

CONGREGATION SHAARE EMETH

BULLETIN

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2023



*Compassion
Light
Love*

GATHERING FOR GRATITUDE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

DETAILS ON PAGE 7

CELEBRATING CHANUKAH

DECEMBER 7-15

DETAILS ON PAGE 9



NOVEMBER & DECEMBER WORSHIP & TORAH STUDY SCHEDULE

On Friday evenings, Nosh begins at 5:15 p.m. prior to Kabbalat Shabbat services. Services take place in the Stiffman Sanctuary, unless otherwise noted.

Friday, November 3, 2023

6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service – L’dor VaDor

Saturday, November 4, 2023

9:30 a.m. Torah Study
11 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service: John Mertz, child of Allison Paskal & Christopher Mertz, becomes a Bar Mitzvah

Friday, November 10, 2023

6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service – Veteran’s Day

Saturday, November 11, 2023

9 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service: Emma Barfield, child of Jennifer Barfield and Tommy Barfield, becomes a Bat Mitzvah
9:30 a.m. Torah Study
11 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service: Harlow Lander, child of Nicole & Noah Lander, becomes a Bat Mitzvah

Friday, November 17, 2023

6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat
6 p.m. Prayer Lab

Saturday, November 18, 2023

9 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service: Maya Newman, child of Margo & Drew Newman, becomes a Bat Mitzvah
9:30 a.m. Torah Study
11 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service: Julia Vesper, child of Allyson & Eric Vesper, becomes a Bat Mitzvah

Friday, November 24, 2023

6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, November 25, 2023

9:30 a.m. Torah Study

Friday, December 1, 2023

6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service – Tzedeck Shabbat

Saturday, December 2, 2023

9:30 a.m. Torah Study
11 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service: Brooke Buck, child of Jennifer & Donald Buck, becomes a Bat Mitzvah

Friday, December 8, 2023

6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service – L’dor VaDor & Service of Consecration & Chanukah Celebration; Details on page 9

Saturday, December 9, 2023

9:30 a.m. Torah Study
11 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service: JJ Imber, child of Melanie & Stuart Imber, becomes a Bar Mitzvah

Friday, December 15, 2023

6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat
6 p.m. Prayer Lab

Saturday, December 16, 2023

9:30 a.m. Torah Study
11 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service: Abigail Oglander, child of Julie & Brian Oglander, becomes a Bat Mitzvah

Friday, December 22, 2023

6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, December 23, 2023

9:30 a.m. Torah Study

Friday, December 29, 2023

6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, December 30, 2023

9 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service: Mackenzie Sloan, child of Kimberly & Ted Sloan, becomes a Bat Mitzvah
9:30 a.m. Torah Study
11 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service: Sydney Rosen, child of Ricki & Aaron Rosen, becomes a Bat Mitzvah

HOLIDAY BUILDING CLOSURES

The Congregation Shaare Emeth Office and Shirlee Green Preschool will be closed:

Wednesday, November 22: Shirlee Green Preschool is closed. The Main Office will close at 3 p.m.
Thursday & Friday, November 23 & 24 in observance of Thanksgiving.

Monday, December 25 in observance of Christmas Day.
Monday, January 1, 2024 in observance of New Year's Day.

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO OUR PEOPLE AND HUMANITY AND OUR MORAL BOUNDARIES

By Rabbi James M. Bennett
JBennett@sestl.org



As I write these words, the world is still reeling from the tragic and devastating terrorist attack unleashed by Hamas terrorists upon innocent civilians in the south of Israel. Unimaginable acts of murder and cruelty have been perpetrated upon individuals, families, children, the elderly, and more. This tragedy has brought profound grief, mourning, fear, anger, and sadness. We fear that we, Israel, and the world will never be the same. The possibility of larger regional war terrifies us as Israel seeks to respond, to eliminate the threat of the Hamas terrorists forever, and to free the hostages and bring them home safely with as little harm to innocent Gazan civilians as possible.

These acts of terror and murder are the face of unequivocal evil. Let there be no doubt about this. No moral equivalence can justify what has unfolded. Israel and the Jewish people are the victims of a horrific attack upon innocent civilians. Israel’s response is a just war – and as painful as it is, Israel has the right and the responsibility to fight this just war. Doing so is the most compassionate response in an imperfect world.

To quote Yehuda Kurtzer: “It is precisely the commitment to compassion that helps us understand the villainy that Hamas is committing against both Israel and against the Palestinian people — and that strengthens our resolve to defeat it.

Israel has the right and the responsibility to fight this just war. Doing so is the most compassionate response in an imperfect world.

Our commitment to compassion should not become an obstacle to seeing that eradicating Hamas is essential to the world we want to help create: a world in which the safety and security of both Jews and Palestinians between the river and the sea is intertwined and guaranteed for both.”

Israel has every right to defend itself, to fight to return hostages to safety, and to bring its enemies to justice or eliminate them, and must do so consistent with the ethics and values of the Jewish people and most of the world. This is undeniable. What is not so clear, though, is where our moral boundaries lie. What exactly is the right thing to do? Even more worrisome, what actions might cause irreparable damage to the moral fabric of the soul of Israel and the Jewish people? This, I believe is and always has been, the challenge.

This struggle is not new. Two thousand years ago, Rabbi Hillel argued in the Mishnah that “In a place where there



are no human beings, there you must strive to be human.” In other words, when others seem not to be acting in a humane manner, you must do your best to maintain your humanity.

Such lofty aspirational words are easy to speak but are difficult to put into action. It is easy to cast our moral values aside when the very core of our existence is destroyed. When existential threats such as that posed by Hamas horrify and threaten us, we can quickly and appropriately become defensive. But moments like this demand great caution and discernment.

