CONGREGATION SHAARE EMETH

JANUARY 2024

THE MESAIC **OF BELONGING:**

A Journey of Being Black, White, and Jewish with Marra B. Gad, Our **Esteemed Deutsch** Scholar-in-Residence and MLK Guest Speaker **JANUARY 12 & 13**



Details on page 5

Z Z Z LOVE MARRA B. GAD



JANUARY 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, January 5, 2024

6 p.m. L'Dor VaDor Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Saturday, January 6, 2024

9:30 a.m. Torah Study

Friday, January 12, 2024

6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Shabbat with Marra Gad,

Deutsch Scholar in Residence; details on page 5

Saturday, January 13, 2024

9:00 a.m. A Candid Conversation with Marra B. Gad, see page 5

Friday, January 19, 2024

6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, January 20, 2024

9:30 a.m. Keshet Shabbaton Torah Study

9:30 a.m. Boker Tov Shabbat: Tu B'Shevat Edition

Friday, January 26, 2024

6 р.т. Kabbalat Shabbat: Shabbat Shirah

Saturday, January 27, 2024

9:30 a.m. Torah Study

Friday, February 2, 2024

6 p.m. L'Dor VaDor Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Saturday, February 3, 2024

9:30 a.m. Torah Study



HOLIDAY BUILDING CLOSURES

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

Monday, January 1, 2024

in observance of New Year's Day.

Monday, January 15, 2024

in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

MAHJONG GROUPS

The Rubin Library is open to Mahjong groups on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

First come, first serve, space is limited.

THANK YOU FOR CELEBRATING CHANUKAH WITH US!

Hundreds of you joined us, on-site and virtually, as we celebrated Chanukah Shabbat with Rick Recht and Shir Emeth Youth Choir, and bestowed a special blessing on Rosalie Stein on the occasion of her retirement. You were here for Senior Lunch, Shirlee Green Preschool's Chanukah Sing-Along, the Chanukah Glow Party, Religious School, and more. Thank you for going out into the community with us at Brookdale, Covenant Place, McKnight Place, and The Gatesworth. These celebrations brought joy - not only to you and us - but to many others in the community.





III COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

SHAARE YOUR LIVES

By Rabbi James M. Bennett [Bennett@sestl.org



ast June,
U.S.
Surgeon
General Dr. Vivek
Murthy called
attention to a crisis
of loneliness that
is threatening the

public health of our nation: "Mental health is the defining public health crisis of our time, and for many Americans, loneliness is at the heart of that crisis... Loneliness is a condition that is hidden in the shadows."

This epidemic is far-reaching, with many causes and symptoms, and many solutions. I firmly believe that institutions such our congregation are a critical part of addressing this crisis and helping us find solutions. Now more than ever, membership and participation in a faith community is a way to participate in this process.

Dr. Murthy continued: "There is nothing more fundamental to the health and well-being of people in our country than ensuring that we are building a moral and spiritual foundation that guides how we interact with each other. Toward that goal, service is one of the greatest antidotes to loneliness. When we help somebody else, two things happen.

One is we forge a connection with them. The second is that we remind ourselves that we have value, and that can help us in times of our own loneliness. The less worthy we feel, the harder it is to reach out to other people."

Congregation Shaare Emeth, and our Reform Jewish faith, is devoted to creating a place and a mechanism for this kind of service to others. Through volunteerism, participation in acts of Tzedek (Justice) and Tzedakah (charity), and Chesed (lovingkindness) we discover that we are not alone, and that each of us matters.

Even more, Murthy notes, "...we also need each other. We need to turn our attention to reinforcing the caring, supportive institutions, communities, and relationships that give our lives purpose and meaning. We need to come up with ways to tip the balance toward love and away from fear, to rebuild the public square so that we can once again speak rationally with each other. To address this crisis of loneliness, we need to return to the core values of kindness,

generosity, and friendship that are so essential to the social fabric of our communities."

This, perhaps above all, is why our congregation matters so much. We need each other. We need to care for each other. We need to know how to support each other – in times of need and sorrow, and in times of joy and celebration.

I want to invite you to share your lives with us, and to help us know what is happening in your life and the life of your family, so that we can be there for each other. Beginning this month, we invite you to submit the happenings of your lives – the births, the engagements, the weddings, the celebrations, the illnesses, the losses, the challenges, and more – so that your clergy, and Temple staff, and Shaare Emeth community can be even more present to each other (with your permission, of course).

To submit something to allow us to be here for you, please email shaaringourlives@sestl.org.

In the coming weeks, look for a link in ShaareMail and on our website to make this process even easier. We hope you will share your lives with us.



We need each other. We need to care for each other. We need to know how to support each other – in times of need and sorrow, and in times of joy and celebration.

In the spirit of sharing our lives with each other, Amy and I recently reached an exciting new milestone - we became grandparents. Our first grandchild, Aria Bayla Bennett, was born on Saturday, November 4 at 8 lbs. Her proud parents are Erica and Ethan Bennett.

TAKING A MOMENT TO SAY 'THANK YOU'

By Bill Remis, President

President@sestl.org



s we start the new year, I want to devote my column to saying "thank you." Thank you to all of you who have contributed your time and money to Shaare Emeth this past year. Your contributions do so much to allow us to provide so many services to our community as well as allowing us to remain innovative

and open to new opportunities. You have helped those in need who we support. You have helped cover the costs of our exceptional staff. You have helped finance the costs to maintain our building, both inside and out. In short, you have helped Shaare Emeth with its mission. Shaare Emeth strives to be a passionate and caring community. Without each donation made through the year, large and small, we would not be the vibrant, caring community we have been able to become.

