

# CONGREGATION SHAARE EMETH BULLETIN

MAY AND JUNE 2025

## A YEAR OF GROWTH & CELEBRATION



### 158<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

May 6 • Page 11



### SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION

May 9 • Page 12 & 13



Thank You and Farewell to  
Lucy Greenbaum • May 30



Shavuot • June 1-2



# SCHEDULE

## MAY + JUNE WORSHIP & TORAH STUDY SCHEDULE

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

### Friday, May 2, 2025

6 p.m. L'Dor VaDor Intergenerational Kabbalat Shabbat Service with Our 6th Grade Religious School Students and May Simcha Blessings

### Saturday, May 3, 2025

9:30 a.m. Torah Study  
11 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service: Bat Mitzvah of Lexi Margul, child of Alicia and Shaun Margul

### Friday, May 9, 2025

6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service and Service of Confirmation  
See pages 12 & 13 for details

### Saturday, May 10, 2025

9:30 a.m. Torah Study

### Friday, May 16, 2025

6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service: Honoring Our Graduating Seniors and PostCon Fellowship Students

### Saturday, May 17, 2025

9:30 a.m. Torah Study  
11 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service: Bar Mitzvah of Maxwell Fendelman, child of Afton and Breton Fendelman

### Friday, May 23, 2025

6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service

### Saturday, May 24, 2025

9:30 a.m. Torah Study  
11 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service: Bat Mitzvah of Clara Dahl, child of Stephanie and Brandon Dahl

### Friday, May 30, 2025

6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service: Until We Meet Again – Thank You & Farewell to Lucy Greenbaum, see page 8

### Saturday, May 31, 2025

9:30 a.m. Torah Study  
11 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service: Bar Mitzvah of Holden Wheeler, child of Jessica and Benjamin Wheeler

### Monday, June 2, 2025

9 a.m. Shavuot Yizkor Service

### Friday, June 6, 2025

6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service with June Simcha Blessings

### Saturday, June 7, 2025

9:30 a.m. Torah Study  
11 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service: Bar Mitzvah of Isaac Kraft, child of Keira and Bryan Kraft

### Friday, June 13, 2025

6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service — Pride Shabbat

### Saturday, June 14, 2025

9:30 a.m. Keshet Pride Torah Study & Shabbaton, see page 5

### Friday, June 20, 2025

6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service — Juneteenth/Tzedek Shabbat

### Saturday, June 21, 2025

9:30 a.m. Torah Study

### Friday, June 27, 2025

6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service

### Saturday, June 28, 2025

9:30 a.m. Torah Study

### Friday, July 4, 2025

6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service

### Saturday, July 5, 2025

9:30 a.m. Torah Study

### Friday, July 11, 2025

6 p.m. L'Dor VaDor Intergenerational Kabbalat Shabbat Service: Camp Shabbat and July Simcha Blessings

### Saturday, July 12, 2025

9:30 a.m. Torah Study

## HOLIDAY BUILDING CLOSURES

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

**Monday, May 26:** Campus closed in observance of Memorial Day.

**Monday, June 2:** The Congregation Shaare Emeth Main Office and Shirlee Green Preschool will be closed in observance of Shavuot. Our building will remain open.

**Thursday, June 19:** Campus closed in observance of Juneteenth.

**Friday, July 4:** Campus closed in observance of Independence Day.



## THE PROMISE OF THE FUTURE

By Rabbi James M. Bennett

[JBennett@sestl.org](mailto:JBennett@sestl.org)



**W**e have once again arrived at the season of graduations and confirmation. As children and grandchildren, friends and relatives, and neighbors and strangers are approaching the remarkable milestones of graduation from high school, college, and graduate school,

here at Shaare Emeth we are experiencing a bit of this annual ritual as well. One of my great privileges as a rabbi is to witness and participate each year in Confirmation, and I also have the joy of watching our PostCon students and our graduating High School seniors move through this gate into adulthood. Even more, to be privileged to witness the confirmation and graduation of students whose parents' confirmation and graduation I also remember is a particularly sweet benefit of spending so much of my career here at Shaare Emeth.

Graduation and confirmation have a special and unique power. I suspect that many of you, like me, still recall your own confirmation and graduation, and can remember the call to optimism, hope, and an unrealized future that they represented. These moments in our lives and the lives of those we love are glimpses into a future that, we pray, will be good and fulfilling. We look forward to being able to witness, God-willing, the fulfillments of all of these dreams and hopes and promises of the next generation and beyond.

These ceremonies and life cycle moments represent profound hope and a great, incomparable promise of the future. Even more, now, at a time when we many of us are feeling the futility and hopelessness of a world seemingly spiraling out of our control, watching and celebrating the next generation's arrival into adulthood offers a powerful antidote to despair.

If we wish, of course, we can see the world as dark and ominous. We can choose to believe that all around us the

specter of such threats as hatred, prejudice, antisemitism, racism, homophobia, and intolerance is rising and threatening to overtake us. While it is undeniable that these dangers are real, we need not give in to the theory that they are worse than ever. We need not abandon hope, nor optimism, nor our belief in the fundamental goodness of humanity.

I know this, because I have had the privilege of teaching and learning with our 10th grade confirmation students and the remarkable 11th and 12th graders in our PostCon Fellowship this year. These young people restore my faith every time I am with them. They are genuinely wise, and excited about the future, and they are a reminder of what the biblical prophet Joel taught when he said that "the old shall dream dreams, and the youth shall see visions..."

If you want to feel some of what I and the other clergy and teachers who work with our teens have learned from them, join us on **Friday, May 9** for our Service of Confirmation and on **Friday, May 16** when we will honor our PostCon Fellowship students and all of our graduating seniors. You'll see what I mean. You'll be inspired as well!

Speaking of the promise of the future and people who inspire us, I want to add my personal thanks and congratulations to Lucy Greenbaum, who, as you can read elsewhere in this bulletin will soon be leaving Shaare Emeth and St. Louis to begin her cantorial studies at the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion. While we will miss Lucy and the tremendous contribution she has made during her years working at Shaare Emeth, we are so excited for her and wish her a future filled with joy, music, learning, blessing, and more! Lucy's musical gifts have uplifted us all, and we look forward to continuing to follow her career and to celebrate with her in the future. Please join us on Friday evening, May 30, when we will formally say farewell to Lucy.

Thank you, Lucy, and *L'hitraot!*



*A Celebration of Strength, Unity, and Heritage!*

**Music, Games, Food for sale, plus  
"Rebuilding Israel: A Humans of October 7th" Exhibit**

— Thursday, May 1, 2025 —  
**5 p.m. Exhibit Presentation and Reception  
6 p.m. Festivities Begin**

**St. Louis Jewish Community Center  
Staenberg Family Complex**

**Details and  
Registration at  
[jccstl.com/event/  
yom-haatzmaut](http://jccstl.com/event/yom-haatzmaut)**





## FROM THE CLERGY

### A SPIRITUAL RENEWAL SABBATICAL

By Rabbi Andrea Goldstein, [AGoldstein@sestl.org](mailto:AGoldstein@sestl.org)

*“When you enter the land that I assign to you, the land shall observe a Sabbath of the Eternal. Six years you may sow your field and six years you may prune your vineyard and gather in the yield. But in the seventh year the land shall have a Sabbath of complete rest, a Sabbath dedicated to God.” (Lev. 25:2-4)*



It is upon these verses that the idea of a sabbatical for professionals has been built. The word sabbatical comes from the word, Sabbath – a day dedicated to rest and renewal from the hectic schedules, business and productivity of the other six days of the week. It is also a day to connect more deeply to the spiritual components of one’s life. Ironically, for rabbis and cantors, Shabbat is a day of work, as well as a day of rest. That is why the sabbatical is vital to the long-term health and satisfaction of all professionals, but perhaps, especially to clergy.

