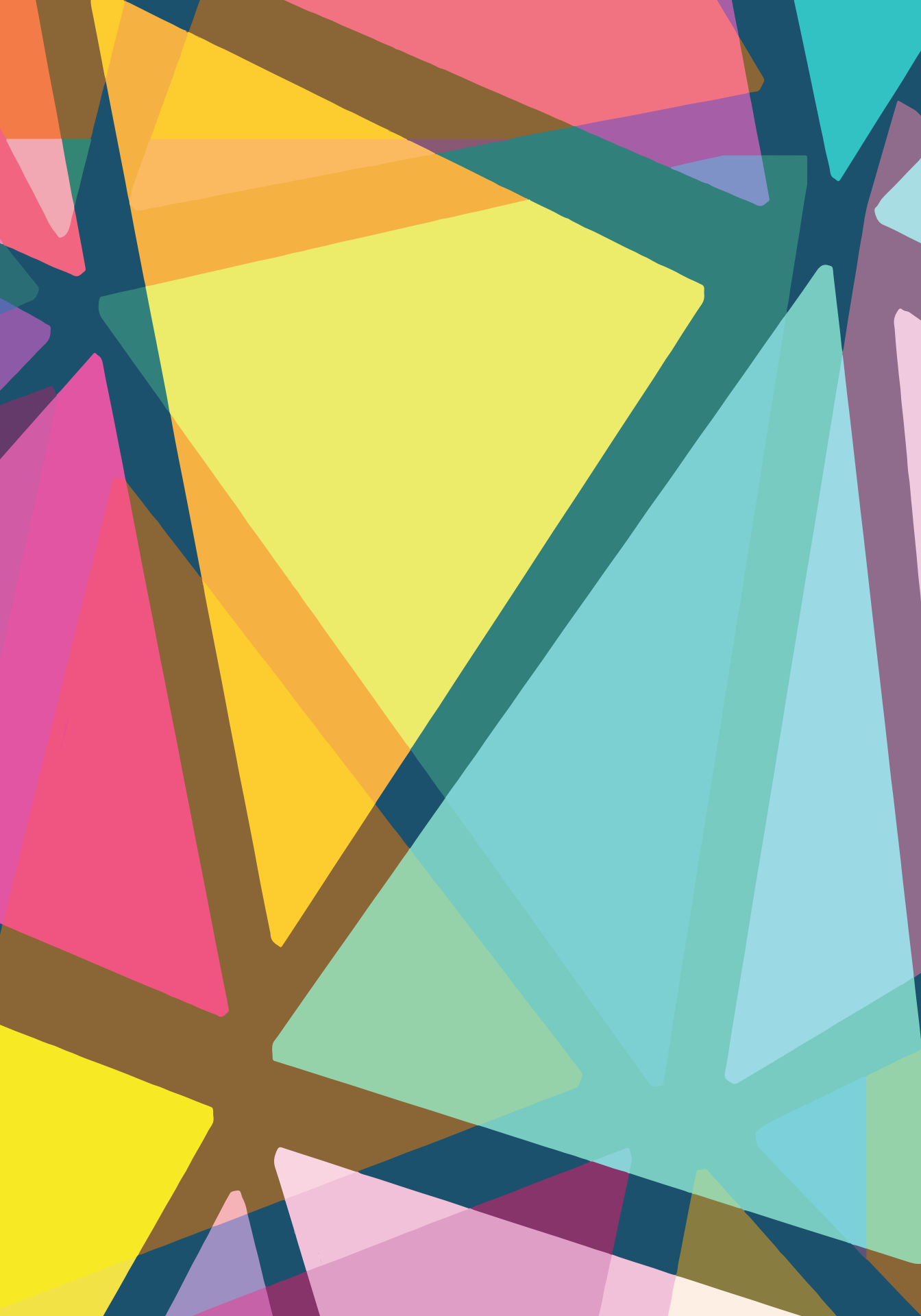


High Holy Days

2026
5787



Congregation Emanu El



Welcome

Dear Friends,

Every autumn, as the Days of Awe draw near, we return to the Psalmist's plea: "One thing I ask of the Eternal, only this do I seek: to dwell in God's house all the days of my life." (Psalm 27:4) For generations, Jews have recited these words throughout the season of repentance, giving voice to our timeless longing to make God's presence a place we can call home.

