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CONGREGATION SHAARE EMET H
BULLETIN

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L'hitraot & Todah Rabah, **Rabbi Rachel Bearman** PAGE 8

SPRING
2026

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Temple Hours

Mondays & Thursdays • 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tuesdays & Wednesdays • 8:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Fridays • 8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday • Hours Vary

Upcoming Holiday Hours

The campus will be closed on the following dates:

Thursday, April 2 (Passover)

Monday, May 25 (Memorial Day)

The temple office and Shirlee Green Preschool will also be closed:

Wednesday, April 8 (last day of Passover)

Friday, May 22 (Shavuot)



When Will The Next Bulletin Arrive?

This issue of the Bulletin covers March–May 2026; the next will include programming starting in June. The digital version will be sent in ShaareMail in mid-May, and the print version will arrive during the first week of June.

Can We ShaareMail With You?

For the most up-to-date information about all of Shaare Emeth's programs, events, and services, check out our website at sestl.org and make sure you're subscribed to ShaareMail, our twice-weekly e-newsletter.

If you don't currently receive ShaareMail, sign up at sestl.org/shaaremail or contact Hannah Michelson, Director of Communications, at hmichelson@sestl.org.

Honoring Our Past, Preparing for Our Future

BY DANA DEBLASI, PRESIDENT

On Behalf of the Board of Trustees
President@sestl.org



It is my honor to share some exciting news about the future of Shaare Emeth's clergy leadership. **Rabbi Bennett has informed our congregational leadership that, upon completion of his current contract, he will retire as planned and transition to the role of Rabbi Emeritus.** Rabbi Bennett has served Shaare Emeth for more than 30 years, including the last 22 years as our Senior Rabbi. His impact on our congregation, culture, and generations of congregants is immeasurable. We are deeply grateful for his decades of spiritual leadership, teaching, pastoral care, and unwavering commitment to our community.

In anticipation of this transition, congregational leadership approached Rabbi Goldstein to gauge her interest in becoming our next Senior Rabbi. To our great delight, Rabbi Goldstein shared that she would be honored to serve Shaare Emeth in this capacity.

Following this conversation, lay leadership engaged in a thoughtful and deliberate process that ultimately led to the **decision to name Rabbi Goldstein as Successor Senior Rabbi, effective July 1, 2026. She will officially assume the role of Senior Rabbi on January 1, 2028.**

We are extraordinarily fortunate to have Rabbi Goldstein already serving our congregation with such wisdom, warmth, vision, and integrity. Her deep relationships within our community, her rabbinic leadership, and her passion for Jewish life position her beautifully to guide Shaare Emeth into its next chapter.

This clergy transition is a key component of our congregation's strategic plan and our commitment to thoughtful leadership development, stability, and long-term vision. Over the next two years, lay leaders, staff, and clergy will work together to ensure a smooth leadership transition. Additional updates regarding our clergy team will be shared in the coming weeks, and more information about transition-related events will be communicated as plans take shape.

We are grateful for Rabbi Bennett's enduring legacy, excited about Rabbi Goldstein's continued leadership, and deeply confident in Shaare Emeth's future. If you feel moved to honor this moment, Rabbis Bennett and Goldstein



would be grateful for a tribute gift to the Operations Enhancement Fund or to any fund of your choosing.

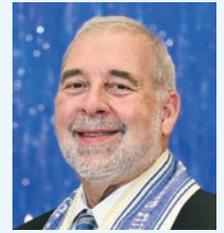
While we embrace these meaningful transitions, we also want to acknowledge the upcoming departure of Rabbi Rachel Bearman, whose conclusion of service on June 30, 2026, has already been shared with the congregation. Rabbi Bearman has been a valued and beloved member of our clergy team, and her leadership—especially with our children and youth, young adults, the Keshet community, and so many others—has left a lasting imprint on our congregation. We are grateful for the relationships she has fostered, the care she has offered, and the many ways she has enriched our community. We hope you will join us for a service in her honor on Friday, May 15—see page 9 for additional details.

As we navigate this season of sacred transition, we do so with deep appreciation for the extraordinary leaders who have shaped—and will continue to shape—our community. We honor Rabbi Bennett's remarkable legacy, celebrate Rabbi Goldstein's vision for Shaare Emeth's future, and extend heartfelt gratitude to Rabbi Bearman for her many contributions to our congregational life. With thoughtful planning already underway and a shared commitment to sustaining the strength of our community, we look toward the years ahead with confidence, gratitude, and optimism. Together, we will continue to build a vibrant, compassionate, and spiritually rich Shaare Emeth for generations to come.

With gratitude,

With Gratitude for a Lifetime of Blessings

BY RABBI JAMES M. BENNETT
JBennett@sestl.org



When I arrived at Congregation Shaare Emeth in June of 1984 as a newly ordained rabbi, I gave no thought to the possibility that 42 years later I would be approaching my retirement as Senior Rabbi of this magnificent congregation. As I begin the journey to my retirement in less than two years, I am comforted by Pirkei Avot, which teaches that the age of 70 brings *seivah*, a kind of wisdom and fulfillment that comes only with time and experience.

I am so excited that the congregation's leadership has expressed the wisdom to invite Rabbi Andrea Goldstein to serve as the next Senior Rabbi of Congregation Shaare Emeth! I have loved working with her every day for the past 22 years, and I am honored and proud that she will lead the congregation into the future as I begin to wrap up my current role and prepare to assume my new place alongside Rabbi Stiffman as Rabbi Emeritus.

When he invited me to become his assistant, an opportunity for which I was and am so grateful, Rabbi Stiffman told me that "Shaare Emeth is a congregation that loves and respects its rabbis." I have felt this myself, and I feel the same way about all of you. I have loved my many years as one of your rabbis. Amy and I are grateful for the way you have cared for us and our family, and how you continue to support us on this journey. I am profoundly grateful to all of you – my fellow clergy and staff members, the countless volunteers that make Shaare Emeth remarkable, and each of you who makes this congregation special and great.

I am looking forward to the many opportunities ahead for us to celebrate together, to honor this exciting time of transition and change, and to work side by side to ensure that our beloved congregation thrives, flourishes, and helps shape a better future for all of us and for our world. I am grateful to be a part of all of this.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James M. Bennett".





BY RABBI ANDREA GOLDSTEIN
AGoldstein@sestl.org

With Hope and Joy for the Path Ahead



My heart is filled with gratitude and excitement at being named Shaare Emeth's Successor Senior Rabbi. I am thankful for all my colleagues – most especially Rabbi Jeff Stiffman, who brought me to Shaare Emeth and modeled for me a rabbinate shaped by deep kindness and authentic connection, and Rabbi Jim Bennett, whose mentorship, friendship, and partnership mean more to me than I can ever adequately express.

I am grateful to Shaare Emeth's lay leadership, past and present, who have always supported my own growth and leadership. I am honored by the faith they have in me and look forward to the many ways we will grow and lead our congregation into the future.

I am grateful to my family – Brett, Macey, Eli, and Lila, and my parents, Jay and Carole Goldstein – for their constant love and support.

Most of all, I am grateful to the members of Shaare Emeth. You are the reason that Shaare Emeth is my spiritual home. For 28 years, you have embraced me and my family. You have invited me into your homes to share in the most joyous of celebrations and the most painful times of loss. We have learned together and laughed together and worked together to bring healing to our pained and broken world.

We are living during uncertain and fearful times, and now more than ever, Shaare Emeth has a vital role to play in the lives of its members and in the broader community. Our Jewish faith can instruct us in the ways of compassion, truth, and justice. As we look ahead, I am excited to deepen that work together by strengthening our relationships, supporting one another through life's joys and challenges, and shaping a future filled with meaning and hope. I am honored, excited, and grateful to continue this sacred work with you.

