

HCRJ

APRIL 2018

HOUSTON CONGREGATION FOR REFORM JUDAISM



A Brief History of the Jews of Hungary

My family (on my mother's side) came from Hungary. Some have attributed my love of food from this family lineage. Others have said it is the source of my short temper. Regardless of what character traits may have found their way into my personality from my Hungarian heritage, this lineage continues to be a source of great pride for my family, and whenever we meet Hungarian Jews long discussions about pastry and goulash are sure to follow.

The Jewish presence in the region now known as Hungary is very old. Like the Jews of most parts of the diaspora, early Jewish communities in Hungary were the result of the destruction of the Second Temple by the Romans. Some sources suggest that several communities within the early Hungarian tribes practiced Jewish religion.

These early Jewish communities began to blossom during the second half of the 11th century due to large numbers of immigrants from Germany, Bohemia and Moravia. These Jews settled in the towns of Buda, Esztergom, Sopron, Tata and Old Buda. While life may have been better for Hungarian Jews than in other parts of Europe, restrictions were placed on Jews by Christian clergy and institutions which shaped the community in very specific ways. In 1092, the Church forbade Jews from intermarrying Christians, working on Sundays and Christian holidays and purchasing slaves. Despite these prohibitions, Hungary served as a haven, and by the end of the 11th century, life for the Jews of Hungary was relatively good.

During the 12th century, Jews came to hold positions of leadership in many economic institutions. These positions elevated the Jewish community in Hungarian society. During this period, Jews were afforded many legal rights which they did not have elsewhere in Europe, and they were welcomed and supported by the king. Yet, despite this support from the throne, the Jewish population suffered from many anti-Jewish policies from the church and the nobility. In these anti-Jewish circles, Jews were banned from holding particular offices in the government, prohibited from leasing land and were forced to wear badges. Luckily, many of these anti-Jewish measures were not carried out because of the king's objections.

For centuries life for Hungarian Jews shifted from acceptance to rejection depending on who was in power. In the 1300's, Jews were blamed for the Black Death and expelled from Hungary, but returned in great numbers a century later. These tensions existed for generations, but by the First World War, the Jews of Hungary were fairly well integrated into Hungarian society. By the early 20th century, the community had grown to constitute 5% of Hungary's total population and 23% of the population of the capital, Budapest. Jews became prominent in science, the arts and business.

With the rise of nationalism in Europe, Anti-Jewish policies grew more repressive. Hungary's decision to align itself with the governments of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, became a death blow to the Jewish community in Hungary. It was during this period that my family, like so many others, found its way to the United States. Sadly, most of the Jews who remained in Hungary after 1938 were murdered.

The heritage of Hungarian Jewry is long and beautiful, and those who share these ethnic roots find kinship whenever they meet. Among the many Hungarian Jews I have met in Houston, the most famous is Ziggy Gruber of Kenny and Ziggy's Deli. Ziggy will be our guest "rabbi" once again at our Fourth Annual Deli Shabbos (see details below). We hope you can join us for a fabulous culinary and spiritual exploration into the world of Hungarian Jewry.

Are you Hungary? 4th Annual Deli Shabbos

On Friday, April 27 at 6:00PM, we will be welcoming Ziggy Gruber (owner of Kenny & Ziggy's) to the pulpit for our Fourth Annual Deli Shabbos. The theme of this year's Deli Shabbos experience will be food from Hungary. Ziggy is preparing a very special Shabbat Dinner followed by a sermon about the history of the food that we will share.

To register please visit <https://hcrj.org/event/delishabbos/>.