This year, that ancient yearning takes on a new meaning for our congregation: As the High Holy Days arrive, we will have our first opportunity to see the new Jerold B. Katz Family Center for Jewish Education. Stepping into this remarkable new facility together, in this sacred season of renewal and return, will be a homecoming in the truest sense.

A home, of course, is not defined by its walls but by the warmth offered within them. In that spirit, this year's holiday observances will be filled with cherished longstanding traditions and some meaningful new ways to gather and to belong. In this 250th year of American independence, we will explore the American Jewish story throughout the season: in a S'lichot concert celebrating Jewish American composers, in a conversation among Houston faith leaders about their hopes for the country's next chapter, and in an aliyah honoring our congregation's military veterans. And we will rejoice as the embrace of our community widens further still, when we extend special blessings for those who have chosen Judaism and for the beloved non-Jewish family members whose presence enriches us all.

As you explore the pages that follow, we invite you to reflect on the spiritual invitations that Psalm 27 issues to all of us at this season: For what are you searching this year? Which parts of your life are you longing to repair and which parts of yourself are you hoping to strengthen? What kind of dwelling do you wish to build for yourself and your loved ones in the year ahead?

In just a few short weeks, our whole congregational community will cross the threshold of our renewed spiritual home together for the very first time. Our entire clergy and staff team joins me in our eagerness to greet you there, to welcome you warmly, and to share the awe and joy of these holy days with you and those you love.

May 5787 bring each of us — and the spiritual home we share together — a bountiful measure of blessing, renewal, and peace.

**With every blessing,
Rabbi Oren Hayon, Rabbi Pamela Silk,
Rabbi Joshua Fixler, Cantor Rollin Simmons**



General Information

DIGITAL PASSES

Emanu El will again be using digital passes for High Holy Day services.

You must be a member in good standing to receive High Holy Day passes. Each adult member of your household will receive one digital pass via email which may be used for all High Holy Day services. If only one member of your household has an email address in Shulcloud, passes for all adults will be emailed to that address. Emails will be sent from orders@simpletix.com to the email address in your ShulCloud account. Please add this email address to your contacts.

You can print your pass at home or save it on your phone to be scanned when you arrive for services. Passes can also be saved to your Apple Wallet or Google Wallet. Your name will be on your pass; passes are NOT transferrable. Please remember to bring your cell phones or printed versions of your digital passes. Only individuals with High Holy Day passes will be permitted entry to the Emanu El campus.

We welcome members of the community who have moved to Houston since last High Holy Days. Please ask them to contact Lisa Damen (lisad@emanuelhouston.org or 713.529.5771) to arrange for newcomer passes.

GUEST PASSES

Members in good standing may purchase up to four guest passes at \$180 each and non-members who wish to attend services may purchase passes for \$360 each. Passes are valid for all High Holy Day services.

RECIPROCITY

If you're planning to travel during the High Holy Days, reciprocal seating is available at Union for Reform Judaism (URJ)-affiliated synagogues. The URJ's HHD Courtesy Seating Request Form is available online: <https://urj.tfaforms.net/forms/view/76/>

Contact Lisa Damen (lisad@emanuelhouston.org or 713.529.5771) if you have issues with the form OR if you plan to attend services at a non-URJ synagogue.

PARKING

Levels 1 and 2 of the Gaylor Parking Facility are reserved for accessible parking. Accessible drop-off will be available at the Sunset (South) Lobby; the driver will then park in the Gaylor Parking Facility. Buses will run continuously between satellite parking and Emanu El. Space is limited and we encourage you to park offsite.

Parking for Erev Rosh HaShanah, Rosh HaShanah, Kol Nidre will be at the Medical Clinic at 1707 Sunset Blvd. The parking garage entrance is located on Rice Blvd. Overflow parking for Yom Kippur is being finalized; we will share the location as soon as it's confirmed.

For those attending our Tashlich service, parking is available at the Evelyn Rubenstein JCC. Emanu El is not providing bus transportation.

CHILDCARE

Childcare for children ages 15 months to 8 years is available during Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur Morning Services, beginning 30 minutes prior to the start of services and ending immediately at the conclusion of services. Advance registration by September 4th is required: emanuelhouston.org/childcare.

