

FEBRUARY 2025

SHEVAT 5785

VOLUME LIV - NUMBER 5

SHABBAT CELEBRATIONS

SECURITY PROVIDED AT ALL IN PERSON SHABBAT SERVICES - FRIDAY SERVICES ALSO AVAILABLE ON ZOOM

Saturday - February 1, 2025
<u>Shabbat Morning Service - 10:00 a.m Baby Naming of Hannah Amelia Venegas</u>
Led by Cantor Bern-Vogel -
Parashat Bo - פרשת בא Exodus 10:1-13:16
Haftarah -II Samuel 7:18-29



Friday - February 7, 2025 - 6:30 p.m. - Shabbat Shirah
Led by Cantor Bern-Vogel with the Congregation Emanu El Choir
Oneg hosted by Ilene and David Mino in memory of Ilene's parents, Janice Carol Fingerut
and Gerald Fingerut
Saturday - February 8, 2025
Torah Study - 9:15 a.m.
Shabbat Morning Service - 10:00 a.m.
Led by Cantor Bern-Vogel
Parashat Beshalach - פרשת בְשָלח - Exodus 13:17-17:16
Haftarah - Joshua 3:9-17, 4:19-24



Friday - February 14, 2025 - 6:30 p.m. Led by Michele and Paul Zipperstein Oneg hosted by Roberta and Phil Gold in honor of Valentine's Day Saturday - February 15, 2025 Parashat Yitro - פרשת יתרו - Exodus 18:1-20:23 Haftarah - Ezekiel 16:4-14



Friday - February 21, 2025 - 6:30 p.m. - Reproductive Health Rights Shabbat -Guest Speaker Kristin Booth Led by Cantor Bern-Vogel Oneg Shabbat hosted by Sisterhood in appreciation of Judy Filsinger and Robert O'Rourke Saturday - February 22, 2025 Parashat Mishpatim - פרשת מְשָׁבָּטִים - Exodus 21:1-24:18 Haftarah - Joshua 24:16-28



Friday - February 28, 2025 - 6:30 pm Led by Michele and Paul Zipperstein Oneg Shabbat hosted by Julie and Mark Strain in honor of Julie's mother, Francine Wixen's birthday Saturday - March 1, 2025 Parashat Terumah - פרשת תְרוּמָה - Exodus 25:1-27:19 Haftarah - II Kings 12:1-17



and Luncheon Saturday, March 1, 2025 - 10:00 a.m. Join us for an abbreviated Shabbat morning service followed by a luncheon sponsored by our Sisterhood welcoming our new members of Congregation Emanu El.

New Member Welcome Shabbat

February 2025

Cantorial Comments

SHABBAT SHIRAH & JEWISH EARTH DAY!! Shabbat in Song – beautiful music enhanced by our CEE Choir

And....

Tu B'Shvat Seder at 10 a.m. Sunday, February 9, 2025

February abounds in Music & Celebration. These days, we need all the inspiration and positivity we can get. What better holiday to come together as a community than the Birthday of the Trees – TU B'SHVAT – celebrating the first fruits of the trees. Tu B'shvat [the 15^{th} of Sh'vat] is on Thursday, February 13^{th} this year, but we will celebrate together on Sunday, February 9^{th} . We will also visit the Israeli garden that is beginning to sprout with

the beautiful bulbs sent by our Israeli family, Meytal, Regev, Bar and Aviv Gamliel and dedicate this section of the garden in their honor! This holiday is an opportunity to reconnect with the environment, a reminder of how precious our Earth is and how we must do our small part to take care of it. I know most of us are familiar with the following story, but it bears repeating as often as possible, especially after the devastating L.A. fires last month. We will be rebuilding and replanting for years to come...

In the Talmud, the story about planting for one's children tells of a man named Honi who sees another man planting a carob tree and asks how long it will take to bear fruit. The man replies "seventy years". Honi questions if he is sure he will live that long, to which the man responds that he is planting for his children, just as his ancestors planted for him, highlighting the idea of providing for future generations through thoughtful actions like planting trees.

And right after the celebration of the Trees...