L'shalom,

Andrea Goldst



From Deep Roots, New Growth: *Shaare Emeth's Evolving Leadership*



BY CRAIG NEUMAN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CNeuman@sestl.org

As spring arrives, we feel it almost before we see it. The days stretch a little longer. The air softens. Buds appear on branches that not long ago seemed firmly committed to winter. Spring is change made visible, and it reminds us that renewal is both natural and enduring.

Judaism has always understood change as a sacred part of life. The Torah itself is a story shaped by transitions—from place to place, from one leader to another, from one stage of growth to the next. These moments are rarely abrupt breaks. More often, they are thoughtful evolutions that honor what has come before while making room for what is becoming. In Jewish life, change is not something to fear. It is something to approach with intention, honesty, and hope.

Our congregation now finds itself on the precipice of such a season as we embark upon the transition of our Senior Rabbi. This change is not about departure, but about continuity. Rabbi Goldstein is already part of our community and deeply woven into the life of this congregation. The relationships, learning, and sacred moments we share continue uninterrupted, shaped by a familiar voice and trusted leadership.

At the same time, Rabbi Bennett is not leaving our community. He will assume the role of Rabbi Emeritus, joining our longtime Rabbi Emeritus Jeffrey Stiffman who made a similar transition more than twenty years ago when Rabbi Bennett first stepped into this role. This passing of responsibility reflects something deeply Jewish. Leadership is honored, wisdom is retained, and the bonds that define our community endure.

Spring teaches us that growth does not erase the past. It emerges from it. Deep roots allow new branches to flourish. What has been nurtured over time becomes the foundation for new energy, vision, and possibility.

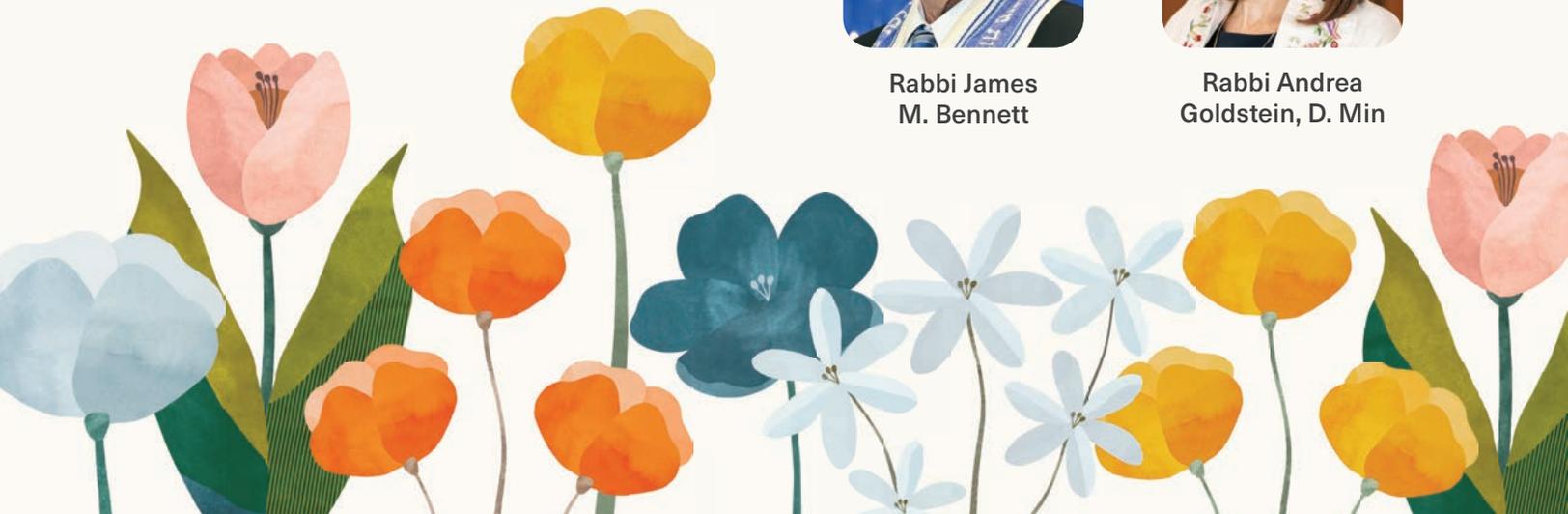
As we move through this season together, may we do so with gratitude for the leadership that has shaped us, confidence in the leaders who continue to guide us, and hope for what lies ahead. May this spring be a time of renewal and blessing, as we embark upon change that honors our past and carries us forward together.



Rabbi James
M. Bennett



Rabbi Andrea
Goldstein, D. Min



What Has the Board Been Up To?

LETTERS FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

BY DANA DEBLASI, PRESIDENT

On Behalf of the Board of Trustees

President@sestl.org



As we prepare our homes and hearts for Passover, we enter a season of renewal, reflection, and intentional action. It is a moment when our tradition invites us to clear away what no longer serves us and recommit to the values that guide how we live. Over these past months, your Board of Trustees has been

engaged in that same sacred work on behalf of Congregation Shaare Emeth.

One of our central priorities has been to clarify and affirm our Mission, Vision, and Values—articulating, in shared language, who we are today and who we aspire to become.

Our newly affirmed Mission states:

At Congregation Shaare Emeth, we come together to strengthen relationships, connect with Jewish tradition, deepen spiritual engagement, and act to repair our world.

Our Vision is:

Congregation Shaare Emeth is a vibrant, inclusive center of Jewish life where every person can find a sense of belonging, meaning, joy, and hope.

These words are not meant to live only on a document or on our website. They are meant to guide decisions, priorities, and how we show up for one another.

Alongside our Mission and Vision, we affirmed **five core Values that express the heart of our communal life:**

Kehillah • Community

We are a vibrant, multigenerational community where relationships flourish and every person is valued. We honor the Divine in each individual and welcome all who seek connection and a home in Jewish life.

Torah • Lifelong Learning

At all ages and stages of life, we engage deeply with Jewish wisdom, allowing timeless teachings to guide and impact our lives today.

Avodah • Sacred Service

Through prayer, ritual, holiday and life cycle celebrations, we seek and create moments of holiness in our lives and in the life of our community.

Tikkun Olam • Repairing the World

We act with compassion and moral courage to stand for justice, pursue peace and heal our world.

Hineni • Presence and Responsibility

We choose to be present, offering our time, resources, and care to one another, to our St. Louis community, to the Jewish people here and in Israel, and to those who struggle around the world.

This season invites us not only to look back, but to look forward: Who are we becoming? What kind of community do we want to be for the next generation?

Part of building the future we envision is cultivating engaged, thoughtful leadership. The Board is always looking for individuals who want to be involved in guiding and strengthening this community we love. **If you are interested in leadership development—or would like to nominate someone whose voice and commitment would enrich our leadership—we invite you to express your interest by e-mailing me at president@sestl.org.**

Your Board sees these Mission, Vision, and Values as a foundation for that future. They will shape our efforts going forward, inform how we allocate resources, guide how we engage our community, and frame how we partner with clergy and staff to strengthen Jewish life at Shaare Emeth.

In the coming months, you will see these guiding principles more intentionally woven into congregational life—from programming and engagement to worship, learning, and service. Our hope is that every member not only recognizes themselves in this work, but feels invited to help bring it to life.

Thank you for the privilege of serving our community at this moment of renewal and possibility.