HUNGER APPEAL

Congregation Emanu El's longstanding commitment to fighting hunger is made possible year after year by our congregants' generous contributions to the High Holy Day Hunger Appeal. Donations will support emergency food needs in the Houston area, our partners in the community helping to fight hunger and our ongoing service projects with Kids' Meals and SEARCH. Please consider joining our collective efforts to help battle hunger by contributing to the High Holy Day Hunger Appeal at emanuelhouston.org/hhdhungerappeal or by mailing a check to the congregation.

LIVE STREAMING

High Holy Day services will be live-streamed three ways:

- Emanu El Website: emanuelhouston.org/watch
- Facebook: facebook.com/emanuelhouston
- YouTube: youtube.com/emanuelhoustonvideo

Archived videos of services, musical selections, and sermons will be available at the same digital locations.

ACCESSIBILITY

Accessible seating is available for High Holy Day services, but seats must be reserved by Friday, August 28. Please contact Tobi Flick (tobif@emanuelhouston.org or 713.529.5771) and include the service(s) you plan to attend. Those requesting accessible seating may be granted a maximum of four additional seats for family members. Please note this seating will be released 15 minutes prior to the beginning of services.

The Barish Sanctuary is equipped with an Induction Loop System which transmits audio signals directly to one's telecoil (T-coil)-equipped hearing aid.

Emanu El will provide closed captioning for all Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur services in the Barish Sanctuary except for the children's services.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Members of the synagogue staff will be available during weekday business hours and during our High Holy Day worship services to provide assistance. If you need technical support, please call 713.529.5771.

High Holy Days Schedule

S'LICHOT

Saturday, September 5

Music at Emanu El Concert | 7:30 p.m.

Dessert Reception | 8:30 p.m.

S'lichot Service | 9:00 p.m.

ROSH HASHANAH

Friday, September 11

Kick-off Reception | 5:00 p.m.

Rejoice & Renew Evening Service | 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 12

Children's Service | 9:00 a.m.

Morning Service | 10:30 a.m.

Tashlich | 1:00 p.m.

(Brays Bayou, across from
Evelyn Rubenstein JCC)

OUTDOOR FAMILY EXPERIENCE

Sunday, September 13 | 9:00 a.m.

Nature Discovery Center
(7112 Newcastle St.)

CEMETERY SERVICE

Sunday, September 13 | 5:00 p.m.

Emanu El Memorial Park
(8341 Bissonnet St.)

SHABBAT SHUVAH

Friday, September 18 | 6:00 p.m.

Oneg to Follow

YOM KIPPUR

Sunday, September 20

Kol Nidre | 7:30 p.m.

Monday, September 21

Children's Service | 9:00a.m.

Morning Service | 10:30 a.m.

Afternoon Experiences | 12:45 p.m.

Healing & Wholeness | 3:30 p.m.

Yizkor & N'ilah | 4:30 p.m.

Break The Fast | 6:45 p.m.

SUKKOT ON SUNSET

Sunday, September 27 | 12:00 p.m.

SIMCHAT TORAH

Friday, October 2 | 6:00 p.m.

Simchat Torah Service, Dinner & Learning

Saturday, October 3 | 10:30 a.m.

Simchat Torah Festival Service & Yizkor

High Holy Days

S'LICHOT

Saturday, September 5

Music at Emanu El

Shepherd School of Music Concert | 7:30 p.m.

\$18 General Admission for Concert Only

Jewish Voices, American Sounds

In recognition of the nation's 250th anniversary, this program highlights the contributions of Jewish American composers to the country's musical landscape. Through the works of Gershwin, Copland, Bernstein, and others, the concert celebrates the diverse voices that continue to define the American sound.

Dessert Reception | 8:30 p.m.

S'lichot Service | 9:00 p.m.

We begin the season of repentance with the observance of S'lichot. Each year we gather on the Saturday evening before Rosh HaShanah to reflect on the past year and the changes we wish to make in the upcoming one. Our service this year will include Maya Zemach, cello, and Isaac Foreman, piano, to enhance this intimate and reflective experience.

ROSH HASHANAH

Friday, September 11

Kick-Off Reception | 5:00 p.m.

Gather with friends and loved ones before services to celebrate the new year together over refreshments and hors d'oeuvres enhanced by our organ and professional and volunteer choirs.