Beginning at 11 a.m. on Sunday, February 9, 2025

Plan to stay for the 'END OF LIFE' Session with Esther Wong, for Part I of our Adult Ed Series

Esther will be there to answer all the questions you have regarding getting your affairs in order, concerns about Elder Care, Trusts, etc.etc. Ms. Wong is highly recommended by our own Paul Shimoff!!

Please join us in Celebration, Learning and Song!

Cantor Jennifer Bern-Vogel

ANNOUNCING Adult Ed - 2025

END OF LIFE SERIES or 'Where there's Will....there's a Way.'

February 9th, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 [following Tu B'shvat Seder] - Elder and Estate Lawyer, Esther Wong, will discuss affordable Wills and Trusts.

<u>March 9th, 10:30 a.m.-12 noon</u> - Past President and Cemetery Chair, Paul Zipperstein, will discuss and answer any and all questions related to cemetery planning and arrangements.

April 6th, 10:30 a.m.-12 noon - Cantor Jennifer Bern-Vogel and Congregation Emanu El member Nancy Sidhu will be co-leading the long-awaited Death Cafe. At a Death Cafe people drink tea, eat cake and discuss death, with the aim of increasing awareness of death without any objectives, themes or agenda.





Presidential Perspectives



I am excited to share with you a few important updates that reflect both our continued growth and the strength of our community, especially in these challenging times.

Security Fence Construction Has Begun

As you know, our temple campus has always been a

place where we come together in worship, learning, and fellowship. To ensure the safety and security of all who gather here, we are pleased to announce that construction on our long-anticipated security fence has begun. This project has been made possible by a generous grant from the State of California, and we are deeply grateful for this support. This addition will provide a more secure environment for our congregation, allowing us to continue our work in a safe and welcoming space for all.

Rabbi Search Update

We are also pleased to inform you that we are preparing to submit our application to the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) as part of our ongoing search for a permanent Rabbi. This is an exciting next step in our congregational journey, and we remain committed to finding a spiritual leader who will help guide us, inspire us, and continue to nurture our Congregation Emanu El family. We offer immense gratitude to Co-Vice Presidents, Amanda Ramirez and Scott Wilkie for leading our rabbinic search.

Community Resilience in Troubling Times

Recent fires to the West serve as a stark reminder of how quickly our lives can change. In moments of crisis, we are reminded of the importance of staying connected as a community. The trials we face, whether personal or communal, underscore the profound need to lean on one another for support, compassion, and strength. Our community is built on shared values and the love we have for one another. In times of uncertainty, we must remember that we are never alone; together, we find the resilience to weather any storm.

We are stronger when we come together in prayer, action, and care. Let us continue to be a source of light for each other, and a beacon of hope to our community in times of darkness.

Thank You for Your Continued Support

As always, we are grateful for your unwavering support and involvement in the life of our congregation. Whether through your contributions, your volunteer work, or simply by being present, each of you plays a vital role in making this community what it is. We are truly blessed to walk this path together.



Treasurer's Report



Happy February! A short month with lots happening at Congregation Emanu El. We have a special Shabbat Shirah on February 7th. On Sunday, February 9th we have two events; first a Tu B'Shvat seder at 10:00 a.m.; this is open to everyone and provides a great time to learn

about Tu B'Shvat and enjoy the fruits of the trees! After the seder we have the first of our Adult Ed series speaker, Esther Wong who will discuss Wills and Trusts.

On Monday, February 17th, we will be hosting Sisterhood's annual Mah Jongg tournament with over 60 players from all over Southern California attending. It is THE most popular tournament because our Sisterhood ladies serve delicious food, gives a lot of great prizes and offers a lot of fun for all!

Again we have two events on Wednesday, February 19th. Our Seniors for Seniors Luncheon will be at 11:45 a.m. with a fun filled interactive trivia afternoon on February 19th. That evening we have the Rabbi Norman F. Feldheym Memorial Lecture featuring Rabbi Michael Berk, who grew up in our congregation.

There will be a very special, and timely, Shabbat Service on February 21st where we bring awareness to Reproductive Rights. Kristin Booth will be our guest speaker. Please plan on being there and learning about how you can support this important Jewish value.

You will find more detailed information about all our February events throughtout this Bulletin.

Couple of "Save the Dates" for March: Saturday March 1st will be the resheduled New Member Welcome Shabbat, and on March 14th our Over the Rainbow Shabbat Purim Celebration.

