

HCRJ

MARCH 2016

HOUSTON CONGREGATION FOR REFORM JUDAISM

Reflections On My Favorite Day



My favorite date on the secular calendar is March 4. It is not my birthday, nor is it a holiday. To my knowledge, this date has no historical significance whatsoever. The only reason I delight in the date is the fact that it is the only day on the entire calendar that can be read as a sentence (as long as you misspell fourth): ***March forth!***

Marching forth is exactly what we are doing as a congregation. In less than a year, our programming calendar has literally exploded on all fronts. Here are some of the most promising programs that we have proudly introduced:

In the realm of social action, we have launched a new committee that is committed to broadening our reach to serve those who need us most. In response to our inspiring Yom Kippur afternoon experience with the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, a committed group of social action minded members honored our pledge to partner with the church in an effort to address needs in Houston's Fifth Ward. In December, over 30 of us took a bus tour of the neighborhood and returned with countless ideas on how we might work together to make a difference. Now, our new Social Action Committee is committing itself to ***March forth.***

Senior Chai programming is also moving forward. Each month, through weekly yoga classes, art classes, presentations and historical tours, HCRJ engages scores of retirees who have the desire to remain active. In less than a year, our programming has become so successful that there is often a waiting list for courses and tours. Senior Chai has quickly become a sacred community, and as we continue to build on our successes, we will continue to ***March forth.***

In June, we received a grant from the Houston Jewish Community Foundation to create a center for interfaith outreach. This center is an outgrowth of HCRJ's longstanding efforts to be inclusive of interfaith families. Through it, we seek to establish an environment where the non-Jewish partner in an interfaith relationship can strengthen the Jewish community in a way that brings a sense of pride. Participants are encouraged to share different approaches to interfaith marriage, parenting and grandparenting. Our goal is to help families create homes that honor the values found in each faith and, as they do, find ways to ***March forth*** together on a united spiritual journey.

My bragging about our remarkable year of new programs would not be complete if I did not mention a very unique social group called, Adult He-Brew. This group blends epicurean passions with a deep love of process. The group will first focus on the art of brewing beer, coffee, tea and more. Currently, they are brewing 20 gallons of beer for the HCRJ gala on April 7. This group hopes to ***March forth*** into exciting new frontiers of food and beverage appreciation.

As we continue to ***March forth*** as a community, please consider joining us, and may each step we take along the way be a means to connecting us in fellowship and faith.

March Calendar

2	10:30AM	Interest Group
4	11:30AM	Book Club
	6:00PM	Tot Shabbat
	6:15PM	Family Dinner
	7:15PM	Family Shabbat Services & Game Night
5	10:30AM	Bat Mitzvah of Camille Andrews
6	9:00AM	Family Breakfast
	9:30AM	Religious School
	10:00AM	Social Action Committee and Confirmation Class: Trip to Pleasant Hill Baptist Church for Services
7	10:30AM	Senior Chai Yoga Class
8	11:30AM	Knitzvah Group
	7:00PM	Board Meeting
10	8:15AM	Senior Chai Trip to George Bush Presidential Library and Museum
11	6:00PM	<i>Got Shabbat?</i> A Sabbath from the Italian Renaissance Dinner
	7:15PM	Shabbat Services
12	8:00AM	Social Action Committee: Volunteering at Lyons Avenue Renaissance Festival
13		No Religious School
14	10:00AM	Senior Chai Yoga Class
18	7:15PM	Shabbat Services
19	10:00AM	Social Action Committee: Volunteering at Lyons Avenue Renaissance Festival
20	9:30AM	Religious School
	10:00AM	Torah Tots Purim Celebration
	11:00AM	Purim Carnival
22	11:30AM	Knitzvah Group
23	1:00PM	Senior Chai Pastels Class Purim begins at sundown
25	7:15PM	Purim Shabbat Services
26	10:30AM	Bar Mitzvah of Zachary Danek
27		No Religious School
28	10:00AM	Senior Chai Yoga Class
30	1:00PM	Senior Chai Pastels Class

Family Shabbat

March 4 at 6:15PM

Rodeo Menu: Meat chili and vegetable chili with all the fixins, salad, macaroni and cheese and chicken nuggets.