I am grateful to the Board of Trustees, as well as Shaare Emeth’s members and staff, for understanding the need for clergy to engage in extended periods of study and rest. My last sabbatical involved the pursuit and completion of my Doctor of Ministry. Though it was not exactly restful, I loved that I was able to use my last sabbatical in such a meaningful way. This sabbatical will focus much more decidedly on the notion of spiritual renewal. Beginning on June 6th, I will be taking a three-month sabbatical, which I plan to dedicate to reading and rest, exercise and travel, spiritual retreats and connecting more deeply with family and friends. Although I will miss my work and all of you whom I am privileged to serve while I am away, I am also looking forward to this sabbatical as a time to reflect and revive.

Wishes to each of you for a wonderful summer.

### IT’S NOT GOODBYE, IT’S UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

By Cantor Seth Warner, [SWarner@sestl.org](mailto:SWarner@sestl.org)



A little over eight years ago while attending Song Leader Boot Camp at the JCC, I met a college student from Arizona who was likely transferring to Washington University for the next semester. That song leader was none other than Lucy Greenbaum.

Since moving to St. Louis, Lucy has become an integral part of Congregation Shaare Emeth, helping us grow while growing herself. Lucy has impacted every aspect of our congregation with her beautiful voice, her compassionate teaching, and her vibrant energy.

As you may know, Lucy has been accepted to the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion and will begin cantorial school this summer in Israel. She will then likely return to the New York campus to continue her cantorial studies after her year studying in Jerusalem.

In Pirkei Avot, Ethics of Our Ancestors, we read of Yehoshua ben Perachia who said: “Make for yourself a teacher, acquire for yourself a friend, and judge every person favorably.”

Lucy has come into her own as a teacher, singer, song leader and so much more during her time with us. Most of all, she has become our cherished friend, inspiring us to see each other and the world through eyes filled with promise and hope.

I hope you’ll join us on Friday, May 30 at 6 p.m. for a special Erev Shabbat service, with a special nosh beforehand, when we will honor and wish Lucy well on her cantorial journey.

This won’t be goodbye, rather: until we meet again.

A comprehensive search is underway for a new Director of Music Engagement. Stay tuned for more information.







# The Importance of Celebrating Pride as A Community

By Rabbi Rachel K. Bearman

[RBearman@sestl.org](mailto:RBearman@sestl.org)



There are many reasons why people choose to join Shaare Emeth, but you might be surprised to know that our congregation's commitment to celebrating and respecting people of all sexualities and genders is one of the reasons that I have heard frequently from prospective members.

## I have heard:

"I'm bisexual, and this is the first congregation I've attended that celebrates Pride."

"My daughter is trans, and I feel like this will be a safe space for us."

"I'm friends with the grooms who got married in your sanctuary last year. I really liked how they were celebrated."

"I read about the Keshet Committee's work, and I want to get involved."

"My girlfriend and I saw a photo of a couple that looked like us on your social media account!"

"I grew up in a congregation where the rabbi and cantor never talked about LGBTQ+ people. When I heard your sermon, I learned that Reform Judaism believes all people are created in God's image."

"I think this might be a place where I can be myself."

We should all be proud to belong to a congregation that is committed to respecting and celebrating people of all genders.

Because of our commitment, Shaare Emeth is a space where the full, glorious rainbow of humanity can, as Rabbi Eger says, in the statement below, "be all of themselves at every place and every time."

This year is the 55th anniversary of the first Pride celebration. Pride began as a way of commemorating the bravery displayed by LGBTQ+ protestors during the uprising that began in front of the Stonewall Inn in New York City in June of 1969. This year, as the rights of LGBTQ+ people are being attacked in unprecedented and unrelenting ways, it seems especially important to remember that Pride was born out of resistance and that celebrating Pride quickly became a way for the LGBTQ+ community to demand change.

If you would like to learn more about the ways that we can all advocate for the rights of LGBTQ+ people, please explore the resources available on the Keshet page of our Shaare Emeth website ([sestl.org/belong/keshet-lgbtq](http://sestl.org/belong/keshet-lgbtq)).

Whether or not we are members of the LGBTQ+ community, I hope that all of us will be a part of Pride Shabbat this year. Let's gather together and make sure that everyone within and outside of our congregation knows that Shaare Emeth is a place where all people can show up as their full selves and can experience *shleimut* (wholeness and completeness).

Shaare Emeth will be celebrating Pride Shabbat on Friday night, June 13, and on Saturday morning, June 14. We will also have an educational program on Wednesday, June 11. Visit Keshet's webpage to learn more about how we will be celebrating this year.



The Jewish LGBTQ person lives in *shleimut* (wholeness/completeness) when they do not have to be Jewish in one place and queer in another but can be all of themselves at every place and every time. Our integrity to live in the world is fully realized when we cannot only acknowledge our sexuality but celebrate it as a gift from God. We are complete without needing to be changed.

We are complete and whole  
and blessed.

Adapted from Rabbi Denise C. Eger

*Mishkan Ga'avah: Where Pride Dwells:  
A Celebration of LGBTQ Jewish Life & Ritual*



# REFLECTIONS ON OUR JEWISH PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

By Craig Neuman, Executive Director

[CNeuman@sestl.org](mailto:CNeuman@sestl.org)



Having recently returned from a trip to Italy, I find myself reflecting on the deep, complex, and often painful history of the Jewish people. Walking the cobbled streets of the Jewish Ghettos in Rome and Venice, I was struck by the weight of history in these places—by both the resilience and the suffering of our ancestors, and by the enduring spirit of Jewish life that persists even today.

In Rome, I stood where, in 1555, Pope Paul IV confined Jews to a walled-off ghetto along the banks of the Tiber. For over three centuries, the Jews of Rome lived under crushing restrictions—forced into poverty, subjected to humiliations, and yet maintaining an unbreakable devotion to their traditions. The grand Tempio Maggiore, Rome's great synagogue, now stands as a symbol of survival and defiance, a testament to the endurance of Jewish faith and culture.

In Venice, I explored the world's first ghetto, a place whose very name became synonymous with forced segregation. The Jews of Venice—merchants, moneylenders, doctors, and scholars—were locked in at night, yet they built a thriving community. Their synagogues, hidden behind unassuming facades, still whisper the stories of those who prayed within their walls, dreaming of a life beyond the confines imposed upon them.

What does this history mean for us today? As I walked these ancient streets, I could not help but think about the state of the Jewish people in our own time. We are no longer locked within walls, but we still face challenges—rising antisemitism, threats to our security, and struggles to maintain Jewish identity in an ever-changing world. Yet, as history teaches us, we are nothing if not resilient.

I returned to St. Louis with these thoughts still fresh in my mind, seeing our own Jewish community through a new lens. While we are blessed to live in a time of freedom, where Jewish life can thrive openly, we know that maintaining a strong, vibrant community takes effort. Shaare Emeth, as well as other Jewish communal institutions, serve as modern-day centers of Jewish resilience, ensuring that Jewish life continues to flourish here, just as it did—against all odds—in Rome and Venice.



As we are reminded each Passover, hope for the Jewish people lies in remembering our past while forging ahead with strength and unity. It lies in educating the next generation about where we have been so they can chart the course for where we are going. It lies in fostering connection—between people of different backgrounds, between Israel and the Diaspora, and between our past and our future. This is our mission at Shaare Emeth—one which we endeavor to fulfill every day.

Standing in the Jewish quarter of Venice, I thought of the Hebrew phrase "Am Yisrael Chai"—the People of Israel live. Not just in the echoes of history, but in the vibrancy of our present and the promise of our future. From Rome to Venice, from Europe to Israel, from the ghettos of the past to the thriving Jewish community of St. Louis today, our story continues. And we must ensure it always will.