Tax Statements were sent out in January. If you did not receive your statement please let Judy or myself now.

Julie Strain

jbstrain1130@gmail.com

Board of Directors Thursday, February 20, 2025 7:00 pm All are welcome

Sisterhood Meeting Sunday, February 2, 2025 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. All are welcome



Mental Health Awareness in Action Room to Breathe

A rather dark green room, not like most rooms in art museums, and looking about we can hardly see many works of art. But this is in a museum, one in Manchester, England, and it has a purpose that differs from ones we're used to. The 3 paintings on the walls are not trying to wow us or overwhelm us with their profundity. Yet they are trying to do something, something Louise Thompson, a museum consultant, thinks we really need.

The name of the room says it well – "Room to Breathe." Yes, this is where we can slow down, leave the constant visual and sound rush and crush of our lives and regain focus, as she says, be "single-minded" and aware. The Room to Breathe is designed to be part of a "mindful museum." The museum even provides a guided meditation we can listen to. Thompson firmly believes such museums can improve our mental health.

"Museums are places where social connection thrives in lots of ways.....connection with our identity, through seeing objects ...which help us grow a sense of ourselves and of belonging." So, sitting quietly before one of the 3 paintings and allowing ourselves to focus and linger on it, we find much more than we could ever grasp with a noisy cursory glance. We begin to inhabit where we are at this time, and we find that it and we are fuller and more expansive than we realized. As Thompson says, "The more I look, the more I see." And "It's about paying attention to what you can see in front of you....relaxing." And with that kind of attention somehow our well-being and engagement rise, tension falls away, and somehow we feel inclined to chat with someone else nearby, and our muscles seem to soften.

Thompson would love us to create different kinds of rooms to breathe, maybe with historical objects in them. Mindfulness seems to enhance our experience with everything, calms us, helps us think more clearly and see beauty where before we were too rushed.

The Manchester Art Gallery isn't the only place that has taken the Mindful Museum approach. There's a similar room at the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam. Where next?

But one thing is clear - slowing down, paying lingering attention, helps us with our own mental well-being.

Nancy Sidhu and Heidi Nimmo, Co-Chairs, Mental Health Awareness In Action (MHAIA)

Sisterhood Speaks



"So, do you feel lucky?" by my hero, Clint Eastwood. Why did I start with this? Well, our first and only fundraiser for our Synagogue and Sisterhood is coming up February 17th. We hope that you will help

us with our guests that day trying to win the most important tile game in China! You saw the movie, "Crazy Rich Asians". The game looks amazing and complicated and Sisterhoods all over California love it too. Even at a conference that celebrates Sisterhood Women the first thing that you get to sign up for is a Mahjong Game!!! Now, I need to confess that I need to learn the rules of Mahjong before our big fundraiser. We are going to have a special class on Mahjong at our first meeting on February 2nd. If you would like to know how to play, come on down to our meeting from 12-1 pm and then a Mahjong class that follows. If you want to come, please tell Judy at the office that you are interested. Also, if anyone would like to donate items we can use for a gift raffle basket at the tournament, please contact Lori Fenster by February 7th.

Hope to see you soon, your Mahjong student,

Deborah Schwartz

Sisterhood President dtschwartz54@yahoo.com

From Our School for Jewish Living

"Be strong as a lion when you wake up in the morning to serve your Creator."

February is a month for reflecting on all the love and goodness our children have in their lives. The past month presented too much sad news for our students to witness. Therefore, this month we will emphasize the roots of our Jewish values and virtues while defining how our acts can make the world a better place. Recognizing the good in people and situations may counter the feelings of sadness we feel watching the news or hearing of friends and family in despair. We hope that in thoughtful activities and discussions of hakarat hatov the cycle of "action" (seeing gratitude and appreciation) and response (acting upon one's responsibilities as a gifted/blessed person to help others) builds a foundation of self support for our students. We will also dig deeper in our first conscious moments when we wake up in the morning and how we thank God for the gift of life. Our Modeh-Ani.

Please join the Congregation and School for Jewish Living to celebrate a short Tu B'Shevat Seder on Sunday, Feb. 9th from 10:00 -11:00 a.m.

