

HCRJ

HOUSTON CONGREGATION FOR REFORM JUDAISM



The Sacred Art of Remembering

On New Year's Day, our family spent part of the afternoon watching old family videos. We started with videos of our annual summer road trips and then explored a number of birthday parties. Part of the fun was watching how each of us has changed over time (that is, everyone but me as I am always behind the camera). The other shared joy was reminiscing and recounting memories associated with each of these events. It's amazing how many additional family stories can be discovered when we take the time to remember them.

So, too, it is with the collective memories of a congregation. Over the course of nearly sixty years, our community has shared countless memories around holidays, lifecycle events, social programs and more. With multiple rabbis, strong personalities, challenges in temple politics and shifting trends in liturgical music, Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism has become a treasure trove of stories and memories which are begging to be shared.

Our Director of Music, Dr. Jane Becker, is the longest continuously employed member of our professional staff and, as such, she bears witness to countless tales from the pulpit to the pews. For thirty years, Jane has had the joy and the challenge of shaping the musical elements of our worship experiences under the vision of four different rabbis, dozens of boards and countless critics. On Friday night April 8, we will be honoring Jane for her years of devotion to our community with a special Shabbat service and oneg, and a significant part of this special evening will focus on thirty years of memories.

Coupled with this Sabbath *trip-down-memory-lane* will be a celebration of our ten years together at HCRJ. This event will take place on Thursday night, April 7. This evening of fine food and music promises to be an event to remember as we reflect on a decade of my leadership (and roast me, too).

Please save April 7 and 8 on your calendars. Each event invites us to find joy and laughter in the sacred act of remembering.



A beautiful magnolia tree has been planted in front of our building on Bering Drive in memory of Shawn Hurwitz. In the spirit of Tu B'Shvat, we encourage everyone to see this healthy sapling.

The tree was gifted to HCRJ by Leslie and Sid Weiss with the hope that through the years it will bless our congregation and all who pass by with beauty and majesty. May the memory of Shawn Hurwitz ever remain a blessing to all who were privileged to have been graced by his presence.

February Calendar

1	10:00AM	Senior Chai Yoga Class
3	10:30AM 1:00PM	Interest Group Senior Chai Colored Pencils Class
5	11:30AM 6:00 PM 6:15 PM 7:15 PM	Book Club Tot Shabbat Family Dinner Family Shabbat Services & Family Game Night
6	10:30AM	B'not Mitzvah of Audrey & Sophia Reed
7	9:00AM 9:30AM	Family Breakfast Religious School
8	10:00AM	Senior Chai Yoga Class
9	11:30AM 7:00PM	Knitzvah Group Board Meeting
10	1:00PM	Senior Chai Colored Pencils Class
12	7:15PM	Got Shabbat? Presidents' Shabbat
13	10:30AM	Bat Mitzvah of Anna Sucec
14	6:00PM	No Religious School (Yom Limmud) "Sup & Swap" - Be My Valentine
15	10:00AM	Senior Chai Yoga Class
17	1:00PM	Senior Chai Colored Pencils Class
19	7:15PM	Shabbat Services
20	10:30AM	Bat Mitzvah of Gabriella Rosenwasser and Bar Mitzvah of Julian Meyer
21	9:30AM	Religious School
22	10:00AM	Senior Chai Yoga Class
23	11:30AM	Knitzvah Group
26	7:15PM	Shabbat Services
28	9:30AM	Religious School
29	10:00AM	Senior Chai Yoga Class
Vom Limmud ⊨‱.		

Yom Limmud

Sunday, February 14, at Beth Israel
Perhaps the best known of the Jewish
Federation of Greater Houston's programs is
its annual Yom Limmud or Day of Jewish
Learning. For more information, please go to:
http://www.houstonjewish.org/houston-education/yom-limmud-2016

"Sup & Swap" - Be My Valentine

Sunday, February 14, 6:00PM

<u>Swap:</u> Bring anything with a heart.

<u>Sup:</u> Bring a dish to share with the group.