## OUR EXCEPTIONAL COMMUNITY: YEAR IN REVIEW AND THE PROGRESS TO COME

By Dana DeBlasi, President

[President@sestl.org](mailto:President@sestl.org)



**W**ow! It is hard to believe that nearly a year has passed since I began my term as President. In those early days, I felt a mix of excitement and uncertainty—wondering what would be required of me, how I could best serve this community, and how I would engage with our members, lay leaders, clergy, and staff to understand their hopes for our congregation. My goal was simple: to do my absolute best and help strengthen this community I care so deeply about.

Over the past months, I have come to realize that when our mission is clear, our values are strong, and our work is meaningful, time moves quickly—and, more importantly, people want to be part of that work. That sense of shared purpose and dedication has been inspiring, and it continues to shape our journey forward.

At this year's High Holidays, I expressed my hope that we would all commit to "showing up" for each other and for ourselves. This vision became central to my leadership and to our collective efforts. We have worked to raise up the involvements in and additions to our committees, revive key initiatives, and ensure that leadership is actively engaged in fostering participation. Every Board member has taken on a role in our committees, helping to reach members who may not have been previously involved. Additionally, our leadership presence at various programs has demonstrated our

commitment to the values that drive our congregation. By "showing up," we strengthen our bonds between us and to the community at large, enrich our Jewish experiences, and bring our shared values to life.

This past year we have grown from "strength to strength" as we took what was best about us and strove for better. We have improved collaborative decision-making between lay leadership, clergy, and staff to ensure we were responsive, timely and aligned. These efforts have reinforced our ability to navigate important matters with clarity and purpose. I am deeply grateful to those who have worked together to ensure that our actions continue to reflect the values of our congregation.

As we move forward, we are excited to put the finishing touches on our Strategic Planning process, which will be shared with you in the coming months. This plan will help us define our priorities and guide our next steps as a congregation.

I encourage everyone to stay engaged and take an active role in shaping our future.

As we welcome the arrival of spring, a season of renewal and possibility, let us leverage this momentum and be inspired to live our mission statement, as "a compassionate, respectful and inclusive community that makes Judaism relevant, meaningful, and joyful."





להתראות  
L'HITRAOT



# UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

FAREWELL SERVICE  
FOR LUCY GREENBAUM

Friday, May 30

5:15 P.M.

Special Nosh  
in Lucy's Honor

6 P.M.

Kabbalat  
Shabbat Service  
Celebrating  
Lucy Greenbaum

*Lucy has made countless contributions to the Shaare Emeth community over the last eight years. Her music and spirit have added warmth and meaning to our worship services, Shirlee Green Preschool, Religious School, Camp Emeth, Shir Emeth Youth Choir, and so much more. Join the Shaare Emeth Clergy and Prayer Lab Musicians for an evening dedicated to celebrating Lucy's history at Shaare Emeth and her future as a cantorial student. **Please plan to join us for this special celebration.***





# UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

## L'hitraot: See You Later

By Lucy Greenbaum, Director of Music Engagement

[LGreenbaum@sestl.org](mailto:LGreenbaum@sestl.org)

It is a surreal feeling to be reflecting on my nearly nine-year relationship with Congregation Shaare Emeth as I prepare to begin my journey to become an ordained cantor in the Reform Movement. My family has deep roots at Shaare Emeth: my grandma was confirmed here, my grandparents were married at the previous Shaare Emeth location on Trinity, my great aunt Audrey founded our preschool, and members of my extended family have served on our board and committees for years. So, it made perfect sense when I landed in St. Louis that I got involved with this wonderful community (to paint a picture, my first Shaare Emeth Shabbat service in 2016 took place in the Kehillah Center while the Sanctuary was still under construction).

From the beginning of my time here, I was welcomed with open arms by our staff, clergy, and community, and quickly learned how truly special Shaare Emeth is. I have worked at and visited many congregations throughout the country, and few can say they talk the talk AND walk the walk quite like Shaare Emeth does. It has been an honor to witness and be a part of the magic that is created within this community. I feel so lucky that I was able to grow into the leader that I am today at this congregation, to learn from our clergy, staff, and lay leaders about what it means to be a Jewish professional and to care for a community in a holistic way.

While I am so excited to begin this new adventure toward becoming an ordained cantor in the Reform movement, it is, of course, bittersweet to know that this opportunity is taking me out of St. Louis and away from Shaare Emeth. Please know that I will hold the memories made at this congregation close to my heart throughout this journey and beyond. Each of you individually and as an entire community has changed me for the better. From Sunday school singalongs, Camp Emeth song sessions, Midweek t'filah time, Prayer Lab Shabbat services, B'Mitzvah services, holiday programs, Boker Tov programs, Shirlee Green Preschool music classes, musical mindfulness sessions, Shir Emeth Youth Choir rehearsals, and everything in between, you have filled my life with song and I could not be more grateful.

It's only *L'hitraot* - see you later.



## MAY + JUNE EVENTS

You may notice there's no Events Calendar in this issue of the Bulletin. That doesn't mean that there aren't any events happening throughout the months of May and June at Shaare Emeth! While late spring is a quieter time at Shaare Emeth – Passover has concluded and Camp has not yet begun, and many in our community are busy wrapping up their school year – there are still a number of important events. Because each is momentous in its own way, we've made sure to give each of them space to shine in this Bulletin.

**To see an at-a-glance version of these programs, visit our website at [sestl.co/events](http://sestl.co/events).**



Join Shaare Emeth's clergy in May as, together, we'll use the wisdom of sacred Jewish texts and build a *kehillah kedoshah* that nurtures our minds, hearts, and souls.

Different than a typical Torah study, these text-based discussions feature a different topic and teacher every week. **Attend as many sessions as you are able.**

**Texting Tuesdays is free, but RSVPs are appreciated at [sestl.co/text](http://sestl.co/text).**

### The Newest Jewish Music

Tuesday, May 6 with Cantor Seth Warner

### Prayer Evolutions:

*Exploring the Ways that The Prayers We Know Have Changed*

Tuesday, May 13 with  
Rabbi Bearman

### The Ways We Remember:

*Jewish Approaches to Memory Ahead of Memorial Day*

Tuesday, May 20 with  
Rabbi Lori Levine

### Harvesting Kindness:

*An Exploration of the Book of Ruth in Preparation for Shavuot*

Tuesday, May 27 with  
Rabbi Andrea Goldstein

## Lag B'Omer Family Picnic

*A Joyful Celebration for All Ages*

**Friday, May 16 at 5:30 p.m.**

**Creve Coeur Lake Park**

Join Shaare Emeth, the JCC, PJ Library, and Temple Emanuel, for a Lag B'Omer Shabbat celebration in the park. We'll learn about the holiday, which is a joyful break from the Omer, a 49-day period of semi-mourning. Picnics and bonfires are popular ways to celebrate Lag B'Omer, and our picnic will feature a fire juggler!