With Hope, Miss Ilene & Miss Karyn

Hanukkah Celebrations

SJL Pokemon Hannukah Party

Light-Up the Night - Downtown Redlands



February 2025

JOIN US! Congregation Emanu El Sisterhood Invites You to Play in Our 14th Annual Mah Jongg Tournament!]			
Presidents Day - Monday, February 17, 2025 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM \$50 per player	1			
Congregation Emanu El 1495 Ford Street, Redlands – 909-307-0400 Questions: Call Julie Strain: 951-317-2003 or email jbstrain1130@gmail.com Send Registration by Friday, February 7 th				
Please return this portion with check for \$50.00 payable to: <u>Sisterhood</u> by February 7 th Mail to: Julie Strain, 6383 Emmerton Lane, Highland, CA 92346				
Name: Phone:				
Address:				
City: Zip: I will bring Mah Jongg set (include pushers & dice)				
I will be East (remain at one table/keep score)				

Thank you God for creating the fruit tree.



Please join us for a **Tu B'Shvat Seder Sunday, February, 9th at 10:00 a.m.** with the children and families of SJL.

Just as at a Passover seder, symbolic foods are eaten in a special order in celebration of the important role trees play in our life. It's traditional to eat Israeli fruits, such as figs, dates, and carobs.

Engage and learn about Tu B'Shvat with a sampling of different types of fruits and nuts, juice, and challah.

We will review the blessing we say before eating fruit with the children, *borei p'ri ha'eitz*, while enjoying the morning together.



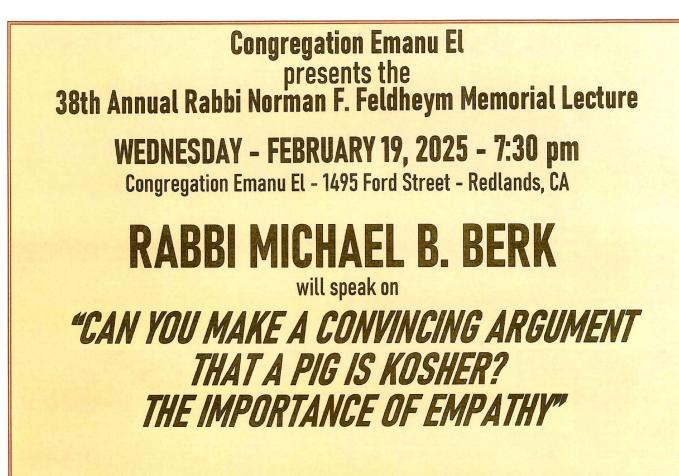
Reproductive Rights Shabbat February 21, 2025 6:30 p.m. Guest Speaker: Kristin Booth

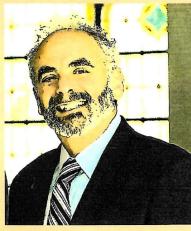
Repro Shabbat is an annual Shabbat celebration dedicated to honoring the Jewish value of reproductive freedom that will be taking place February 21-22, 2025. It aligns with Parshat Mishpatim, which contains verses that are often referenced as the foundation of Judaism's approach to reproductive health, rights, and justice.

Repro Shabbat is observed by communities around the world and is a powerful time for reflection, education, and activation towards a more just future for all.



INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN YOU!!! THEY WILL LOVE IT!!!!





Rabbi Michael Berk is the Senior Rabbi Emeritus of Congregation Beth Israel of San Diego. Rabbi Berk was born and raised in San Bernardino. He became a Bar Mitzvah (1965) and was confirmed (1968) at Congregation Emanu El. He is a graduate of Pacific High School. After receiving his B.A. degree in Political Science from UC Berkeley he studied for the rabbinate at the Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles and Cincinnati. He was ordained as a rabbi in 1978. He served congregations in San Jose, Santa Monica and Ventura and then served as the Regional Director of the Pacific Central West Council of the Union for Reform Judaism. From 2007-2019 he served as the Senior Rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel in San Diego. Upon his retirement in 2019 he was named Senior Rabbi Emeritus of that congregation. Upon their ordination in 1978 Rabbi Berk and his wife, Rabbi Aliza Berk, became the first rabbinic couple in Reform Judaism.

