



עמנואל

The Emanuel Synagogue

PASSIONATE JEWISH LIVING

FAQ's About the *Minyonaires*

What is the *Minyonaires*?

The Emanuel *Minyonaires* is a group that makes sure the congregation has a viable prayer service every morning, afternoon, and evening, every day of the year. We feel strongly that we are more than just a prayer group. We realize the Synagogue has many satellites, and they are all important. However, it is the *Minyonaires* that make the Emanuel a shul, a house of worship.

What is a *Minyan*?

A *Minyan* is a group of ten Jews (males over the age of 13; females over the age of 12) who come together to pray. The concept of praying with a *Minyan* goes back some three millennia. There are many legends and much literature dealing with the *Minyan*. To touch on a few: *Kaddish* cannot be recited without a *Minyan*; the Torah cannot be read in the absence of a *Minyan*. It is a mitzvah to help make a *minyan* for someone saying *kaddish*. The necessity of a *minyan* is indicative of the importance Judaism places on community.

How often does the Emanuel have *minyan* ? When? Where?

We have weekday and Sunday *minyanim* twice a day in the Chapel. Weekday mornings are at 7:00 a.m., and Sundays and secular holidays are at 8:00 a.m. Morning *minyan* is followed by breakfast with the exception of Friday. Afternoon *minyan* time changes with the time of sunset and can vary from as early as 4 pm to as late as 7:00 pm. During the period of Daylight Savings Time afternoon *minyan* coincides with the 7:00 pm *minyan*. On *Rosh Chodesh* and fast days the times vary usually beginning 15 minutes earlier than regular weekdays. If you have questions about *minyan* time, consult our website, www.emanuelsynagogue.org, or call the synagogue office, 236-1275 (the office staff or the after hours message will tell you the times).

Who attends the *minyan* ?

Our *minyanim* are attended by regular *shul* goers as well as those who come specifically to say *kaddish*. Some are members; many are not. We are open to all. On Thursday mornings prior to a *bar/bat mitzvah*, we give the celebrant the opportunity for their first *aliyah* and to do the Torah reading if they wish. The *bar/bat mitzvah* family usually brings family and friends and then sponsors the breakfast. Some of us attend regularly for a spiritual experience, some for camaraderie, and some just because it is a comfortable habit.

How does one become a member of the *Minyonaires* ?

Minyonaire membership forms are available at the Synagogue office. At the daily *minyan* one of the regular attendees can help those interested in membership.

What is the cost of participation in the *Minyonaires* ?

Yearly dues for *Minyonaires* membership is \$12.00 per person. We also ask for those attending breakfast to contribute \$1.00 when there is not a breakfast sponsor. You may sponsor a breakfast in honor of a *yahrtzeit*, at the end of *shloshim* (the first 30 days of a mourning period), when you complete your eleven months of saying *kaddish*, or when you want to celebrate a happy occasion (birth, graduation, birthday, anniversary, etc.). The breakfasts are prepared by volunteers. We always have a *pushke* out in which you can put a few coins or bills which go to charity.

The Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford, CT 06117, (860) 236-1275, www.emanuelsynagogue.org

Are there people my age in the *Minyonaires* ?

Yes. Our members range from *bar/bat mitzvah* age to senior citizens. We are an intergenerational group. That is one of the best things about us.

Are women counted in your *minyan* ?

Yes. We embrace all ages and both genders. Emanuel is a completely egalitarian synagogue.

What other kinds of things do *The Minyonaires* do besides *daven* ?

On a social and educational level, we have breakfast every weekday (with the exception of Friday) and every Sunday, often bringing in interesting speakers whenever possible. On Sunday mornings, Cantor Cohn studies psalms with us. We take care of each other. When a member has a handicap or physical problem, one of the *Minyonaires* volunteers to pick them up. We send birthday and get well cards to our members from the rest of the group. We visit our *Minyonaires* in the hospital and make *shiva* calls. We often lead the *shiva minyan* at the home of a congregant. We help members celebrate *simchahs* and special occasions. We give a gift bible to each *bar/bat mitzvah* student on their special day. Our financial contributions touch every sphere of the Synagogue as well as many outside charities. Biennially, we have a brunch and honor one or more of our members, giving them the title of "Minyonaire of the Year." Each year we conduct a *Minyonaires'* Shabbat service and sponsor the *Kiddush* following the service.

What opportunities are there to become active in the *Minyonaires*?

We can always use people to join us in *davening* and to lead the service.

Come often and get to know us. Arrive early in the morning and help prepare breakfast. Stay after breakfast and help clean up. Volunteer to do the food shopping for breakfast.

Who do we contact if we have further questions or if we want to get involved?

If you would like to lead services sometimes, become active in any way, or have further questions, contact *Minyonaires'* President Rick Lasker, (860) 236-7455, rlasker@comcast.net. He will be delighted to hear from you.