**RSVP for this free event at [sestl.co/picnic525](http://sestl.co/picnic525)**







Please join us for Congregation Shaare Emeth's

# 158<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

**Tuesday, May 6 • 5:15 p.m. Nosh • 6 p.m. Meeting**

We hope you'll join us as we reflect on our accomplishments, discuss future plans, and celebrate our shared commitment to our community. We will present the **2025 Tzedek Award to Holly Bernstein**, recognize staff milestones, install officers and trustees, and more. Your voice and presence matter! **RSVP at [sestl.co/am25](https://sestl.co/am25)**

## 2025 Nominating Committee Report

The 2025 Nominating Committee is pleased to recommend the following slate of Officers and Trustees for election at the Annual Meeting of Congregation Shaare Emeth on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, and acknowledges the returning Officers and Trustees:

### OFFICERS

*Nominated for a One-Year Term, 2025-2026*

President	Dana DeBlasi
1st Vice President	Mark Gubernik
Secretary	Kathy Wiesman
Treasurer	Natalie Kalmar
Assistant Treasurer	Mike Vredenburg
Vice President	Betsy Cytron
Vice President	Jennifer Schwesig
Vice President	Michele Siler
Vice President	Lisa Suffian
Vice President	Evan Waldman
Immediate Past President	Bill Remis

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

*Re-Nominated for a Two-Year Term, 2025-2027*

Richie Gallant	Betsy Kelly
Judy Schwartz Jaffe	Jonathan Sachs

#### *Returning Trustees*

Robert Bernstein	Jeremy Katcher
Randy Brodsky	Larisa Klebe
Marianne Chervitz	Heather Peck
Joey Gerchen	Dave Propper
Hillary Hinz	Justin Reppy
Ryan Holtzman	Johanna Schillinger
Diane Kalishman	

### Respectfully Submitted by the Nominating Committee

Bill Remis, Chair; Robert Bernstein, Marianne Chervitz, Stefanie Greenberg, Hillary Hinz, Heather Peck, Joe Pereles, Jill Solomon; Rabbi Jim Bennett and Craig Neuman, Ex Officio Members

CONFIRMATION

# SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION

5785 | 2025

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*Please Join Us As We Celebrate*  
Congregation Shaare Emeth's  
Confirmation Class of 5785 | 2025

**FRIDAY | MAY 9**

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**5:15 p.m. Nosh**

**6 p.m. Shabbat Worship &  
Service of Confirmation**

*Special Dessert Reception  
Following the Service*



CONFIRMATION

# MAZEL TOV

## Confirmation Class

5785 | 2025

**Jacob Alex Berger**  
*Todd & Lisa Berger*

**Hannah Cherie Bierman**  
*Richard Bierman &  
Lisa Schechter-Bierman*

**Kaylee Nedra Brown**  
*Julie & Bill Brown*

**Audrey Isabella Fine**  
*Amy & Jason Fine*

**Olivia Sara Fine**  
*Amy & Jason Fine*

**Parker Merritt Goltzman**  
*Aaron & Jessica Goltzman*

**Calvino Baxnket  
Hammerman**  
*Amy & Zachary Hammerman*

**Itai Gabriel Lerman**  
*Pamela Lyss-Lerman & Jason Lerman*

**Margot Pratt**  
*Ray & Brooke Pratt*

**Elijah Lian Reppy**  
*Justin & Allison Reppy*

**Lee Robert Rutherford**  
*Mark & Jennifer Brimer*

**Josie Elisha Spector**  
*Adam & Jennifer Spector*

**Kyla Hazel  
Spiegelglass**  
*Tim & Yona Spiegelglass*

**Braiden Wachler**  
*Melissa & Brad Wachler*

**Riley Caden Weinstein**  
*Dana & Dan Weinstein*

**Zooey Simone Wheeler**  
*Benjamin & Jessica Wheeler*

# JEWISH MINDFULNESS CENTER

## Building Resilience in Challenging Times:

A Special Let It Ripple Series to Help Cultivate the Moral Qualities of Courage, Truth, and Faith  
Led by Rabbi Andrea Goldstein and Eve Dyson

Wednesday evenings, 7–8:30 p.m.  
May 7, 21, and June 4

Let It Ripple classes offer participants the opportunity to engage in serious *musar* (ethical) study balanced by mindfulness practices in order to bring a sense of deeper meaning and personal power to daily life. This special session will focus on *middot* (ethical qualities) that can help us navigate the increasingly uncertain world around us. The time frame has also been extended to give us more time to harness the power of these *middot* in our lives.

While these classes are free, registration is required. Participants must be able to attend all sessions.

Visit [jmcstl.org](http://jmcstl.org) to register.

**Questions?** Contact Rabbi Goldstein at [agoldstein@sestl.org](mailto:agoldstein@sestl.org).



Jewish Mindfulness  
Center of St. Louis



## SHAARE YOUR VOICE

“ Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent. ”

—Victor Hugo

In the spirit of growing and sharing our talents, the High Holiday Choir is beginning to take shape and you are invited to join!

Your previous musical, singing or Hebrew experience is not required, just a desire to learn beautiful music and to pray with purpose. It's most appropriate for singers middle-school age and older.

Your voice, combined with others, will prove the old adage “the sum of the whole is greater than the sum of each individual part.”

Your voice matters and will add beauty and fullness to our High Holidays – join us and be a part of making our services more meaningful for all.

We'll rehearse on Tuesday evenings beginning on August 19 in the Stiffman Sanctuary from 6:30 to 8 p.m. through Yom Kippur.

Let us know you're interested by emailing or calling Stacy Jespersen, [sjespersen@sestl.org](mailto:sjespersen@sestl.org) (314) 569-0010.

If you have questions, please be in touch with Cantor Warner, [swarner@sestl.org](mailto:swarner@sestl.org) (314) 569-0010.



# SHAVUOT



On Shavuot, we celebrate the spring harvest, receiving the Torah at Mt. Sinai, and the journey the Israelites took through the desert.

## SHAVUOT SINAI STROLL

Families with children ages 0–8 are invited to re-enact the Israelites' journey and wander in the "wilderness" of the park (on a stroller-friendly path) and find our own creative Torah along the way. We might even meet an animal friend or two along the way.

Once we wrap up our adventures, we will gather for another super important Shavuot tradition: eating dairy treats with our favorite ice cream bars to share!

**Free and open to all! RSVP at [sestl.co/stroll25](https://sestl.co/stroll25)**

**Sunday,  
June 1 at  
4:30 p.m.**

At a park 10-15 minutes  
east of Shaare Emeth  
*(exact location sent  
upon registration)*

SUNDAY,  
JUNE 1,  
2025



7 P.M.  
at TEMPLE  
EMANUEL

12166 Conway Rd,  
St. Louis, MO 63141

## SHAVUOT

*Connections Commandments & Cheesecake*

More than 100 people from Shaare Emeth, Congregation Temple Israel, Temple Emanuel, and United Hebrew Congregation joined us last year for a first-of-its-kind Shavuot celebration. Rabbi Hersh of Temple Emanuel called it "fabulously successful!" So, this year, we're doing it again and making it an annual tradition.

Our evening begins with a dessert buffet with cheesecakes galore plus coffee, wine, and teas, and a chance to connect with friends, old and new. The evening continues with a choice of

learning sessions with clergy members from our participating congregations (details to come). We'll conclude together with a Shavuot worship service full of joyful prayers and music.

Don't miss your opportunity to experience the power of our Reform Jewish community coming together in communal learning and prayer.

**RSVPs appreciated at [sestl.co/shavuot25](https://sestl.co/shavuot25)**



## Pursuing the Missouri Green Ribbon Award

*Shirlee Green Preschool is on Its Way to Become the Greenest Jewish School in Missouri*

*"We need to rethink and reimagine our learning environments, and focus on transforming our education system, emphasizing practices that foster a love for nature... and inspire students to contribute to a collective human and planetary well-being."*

– Brenda Kessler

By Brandi Kanoya, Director of Shirlee Green Preschool

BKanoya@sestl.org



Around the world, green schools are benefitting children, their community and the environment. Schools for kids of all ages have built green playgrounds and student gardens, improved indoor air quality, and have reduced, recycled, and reused more than ever before. And the benefits are

remarkable. Green schools not only protect the environment; they enhance student health, reduce absenteeism in students and teachers, lead to a reduction in teacher turnover, and help children learn to be actively involved in their community.

This year, Shirlee Green Preschool (SGP) will become the first Jewish school in Missouri to receive a Missouri Green Ribbon Award. Through four years of targeted effort, our small school of little children has worked diligently to give our young learners a healthy school environment, teach active engagement to the youngest of our community, and reduce our negative impact on the natural world.

With the coordination of the Operations Department of Congregation Shaare Emeth, Little Peoples (our school lunch provider), and the Shirlee Green Preschool Green Team (a mix of teachers and parents of our preschoolers) we have made huge strides.

