

HCRJ

Winter 2022

HOUSTON CONGREGATION FOR REFORM JUDAISM



Looking at Legacies for 2023

At the beginning of every calendar year, we have a unique opportunity to look backward and ahead. We look back to see who we have been and to appreciate our achievements. We look forward in order to continue what we have done right and to correct those things we wish to improve in the year ahead. This process is something that we do as individuals as well as institutions, and as we engage in this process, we build on the legacies of the past and established new legacies for the future. As our community fully emerges from the constraints of a global pandemic, we have an opportunity to consider our evolution as a congregation and seek ways to guarantee that we will be able to serve and inspire generations to come.

Since 1957, Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism has been welcoming all who seek community through our doors. For 65 years we have sought to engage the Jewish community in experiences which strive to be intimate, inviting and inspirational. Everyone in our congregation is valued, and all are encouraged to participate.

This is the legacy that was left for our generation to build upon, and this is who we continue to strive to be in all that we do. We are a congregation that is committed to nurturing relationships, and we are dedicated to the ongoing cultivation of new and dynamic ways of engagement through worship, study, social programming and acts of loving kindness. Like a family, we seek to support each other in times of need and celebrate our blessings in times of joy.

Our desire to strengthen the bonds that connect us underscores everything we do, and in a world of constantly shrinking dimensions, HCRJ represents a place to nurture Jewish values and practices which can bolster our capacity to address forces that often divide us. From our project-centered Religious School to our interfaith dialogues, from Torah Tots to Senior Chai, HCRJ remains committed to inspiring every generation to embracing Jewish values, Jewish heritage, Jewish ethics and a Jewish way of life. At the core of who we are, we embrace and promote the idea that one kind word, one good deed, one compassionate heart, and one open mind holds the potential for increasing goodness and kindness in our everyday lives.

As 2023 begins to unfold, we find ourselves at a moment in our history which calls upon us to preserve and strengthen what past generations have built. Like those who stood here before us, it is now our turn to consider ways to ensure that our children and grandchildren will have the same firm commitment to Judaism and its ethical values as our ancestors did before us.

This calling has been at the heart of our efforts to build our endowment. The **L'Dor V'Dor Endowment Campaign** was launched in 2015, and over the course of the past eight years, we have been receiving promises of after-life gifts as well as gifts to strengthen our Endowment while those benefactors are still actively among us. With a generous incentive bequest from Don and Anne Graubart, our campaign was given a wonderful boost, and as we begin 2023, we are excited to announce that pledges and gifts now total more than two million dollars.

L'Dor V'Dor is the Hebrew phrase which encompasses the enduring value of generational commitment. It means "From Generation to Generation," which is why we have chosen this phrase as the name of our congregation's largest endowment fund. Our **L'Dor V'Dor Legacy League** is committed to encouraging the continuity and vitality of Jewish living in our ever-changing society. For now and for the future, we invite you to be a part of assuring our vitality and vibrancy, our traditions and our innovations, our roots and our blossoms for many generations to come. By making a current or planned gift today to support the **L'Dor V'Dor Endowment**, you will be doing your part to ensure that HCRJ will be able to continue its mission for many generations to come.

**PLEASE CONSIDER PUTTING HCRJ IN YOUR WILL AND BECOME PART OF
THE L'DOR V'DOR LEGACY LEAGUE TODAY**

January Calendar

1		No Religious School
4	10:00AM 1:00PM	Mah Jongg Senior Chai Art Class
5	1:00 PM	Mah Jongg
6	7:15PM	Shabbat B'Yachad Services
7	5:00PM	Bar Mitzvah of Owen Mogil
8	9:00AM	Mitzvah Day
11	10:00AM 1:00PM	Mah Jongg Senior Chai Art Class
12	1:00PM 7:30PM	Mah Jongg From the Catskills with Love
13	6:30PM	Gospel Shabbat
15		No Religious School
17	10:30AM	AARP Lecture
18	10:00AM 1:00PM	Mah Jongg Senior Chai Art Class
19	1:00PM	Mah Jongg
20	6:30PM	Shabbat Services
21	9:30AM	Torah Study
22	9:30AM 10:30AM	Religious School Book Discussion: The Edge of the Sticker
25	10:00AM 1:00PM	Mah Jongg Senior Chai Art Class
26	1:00PM	Mah Jongg
27	6:30PM	Shabbat Services
28	5:30PM	Adult BINGO Night
29	9:30AM 12:00PM	Religious School The Anne Frank House in Amsterdam