April Calendar

- | | | |
|----|----------|--|
| 1 | | NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL |
| 2 | 10:00 AM | Senior Chai Yoga |
| 4 | 10:00 AM | Senior Chai Mah Jong |
| 6 | 6:00 PM | Tot Shabbat |
| | 6:15 PM | Family Dinner |
| | 7:15 PM | Family Shabbat Services |
| 7 | 10:00 AM | Social Action Project: Career Gear Houston |
| 8 | 9:00 AM | Religious School Family Breakfast |
| | 9:30 AM | Religious School |
| 9 | 10:00 AM | Senior Chai Yoga |
| 10 | 10:30 AM | Senior Chai Mindfulness Lessons |
| | 11:30 AM | Knitzvah Group |
| | 7:00 PM | Board Meeting |
| 11 | 10:00 AM | Senior Chai Mah Jong |
| 13 | 7:15 PM | Shabbat Services |
| 15 | 9:30 AM | Religious School |
| | 2:00 PM | Film: <i>In Search of Israeli Cousine</i> |
| 16 | 10:00 AM | Senior Chai Yoga |
| 17 | 10:30 AM | Senior Chai Mindfulness Lessons |
| 18 | 10:00 AM | Senior Chai Mah Jong |
| | 10:30 AM | Interest Group |
| 20 | 7:15 PM | Shabbat Services |
| 21 | 10:00 AM | Cars, Coffee and Conversation |
| 22 | 9:30 AM | Religious School |
| | 2:00 PM | Mah Jong Game Day |
| 23 | 10:00 AM | Senior Chai Yoga |
| 24 | 10:30 AM | Senior Chai Mindfulness Lessons |
| | 11:30 AM | Knitzvah Group |
| 25 | 10:00 AM | Senior Chai Mah Jong |
| 27 | 6:00 PM | Deli Shabbat Dinner |
| | 7:15 PM | Shabbat Services |
| 29 | 9:30 AM | Religious School |
| 30 | 10:00 AM | Senior Chai Yoga |

Family Shabbat April 6 at 6:15PM

Menu: Roasted chicken, salad, veggies, mac n cheese, chicken nuggets. Dinner is \$5 per person over 4 years old.



For Our Tots:

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



Save the date for our next parenting series which will take place during Religious School on **April 8**. Details will be provided in upcoming Weekly Reflections.

3rd Annual Pancake Breakfast Sunday, May 6, 9:00AM



Join us for our 3rd Annual Pancake Breakfast followed by the Annual Meeting on May 6. This breakfast is intended to bring our community together as we celebrate the culmination of a great year of programming. The breakfast will begin at 9:00AM and will be immediately followed by the Annual Meeting at 10:00AM.

We need you for a quorum. Every vote counts. Every idea matters. Our community depends on the vision of its membership. Please join us to help shape the future of HCRJ.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Honors and Memorials Fund

In honor of Mort Fefer's 90th birthday
From **Doris and Larry Bernard**
In memory of Israel Naman
From **Doris and Larry Bernard**
In memory of Amy Parks
From **Doris and Larry Bernard**
In memory of Henry Lam
From **Doris and Larry Bernard**
In memory of Clara Gold
From **Doris and Larry Bernard**
In memory of Remi June Blailer
From **Barb and Bob Howard**

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In honor of Blythe Mogil's Bat Mitzvah
From **Todd and Leslie Mogil**
In honor of Mort Fefer's 90th birthday
From **Debbie and Stuart Goldman**

General Operating

From **Marilyn Waldman**
From **Ted and Maria Johnson**
In memory of Marily and Sidney Pink
From **Cindy and David Lipshutz**

Special Music Fund

In honor of the baby naming of Levi Kahn
From **Dee Dee Dochen**

Camp Scholarship Fund

In honor of Maria May
From **Dee Dee Dochen**
In honor of Barbara Maidenberg's birthday
From **Malorie Barbee & Barbara Bennett**
From **Betsy Lewis**
From **Ed and Harriett Reitman**

Arrangements

Sponsored an oneg
From **Ted and Maria Johnson**
Sponsored a Religious School Family Breakfast in
honor of Gary Nathanson's birthday
From **The Nathanson Family**



HCRJ has launched 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@hcrj.org.

Brag and Boasts



Mazel Tov to Jake and Erin Slosburg on the birth of their daughter, Esther Mollie Slosburg born March 8, 2018.

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 contact the temple at least two weeks prior to the event. 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—\$_____

April Oneg Sponsorships

April 6: Available to sponsor
April 13: Available to sponsor
April 20: Available to sponsor
April 27: Available to sponsor

Our heartfelt condolences...

To the family of Jerry Robinson, father of Randi Schramm and her husband, Ron, and grandfather of Jonathan and Annya, who passed away March 7, 2018.

To the family of Jenny Segall, mother of Marna Meyer, and her husband, Steven, who passed away March 15, 2018.

To the family of Lonnie Frankel, father of Jason Frankel and his wife, Erica, who passed away March 23, 2018.

To the family of Pam Butler, sister of Janis Frank and her husband, Bob, who passed away March 26, 2018.

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



Join us for the
2nd Annual
HCRJ Mah Jongg Game Day
Sunday, April 22
2:00 - 6:00 PM

Food! Fun! Prizes!