Rejoice & Renew Evening Service | 6:00 p.m.

Sermon by Rabbi Oren Hayon

Join us for a High Holy Day service that blends tradition with inspiration. Featuring the timeless prayers and evocative poetry of our High Holy Day prayerbook, Mishkan HaNefesh, this service will be elevated by the powerful voices of our cantor and a specially assembled vocal and instrumental ensemble. Together, they will lead us in familiar and magnificent melodies that beautifully express the awe, joy, and spiritual grandeur of the New Year.

Saturday, September 12

Children's Service | 9:00 a.m.

Designed for children 8 and under and their families, this lively and fun service highlights the themes and rituals of the holiday.

Morning Service | 10:30 a.m.

Sermon by Rabbi Joshua Fixler

This intergenerational service combines familiar music and prayers with beautiful liturgical writing and stirring poetry. You will also experience an inspiring and engaging collection of music enhanced by our professional choir and organ.

3rd through 5th grade students are invited to pray with their parents for the first half of the service. They will then be led to a unique, age-appropriate Torah experience facilitated by our teen leaders and Helfman Religious School staff. Pre-registration is required: emanuelhouston.org/rh2026-youth.

Tashlich | 1:00 p.m.

We set aside some time as Rosh HaShanah concludes to gather and symbolically cast our sins into the water while singing and reflecting together. We will ensure our new year gets off to a sweet start by celebrating Tash-LICK, our annual addition of an ice cream truck!

Special Blessings & Honors

On these High Holy Days, we will offer these special honors:

- An aliyah (Torah blessing) on Rosh HaShanah for military veterans, with gratitude for their service and in celebration of America's 250 years of independence.
- An aliyah (Torah blessing) on Yom Kippur for people who have chosen Judaism through the rituals of conversion.
- A special blessing on Yom Kippur for the non-Jewish family members who enrich the vitality of our community.

OUTDOOR FAMILY EXPERIENCE

Sunday, September 13 | 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

To complement our High Holy Day Children's Services, families with children in 2nd grade or younger are invited to join Emanu El clergy and staff for an outdoor experience featuring a storybook walk. Space is limited, so advance registration is required. Registration: emanuelhouston.org/outdoor

CEMETERY SERVICE

Sunday, September 13 | 5:00 p.m.

Memorial Sermon by Rabbi Pamela Silk

We invite all to join together in the beautiful, serene surroundings of Emanu El Memorial Park to remember our dear ones.

SHABBAT SHUVAH

Friday, September 18 | 6:00 p.m.

Hear a message of inspiration to deepen your spiritual and moral explorations on this very special Shabbat between Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. Our member Sarah Labowitz will share the inspiring story of her involvement with Houston Shine, a soccer club for female refugees from Afghanistan.

YOM KIPPUR

Sunday, September 20

Kol Nidre Service | 7:30 p.m.

Sermon by Rabbi Oren Hayon

This service, on the holiest night of the year, will feature the contemplative prayers and stirring music unique to this holiday. They will be accompanied by Yuri McCoy on organ and our professional choir and include the poignant setting of Kol Nidre played by Brinton Smith, Principal Cellist of the Houston Symphony.

Monday, September 21

Children's Service | 9:00 a.m.

Designed for children 8 and under and their families, this service offers engaging music, prayers, and stories that will encourage families to reflect on how we can be our best selves.

Morning Service | 10:30 a.m.

Sermon by Rabbi Pamela Silk

This service will be led by our clergy, accompanied by our organ and professional and volunteer choirs. Through stirring music and meaningful prayer, we will reflect on the themes of repentance and forgiveness.

3rd through 5th grade students are invited to pray with their parents for the first half of the service. They will then will be led to a unique, age-appropriate Torah experience facilitated by our teen leaders and Helfman Religious School staff. Pre-registration is required: emanuelhouston.org/yk2026-youth.

Faithful Visions for America | 12:45 p.m.

A discussion between Rabbi Hayon and other Houston religious leaders, reflecting on America's 250 years of history and sharing their visions for its next chapter.

Elective Blocks | 1:40 p.m.

See next page for details.

Healing & Wholeness | 3:30 p.m.

Cantor Rollin Simmons & Rabbi Pamela Silk

Find restoration and strength through poetry, song, and prayer.