The Rabbi Norman F. Feldheym Memorial Lecture was established in 1985 at the time of his death by members of Congregation Emanu El as well as many friends in the wider community. Rabbi Feldheym served as rabbi of Congregation Emanu El in San Bernardino from 1937 to 1971 and as Rabbi Emeritus from 1971 until his death. He was actively involved in the greater Inland Empire community and known as a leader in interfaith activities.



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - NO CHARGE

SISTERHOOD GIFT SHOP

DON'T MISS THIS SALE



During the month of February, all jewelry, Naked Bee, and Mahjong merchandise, valued at more than \$10, will be sold at 40% off our retail price.

FOR ONE DAY ONLY, February 17th, the day of our Mahjong Tournament, ALL MAHJONG MERCHANDISE will be 50% off the retail price.





The Gift Shop will be open on Sundays during School for Jewish Living.

Call the office (909-307-0400) to make an appointment with Gift Shop volunteers if you need to shop at times other than during SJL.

Your Sisterhood Gift Shop Team

CONGREGATION EMANU EL – FUNDRAISING WITH SCRIP PROGRAM SCRIP IS PERFECT FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS!

RaiseRight: Simply the right way to fundraise.

Raise funds by buying gift cards from RaiseRight to pay for your everyday shopping and spending year-round. Groceries, dining out, home improvement, and everything in between. It's the most convenient and effective way to fundraise because earning becomes part of your everyday life. Plus, gift cards are great for helping you to set and keep a weekly budget. It's never been easier to create opportunities for what matters most to you. No extra money spent. No extra time wasted.

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- Use gift cards at full value for your everyday purchases.
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Turn everyday shopping into fundraising dollars

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Get started today!

Create a free fundraising account on the RaiseRight mobile app or at RaiseRight.com.

Congregation Emanu El - Our Enrollment code is 477F26554739.

Have questions? Contact: Julie Strain at scrip@emanuelsb.org.

Happy Birthday!!! יום הולדת שמח

We rejoice with those whose birthdays occur in February and wish them a Mazal Tov:

6-February	Rita Cohn
6-February	Lia Robinson
7-February	Daniel Villalobos
12-February	Cheryl Sukenik
14-February	Harriet Herman
14-February	Heftsibah Cohen
16-February	Janet Rabinowitz

22-February Marjorie Brown
24-February Cantor Jennifer Bern-Vogel
25-February Gary Fenster
26-February Francine Wixen
27-February Sheryl Austin-Fischer
27-February Adelyn Durazzo
28-February Deanna Levin

Happy Anniversary!!!

We extend a hearty *Mazal Tov* to the following whose wedding anniversaries occur in the month of February:

3-February Lia & Mark Robinson6-February Emily & Craig Beasley9-February Karyn & Stephen Lehmann

15-February Donna & Gregory Spears 19-February Marjorie & Neil Brown



We Gratefully Acknowledge

We gratefully acknowledge these contributions to our various temple funds:

TEMPLE FUND

In observance of the Yahrzeits of ... Guenther Rimbach by Michelle Anctil Belle Kantor by Claudette Guy Albert Weiss by Ellen Weiss Norman Leviant by Ellen Weiss Ethel Bitker by Ellen Weiss Milton Powell by Joyce and Barry Eskin Itzik Blumen by Alexandra and Ruben Blumen Howard Grossman by Kathleen Grossman Loretta Nave by Michelle Anctil Hal Herman by Harriet Herman Dr. Abram Hodes by Karen and Alan Hodes Becky Hanover by Norman Hanover Max Yaffe by Deborah and Daniel Schwartz Sam Schwartz by Deborah and Daniel Schwartz Yetta Schwartz by Deborah and Daniel Schwartz Chassie Nelko by Deborah and Daniel Schwartz Jean Moss by Annette and Lawrence Novack Leon Arnold by Judith Smith and Michelle Anctil Larry H. Schwartz by Pamela and Anthony Campbell

In Memory of ...

Anne Freeman by Vickie and Steve Becker Anne Freeman by Leona Aronoff-Sadacca Anne Freeman by Ellen Weiss Anne Freeman by Suan and Paul Shimoff Anne Freeman by Roberta and Phil Gold Sylvia Vogel by Ellen Weiss Janice Carol Fingerut by Vickie and Steve Becker Janice Carol Fingerut by Marlene and Larry Fingerut

In Honor of...