As each of us seeks to show our support for Israel and for this just war, as those in positions of power and authority analyze the policies and strategies to carry this out consistent with these values, each of us must also carefully consider who we want to be and what values we hold dear as we consider our individual and collective response. I believe that we must stand with Israel. And I believe that, as we do so, we must also define and evaluate our moral boundaries. Hillel’s words remind us to strive to maintain our humanity. He also taught, “If I am not for myself, who will be for me? But if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?”

AFFIRMING SHAARE EMETH'S ROLE IN CHALLENGING TIMES

By Bill Remis, President

President@sestl.org



All of us have watched in horror and agony the events of the past several weeks. I wanted to take a moment during this time to affirm Shaare Emeth's role in what has been and will undoubtedly be one of the most challenging periods in history.

- First, please know that we are here for you. Normal life is full of stress and anxiety. During these times, those stress levels are at an all time high. So many of us have loved ones, family and friends in Israel, seemingly in harm's way. Anxiety and concern seems at an all time high, for good reason. Our clergy, staff and lay leadership are here to help. We can provide access to services, a shoulder to lean on, and everything in between. Please do not hesitate to reach out.
- We are doing our part to support Israel. We continue to participate in fundraising spear headed by our larger community. We are providing support and working to remain

in communication with our friends and communities within Israel. Please reach out or watch for information in Shaare Mail about how you can provide support.

- We are working to maintain our values. We know and respect that all of us view the world through different lenses. Yet, we all share common values that inspire each of us to act to try to make the world a better place. In these times, it is vitally important to acknowledge these values that we all share in common. It will help to bind and keep us together and will, I believe, serve as the pathway to guide us through this ordeal.

Of course, we continue to operate and offer the same services we have always offered. Our pre school and religious school continue to operate at full capacity. We continue to celebrate Shabbat and all other holidays. We continue to offer Torah study and adult education. We continue to support and provide life cycle events for all of our congregants. We continue our advocacy to make the world a better place. In short, we continue to work on fulfilling our mission. I think now, more than ever, when forces in the world threaten our mission and our values seem called into question, living in community that reinforces those values is one of the most important things we all can do together.

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are excited to announce that Craig Neuman will become Shaare Emeth's new Executive Director, effective January 2, 2024.

Craig grew up in St. Louis (Parkway Central) before attending the University of Michigan where he majored in Psychology. Upon graduation, he spent three years touring with a comedy troupe he co-founded called Just Kidding. He moved to Chicago in 1992 and had what he now refers to as a "quarter-life crisis" when he decided to give up acting and pursue a career in Jewish communal service. He spent nearly 16 years working at the JCC of Chicago where he served in various roles until 2008 when he returned home for the role of Director of Programming (which eventually became Chief Program Officer) at the J. Craig has served on the Board of Trustees at Congregation B'nai Amoona and is past-president of JPro St. Louis (from whom he received the Mentor Award in 2017). The Jewish



Federation of St. Louis recently honored Craig with the 2023 Fred A Goldstein Professional Excellence Award. Craig and his wife Amy have two children, Bella (22) and Leo (19).

We will be working with Craig on transitioning into the Executive Director role over the next several months prior to his start date. During this period, Rosalie Stein will remain as our Interim Executive Director. If you see

Craig, please introduce yourself and feel free to congratulate him on his new role. I know Craig is excited to begin in his new position. We are lucky to have him.

SHAARE EMETH JEWISH HERITAGE TRIP TO PORTUGAL

April 8-18, 2024



Rabbi Bennett is planning a Shaare Emeth Jewish Heritage Trip to Portugal, April 8-18, 2024. The trip will explore the rich and varied Jewish history and culture imbedded in the beautiful country of Portugal, including visits to Lisbon, Porto, Belmonte, Pinhao, Coimbra, and other villages and sites.

Limited space is available. Please contact Stacy Jespersen at sjespersen@sestl.org or 314-569-0010 for more information.

THANK YOU FOR CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Thank you so much to everyone who signed up to be a part of our wonderful Chesed (Kindness) Committee. After Rabbi Goldstein's Kol Nidre sermon, 200 members joined our cohorts of angels committed to bring comfort, kindness, and care to members of our community in their times of struggle and in their times of joy.

We also want to remind our congregational community that if you or someone you love finds themselves needing a bit of extra help (a meal, a ride to appointments or services, help during shiva, etc.) or someone to check in with every now and



again (a caring call or visit), we encourage you to **reach out by going to our website at sestl.co/caring** (or scanning the QR code) and letting us know. We will do everything we can to meet you where you are and remind you that you are not alone.

Thank you again,

Barb Kramer, Chesed Committee Chair
Debbie Bram and Rabbi Andrea Goldstein

OAK HILL CHRISTMAS GIFT LIST GOES LIVE ON NOVEMBER 15!

Shaare Emeth supports Oak Hill Elementary School in St. Louis City, where 99% of the school's enrolled students are economically disadvantaged. As in past years, our community has the honor of bringing holiday joy to some of the school's most needy children.

Sign up on November 15 at sestl.co/oakhill23. Unwrapped gifts must be brought to Temple by Friday, December 8.

Mazel Tov

Mazel Tov to (top row, left to right) **Emma Barfield**, child of Jennifer Barfield & Tommy Barfield, **Harlow Lander**, child of Nicole & Noah Lander, **Maya Newman**, child of Margo & Drew Newman, (middle row) **Julia Vesper**, child of Allyson & Eric Vesper, **Brooke Buck**, child of Jennifer & Donald Buck, **JJ Imber**, child of Melanie & Stuart Imber, (bottom row) **Abigail Oglander**, child of Julie & Brian Oglander, **Mackenzie Sloan**, child of Kimberly & Ted Sloan, and **Sydney Rosen**, child of Ricki & Aaron Rosen, on their upcoming B'Mitzvah services!