The world, as always, is full of problems and challenges. I believe this makes Shaare Emeth and the role we play in our community more critical than ever. I promise the Board of Trustees and I will continue the work of ensuring the continued vitality of our mission. We will be here in 2024 as we have always been. We will continue to raise funds and offer support for those in need, both home and abroad. We will provide a place for worship, education and reflection. We will maintain a safe and open forum for dialog and discussion on the complex issues we all face.

I look forward to working with all of you in the year to come as we continue to build our congregational community and work to make the world a better place. Thank you.

SHABBAT SHIRAH

Friday, January 26 at 6 p.m.

Kick Off A Month of Special Jewish Music at Shaare Emeth

Plan to join us for these special Shabbat services, on-site in the Stiffman Sanctuary, or via live stream. More details to follow.



The Shaare Emeth Choir will join the Prayer Lab Musicians, guest instrumentalists, Lucy Greenbaum, and Cantor Warner for a Shabbat service filled with music, joy, and celebration!



L'Dor VaDor Intergenerational ShabbatFriday, February 2 at 6 p.m.

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Kabbalat Shabbat with Alicia Jo Rabins, Special Guest Artist Friday, February 9 at 6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Noah Diamondstein & Eliana Light, Special Guest Artists Friday, February 16 at 6 p.m.

THE MESAIC OF BELONGING:

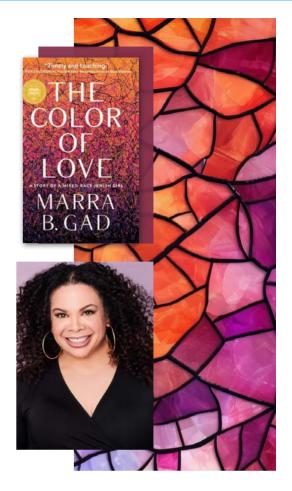


A Journey of Being Black, White, and Jewish with Marra B. Gad, Our Esteemed Deutsch Scholar-in-Residence and MLK Guest Speaker

JANUARY 12 & 13

Marra B. Gad is an award-winning author, filmmaker, and advocate who offers profound insights about belonging, overcoming bias, and finding unity. She is the author of "The Color of Love: A Story of a Mixed-Race Jewish Girl," a powerful memoir, which won the 2020 Midwest Book Award for autobiography. Describing herself as 'a grateful child of adoption', Ms. Gad is a gifted storyteller who shares her experiences being a Black and Ashkenazi Jewish child adopted by a White and Jewish family in 1970.

Ms. Gad's multifaceted talent extends beyond her writing prowess. As a gifted storyteller, she weaves a tapestry of experiences, shedding light on the intersections of identity, culture, and family dynamics. Her presence promises to inspire, challenge, and uplift all who attend.



MLK KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE

Friday, January 12 at 6 p.m.

As we honor Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy, Marra B. Gad will share her powerful narrative on identity, unity, and the unique blessings and challenges of being Black, White, and Jewish.

UNVEILING TRUTHS ON RACIAL EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION:

A Candid Conversation with Marra B. Gad

Saturday, January 13 9 a.m. Continental Breakfast 9:30 a.m. Program & Book Signing

Ms. Gad and Rabbi Goldstein will engage in conversation touching on the themes of belonging, overcoming bias, and forging unity.

RSVP at sestl.co/mlk24

This Scholar-in-Residence Program is made possible through the Fred and Elsie Deutsch Endowment Fund.

The Congregation would like to thank Roberta and Jim Deutsch, Judy and Larry Deutsch, and their families for their continuous generous support for the Scholar-in-Residence program.

QUESTIONS? Email Debbie Bram, Director of Jewish Life and Learning, at dbram@sestl.org

January Events

FRI

THE JEWISH MINDFULNESS CENTER OF ST. LOUIS PRESENTS

UN A
WITH RABBI
ANDREA GOLDSTEIN

5 LIVING ON A PRAYER

10 A.M. • JEWISH MINDFULNESS CENTER

Nism b'chol Yom – Morning Miracles • 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.

TUE

TEXTING TUESDAYS

10 A.M. • RUBIN LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM

JEWISH GENEALOGY: DIFFERENT WAYS TO TELL YOUR FAMILY'S STORY

With Rabbi Rachel Bearman

An exploration of the many ways we can tell our family's story including genealogical records, photo archiving and creative writing.

RSVP at sestl.co/jll

TUE

16 TEXTING TUESDAYS 10 A.M. • RUBIN LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM

PIRKE AVOT'S PEARLS • With Debbie Bram •

Explore the wisdom of these teachings as they are portrayed through various medium from art to graphic novel. **RSVP at sestl.co/jll**



WED

17& 24& 31 THE ETHICS OF WAR

7:15-8:30 P.M. • SHAARE EMETH

A REFORM JEWISH PERSPECTIVE • With Rabbi Jim Bennett •

Using traditional philosophical theories and teachings from ancient and contemporary Jewish sources regarding the ethics of war, we will explore the current war between Israel and Hamas and the broader Israeli-Palestinian conflict as we strive to formulate our own ethical positions on these and other wars.

