



Newsletter

Winter 2010
Volume 5, Issue 5

Our Motto "Do Something that Means Something Takes on a Whole New Meaning, Or Does it?"

The Trust You Put in People

by Alford Bleeker

January 13, 2009 I happened to be working at the Congregation Emanu El Brotherhood's Garage Sale Site cleaning out and up the building from the previous Garage Sale held in August of 2008. I was told by Steve Moskowitz that some individuals would be coming by to look at some of the things that we had left over and to take anything that they offered or just give it away to get rid of it and clear out the store space. Two men came in and took a few small items but said that most of the items were things that they could not use. I was just about to lock the doors and a woman asked if there were any mattresses that she could have. I explained that there were and that there were some headboards and frames that went with them also. She said that she could not afford such luxuries but she was willing to pay for a mattress. I said that would be fine and asked if she had someone to help her transport the mattress. She asked if I could wait a few minutes and she would go and get her husband to help her.

She walked off to the south and in a few minutes came back that way with a man and three small girls. They gave me a few dollars and asked which mattress they could take. I asked if they just needed one and the father said that would do for now until he found work and could pay for more house needs. I asked how far they were going to have to carry the mattress and they said just under a mile. It was in the direction that I was going home so I offered to take the mattress and the five of them home. They did not want to put me out but I convinced them that it was no bother. We got to the apartments and I insisted to help the father carry the mattress up the stairs. As we walked into the apartment I could not help noticing that it was really bare of furnishings. They had a small table in the breakfast area a couple of chairs and that was about all. We moved the mattress to one of the two bedrooms and I noticed a blanket on the floor. The oldest girl proudly said that that was my sisters and my bed before now.

Continue on next page

Calendar of Events



Purim Carnival

Feb 27th Setup and/or
Feb 28th Carnival Booth Fun & Cleanup w/Scouts

Come join the guys as we gather to help the setup the Purim Carnival on Saturday, Feb 27. And then thanks to the generous contribution of Steve Gordon and Al's Formalwear, Brotherhood will feature a fun and exciting new booth at the Purim Carnival. Kids of all ages & sizes will enter our wind booth to catch money for prizes! Come help join the fun with this year's Purim Carnival!



Real Men Make Chocolate Matzah!

Sunday, March 28th 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Join the guys in the kitchen where we'll have fun making & eating chocolate matzahs with all the toppings. Just a day before Passover, you'll be able to box up these treats for your seder! You'll be a hero at your seder for bringing these yummy treats!



Sponsor Young Professionals Breakfast

Wednesday, Feb 17th 7:00 a.m. at Kenny & Ziggy's

Join the Young Professionals for breakfast & networking at this breakfast with Speaker David Barish, President of Chair King and President of The American Jewish Committee's Houston Chapter.

Congregant of the Year

Thursday, April 29th

Nominations are now being accepted for Congregant of the Year, which is sponsored and hosted by Brotherhood. If you wish to help coordinate this year's event, or send in a nomination of a Congregant, please contact brotherhoodemanuelhouston@gmail.com.

Emanu El's Got Talent

Sunday, April 25th 3:00 p.m.

Hey kids and adults, do you have any talent? Can you sing, dance, tell jokes or play an instrument? Stew Zuckerbrod and Team are coordinating this event. Please let Stew know if you want to be on the planning team. He can be reached at szckrbrd@aol.com. We need your help to be successful, and it's a great way to get involved, meet people and have fun!



Advisory Board:

Mark Arnold
Richard Braverman
Paul Franks, Past President
Brad Kagan
Lewis Kalmans, Ushering
Robert Lane
Richard Lawson, Ambassador
Bruce Lessey, Social Action
Brian Loebl, Ambassador
Kyle Longhofer
Ben Miller, Secretary
Stephen Moskowitz, Garage Sale
Ron Nodler
Alex Pliskin, Treasurer
Phil Rivers
David Rosenfeld, Vice President
David Silverman, Historian
Keith Solomon
Richard Stanley
Scott Vines, President
Syd Waldman
Roger Williams, Garage Sale
Scott Zeitz, Ambassador

And YOU if you want.
Just let us know.