To the Shaare Emeth Community,

Concluding a chapter in our lives is never easy, but it is an opportunity to reflect on all that we've experienced and to anticipate all that is to come. I am deeply grateful to have had the honor of being one of your rabbis for the last six years.

It has been a privilege to stand under the chuppah with so many couples, to comfort so many mourners, to bless so many babies, to laugh and learn with so many B Mitzvah students, to celebrate so many Confirmands, and to support so many conversion candidates. I have enjoyed every Torah Study conversation, every adult education class, every youth engagement opportunity, every partnership with a community organization, every Pride Shabbat, every KeSHER program, every Intro to Judaism class, and every opportunity to serve the 20s and 30s community.

There was no way for me to know what the last six years would bring—both to the world and to me personally—when I applied to be a Shaare Emeth rabbi, and I will always be grateful that I spent the last six years as a member of Shaare Emeth. Thank you for welcoming me so warmly despite our first year together being on Zoom. Thank you for all the trust and support that you have shown me as a member of your clergy team. And, thank you for celebrating with me as I welcomed my daughter into the world and into our community.

In the story of my life, my Shaare Emeth chapter will always be special. I have learned so much from the staff and clergy of our congregation, and as I look forward to my new rabbinic position as a senior rabbi, I know that I will use those lessons to best serve my next congregation and the Jewish people.

L'hitraot - Until we meet again!



WITH *Gratitude* AND *Blessings* FOR RABBI BEARMAN

Over the past six years, Rabbi Bearman has been a source of wisdom, compassion, and steady leadership for our congregation. Through moments of joy and challenge alike, she has helped guide our community with integrity, creativity, and deep care for our congregants.

We are profoundly grateful for the countless ways she has enriched our spiritual life, through her teaching, her pastoral presence, to her role in our worship, to her work with our children, teens, youth, and young adults, through her commitment to raising our awareness of those who often are marginalized, and to her unwavering commitment to Jewish values and to this community.

As Rabbi Bearman, along with her precious Hetty, prepares to begin the next chapter of her rabbinate and lead her own congregation, we will be sending her off with our heartfelt thanks and our warmest blessings. I know that I speak on behalf of all of our clergy team, our staff, our leadership, and our membership when I express our deepest thanks for her partnership and friendship. She will always remain an important part of our congregation's story, and we wish her every success, fulfillment, and joy in the years ahead.

With gratitude and blessing,
Rabbi Jim Bennett



Rabbi Bearman's **FAREWELL SHABBAT** **FRIDAY, MAY 15**

5:15 p.m. *Extended Nosh*

6 p.m. *Kabbalat Shabbat*

7:15 p.m. *Oneg Shabbat in
Rabbi Bearman's Honor*

Join Shaare Emeth's clergy, staff, lay leaders, and congregants as we thank Rabbi Rachel Bearman for her years with us, shower her with blessings as she embarks on her next chapter, and say:

*L'hitraot
& Todah Rabah*



Memorial *and* Independence Day

יום הזיכרון והעצמאות

BY NAOMI SHARON,
SHINSHINIT

This year, I have had the opportunity to experience many things for the first time. Having new experiences is a big part of being a Shinshin! We Shinshinim go to Jewish communities abroad to teach about Israel and Israeli culture and build long lasting relationships with our host families and community members. This coming April (the Hebrew date of the 4th of Iyar) will be my first year marking our country's national memorial days outside of Israel. I wanted to share my experience, and how I connect to Yom HaZikaron and Yom HaAtzmaut as an Israeli.

Growing up in Israel, Yom HaZikaron was always an important day in the calendar. For me it always marked grief, community, and national memory. It is a day that returns every year, familiar yet heavy, and shaped my understanding of loss, responsibility, and belonging from a very young age.

On Yom HaZikaron, I followed the same meaningful traditions year after year. In the morning, I would attend the memorial ceremony at my school, where we honored graduates who had fallen while serving our country.

Hearing their names, learning their stories, and knowing they once walked the same hallways we did made the day feel close and real for myself and my classmates.

In the evening, I would go to the neighborhood Scouts' memorial ceremony. Together as a community, we commemorated people from our neighborhood who were killed over the years. My family, our neighbors, my childhood friends, we all go every single year. We stood side by side there, sharing memories, watching the ceremony, and listening to the music. All of these familiar rituals gave Yom HaZikaron a deeply personal meaning.

These ceremonies taught me that Yom HaZikaron is not only about national loss, but about the individual lives of people who were part of our everyday world and their families. Even when the names were unfamiliar, the connection was always there.

For me, a part of the ceremonies that I always connected to was the music. There are so many different songs that were written especially for this day, and one of them is a song that I always feel connected to, but as I grow up, I can really feel the connection becoming even deeper. The English lyrics are on the next page.

Over the past two years, Yom HaZikaron has felt completely different. The names read aloud are no

longer distant or abstract. They are closer to me, friends of friends, people from my age group, faces I recognize, stories that hit much closer to home.

Commemorating Yom HaZikaron while Israel is at war has changed everything. The pain feels more immediate, the grief heavier, and the sense of vulnerability more present. The line between personal loss and national mourning has blurred in a way I had never experienced before.

Yom HaAtzmaut, in contrast, has always represented joy and togetherness. Every year, my family and I would go to close family friends who live right next to the Independence Day performances. We would have a barbecue, listen to the music from the stage, feel the excitement in the air, and watch the fireworks light up the sky. It was loud, joyful, and full of life, a tradition that defined Independence Day for me. Every year, the transformation between the two dates was extreme. Every year it would feel even a little wrong. However, I think this extreme transformation is necessary. It reminds us to give thanks to the people who protected us and all of Israel. Their sacrifices allow us to celebrate and be proud of our country.

This year, I do feel the sadness of missing that familiar celebration. At the same time, I am incredibly grateful and excited to mark these important days here, within this community. I am learning how Yom HaZikaron and Yom HaAtzmaut are observed outside of Israel, and finding meaning in commemorating and celebrating them together. Being able to mourn and to rejoice as part of this community, far from home, reminds me that these days are not only tied to a place, but to a shared story and a shared responsibility. To remember together, and to celebrate life and independence together, wherever we are.



Naomi and her dog, Humi, in 2021 during Yom Ha'atzmaut.

אצלנו בגן

Etzlenu BaGan

IN OUR KINDERGARTEN

*In our kindergarten, there are many children
Some of them – I like; some – I don't know.
But who hasn't heard of Ran's courage?
He is the fastest in the sand,
he is the strongest in the kindergarten
But he has one secret that he's scared to reveal;
That he's madly in love with one of the girls.
So on cold nights,
With a flashlight underneath the covers, they talk
And he confesses to her what she means
to him—his entire world.
Protected underneath the blanket.
In our kindergarten there are many cliques
Some are considered "cool," others not as much.
But who hasn't heard of the Swing-Jumpers
They are showered with applause, they are taught
how to land
They are raised up with the flag, the pride
of the entire region
Except—sometimes when they jump
too far, they forget to return.
So on cold nights,
With a flashlight underneath the covers, they talk
And he confesses to her what she means
to him—his entire world. Protected
underneath the blanket.
At our kindergarten, we part with a smile
Because the day isn't long, and we'll meet
again tomorrow
Except for those who suddenly stop returning to
the kindergarten
I was told that they just moved to a new home, on
the other side of the clouds.
So on cold nights
With a flashlight under the covers they talk
And he confesses to her what she means
to him —
And she cries when he proposes that
she be—his entire world,
On the evening before the war.
In our battalion, there are many kids,
Some of them—I like
Some—I'll never meet.*



Listen to the song and learn the added meaning behind the lyrics at:

sestl.co/InOurKindergarten

The Shinshinim program is funded by the Jewish Federation in St. Louis in partnership with the Jewish Agency for Israel.