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

For Our Tots:



March 4 at 6:00PM - Tot Shabbat

March 20 at 10:00AM - Torah Tots
Purim Celebration



HCRJ BOOK CLUB



New Day and Time!

Brown Bag Lunch – Bring Your Own Lunch

Friday, March 4 at 11:30AM

Farewell Aleppo

By Claudette Sutton

Questions? Please contact the temple at adulted@hcrj.org.
HCRJ Book Club reading list can be found on our website.

Interest Group

The HCRJ Interest Group will meet in the board room on March 2 at 10:30AM. Julie Herman, author of *The Three Dirty Women Landscaping Mysteries*, will be the presenter. Julie will be discussing the elements of writing fiction.

The Interest Group, which meets the first Wednesday of each month over bagels and coffee, is a program designed to engage its participants through a variety of speakers on different subjects.

Knitzvah Group

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



Social Action Committee

Fresh off our tour of the 5th Ward, HCRJ's new social action committee has three events planned during March.

- Sunday, March 6, 10:00AM - Attending Church Services at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church
- Saturday, March 12, 8:00AM - Pre-Festival Clean-Up and Park Preparation or Egg Stuffing for the Lyons Avenue Renaissance Festival. This festival, organized by the Fifth Ward Redevelopment Corporation, celebrates the history, culture and revitalization of Houston's historic 5th Ward and Lyons Avenue.
- Saturday, March 19, 10:00AM - Volunteering at the Lyons Avenue Renaissance Festival. Volunteer opportunities include registration assistants, festival set-up, booth stocking and more.

If you would like to participate in these events, please contact Justin at 713-782-4162 or admin@hcrj.org.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Honors and Memorials Fund

In memory of Dorothy Innerarity

From **Doris and Larry Bernard**

From **Amber and Byron York**

In memory of Morris Lewis III

From **Julia Miller**

In memory of Bertha Mayerhofer

From **Stephen and Lila Shain**

In memory of Esther Shelby

From **Barney and Debby Jones**

From **Justin Deutsch**

From **Miriam and Allan Graber**

From **Bayle and Richard Drubel**

From **Rochelle Sinderbrand**

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

From **June Diamond**

In honor of Audrey and Sophia's B'nai Mitzvah

From **Lisa and John Reed**

In memory of Esther Shelby

From **Robin and Kevin Alter**

From **Lisa, Jay, Erin and Josh Berlin**

Prayer Book Fund

In memory of Hyman Schwartz and Helen Schwartz

From **Sylvia and Ronald Brauer**

Religious School Fund

From **Tevin Marks**

In memory of Edna and David Bennett

From **Barbara Bennett**

Scholarship Fund

In memory of Esther Shelby

From **Michael and Amy Lawch**

Camp Scholarship Fund

In memory of Jerry Kamin

From **Brent, Hilary, Brandon and Dylan Kamin**

General Operating Fund

From **Ted and Maria Johnson**

He-Brew Update

It's been a busy month for HCRJ's He-Brew Class. Led by Adam Weinstein and Aaron Perkins, the group is brewing 20 gallons of beer for Rabbi Gross' 10th Anniversary Party coming up on Thursday, April 7.

Recipes were finalized in early February. On Sunday, February 14, the group brewed a Belgian Dubbel and a Pale Ale at HCRJ. The next Sunday, the beer was moved from the Primary Fermenter to the Secondary Fermenter. On Sunday, March 6, the group will bottle the beer. Then, the beers will be labeled in subsequent weeks. Brewery tours and education events are also planned over the coming months.



Brag and Boast



Mazel Tov to Melissa and Steven Wolfson, on the birth of their son, Logan Blake Wolfson, on February 9, 2016.



Mazel Tov to Camille Andrews, daughter of Shayna Andrews and David Andrews, who will become a Bat Mitzvah on March 5, 2016.