Early registration: \$30 (before March 16th)
Regular registration: \$36 (after March 16th)
<http://hcrj.org/event/mah-jongg-game-day> to register and pay

Players of all levels welcome. Make your own table or come meet some new friends with whom to play. You don't have to be a member to participate - please invite all your mah jongg friends to join us!!!



Light snacks and drinks provided.
If you have a mah jongg set, please bring it and your 2018 NIMJL Card.

Bring your favorite appetizer/hors d'oeuvre item (and the recipe) — HCRJ will compile all the recipes and provide a Appetizer Album as a gift to you!

Questions: Please contact Debbie Barrash (dibphd@gmail.com) or Justin Deutsch (admin@hcrj.org)

Join us for the SPRING
CARS
Coffee & Conversation
Saturday, April 21 from 10 am to 12 noon

Car detailing demo at 11 am

HCRJ Parking Lot

801 Bering, Houston, TX

FREE and open to the entire community! RSVP to admin@hcrj.org
to reserve a spot to show your special car

HCRJ's Cars, Coffee & Conversation is sponsored by:





Come learn about Israel from an Israeli!
Join Herut Gez, Houston Community Shlichah (emissary)

Religion & State in Israel
Wednesday, May 2, 10:30 am



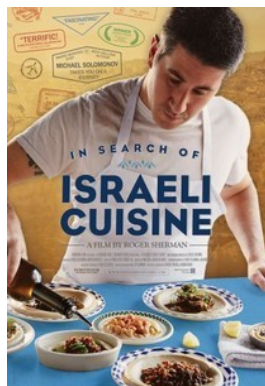
Presented for
Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism
Please RSVP to Justin at 713-782-4162
or admin@hcrj.org

Social Action Project: Career Gear
Saturday, April 7, 10am

Career Gear provides professional clothing, mentoring and life-skills to help men in poverty become strong contributors to their families and communities. Our volunteer responsibilities will include merchandising tasks such as sizing, hanging and tagging clothing donations in the Career Gear boutique. This is a project for all ages.

If you would like to participate in our April social action project, please let Justin know at 713-782-4162 or admin@hcrj.org.

CAREER :: GEAR



Film Screening: In Search of Israeli Cuisine.
Sunday, April 15, 2:00PM

Join us for our next film screening at HCRJ as we watch, *In Search of Israeli Cuisine*. This documentary is a portrait of the Israeli people told through food. The film puts a face on the culture of Israel, profiling chefs, home cooks, vintners, and cheese-makers drawn from the more than one hundred cultures that make up Israel today — Jewish, Arab, Muslim, Christian, Druze. A rich and human story of the people emerges.

We will all enjoy Israeli foods while watching the film. To sign up, please contact Justin at 713-782-4162 or admin@hcrj.org.



The Senior Chai program is dedicated to enriching the lives of those 60 and above. As Senior Chai enters its third year, we are excited to continue offering a variety of social, educational and recreational activities to the community. Through the generosity of the Shelby and Barg families all programs are offered at minimal or no cost. Keep your eyes open this year for concerts, a senior safety fair, movies, art classes, trips, speakers and more. Your input is valuable to us in shaping a calendar of events that meet your interests, so please send any programming ideas to hcrj@hcrj.org.

Yoga Class

Mondays, 10:00AM to 11:15AM No cost to attend.

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 sign up with Melissa Wolfson at hcrj@hcrj.org if you would like to attend.

Mah Jongg

Wednesdays from 10:00AM to 12:00PM No cost to attend.

Join us for a weekly game of mah jong! Coffee and light snacks are served. RSVP to Melissa Wolfson at 713-782-4162 or hcrj@hcrj.org.

The Better Business Bureau: "Medicare/Healthcare Fraud and Abuse".

Wednesday, April 18, 10:30am



Join us for our April Interest Group as Jennifer Salazar, Program Director at The Better Business Bureau Education Foundation, visits HCRJ to present, "Medicare/Healthcare Fraud and Abuse". Houston is one of the top spots in the country for Medicare and healthcare fraud. Stealing your tax dollars and healthcare dollars impacts not only your care but your costs. The first step to fighting fraud and abuse is actually understanding what fraud and abuse looks like. This seminar will help you protect your healthcare dollars, detect fraud and abuse, and how to report suspicious behavior. Also, information will be presented on the new Medicare cards that will be coming out in 2018! Come early for bagels and coffee and bring a friend. To sign up, please contact Justin at 713-782-4162 or admin@hcrj.org.

