



EMANUEL CONGREGATION

Brotherhood

See our web page: <http://EmanuelBrotherhood.com>

A member of the Men of Reform Judaism

From the Brotherhood President

This fall marked my first High Holy Days as President of the Emanuel Brotherhood. It was my job to recruit volunteer ushers and organize ushering for each service. As a software consultant and trombone player, I found these tasks a little outside my realm of expertise.

Luckily, I got wonderful support from my predecessor David Fleischman and our Synagogue Director Elizabeth Cohen. I thank especially the many volunteers who so graciously agreed to usher arrivals and late attendees, helping every service run smoothly.

Since cooking and program planning are also a bit outside my comfort zone, I had lots of help organizing another Brotherhood-sponsored event: our annual picnic marking the opening of Religious School. That was a very special day for me personally, as it marked the start of Jewish education for my four-year-old daughter, Joella. She is already planning her bat mitzvah!

The theme here seems to be, "I Get By with a Little Help from My Friends." I have become more confident in my role as Brotherhood President by asking for help and benefiting from other people's talents and experience. This continues with our next program: the first of our Roundtable Discussion series. My wife, Lisa, who is a psychiatric social worker, will kick off the series on December 11 with a discussion about mental illness and the social stigma surrounding it. She has seen too many people suffer alone, afraid to ask for help. Lisa will explore common conceptions of mental illness that falsely categorize people as normal vs. abnormal. She will describe real experiences of people with various psychiatric diagnoses. You're sure to learn something new!

Also save the date for the upcoming February 12 Round Table; Ethics: Personal, Business, Political, and Religious, A Discussion.

As Jews charged with the mission of Tikkun Olam, we should all consider the help we've gotten from our family, our friends, and our communities—and in turn consider what we can give back. In particular, Emanuel Congregation cannot succeed without help from all of us. Please consider volunteering your time and talents at Emanuel.

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