Mazel Tov to Zachary Danek, son of Lisa Danek, who will become a Bar Mitzvah on March 26, 2016.

THANK YOU!

Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism's 2016 Collection

raised:

\$195

Thanks to your efforts this year, more dollars have been raised, more lives have been changed and the nation has seen the impact of people working together to help those in need. Thank you for working to transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.



February 7, 2016

Clara S. Cooper
Clara Cooper
President and CEO
Super Bowl of Caring

Our heartfelt condolences...

On the death of Esther Shelby, mother of Bruce and his wife, Laura, and grandmother of Riley and Jaron, who passed away February 13, 2016.

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

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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 and mailing it to the temple or by contacting the office at 713-782-4162 or admin@hcrj.org.

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 Oneg Sponsorships

March 4: Sponsored by the Andrews Family in honor of Camille Andrews Bat Mitzvah.

March 11: Available

March 18: Available

March 25: Sponsored by the Danek Family in honor of Zachary Danek's Bar Mitzvah.

A Sabbath from the Italian Renaissance

A Got Shabbat Featuring the Music of Salomone Rossi

Friday, March 11

Italian Dinner at 6:00PM ~ Services at 7:15PM



The Jews during the Italian Renaissance enjoyed intermittent tolerance by various rulers of the autonomous city-states. Many achieved prominence as court instrumentalists, singers, dancers, and actors. The last and most distinguished example was Salamone Rossi (1570-1628). In 1587, Rossi began his long association with the Gonzagan Court, initially as a singer and violist. He soon became the leader of Duke Vincenzo court musicians and directed an instrumental ensemble probably composed of Jewish musicians.

Join us Friday night, March 11, as we will celebrate the cultural heritage of the Jews of Italy and explore the magnificent liturgical compositions of Salomone Rossi. A dinner will be served at 6:00PM followed by a special worship service that promises to take us back to the Italian Renaissance.

Menu: Penne marinara sauce, meatballs, vegetable lasagna, penne chicken piccata and salad

\$20 Per Person for Adults

\$10 Per Person for Children

RSVP required - please go to HCRJ website: <http://hcrj.org/event/shabbat-services-5-2016-03-11/>

Questions? Please contact the temple office at 713-782-4162

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

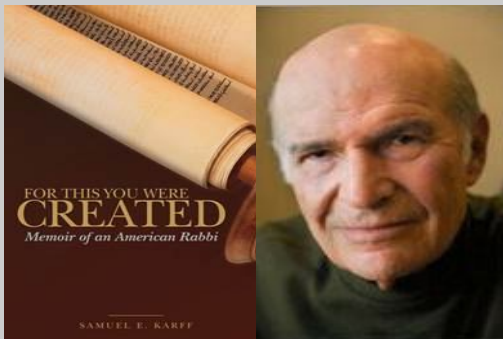
Created", and will share stories about his life and career at a momentous time in the Reform Movement. The book chronicles the

life of a rabbi who ministered to congregations — Sinai in Chicago and Beth Israel in Houston—for over 40 years, and has since come out of

retirement twice to provide insight and compassion in the fields of relational medicine and social justice. To RSVP & if you wish to

purchase a copy of this memoir at 50% off, please contact Justin at

713-782-4162 or admin@hcrj.org.



HCRJ Passover Seder **Friday, April 22 at 6:00PM**

HCRJ's annual first night Passover Seder is planned for Friday, April 22. An invitation and registration information will be emailed to members on Thursday, March 10.

The Seder is open to HCRJ members and their families. Please register early to ensure your spot. Space is limited.



Purim Carnival
Sunday, March 20
11:00AM-1:00PM

Join us for another year of moon walks, food and fun at HCRJ. Dine on pizza and Hamentaschen, popcorn and drinks as you run from room to room enjoying traditional carnival games, moonwalk, **TOSS A PIE AT THE RABBI** and photo booth activities. Don't forget the **CAKE WALK!**



\$9 pre-pay or \$12 at the door per student. Adults are free. Student volunteers needed for double community service hours.