YOM HASHOAH HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION

*Sunday, April 12 at 3 p.m. at
Congregation B'nai Amoona*

Join the St. Louis Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum at Congregation B'nai Amoona, as our community comes together as a whole to honor the memory of the six million Jews and millions of others who were murdered during one of the darkest chapters in human history. May the commemoration be a source of reflection, remembrance, and renewed commitment to building a more just world.

YOM HAZIKARON CEREMONY

*Monday, April 20 at 7 p.m. at the JCC
Arts & Education Building (Creve Coeur)*

Join the St. Louis Jewish community for a solemn Yom HaZikaron observance honoring Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror, including a special tribute to those affected by the events of October 7, 2023. The ceremony will include guest speakers, music, and a moment of silence as we gather in reflection and remembrance.

YOM HA'ATZMAUT CELEBRATION

Wednesday, April 22 at 5 p.m. • Location TBD

Celebrate Israel's Independence Day with the St. Louis Jewish Community! Join us for a festive and family-friendly event featuring Israeli food, music, games, and cultural activities for all ages. Come gather with the community to honor Israel's vibrant culture and history in a joyful and engaging atmosphere.

Watch ShaareMail for additional information on these events.

A Jewish Value in Action at *Oak Hill Elementary*

BY LIZ NATHANSON,
SHAARE EMETH MEMBER & GUEST WRITER

One of Judaism's most powerful values is **chesed**, acts of lovingkindness. Chesed isn't abstract or theoretical; it's about showing up, again and again, for real people in real moments of need. Often, it begins simply with a willingness to say *hineni*, "here I am." For one Shaare Emeth congregant, that willingness led to a meaningful and joyful volunteer experience at Oak Hill Elementary in St. Louis City.

I first got started volunteering at Oak Hill after Covid and retirement. I needed something to do, and between my experience working with the St. Louis Food Bank at the warehouse before retiring and my love of kids, I decided to sign up. So I signed up for a few shifts and it was fun meeting new people from Shaare Emeth, and the Oak Hill community was very welcoming.

I found myself there 2-3 times a week, volunteering in the pantry and wherever they needed help, putting together things for the classroom, helping with the clothes closet, and eventually finding myself in the classroom helping out as well.

The food pantry has two opportunities to volunteer. On the first and third Wednesday of the month, we receive food from the St. Louis Food Bank. Those days we stock the shelves

with bread, milk, eggs, frozen meat, and canned goods. Then every Thursday we fill parent orders. Today we have between 40-50 orders. This is a challenge because we are limited to four bags per order, and the weight of the bags needs to be something an 8-year-old can carry. **When I started in the pantry, we only needed two volunteers on Thursdays; now we need four because the demand is so great.**

The best part of this opportunity is meeting so many Shaare Emeth congregants and the smiles on the kids' faces.

Volunteering at Oak Hill is a reminder that small acts, done consistently, can make a real difference. Whether you can come once a month or once a week, there is a place for you. In giving our time and presence, we strengthen our community, live our values, and discover often to our surprise how much we receive in return.

If you've been looking for a way to help, this might be your moment to say ***hineni***.

Join the team! Sign up to volunteer in the Oak Hill pantry at sestl.co/ohfoodpantry

For questions or more information, contact Sue Picus, co-chair of Oak Hill Opportunities, at picushome@earthlink.net or 314-740-4543



Liz Nathanson & Sue Picus



The Quiet Joys of Jewish Early Childhood Education

BY AMY DEBRECHT,
TZIPPORIM (3s & 4s)
TEACHER AT SHIRLEE
GREEN PRESCHOOL



Being an educator in a Jewish early childhood school is often described as meaningful, spiritual work, and it truly is. For me, it is a calling rooted in compassion, presence, and the sacred work of nurturing young souls. At the same time, this work is demanding. Long days and emotional labor can sometimes veil the joy that first drew me into the classroom. I have learned, though, that joy in this work is not about ignoring the challenges. It is about noticing the moments of purpose, connection, and growth that make teaching at Shirlee Green Preschool feel spiritual. Joy often lives quietly, in the smallest, sweetest moments.



Building Joyful Relationships

At the heart of why I teach is the relationships I build. Every interaction between teacher and child, teacher and family, and teacher and community is an opportunity to practice my Jewish values with intention and joy.

Some of my greatest joys come in the quietest moments: a child proudly reciting *Hamotzi* for the first time at snack or lunchtime; a spontaneous song breaking out during circle time; or a child offering a warm, unprompted hug to a peer. These moments remind me how important it is to simply be present.

When educators show up with Jewish values woven into our daily interactions with families, those values naturally extend beyond the classroom walls and into the home. In Jewish tradition, relationships are sacred, and teaching young children allows us to live this value every single day.

At SGP, we shape more than routines and early learning skills. We help nurture the spiritual foundation of every

child's earliest values of kindness (*chesed*), respect (*kavod*), gratitude (*hakarat hatov*), and community (*kehillah*).

These values are not something we simply teach or talk about; they are embedded in everything we do. Every week, in every classroom, when we celebrate Havdalah, light Shabbat candles, prepare and bake challah together (sometimes we add sprinkles and fun ingredients), celebrate all of the Jewish holidays, and model *mitzvot* (what it means to be a mensch), the classroom becomes a living expression of Jewish life. When you walk into any classroom at SGP, you'll find a beautiful collection of proudly earned Mensch hearts. One of my greatest joys as an educator is knowing that I am among the first to help shape how my students see themselves, not only as Jewish, but as Jewish learners.

Developing Joy Through Reflection

Joy is sustained through reflection and *kavanah* (intention, purpose). At Shirlee Green Preschool, we ask our children to reflect on their experiences each day by journaling, and it is just as important that we grownups do the same. Taking time to notice blessings, name moments of meaning, and share gratitude with each other and our children, helps return to our hearts with intention. When we reflect on our imperfections with *chesed* and *hakarat hatov*, joy has the space to grow and flourish.

Community and Grace

As an educator, I am not meant to walk this joyful path alone. Community holds both the work and the spirit of education. Supportive colleagues, mentors, and especially administrators play a vital role in cultivating joy. When we celebrate milestones together, share ideas, and openly acknowledge challenges, we create an environment where educators feel seen, supported, and valued. Community is not just something I teach at Shirlee Green Preschool; it is something I live by through Shaare Emeth. Joy deepens when educators feel part of a mission driven by a community grounded in shared purpose and grace.

Carrying Joy Forward

For me, joy as a Shirlee Green educator is a spiritual practice, one that is renewed daily through caring for ourselves, our souls, and one another. Joy lives in the quiet moments and in the discovery of purpose. By grounding my work in relationships, Jewish values, reflection, and community, I can reconnect to the joy that calls me to this spiritual space and allows us to spark Jewish light in the youngest of souls, a light that I hope will be carried forward for generations to come.

WORK AT CAMP EMETH THIS SUMMER!

A job that feels like summer.

**Want a gig that's fun,
meaningful, and actually
looks great on a resume?**

Camp Emeth is hiring counselors,
specialists, and CITs who love working
with kids, being outdoors, and
bringing big energy to every day.

At Camp Emeth, you'll:

- Build real leadership and teamwork skills
- Run activities that make campers light up
- Train with experienced staff
- Be part of a warm, welcoming community
- If you're ready for a summer that's unforgettable— and pays you to make a difference— this is your moment.