RSVP at sestl.co/ethicsofwar

SUN

21 ROOTS OF HOPE: A TU B'SHEVAT SEDER

4-5:30 P.M. · SHAARE EMETH

CELEBRATING the Interconnectedness of Our Lives Here, in Israel, and in the World • Led by Rabbi Andrea Goldstein, Lucy Greenbaum, and Shinshinit Naama Herz • Join us for a Tu B'Shevat seder filled with music, readings, and delicious wines and fruits, and honoring our connection with Israel. Free; donations to the Arava Institute encouraged. **RSVP at sestl.co/rootsofhope**

MON

22 JANUARY SENIOR LUNCH

12-2 P.M. • TEMPLE ISRAEL

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

January Events

FRI

SAT

12 MLK KABBALAT 13 UNVEILING TRUTHS ON RACIAL EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

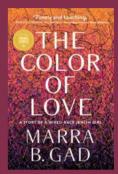
6 P.M. · STIFFMAN **SANCTUARY**

As we honor Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy, Marra B. Gad will share her powerful narrative on identity, unity, and the unique blessings and challenges of being a transracial adoptee-Black, White, and Jewish.

9 AM · SHAARF FMFTH

A Candid Conversation with Marra B. Gad • We'll begin our morning with a continental breakfast, then Ms. Gad and Rabbi Goldstein will converse on the themes of belonging, overcoming bias, and forging unity. A book signing will follow the program.

RSVP at sestl.co/mlk24





SAT

ROKER TOV SHABBAT.

TU B'SHEVA





Families with 0-5 Year-Olds:

CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF THE TREES!

9:30 A.M. · SHAARE EMETH

Families with children age 5 and younger are invited to celebrate Tu B'Shevat, the New Year of the Trees, with a musical service, continental breakfast, "JEWnior Chef" create-your-own smoothie bar, and more. We'll pray, sing, and share the joy and peace of Shabbat together while celebrating trees! RSVP at sestl.co/trees24

SAT

20 KESHET SHABBATON

Save the date for our third annual Keshet LGBTQ+ Shabbaton.

Watch for more information in ShaareMail and e-mails from Shaare Emeth's Keshet I GBTQ+ Committee!

SHABBATON: A SABBATH PROGRAM OF STUDY AND CELEBRATION.

TUE

23 TEXTING TUESDAYS

10 A.M. • RUBIN LIBRARY **CONFERENCE ROOM**

ZIONISM THREE WAYS - PART 1

With Rabbi Andrea Goldstein • Zionism is not, and has never been, a monolithic belief system. In this class we will explore and compare three distinct notions of Zionism: Political, Labor, and Revisionist. RSVP at sestl.co/ill

TUE

MATRIARCHS TO THE MATRIARCHS TO MAMALAS 4-5:15 P.M. • VIRTUAL (ZOOM)

WOMEN IN ISRAEL • We will use our time together this month to look at Women in Israel and how their lives have changed since October 7. Register at **sestl.co/mm0124** and you'll receive the suggested reading list - you may choose to read anything you'd like on the topic.



January Events

WED

24.51 CONTEMPORARY JEWISH WRITERS 2

11:30 A.M. • RUBIN LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM

LUNCH & LEARN • with Marcia Moskowitz •

Also on February 7 & 14; \$70 for the course. Participants purchase the book on their own. James McBride takes readers into the lives of the people who live on Chicken Hill, a neighborhood of "ramshackle houses and dirt roads where the town's Blacks, Jews, and immigrant whites who couldn't afford any better lived."

Register by January 8 at sestl.co/writers2

FRI

26 SHABBAT SHIRAH

6 P.M. • STIFFMAN SANCTUARY

SHABBAT SHIRAH CELEBRATES A MUSICAL MOMENT IN JEWISH BIBLICAL HISTORY:

the Israelites' freedom from Egypt. Join the Shaare Emeth Choir, Prayer Lab Musicians, guest instrumentalists, Lucy Greenbaum, and Cantor Warner for a Shabbat service filled with music, joy, and celebration!

SUN

28 SPIRITUAL PARENTING

EHEAVEN

S EARTH

GROCERY

STORE

JAMES

McBRIDE

9 A.M. • JEWISH MINDFULNESS CENTER

RAISING RESILIENT CHILDREN

• With Rabbi Andrea Goldstein • What makes parenting a spiritual practice and how can Jewish wisdom help guide us in our role as parents? Learn how we can provide space for a child's Jewish identity to emerge, flourish, and change. Register at jmcstl.org



FEBRUARY: SUN

TUE

TEXTING TUESDAYS

10 A.M. • RUBIN LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM

ZIONISM THREE WAYS - PART 2

With Rabbi Andrea Goldstein • Zionism is not, and has never been, a monolithic belief system. In this class we will explore and compare three MORE distinct notions of Zionism: Religious, Cultural, and Diaspora/Reform.

RSVP at sestl.co/jll

4 YOU ARE NOT ALONE

4-5 P.M. · SHAARE EMETH

A SERVICE OF WHOLENESS, HEALING,

AND HOPE • Whether you are facing a physical illness, coping with mental illness, feeling spiritually depleted, living with Alzheimer's or memory loss, caring for someone who is ill, etc. We invite you to join Rabbi Andrea Goldstein and Lucy Greenbaum for an afternoon of music, poetry, prayer, and connection with a community that cares. All are welcome.

Registration is required at jmcstl.org







Wrapping Up Shaare Emeth's First IYUN Circle

By Rabbi Rachel K. Bearman

RBearman@sestl.org



arly this fall, I sent out an invitation to everyone on Shaare Emeth's 20s and 30s email list. This invitation was to join me for Shaare Emeth's first IYUN Circle. I explained that IYUN is an emerging, national program that focuses on building community and providing meaningful Jewish experiences in small

group settings. These groups- or IYUN Circles- are eclectic collections of folks who meet for five or more weeks to have a new kind of conversation...the kind where you sit down with a glass and a range of texts—from the Bible to Brene Brown—and boldly ask big, messy human questions. I wrapped up my invitation by saying that I was building Shaare Emeth's first IYUN Circle with the primary goal of helping participants to connect with other members of the broader St. Louis Jewish community.