Want to be a sponsor? Contact Michelle Renfrow at hcrjyouth@hcrj.org. Pre purchase tickets at HCRJ on Sundays during Religious School hours or email Michelle.



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. Please RSVP for events by calling the HCRJ office at 713-782-4162 or emailing admin@hcrj.org.

Yoga Class

Mondays through April 25 (no class March 21), 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.

George Bush Presidential Library and Museum Tour

Thursday, March 10, 8:15AM-5:00PM - ONLY 6 SPOTS LEFT!

\$10 Per Person

The George Bush Presidential Library 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 tour. Following the tour, we will have lunch at Texas A&M Hillel.



Pastels Class

Wednesdays, March 23-April 27, 1:00PM-3:00PM - ONLY 2 SPOTS LEFT!

During this 6-week course taught by Noelle Shawa, you will learn to use and enjoy the beautiful color possibilities of the amazingly diverse and fun medium of pastels. Focus will be on creating color fields, light, shade and perspective. No experience required. No cost to attend.

Interfaith Passover Program

Tuesday, April 12, 10:30AM-11:30AM

\$5 Per Person

Expand your knowledge of Passover as Rabbi Steve Gross leads a discussion about the traditions of this holiday. Centered around a food tasting of traditional Passover foods, this program is designed for guests of all faiths. Through songs, stories and even a mini Afikomen search (a traditional Passover activity), Rabbi Gross will engage those who have attended Seders for years and those who are just beginning to learn about this holiday. Senior Chai is collaborating with the Trotter Family YMCA on this event.

Youth Activities

Family Shabbat Dinner, Service and Game Night!

Friday, March 4, 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. Cost is \$5 per person over 4 years of age. After services, join us for some family game night fun. You'll find classic board games mixed with new current ones and there is sure to be games for all ages!



Family Retreat to Greene Family Camp

Friday, March 4 - Sunday, March 6

Join Michelle Renfrow and her family as we check out GFC and all the activities they have to offer. Parents get to see what summer camp is really all about. Have fun for two nights doing activities together with your kids and some without. 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 go to www.greene.org, select the *year round* button and then *families*. Contact Michelle Renfrow at 832-607-3673 or hcryouth@hcry.org with any questions.

Pre-Purim Set-Up Party

Saturday, March 19

JYG students (6-7th graders) and HOUSTY (8-12th graders) are invited to come help set up for the Purim Carnival and have your own private party with the moon walks and all the fun! Double community service hours available for HOUSTY students. Check your inbox for further details as we get closer to the date.



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.urjcamp.org/register/> and complete the online application.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR KIDS

BIRTHDAYS

3/1 Perla Del Fierro
 3/2 Amber Hoffman
 3/3 Alan Brochstein
 3/5 Eva Breston
 3/5 Cathy Dante
 3/5 Linda Schaeffer
 3/6 Joan Levy
 3/7 Lee Herman
 3/8 Debbie Goldman
 3/8 Stephen Shain
 3/9 Ellen Shohet
 3/9 Fran C. Brochstein
 3/11 Jonathan Glasser
 3/11 JoAnn Innerarity
 3/12 Lance Kassab
 3/12 Margaret Krohn
 3/13 Harriette Bearden
 3/13 Lori Glickman
 3/14 Tracy Householder
 3/15 Malorie Barbee
 3/15 Ruth Schlanger
 3/16 Cheryl Fielkow
 3/16 Steven Hecht
 3/18 Doris Bernard
 3/18 Eric Rachlin
 3/19 Robert Lait
 3/20 Susan Brochstein
 3/20 Norman Loewenstern
 3/20 Susan Rachlin
 3/21 Michael Kahn
 3/22 Carol Danek
 3/22 Edward Schreiber
 3/23 Gayle Tonn
 3/24 Lori Farris
 3/24 Michael Lawch
 3/25 Michael Le Burkien
 3/25 Elliott Polunsky
 3/25 Ted Wedel
 3/26 Ken Cohen
 3/27 Michelle Renfrow
 3/27 Scott Wenderfer
 3/28 Moise Levy
 3/28 Donna Siegel
 3/29 Laura Frank
 3/29 Barbara Maidenberg
 3/29 Adelle Shaw
 3/30 Erika Bermeo
 3/30 Ellen Slosburg
 3/31 Gary Muslin

