



EMANUEL CONGREGATION

Brotherhood

A member of the Men of Reform Judaism

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News From the Brotherhood

L'Shanah Tovah to all from the Emanuel Congregation Brotherhood. We wish you a healthy, happy, prosperous, and safe new year.

Again this year, our hearts, our prayers, and our support are with Israel and our fellow Jews everywhere in the world and we repeat the prayer we express each year. May the leaders of all governments find a way to allow all of their citizens to worship as they choose freely and may the leaders of all governments find a way to respect the right of their neighboring country's elected leaders to govern their people as they choose.

While we reflect on our hopes for peace, we are looking forward to enjoying another year of exciting, provocative, moving, and fun events and services. There will be the usual items: the Kick-Off, the Round-Table Discussions, Ushering High Holidays, the Emanuel Second Passover Night Seder, the Brotherhood Shabbat, the Emanuel Picnic, The WRJ/Brotherhood Joint Event, and more. Look for announcements as the year progresses.

The first event this year is the Kick-Off Party for the Brotherhood members and their partners in late August. This year we are honoring our beloved Rabbi Emeritus Herman Schaalman and Lotte. In September, after the 2008 Emanuel Congregational Picnic, we start with the first of four Round-Table Discussions. The title for this first discussion is "Ask the Rabbi", where congregants will have a chance to ask Rabbi Michael Zedek questions without the restraints of topic or occasion. Next, of course, will be the High Holidays where the Brotherhood will organize and lead the Ushering. Before the end of October we will have the annual Joint Brotherhood/WRJ Event.

In July, we began the final book of the Torah, Deuteronomy. Moses retells the Jewish story, recounting the covenant with Israel. Among other things, Moses reminds Israel that he cannot make all of the many decisions needed alone and that he has set up a system of managers to help with this task. These things have not changed. The temple, it's clergy, staff, and it's lay leadership rely on the members of the congregation to stand ready to take action, make decisions, make contributions, including their talents to make Emanuel work well for everyone.

Of late, this column has devoted space to promote the idea that Emanuel is made up of many different groups and that these groups can be divided in many different ways. We have emphasized that a way that these groups bring meaning to their membership, is in the way that they reach out to people in other groups and to the Emanuel family in general. In the Brotherhood, we try to: "help men recover their roles as singers of songs and tellers of tales, help men reclaim their generative power to create memories and to answer questions."*

Once again, L'Shanah Tovah to all.

Barry Glaser and David Fleischman
Brotherhood Co-Presidents

* From *Fighting the Flight of Men* by Doug Barden