I knew that it was a big deal to ask people to commit to five evening sessions of Jewish learning and deep conversations, and, truthfully, I only hoped that a few people would be interested enough to reply with additional questions about the program.

These modest hopes were why I was thrilled when people started accepting my invitation. Before I knew it, Shaare Emeth's IYUN Circle had reached its capacity of fourteen members!





As I looked at our roster, I was so pleased to see that our Circle was made up of people with a variety of Jewish journeys and experiences. Our Circle included members who grew up Jewish, who had recently chosen Judaism, who aren't Jewish but who are members of the Jewish community, and who are on their way to Judaism. Our Circle's conversations have been so much richer because of that diversity.

On five Monday evenings over the last three months, these fourteen people have come to my home for delicious potluck dinners and joyful, difficult, and expansive conversations. Over the course of our time together, I have watched as folks have shared more and more of themselves and as friendships have begun to develop and flourish. We have built relationships with one another, and our connections are as priceless as the Jewish learning we have accomplished as a team.

I am so glad that Shaare Emeth was able to bring IYUN to St. Louis. Our first IYUN Circle has been an amazing experience, and I look forward to the learning and community building that our next IYUN Circles will bring!

If you are in your 20s or 30s and are interested in participating in future IYUN Circles at Shaare Emeth, send me an email (RBearman@sestl.org) so that I can make sure that you're added to our mailing list.



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.

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 a nd 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

Spiritual Parenting: Raising Resilient Children

Sunday, January 28 • 9 a.m. • Jewish Mindfulness Center

Join Rabbi Andrea Goldstein to discuss what makes parenting a spiritual practice and how Jewish wisdom can help guide us in our role as parents. **Register at jmcstl.org**

ROOTS OF HOPE

A Tu B'Shevat Seder

Celebrating the Interconnectedness of Our Lives Here, in Israel, and in the World.

Sunday, January 21 from 4 – 5:30 p.m. at *Congregation Shaare Emeth*

Led by Rabbi Andrea Goldstein, Lucy Greenbaum, and Shinshinit Naama Herz

Tu B'Shevat is the New Year of the Trees. Traditionally, it is a time of first blooms in Israel. At this year's Tu B'Shevat seder - filled with music, readings, and delicious wines and fruits — we will also be honoring our connection with Israel and learn more about Israel's efforts to protect our environment.

There is no cost to attend, but participants are encouraged to make a donation to the Arava Institute.

Register no later than Wednesday, January 17.

RSVP at sestl.co/rootsofhope

Questions? Contact Stacy Jespersen at sjespersen@sestl.org





SUMMER & SCHOOL YEAR REGISTRATION OPENS IN JANUARY

By Brandi Kanoya

BKanoya@sestl.org



Children have real understanding only of that which they invent themselves...

- Jean Piaget

Invent, plan, create, and celebrate. The pattern of our learning at Shirlee Green Preschool makes a joyful environment of dream making for children birth through five-years-old. At SGP, kids think it. Teachers show them how to learn more about their inventions and passions. Then, kids make it happen. Learning engages their hands, hearts, and minds as build giant castles, design statues, create museums, and write short stories. Once their big ideas come to life, everyone gather to cheer.

To invent, plan, create, and celebrate is a gift Shirlee Green Preschool gives to the young children who have made us their school. The only Design Thinking preschool in Missouri, SGP is leading the way in early childhood education. This month, we invite new families to give the gift of SGP to their children.

Preschool is not just the bridge to elementary. Shirlee Green Preschool is the wonder-filled place in which Jewish children practice how to think big, dream with abandon, take care of each other and themselves, love their community enough to help it, and celebrate the accomplishments of being a proactive, engaged human being in a democratic community.

January begins the open enrollment season for all children joining SGP for Summer 2024 and for the upcoming '24-'25 school year. Our tiered enrollment system allows current and alum families of SGP and Congregation Shaare Emeth members to reserve space for their child before our highly sought-after classes fill.

Enrollment Schedule for SGP

- JANUARY 9 enrollment open for all families of currently enrolled children.
- JANUARY 16 enrollment open for all families of SGP alumni, Congregation Shaare Emeth members, and participants in Baby n Me.
- JANUARY 23 enrollment open to the community.

For questions about enrollment or to begin your enrollment process, contact Kayla Adams at kadams@sestl.org, (314) 692-5320.













CAMP EMETH + YOUTH GROUP = FUN ALL YEAR 'ROUND!

By Laura Horton

LHorton@sestl.org



hope your new year has kicked off with lots of enjoyable family time, renewed perspective, and warm beverages!

I come bearing lots of exciting updates for the new year to come for Camp Emeth and SE345 and SE678 youth group families.

2024 camp information is now posted on our website, www.campemeth.org, so please take a look and consider joining in on the fun this upcoming summer! It is truly a special place to be in the summer, and I will continue to strive to make Camp Emeth a welcoming "home away from home" for kids in the summer as it has been for so many children in our community for over 35 years now.

Camp Emeth offers eight weeks of day camp for children entering Kindergarten through 8th Grade on the grounds of Congregation Shaare Emeth. Some campers join us for all 8 weeks, while others pick the weeks that work for them and their summer schedule. Sign up early to secure your spot, as many grades will fill up quickly. When that happens, please join our waitlist so we can reach out as spots become available.

