

# HCRJ

FEBRUARY 2018

## HOUSTON CONGREGATION FOR REFORM JUDAISM

### HCRJ Annual Fundraiser



Over the years, HCRJ has had numerous congregational fundraisers. This year, our *ONLY* annual fundraiser will be a golf tournament.

We know that not everyone golfs, and we know that not everyone who golfs will be able to participate in the event, but we also know that dues alone do not pay for everything we do. We need the help of everyone this year. In other words...

### **Not a golfer? We need your help...**

From volunteering, to joining us for lunch, or making a financial contribution to our fundraiser, there are many ways to support this event. We are currently \$17,000 away from reaching our fundraising goal of \$40,000. Your support is crucial in helping us achieve this.



### HCRJ Annual Fundraiser Donations

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would like to make a donation in the amount of: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would like to be a sponsor (details on sponsorship levels can be found at [www.hcrj.org/hcrjopen](http://www.hcrj.org/hcrjopen))

Payments can be made at [www.hcrj.org/hcrjopen](http://www.hcrj.org/hcrjopen). You may also send a check made payable to HCRJ to 801 Bering Drive, Houston, TX 77057.

**To sign up to play, please visit [www.hcrj.org/hcrjopen](http://www.hcrj.org/hcrjopen)**

## February Calendar

- |    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| 1  | 6:30 PM                                    | Singles Mixer at Arcodoro<br>Adult Beginning Hebrew Reading Class                                   |
| 2  | 6:00 PM<br>6:15 PM<br>7:15 PM              | Tot Shabbat<br>Family Shabbat Dinner<br>Family Shabbat Services                                     |
| 3  | 10:00 AM<br>10:30 AM                       | Social Action Project: Hermann Park<br>Conservancy<br>Bat Mitzvah of Blythe Mogil                   |
| 4  | 9:00 AM<br>9:30 AM<br>10:00 AM             | Religious School Family Breakfast<br>Religious School<br>Parenting Program with Rivka Fishman       |
| 5  | 10:00 AM                                   | Senior Chai Yoga  |
| 7  | 10:00 AM<br>1:00 PM<br>7:00 PM             | Senior Chai Mah Jong<br>Senior Chai Watercolor Class<br>Marriage and Merlot                         |
| 8  |  | Adult Beginning Hebrew Reading Class  |
| 9  | 6:00 PM<br>7:15 PM                         | Olympics Shabbat Dinner<br>Shabbat Services   |
| 11 | 9:30 AM                                    | Religious School  |
| 12 | 10:00 AM                                   | Senior Chai Yoga  |
| 13 | 11:30 AM<br>7:00 PM                        | Knitzvah Group and Potluck Lunch<br>Board Meeting   |
| 14 | 10:00 AM<br>1:00 PM                        | Senior Chai Mah Jong<br>Senior Chai Watercolor Class  |
| 15 |  | Adult Beginning Hebrew Class  |
| 16 | 7:15 PM                                    | Shabbat Services  |
| 17 | 4:30 PM                                    | Havdalah in Pajamas   |
| 18 |  | No Religious School—Yom Limmud  |
| 19 | 10:00 AM                                   | Senior Chai Yoga  |
| 20 | 9:00 AM                                    | Senior Chai National Weather Service Trip   |
| 21 | 10:00 AM<br>10:30 AM<br>1:00 PM<br>7:00 PM | Senior Chai Mah Jong Class<br>Interest Group<br>Senior Chai Watercolor Class<br>Marriage and Merlot |
| 22 |  | Adult Beginning Hebrew Reading Class  |
| 23 | 7:15 PM                                    | Shabbat Services  |
| 25 | 9:30 AM<br>2:00 PM                         | No Religious School<br>Film Screening: Swim Team  |
| 26 | 10:00 AM                                   | Senior Chai Yoga  |
| 27 | 11:30 AM                                   | Knitzvah Group  |
| 28 | 10:00 AM<br>1:00 PM                        | Senior Chai Mah Jong<br>Senior Chai Watercolor Class  |

## Family Shabbat

**February 2 at 6:15PM**

Menu: Smoked brisket, chicken,  
red beans, dirty rice, salad, Mac  
n cheese, nuggets



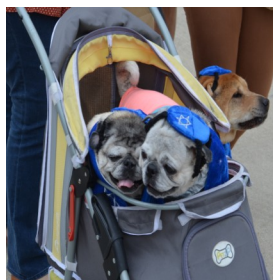
Dinner is \$5 per person over 4 years old.