Currently looking for Program
Chairs or Co-Chairs

brotherhoodemanuelhouston@gmail.com
713-249-0971

Brotherhood Status:

- More than 125 Paid Members!
- Account Balance More than Doubled
- Great Mix of New Members & Veterans
- Dues \$40 Can Be Sent To: Congregation Emanu El
Attn: Brotherhood
1500 Sunset Blvd
Houston, TX 77005

The Trust You Put in People (Continued)

We laid the mattress down and she quickly covered it with the blanket. I explained that the Brotherhood was just trying to get rid of the stuff that had been generously donated to us by our congregants and I would be glad to bring some more furniture and kitchen goods that they could use. They said yes, but when they had the money they would pay me for the stuff. I went back to the site and picked up two additional beds, a sofa, coffee table, dresser, four chairs, dining table, some pots and pans, dishes, glasses, silverware, a couple of bowls, utensils, towels, wash clothes, and a few other things. I wanted to give them some clothing, but I had already taken the bags of clothes to Good Will. I said good bye and did not expect to hear from them again. Just over a year later (January 18, 2010) I was at HEB shopping and a family of five came up to me and asked if I was the one who was cleaning up at the Brotherhood Garage Sale last year, they looked familiar and I responded yes. The man took my hand and placed a wad of money into it and said this is the money we owe you for the generosity that you showed to us. The girls had changed, all three were smiling and laughing and gave me a big hug. Tuesday night I handed the Brotherhood President a check for \$1,000 which included a small amount that I received from other people wondering in plus interest, my dues and the \$850 from a man that I do not even know his name. There really are some great people in the world and the Brotherhood motto "Do Something That Means Something" is very true to this organization and this situation!

Message From Scott

This story moved me, as I'm sure it did others. I felt the pain of this parent and their desire to provide a soft bed for their children versus sleeping on a blanket on a hard floor. I also felt tremendous pride of our guys as they were able to help this family in their time of need, not just with furnishings, but with their time, effort and care.

This is a great reminder that Brotherhood and the events that we sponsor and participate in (see list of activities) are about helping people in need, making new friends, having fun, setting an example for our kids, experiencing Judaism outside the Sanctuary, and being a part of a greater community. It truly is about "Doing Something that Means Something".

If you are not already a member of this great organization, now is the time! Your Brotherhood is re-energized and is doing great things as you just read. It will be even greater with you!

Scott

Chicken Soup Cookoff ~ A "Souper" Day!

The 9th Annual (almost) Chicken Soup Cookoff was held on 1/24, and was a huge success! With around 40 restaurants, 1300 attendees, 17 generous sponsors, 15 Celebrity Judges and Moderator, one very thankful charity (Houston Food Bank) and lots of tasty soups, it was a great day for everyone! The Houston Food Bank will receive a check for roughly \$2,300, and the Brotherhood will receive around \$3,300. More importantly, the Temple and the Community experienced an energetic day with lots of great feelings and great press. Check out all the news coverage, photos, videos, list of winners and festivities at www.chickensoupcookoff.com. Thanks to our **Awesome Planning Committee**. Special thanks to Myra Lipper and Keith Solomon for their leadership, inspiration and expertise in bringing this amazing event back to life! And special thanks to AJ Saper for single handedly raising \$600 at the event with necklace sales and auction, and of course for entertaining the kids with his chicken hat! And to David Rosenfeld with marketing. And to Leslie Robbie and Sessy's Sweets for not only donating the yummy truffles & cupcakes, but for donating her time to help! And to Jordan Todes for being our honored Chicken, and the Scouts for all their assistance!



Cookoff Action Committee

Brotherhood: Keith Solomon – Team Lead Michael Goldstone Danny Kamin Adam Kaplan Herb Katz David Leva Scott Mermelstein Ben Miller David Rosenfeld AJ Saper Richard Stanley Scott Vines Syd Waldman Phil Rivers	Sisterhood: Fred Bleeker Franks Kathy Guttman Linda Kates Helfman PTA: Dena Linda Ila Owers Moderator: JP Pritchard Temple Support: Rabbi Haas Myra Lipper Nancy Wolf Ruben, Juan & Team
--	---

Future Events

- ~ Men's Softball League – Practices/Games Sunday Afternoons – Dates TBA
- ~ Sponsor & Attend The Young Professionals Networking Breakfast w/Speaker David Barish, President of Chair King & The American Jewish Committee Houston Chapter at Kenny & Ziggy's 7:00 a.m. 2/17/10
- ~ Purim Carnival - Setup 2/27 & Takedown 2/28/10
- ~ Real Men Make Chocolate Matzah 3/28/10 – No Cost
- ~ Emanu El's Got Talent 4/25/10 – No Cost
- ~ Congregant of the Year 4/29/10
- ~ Potluck Picnic & Play in the Park – Date TBA – No Cost
- ~ Tour of Minute Maid Park – Date TBA
- ~ Hot Dog Lunch for Helfman Religious School 5/16/10
- ~ Garage Sale - Date TBA
- ~ Ushering High Holidays 9/9 – 9/10/10, 9/18 – 9/19/10
- ~ Campout Under the Sukkah 9/24/10 – No Cost
- ~ Close Captioning for Shabbat Services - 2nd Friday/Month & High Holidays



Let's Have a Ball

Contact brotherhoodemanuelhouston@gmail.com if you're interested in playing on Emanu El's new softball team in the new Houston Jewish Men's Softball League. Games & Practices Sunday afternoons.