November Events

November Events

  <p>CONVERSATIONS & CULTURE with Snir & Naama</p>	<p>WED</p> <p>1 CONVERSATIONS & CULTURE #1</p> <p>11/1 + 11/15 + 11/29 + 12/6 + 12/13 • 7:30 P.M.</p> <p>Join Snir Dagan, our community <i>shaliach</i>, and Naama Herz, our <i>shinshinit</i>, to explore authentic Israeli culture and language! We'll dive deep into music, slang, and Hebrew vocabulary. Pre-requisite: Ability to read print Hebrew with vowels & a sense of adventure. Register at sestl.co/conversations</p>	<p>SAT</p> <p>4 HEART & SOUL: NOW & FOREVER</p> <p>7 P.M. AT SHAARE EMETH</p> <p>Heart & Soul is Congregation Shaare Emeth's biggest fundraiser, celebrating its 13th year in 2023. This year, our honorees are Peggy & Don Lents and the Brandvein Family. RSVPs for the celebration are now closed, but you can still get involved and support this event by making a donation at sestl.co/hs23</p>
<p>MON</p> <p>6 LET IT RIPPLE: TIKKUN MIDDOT</p> <p>11/6 + 11/13 + 11/20 • 7 P.M. JEWISH MINDFULNESS CENTER</p> <p>Tikkun Middot combines <i>musar</i> (ethical) study with mindfulness practices to bring deeper meaning to our daily lives. We will be exploring the qualities of humility, perseverance, & gratitude. Must be able to attend all sessions. Registration required at jmcstl.org</p>	<p>TUE</p> <p>7 & 14 TEXTING TUESDAYS</p> <p>10 A.M. • RUBIN LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM</p> <p>YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE WRONG FOR ME TO BE RIGHT • With Rabbi Andrea Goldstein</p> <p>Using sources from the Talmud & modern social science, we will explore constructive ways to engage in discussion with those whose views are in stark contrast to our own.</p>	<p>SAT</p> <p>11 AWE IN THE AFTERNOON</p> <p>1:30 P.M. • BOTANICAL GARDENS (4344 SHAW BLVD)</p> <p>Meet Rabbi Goldstein at the Botanical Gardens for a Shabbat afternoon awe walk. During an awe walk we shift our attention from internal thoughts and concerns to the beauty of the world around us. Details and registration at jmcstl.org</p>
<p>SAT</p> <p>11 SE678 GOES TO UNION STATION</p> <p>2–6 P.M. • 1820 MARKET ST.</p> <p>Join SE678 (open to all current 6th, 7th, & 8th graders) for a fun afternoon at Union Station, including the indoor ropes course, mirror maze, ride the St. Louis Wheel, and have milkshakes at the Soda Fountain. \$40 per person covers all activities and Soda Fountain treat. Watch your e-mail for registration.</p>	<p>SAT</p> <p>11 INTERTWINE COFFEE HOUSE</p> <p>7 P.M. • PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST</p> <p>Do you have a talent you would like to share? Do you play music, recite poetry, or do magic tricks? Do you just want to sit back and enjoy the talents of others? Register at sestl.co/novintertwine</p> 	<p>SUN</p> <p>12 ROCKIN JUMP WITH SE345</p> <p>2–5:30 P.M. • 7375 WATSON RD. SHREWSBURY, MO</p> <p>Join SE345 (open to all current 3rd, 4th, & 5th graders) for a trip to Rockin' Jump Trampoline Park & Ted Drewes Frozen Custard. \$30 per person covers admission, jump socks, and a Ted Drewes concrete. Watch your e-mail for registration.</p>

<p>SUN</p> <p>12 SPIRITUAL PARENTING #1</p> <p>9:30 A.M. • JEWISH MINDFULNESS CENTER</p> <p>THE POWER OF NAMES • Parents of grade school age children are invited to join Rabbi Goldstein to discover what makes parenting a spiritual practice and how Jewish wisdom can help guide us in our role as parents. Three sessions; Free. Register at jmcstl.org</p>	<p>MON</p> <p>13 NOVEMBER SENIOR LUNCH</p> <p>12–2 P.M. • UNITED HEBREW CONGREGATION</p> <p>Monthly senior lunch programs are offered in partnership with Congregation Temple Israel, United Hebrew Congregation, and Temple Emanuel. The cost is \$10. Information will be sent to all seniors. Don't get this info? E-mail Valerie at vcundy@sestl.org</p>	<p>WED</p> <p>15 SETYG FRIENDSGIVING</p> <p>7–9 P.M. • LOITERSTEIN'S HOUSE</p> <p>Join SETYG (open to all current 9th–12th graders) for a friendsgiving potluck full of games, friendships old and new, gratitude, and togetherness. No cost, but everyone is required to bring a small dish to share. Watch your e-mail for registration.</p>
<p>THU</p> <p>16 RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE</p> <p>11 A.M. – 3 P.M. • SIMCHA CENTER</p> <p>The greatest mitzvah anyone can do is save a life, and donating blood is an easy way to do just that! According to the Red Cross, there is currently a national blood shortage, making the need more urgent than ever. Make an appointment at sestl.co/rcbd1123</p>	<p>SUN</p> <p>19 GATHERING FOR GRATITUDE</p> <p>10–11:30 A.M.</p> <p>A MORNING OF GIVING BACK • Everyone of every age is welcome for this intergenerational program. Join us as we gather in a communal expression of gratitude and giving back. Register by November 14 or contribute financially to support the projects at sestl.co/g4g23</p>	
<p>TUE</p> <p>28 TEXTING TUESDAYS</p> <p>10 A.M. • RUBIN LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM</p> <p>HANDS-ON WITH THE TORAH • With Cantor Seth Warner • We'll unroll & explore the Torah: letters, panels, oddities, and beauty of a scroll. We'll look at the texts that tell our Jewish story: crossing of the Red Sea, the Ten Commandments, the Shema, and more.</p>	<p>TUE</p> <p>28 MATRIARCHS TO MAMALAS</p> <p>4 P.M. • VIRTUAL (ZOOM)</p> <p>WOMEN IN LOW-PAYING JOBS</p> <p>Have we really 'come a long way, baby?' (Still offensive, isn't it?) But let's dig into that question. We will examine the so-called "Pink-Collar" workers among us. Register at sestl.co/mm1123 and you'll get the reading list.</p>	