3/1 Jake Shaper
 3/1 Kyra Rubinstein
 3/2 Sloane Andrews
 3/3 Dylan Alexander
 3/4 Camille Andrews
 3/6 Emily Glickman
 3/7 Elijah Mogil
 3/10 Alex Frankfort
 3/10 Olivia Frankfort
 3/10 Sarah Gross
 3/12 Alex Renfrow
 3/17 Jack Avedesian
 3/18 Trudy Jacobs
 3/18 Harrison Rosenthal
 3/19 Ella Shaw
 3/20 Jacob Cosgrove
 3/20 Sydnee Fielkow
 3/20 Dylan Kamin
 3/21 Brooke Appelbaum
 3/22 Scott Hurwitz
 3/22 Alexandra Weathers
 3/23 Cooper Braverman
 3/23 Isabel Perkins
 3/23 Amy Shohet
 3/25 Aria Herbst
 3/25 Alexis Siegel
 3/27 Eleanor Spain
 3/30 Layla Salomon

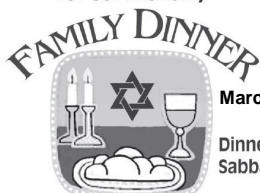
ANNIVERSARIES

3/3 Wade & Michele Howard
 3/3 Marc & Betsy Levinson
 3/5 Lance & Carol Kassab
 3/6 Leonard & Sandra Rosenberg
 3/10 Mike & Lauren Eagle
 3/10 Roy & Lisa Sheinbaum
 3/11 Jonathan & Sara Wilson
 3/15 Cary & Meredith Kottler
 3/19 Jack Rubin & Perla Del Fierro
 3/20 Mark & Laura Rosenfield
 3/22 Norman & Andrea Steel
 3/24 Efisio & Lori Farris
 3/25 William & Claire Getschow
 3/27 Joshua & Melissa Tabin
 3/30 Richard & Melissa Hudson
 3/30 Chad & Anat Shaw

YARZEITS

3/1 Carl Herman
 3/1 Fred Soifer
 3/2 Roslyn Elterman
 3/2 William Plotkin
 3/3 Kitty Deutser
 3/3 Lena Goot
 3/3 Ruth Klaus
 3/4 Morris Butkin
 3/5 Don Rosenfield
 3/7 Deedie Butler
 3/8 Jerry Kamin
 3/8 Sara Toubin
 3/10 Mac Feuer
 3/10 Mittie Tartakov
 3/11 Eva Gordon
 3/11 Mildred Kantor
 3/11 Rica Penn
 3/13 William Osber
 3/14 Edward Glantz
 3/16 Michael Chaikind
 3/19 Kenneth Berretta
 3/20 Jimmy Deutser
 3/21 James Blinkoff
 3/21 Samuel Meyrowitz
 3/22 Israel Helfgott
 3/22 Salome Krinsky
 3/26 Sam Brochstein
 3/26 Ronald Turk
 3/28 Hyman Hurwitz
 3/28 Aaron Rose
 3/29 Jean Utay
 3/30 Bob Lipshutz
 3/30 Larry Pfeffer

You are invited to join HCRJ
for our monthly



March 4, 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.

March Family Dinner

Meat chili and vegetable chili with all the fixins,
salad, macaroni and cheese and
chicken nuggets.

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

Rochelle Sinderbrand, Bookkeeper
RochelleS@hcrj.org

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

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Debby Jones, Secretary

Justin Deutsch, Administrative Assistant
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Sandy Kantor, Treasurer

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

Madeleine Appel, Past President

Darlene Medford, Membership Chair

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