## For Our Tots:

Tot Shabbat Services on February 2 at  
6:00PM. Join us for Shabbat fun.

## The Bark Mitzvah is Back!



Sunday, March 25  
12:00 to 2:00PM

Join us for an afternoon for  
your dogs: Bark Mitzvah  
blessing, pet vendors, food  
trucks, music and more!



*HCRT cordially invites you to*

## PURIM PASTRY PAIRINGS

Join us as we celebrate Purim with  
wine & hamantaschen. Attendees may also  
peruse the current art exhibition at  
Archway Gallery.

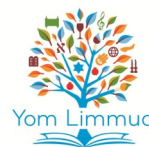
**March 1 from 5:30-7:30 pm**

Archway Gallery, 2305 Dunlavy

**Honoring the L'Dor V'Dor Legacy Donors**

## Yom Limmud

Sunday, February 18, at Emanu El  
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, visit:  
[www.houstonjewish.org/houston-education/yom-limmud](http://www.houstonjewish.org/houston-education/yom-limmud)



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

### Honors and Memorials Fund

In appreciation of Michelle and Mitch Leben

From **Irene and Eric Seff**

In memory of Gus Herrman and Rose Miller

From **Julia Miller**

In honor of Rabbi Gross

From **Amber and Byron York**

In memory of Rozell Schultz

From **Miriam and Allan Graber**

In memory of Israel Naman

From **Madeleine and Michael Appel**

In honor of Walter Hecht's 80th birthday

From **Miriam and Allan Graber**

In memory of Morris Lewis

From **Julia Miller**

Get well wishes for Miriam Graber and Isabel Schnadig

From **Marcia and Bill Chaffin**

### Harvey Relief

From **Rabbi Matthew Berger & Temple Sinai**

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

From **Andrea and Michael Lore**

From **Henry Lam, Jr.**

From **Mark and Jodi Kalinsky**

From **Dina, Jonathan & Aidan Glasser**

From **Larry and Kaki Buck**

In memory of Michelle Maloney

From **Paula Marks**

In memory of David Gross

From **Maria and Sarah Gross**

In honor of Lilly Harrison's Bat Mitzvah

From **Geoffrey and Lauren Harrison**

### Arrangements

Sponsored a Family Breakfast in honor of Caroline McElroy's 6th birthday

From **Gary and Michael Nathanson**

Sponsoring an oneg in honor of Mort Fefer's 90th birthday in February

From **Mort and Jean Fefer**

### Mitzvah Day

In honor of Carol Danek

From **Gary and Michael Nathanson**

### General Operating

From **Ted and Maria Johnson**

From **Fredell Lore**

In appreciation of HCRJ for hosting the weekly mah jong group

From **The Mah Jong Ladies**

In honor of the De Paula Family

From **Marian De Paula**

### Religious School

In memory of Edna Bennett

From **Barbara Bennett**

### Welcome New members

Arden and Jack Burleigh

Seth and Galya Nichamoff

Jessica and Mitchell Rosen

Bari Ross

Judy Segal

Gary Wolf and Starr Borden Wolf

### Brag and Boast



**Mazel Tov to Grant Appelbaum**, grandson of Bruce and Carol, and son of Mike, who was recently named All-District Tight End for Lamar Consolidated Schools and 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-Academic for the State of Texas



**Mazel Tov to Marilyn Fireman** on her retirement from Continental/United Airlines after 40 years and 8 months.



**Mazel Tov to Fran Brochstein**, attorney and mediator, who is being honored on Sunday, February 11th at the Junior League as one of the 50 Women of Influence by Houston Woman's Magazine.



**Mazel Tov to Blythe Mogil**, daughter of Leslie and Todd Mogil, who will become a Bat Mitzvah on February 3, 2018.



**Mazel Tov to Dr. Morton Fefer**, who will celebrate his 90th birthday on February 26, 2018.



HCRJ was honored at Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston's 2017 Volunteers of the Month Appreciation Dinner on Friday, January 19. Justin Deutsch (pictured second from right).

Our heartfelt condolences...

On the death of **John Biro**, husband of Lois, who passed away on Monday, January 15.

On the death of, **Israel Naman**, father of Arthur Naman and his wife, Zelia, John Smith and his wife, Rosemary, and Elisabeth Naman and her husband, David Poppick, who passed away on Monday, December 11. Israel is one of the founding members of HCRJ.

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



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](mailto:hcrj@hcrj.org).