February Calendar

1	10:00AM 1:00PM	Mah Jongg Senior Chai Art Class
2	1:00PM 7:30PM	Mah Jongg WWII and Hollywood's Jewish Question
3	6:15PM 7:15 PM	Shabbat Dinner Shabbat B'Yachad Services
4	TBD	Tu B'Shevat Wine and Havdallah
5	9:00AM 1:00PM	Religious School Family Breakfast Social Action Project: Aishel House
8	10:00AM 1:00PM	Mah Jongg Senior Chai Art Class
9	1:00PM	Mah Jongg
10	6:30PM	Shabbat Services
11		Confirmation Retreat
12	9:30AM 10:00AM	Religious School L'Dor V'Dor Religious School Program
15	10:00AM 1:00PM	Mah Jongg Senior Chai Art Class
16	1:00PM	Mah Jongg

On this page you will find the HCRJ calendar of programs. As our programming schedule is ever changing and growing, please visit our website at www.hcrj.org for details and the most up to date information for our various events. Questions regarding our programs can be directed at Justin Deutsch at justin@hcrj.org.

February Calendar (Continued)

17	6:30PM	Shabbat Services
19		Yom Limmud (No Religious School)
22	10:00AM 1:00PM	Mah Jongg Senior Chai Art Class
23	1:00PM	Mah Jongg
24	6:30PM	Shabbat Services
26	9:30AM	Religious School

March Calendar

1	10:00AM 1:00PM	Mah Jongg Senior Chai Art Class
2	1:00PM	Mah Jongg
3	6:15PM 7:15 PM	Shabbat Dinner Shabbat B'Yachad Services (Purim & Rodeo)
5	9:00AM	Religious School Family Breakfast And Purim Program
8	10:00AM 1:00PM	Mah Jongg Senior Chai Art Class
9	1:00PM	Mah Jongg
10	6:30PM	Shabbat Services
11		Confirmation Retreat
12		No Religious School
15	10:00AM 1:00PM	Mah Jongg Senior Chai Art Class
16	1:00PM	Mah Jongg
17	6:30PM	Shabbat Services
19		No Religious School
22	10:00AM 1:00PM	Mah Jongg Senior Chai Art Class
23	1:00PM	Mah Jongg
24	6:30PM	Shabbat Services
26	9:30AM	Religious School Bark Mitzvah
29	10:00AM 1:00PM	Mah Jongg Senior Chai Art Class
30	1:00PM	Mah Jongg
31	6:30PM	Shabbat Services (Autism Awareness)

Introducing the HCRJ L'Dor V'Dor Legacy League

The L'Dor V'Dor Legacy League is a group of individuals and families who want to ensure the viability of the congregation for future generations. Members contribute to HCRJ's L'Dor V'Dor Endowment either by making a bequest in their will or an outright gift to the Endowment. With their permission, we are proud to recognize our current League members below:

Madeleine Appel
Bruce and Carol Appelbaum
Dan Fleckman Family
Abbe and Adam Forman
Anne and Don Graubart Family
Rabbi Steve and Beckye Gross
Gloria Herman ^{z"l}
Julie and Paul Herman
Dr. Ed and Mrs. Patti ^{z"l} Hurwitz

Mikal and JoAnn Innerarity
Ann L. and Dr. Marvin Lerner, in loving
memory of Ike & Frieda Lerner
Betsy and Marc Levinson
Jeanette Naman ^{z"l}
Bruce and Laura Shelby
Marsha Solomon ^{z"l}
Adam and Emily Weinstein
Kay and Fred Zeidman

Members will be invited to special recognition and engagement events to celebrate and honor their commitment to creating a vibrant future for HCRJ.

Please join us! Is HCRJ already included in your estate plans? Would you like to learn more about how to support HCRJ's Endowment? (There may be significant tax benefits, especially if you must take a Required Minimum Distribution from your retirement accounts.) Please reach out to Rabbi Gross at your convenience for more information.

**A warm thank you to those who contributed to the
2022-23 Annual Campaign. Your generosity helps us
continue to expand ways to learn, worship and celebrate
inside and outside of the walls of our temple.**

Marlene Addlestone & Larry Bursten	Hilary and Brent Kamin
Madeleine Appel	Michelle & Mitchell Leben
Bruce & Carol Appelbaum	Larry & Barbara Lipshultz
Megan Bladen-Blinkoff & Paul Messina	Sheila & Norman Loewenstern
Fran Brochstein & Jimmy Jones	Leslie Lovett & Scott Kohn
Karen and Roy Brooks	Myra Mayer
Larry & Katherine Buck	Maryellen McSweeney
Eleanor & Leonard Chaikind	Jill and Ray Morgenstern
Jean Fefer	Gary & Eileen Muslin
Abbe and Adam Forman	Jean Neustadt, Jr. and Family
Marilyn Fram	Jaime & Aaron Perkins
Kenny & Ann Friedman	Sybil Roos
Paula Goldstein	Naomi & Jim Rosborough
Donald & Anne Graubart	Larry & Helen Rose
Jenard & Gail Gross	Bari Ross
Stephen & Sarah Hajizade	Judith Serkin
JoAnn & Mikal Innerarity	Kenneth & Patricia Susman
Michael & Kitty Kahn	Ed & Patricia Will

Welcome to HCRJ!

