heart with the songs from your camp days. Fill our sanctuary with voices of prayer and joy as we celebrate the Sabbath with the popular melodies of Debbie Friedman, Jeff Klepper, Craig Taubman and many more. Stylistically, these contemporary melodies use guitar, piano, flute and percussion instruments to bring our worship alive in ways that are both inclusive and dynamic.

Join us on Friday night, March 21, for an uplifting Sabbath experience shaped by melodies that are growing in popularity throughout the country in the Reform Movement.

Summer is Coming!

- The Congregational Scholarships. HCRJ is able to match 1:1 funds given to us by Greene Family Camp. Contact <u>Hilaryk@hcrj.org</u> to apply. Scholarships for other Jewish camps are also available.
- The One Happy Camper Program provides \$1,000 incentive grants for first-time three-week campers. For more information, go to www.onehappycamper.org
- The Jewish Children's Regional Service is very active in providing need-based financial aid for camp. For more information, go to http://www.jcrs.org/services/camp-scholarship-aid/
- The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston's

 Bureau of Jewish Education is now accepting applications from families who need assistance to provide their children with a Jewish summer experience. To request an application, please contact Paulette Walden at the Bureau of Jewish Education at pwalden@houstonjewish.org. Scholarships for one- week programs are now available!
- The GFC Campership Program awards partial tuition assistance for camp based on an application filled out by your family. For more information, go to www.greene.urjcamps.org/parents/campership

Habitat

Habitat for Humanity

Please join us on **March 22** to build a house with Habitat for Humanity sponsored by The

Helen and Edward Oppenheimer Foundation. Helen and Ed were founding members of HCRJ. HCRJ looks forward to participating in this mitzvah which will honor Helen and Ed's memory and provide a family in need with a home.

You must be 16 years of age to participate and the work day is from 7:30AM to 2:00PM with a lunch break (lunch is provided). Service hours can be provided.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Melissa Wolfson at hcrj.org ASAP. If you are unable to make it on March 22, other available days to help are March 15, 17, 29 and April 5 & 12.



Confirmation Retreat 2014



The Confirmation retreat at the Landa Family Ranch in Schulenberg was an amazing success. Our students composed poetry for their Confirmation service, led a Havdallah service for the members of Temple Israel of Schulenberg, and bonded over the campfire scene above. The Confirmation service will take place May 30.

PASSOVER SEDER RESERVATION FORM

Monday, April 14, 2014 at 6:00pmif you prefere

To fill out the form and make payment online, visit our homepage at www.hcrj.org and click on "Passover Registration Form"

Please complete and return the attached Reservation Form. **ONLY YOUR CHECK GUARANTEES YOUR RESERVATION. THE DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, APRIL 4**. The Seder fills fast! (No tickets will be mailed out). **We will be using the new Haggadah again this year.**

If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Wolfson at (713)782-4162 or by email at <a href="https://example.com/https:/

Reservation Form

Get your reservation in early. First come, first served. Seating is limited to Temple members and families.

	Seating is limited to Ten	npie members and i	ramilies.				
Mail to: HCRJ, Passover Se 801 Bering Drive Houston, TX 77057-2105	der Committee						
Name:							
Address:							
Telephone:	E-mail:	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
Adults \$25 (11 years +)	Children \$13 (6-10 years)	\$6 (2-5 years)	FREE (under 2)				
Enclosed is a check for \$ I am reserving seats for: # of people.							
Names of guests (including	g ages of children):			-			
				_			
	Most of the dinner will still love your help if you	•					
□ Assistance wit	h Matzo Balls & Dessert □ P	reparing Charoset	(April 13) □ Set-up □	Clean up			
We are asking tha	t each family bring any	bottle of wine	they enjoy drinki	ng to Seder.			
	RESERVATION DEA	DLINE IS APRIL 4,	2014				
I cannot attend but	would like to help out. Enclos	ed is my additional	I monetary donation o	of \$			

Passover Baking Day

Where: HCRJ Kitchen When: April 13 at 9:30AM

What: Baking for the Passover oneg

Why: To stock the freezer with your favorite treats and have fun baking with others!

The Seder is being catered, but we will still need your help to make yummy goodies for the

Passover Seder and oneg.

The Temple will supply matzah meal and other Passover baking essentials. Please bring your favorite recipes and any special ingredients and baking pan(s) you will need.

Please RSVP to adulted@hcrj.org.

Help Us Make Charoset

Join us Sunday, April 13 at 9:30AM in the HCRJ kitchen to make yummy charoset for our Passover Seder.

Make some new friends, hang out with old ones. Do a mitzvah for your temple.

Join others in the congregation for coffee, cookies and conversation as we prepare charoset for the Seder.

Please RSVP to adulted@hcrj.org. Thank you in advance.