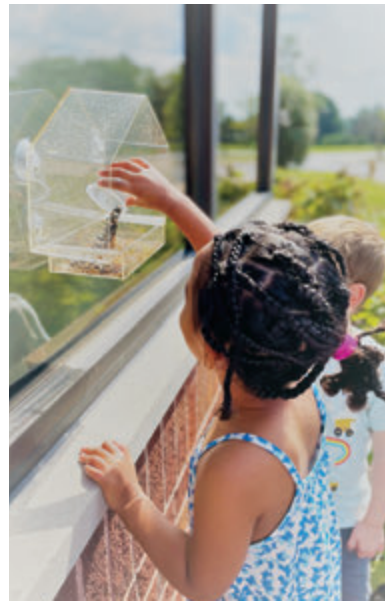


### We are proud to share that SGP has:

- Eliminated our use of paper towels in classrooms
- Replaced all cleaners with perfume-free, dye-free cleaners (soon to begin using Green Seal only cleaners)
- Eliminated idling during pickup and drop off
- Replaced paper products with recycled-content products
- Moved all files and paperwork to digital
- Increased our use of repurposed and recycled materials for the art studio and classrooms
- Eliminated use of aerosols
- Eliminated use of deodorizers
- Eliminated use of disposables in student lunches and snacks
- Established meatless Mondays
- Increased students' outdoor play time
- Installed a filtered-water water bottle refill station and are currently transforming the courtyard into a nature playscape for toddlers and babies!

With more great green strides to take, this year's Annual Shirlee Green Preschool Trivia night raised \$8,100 to help us reach our goal.

Shirlee Green Preschool takes the charge of educating young minds earnestly and with the conviction that in the 21st century, strong minds are creative, compassionate, innovative, and have a bias for sustainability.







# Spotlighting Our Senior Staff & Specialists

By Laura Horton, Director of Camp Emeth

LHorton@sestl.org



Summer is just around the corner, and I am so excited to jump into my third summer here at Camp Emeth! It will be a summer full of camp traditions, old and new, and we will have lots of familiar faces on our camp staff. I wanted to highlight some of my camp staff that are taking on new roles and responsibilities

this year and express my gratitude for their hard work leading up to summer. It is such a pleasure to work with these talented members of our camp community who are becoming leaders among their peers, and I am looking forward to working together to create unforgettable memories for our campers and fellow camp staff this summer!



**Ally Oglander • Assistant Director**

Hi! My name's Ally Oglander and I am SO excited to be back as the Assistant Director of Camp Emeth! I will be starting my junior year at Mizzou this fall studying Elementary Education. I've been at Camp Emeth for as long as I can remember—from camper, to counselor, to program director, and now assistant director.

I've grown up at Shaare Emeth, and I can't wait to reconnect with returning campers and build relationships with new campers and staff that extend beyond the summer!



## see you soon, campers!



**Brook Williams • Program Director**

Hi! My name is Brooke Williams, and I am the Program Director for this upcoming summer! I am a graduating senior at Parkway Central High School, and I will be attending Maryville this fall to study Nursing. I am most excited to see returning and new campers! I have been part of Camp Emeth for years; I started out as a camper for a couple of summers and became a counselor my freshman year of high school. Last summer I was the Art Specialist and I had an amazing time! You can read more about my involvement at Shaare Emeth on page 21.



**Lily Wamhoff • Shiur Specialist**

Hi! My name is Lily Wamhoff, and I'm thrilled to be returning for my second summer at Camp Emeth — this time as the Shiur Specialist! This fall, I'll be starting my junior year at Queen's University in Canada, where I'm studying History and French. I'm especially looking forward to late nights and color wars! I completed my conversion through Shaare Emeth and attend services there whenever I'm in St. Louis.



**Max Sigel • Sports Specialist**

Hi! My name is Max Sigel, and this summer I am going to be the Sports Specialist at Camp Emeth. I am going to be a senior at Ladue Horton Watkins High School in the fall. This summer I am most excited to reconnect with people from last year and make new connections. I have been going to camp since I was in kindergarten, and I have been a counselor since my freshman year.





# RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL END OF YEAR REFLECTIONS

By Rabbi Lori Levine

[LLevine@sestl.org](mailto:LLevine@sestl.org)



**I**t is hard to believe, but I have now completed seven years as the Director of Education and Associate Rabbi at Shaare Emeth! Seven is a very special

number in Judaism. God created the world in six days, but on the seventh day, Shabbat, God rested and appreciated the work of creation. We count the Omer for seven weeks between Passover and Shavuot, leading us to the revelation of Torah. At a wedding, we say seven blessings to the happy couple. Seven is a sacred number that represents wholeness. Every seven years, our tradition gives us the practice of the *shmita* or sabbatical year. After six years of working the land, we let the fields lie fallow and give the earth a Shabbat to rest. As I look back at this school year, I appreciate even more the significance of this seventh year for me personally. The practice of *shmita* teaches us lessons in faith, humility, and vision. These values fit so perfectly with the work we have done to create meaningful Jewish learning experiences for the children of this community and their families.

**FAITH:** This year, I had so much faith in our faculty and their abilities. I saw their potential as a team, and they far exceeded my high expectations. From veteran educators of 30 years to new emerging teachers who found us through WashU, this team earned my trust, and I am so proud that my faith in each of them was well founded. I also believed in our ability to innovate. We piloted our new approach for our 8th through 10th Grade program as the **TIKKUN** program. Through text study, discussion, travel, and reflection, our teens make connections between their world and our 5,000-year-old

chain of Jewish life with their friends and dedicated teachers. We laid the foundation for a new path and had faith it would work out, and we are well on our way to creating something very exciting for our post b'mitzvah learners.

**HUMILITY:** I am humbled to have seen our community grow in numbers and strengthen this year with approximately 300 learners in PreK through 12th Grade. Our JQuest program for PreK-2nd Grade is rapidly expanding, with each grade having two very full classrooms of participants. New families are finding this unique learning experience meaningful and creating a community for early elementary grades here at Shaare Emeth. With humility, I know that none of us does this work alone. I am a part of something bigger than myself, and our blessings flow from our relationships to one another.

**VISION:** In my seventh year, I leaned into the idea that believing the world belongs to God and that resting is key to your success. It has been liberating! However, rest does not mean that you stop working altogether. You keep working hard, but you sleep easier because you can see that everyone around you is going to do their best work. I know deeply that this work of teaching Judaism to our children is sacred work and that we are doing it with excellence, while always striving to be better. When I step back and look at our educational programs, like God did on the very first Shabbat, I can see the big picture and know that this is very good.

**Now, for another important value:**

**GRATITUDE.** I want to take this space and time to say thank you to our religious school faculty!

**A huge thank you to my partners** in the day-to-day work of running our religious school programs. Everything you do behind the scenes, the errands big and



small, the phone calls and emails to connect with our people, all of this and more is holy and important work.

**Marci Diamond,**  
*Assistant Director of Religious School*

**Emily Cohen,**  
*JQuest, Director of Family Membership and Engagement*

**Emily Throgmorton,**  
*Education Administrator*

**Helena Cooper,**  
*Madrichim Coordinator,  
Director of Youth Engagement*

**A special thank you to Lucy Greenbaum this year.** We started at Shaare Emeth at the same time, and I will miss your voice and your presence so much in our religious school. You have been my t'filah co-leader, awesome support and teacher for our b'mitzvah program, and music specialist extraordinaire.

We know it's only *l'hitratot*—see you later! Come back and visit us soon.



# RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

**To our teachers:** *you are the reason we have a religious school! Thank you for giving your time and energy to our programs. Our children have learned so much from you, and they are fortunate to have such strong, diverse, kind Jewish role models.*

Rebecca Alter  
Lauren Bayne  
Beth Beakley  
Rabbi Rachel Bearman  
Rabbi Jim Bennett  
Jacob Berry  
Georgia Bland  
Amy Blumenfeld  
Justin Bohm  
Deborah Bryant  
Mark Burstein  
Helena Cooper  
Beth DuBro

Mollie Goldberg  
Natalie Goldman  
Rabbi Andrea Goldstein  
Annie Gottesman  
Howard Granok  
Jodi Granok  
Hannah Green  
Melanie Gunn  
Orli Hahn  
Shari Hollander  
Laura Horton  
Alex Jaeger  
Michael Kodner  
Linda Levin  
Stacy Lynn  
Lacey Malaway  
Teresa Mareschal  
Ophira Melnick

Jill Milstein  
Rachel Persellin-Armoza  
Andrew Press  
Brittany Rotskoff  
Megan Rubenstein  
Tracy Rubenstein  
Lauren Rudolph  
Karen Schmidt  
Ziv Shalev  
Jeremy Slaten  
Caleb Stanfield  
Jennifer Stanfield  
Harriet Sudduth  
Alex Tash  
Sherri Tons  
Cantor Seth Warner  
Mike Winograd  
Amy Worth

**To our madrichim:** *It has been a gift to have all of you here on Sunday mornings. Even with the early wake up, each of you came here with a smile, ready to make the day count. Our kids love you, and they see you as some of the coolest people they know. Thank you for your continued commitment to our religious school and making us better!*

Elyse Abramov  
Jacob Baris  
Jacob Berger  
Coco Bland  
Kaylee Brown  
Audrey Fine  
Olivia Fine  
Michal Kenigsberg  
Matt Loiterstein  
Margot Pratt  
Nash Pratt  
Eli Reppy  
Lottie Rochester  
Sam Rochester  
Drew Rosenblum  
Lee Rutherford  
Dylan Scissors  
Blake Siegel  
Morgan Siegel  
Max Sigel  
Kyla Spiegelglass  
Jacob Swier  
Parker Wachle  
Isaac Warner  
Zoey Wheeler  
Brooke Williams



## Now Hiring TEACHERS

**Are you a passionate educator?  
A creative former camp counselor?  
A lover of Jewish learning?  
A Hebrew enthusiast?  
An artist, musician, or cook  
who loves working with young people?**

We want you to join the 2025-2026 Shaare Emeth Religious School team! We offer a warm community environment, access to resources and mentoring, and countless opportunities to be creative and have fun in the classroom.

We have positions open on Monday afternoons, Tuesday afternoons, Wednesday afternoons, and Sunday mornings and flexibility to teach on one or multiple days. Students range in age from Pre-K to 7th grade.

Anyone (seasoned or a newbie) is encouraged to apply and explore the possibilities!

Please contact Rabbi Lori Levine, Associate Rabbi and Director of Education, at [LLevine@sestl.org](mailto:LLevine@sestl.org) to learn more!

## OUR EXCEPTIONAL COMMUNITY: REFLECTING ON YEAR 1 AND SPOTLIGHTING OUR SENIORS

By **Helena Cooper, Director of Youth Engagement**

[HCooper@sestl.org](mailto:HCooper@sestl.org)



**I**t's hard to believe that my first year as Shaare Emeth's Director of Youth Engagement is coming to a close! This role is keeping me busy in the best way—leading our youth groups, coordinating the Madrichim program, serving on Camp Emeth's Senior Staff, and teaching in BMA, Tikkun, and PostCon. Shaare Emeth's holistic approach to youth engagement has allowed me to connect with our kids in so many meaningful ways, and I'm deeply grateful to be part of their journeys.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my role, however, isn't listed in the job description: the privilege of mentoring so many incredible young people. As we wrap up the 2024-25 year, I want to take a moment to celebrate our graduating seniors, whose involvement has left a lasting impact on Shaare Emeth. Their leadership, dedication, and passion have shaped this community, and I am so grateful for the mark they've left on me, their peers, and the generations to come.

I am immensely grateful to the Livingston/Grossman Youth Engagement Fund for making all of this meaningful connection possible. The fund was created with a vision of holistic youth engagement and it's thrilling and rewarding to have a hand in that vision becoming a reality.

### **Mara Loiterstein:**

I've really loved being able to share my passion for Judaism with all generations at Shaare Emeth. Teaching Hebrew to incoming B'Mitzvah students has been rewarding, and it's fulfilling to be able to watch them grow into strong Jewish adults. As a NFTY leader, I get the unique opportunity to guide B'Mitzvah students through the next stage of their Jewish lives, too. I'm honored to have been in a position to help Shaare Emeth students during every stage of their education, and even into high school as a regional leader. For the past four years, it's been my goal to make Judaism as meaningful for my students as it has been for me, and as a Madrich and as Religious and Cultural Vice President, I'm grateful to have been involved in the lives of so many students.

### **Nash Pratt:**

My involvement in Shaare Emeth has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my life throughout high school.

SETYG, in particular, has introduced me to dozens of other teens interested in exploring Judaism and community involvement. Every event is fun and engaging, and I've met many new friends by participating. Over the past few years, I've spent countless Sundays at Shaare Emeth as a Religious School Madrich. This is one of the best parts of my week, because I'm given the opportunity to inspire younger kids to love being Jewish as much as I do.

### **Brooke Williams:**

Spending a lot of my time at Shaare Emeth has been impactful for me in numerous ways. Meeting lifelong friends, rediscovering my love for Judaism, and becoming more involved in our congregation have changed me in ways I couldn't describe. For the past three summers, I have spent my time at Camp Emeth and enjoyed every single day of it. I love being able to spend time with the kids and staff of Camp Emeth and help to incorporate Jewish ethics in a fun way throughout summer. Every Sunday, I've been a Madricha for our kindergarten class. I love showing up to work and being in such a fun learning environment with the kids, and seeing them so excited to learn and play. Lastly, on Mondays, I learn at PostCon. I love spending time with my friends and having a deep, critical thinking session with Rabbi Bennett about Jewish Ethics and what is going on around us involving Judaism. Having Shaare Emeth become such a big part of my life has impacted me for the better. I will forever be thankful for the memories, everlasting friendships, and religious experiences I've had.



Nash Pratt, Mara Loiterstein & Brooke Williams



## CASINO NIGHT

# BABY BOOMER CASINO NIGHT: *A Winning Evening!*

The stakes were high, the laughter was loud, and the fun was nonstop at our **Baby Boomer Casino Night**! This lively group of Boomers (born between 1946–1964) enjoyed a fantastic evening filled with dinner, games, and friendly competition.

From blackjack to roulette, participants learned the ropes of classic casino games, proving that it's never too late to try your luck! The excitement didn't stop at the tables—a **50/50 raffle** added to the night's energy, raising funds to support **The International Institute of St. Louis**.

It was an evening of good food, great company, and a little bit of Vegas-style fun—all for a wonderful cause. Until next time, may the odds be ever in your favor!







## PURIM

# Purim at Shaare Emeth: A Celebration Like No Other!

Purim at Congregation Shaare Emeth isn't just a holiday—it's a full-on, joy-filled extravaganza! From lively celebrations to behind-the-scenes mitzvot, Purim is felt by every age and stage in our community.

### A Sweet Surprise for Our Seniors

Our homebound and assisted living seniors were treated to Purim Mishloach Manot bags, lovingly assembled and delivered by an incredible team of volunteers from our Chesed (Caring) Committee. These 72 bags were packed with treats, smiles, and a whole lot of heart! Volunteers even called ahead to spread the excitement before delivery.

A special shout-out to our resident poet, Scott Berzon, who crafted an original Purim poem just for our seniors—because what's Purim without a little extra whimsy?

