

2026/5787 Yom Kippur

Symposium Speakers

Congregation Beth Israel is pleased to announce this year's Yom Kippur Symposium speakers, four inspiring Temple members who will address the prompt, "How Judaism Has Shaped My Life."



LAURIE BRICKER

Laurie Bricker is a lifelong Houstonian, educator, author, and nationally recognized leader in education policy and civic engagement. A graduate of the University of Texas and the University of Houston, she served three terms on the Houston ISD Board of Trustees, including two as president, and was appointed by Governor Rick Perry to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the State Board for Educator Certification. Laurie has served on numerous nonprofit and educational boards, founded the Jewish Women International Prejudice Awareness Summit—now the Anti-Defamation League's No Place for Hate Youth Summit—and has led workforce development initiatives across Texas. She and her husband Jeff have been married for 54 years and enjoy spending time with their two children and four grandsons.



ARTHUR GOLDBERG

Born in Brooklyn, New York, and raised in Queens, Arthur Goldberg's Jewish education and early experiences instilled a lifelong commitment to faith, family, and community. Arthur earned a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Master's degree from Baruch College, specializing in Electronic Data Processing, now known as Computer Science. Over the course of a distinguished career spanning more than four decades, Arthur worked as a programmer analyst and manager across a variety of industries, including manufacturing, consulting, healthcare, airlines, and public service with the New York City School Construction Authority. He and his wife, Gloria, have been married since 1967 and are the proud parents of two sons, Jeff and Brian. Together, they have built a life centered on family, service, and Jewish values.



HEDLEY KARPAS

Hedley Karpas was born in Pretoria, South Africa, and immigrated to the United States with his family in 1980 at the age of 16. He attended the University of Texas at Austin, where he studied Business Management. For more than four decades, Hedley has built a distinguished career as one of Houston's leading real estate professionals with a reputation for integrity, leadership, and a deep commitment to his clients and the broader community. Beyond his professional work, Hedley has served on the boards of numerous educational and community organizations, including The Shlenker School, the American Jewish Committee, and S.E.A.R.C.H., an organization dedicated to helping homeless individuals regain stability and independence. Hedley is married to Leslie Schechter Karpas, a native Houstonian, and together they have two daughters, Harlow Karpas and Alyssa Karpas Isaac.



LISA STONE

Lisa Stone is a native Texan whose lifelong commitment to Jewish education began at age 14 as a Sunday School teaching assistant. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Literature and Society from Yale University, followed by a Master of Public Health. After returning to Houston, Lisa served as Upper School Principal at Congregation Emanu El from 1992 to 2012. She currently serves as an educator with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), advancing the organization's mission to combat antisemitism and all forms of hate through education. She also teaches at Kehillah High and Beth Israel's Miriam Browning Jewish Learning Center. She and her husband, Scott Cantor, have three adult children, three daughters-in-law, and one cherished grandchild. Outside of her professional life, she enjoys reading, biking, pickleball, and spending time with her family in the mountains.