Yizkor & N'ilah | 4:30 p.m.

Sermon by Rabbi Oren Hayon

We will bring our holidays to a close with an opportunity to honor and remember our dear ones, the final confessions of N'ilah, and the sweetness of Havdalah that marks the separation between the penitential season and the promising new year ahead.

Break The Fast | 6:45 p.m.

Join us as we break the fast as a community with a restorative meal.

Generously sponsored by the Roth and Glauben Family, in loving memory of Evelyn and Franklin Roth and Michelle Roth Glauben

ELECTIVES BLOCK I | 1:40–2:25 p.m.

Let's Discuss: What Does it Mean To Be a Jew in America Today?

Rabbi Pamela Silk

Join Rabbi Silk for meaningful small group conversations with fellow congregants as we explore the personal and collective experience of being Jewish at this pivotal moment in history. Together, we'll reflect on questions and stories of identity, responsibility, and belonging. Come share your thoughts, listen deeply, and engage in heartfelt dialogue.

Weighing the Heart: Ancient Egypt and The Soul of Yom Kippur

Lucy Mosbacher

Did you know that 3,200 years before our mahzor was written, the ancient Egyptians had their own version of the Yom Kippur confession? In this session, we'll explore the Negative Confession from the Egyptian Book of the Dead — and discover just how much it illuminates the liturgy we recite every High Holy Day season. The parallels are striking, surprising, and spiritually rich. Come ready to see the words of the Day of Atonement with fresh eyes.

Art Session: Who am I now?

Join artist Roberta Harris in a workshop to creatively explore the question of who we are in this moment. Inspired by works of art by well-known artists, we will use a variety of materials to make our own masterpieces!

All levels of artistic experience are welcome, but we request your advance registration as space will be limited for this unique opportunity. Registration: emanuelhouston.org/ykart

Musical Contemplation

A string quartet of Rice University Shepherd School musicians will create space for personal contemplation and meditation on the themes of the holiday.

ELECTIVES BLOCK II | 2:35–3:20 p.m.

Meditation

Ann Friedman

In our meditation session, we will explore our personal relationships in which we have experienced tension or conflict. Using meditation practices based on Jewish teachings, we will practice compassion for ourselves and for other people with whom we share relationships. This can shift our mindsets to move beyond difficulty and find our way toward healing.

Art Session

Continued from Block 1

Sabbatical Gleanings

Rabbi Oren Hayon

During his recent sabbatical, Rabbi Hayon spent time studying religious writing from ancient Babylonia. In this session, we will explore some of these strange and delightful texts—among the world's oldest!—and explore the surprising ways they touch on themes and ideas of the High Holy Days.

Voting Rights are Civil Rights

Emanu El Votes

Voting is a Jewish value. Join Emanu El Votes, Rabbi Joshua Fixler, and special guest speakers for an illuminating conversation about the intersection of voting rights and civil rights. Learn what you can do to help protect the voting rights of marginalized communities.

SUKKOT & SIMCHAT TORAH

Friday, September 25

Sangria in the Sukkah | 7:00 p.m.

Following Kabbalat Shabbat, you're invited to an Oneg featuring sangria, light bites and desserts.

Sunday, September 27

Sukkot on Sunset | 12:00 p.m.

Bring the family, grab your friends, and join us for a joyful Sukkot Block Party! Come and experience the warmth of the Sukkah and the special magic that happens when our community comes together. We'll begin at noon with a brief service, followed by lunch and block party festivities!

Friday, October 2 | 6:00 p.m.

Simchat Torah Service, Dinner & Learning

Join us for a special Simchat Torah celebration! We will unroll the Torah as a community and highlight well-known stories and moments with popular songs, accompanied by our band. This will be a lively and family-friendly service. We will march with the Torah to join in a festive meal together. After dinner, we will continue our celebration of Torah with a learning session led by Gary Weisserman, Chief Executive Officer of Holocaust Museum Houston.

Saturday, October 3 | 10:30 a.m.

Simchat Torah Festival Service & Yizkor

In this festival service, we read the end of Deuteronomy and begin again with Genesis as the annual cycle begins anew. The service will include prayers of Yizkor, a beautiful and meaningful way to remember our dear ones.





Congregation Emanu El
emanuelhouston.org/hhd2026
713.529.5771