Please join us in welcoming the
newest members of HCRJ:

Roxana Arroyo
Darrin and Abbie Kaucher
Bru James
Melissa and Tyler Hart
Laura and Chad Stephenson
Judy and Mike Dane
Michael and Lynn Schoenberger
David Steffin and Amy Goetz
Norman Miller
Ira Kurzban

Bimah Blessing Opportunity

Are you celebrating a milestone birthday or anniversary? Rabbi Gross would be honored to invite you to the bimah for a blessing at Shabbat Services. Please contact Justin Deutsch at justin@hcrj.org and let us know when your celebration is. Your simcha (joyous occasion) is a time of happiness and we want to share that with you!

Honors and Memorials

From Theresa Velez
From Bradley & Laura Frank In memory of Ernest Max
From Bradley & Laura Frank in memory of Dora Poullard
From Stephen Naman In memory of Naman Family members
whose Foresight helped found and sustain HCRJ
From Marilyn Fram
From Robert & Janis Frank
From Fran Brochstein & Jimmy Jones in honor of Terry & Lenny
Goldfield's 50th Anniversary
From Fran Brochstein & Jimmy Jones in honor of JoAnn Innerarity's
Presidency
From Fran Brochstein & Jimmy Jones in honor of my many
Long-Time Friends at HCRJ
From Fran Brochstein & Jimmy Jones in memory of Mary Ann
Brochstein
From Fran Brochstein & Jimmy Jones in memory of Paul Z. Brochstein
From Byron & Amber York In memory of Lawrence J Bernard
From Charlotte Robinson in memory of Dora Poullard

General Operating

From Ted & Maria Johnson
From Eddy McDonald
From Theresa Velez
From Ted & Maria Johnson
From Mitchell & Dawn Rubinstein
From Steve Stein
From Theresa Velez

Adult Education

From Judith Finkel in honor of Justin Deutsch and his excellent
programming
From Jordan & Bernice Loftus
From Marcia Berretta
From Richard & Julieta Ruppert
From Ann & Howard Frank

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

From Sarah Sandoval--Thank you for your works
From Michael & Mary Alice Parmet in honor of a wonderful message
over the holidays
From Jodi & Larry Zwang
From Mitzie & Warren Krams in memory of Irene Krams
From Michael & Amy Lawch
From Nancy & Melvin Gross in memory of Martha Ainsworth and Edith
Gross
From David Steffin & Amy Goetz in honor of their son's and for including
them into congregation with open arms.
From Marcia Berretta in honor of Lois Biro's 80th birthday
From Paul & Julie Herman in memory of Dora Poullard
From Lauren Salomon in memory of Diane Manning

Book Discussion: *The Edge of the Sticker*
***A Guide for Getting Through Life's Challenges* with Authors Bradley and Bobby Frank**
Sunday, January 22 at 10:30am

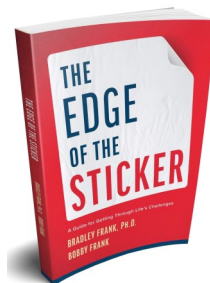


Our first book talk of 2023 at HCRJ is on Sunday, January 22nd at 10:30am! HCRJ member Bradley Frank and his brother, Bobby, will discuss their book, *The Edge of the Sticker – A Guide for Getting Through Life's Challenges*!

Have you ever tried peeling a sticker off your car? You probably start by looking for a corner that's raised just enough to get your fingernail underneath. Once you've got that edge, though, you can gently pull it away. Sometimes the sticker comes right off with one satisfying tug. Sometimes it tears or separates and you have to start over. Either way, the process begins by getting the edge of the sticker. The same idea applies when life gets sticky. Life is stressful and everyone feels anxious or depressed at times, even people who appear to have it all under control. While it's easy to get stuck and feel like there's no way out, the path to feeling better begins by getting an edge, slowly pulling and changing course as life shifts underneath you.

