

*"May her memory be a blessing"*

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A Celebration of Life Honoring the Legacy of

**RITA R. SEMEL**

*November 15, 1921 – May 13, 2026*



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**CONGREGATION EMANU-EL**

2 Lake Street, San Francisco, California

Monday, June 22, 2026

*Ten o'clock in the morning*

# ORDER OF SERVICE

## Harp Prelude

Sister Kyoko Kimura

*Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center*

## Introduction to the Service

Rabbi Beth Singer, Rabbi Emerita

*Congregation Emanu-El*

## I Lift Up My Eyes to the Mountains, Psalm 121

Congregation led by Cantor Marsha Attie

*Congregation Emanu-El*

## Welcome

Rabbi Beth Singer, Rabbi Emerita

*Congregation Emanu-El*

## FAITH LEADERS PROCESSION

Accompanied by harpist Sister Kyoko Kimura

## Opening Reflection

Rabbi Jonathan Singer, Rabbi Emeritus

*Congregation Emanu-El*

## Psalm 23

Cantor Marsha Attie

*Congregation Emanu-El*

## Prayerful Reflection from the Muslim Tradition

Maha Elgenaidi, Founder & Executive Director

*Intercultural Networks Group (ING)*

## Greeting on behalf of the City

Daniel Lurie, Mayor

*City & County of San Francisco*

## REMARKS

The Rt. Rev. William E Swing, Founder & President Emeritus  
*United Religions Initiative*

Rabbi Douglas Kahn, Executive Director Emeritus  
*San Francisco-based Jewish Community Relations Council Bay Area*

### **Hymn - Hinei Ma Tov (Behold How Good)**

Congregation led by Cantor Marsha Attie

*How good and how pleasant  
Brothers and sisters together 2x*

*How good how good  
Brothers and sisters together 2x*

*Henei ma tov u'ma nayim  
Shevet achim gam yachad 2x*

*Henei ma tov shevet achim gam yachad 2x*

## REMARKS

Michael G. Pappas, Executive Director  
*San Francisco Interfaith Council*

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker Emerita  
*United States House of Representatives*

### **Reflections from Rita's Family**

Elisabeth Semel, Daughter  
Paul Resnick, Nephew

### **Moment of Silence & Private Reflection**

Accompanied by harpist Sister Kyoko Kimura

### **Birth is a Beginning**

(Rabbi Alvin I. Fine)  
Rabbi Allen Bennett



## **REMARKS**

Rev. Dr. Amos C. Brown, Pastor Emeritus  
*Third Baptist Church*  
*President of the San Francisco Branch of the NAACP*

### **Hymn - Let There Be Peace On Earth**

(Jill Jackson Miller & Sy Miller)

Congregation led by Cantor Marsha Attie

*Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me*  
*Let there be peace on earth the peace that was meant to be*  
*With God our Creator, family all are we*  
*Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony*

*Let peace begin with me*  
*Let this be the moment now*  
*With every step I take let this be my solemn vow*  
*Take each moment and live each moment with peace eternally*  
*Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me*

### **Closing Blessing**

Rabbis Emeriti Beth & Jonathan Singer  
*Congregation Emanu-El*

**Memorial Reception in the Foyer**

Those wishing to support Rita's visionary legacy to build interfaith harmony in our City and beyond are invited to make an offering to the San Francisco Interfaith Council's Rita R. Semel Endowment Fund at [www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org](http://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org):