# OLYMPICS SHABBAT



**Friday, February 9**



**6:00PM: Korean Shabbat Dinner**

**\$20 for adults**

**\$10 for children 12 and under**

**RSVP by February 6 at [hcrj.org/event/olympics-shabbat](http://hcrj.org/event/olympics-shabbat)**

**7:15 pm: Brief Shabbat Service**

Watch the Opening Ceremonies on our big screen after services and play Jewish Olympians trivia during our Olympic sized-oneg.

**Social Action Project:**  
**Hermann Park Conservancy**  
**Saturday, February 3**  
**10:00AM to 12:00PM**



In February, our social action group is headed to Hermann Park Conservancy. In the spirit of Tu B'Shevat (the New Year for Trees), we will be planting trees! We will also enjoy fruits and nuts associated with the holiday. This is a project for all ages! Come plant trees with HCRJ – contact Justin at 713-782-4162 or [admin@hcrj.org](mailto:admin@hcrj.org) to sign up.

## **Interest Group**

Wednesday, February 21 at 10:30am



Join us for a presentation by The Harris-County – Houston Sports Authority! The Harris County – Houston Sports Authority was created by the Texas

Legislature to build and finance the City's professional sports teams. But, in addition to that, and being the Landlord of the Astros, Rockets and Dynamo, the Sports Authority has become the preeminent sports marketing organization in the Country (having won the prestigious "Sports Commission of the Year" from its peers in 2 of the last 3 years). J. Kent Friedman, the Chairman of the Sports Authority and also a member of HCRJ, will describe the organization, its successes in bringing sporting events to Houston, events that are lined up to come here in the future and those that the Sports Authority is still chasing.

Come early for bagels and coffee and bring a friend. Sign up with Justin at 713-782-4162 or [admin@hcrj.org](mailto:admin@hcrj.org).

## Dust Off Your Boots...It's Time for a Purim Roundup

March 2

6:00PM Tot Shabbat

6:15PM Chili Family Dinner

7:15PM Purim Family Shabbat & Megillah Reading

An oneg will follow after services with mitzvah opportunities, hamantaschen and fun!



# HAVDALAH IN PAJAMAS

Special event for HCRJ families  
with kids age 10 and younger

**Saturday, February 17  
4:30 p.m.**

**Breakfast for Dinner:**  
chicken & waffles and cereal bar  
**Crafts:** decorating pillow cases  
**Havdalah Service and Song Session**

**WEAR YOUR  
FAVORITE PJ's**

Havdalah in Pajamas is for families with kids age 10 and under, and is free. RSVP to Justin at 713-782-4162 or [admin@hcrj.org](mailto:admin@hcrj.org) by Thursday, February 15.



**Havdalah in Pajamas Co-Chairs:**  
**Ginger Greenberg & Coby McElroy**

## DINNER & A MOVIE



Join your 6-8th grade friends as we binge on pizza, drinks and every type of popcorn known to man!

**Saturday February 17  
4:30 to 7:00 PM**

**\$5 per person**

RSVP with your check, cash or pay online at <http://hcrj.org/event/dinnerandmovie/>

Bring a blanket or pillow to sit on for the movie.

Contact Michelle Renfrow with questions or to discuss any dietary restrictions at [hcrjyouth@hcrj.org](mailto:hcrjyouth@hcrj.org)



## Parenting Series Program: "The Secret to Bully-Proofing Your Children"

Sunday, February 4 at 10:00AM

Learn how to teach your children and students easy and proven methods to avoid being the target of bullying. This workshop uses role-playing and games to help parents and teachers empower children by arming them with skills to become emotionally resilient, strong, happy and kind.

Rivka Fishman currently teaches middle school at Torah Day School. She has spent many years researching and implementing effective ways to minimize fighting between children and now coaches parents and teachers how to "bully-proof" their children. She is the author of *Sara the Bucket Filler*, which helps children learn to be kinder and stay happier. The book will be available for purchase following the program.

Light refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to Justin at 713-782-4162 or [admin@hcrj.org](mailto:admin@hcrj.org).

## Overnight Camp Grants and Scholarships from the Federation

The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston is once again offering grants and scholarships for children seeking to attend overnight camp or to participate in trips to Israel. For all local Jewish children, the Federation provides two forms of need-based scholarships for overnight camp and Israel experiences: general financial assistance, and scholarships for campers whose families were affected by Hurricane Harvey. For families whose children are not currently enrolled in a daily Jewish educational program (such as a Jewish day school), the Federation's One Happy Camper program offers \$1,000 incentive grants that are not need-based for first-time campers attending for 19 or more consecutive days, and \$700 grants for first-time campers attending for 12-18 consecutive days. For questions regarding One Happy Camper grants, contact Devorah Cohen at [dcohen@houstonjewish.org](mailto:dcohen@houstonjewish.org). For questions regarding scholarships, contact Elizabeth Garza at [egarza@houstonjewish.org](mailto:egarza@houstonjewish.org) or 713-729-7000.