The Edge of the Sticker was inspired by the collective psychological struggles we all faced during the pandemic. It tested our grit and resolve, and it proved that we could adapt even when faced with crushing uncertainty. This book brings together some of the lessons the authors learned from Covid with strategies developed over nearly 30 years of providing psychotherapy for mental health challenges of all kinds.

The Edge of the Sticker: A Guide for Getting Through Life's Challenges can be purchased on Amazon or Apple Books. This program is open to readers of the book and non-readers. Please RSVP to Justin at 713-782-4162 or Justin@hcrj.org.



**Adult
BINGO
NIGHT
at
HCRJ**

**Saturday
January 28th
5:30 PM**

Early Registration (until 12/31): \$50 per person
Regular Registration (starting 1/1): \$60 per person

Registration includes:

- 6 bingo cards for all ten games
- Box dinner from Kenny & Ziggy's
- Dessert
- Prizes
- Silent Auction
- Fun!

Benefitting our
growing religious,
social, educational,
and youth
programming

ONLY 140
BINGO PLAYER
SPOTS
AVAILABLE

Want to call a round of bingo?
 Be an event sponsor AND a bingo caller for \$400! Includes bingo and dinner for 2

Register online: <https://hcrj.shulcloud.com/form/adultbingo>
 or contact Justin at 713-782-4162 or justin@hcrj.org

Bingo Night Chairs
 Elizabeth Black Berry, Margie Cohen,
 Susan Hertz, Myra Mayer, Gale Paschkes

Food & Faith Collaborative

Houston Congregations for Reform Judaism is a Collaborating Partner of the Food & Faith Collaborative. The community wide effort to enable food security and nutritional self-sufficiency in Houston launched during the 2022 High Holidays and has plans to expand in 2023.

During 2022, the Collaborative held four PopUp Grocery Store events in partnership with Second Servings of Houston. Between 10 and 15 volunteers, including dietitians and nutritionists, from the five synagogues partnered at each event.

Planning for 2023 is underway with the goal to add both weekend and additional weekday opportunities for volunteers, including the opportunity for young adults to participate alongside their parents. Age and other details are being worked on.

If you would like to be added to the growing volunteer list, please send an email to dandfaithcollaborative@gmail.com.

Gospel Shabbat **Friday, January 13, 6:30pm**

On Friday, January 13th, we will be observing MLK Weekend with a special musical tribute and the return of the choir from The Church Without Walls for our annual Gospel Shabbat! Our new HCRJ choir will be participating, too. Join us as we celebrate the ever-unfolding story of liberation and freedom in the world in ways which only Gospel music can do.

Pictured: Rabbi Gross, Jane Becker and The Church Without Walls Choir at our Gospel Shabbat on January 12th, 2019.



From the Catskills with Love

January 12 at 7:30pm

Film historians Irv Slifkin and Laurence Lerman of FilmShul are back in January with another exciting talk on Zoom! This one is: "From the Catskills with Love"!

The now mostly shuttered summer resorts of Southeastern New York's Catskill Mountains—Grossinger's, Kutsher's, the Raleigh, the Concord, the Pines and others—provided the formative years for many prominent Jewish comedy stars for a number of decades up through the 1970s. Discover the origins of the region that came to be known as the Borscht Belt and how such youngsters as Woody Allen, Shelley Berman, Totie Fields, Milton Berle, Jack E. Leonard, Joan Rivers, Jerry Lewis, Betty Garrett, Danny Kaye and Myron Cohen left their audiences in stitches. Plus, we take a look at the movies inspired by the "Jewish Alps." Please contact Justin at 713-782-4162 or Justin@hcrj.org to participate.

Pictured top to bottom: Grossinger's Catskill Resort Hotel in 1976 and The Raleigh Hotel in 1978.



AARP Foundation Lecture

January 17 at 10:30am

Come to a technology class at HCRJ on Tuesday, January 17th at 10:30am! The topic: Cloud Storage. Impact Hub Houston is partnering with Senior Planet from AARP to help people over 50 learn new online skills.

In this lecture, you'll learn the basics of cloud storage — a technology that lets you store documents, images, and other media files remotely while giving you greater accessibility, reliability, and protection for your important data. We'll discuss what it is, why it's the future of data storage, and demonstrate a few of the most popular services currently available to consumers.

Please RSVP to Justin at 713-782-4162 or Justin@hcrj.org.

FAMILY PROGRAMS



**WE INVITE YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES TO
JOIN US IN FUN, LEARNING AND WORSHIP!**

SHABBAT *B'Yachad*

First Friday of the Month
6:15PM Dinner (no dinner in January,
dinners will resume in February)

7:15 Shabbat Service
January 6, February 3, March 3

A family friendly, torah
centered worship
experience. Special oneg
to follow.