2024 Camp Dates: June 10 - Aug 2 Camp Registration Dates:

Jan 23 Priority Access for Shaare Emeth Members

Jan 30 Registration Opens for All

Entering 9th Grade and want to get some great volunteer experience in a fun camp setting? Apply to be a Counselor-in-Training (CIT) and spend part of your summer learning from our amazing camp staff by working alongside them as part of the Camp Emeth team!

Entering 10th Grade or above and want to help create unforgettable summer memories for kids in our community (and yourself)? Apply to be a part of the Camp Emeth team and learn how working in a summer camp setting like ours can help you grow as a leader and have fun while doing it! We have a variety of positions available, such as camp counselors and specialists, and will do our best to work around your summer schedule. Camp Emeth at its core is centered around our amazing staff that reflect our community - caring, creative, diverse, and compassionate are just a few of the words I would use to describe our staff. Please reach out if you would like to know more about summer opportunities at Camp Emeth!

SE345* and SE678* youth group events this past fall gave me the opportunity to connect with the youth of Shaare Emeth in a new and exciting way, and I am looking forward to offering more events this spring! As many former youth group participants (including myself) can tell you, being a part of youth group events holds a special place in our memories many years later and can deepen connections with those around us by taking us out of our normal routine and having these fun experiences together. Please mark your calendars for the following dates if you'd like to join us and stay tuned for more details and registration links when they become available:

Sat. Feb 24 SE345 Ice Skating at Steinberg Ice Rink in Forest Park (evening program - exact time TBD)

Sun. Feb 25 SE678 Snow Tubing at Hidden Valley (afternoon program - extact time TBD)

Sat. March 9 SE345 evening program TBD

Sun. March 10 SE678 afternoon program TBD

Sat. April 13 SE345 evening program TBD

Sun. April 14 SE678 afternoon program TBD

*SE345 is open to all current 3rd-5th graders and SE678 is open to all current 6th-8th graders

Please reach out with any questions about Camp Emeth or SE345 or SE678 programs!



HEART & SOUL: NOW & FOREVER

Our 13th annual fundraiser was held on November 4, 2023, honoring Peggy & Don Lents and the Brandvein Family. It was a warm, meaningful evening celebrating our honorees and our temple.

See more photos from the event at sestl.co/hs23













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 Craig Neuman for an application by email at cneuman@sestl.org or 314.569.0010. The deadline is February 2 for Israel scholarships and February 16 for GUCI and Camp Emeth scholarships.

Welcome!

NEW MEMBER FAMILIES

Katie Rice-Guter and Lev Guter, with child, Rosa

Christy and Jeffrey Singer, with children, Sydney, and Kelsey

Amy and Jake Weinstein

Simchas

Mazel Tov to Rabbi Jim and Amy Bennett on the birth of their granddaughter, Aria Bayla Bennett. Proud parents are Erica and Ethan Bennett.

Mazel Tov to Stacy and Jon Jespersen on the birth of their granddaughter, Eliana Grace Konradt. Proud parents are Samantha and Tanner Konradt and proud great-grandmother, Gerry Weinman.

Mazel Tov to Lynn and Dr. Carl Lyss on the birth of their great grandson,
Miles Harper Brong. Proud parents are
Avery Lyss and Tyler Brong and proud grandparents are Jocelyn and
Andrew Lyss.

Mazel Tov to Marci and Ronn
Diamond on the marriage of their
daughter, Erica Diamond to Jacob
Kornman. Also Mazel Tov to Jackie
Kolker, Erica's grandmother.

IIII MEMBERSHIP & FUNDRAISING

"We think of Shaare
Emeth as part of our
family and during the
pandemic that is exactly
what it was: our contact
with the outside world.
Shaare Emeth continues
to enrich the spiritual
side of our lives, to be
a force to better our
world, to give a sense of
community, and always
to be our family."







"Shaare Emeth
has provided a
place of comfort
in my sorrow,
joy in my family's
accomplishments
and a peaceful,
soothing setting
when I feel the need."

- Barbara Spector with grandchild Josie (14)

Membership Responsibility

hank you to our members for committing to Membership Responsibility 2024. Your generosity allows us to fulfill our mission to serve as a compassionate, respectful, and inclusive community that makes Judaism relevant, meaningful, and joyful.

Please check your January statement and make sure it reflects the amount and payment schedule you expect.

Reminder: Payment plans do not carry over from one year to the next. Even if you had a payment plan for 2023, you need to set up a new one for 2024. If you would like to continue with automatic payments, log into your ShulCloud account or contact the office for assistance.

Please contact the temple office at 314-569-0010 if you need to make any adjustments or have any questions.

We are here to help! Thank you for your support of Shaare Emeth.



THANK YOU, AV CLUB!

hank you to our 2023 AV Club! With your generosity, we were able to keep our Shaare Emeth community connected with wrap-around technological services for members of all ages. Whether it was streamed worship services or life cycle events like funerals and B'Mitzvahs, Shaare Emeth was able to include everyone near and far as a connected community.

Please consider becoming a new or renewing AV Club member in 2024.

You can join online through your ShulCloud account, or call the main office.