## 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 2 and Religious School Family Breakfast on Sunday, February 4 to be donated to the Souper Bowl of Caring. Join us to help those who are less fortunate.



### **National Weather Service Tour and Lunch at Kemah Boardwalk**

**February 20, 9:00AM to 3:30PM, \$10 (includes lunch)**

Come tour the National Weather Service (NWS) Forecast Office in League City, TX. The NWS office issues weather forecasts and warnings for Southeast Texas. A NWS forecaster will give a brief presentation on Southeast TX weather and lead a tour of the office. After the tour we will make our way to the Kemah Boardwalk for lunch. Payment is your reservation. Attendance is limited to the first 30 people that complete their registration at: <http://hcrj.org/event/nwstour/>

### **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 jongg! Coffee and light snacks are served.

### **Watercolor Wednesdays**

**Wednesdays, January 31 through March 7, 1:00 to 3:00PM No cost to attend.**

Artist Noelle Shawa will begin a 6-week watercolor series on January 31. Noelle, who has taught numerous classes for the Senior Chai program including pastels and drawing, will continue her work with this fun medium. This class is suitable for those who have never painted before and for those who have some experience. Those who took her previous watercolor class are welcome and encouraged to attend this one as well. RSVP required to Melissa Wolfson at [713-782-4162](tel:713-782-4162) or [hcrj@hcrj.org](mailto:hcrj@hcrj.org). Space is limited.



### **Film Screening: Swim Team** **Sunday, February 25 at 2pm**

**ReelAbilities**  
FILM FESTIVAL HOUSTON

We are excited to be partnering with the ReelAbilities: Houston Film & Arts Festival to bring the film, *Swim Team*, to HCRJ on February 25! In this film, parents of a boy on the autism spectrum form a competitive swim team, recruiting other teens on the spectrum and training them with high expectations and zero pity. *Swim Team* chronicles the extraordinary rise of three diverse young athletes, capturing a moving quest for inclusion, independence and a life that feels like winning.

Three representatives from Avondale House will lead our discussion after the film: Philip Golden, Development Director, Becky Ingalls, Principal/Education Specialist and Tarah Bowser Ott, Behavior Analyst. Avondale House provides services and resources to children and adults with autism.

Popcorn and drinks will be provided. To RSVP, please contact Justin at 713-782-4162 or [admin@hcrj.org](mailto:admin@hcrj.org).

**ReelAbilities: Houston Film & Arts Festival** is a free city-wide film and arts festival dedicated to presenting films, art exhibitions, performances, and speakers that celebrate the lives, stories, and talents of people with disabilities and enrich Houston's culture, diversity, and inclusion efforts. The festival, organized by Jewish Family Service's Alexander Institute for Inclusion, is February 12-22, 2018. For more information on the festival, visit the website at: <http://www.reelabilitieshouston.org>.

### **Book Discussion: To Look a Nazi in the Eye: A Teen's Account of a War Criminal Trial** **Sunday, March 11 at 10:30AM**

Join us in March for our next book discussion! We will discuss *To Look a Nazi in the Eye: A Teen's Account of a War Criminal Trial* by Kathy Kacer and Jordana Lebowitz. This is the true story of nineteen-year-old Jordana Lebowitz's time at the trial of Oskar Groening, known as the bookkeeper of Auschwitz, a man charged with being complicit in the death of more than 300,000 Jews. A granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, Jordana attended the trial. She realized that by witnessing history she gained the knowledge and legitimacy to be able to stand in the footsteps of the survivors. *To Look a Nazi in the Eye* can be purchased on Amazon. Jordana Lebowitz will lead our discussion on Skype. A light breakfast will be provided. Please contact Justin at 713-782-4162 or [admin@hcrj.org](mailto:admin@hcrj.org) to sign up.