*Apply now and make Camp Emeth
your summer at*

sestl.org/workatcamp



REGISTER FOR CAMP EMETH!

Camp Emeth At-A-Glance

- Children Entering Grades K-8
- Weekly Registration Available
- **NEW!** Nine Weeks of Camp Emeth in 2026
- 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m. with Optional Pre- & Post-Care

Register at campemeth.org



Life 
IS BETTER AT
**CAMP
EMETH**

BY LAURA HORTON
LHorton@sestl.org



Honoring Our *Graduating Seniors*

We asked four of our graduating seniors: “As you graduate, what part of your Jewish journey or your time at Shaare Emeth has shaped you the most? How has being part of this community influenced who you are or who you’re becoming?” Here’s how they responded...



BY HELENA COOPER
HCooper@sestl.org



Lottie Rochester

Throughout my time at Shaare Emeth, I have relished serving as a Hebrew school teacher and camp counselor. Starting my sophomore year of high school, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, I led art chug and taught Hebrew. Since that time, I

have had the opportunity to interact with Jewish kids in my community whom I otherwise wouldn't have had the chance to meet. While I enjoy Hebrew school because I get to talk with other teachers and students, I have also learned skills that I will use in the future. Early in my first year, I realized that my job wasn't only to teach but to motivate my students. Because the students come from a full day of school, they are often ready to go home just as we open the textbook. To be successful, I learned, through resourcefulness and patience, to personalize each week both teaching strategies and activities to optimize students' learning.

As a camp counselor at Camp Emeth, I have primarily led incoming kindergarteners. One of my favorite times of the year, I not only get to form relationships with my campers and fellow counselors, but through camp activities such as art, sports, and music, I also continue to teach and learn about important Jewish values. The camp's environment, unmatched, fosters constant smiles and connection.

Whether I am teaching a Hebrew lesson on the difference between “bet” and “vet” or leading a group of energetic kindergartners in Israeli dance, my time at Shaare Emeth has shown me the value of engaging with my Judaism. I've learned that any opportunity is a chance to create meaningful relationships, and I look forward to bringing that dedication to every community I am a part of in the future.



Morgan Siegel

As someone who's grown up at Shaare Emeth, it's hard to pinpoint what has shaped me the most, but an experience that's really stuck out to me is my time working at Camp Emeth. Camp Emeth has allowed me to find my passion in working with kids and, as much as I know I'm making an impact on all the kids I meet, they have a bigger impact on me. I've learned so much about myself and about others while working with these kids and all my coworkers throughout the past four summers. Through Camp Emeth I've been able to meet some of my favorite people that I never would have met otherwise. When I spend time with these people and at Shaare Emeth, I feel valued as more than just a teacher or a counselor, but as a human. I cannot thank Shaare Emeth enough for providing me with these lifelong friendships.

The Shaare Emeth community has created a space that has allowed me to feel truly comfortable with my beliefs. Growing up, I never really had Jewish friends, and I often felt like I wasn't “Jewish enough” but after being surrounded by other Jewish people my age, whether through youth group, post-con, and everything in-between, I've become more confident in my identity. Throughout the past few years, I've come to the realization that Judaism looks and feels different for everyone, and I would never be able to come to this conclusion without the constant support and love I feel from the members at Shaare Emeth, young and old.

Thank you to these seniors, and all of our graduating twelfth graders, for the time, energy, and enthusiasm you have brought to Shaare Emeth family. You will always have a home here. Mazel Tov!

**Jacob Swier**

Looking back, what's meant the most to me about my time at Shaare Emeth is how naturally it became part of my routine and my identity. It wasn't just a place to show up for holidays or special events, it helped me build a sense of

belonging that carried into school, friendships, and even how I think about responsibility and community. The discussions, the values, and the people here have given me a foundation that I know will stick with me long after graduation.

**Isaac Warner**

The time that shaped my Jewish journey the most has to be confirmation. After years of learning about Judaism, I got to go see how people with differing beliefs pray and celebrate their own religion. But the

part that I enjoyed the most was going on L'taken. This was a social action trip where a bunch of my friends and I traveled to Washington D.C. to lobby on Capitol Hill and talk about our Judaism. We had a whole weekend of learning and exploring. We spent the first couple of days learning about the problems that Jewish people like me face and issues that go against what is in the Torah. This weekend helped me connect with other Jewish people from around the country. I also got to use my voice to speak up for what is right and express my values and opinions to people in congress.

SPECIAL SHABBAT

**Honoring Our
Graduating Seniors
and Post-Con Fellows**

Friday, May 1

5:15 p.m. Nosh

6 p.m. L'Dor VaDor

**Intergenerational
Kabbalat Shabbat Service
with May Simcha Blessings +
Honoring Our Graduating Seniors
and Post-Con Fellows**

*A dessert reception will be held
immediately following services
for seniors and their families*

**Join us for this special evening,
during which we'll heap blessings
and honor onto our graduating
seniors and our Post-Con fellows.
Let's come together to celebrate
their accomplishments, recognize
their incredible contributions to the
Shaare Emeth community, and wish
them well in their future endeavors.**



SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION

5786 | 2026

Please Join Us As We Celebrate
Congregation Shaare Emeth's
Confirmation Class of 5786 | 2026

FRIDAY, MAY 8

5:15 p.m. Nosh

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

Special Dessert Reception
Following the Service

SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION

5786 | 2026

Colette Flora Bland

Jeffrey & Karen Bland

Joshua Marcus Cohen

Bob & Susan Cohen

Eli Stephen Esses

*Stephanie Battaglia-Esses
& Justin Esses, z"l*

Gabriel Wolf Falke

Thomas & Amy Falke

Austin James Heideman

Robert & Abby Heideman

Asher Solomon Levey

Jackie & Jim Levey

Eliot Nolan Levine

Benjamin & Sara Levine

Drew Gavin Rosenblum

Jennifer & David Rosenblum

Evan Samuel Sagett

Jenn & Scott Sagett

Landon Peri Waldman

Kami & Evan Waldman

Kyra Weinstein

Boyd & MaryJane Weinstein

MAZEL TOV!

Finding My Jewish Path

A Personal Reflection on Sarah Hurwitz's Exploration of the Torah



BY TOMMY FALKE
Shaare Emeth Member
& Guest Writer

Introduction: The Question of Belonging

I'm certain everyone else wonders what is actually going on here as we search for fleeting certainty—I can't be different. What is this life I live? How can I make sense of the juxtaposition of good and bad in life? As a non-Jewish member of Shaare Emeth, I often ask myself: what is the essence of Judaism to a reform participant in St. Louis County, Missouri? How can I explain Judaism from my perspective? What gives my life a Jew-ish bent?

I'm fascinated by the lifelong membership of being born Jewish, which I was not. How can you always be Jewish? Sarah Hurwitz hints that there's a gentle, contemplative spark of Jewishness in each of us; however that may be, it commands our attention and remains difficult to disregard. She contemplates her Jewish livelihood: why am I here, and why does this matter? Maybe the same goes for you if you've read this far...

A Framework: The What and How

I consider myself an "agilist" living somewhere in an axis between the *What* and *How*. My whole life, I've wrestled with an ever-changing purpose in what I wanted for my life and how to attain it. It's a funny balance for everyone, I assume, as I contemplate a viewpoint that offers a platform for the flow of my life.