Thanks to our 2023 AV Club members:

Akiva and Brachah Belk Robert and Gloria Berger Ronnie and Allen Brockman Ilene Brooks and Richard Scharnhorst Frederick and Stefany Brot Sheila Cohen Richard and Dianna Fine Wendy Flusser Lynne Fogel Arlene Goodman Larry and Natalie Goldman Richard and Sherri Goldman Randall and Nancy Green James and Jane Grossman George and Rita Heymann Sidney and Nancy Hirsh Phylis Kahn Arnold and Sharon Kaufman **Dolores Kling** Jacquelyn and Martin Lipsitz Ashley and Ann Loiterstein Gabriel Maayan

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CONDOLENCES

Joan Koven

Mother of Melissa Koven and Heather (Thatcher) Bell

Ethel Mae Lerner

Mother of Eve Rudolph and grandmother of Kevin (Kayla) Rudolph, Carly (John) Hildreth, and Zachary (Kaila) Rudolph

Ruth Sher

Mother of Barrie (Karen) Sher

SYMPATHY

Vince (Dana) DeBlasi on the death of his mother, Arlene DeBlasi

Howard (Jodi) Granok on the death of his father, Jerrold Granok

Rob (Becky) Levinson on the death of his grandfather, Richard Levinson

Shelly Grossman on the death of her mother, Kay Diamant

Adrienne (Jay) Magner on the death of her mother, Shirley Appel Doug (Lisa) Nixon on the death of his mother,
Janet Nixon

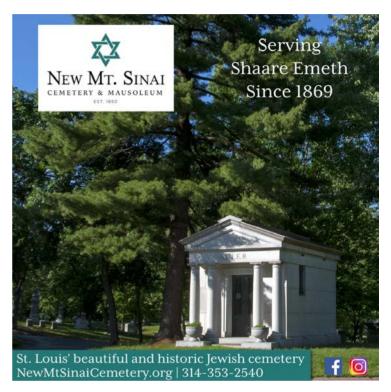
Steve (Bonnie) Rosen on the death of his brother, Harold Rosen

Jennifer (Ken) Stanfield on the death of her mother, Ruth Eltinge

Lisa Staunton on the death of her mother.

Sherril Jeanne Cowsert

Andrew (Marti) Zuckerman on the death of his mother, Sarah "Sally" Zuckerman We express condolences to Shaare Emeth members and families who have recently lost a loved one and sympathy to Shaare Emeth members who have had a death in their extended family.



PERPETUAL MEMORIALS

A memorial has been established for:

Sanford "Buddy" Lebman

Carole Levitt Kalish

Established by Betsy and Ben Kerner

Ethel Mae Lerner

Marilyn S. Schear
Established by Rob
Loewenstein

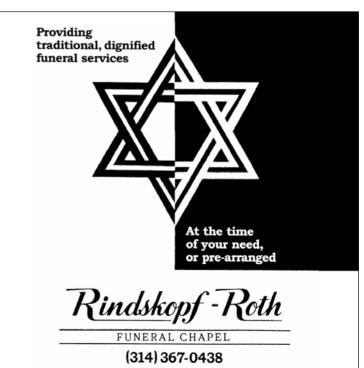
Robert Sparks

Established by Zelda Sparks

Names of those remembered by a Perpetual Memorial are read during Friday Shabbat Services. They will also be remembered by yahrzeit date reminders sent to designated family members' homes and are automatically included with the Perpetual Memorials in our memorial book on Yom Kippur. For more information on establishing a Perpetual Memorial, contact Stacy Jespersen at SJespersen@sestl.org or 314-692-5302.



Weekly Yahrzeit listings can be found online at **sestl.org/yahrzeits**.



RABBIS' SPECIAL FUND

IN APPRECIATION OF:

Rabbi Bennett for his kindness, calls and visit during Stan Towerman's

Arlene Goodman

Rabbi Bennett for his beautiful outdoor service at the shiva for Michael Rumelt

Ellen Rumelt and Family

Rabbi Bennett and Rabbi Goldstein for helping their granddaughter, Molly Pereles become a Bat Mitzvah Brenda & Joe Pereles

Rabbi Bennett for helping Andrew Sachs become a Bar Mitzvah

Susie & Jonathan Sachs

Rabbi Bennett for helping with Ken Steinback's stone setting

The Steinback and Sachs Families Rabbi Bennett for officiating at the wedding of Emily Schenberg to Nick Quick

Stacy & Mark Schenberg Rabbi Bennett, Rabbi Goldstein, & Rabbi Levine for their dedication towards helping Maya Newman become a Bat Mitzvah and for making the day so special

Margo & Drew Newman and Family Rabbi Goldstein for supporting Brooke Buck throughout her journey to become a Bat Mitzvah

Iennifer & Donnie Buck

Rabbi Goldstein for helping Jillian and Eli Reppy become B'nai Mitzvah

The Reppy Family

Rabbi Goldstein for officiating at the baby naming of their granddaughter, Carter Hamilton

Dede & Garry Seltzer

Rabbi Bearman for performing the baby naming for their granddaughter, Goldie Vida Glick Angie & Jim Glick

Rabbi Bearman for her sermon on Rosh Hashanah

Linda S. Levin

Rabbi Stiffman for the helpful archive research

Alan Goodman

The Shaare Emeth Clergy for their support and officiating at the funeral for Buddy Lebman

Ruthi Long & Vicki Oren

The Shaare Emeth Clergy & Staff for their friendship, kindness & support Rachel Bearman

All of the Clergy and Staff of Shaare Emeth for their beautiful high holiday services

> Ellen & Ronnie Gross; Rochelle Karty; Robyn & Scott Meyer

IN HONOR OF:

Amy & Rabbi Jim Bennett on the birth of their granddaughter, Aria Bayla Bennett

Sharee & Mark Feldman: Sherri & Rick Goldman; Carole & Jay Goldstein; Jackie & Ken Kleban: Sue & Mark Koritz: Carole & David Lander: Jackie & Marty Libsitz: Brenda & Joe Pereles; Marilyn & Gary Ratkin; Pam & Ron Rubin; Sheri & Fred Seigel; Iris P. Shepard; Karen Suroff & Oscar Schwartz; Jody & Mickey Waldman