MINDFULNESS LESSONS

With Rabbi Ariel Shoklapper

**Tuesdays || April 10, 17, 24 & May 1, 8
10:30 - 11:30AM**

***No Cost to attend - Space is limited.**

Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism
801 Bering Drive

For questions and to register please contact
Melissa Wolfson at hcrj@hcrj.org or 713-782-4162

Mindfulness is the simple yet powerful practice of learning to pay attention to the present moment in a kind and compassionate way.

Research shows that it lowers anxiety levels, reduces physical pain, helps our immune system, reduces stress, and improves our sense of well-being.

Come learn more about mindfulness practice and how you can incorporate it into your life.

The Senior Chai program is generously underwritten by the Barg and Shelby Families in memory of David & Mozelle Barg and Robert & Esther Shelby



Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism,
Houston Audubon, and Victor Emanuel Nature Tours
present special guest

Jonathan Meyrav
of the Israel Ornithological Center



VICTOR
EMANUEL
NATURE
TOURS



Join us for a special afternoon
in celebration of Israel's natural heritage.

Noted conservationist, nature enthusiast, and Israeli citizen
Jonathan Meyrav will present on a different side of Israel:
a country of amazing landscapes, wildlife, and
bird diversity, and efforts to protect it.

◆
May 3rd / 2:00-3:00 p.m.

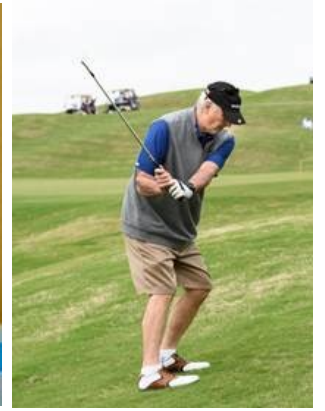
Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism

801 Bering Drive
Houston, Texas

77057



The 1st annual HCRJ Open was a huge success! The weather kept us on our toes the night before, but we were lucky that the rain held out and we had a beautiful day on the course. With 44 sponsors and 49 players, we were able to raise \$48,000 for the congregation. A big thank you to Justin Deutsch for his hard work organizing this successful event and to all those who volunteered, participated and donated.



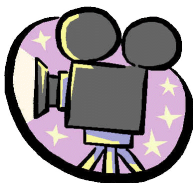
Religious School Registration

Religious School registration for the 2018-19 school year will begin soon. We will once again be using the online registration process. Instructions on how to register for Religious School will be emailed to families in April. Register online at home or come visit us at the registration table at Religious School.

Calling all 4th-12th graders!

Join our youth on Sunday April 29th 12:00PM to 2:00PM for a movie and painting party!!! Come have some lunch, watch a movie and make a cool "Dirty Pour" canvas. \$10 per person for food and fun! Movie will be selected by group upon arrival. RSVP to Michelle Renfrow at hcrjyouth@hcrj.org.

Visit <https://hcrj.org/event/paintingparty/> to register or drop off a check to HCRJ before April 27.



Hunger Response Opportunities

MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger works around the United States, and around the globe, to bring critical nourishment to millions of hungry families. This Passover, as we celebrate our people's freedom from bondage, we can also take the opportunity to raise awareness about hunger and make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate. We are asking our congregants to help MAZON help the millions of men, women and children who face hunger every night. www.mazon.org

HCRJ Spring Food Drive: HCRJ collects food all year long. As we prepare for Passover, many of us will be ridding our homes of all foods containing leavening. Please bring these foods to HCRJ, and we will send them to a food pantry. Food donations will be collected through April 9.