December Events

Chanukah Happenings

DECEMBER 7-15

FRI	SAT	SUN
1 LIVING ON A PRAYER #1 12/1 + 1/5 + 2/2 + 3/1 • 10 A.M. JEWISH MINDFULNESS CENTER SHEMA, VAHAVTA, AND THE MEZUZAH • Deepening Our Capacity for Love • Join Rabbi Goldstein for a series exploring the meaning, history, & development of traditional prayers that can be incorporated into a personal prayer practice. Additional info on page 10. Register at jmcstl.org	2 SE345 CHANUKAH GIFT WORKSHOP 5–8 P.M. • SHAARE EMETH Spend a fun evening at Shaare Emeth getting ready for Chanukah by hand-making gifts for loved ones with friends old and new. We will start the evening off with a pizza dinner and everyone will leave with two wrapped gifts ready for Chanukah! \$20 per person covers all supplies and pizza dinner. Watch your e-mail for registration.	3 SE678 CHANUKAH DESSERT DECORATING 2–4 P.M. • SHAARE EMETH Do you love Chanukah sweets and hanging out with friends? We will learn, compete, and EAT throughout this fun middle school event. Join us to destress before the holidays and create some beautiful (and delicious) desserts! \$20 per person covers all supplies and snacks for the afternoon. Watch your e-mail for registration.
SUN	TUE	WED
3 BABY BOOMERS BOWLING 12:30–3:30 P.M. For more information, please email Debbie Bram at dbram@sestl.org	5 TEXTING TUESDAYS 10 A.M. • RUBIN LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM SONIC SIGNIFICANCE: HOW PRAYER & MUSIC ARE INEXTRICABLY LINKED With Cantor Seth Warner • In this class we will explore how and why music and prayer have evolved together and maybe where we're headed next.	6 SETYG CHANUKAH PARTY 7–9 P.M.  Join SETYG for a Chanukah party! Watch your e-mail for details and registration.
MON	TUE	THU
4 & 11 BOOK DISCUSSIONS: THE COLOR OF LOVE BY MARRA B. GAD IN-PERSON: 12/4 AT 10 A.M. • ZOOM: 12/11 AT 7:30 P.M.  Our congregant, Melissa Lynn Pomerantz, will lead two discussions (one in-person and one on Zoom) of the book, <i>The Color of Love: A Story of a Mixed-Race Jewish Girl</i> by Marra B. Gad. We look forward to Marra being our Deutsch Scholar-in-Residence during Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend on January 12 & 13, 2024. Melissa Lynn Pomerantz is a retired English teacher. She taught at Parkway North High School for 30 years where she facilitated countless book discussions. Register and purchase the book at sestl.co/coloroflove	26 MATRIARCHS TO MAMALAS 4 P.M. • VIRTUAL (ZOOM) WOMEN IN THE BOARDROOM December's meeting will do an about-face from November's "Pink-Collar" topic with women in the boardroom. Who are these corporate leaders, and how did they get there? Register at sestl.co/mm1223 and you'll get the reading list.	14 MAHJ WITH MENORAHS 1:30–4 P.M. • NORTH LOBBY  Mahj in the Sukkah was so much fun that we had to do it again, but this time for Chanukah! Sufganiyot will be served; space is limited. Sign up at sestl.co/mahj

FRI	SAT	MON
8 LIGHTS & DELIGHTS CHANUKAH SHABBAT WITH RICK RECHT 5 P.M. CHANUKAH NOSH • 6 P.M. L'DOR VADOR CHANUKAH CELEBRATION + SERVICE OF CONSECRATION Come celebrate the lights and delight in delicious Chanukah food, savor the sweet Consecration ceremony, and let the beautiful music from Rick Recht, Cantor Seth Warner, Lucy Greenbaum, and Shir Emeth Youth Choir enrich your soul. Join us at 5 p.m. for an extended nosh featuring sizzling latkes! Our service at 6 p.m. includes Consecration, marking the beginning of each child's new Jewish learning journey, open to all JQuest Kindergarten students and anyone new to Shaare Emeth Religious School. As this is our monthly L'Dor VaDor Intergenerational Shabbat, we'll hear a story, celebrate birthday blessings, and do lots of singing! Take home a special treat afterward. PLEASE REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT AT SESTL.CO/CHANUKAH23	9 CHANUKAH GLOW PARTY! 3–4:30 P.M.  Families with 0-5 year-olds: Celebrate the Festival of Lights with a lively dance party complete with Chanukah treats and glow sticks galore! Free and open to all. Questions? Contact Emily Cohen, ecohen@sestl.org or 314-692-5323. RSVP at sestl.co/glow23	11 MAKING MENSCHES 4 P.M. • COVENANT HOUSE Join Rabbi Goldstein, Lucy Greenbaum, & Debbie Bram to help residents at Covenant House celebrate the 5 th night of Chanukah. We will sing songs together, play games, and enjoy a special Chanukah snack. RSVP by December 6 at sestl.co/chanukahmm
MON	TUE	THU
11 DECEMBER SENIOR LUNCH 12–2 P.M. • SHAARE EMETH CHANUKAH LUNCH FEATURING SHAKSHUKA • Programs are offered in partnership with Congregation Temple Israel, United Hebrew Congregation, and Temple Emanuel. The cost is \$10. Information will be sent to all seniors. Don't get this info? E-mail Valerie at vcundy@sestl.org	12 TEXTING TUESDAYS 10 A.M. • RUBIN LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM FROM JUDITH TO BARBIE: FEMALE SEXUALITY AS A SOURCE OF POWER & STRENGTH With Rabbi Andrea Goldstein • In celebration of Chanukah, learn the story of Judith and discuss the long history & complicated relationship between female sexuality & power.	14 MAHJ WITH MENORAHS 1:30–4 P.M. • NORTH LOBBY  Mahj in the Sukkah was so much fun that we had to do it again, but this time for Chanukah! Sufganiyot will be served; space is limited. Sign up at sestl.co/mahj