I learned from a very early age that asking questions gave me power. This power infinitely grew beyond my comprehension. In a way, I hope my mind mirrors the universe, similar to Carl Sagan's journey from an Eden of ignorance to a longing for connecting with the Godly cosmos. Maybe this is innate, but I base this desire for knowledge in the *What* and *How*. In Hurwitz's writings, I found this same framework: if [Here All Along...](#) is the *What*; then [As a Jew...](#) is the *How*.

This what-and-how relationship of knowledge grounded me when I read Sarah Hurwitz's books. She explores the tenets of Judaism from her perspective—the meanings and rituals in her life. Her desire to interpret Judaism from her own viewpoint sparks the same desire in me.

My Journey to Judaism

I grew up in a small town in western Missouri where my father worked as a farmer and mechanic, while my mother earned a living in the perennial flower beds of

Powell Gardens. Church was the anchor of my family as we constantly wrestled with the ups and downs.

In college, I fell in love with my wife, who was Jewish, which led me to type these words today. Sitting in Lakota coffee shop in Columbia, Missouri, she shared her dream of raising a Jewish family. I immediately signed up for the journey, which led me to this wonderful Shaare Emeth community. I'm here with lots of baggage like everyone, trying to embrace the Mitzvot and Commandments as a capacity in the ongoing struggle to live an honest life. I embraced Hurwitz's views as she contemplates if there can really be perfection, if not permanence in the Words of the Torah.

Here All Along: The *What* of a Jewish Vision

On the vertical *What* axis, Hurwitz explores her view of the Torah's three fundamental truths: everyone is valuable and infinite; we're all equal; and everyone is unique, in her acclaimed first book titled [Here All Along: Finding Meaning, Spirituality, and a Deeper Connection to Life -- in Judaism \(After Finally Choosing to Look There\)](#). She presents Judaism as a platform for society, opposed to the hierarchical model of ancient Egypt, based on the belief that everyone is made in the image of God—infinite, worthy, equal, and unique.

Hurwitz's path isn't about practicing Judaism to answer all your questions, but rather using it as a guide for being kind and doing to others as you would have them do to you. At its peak, *Here All Along* explores how prayers focus on self-evaluation and reflection of the deepest, internal self—facing our deepest wishes and disappointments. Not to manifest a solution, but to promulgate an unburdened introspection of ourselves.

As A Jew: The *How* of Living Jewishly

The corresponding *How* of life's horizontal axis is explored in the post-structural account of being a Jew today in Hurwitz's subsequent book titled [As a Jew: Reclaiming Our Story from Those Who Blame, Shame, and Try to Erase Us](#). I think Hurwitz emphasizes that meaning is fluid, contingent, and constructed through language and cultural contexts, leading to an unlimited range of interpretations of any text or idea; and if that's the case, good for all of us because our own interpretations may be refined but wide open.

As she dives into the *How* of Judaism, she discovers that she couldn't find a secular heaven; instead, her soul yearns to transcend, giving her a way to live in this mangled world. "The Torah is the story of who we are, why we exist, and what kind of society and world we should strive together to build."

Hurwitz considers that instead of approaching modern Judaism with confusion, we should approach it with curiosity, empathy, and respect—again, it can be completely open. There must be love and the Shema at the foundation of this wisdom that embraces humanity at its core. Maybe we can be curious and reclaim it.

The Centrality of Love

In a past Yom Kippur service, our Rabbi Andrea mentioned the essence of Rabbi Shari Held's masterpiece, [Judaism Is About Love](#), and I smiled when Hurwitz mentioned the same—instantly, I knew I was meant to have this book in my hands. Hurwitz notes that Held claims that Jewish law cultivates an emotional action where there's an existential place for love as a cornerstone in all our lives, and the Torah offers a path into this way of life. "Jewish law is pushing us to get right up close to people in moments when they are suffering, to be radically present with them in disorienting places." Our difficulties aren't contrary to life but instead integral parts of it.

The Call to Study, Even in the "Thin Places"

I loved how Hurwitz emphasizes that simply telling the Jewish story is not enough; we need to learn and know it: "Jews need to study to be Jews." This resonates deeply with my own journey as someone who came to Judaism not by birth but by choice, by study, by love.

Finally, I'm profoundly indebted to Hurwitz when she mentions the "Thin Places"—those times when our physical world meets the divine. I've been lucky enough to experience this feeling when I married, witnessed the birth of my children, and mourned a loved one in their

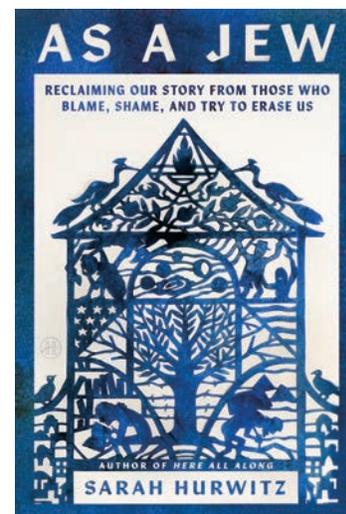
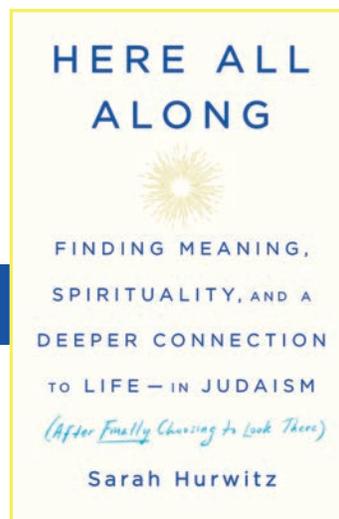
final moments of life. In an extraordinary sunset, there's a profound sense of peace and spiritual insight that the Torah illuminates—moments when the *What* and *How* collapse into simply being present with the sacred.

Conclusion: Read One Word, Everyone Knows the Rules

I truly enjoyed this pair of books and recommend them wholeheartedly, though it's important to read them both in sequence to get the full picture of Hurwitz's perspective. Here *All Along* offers a perception of discovering Judaism and its many intricacies of meaning that will rekindle discovery for readers who haven't experienced Jewish lessons in years and refer to themselves as "cultural Jews." To our more zealous and observant congregants, it may only be scratching the surface of what it means to practice the Mitzvot.

I actually wonder if Hurwitz received this same critique and subsequently wrote *As a Jew* because it goes much more fully into Brit spirituality. She takes heavier steps to develop her own thoughts and seeks to understand the Hebrew vision, more extensively reclaiming her Jewishness from secular views. By approaching Judaism with wonder, understanding, and reverence rather than guilt, she fully inherits her tradition and reclaims it.

By knowing the basics of complex Jewish counsel, there may be an opportunity for understanding and community instead of antisemitism, fanaticism, and distortion. I hold the Zionist dream close to my heart and hope that many other books will spark this same zealous study in me—seeking clarity and recognition rather than resistance. This is my *What and How*: to understand deeply, to practice thoughtfully, and to belong authentically to a tradition I chose with my whole heart.



SHAARE EMETH AWARDED THE HIAS LEADERSHIP PATHWAYS AWARD FOR OUR COMMITMENT TO WELCOMING THE STRANGER

We are proud to announce that Congregation Shaare Emeth has been selected as a recipient of **HIAS' Leadership Pathways Award**. HIAS (the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) is world's oldest refugee agency, and their Leadership Pathways Award is given to organizations, congregations, and communities in recognition of their extraordinary work supporting people who have been forcibly displaced from their homes.

Through the dedication of many Shaare Emeth volunteers, we have sponsored and accompanied families from Congo, Afghanistan, Sudan, Syria and more. Guided by the Jewish commandment to welcome the stranger, we are proud to live our values through meaningful action. **We will celebrate this award and honor our many congregational volunteers during Refugee Shabbat on Friday, March 20.** We will also hear about the current crisis that immigrants and refugees are facing here in St. Louis from leaders from the MICA Project. We hope that you will join us.