Rabbi Julius J. Nodel and all rabbis presently serving Shaare Emeth Madeleine & Karl Driesen

Judy & John Brandvein and the Brandvein Family for receiving the L'dor Vador Award at Shaare Emeth Bruce Klein; Karen & David Palans

Lyne Fogel for speedy recovery, healing and a smooth transition to new home

B'Yachad Rosh Chodesh Group

Rosa Guter on her first birthday Barbara & Marvin Guter

Nicole & Noah Lander on Harlow Lander becoming a Bat Mitzvah Wendy Flusser

Eddie Musen for a speedy recovery Sheri & Fred Seigel

The Sabin Family on Ella Sabin becoming a Bat Mitzvah Sharon & Bill Schneider

Marti Zuckerman for her dedication to the Ebrahimi sponsor group Andy & Stan Shanker

IN MEMORY OF:

Kay Bearman

Esther Appelbaum; B'Yachad Rosh Chodesh Group; Phylis Kahn; Marsha & Simon Koski; Linda & Bill Levin; Brenda & Joe Pereles; Sandy Sher

Dr. Samuel Bernstein Randi & David Schenberg

Dan Broida

Roma Broida Wittcoff

Edward Fagan

Sheila Cohen

Arthur Carl Foster

Karen & Nelson Foster

Jan Hardcastle

Terri & Gene Jacobson and Family

Hal Kamin

Sherri & Rick Goldman

Dolores Kenkel

Rina & Paul Kenkel

Marvin Kenkel

Rina & Paul Kenkel

Buddy Lebman

Phylis Kahn; Andy & Stan Shanker

Phillip Movitz

Sherri & Rick Goldman

Ann Poger

Frances Poger

Vivian Silver

Laurie Goldberg

CANTOR'S SPECIAL FUND

IN APPRECIATION OF:

Cantor Warner

Dick Brickson

Cantor Warner for supporting Brooke Buck throughout her journey to become a Bat Mitzvah

Iennifer & Donnie Buck

Cantor Warner for listening

Larry Carson

Cantor Warner for his wonderful programming and support for our Jewish community

Bree & Jared Goodman Cantor Warner for his dedication towards helping Maya Newman become a Bat Mitzvah and for making the day so special

Margo & Drew Newman and Family Cantor Warner for helping their granddaughter, Molly Pereles become a Bat Mitzvah

Brenda & Joe Pereles

Cantor Warner for guiding Eli & Jillian Reppy to become B'nai Mitzvah

The Reppy Family

Cantor Warner for officiating at the funeral for Michael Rumelt

Ellen Rumelt and Family Cantor Warner for helping Andrew Sachs become a Bar Mitzvah

Susie & Jonathan Sachs

Cantor Warner for officiating at the stone dedication for Lew Sanders Janice Sanders and Family

Cantor Warner for doing a great job; he is loved

Willard Schachter

IN HONOR OF:

Cantor Warner for his dynamic voice during the high holidays

Ellen & Ronnie Gross

Brenda & Joe Pereles on their granddaughter Molly Pereles becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Arlene Goodman

Barry Shafman for a speedy recovery Carol & Bruce Canis

IN MEMORY OF:

Mildred Lerner

Linda & Bill Levin

Iane Schachter

Arlene Goodman, Stephanie Turner

& Will Schachter Stan Towerman

Carol & Tedd Barr

BEMA FLOWER FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Lillian & Dr. Harry Glassman The Glassman Family

J.J. Imber on becoming

a Bar Mitzvah

Melanie & Stuart Imber

The tributes listed here are those made for \$10 or more and processed October 1 - November 30, 2023. A tribute gift made in another's name is a lovely way to honor a friend for a recent simcha (joyous occasion), to honor the memory of a deceased loved one on their vahrzeit (anniversary of death), or to show appreciation for someone. To make a tribute donation, visit sestl.org/give. Hard copy forms are available in the Shaare Emeth North lobby vestibule or you may email JMcginty@sestl.org

IN MEMORY OF:

Frances Kahn

Pam & Ron Rubin, Julie, Jay, Sally & Ray Liberman and Todd Rubin

Pearl Soffer

The Soffer Family

JOSEPH & LILLIAN BEIL ISRAEL FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Max, Florence and Marty Redler Lenore Redler

Lillian & Joseph Beil Rosalind B. Sell

Dr. Marvin Cassel

Karen & Richard Cassel

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Dr. Howard Robinson

BROCKMAN-SIEGELMAN GEMILUT HASADIM FUND

IN APPRECIATION OF:

Rabbi Goldstein for so many reasons Ellen & Ronnie Gross

IN HONOR OF:

Eunice & John Reichman on their 60th wedding anniversary Ken Schwartz

IN MEMORY OF:

Helen & Oscar Brockman, Evelyn & Sidney Goldberg, Wilma & Caroline Siegelman & George Siegelman

Ronnie & Allen Brockman

Bob Brown

Ronnie & Allen Brockman

Buddy Lebman

Ken Schwartz

BUILDING FUND

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Karen Schechter on the marriage of Laura Schechter & John DuPree Helene A. Herwitz



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IN MEMORY OF:

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SADIE & SIDNEY S. COHEN MUSIC FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Leanie Mendelsohn

The Schmittdiel Family

MICAH DAVIS MEMORIAL FUND

IN HONOR OF:

The marriage of Sophie & James Corwin

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Gerry Trilling for a speedy recovery

Pam Davis and Norm Davis

IN MEMORY OF:

Micah Davis

ESTELLE & ED FISCHER CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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Jeffrey Korn Amy & Kevin Fischer