RICK RECHT is one of the most influential and celebrated Jewish artists and leaders of our time. Recht is the national celebrity spokesman for PJ Library and the founder and Executive Director of Songleader Boot Camp (SLBC) – a premiere national leadership training conference. He is also the founder and Executive Director of Jewish Rock Radio (JRR) and JKids Radio, the first high-caliber, 24/7 international Jewish music radio networks.



TWO CHANCES TO WELCOME SHABBAT WITH THE PRAYER LAB COMMUNITY

Friday, November 17 at 6 p.m.
Count Your Blessings

Friday, December 15 at 6 p.m.
Shine Your Light

Join Rabbi Goldstein, Lucy Greenbaum, and the Prayer Lab musicians for this non-traditional Shabbat service combining poetry, participatory music, interactive teachings, and time set aside for meditation and personal reflection.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

A CHANCE TO EXPLORE THE HOLINESS OF YOUR LIFE

Monday afternoons with Rabbi Goldstein
By appointment only

Spiritual Direction is a practice that involves meeting with a spiritual director on a monthly basis to cultivate our ability to discern God's presence, the presence of holiness, in all aspects of our lives – the celebrations, the struggles and each moment in between. Anyone can benefit from Spiritual Direction. You do not need to hold any particular image of God, or a belief in God at all. Rabbi Goldstein offers Spiritual Direction most Monday afternoons.

There is no cost for members of Congregation Shaare Emeth, though it is customary to make a donation to the Jewish Mindfulness Center of St. Louis after each session. The cost for non-members is \$50 per session. **To set up a first appointment contact Stacy Jespersen at sjespersen@sestl.org.**



LIVING ON A PRAYER

A MONTHLY SERIES EXPLORING PERSONAL PRAYER

Friday mornings at 10 a.m.

Join Rabbi Goldstein in exploring the meaning, history, and development of traditional prayers that can be incorporated or adapted into a personal prayer practice. **To register for one or more of these sessions, visit jmcstl.org.**

- December 1: Shema, V'ahavta, and the Mezuzah – Deepening our Capacity for Love
- January 5: Nism b'chol Yom – Morning Miracles
- February 2: Yotzer Or – Seeing the World Anew
- March 1: Sim Shalom and Oseh Shalom – Cultivating Peace

WEEKLY MINDFULNESS MEDITATION SITS

Tuesdays • 9 – 9:30 a.m. • On Zoom

Join Rabbi Andrea Goldstein for these free, weekly Mindfulness Meditation sits incorporating teachings and stories from the weekly Torah portions, Jewish prayer, and tradition. No meditation experience necessary and all are welcome. You'll find the link in our weekly e-mails. Sign up at sestl.co/jmcemail



WE'RE COUNTING DOWN TO Camp Emeth 2024!

Camp Dates: June 10 – August 2, 2024

We can't wait to welcome our friends back to Camp Emeth this summer. Planning is already underway to create the summer experience your campers look forward to all school year. Registration will open in January!

- ★ 8 weeks of day camp for rising **K-8th graders** (choose the weeks that work best for you!)
- ★ Pre- and post-care available
- ★ Overnight trips for 5th–8th graders
- ★ Registration opens in January



Details coming soon at campemeth.org

HALLOWEEN COSTUMES FOR ISRAEL PROJECT

By Naama Herz
naama2903@gmail.com

Hey everyone, my name is Naama Herz, your Shinshinit. Right after Halloween on October 31st, I will start collecting gently used costumes to donate to a post-hospitalization boarding school in Israel called Shvilim. This boarding school serves children and teens who have experienced psychiatric and psychological health issues and need extra support to learn and recover. My friends in Israel are also doing a year of service before the army just like I am, but at Shvilim, working with these amazing kids! The kids in Shvilim will get to use the costumes for Purim in

March. Thank you for helping us make their holiday celebration so special.

WHAT WE NEED:

- Costumes of all kinds in many different sizes are needed: children's small up through all teen/adult sizes.
- No baby or toddler costumes please.
- Clothes and accessories (like sunglasses, crowns, wings, etc.) are all needed and welcome!
- They should be clean and in good shape to pass on for someone else to wear comfortably.

There will be a box where you can put your donations in the North Lobby at Shaare Emeth until November 19th.