**Nachas is a Yiddish word traditionally associated with parental pride in children achievements. The word has evolved to mean deep joy, pride, and satisfaction delivered from the success or goodness of anyone you love, mentor, or feel connected to.*

REFUGEE SHABBAT ON FRIDAY, MARCH 20

Welcome, New Member Families!

Maralin & Warren Davis

Jessica & Nick Diekroger,
with child, Margot

Renee Dobkin

Melody & Adam Dotson,
with children, Ella & Maya

Rachel & Zach Errant

Ari Freeman & Alex Vasile

Rachel & Robert Gettinger

Sarah & William Hoffner,
*with children, Brayden,
Iris, & Ari*

Ali & Jan Koziol

Randy & Jim Lyle

Andie & Justin Katz,
with child, Miles

Mary Murawski

Ken Olsen

Sandra Olsen

Gloria Shaikun

Sarah & Alex Sher

Dana & Neil Silverblatt,
*with children, Kayla,
Ezra, & Isaac*

Juanita & Earl Weinman

Stefanie & Bryce Woollen,
*with children, Cooper
& Sydney*



MAZEL MAZEL



Mazel tov to Ronnie and Allen Brockman, who received the inaugural Brockman Founders Award at the 2026 Cocktails for Camp event on February 7, 2026.

Camp Rainbow—now renamed Camp Braveways—began with a simple wish. When Allen Brockman met a child whose greatest dream was to attend

summer camp, he was determined to make that dream come true. In 1988, that vision became Camp Rainbow. Since then, the organization has served nearly 15,000 children affected by childhood cancer or blood-related diseases, along with their families, by providing free, medically-supported camp experiences and programs that offer joy, connection, and community. Today, Camp Braveways supports more than a thousand campers each year across eight programs, all rooted in the love and vision Ronnie and Allen set in motion.



Mazel tov to Ryan Holtzman, who was honored with the Grosberg Ross Toder Young Leadership Award at Jewish Federation of St. Louis' Evening of Impact on February 17, 2026. Ryan also joined Jewish Federation of St. Louis' board in February.



Mazel tov to Kalix Jacobson, child of Terri and Gene Jacobson, who is set to become the solo spiritual leader of Temple David, a reform congregation in Monroeville, Pennsylvania, making them the first non-binary Cantor to be the solo spiritual leader of a reform congregation.



Mazel tov to John Kalishman on joining the Board of Jewish Federation of St. Louis.



Mazel tov to Jackie Ulin Levey, who was honored with the Barry Rosenberg Professional Leadership Award at Jewish Federation of St. Louis' Evening of Impact on February 17, 2026.

Mazel tov to Jenna Mueller on her Pillar of Parkway nomination. Pillar of Parkway is the most prestigious honor presented to worthy candidates working or volunteering within the Parkway School District community



Mazel tov to Tamar Sher, who was named the Missouri Sportscaster of the Year by the National Sports Media Association (NSMA), becoming the first woman to receive the honor. She will officially receive the honor at the NSMA awards weekend June 28-29 in Greensboro, N.C. The award is determined by votes from peers in the industry. Tamar has been part of KMOV's Sports on 4 team since March 2023. Tamar's proud parents are Karen and Howard Sher.

Mazel tov to Michele Friedman Siler on her two St. Louis Theater Circle nominations: Outstanding Costume Design in a Play for The Heidi Chronicles at the New Jewish Theatre; and Outstanding Costume Design in a Musical for Cabaret at the New Jewish Theatre.



Mazel tov to Amanda Stein, who was awarded the 2025 Commerce Bank Community Service Award. A \$10,000 grant from the William T. Kemper Foundation and Commerce Bancshares Foundation was presented to the National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis (NCJWSTL) in Stein's name. The award recognizes Stein's significant involvement with NCJWSTL and Congregation Shaare Emeth.

**Milestone or accomplishment?
Recently engaged or married?
New child?**

Let us know so you can be featured on this page in a future Bulletin.

E-mail Hannah at hmichelson@sestl.org.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Kabbalat Shabbat Every Friday Night
in the Stiffman Sanctuary | 5:15 p.m. Nosh • 6 p.m. Service**

- March 6:** L'Dor VaDor Intergenerational Shabbat
- March 13:** Kabbalat Shabbat
- March 20:** Tzedek Refugee Shabbat
- March 27:** Kabbalat Shabbat & Prayer Lab
- April 3:** L'Dor VaDor Intergenerational Shabbat
- April 10:** Kabbalat Shabbat
- April 17:** Kabbalat Shabbat *with Scholar-in-Residence Rabbi Rachel Mikva*
- April 24:** Kabbalat Shabbat & Prayer Lab
- May 1:** L'Dor VaDor Intergenerational Shabbat + *Honoring Our Graduating Seniors & Post-Con Fellows*
- May 8:** Kabbalat Shabbat and *Service of Confirmation*
- May 15:** Kabbalat Shabbat *Honoring Rabbi Bearman*
- May 22:** Kabbalat Shabbat
- May 29:** Kabbalat Shabbat & Prayer Lab

MAZEL TOV, B'MITZVAH STUDENTS!

*Shabbat morning worship is at 11 a.m.
on Saturdays in the Stiffman Sanctuary.*

MARCH 7

Bar Mitzvah of *Jackson Glass*, son of *Leah and Evan Glass*

APRIL 1

Bat Mitzvah of *Lyla Goldstein*, daughter of *Andrea and Lawrence Goldstein*

APRIL 18

Bar Mitzvah of *Gavin Rosen*, son of *Ricki and Aaron Rosen*

APRIL 25

Bar Mitzvah of *Maximus Goldstein*, son of *Debra and Jeffrey Goldstein*

MAY 2

Bat Mitzvah of *Zoe Lazarus*, daughter of *Julie and Todd Lazarus*

MAY 9

Bar Mitzvah of *Jeran Freistein*, son of *Valerie and Justin Freistein*

APRIL 17: RABBI RACHEL MIKVA

Rabbi Rachel Mikva, our Scholar-in-Residence, will begin the weekend at Shabbat services with a provocative D'var Torah titled "Dangerous Religious Ideas." Following services, enjoy dinner (by reservation) and an extended teaching that explores how courageous faith can inspire meaningful change. **Details on pages 26 & 27.**

MAY 8: SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION

The entire Shaare Emeth community is invited to join us for our 10th Grade Confirmation Shabbat Service. This Shabbat is a major milestone of Jewish learning for our students as they mark a voluntary, mature commitment to their Jewish faith and community. **Details on pages 18 & 19.**

MAY 15: SERVICE HONORING RABBI RACHEL BEARMAN

Our community looks very different now than it did when Rabbi Bearman arrived in 2020 during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. She has dedicated six years to caring for, learning with, and spiritually guiding our community, and we hope you will join us as we thank her and wish her well as she goes on to lead her next congregation.