BIRTHDAYS

4/2 Josephine Kaplan
 4/3 Shirley Marks
 4/4 Ann Lerner
 4/4 Todd Mogil
 4/5 Dan Medford
 4/7 Melvin Gross
 4/11 Martha Stelly
 4/11 Gary Nathanson
 4/12 Justin Deutsch
 4/13 Samuel Marazzo
 4/14 Lauren Eagle
 4/14 Larry Davis
 4/15 Madeline Podorzer
 4/16 Steve Gross
 4/17 Michael Tucker
 4/17 Karen Jameson
 4/19 Pearl Goldman
 4/21 Mitchell Rubinstein
 4/23 Daniel Gollins
 4/24 Larry Lipshultz
 4/25 Jonathan Kaplow
 4/25 Bruce Shelby
 4/26 Lesley Fox
 4/26 Debra Hurwitz
 4/26 David Wise
 4/27 Johnita Lebow
 4/27 Madeleine Appel
 4/28 Joan Helfgott
 4/28 Marty Gross
 4/29 Richard Hudson
 4/30 Joel Androphy
 4/30 Barbara Brownstein

ANNIVERSARIES

4/1 Brian & Cheryl Fielkow
 4/4 Ted Wedel & Julie Levin
 4/4 Gordon & Lesley Fox
 4/9 Brad & Deborah Sondock
 4/12 Bruce & Laura Shelby
 4/12 Ronald & Randi Schramm
 4/15 Alan & Fran C. Brochstein
 4/18 Waju Syed & Laura Sheinkopf
 4/20 Eric & Melanie Marglous
 4/24 Don & Anne Graubart

KIDS' BIRTHDAYS

4/2 Daniel Marglous
 4/2 Leo Zamore
 4/2 Camil Ferguson
 4/3 Samuel McGuire
 4/5 Ethan Percy
 4/5 Elliana Percy
 4/6 Sage Goldman
 4/8 Samuel Lieberman
 4/10 Ari Zamore
 4/11 Noah Hammerman
 4/12 Drew Beckelman
 4/17 Ruth Abramczyk
 4/17 Flint Goldman
 4/19 Joshua Sweetland
 4/20 Franklin Berko
 4/21 Brandon Gomel
 4/21 Anna Sucec
 4/21 Alexa Tabin
 4/22 Benjamin Sweetland
 4/25 Chase Aden
 4/25 Alex Lewis
 4/26 Blake Jameson
 4/27 Henry Kramer
 4/27 Nadine Rosenthal
 4/28 Thames Lerner
 4/28 Sloan Brinker
 4/29 Brandon Kamin

YARZEITS

4/1 Sally Nagel
 4/1 Lenora Silberman
 4/3 Susan Weil
 4/3 Nathan Kantor
 4/3 Pesche Fred
 4/4 Paul Segal
 4/4 Cecile Ritzwoller
 4/4 Phyllis Rossenblum
 4/4 Philip Gary Lusky
 4/6 Pamela Warner
 4/6 Bernard Wise

YARZEITS CONTINUED

4/7 Phil Berman
 4/7 Marsha Solomon
 4/8 Jake Mesinger
 4/10 Leonard Androphy
 4/11 Nettie More
 4/11 John Soifer
 4/12 Sherman Robinson
 4/12 Dawn Gross
 4/14 Nathan Roth
 4/14 Sonia Simpson
 4/15 Joe Polunsky
 4/15 I.J. Shapiro
 4/15 Simon Frank
 4/16 May Lefkowitz
 4/16 Mildred Popper
 4/17 Mary Brochstein
 4/18 Lester Baron
 4/18 Rosemarie Joseph
 4/19 Henry Nelkin
 4/19 Florence Kamber
 4/19 Norton Nelkin
 4/19 Ann Nelkin
 4/19 Milton Lipschutz
 4/20 Morris Melcer
 4/20 Sam Botzman
 4/20 Fannie Melcer
 4/21 Rose Appelbaum
 4/22 Joseph Carton
 4/24 Andrea Rosenblum
 4/24 Lou Marks
 4/25 Ralph Herman
 4/25 Dina Steinberg
 4/25 Ralph Herman
 4/25 Bettiruth Susholtz
 4/26 Selma Muslin
 4/26 Patricia Goss
 4/27 David Gross
 4/27 John Higginbotham
 4/27 Adrien Kahn
 4/28 Peggy Weiser
 4/30 Harry Graber

You are invited to join HCRJ
for our monthly



April 6, 2018
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.

April Family Shabbat Menu

Roasted chicken, salad, veggies,
mac n cheese, chicken nuggets

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, Program Coordinator
admin@hcrj.org

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

Marna Meyer, High School Principal
marna@hcrj.org

Bruce Shelby, President

Adam Weinstein, Vice President

Evelyn Lazear, Secretary

Dan Fleckman, Treasurer

Julie Barry, Past President

Jaime Perkins, Membership Chair

Rochelle Sinderbrand, Bookkeeper
rochelles@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.