2024 SUMMER CAMP AND ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Shaare Emeth has need based scholarships to help our members attend URJ Goldman Union Camp Institute (GUCI) overnight camp, teen Israel programs and Camp Emeth. Please **contact Rosalie Stein for an application by email at rstein@sestl.org or 314.569.0010**. The deadline is February 2 for Israel scholarships and February 16 for GUCI and Camp Emeth scholarships.

A group of people are gathered around a large wooden table, engaged in collaborative work. They are using various devices including laptops and tablets. The setting appears to be a modern office or meeting room.

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Have you ever wanted to take a leadership role in your congregation but didn't know how to get started? Do you know someone who would be a great asset to our temple leadership? Perhaps you have previously served in a leadership role and would like to re-engage? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then keep reading.

MAH JONGG CARDS ON SALE

The cost of the card is the same as it was last year. **A standard-size card costs \$14, while a large card is \$15.**

To order a card or cards, please include your name, address and the number of each size card that you are requesting. Enclose a check for the total amount

If you would like to submit your name or someone else's (with their prior consent) for consideration by the Nominating Committee, or if you would like more information about what serving on our Board of Trustees is all about, **contact Mike Lefton at Leftonmb@gmail.com**. Members of our Board of Trustees serve a minimum two-year term. **Please submit names for consideration prior to February 3, 2024.**

Sue Propper
747 Old Bonhomme Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63132

**All orders must be received by Friday,
February 2 – no exceptions.**

Thank you for ordering your mah jongg card through the Congregation. Funds received help programs & activities grow.

*Spread Joy. Show Appreciation.
Remember Your Friends' and Family's Favorites.*



Submit your order to the main office via the order-form below.
Questions? Call (314) 569-0010 or Email info@sestl.org

Order by **NOV 8th** for pick-up on **NOV 21st** in time for Thanksgiving!
Order by **NOV 22nd** for pick-up on **DEC 7th** in time for Chanukah!

Retailer <i>Ex: Dierberg's</i>	Card Value <i>\$25</i>	Quantity <i>4 cards</i>	Total <i>\$100</i>
Grand Total			\$

Popular retailers include Amazon, Bath & Body Works, CVS, Dierberg's, Home Depot, Panera, PetSmart, Starbucks, Target, TJMaxx, and Walmart/ Sam's Club. For more options, review [RaiseRight.com](https://www.RaiseRight.com), look under "Brands."

First & Last Name: _____

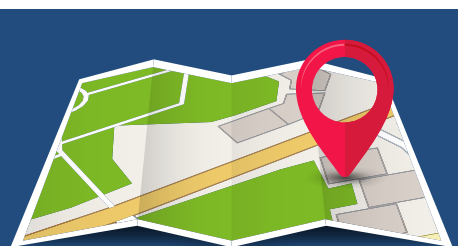
Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Payment (select one): Check # _____ ACH on File Ending in # _____

Credit/Debit Card (+3% fee) # _____

exp date ____/____/____ csv ____



Have you moved? NEW E-MAIL OR PHONE NUMBER? LET US KNOW!

If you've had a recent change of address, phone number, or e-mail, be sure to let us know by logging in to your ShulCloud account and editing your contact information. You can also call or e-mail Valerie Cundy at 913-692-5304 or VCundy@sestl.org. Thank you!



STEVEN B. GORIN

Thompson Coburn LLP
Attorneys at Law

314 552 6151

sgorin@thompsoncoburn.com

*Fellow, American College of
Trust and Estate Counsel*

*Estate and Tax Planning for
Business Owners and Individuals*

NOW

"Shaare Emeth continues to provide a spiritual home for our family that is rooted in Jewish tradition and social justice. We are inspired by the leadership who talk with their feet and lead by example that pursuit of justice is a Jewish value."

- Rebecca Rubin-Schlansky with Ada (8) and Celia (5)



NOW

"We are so happy to see the continued emphasis on exploring and appreciating our differences, creating a safe and nurturing place for everyone, where we can be our authentic ourselves."

- Jason Wolf & James Hudson with Dylan (12) and Chase (10)

Membership Responsibility

We followed up with some of the families who were profiled in 2019 to see how their connection to Shaare Emeth has evolved over the past four years. We hope you’ve had a chance to see the “Then and Now” posters around Shaare Emeth’s building (two samples can be seen to the left).

Each individual and family contributes something unique to our community. In addition to each of your presence and diverse perspectives, we also count on our members’ financial support.

Membership Responsibility (MR) is Shaare Emeth’s annual financial commitment and is the main source of income that allows the synagogue to operate day-to-day. Each household’s MR commitment provides the funding necessary to maintain and grow Shaare Emeth’s excellent clergy and staff, programming, and worship experiences. Every member plays a role in keeping Shaare Emeth strong and able to fulfill our commitments.

Each year, Shaare Emeth’s Board of Trustees establishes a “sustaining amount” for MR that is approximately the cost to operate the synagogue per household. For 2024, this amount is \$3,200.

As you think about your MR pledge for 2024, we hope you will find something in these quotes that connects with you; some way Shaare Emeth has touched your life or bettered your community. Whether you are in the building once a year or every day, Shaare Emeth is here for the community year-round. We want to be here for you when you need us.

Most members will have received an email during the week of October 30 with details about their MR pledge for 2024. If we do not have your email address on file, you will receive a hard copy in the mail.

We have streamlined the process a bit. **This year, members are not required to fill out an MR renewal form.** On your November statement, you will find your suggested commitment. If you wish to contribute more than what is noted or if you need to decrease this amount due to financial hardship, please contact Shaare Emeth’s office by November 8.