Soup, Salad or Chocolate. Plan on a group of 20. RSVP to Melissa at 713-782-4162 or hcrj@hcrj.org.



Family Shabbat February 5 at 6:15PM

February Menu:
Brisket, smoked chicken,
vegetarian red beans, cajun rice,
cooked greens, salad, macaroni and cheese,
chicken nuggets and king cake

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

For Our Tots:



Tot Shabbat Services on February 5 at 6:00 PM. Join us for Shabbat fun.



HCRJ BOOK CLUB

New Day and Time!

Brown Bag Lunch - Bring Your Own Lunch

Friday, February 5 at 11:30AM

The Bridal Chair
By Gloria Goldreich

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

Interest Group

The Interest Group will meet in the HCRJ boardroom on February 3 at 10:30AM. Lili Gordon, a Holocaust survivor and author of the book "Siberian Yankee" will tell us of her experiences during and after World War II. You are invited to come early for bagels and coffee and bring a friend.

SAVE THE DATES:

- Annual Purim Carnival Sunday, March 20, 11:00AM-1:00PM
 That's right! Purim is right around the corner.
 Get ready for more moon walks, games, food and fun. Sponsorships are available in the \$50 and \$150 options. Contact Michelle at hcrjyouth@hcrj.org for more information.
- Hamentaschen Baking Day Sunday, February 28, 10:00AM
- Passover Baking Day
 Coming in April.
 If interested in baking days, please contact Laura Rosenfield, Arrangements Chair at lrosenfield@buffspec.com.
- Dinner Honoring Rabbi Gross' 10-Year Anniversary at HCRJ Thursday, April 7th

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Honors and Memorials

In honor of the birth of Isabel Lerner

From Miriam and Allan Graber

In honor of Bob Smith's 90th birthday

From Nancy Landa

From Myron Marks

From Miriam and Allan Graber

In honor of Myron Marks and Naomi Warren's birthdays and in recognition of Fran Brochstein tutoring for Jaron Shelby

From Esther Shelby

In honor of the baby naming of Jessica Levine's daughter, Sara Herrera

From Irvin Levine

In memory of Michael Paul

From Amanda Paul

In memory of Don Bernard

From Bob and Johnita Lebow

From Amy and Michael Lawch

From Madeleine and Michael Appel

From Marcia and Bill Chaffin

From Fanet Soifer

In memory of Jules Dante and Don Bernard

From JoAnn and Mikal Innerarity

In memory of Rose Miller and Gus Herrman

From Julia Miller

In memory of Morris Lewis

From Julia Miller

In memory of Harry M. Gross

From Mel and Nancy Gross

In honor of the birth of their grandson, Jonathan Ainsworth Gross

From Mel and Nancy Gross

In memory of Dorothy Innerarity and in honor of a speedy recovery for Johnita Lebow

From Marcia and Bill Chaffin

From Charlotte Robinson

In memory of Dorothy Innerarity

From Doris Bernard

From Johnita and Bob Lebow

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

From Karen Goerl

From Hank Lam

In honor of Jaron Shelby's Bar Mitzvah

From Bruce and Laura Shelby

In memory of Don Bernard

From Teri and Len Goldfield

From Janis and Bob Frank

In honor of the marriage of Mark Kariel and Al Risher

From Jon and Lorri Feiwell

In honor of Rabbi Gross' blessing to Bob Smith on his 90th birthday

From Randy Smith

In honor of Rabbi Gross

From Steven and Nancy Lerner

In memory of Dorothy Innerarity and in honor of a speedy recovery for Johnita Lebow

From Pearl Goldman

In memory of Dorothy Innerarity

From Randy and Bob Smith

General Operating Fund

From Ted and Maria Johnson

In honor of Jaron Shelby's Bar Mitzvah

From Paul and Julie Herman

Arrangements Fund

In honor of Jaron Shelby's Bar Mitzvah From **Sandy and Ken Kantor**

Sponsored an Oneg

In memory of Isaac Kaplan and Bertha Graber
From Miriam and Allan Graber

Welcome New Members

Sylvia Brauer

Brag and Boast



Mazel Tov to Audrey and Sophia Reed, daughters of Lisa and John, who will become B'not Mitzvah on February 6, 2016.