Homes Open for Seder



If there is anyone having a family Seder on Monday, April 14 who

has seats available for guests, would you please let Melissa at the temple office know? Our Seder at the temple is limited and we would like everyone to have a place to attend.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/1 Perla Del Fierro

3/1 Michael Novominsky

3/2 Jennifer Kalinsky

3/3 Alan Brochstein

3/4 Julie Finger

3/5 Cathy Dante

3/5 Linda Schaeffer

3/6 Joan Levy

3/6 Andrea Birkelbach

3/7 Lee Herman

3/8 Debbie Goldman

3/8 Stephen Shain

3/9 Fran C. Brochstein

3/9 Ellen Shohet

3/11 JoAnn Innerarity

3/11 Jonathan Glasser

3/12 Margaret Krohn

3/12 Lance Kassab

3/13 Lori Glickman

3/13 Harriette Bearden

3/13 Adam Barzel

3/14 Tracy Householder

3/15 Malorie Barbee

3/15 Ruth Schlanger

3/16 Cheryl Fielkow

3/16 Steven Hecht

3/18 Doris Bernard

3/19 Carla Lakier

3/19 Robert Lait

3/20 Susan Rachlin

3/20 Susan Brochstein

3/20 Jason Kariel

3/22 Carol Danek

3/22 Edward Schreiber

3/23 Gayle Tonn

3/24 Lori Farris

3/24 Shawna Markoff

3/24 Michael Lawch

3/25 Elliott Polunsky

3/25 Michael Le Burkien

3/25 Ted Wedel

3/26 Ken Cohen

3/28 Moise Levy

3/28 Donna Siegel

3/29 Laura Frank

3/29 Adelle Shaw

3/30 Erika Bermeo

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

3/1 Stacey & John Cook

3/3 Wade & Michele Howard

3/5 Lance & Carol Kassab

3/10 Mike & Lauren Eagle

3/10 Roy & Lisa Sheinbaum

3/11 Jonathan & Sara Wilson

3/13 Morgan & Andrea Birkelbach

3/6 Leonard & Sandra Rosenberg

3/15 Cary & Meredith Kottler

3/17 Joshua & Lauren Hill

3/19 Jack Rubin & Perla Del Fierro

3/19 Hilda Cobian & Andres Leon

3/20 Mark & Laura Rosenfield

3/22 Norman Steel & Andrea Jaffe

3/24 Efisio & Lori Farris

3/25 Claire & William Getschow

3/27 Brian & Robin Fontana

3/30 Chad & Anat Shaw

3/30 Melissa & Richard Hudson

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR KIDS!

3/1 Jake Shaper

3/1 Kyra Rubinstein

3/2 Sloane Andrews

3/3 Dylan Alexander

3/4 Camille Andrews

3/6 Emily Glickman

3/10 Alex Frankfort

3/10 Olivia Frankfort

3/10 Rebecca Kalinsky

3/15 Craig Brasington

3/18 Trudy Jacobs

3/19 Ella Shaw

3/20 Jacob Cosgrove

3/20 Dylan Kamin

3/21 Shane Lerner

3/21 Zachary Lerner

3/21 Brooke Appelbaum

3/22 Scott Hurwitz

3/23 Isabel Perkins

3/23 Amy Shohet

3/23 Cooper Braverman

3/27 Eleanor Spain

3/30 Layla Salomon

MARCH YARZEIT

3/1 Carl Herman

3/1 Fred Soifer

3/2 William Plotkin

3/3 Lena Goot

3/3 Kitty Deutser

3/3 Ruth Klaus

3/4 Morris Butkin

3/5 Don Rosenfield

3/8 Jerry Kamin

3/8 Sara Toubin

3/9 Selma Naman

3/10 Mac Feuer

3/10 Frances "Futzie" Klein

3/11 Rica Penn

3/11 Eva Gordon

3/11 Mildred Kantor

3/13 William Osber

3/14 Edward Glantz

3/20 Jimmy Deutser

3/21 James Blinkoff

3/22 Israel Helfgott

3/22 Salome Krinsky

3/26 Sam Brochstein

3/26 Ronald Turk

3/28 Aaron Rose 3/28 Hyman Hurwitz

3/29 Jean Utay

3/30 Larry Pfeffer

Leave a Legacy to HCRJ

Contribute to the continuation of HCRJ's dedicated rabbis, educators and programs by remembering HCRJ through a charitable trust or gift annuity. No matter how large or small, your bequest may be directed toward general operations or to an area of special interest to you. Your dedication to HCRJ will be felt even after you are gone.



You are invited to join HCRJ for our monthly



March 7, 2014 Dinner 6:15 pm Sabbath Services 7:15 pm

\$5.00 per person
Please feel free to bring a side dish to show off your culinary talents.

March Rodeo Menu:

Vegetarian chili, meat chili, salad, chicken nuggets and mac n cheese.

Steven M. Gross, Senior Rabbi rabbigross@hcrj.org (private email)

Michael P. Le Burkien, Rabbi Emeritus rabbileburkien@sbcglobal.net (private email)

Melissa Wolfson, Temple Administrator hcrj@hcrj.org

Hilary Kamin, Director of Education hilaryk@hcrj.org

Allan Graber, President president@hcrj.org

Steve Mikelman, Vice-President vicepresident@hcrj.org

Julie Barry, Secretary secretary@hcrj.org

Bruce Shelby, Treasurer treasurer@hcrj.org

JoAnn Innerarity, Past President pastpresident@hcrj.org

Kristin Helfand, Membership Chair membership@hcrj.org

Mailing Address: 801 Bering Drive, Houston TX 77057 Telephone: 713-782-4162 Fax: 713-782-4167

Website: www.HCRJ.org

Newsletter articles, suggestions for articles and corrections are welcome. Deadline for submission is the 15th of the month.