On November 15, when you see your statement, log in to Shul Cloud to set up a payment plan or pay in full. Alternatively, if you would prefer to speak with someone about your MR, contact the Shaare Emeth office at 314-569-0010. We are here to help.

Thank you for your dedication to our congregation. Shaare Emeth continues to inspire joy, guide learning, and be there for countless members of our community each year. This is possible because members like you continue your yearly financial support. Each congregant’s membership contribution adds to our collective vision of building a stronger more inclusive Shaare Emeth for future generations.

Celebrate Chanukah in a Giving Way

You and your family can celebrate a night of Chanukah in a giving way. Make a gift in one of the ways below that has meaning for you and your family.

If you watch streaming services regularly, make a gift to the AV Club. To help a child go to camp, make a gift to a scholarship fund. If High Holiday services really moved you, make a gift to our Annual Appeal. Do you have a business you’d like to advertise? Place an ad in our Bulletin. The end of the year will be here before we know it. Make your year-end gift today.

Shaare Emeth benefits from your donation and you benefit from the mitzvah. There are so many ways to give. Gifts can be made via check, credit card, ACH, stock transfers, IRA distributions, and Donor Advised Funds. While donations are tax deductible, please consult with your tax advisor.

To make a gift, go to sestl.co/give23 or call 314-569-0010. Thank you for supporting Shaare Emeth.

TRIBUTE OR ENDOWMENT FUNDS: Mark a special occasion, show appreciation, or honor someone's memory with a tribute to one of our many meaningful funds.

TREES OF LIFE INITIATIVE: Support our recent campaign to remove dead and diseased trees from our campus and replace them with new, indigenous trees.

AV CLUB: Becoming a member of AV Club ensures we can continue to provide online streaming services for our community, near and far.

SCRIP: Select from hundreds of gift cards to purchase and the temple receives a percent back. See page 13.

ANNUAL APPEAL: Our yearly campaign ensures Shaare Emeth is here for generations to come.

HEART & SOUL: Our biggest fundraising event, this celebration spotlights the work we do and members who are making a difference.

BULLETIN ADVERTISING: If you enjoy reading the Bulletin, place an ad in one or multiple issues. Put your business on these pages at an affordable rate.

SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE: Helps us continue to install up-to-date security equipment and software throughout the campus including cameras, monitors, and hand-held radios.

1ST NIGHT

2ND NIGHT

3RD NIGHT

4TH NIGHT

5TH NIGHT

6TH NIGHT

7TH NIGHT

8TH NIGHT

Happy Chanukah!

Welcome!

NEW MEMBER FAMILIES

- | | |
|---|---|
| Julie & Billy Brown | Kaelen Leavy |
| Elissa & Andrew Davis, with children, | Sandra Rich |
| Leighton & Siena | Carol Rubin & Howard Schlansky |
| Michelle Dunsky | Sydney Scott & Eyal Tsour |
| Hannah Green | |
| Barbara & William Greenblatt | Luisa Trigo & Micah Roufa, with children, |
| Keira & Bryan Kraft, with children, Isaac, Ellis, & Annabel | Aylar, Mila, & Ela |
| | Deborah Zimmerman & Jonathan Root |

IN MEMORY OF:

Dr. Samuel Bernstein
Beth Koritz

STANLEY LYSS & ESTHER
 LYSS-GREENSTEIN
 LIFELONG LEARNING FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Ellen Weiss
Lynn & Dr. Carl Lyss

MANN FAMILY HUNGER FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Jerry Carter for a speedy recovery
Nancy Bernstein
Claire & Lee Kaufman for a happy
and healthy New Year
Leanne & Harvey Schneider
Elizabeth & John Morrison for a
happy and healthy New Year
Leanne & Harvey Schneider
David Oughton on being honored
by the Interfaith Partnership of St.
Louis
Leanne & Harvey Schneider
Eunice & John Reichman for a happy
and healthy New Year
Leanne & Harvey Schneider

IN MEMORY OF:

Phillip Armstrong
Abby & Jim Susman
Marvin Beckerman
Madeleine & Karl Driesen

MICHAEL MATLOF
 CONNECTION &
 COMMUNICATION FUND

IN APPRECIATION OF:

The streaming of the High Holiday
services
Larry Buxner; Sheila Cohen; Rhonda
Starkman

IN HONOR OF:

Dana & Bruce Hendin on Isabel &
Logan Newman's B'not Mitzvah
Harriet Summers & Allen Sherman
Chuck Mannis on his special
birthday
Sue Matlof
Sue Matlof and live streaming of
services and the lives and souls that
have been saved
Harriet Summers & Alan Sherman
Eunice & John Reichman on their
60th wedding anniversary
Lee & Mark Scissors
Eunice & John Reichman on the
birth or their great-granddaughter
Wendy & Sanford Wax
Ron Saks on his special birthday
Sue Matlof
Barry Shafman for a speedy recovery
Wendy & Sanford Wax

IN MEMORY OF:

Sam Berstein
Jackie & Marty Lipsitz
Michael Rumelt
Susie Rich

DONNA MEYERS
 CHILDREN'S BOOK NOOK
 FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Donna Meyers
The Meyers Family

AUDREY MONTAGUE
 PRESCHOOL OPERATIONS
 ENHANCEMENT FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Marjorie Buxner
Laurie & Edward Chod; Carol & Ed Cohen
and Family; Jennifer & John McMahon;
Babette & Sanford Miller

OPERATIONS
 ENHANCEMENT FUND;

IN APPRECIATION OF:

Shaare Emeth for their beautiful and
meaningful High Holiday services
live streamed
Harvey Baer

IN HONOR OF:

Rabbi Goldstein on the completion
of her Doctorate of Ministry, Honor-
ary Doctor of Divinity and 25 years
in the Rabbinate
Sheri & Fred Seigel
Merle Fox & Jeff Bikshorn on their
marriage
Jackie Kessler Kurtz & Randy Kurtz
Eunice & John Reichman on their
60th wedding anniversary
Sharon & Dave Silverman
Their great-grandchildren,
Elizabeth and Ellington Traber and
Benito Cervantez
Madeleine & Karl Driesen

IN MEMORY OF:

Jon Baker
Sharon & Dave Silverman
Dr. Samuel Bernstein
Renee & Sam Silverstein
Jim Cohen
Irene & Melvin Greenspoon (z'l) and
Barbara Greenspoon
Nathan Feldman
Sharee & Mark Feldman and Family
Nathan Greenberg
Jacqueline Kantor
Mary Margolies
Mark Margolies
Nathan Prywitch
Mark Margolies
Marvin W. Kasnetz
Elinore Kasnetz

Alan Kolker

Mandy Rubenstein
Mary Margolies
Mark Margolies
Michael D. Rudman
Barbara Liberman
Alan Wallach
Jessica Fadem; JoBeth Omell; Gloria &
Wayne Kaufman; Susie & Leon Kravetz;
Larry, Jeff & Zach Mallin; Annalee &
David Nissenholtz; Mandy Rubenstein; Art
Stone & Susan Levinson
Phyllis & Murray Weidenbaum
Kathy & Jim Weidenbaum

GARY & MARILYN
 RATKIN SOCIAL ACTION
 EDUCATION FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Judy & Steve Wasserman on their
granddaughter Maddie's wedding
Marilyn & Gary Ratkin

IN MEMORY OF:

Alan Kolker
Andy & Stan Shanker
Dr. Michael Rumelt
Marilyn & Gary Ratkin
Bernie Winograd
Andy & Stan Shanker

THE REICHMAN FAMILY
 MUSIC FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Eunice & John Reichman
Carole & Jay Goldstein; Fran Kunitz

IN MEMORY OF:

Nelson Reichman
Sandy & Maureen Salz

SAM & GOLDDYE ROSEN
 MUSIC FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Adeline Greenberg
Julie & Ron Kramer

HARVEY & LEANNE
 SCHNEIDER INTERFAITH
 FORUM

IN APPRECIATION OF:

Leanne & Harvey Schneider
Margaret Gilerman & Mark Schlinkmann

JOAN & HARRY SELTZER
 FAMILY FUND FOR
 IMPROVING WOMEN'S LIVES

IN HONOR OF:

Alex & Joe Hoffman on their wed-
ding anniversary
Joan Seltzer
Riley Hoffman on her birthday
Joan Seltzer
Wayne Hoffman on his birthday
Dede & Garry Seltzer; Joan Seltzer

Kaleigh Lawrence & Blake Hamilton
on the birth of Carter Lawrence
Hamilton
Joan Seltzer
Bryan Pearl for a speedy recovery
The Seltzer Family
Samantha Selz on her birthday
Joan Seltzer
Mallory & Alex Schupp on their
wedding anniversary
Joan Seltzer

IN MEMORY OF:

Elaine Samson
Dede Seltzer

WILLIAM SELTZER OLDER
 ADULT FUND

IN APPRECIATION OF:

Shaare Emeth
Dr. Ronald Miller

IN HONOR OF:

Eunice & John Reichman on their
60th wedding anniversary
Judy & Stan Kolker
Wendy Flusser on her new home
Eileen & Bob Petrofsky

IN MEMORY OF:

Morris Kevrick
Helyn Kevrick
Alan Kolker
Fran Kunitz
Ben M. Kolker
Judy & Stan Kolker
Sarah Kolker
Judy & Stan Kolker
Captain Lester C. Soldz
Judy & Stan Kolker

FAYE & ROBERT SIEGEL
 SETYG PROGRAM FUND

IN APPRECIATION OF:

Rabbi Bennett and Cantor Warner
for the memorial service at New Mt.
Sinai
Sheila Cohen

SIMONS FAMILY ACCESS
 FUND

IN APPRECIATION OF:

The streaming of the High Holiday
services
Julie Rivera

STIFFMAN RABBINIC CHAIR
 FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Peggy & Don Lents for being
honored as the 2023 Harris Frank
Community Service Award by
Congregation Shaare Emeth
Irene, Mel (z'l) and Barbara Greenspoon

IN MEMORY OF:

Dennis Cohen
Diana R. Barnholtz
Joanne L. Minnihan
The Minnihan Family
Alan Wallach
Marilyn & Mike Kugman
Mel Weinberg
Keith & Cindi Guller

RABBI JEFFREY B. STIFFMAN
 LECTURE FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Will Schachter for a speedy recovery
Ellen Safran & Gary Block

IN MEMORY OF:

Isador Weiss
Harvey Weiss

TEMPLE ENDOWMENT FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Alan Wallach
Rick Wasserman and Family

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 MEMORIAL EDUCATION FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Belle Tureen
John Tureen



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Forest Lake Tennis and Swim Club features 8 climate-controlled indoor
 tennis courts (open year-round), 5 outdoor tennis courts, 6 outdoor
 pickleball courts, and an outdoor Olympic-sized swimming pool.
 Memberships, clinics, teams, leagues, and more are all available.



Named 2022 USTA St. Louis
 Member Organization of the Year



Our pool proudly hosts Camp Emeth
 every summer

Visit us at 1012 N Woods Mill Road in Chesterfield
 or online at forestlaketennisclub.com

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CANTOR

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RABBI EDUCATOR

Lori Levine

RABBI EMERITUS

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