Susan and Paul Shimoff by Jeanne and Jeffrey Raynes **Rita and Rabbi Hillel Cohn** by Lia and Mark Robinson

CHERRIE LUBEY SISTERHOOD FLOWER FUND

In observance of the Yahrzeit of... **Mildred Weiner** by Barbara and Michael Smith **Leon Jay Darling** by Nancy Darling

WILLIAM RUSSLER MEMORIAL ARCHIVE FUND

In observance of the Yahrzeits of... Jacqueline Q. Russler by Gwynneth Q. Russler and Brian Tunney Jacqueline Q. Russler by Libby Anne. Russler, Jonathan & Isaac Saiger Jacqueline Q. Russler by Nicole Q. Russler

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In the Recovery of ... Cantor Jennifer Bern-Vogel by Joyce and Barry Eskin

Yahrzeits

The following Yahrzeits will be observed during the month of February: Those with a (\clubsuit) are inscribed on the Wall of Perpetual Memorial:

February 7-8	February 14-15	February 21-22	February 28-March 1
☆ Rose Aronoff	‡ Reuben Berkman	¢ Evelyn Berger	☆ Rose Abber
Morris Barnett	Evelyn Cohen	☆ Marianne Bern	本 Frieda E. Aronoff
	Stanley Cohen		☆ Dr. Joseph Berenbaum
Sam Charlick		Anne Darling	
✿Marcelle Cohen			☆ Beth Bernstein
☆ Florence Connell		⇔ Bette M. Finkler	☆ Tillie Birnkrant
✿Michael Craely		☆ Sam Fredason	✿Mary Black
James Darling	☆ Rhoda Fox	Abraham Goldschlager	
Sidney Edward Eliot	✿Natalie Gilbert	Daniel Gorenberg	
		¢Lillian Gottlieb	
☆Max Goodman	¢Sylvia Irom	☆ Sol Goverman	¢ Carl Cohn
☆Howard Grossman	*Arnold Kershner	☆Frances Harris	✿Harry A. Corhan
☆ Harold Hanover		 ¢ Jeannette Harris	
☆Mildred Harrison	*Betty Kress	☆ Samuel Barnett Hearsh	☆ Anna Berger Feldheym
	☆Minnie Kritzer	☆ Frank Heller	¢Lea Gilad
☆Fannie Lapides		☆ Annie Isenberg	☆ Rose Estelle Gottlieb
Anne Lebowitz	↓ Leah Levene	¢Eva Jerome	George M. Groupp
Bernice Lipsky	☆ S. Harry Litsky	☆ Muriel Kattan	
¢Fay Meyer	Steven L. Lubey	☆ Dr. Hymen Klingman	☆ Rosa Hertz
¢Rose K. Meyers	*Bernice McDonald	☆ Helene Koren	
☆ Katie Philipson			Benjamin Katzman
	Samuel Neuburger	✿Marcia Kravitz	
⇔ Oscar Salow	⇔ William H. Pass		☆ Sylva Kord
☆ Bess Shvemar	Kay Prestidge		✿Harry Langer
	Mildred Scharf		Isadore Lebowitz
	☆ Helmar Schlein	☆ Ruth Reissman	✤Marian J. Lippman
	☆Marcus Shimoff		★Marc Lubey
		Lillian Schwartz	
¢Gladys Flo Teeter	¢Lucille Venne		
	☆ Esther Zafman		*Arnold J. Raynes
*Peter Virshup		ŻEdith Tiner R.N.	
☆ David Walder			☆Harry Robin
			¢Evelyn Rose
			\$\$ Sholom Hertz Schwartz
			♦ Frances Shapiro
			¢Enia Tabatchnik
			Gerson Wolk
			• Sumuer E. Turosiow



Cantor Jennifer Bern-Vogel Hillel Cohn, Rabbi Emeritus

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Member, Union for Reform Judaism (URJ)

THE BULLETIN - CONGREGATION EMANUEL Published monthly by Congregation Emanu El, 1495 Ford Street, Redlands CA 92373. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Congregation Emanu El, 1495 Ford Street, Redlands CA 92373