GOLDBERG CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Mildred Goldberg
Richard F. Meldrum

SAM I. GOLMAN ISRAEL FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Jen Bernstein for a speedy recovery

Nancy Bernstein

SHIRLEE GREEN PRESCHOOL FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Erica & Ethan Bennett on the birth of their daughter, Aria Bayla Bennett Lisa & Larry Carson

IN MEMORY OF:

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Judy & John Brandvein
Buddy Lebman
Judy & John Brandvein
Ethel Lerner

Sherri & Bob Daniel

ALAN GREENBERG EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

George Wagner
The Shulman Family Brent, Amanda,
Rebecca and Benjamin

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IN HONOR OF:

Amy & Rabbi Jim Bennett on the birth of their granddaughter, Aria Bayla Bennett

Jerri & Bill Livingston

Marci & Ronn Diamond on the marriage of their daughter Erica Diamond to Jacob Kornman

Jerri & Bill Livingston

Stacy & Jon Jespersen on the birth of their granddaughter, Eliana Grace Konradt

Jerri & Bill Livingston

Samantha Jespersen Konradt & Tanner Konradt on the birth of their daughter, Eliana Grace Konradt

Jerri & Bill Livingston

Brenda & Joe Pereles on their granddaughter, Molly becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Jerri & Bill Livingston

Eunice Reichman for a Happy Birthday

Jerri & Bill Livingston

Gerry Weinman on the birth of her great-granddaughter, Eliana Grace Konradt

Jerri & Bill Livingston

IDA & HARRIS KRAMER SOCIAL ACTION FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Patrick Siler for continued healing and recovery

Ilene Brooks & Dick Scharnhorst

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Marsha Schwesig

Kevin Mellick & Jennifer Schwesig and Family; Norm Schwesig

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Joy Lewis

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IN HONOR OF:

Judy & John Brandvein and the Brandvein Family for receiving the Shaare Emeth L'dor Vador Award Lynn & Dr. Carl Lyss

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Lynn & Dr. Carl Lyss

John Morrison for a speedy recovery Lynn & Dr. Carl Lyss

David Oughton for being honored by the Interfaith Partnership of St. Louis

Lynn & Dr. Carl Lyss

Peggy & Don Lents for being the recipients of the 2023 Harris Frank Community Service Award Lynn & Dr. Carl Lyss

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Fran Mannis on her special birthday $\it Sue\ Matlof$

Judy & Steve Wasserman on the marriage of their granddaughter, Maddie Schaffel to Danny Fabian Nancy Bernstein

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Harriet Summers & Alan Sherman; Diane & Stephen Weinstock

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IN MEMORY OF:

Margie Buxner

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Larry Buxner

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IN APPRECIATION OF:

Barry Shafman for his speedy recovery Donna & David Segal

IN HONOR OF:

Amy & Rabbi Jim Bennett on the birth of their granddaughter, Aria Bayla Bennett

Eunice & John Reichman
Rabbi Lori Levine for her help
with the shiva

Jennifer Hoffman-Mentle & Robbie Mentle
Teri & Harvey Brandvein and the
Brandvein Family for receiving the
L'dor Vador Award at Shaare Emeth
Sherri & Rick Goldman; Jill &
Tom Sherman

Rachel Canis for speedy recovery and return to good health

Linda & Bill Levin

Marc Flanders for a speedy recovery Sharee & Mark Feldman

Amy Hammerman on being named a 2023 Unsung Hero by the St. Louis Jewish Light Brenda & Joe Pereles

Stacy & Jon Jespersen on the birth of their granddaughter,

Eliana Grace Konradt

Brenda & Joe Pereles; Eunice & John Reichman

Brenda & Joe Pereles on their granddaughter Molly Pereles becoming a Bat Mitzvah

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IN HONOR OF:

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Norm Handshear on the birth of his grandson, Michael David Handshear Barbara & David Victor

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IN HONOR OF:

Dani & Josh Goodman on the birth of their daughter, Emilia Sage Barbara & David Victor

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Marti Reichman; Barbara & David Victor Eunice & John Reichman on their 60th wedding anniversary Marti Reichman

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Eunice & John Reichman

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eison Keichman

Arlene Goodman; Marti Reichman

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Annie Gottesman for helping their granddaughter, Molly Pereles become a Bat Mitzvah

Brenda & Joe Pereles

Jodi Granok for helping their granddaughter, Molly Pereles become a Bat Mitzvah

Brenda & Joe Pereles

Jodi Granok for helping Andrew Sachs become a Bar Mitzvah Susie & Jonathan Sachs

IN HONOR OF:

Gale & Harry Hilburg on their grandson, Phin Hilburg becoming a Bar Mitzvah

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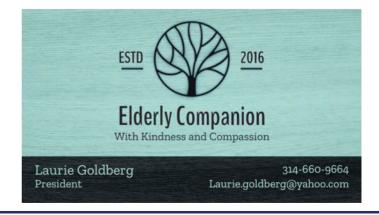
IN HONOR OF:

Peggy & Don Lents for being the recipients of the 2023 Harris Frank Community Service Award Jerry Stack

STIFFMAN RABBINIC CHAIR FUND

IN APPRECIATION OF:

Rabbi Stiffman for his kindness, calls, and visit during Stan's decline Arlene Goodman



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Buddy Lebman

Peggy & Don Lents and Family

RABBI JEFFREY B. STIFFMAN LECTURE FUND

IN APPRECIATION OF:

Rabbi Stiffman for officiating at the funeral of Ruth Sher Barrie & Ronnie Sher and Susan Csengody

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