### Thank You, Delivery Crew!

Deborah Aaronson, Randy Brodsky, Lisa Carson, Brandon Dahl, Clara Dahl, Vera Emmons, Wendy Flusser, Colleen Isele, Linda Levin, Beth Manlin, Jana McGinty, Anna Poger, Debby Price, Marilyn Ratkin, Johanna Schillinger, Ken Schwartz, Dede Seltzer, Karen Zorensky, and Barb Kramer, our amazing Chair!

### Purim in Oz: A Community Effort

We mean it when we say **EVERYONE** pitched in to make this year's carnival a technicolor success! It truly took a village to make Purim in Oz so magical: our incredible Purim Committee, set-up volunteers the day before, our amazing clergy and directors, the behind-the-scenes heroes in accounting, administration, and custodial staff, day-of volunteers doing everything from selling tickets to cooking food, and our 6th–12th graders, who played the role of magic-makers, decorating, running games, and keeping the fun going strong. Thank you to **each and every one of you** who made this Purim unforgettable. Until next year... let's keep the Purim spirit alive!

### Thank You, Volunteers!

**Purim Committee:** Steve Boonshaft, Leslie Masaki, Steve Masaki, Michelle Novof, and Hannah Rubin-Schlansky

Brittany Anderson, Ellie Anderson, Beth Beakley, Sean Beakley, Izzy Berger, Jacob Berger, Izzy Bernier, Rachel Bolter, Nancy Brody, Steve Brody, Kaylee Brown, Quinn Friedman, Charles Gianetto, Dara Gianetto, Max Goldstein, Howard Granok, Hannah Green, Abby Hahn, Orli Hahn, Michael Kodner, Asher Levey, Remy Lynn, Stacy Lynn, Eliza Katcher, Levi Koritz, Abby Oglander, Brian Peck, Heather Peck, Jordan Peck, Max Peck, Margot Pratt, Nash Pratt, Allison Reppy, Cora Reppy, Eli Reppy, Jillian Reppy, Jude Reppy, Ella Sabin, Olivia Sabin, Dylan Scissors, Morgan Siegel, Gavin Siegler, Jacquelyn Siegler, Harriet Sudduth, Madelyn Tasker, Julia Vesper, Ari Wachler, Braiden Wachler, Landon Waldman, Miriam Wallace, Dylan Wilkerson, and Brooke Williams

### Cotton Candy & Family Tradition

What's a Purim Carnival without a little (or a lot of) sugar? For over 30 years, Marcia and Hans Oberdoerfer have been spinning up sweet, fluffy cotton candy for the Shaare Emeth Purim Carnival! This year, they kept the family tradition alive with the help of their daughter Lori Ginsparg and grandchild, Aaron.

### A Wickedly Awesome Spiel

**Purim: A Very Wicked Spiel Defied** Gravity and took the Purim celebration to soaring heights! The pre-party was full of sweets and elixirs, the storytelling kicked off with a megillah reading, and the show dazzled with unforgettable performances, catchy tunes, and a whole lot of laughter. Bravo to everyone who made this Shpiel a standing-ovation-worthy success!

### Thank You, Cast & Crew!

Marty Fox, Music Director  
Patrick Siler, Director and Book  
Rachel Redleaf, Lyrics  
Lucy Greenbaum, Esthava and Lyrics  
Sami Siegel, Galindachai  
Ryan Cooper, The Wonderful Wizard of Shushan  
Gene Jacobson, Haman  
Brittany Rotskoff, Vashti  
Chuck Mitchell, King's Attendant  
Ginny Weiss, Esthava's Mother

### The Not-So-Ready-for-Purim Players:

Sophie Argyres  
Lorraine Garland  
Ann Gottesman  
Larisa Klebe  
Kaelyn Leavy  
Stephanie Smith  
Ally Vesper  
Rabbi Jim Bennett, Narrator  
Cantor Seth Warner, Sound Support

**Special thanks to the staff and clergy of Congregation Shaare Emeth for supporting this production!**

### Purim at Shirlee Green Preschool

We kicked Purim up a notch from previous years by inviting families to parade with our students, inviting a local percussion band to lead us, and convening in the Kehillah Center after our parade for music, potluck-style snacks, and a Purimspiel put on by our Chaverim students!

### Thank You, Friends!

Joia Percussion Band, Lucy Greenbaum, Rabbi Lori Levine, our incredible faculty and administrators, all of our families who joined us for the fun, and/or brought treats for the Purim Potluck!



# PURIM



Family Spiel and Carnival



Family Spiel



Cotton Candy



Purim Volunteers



Purim Volunteers



Joia Percussion Band



Adult Spiel



Adult Spiel



Shirlee Green Preschool Purim Parade







# ANNUAL APPEAL

## Springing Forward: Annual Appeal 2025

By Beth Kodner, Director of Development  
and Membership

BKodner@sestl.org



We are deeply grateful for the unwavering support and generosity that you and other members of our community have shown. Your contributions have been pivotal in sustaining our temple's programs and initiatives, ensuring that we continue to be a vibrant and welcoming place for worship, learning, and community service.

Each year, we ask for additional support through our Annual Appeal. Traditionally, this campaign has taken place in the fall and now we are "springing forward" and launching it in the spring, the season of renewal and growth and an exciting time for our congregation.

In retelling the story of the Exodus every year on Passover, Rabbi Irving Greenberg teaches that Jews across the world not only remember, but reenact the history of our people's journey from slavery to freedom, inspiring us towards a better future.

During this Passover season, we hope that you reflected on the impact Shaare Emeth has had on your life, your family's lives, and the lives of your neighbors and friends.

We invite you to join your peers and community members by making a contribution which will enable us to continue providing vital services and to expand our reach to even more individuals and families in need of a supportive and engaging community, working toward that better future.

**Your Annual Appeal gift helps us to:**

**Enhance Educational Programs:** Invest in cutting-edge educational resources and opportunities for all ages, from early childhood education to adult learning and beyond.

**Enrich Worship Experiences:** Elevate our worship services with enhanced musical programs, guest speakers, and cultural events that enrich our spiritual lives.

**Strengthen Infrastructure:** Maintain and improve our facilities to ensure a safe, welcoming, and inspiring environment for all who enter our doors.

**Expand Community Outreach:** Increase our support for local and global social justice initiatives, providing essential services and aid to those in need.

**To make an Annual Appeal gift please visit [sestl.co/give](https://sestl.co/give) or call us at 314-569-0010.**

Thank you for being a part of the Shaare Emeth family and for your steadfast support. You'll be inspired as well!

*We hope you choose to support  
Shaare Emeth's Annual Appeal  
So that we can continue to support you.*





## Thriving!

By Julie Winkle on behalf of the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Committee

Our newcomer family continues to thrive. All four family members have dramatically improved their English and communication skills.

Insaf and Ikbal love going to school. Insaf has been studying time and money at school. She was able to buy a book at the Scholastic book fair, thanks to a Neighbor to Neighbor committee member, and she learned to make bracelets that are “all the rage” in Elementary school.

Ikbal participated in the Purim parade at Shirley Green Preschool. Her smile says it all.

Upon graduating from pre-school with her classmates, Ikbal will be attending Parkway’s Kick Start Kindergarten program to get her ready for Kindergarten in August.

The family continues to enjoy social engagements with the Shaare Emeth community. The Waxman family had them over for a play date, where Insaf got her nails painted, and shared a friendship necklace with Howie.

The Zorensky family donated a play kitchen to the girls and they were so excited to receive it.

Recently, Shaare Emeth, Parkway United Church of Christ, and TASOM (Turkish American Society of Missouri) held an Iftar dinner and celebration of community. Many of the Neighbor-to-Neighbor committee members attended with the family, and it was so rewarding for everyone to meet new friends and come together to share a meal. One of our former refugee families, the Ebrahimis, also attended the seder and reunited with some of our Community Support Group members. It was a powerful reminder that we are all connected by something greater.