Mazel Tov to Anna Sucec, daughter of Debra Hurwitz and Dennis Sucec, who will become a Bat Mitzvah on February 13, 2016.



Mazel Tov to Gabriella Rosenwasser daughter of Jennifer Stern and David Rosenwasser, who will become a Bat Mitzvah on February 20, 2016.



Mazel Tov to Julian Meyer, son of Jessica and Philipp Meyer, who will become a Bar Mitzvah on February 20, 2016.



Mazel Tov to Steven and Gabby Graubart on the birth of their daughter, Maya Valentina Graubart, on November 24, 2015. Maya is the granddaughter of Donald and Anne Graubart.



Mazel Tov to David and Priscila Gross on the birth of their son, Jonathan Ainsworth Gross, on November 25, 2015. Jonathan is the grandson of Mel and Nancy Gross.



Mazel Tov to Marilyn and Howard Fireman on the birth of their granddaughter, Eva Jackson, on January 17, 2016.



Mazel Tov to Laura Sheinkopf and Wajahat Syed on the birth of their granddaughter, Alina, on January 23, 2016.

Our heartfelt condolences...

On the death of Don Bernard, brother of Larry Bernard (Doris) and Amber York (Byron), who passed away November 30, 2015.

On the death of Dorothy Innerarity, mother of Mikal Innerarity (JoAnn), who passed away January 5, 2016.

On the death of Barbara Alper, mother of Greg Alper (June) and Brian Alper who passed away January 24, 2016.

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

February Oneg Sponsorships:

February 5: Sponsored by the Reed Family in honor of Audrey and Sophia's B'not Mitzvah

February 12: Sponsored by the Sucec/Hurwitz Family in honor of Anna's Bat Mitzvah

February 19: Sponsored by the Stern/Rosenwasser and Meyer Families in honor of Gabriella's Bat Mitzvah and Julian's Bar Mitzvah

February 26: Available—Please contact temple office

Youth Activities

Family Shabbat Dinner, Service and Game Night!

Friday, February 5, 6:15PM

On the first Friday of every month, we meet to enjoy a delicious meal before services. The menu changes monthly and is prepared by different families in the congregation. After services, join us for some family game night fun. You'll find old board games mixed with new current ones and there is sure to be games for all ages! Cost is \$5 per person over 4 years of age. Anyone interested in finding out more about our community is welcome to attend. We always serve salad, chicken nuggets and mac-n-cheese. If you are interested in joining the Family Shabbat Dinner committee, contact adulted@hcrj.org. RSVPs are appreciated.



HOUSTY Dinner and a Movie at the Same Time!

Saturday, February 20, 6:00PM (9th-12th Graders)

iPic in River Oaks

High schoolers are invited to join us for the ultimate movie experience. Dinner and a movie at the same time! \$10 for tickets. Bring your own money for dinner. RSVP to 832-607-3673 or hcrjyouth@hcrj.org.

iFly in Memorial

Sunday, February 21, 1:30-3:30PM

Youth of all ages are welcome to join us for two high flying opportunities at iFly Memorial. \$35 per person for two flights, video and pizza. SPACE IS LIMITED!! Your payment is your RSVP. Please contact Michelle Renfrow hcrj.org with questions. Drivers needed to assist bringing students from HCRJ to Ifly Memorial.



Greene Family Camp Spring Fest

Friday, February 26 - Sunday, February 28

This is the perfect opportunity for 6th-8th graders from across Texas and Oklahoma to come together for a weekend of fun at Greene Family Camp. See your GFC friends, meet new friends, and learn about NFTY-TOR, our region's high school youth group that hosts events throughout the year so that you can see and meet new Jewish friends throughout the year. For more information and to register, please go to: http://greene.org/event/spring-fest.