**BIRTHDAYS**

2/2 Jonathan Siegel  
 2/2 Theodore Helfgott  
 2/2 Charlotte Gomel  
 2/3 Lharissa Jacobs  
 2/7 Eileen Weinstein  
 2/9 Andrew Edison  
 2/12 Amber York  
 2/12 Sue Sue Aron  
 2/12 Bradley Frank  
 2/12 Kenny Friedman  
 2/14 Richard Braverman  
 2/14 Dolph Simon  
 2/15 Rick Silverman  
 2/16 Dionna Levin  
 2/16 Jessica Rosen  
 2/16 Joslyn Fisher  
 2/16 Dennis Sucec  
 2/17 Laura Sheinkopf  
 2/20 Stephen Breslauer  
 2/21 Jennifer Touchet  
 2/22 Julie Levin  
 2/25 Roberta Tucker  
 2/25 Michael Siegel  
 2/26 Morton Fefer  
 2/26 Jaime Perkins  
 2/26 Ione Moran  
 2/26 Christy Tran  
 2/28 Missy Bernosky  
 2/28 Eric Marglous

**ANNIVERSARIES**

2/2 Robert & Janis Frank  
 2/8 Leonard & Eleanor Chaikind  
 2/9 Jack & Barbara Markman  
 2/12 Mike & Amy Lawch  
 2/14 Philipp & Jessica Meyer  
 2/14 Walter & Sandra Rosen  
 2/15 Armando & Jodi Vazquez  
 2/19 David & Stephanie Wise  
 2/19 Dolph Simon & E.B. Berry  
 2/22 Jason & Erica Frankel  
 2/26 Mel & Nancy Gross  
 2/28 Rick & Georgiann Silverman

**KIDS BIRTHDAYS**

2/2 Blythe Mogil  
 2/4 Renee Shohet  
 2/5 Rachael Marglous  
 2/6 Alec Wigderson  
 2/8 Austin Wilson  
 2/8 Reid Gross  
 2/8 Brett Gonzalez  
 2/9 Benjamin Bernstein  
 2/9 Richard Kabin  
 2/9 Talya Hammerman  
 2/9 Logan Wolfson  
 2/10 Adalaide Eagle  
 2/11 Abraham Touchet  
 2/11 Mackenzie Aden  
 2/13 Joseph Bernstein  
 2/13 Maci Wilson  
 2/14 Aiden Gross  
 2/15 Jamie Anhalt  
 2/17 Bryce Goldstein  
 2/18 Isabel Graubart  
 2/18 Michael Kabin  
 2/21 Alexandra Pye  
 2/21 Adeline Braverman  
 2/22 Jonathan Frumovitz  
 2/27 Jonah Meyer  
 2/28 Celine Alvarez

**YARZEITS**

2/1 Pearl Plotkin  
 2/2 Fannie Marks  
 2/3 Walter Mathis  
 2/4 Bernard Rachlin  
 2/4 Helen Schwartz  
 2/4 Julie Rosen  
 2/6 Simon Sartorius  
 2/7 Bertha Mayerhofer  
 2/8 Harry Green  
 2/8 Simon Utay  
 2/9 Samuel Abramson  
 2/11 Edith Karkowski  
 2/11 David Kassab  
 2/11 Morris Lewis  
 2/11 Herman Schlanger  
 2/12 Mildred Marks  
 2/13 Isabelle Podorzer

**YARZEITS (continued)**

2/13 Esther Shelby  
 2/14 Herbert Robins  
 2/15 Alred Rubin  
 2/15 David Roos  
 2/15 Max Silverman  
 2/15 Jennie Hurwitz  
 2/15 Max Silverman  
 2/16 Anne Mills  
 2/17 Herman Fleishman  
 2/17 Alma Fleckman  
 2/17 Sarah Butkin  
 2/20 Beatrice Zeidman  
 2/20 Bertha Brochstein  
 2/20 Herbert Alpert  
 2/21 Mary Ann Tartakov  
 2/21 Harold Mason  
 2/21 Mike Phillips  
 2/22 Esther Polunsky  
 2/22 Yetta Melcer  
 2/22 Hyman Schwartz  
 2/24 Shirley Kessler  
 2/25 Robert Rubin  
 2/25 Alfred Lester  
 2/26 Hannah Frank  
 2/26 Ben Schreiber  
 2/26 Audrey Lawch  
 2/27 Nona Marks  
 2/27 Adolph Katz  
 2/28 Annie Kessler  
 2/28 Don Painter  
 2/28 Clara May Mace

You are invited to join HCRJ  
 for our monthly



February 2, 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.

### February Family Shabbat Menu

Smoked brisket, chicken, red beans, dirty rice,  
 salad, Mac n cheese, 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

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