The committee has been helping Ismael apply for jobs, and he now has one! He will be a janitor at West County Mall. He will be able to take the bus up to the mall, with a little walking involved. Melissa will help with orientation to his new job. He is also studying for his written driver’s test.

Ismael and Fedwa are quite self-sufficient; they are able to walk to the Pan Asia market for groceries, and they get rides to other locations and appointments as needed.



Bracelets

Purim



Playdate, Nails, and Friendship Necklace



Play Kitchen



Iftar

# MAZEL TOV

to our May and June B'Mitzvah students!



**Clara Dahl,**  
child of Stephanie and  
Brandon Dahl



**Maxwell Fendelman,**  
child of Afton and  
Bret Fendelman



**Isaac Kraft,**  
child of Keira and  
Bryan Kraft



**Lexi Margul,**  
child of Alicia and Shaun Margul



**Holden Wheeler,**  
child of Jessica and Benjamin Wheeler

## Welcome, New Member Families!

Christine and Mark Berg

Katie and Andrew Cohen  
with children, Charlie and Reese

Laurie and Todd Cohen, with  
children, Carlie, Dylan, and Brody

Charlene and Jeff Gubitz

Lynda Lieberman

Lena and Danny Snipes,  
with children, Milana Landa,  
Adrian Landa, Ava Snipes,  
and Grace Snipes



Judy Wasserman

## Simchas

**Mazel Tov to Jordan Durlenster** on his promotion to vice president, Data Analytics, US Operations with Reinsurance Group of America (RGA).

**Mazel Tov to Samantha and Justin Elliot** on the birth of their son, **Matteo**. Congratulations to grandparents, **Lynn and Bill Elliot** and **Iris Shepard**, and big brother **Santiago**.

**Mazel Tov to Aron and Jeanne Katzman** on their 65th wedding anniversary!

**Mazel Tov to Samantha and Tanner Konradt** on the birth of their son, **Oliver Rhys Konradt**. Congratulations to big sister **Ellie**, grandparents **Stacy and Jon Jespersen**, and great-grandmother, **Geraldine Weinman**.

**Mazel Tov to Daryl Rothman** on the publication of his new suspense novel, "Gospel."

**Mazel Tov to Dana Sandweiss** on being honored with the Hannah G. Solomon Founder's Award by NCJWSTL at their Celebrating Women event. **Mazel Tov** also to **Lisa Gubernik** on receiving the Leadership Award, and to **Charles Eisenkramer** on receiving the Community Partnership Award.

**Mazel Tov to Karen Sher** on her promotion to Chief Impact Officer at Jewish Federation of St. Louis.

**Mazel Tov to Judy Wasserman** on being named Citizen of the Year 2024 by the Creve Coeur City Council. Judy was honored for her dedication and service to the community - she has picked up trash during her walks around Creve Coeur for over a decade.





## CONDOLENCES

**Jay Baron**

**Marc Flanders**

Husband of  
Hillary Flanders

**Marsha Koski**

Wife of Simon Koski,  
mother of Ted (Renea)  
Koski and grandmother of  
Daielle (Justin) Lydon

**Milton Karp**

**Ellen Paskar**

Wife of Larry Paskar and  
mother of Mark Paskar

**Lawrence Rothman**

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Olivia Schimel

**Sondra Wolf**

*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.*



## SYMPATHY

**Michael (Jamie) Goldstein**

on the death of his father,  
**Irving Goldstein**

**Judy (Steve) Gorin**

on the death of her mother,  
**Dorothy Meyerson**

**Cindy (Dan) Heymann**

on the death of her mother,  
**Roberta Brown**

**Josh (Margo) Hutkins**

on the death of his mother,  
**Terry Hutkins-Riley**

**Sue (Joel) Picus**

on the death of her mother,  
**Marjorie Stutzman**

**Nicola (Scott) Stern**

on the death of her father,  
**John Stevenson**

**Gaby (Mark) Tullman**

on the death of her father,  
**Stanley Small**

**Elaine Unell and Ken**

**(Sandy) Birenbaum**  
on the death of their sister,  
**Marilyn Brown**

## PERPETUAL MEMORIALS

**Roberta Mendell Horwitz**

Established by Dr. Larry  
and Ellen Paskar

**Mayer Levy, Jr**

**Irwin Sanford Loiterstein**

Established by  
Sherre Loiterstein

**Louis H. Zwibelman**

Established by Irvin  
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The tributes listed here are those made for \$18 or more and processed from **February 1, 2025 to March 31, 2025**. 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 *yahrzeit* (anniversary of death), or to show appreciation for someone. To make a tribute donation, please visit [www.sestl.org/give/](http://www.sestl.org/give/). Hard copy forms are available in the Shaare Emeth North lobby vestibule or you may email [jmcginty@sestl.org](mailto:jmcginty@sestl.org)

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### IN APPRECIATION OF:

Rabbi Bennett for officiating at the funeral of Jay Baron

*Debbie Baron and David Baron*

Rabbi Bennett for care, comfort and officiating at the funeral of Selma Fox

*Charlotte Fox, Susan & Sanford Fox and Family*

Rabbi Bennett for the wedding blessing

*Becca & Ryan Graham*

Rabbi Stiffman and Rabbi Bennett for officiating at the funeral service for Miriam Klamen

*Courtney & Evan Buxner*

Rabbi Stiffman and the clergy of Shaare Emeth for care, concern and officiating at the funeral for Sondra Wolf

*Jodi Price and Patti Wolf*

Rabbi Goldstein for officiating at the touching and heartfelt Bris service for Hampton Keller

*Cheri, Robert, Meredith & Jeremy Keller*

Rabbi Goldstein, the clergy, and staff of Shaare Emeth for care, concern and officiating at the funeral for Mayer Levy

*Daniel Levy, Ken Levy and Family*

Rabbi Levine, Rabbi Bearman and the clergy of Shaare Emeth for helping Esther Esses become a Bat Mitzvah

*Stephanie Battaglia-Esses and Family*

Rabbi Bearman for helping Simone Glasser become a Bat Mitzvah

*Sarah & David Glasser*

Rabbi Bearman for the conversion to Judaism and for performing the baby naming for Ruth & Ezra Kogan

*The Kogan Family*

Rabbi Bearman for the beautiful baby naming ceremony for Zoey and Reese Motchan

*Beverly & Gary Motchan*

The Clergy of Shaare Emeth for the beautiful baby naming ceremony for Joella Magee

*Kim & Adam Magee*

### IN HONOR OF:

Arleen & Howard Bly on their grandson, Shimmy Jacob becoming a Bar Mitzvah

*Linda & Bill Levin*

Carole & Jay Goldstein on the birth of their granddaughter, Stevie Ethel

*Bobbie & Alan Miller*

Joan Greisman on her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday

*Suzy Berns*

Stacy Jespersen for being selected as the recipient of the JPro STL Dedication Award

*Barbara & David Furman;*

*Linda & Jerry Sandmel*

Susan Kemppainen for being selected as the recipient of the JPro STL Chesed/Kindness Award

*Linda & Jerry Sandmel*

Olivia Schimel on the birth of her first great-grandchild, Wade Katz

*Sue Wallach and Family*

### IN MEMORY OF:

Lillian Dalin and Edna Fiman

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Cantor Warner for helping Simone Glasser become a Bat Mitzvah

*Sarah & David Glasser*

Cantor Warner for helping Esther Esses become a Bat Mitzvah

*Stephanie Battaglia-Esses*

Cantor Warner for officiating at the funeral service for Miriam Klamen

*Courtney & Evan Buxner*

Shaare Emeth and Lucy Greenbaum for the beautiful baby naming ceremony for Joella Magee

*Kim & Adam Magee*

Cantor Warner for care, concern and officiating at the funeral for Sondra Wolf

*Jodi Price and Patti Wolf*

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 for their safe travels  
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