Family Retreat to Greene Family Camp

Friday, March 4 - Sunday, March 6

It's the ultimate Jewish family vacation and a great opportunity for parents and children of all ages to discover the incredible experience of a GFC Shabbat. The young and young-at-heart will spend much of their weekend together – climbing our 50-foot Alpine Tower, experiencing the giant swing, creating arts & crafts projects, learning Israeli folk dances and camp songs, enjoying outdoor and indoor sports, as well as participating in many of the other great activities that GFC offers during the summer. For more information, contact Jessica Dangott at jdangott@urj.org. The fee for the weekend is \$170 per adult, \$150 per child (ages 3 and up), and children under 3 are free. This includes housing, meals, snacks, and all programming for the weekend. To register for this event, please got to www.greene.org, select the year round button and then families.

L'Taken Seminar with Religious Action Center in Washington DC

Friday, March 4 - Monday, March 7 (10th-12th graders)

Join us in Washington, DC for an incredible weekend learning about Jewish advocacy and exploring our nation's capital. Greene Family Camp will be partnering with the Religious Action Center for a life-changing program, culminating with lobbying your representatives and senators on Capitol Hill. This experience will inspire you to make a change in your local community. Together we'll join with other congregations from around the nation as we explore the Holocaust Museum, visit the Smithsonian, and celebrate Havdallah at the Jefferson Memorial. If you're passionate about social justice and advocacy, this is a unique experience!



Through a variety of social, educational and recreational activities, the Senior Chai program is dedicated to enriching the lives of those 60 and above. This program is generously underwritten in memory of Mozelle Barg and Robert Shelby. All programs are open to the community.

Yoga Class

Mondays through February 29

10:00AM-11:15AM

\$10 Per Class if you pre-register/\$15 for walk-ins

Taught by Suzy Shapiro, a certified yoga instructor, this class will focus on strength and stamina, balance and flexibility, and a new sense of well-being. Please call office to register for February session. RSVP to Melissa Wolfson at hcri@hcri.org.

George Bush Presidential Library and Museum Tour

Thursday, March 10 8:15AM-5:00PM \$10 Per Person

The George Bush Presidential Library and Museum at Texas A&M University located in College Station is dedicated to preserving and making available the records and artifacts of George H.W. Bush, 41st President of the United States. Join us for a day trip to visit this library for a self-guided, audio tour. Following our visit, we will enjoy lunch at Texas A&M Hillel before returning to Houston. RSVP to hcri@hcri.org.



Upcoming Got Shabbat Events:

got shabbat?

February 12: Presidents' Shabbat

Each year, we honor the presidents of our congregation with a special service. This regal Sabbath will be shaped by the stories from the past and special selections of music from our rich musical heritage.

March 11: A Sabbath In the Spirit of the Italian Renaissance

Join us for an Italian feast followed by a worship service shaped by melodies composed by Salomone Rossi, who composed music both for the synagogue and to entertain the dukes of Mantua. Rossi, a product of heightened cultural interaction between Jews and Christians in Renaissance Italy, introduced elements of modern European music into the Jewish liturgy.

April 8: A Sabbath Honoring 30 Years of Dr. Jane Becker, PhD

Jane Becker has been our soloist for 30 years. This service will survey the musical trends that spanned the three decades during which Jane has blessed us with her beautiful voice.

2016 Confirmation Retreat





Photos from the HCRJ Confirmation Class Retreat, held on January 9-10 at the Landa Family Ranch in Schulenburg, Texas. During the retreat, the class led a Havdallah Service for historic Temple Israel.



Leave a Legacy to HCRJ

HCRJ is in the process of launching a major legacy gift giving program called the *L'Dor VaDor Legacy League*. Help

secure our future for generations to come by including HCRJ in your will. For information about the *L'Dor VaDor Legacy League*, contact Melissa at hcrj.org.