Geared towards children
10 and older.

SHABBAT *Shelanu*

One Saturday a month
at 10:00AM

Songs, crafts, learning and
snacks will shape this
morning of Shabbat family
fun.

For ages elementary and
younger

Register with Justin
Deutsch
at justin@hcrj.org

TORAH *Tots*

Sunday Mornings during
Religious School
10:00AM to 11:00AM

Torah Tots will resume 1/22/22

Join us weekly to learn about
Jewish values and holidays
through stories, songs, activities,
and more! Torah Tots is free and
open to the community;
membership to HCRJ not required

For ages 4 years and younger

Register with Betti Buck
at betti@hcrj.org



Questions?
Call 713-782-4162

A Message from HCRJ's Religious School Director: Betti Buck

Rudolph Steiner founded The Waldorf School. This worldwide network of schools is based on educational values of gratitude, responsibility, collaboration, inclusivity, diversity, and initiative. Steiner's educational philosophy, also known as Anthroposophy, seeks to cultivate the creative potential in students. I have had the privilege of studying and teaching this educational model in Israel, and I strongly believe that this multi-disciplinary approach to learning through art, music, storytelling, and other hands-on experiences is best for our children.

When I was interviewing for position of religious school director, Rabbi Steve shared the innovative HCRJ rotations curriculum with me, and my eyes lit up. The HCRJ approach to learning had inadvertently embraced the kind of educational strategies I believe in, and I knew right away that HCRJ is where I wanted to be. It is my absolute honor to be a part of this adventure in Jewish education that is based on the very same values of The Waldorf Schools in a community that is warm, inviting, and supportive.

The Hebrew word for community (as well as congregation) is *Kehilla*. It can be argued that a sense of belonging (a sense of *Kehilla*) is a basic human need. Building and strengthening our *Kehilla* is one of the primary goals of our religious school. This is done through learning the language and prayers of our faith, embracing wonderful traditions, and celebrating holidays and life cycle events.



At HCRJ, we understand this process to be collaborative, and our religious school strives to engage the entire family in the process of transmitting these values across the generations. It is in the spirit of this multi-generational approach to *Kehilla*, that I have created a grade-by-grade framework for Jewish identity formation. What does this look like?

It all begins with the consecration of our kindergarteners. Then, each successive year special family learning opportunities have been created to generate community, learning and celebration.

Our first and second grade students will explore sacred heirlooms with their parents, grandparents, and great grandparents. These family treasures encourage the sharing of stories that become the basis for a personal Jewish identity. This program is called *L'dor V'dor*, and we will celebrate as a community on Sunday, February 12.

Our third graders will celebrate the completion of learning how to read Hebrew with a special ceremony called *M'sibat Siddur*. At this ceremony, which takes place on Sunday, April 16, they will receive their own *Siddur* (prayer book).

In fourth grade, family treasures will take the form of sharing special customs and recipes. This program will culminate with creating a family vision for Tikkun Olam (repairing the world). In fifth grade will begin to explore leadership through Hillel's famous quote "*If I am not for myself who will be for me? If I'm not for others, what am I? And if not now, when?*". In sixth grade, students will focus on the concept on the value of remembrance and explore the Sabbath, our Exodus from Egypt, and the Holocaust.

By seventh grade, our students and their families will be well prepared to embrace what it means to become *b'nai mitavah*. Each of the treasures, generated through these annual family learning activities, will be collected, and placed into a book, which they can keep and cherish for life.

This multi-generational and multi-disciplinary approach to learning and community is at the heart of my approach to directing the HCRJ religious school. My hope is that over the course of each child's Jewish education and identity formation, bonds will be established between our children and their parents, our children and their community, and our children and God.

Together, we are creating something special!

HCRJ HAPPENINGS!

It's been a busy few months at HCRJ. We hosted our first mah jongg game day since before COVID, enjoyed Kenny & Ziggy's at our annual Deli Shabbat, participated in social actions projects, enjoyed *Cars, Coffee & Conversation*, and had a fun filled Religious School Hanukkah celebration with dreidels, latkes and more!!



On November 18, HCRJ dedicated the beautiful Chanukiya above from the family of Juan and Susana Stern in memory of their daughter Jennifer Rinah Stern.





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JoAnn Innerarity, President

Ed Hurwitz, Vice President

Laura Rosenfield, Secretary

Bruce Shelby, Treasurer

Adam Forman, Past President