Mitzvah Project



For their Mitzvah Project, Audrey and Sophia Reed are collecting new or gently used Pre-K Spanish Books (preferably paperback and containing no English) or Barnes & Noble gift cards so they can purchase books for

kids in Guatemala. In March, Audrey and Sophia will be traveling to a rural Guatemalan school to deliver these items to kids who do not have access to these books. Please bring your donations to HCRJ. More information on this project can be found at <u>letsbeready.org.</u>

Souper Bowl of Caring



Souper Bowl of Caring is a national movement of congregations, schools, community organizations and compassionate

individuals caring for others on Super Bowl weekend. Souper Bowl of Caring equips and mobilizes youth to positively impact their communities by collecting money or food on or near Super Bowl weekend. 100% of the collections are donated directly to the charity of each group's choice.

We are collecting change at Family Shabbat on Friday, February 5th and Religious School Family Breakfast on Sunday, February 7th to be donated to the Souper Bowl of Caring. Join us to help those who are less fortunate.

Summer Fun at Greene Family Camp



Many of us are in the process of making summer plans. Some have children and grandchildren who are of age to go to camp.

Others may know someone with children who are of campership age.

If you are considering a Jewish camp experience, please consider Greene Family Camp. Studies have shown that

residential camps like Greene are instrumental in the formation of a child's Jewish identity. With a wonderful balance between education and recreation, the Greene Family Camp is one of our nation's premier Jewish summer camp experiences.

Registration is simple. If you went to camp last summer, log-in to your account to reregister. If you were not at camp last summer, registration is a breeze. Just go to the Greene Family Camp website at http://greene.urjcamps.org/register/ and complete the online application.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Do not allow tight finances to prevent you from sending your child to camp this summer. Greene Family Camp has financial aid programs available. Interested families may go to the "Parents" section of the Greene Family Camp website to look at and download information and applications at

www.greene.urjcamps.org

The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston gives first-time overnight campers up to \$1,000 toward camp through One Happy Camper. Your child will discover who they are - and who they want to become - while having a total blast. Visit onehappycamper.org to apply. Need based-scholarships are also available through the Jewish Federation of Houston. Questions? Contact the Education Department at 713-729-7000, extension 309.

JCRS Scholarships

Jewish sleep away camp allows children to enjoy new social and learning experiences in a special environment that nurtures Jewish identity. At the Jewish Children's Regional Service (JCRS) we recognize the value of Jewish sleep away camp as a unique opportunity for fun, personal growth and Jewish identity-building. The JCRS would like all interested children to have this opportunity but we recognize that for many families the high cost of overnight camp is prohibitive. Last year, the JCRS provided partial scholarship funding for over 300 children to attend Jewish camp. The amount of these scholarships varies in accordance with the circumstances of the child and family. To apply visit www.jcrs.org/services/camp-scholarship-aid/

HCRJ Schololarships

HCRJ also has scholarships available for families looking to send their children to camp. For more information, please contact Hilary Kamin at 713-782-4162 or hilaryk@hcrj.org.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO BIRTHDAYS OUR KIDS YARZEITS 2/1 Julie Reader 2/2 Blythe Mogil 2/1 Pearl Plotkin 2/2 Charlotte Gomel 2/4 Renee Shohet 2/2 Fannie Marks 2/2 Claire Getschow 2/5 Rachael Marglous 2/3 Walter Mathis 2/2 Theodore Helfgott 2/6 Alec Wigderson 2/4 Bernard Rachlin 2/2 Jonathan Siegel 2/7 Lilian Howard 2/4 Julie Rosen 2/3 Lharissa Jacobs 2/8 Brett Gonzalez 2/4 Helen Schwartz 2/8 Reid Gross 2/5 Bertha Golden 2/4 Henry Lam 2/7 Eileen Weinstein 2/8 Austin Wilson 2/6 Simon Sartorius 2/9 Andrew Edison 2/9 Benjamin Bernstein 2/7 Bertha Mayerhofer 2/12 Sue Sue Aron 2/9 Richard Kabin 2/8 Harry Green 2/12 Bradley Frank 2/9 Talya Hammerman 2/8 Simon Utay 2/12 Kenny Friedman 2/10 Adalaide Eagle 2/9 Samuel Abramson 2/12 Amber York 2/11 Mackenzie Aden 2/11 Edith Karkowski 2/11 David Kassab 2/11 Abraham Touchet 2/13 Jason Herbst 2/11 Morris Lewis 2/14 Richard Braverman 2/13 Joseph Bernstein 2/11 Herman Schlanger 2/14 Dolph Simon 2/13 Maci Wilson 2/12 Mildred Marks 2/15 Rick Silverman 2/14 Aiden Gross 2/13 Isabelle Podorzer 2/16 Joslyn Fisher 2/15 Jamie Anhalt 2/14 Herbert Robins 2/16 Dionna Levin 2/16 Kimberly Landa 2/15 Jennie Hurwitz 2/16 Dennis Sucec 2/17 Bryce Goldstein 2/15 David Roos 2/17 Adam Plager 2/18 Isabel Graubart 2/15 Alfred Rubin 2/17 Shayna Saylor 2/18 Isaac Herbst 2/15 Max Silverman 2/17 Laura Sheinkopf 2/18 Michael Kabin 2/16 Anne Mills 2/20 Stephen Breslauer 2/21 Adeline Braverman 2/17 Sarah Butkin 2/21 Jennifer Touchet 2/22 Jonathan Frumovitz 2/17 Alma Fleckman 2/22 Julie Levin 2/22 Olivia Howard 2/17 Herman Fleishman 2/22 Laura Stephenson 2/17 Helen Sandhaus ANNIVERSARIES 2/25 Michael Siegel 2/20 Herbert Alpert 2/25 Roberta Tucker 2/2 Robert & Janis Frank 2/20 Bertha Brochstein 2/26 Morton Fefer 2/8 Leonard & Eleanor Chaikind 2/20 Beatrice Zeidman 2/26 Ione Moran 2/9 Jack & Barbara Markman 2/21 Harold Mason 2/26 Jaime Perkins 2/12 Mike & Amy Lawch 2/21 Mike Phillips 2/28 Benjamin Bass 2/14 Philipp & Jessica Meyer 2/21 Mary Ann Tartakov 2/28 Missy Bernosky 2/14 Walter & Sandra Rosen 2/22 Esther Polunsky 2/28 Michael Breston 2/15 Armando & Jodi Vazquez 2/22 Hyman Schwartz 2/28 Eric Marglous 2/21 Dolph Simon & E.B. Berry 2/23 Evan Davis 2/26 Mel & Nancy Gross 2/24 Shirley Kessler Rick & Georgiann Silverman 2/28 2/25 Robert Rubin 2/26 Hannah Frank SPECIAL BOOK CLUB BRUNCH WITH RABBI SAM KARFF 2/26 Audrev Lawch

2/26 Ben Schreiber2/27 Adolph Katz

2/28 Edmund Hecht

2/28 Anna Kessler

2/28 Clara Mace

2/27 Nona Marks

SPECIAL BOOK CLUB BRUNCH WITH RABBI SAM KARFF Sunday, April 3, 10:30AM-12:00PM

Save the Date for a special Book Club Brunch with Rabbi Sam Karff. Rabbi Karff will be discussing his new memoir, "For This You Were Created", and will share stories about his life and career at a momentous time in the Reform Movement. If you wish to purchase a copy of this memoir at a reduced rate, please contact Justin at admin@hcrj.org.



You are invited to join HCRJ for our monthly

February 5, 2016

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.

February Family Dinner

Brisket, smoked chicken, vegetarian red beans, cajun rice, cooked greens, salad, macaroni and cheese, chicken nuggets and king cake

Steven M. Gross, Senior Rabbi rabbigross@hcrj.org

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

Melissa Wolfson, Executive Director hcrj@hcrj.org

Hilary Kamin, Director of Education hilaryk@hcrj.org

Justin Deutsch, Administrative Assistant admin@hcrj.org

Michelle Renfrow, Director of Youth Engagement hcrjyouth@hcrj.org

Rochelle Sinderbrand, Bookkeeper RochelleS@hcrj.org

Julie Barry, President

Bruce Shelby, Vice President

Debby Jones, Secretary

Sandy Kantor, Treasurer

Madeleine Appel, Past President

Darlene Medford, Membership Chair

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.