**Shabbatot: the plural form of "Shabbat," which refers to the Jewish Sabbath from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday. The term is also used to refer to special Sabbaths that have special readings, customs, or themes.*

SPECIAL SHABBATOT*

MAY 23

Bat Mitzvah of *Stella Settler*, daughter of *Jill and Aaron Settler*

MAY 30

Bar Mitzvah of *Remi Lynn*, son of *Stacy and Jesse Lynn*



Jackson Glass



Lyla Goldstein



Gavin Rosen



Max Goldstein



Zoe Lazarus



Jeran Freistein



Stella Settler



Remi Lynn

Contemporary Jewish Writers: *Lunch & Learn*

Wednesdays, April 15 – May 27 (seven sessions)
11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. • Tuition: \$120

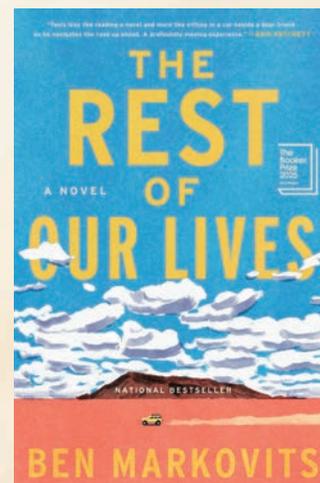
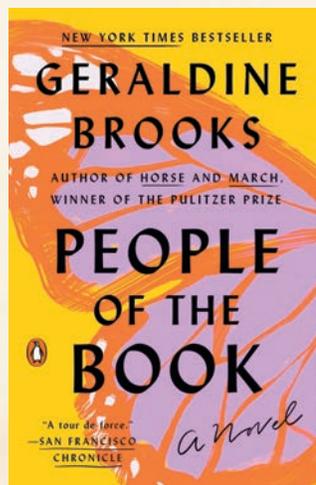
Join Marcia Moskowitz for a new lunch and learn session of Contemporary Jewish Writers. We will read two novels:

People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks

A classic of contemporary Jewish literature, *People of the Book* uses the Sarajevo Haggadah as the frame for a tale of the modern world, woven with the intrigue of another tale set in medieval Europe.

The Rest of Our Lives by Ben Markovits

The Rest of Our Lives is the story of a suburban Jewish family whose narrator, after leaving his daughter at college, does not return home but embarks on a journey across America seeking memory and meaning. This novel was on the 2025 short list for the Booker Prize.



Register at sestl.co/writers26

TORAH STUDY *at Shaare Emeth*

Did you know that Shaare Emeth offers two opportunities for Torah Study every week?

Whether you're a regular, brand new to text study, or anywhere in between, both of these options invite all to a welcoming, judgement-free, space to learn and grow.

TEXTING TUESDAYS: *Where Jewish Learning Comes Alive*

Most Tuesdays from 10–11 a.m.

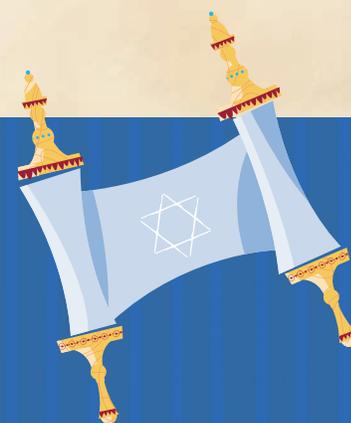
Texting Tuesdays is a nontraditional approach to Torah Study. Rather than revolving around the weekly Torah portion, these classes invite clergy, staff, and members to lead discussions on relevant topics, ranging from cooking and art to music and midrash. Together, we use the wisdom of sacred Jewish texts to build a kehillah kedoshah (holy community) that nurtures our minds, hearts, and souls.

Watch ShaareMail for our upcoming Texting Tuesdays topics. RSVPs are appreciated.

SHABBAT MORNING *Torah Study*

Saturdays from 9:30–10:30 a.m.

Join Shaare Emeth's clergy every Shabbat morning for a deep dive into the weekly parsha (Torah portion). Everyone is welcome to visit before class, beginning at 9 a.m., and grab a snack or cup of coffee. Study begins at 9:30. No RSVPs are required - just bring an open mind and a readiness to learn!





Harvey and Leanne Schneider Interfaith Forum

Courageous Faith in Tumultuous Times:

The Impact of Religious Ideas on our Common Life

A Weekend with Rabbi Dr. Rachel Mikva

Friday, April 17–Sunday, April 19



What does it mean to be courageous in our faith today?

Presented by The Harvey and Leanne Schneider Interfaith Forum in partnership with Grace United Methodist Church and Congregation Shaare Emeth

Join Congregation Shaare Emeth and Grace United Methodist Church for a powerful interfaith weekend of learning, worship, and conversation with Rabbi Dr. Rachel Mikva, an acclaimed scholar whose work explores the

public role of religion and the ways faith traditions can challenge injustice, resist oppression, and foster moral imagination.

Rather than shying away from difficult questions, Rabbi Dr. Mikva invites communities to engage in thoughtful self-critique, asking how our traditions can be “dangerous” in the best sense, bold, truth-telling, and transformative without becoming destructive. Together, we will explore how faith can help us navigate division, deepen our humanity, and envision the world we are called to build.

Rabbi Dr. Rachel S. Mikva is the Herman E. Schaalman Professor of Jewish Studies at Chicago Theological Seminary and a nationally recognized voice in interfaith dialogue. Ordained in the Reform movement, she brings both congregational experience and scholarly insight to conversations about faith, justice, and what it means to be human. Among her published books is ***Dangerous Religious Ideas: The Deep Roots of Self-Critical Faith in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam***, which is the foundation for her teaching during this residency.



Weekend Highlights

Shabbat Services & Dinner: Dangerous Religious Ideas

Friday, April 17

Kabbalat Service at 6 p.m. at Congregation Shaare Emeth

Shabbat Dinner Following Services

Begin the weekend with Shabbat and a provocative D'var Torah titled "The Deep Roots of Self-Critical Faith in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam." Following services, enjoy dinner (by reservation) and an extended teaching that explores how courageous faith can inspire meaningful change.

What Does it Mean to Be Human?

Saturday, April 18

9 a.m. Continental Breakfast | 9:30 a.m. Lecture

at Congregation Shaare Emeth

Begin the morning with a continental breakfast followed by a rich study with Rabbi Dr. Mikva on Religious ideas about human goodness and the soul as they shape abortion policy, criminal justice and the future of democracy.

Worship Service, Lunch, & Teaching: How Do We Keep Being 'Dangerous' Without Being Destructive?

Sunday, April 19

10:30 a.m. Service during which Rabbi Dr. Mikva will speak

at Grace United Methodist Church

Worship together and reflect on how the ideas explored throughout the weekend call us into action. Following worship, gather for lunch and a concluding teaching: "How Do We Keep Being 'Dangerous' Without Being Destructive? — What Comes Next"

RSVP for these events soon - watch ShaareMail!

This weekend is an invitation to listen deeply, ask hard questions, and learn across difference while remaining grounded in faith, curiosity, and shared responsibility.

Presented by: *The Harvey and Leanne Schneider Interfaith Forum in partnership with Grace United Methodist Church and Congregation Shaare Emeth*

*Member
Appreciation*

BRUNCH

SUNDAY, MAY 17
10-11:30 A.M.
AT SHAARE EMETH

WE WANT TO CELEBRATE
A THROWBACK
TO THE KIBBITZ CAFÉ

*Brunch, Games
& Schmoozing*



FREE FOR ALL
SHAARE EMETH
MEMBERS

*RSVP
is required!*



Thank you Shaare Emeth Members!

RSVP AT
SESTL.CO/BRUNCH

Thank You, Shaare Emeth Members!

One of our favorite questions is, “**Why do we have these Member Appreciation events?**” Simply put, Shaare Emeth members are amazing! We are lucky to have a front row seat to witness all the generosity and kindness you show day-in and day-out, and that is certainly worth celebrating!

In addition to generous gifts for Membership Responsibility each year, Shaare Emeth members give generously of their...

...**time** to perform the volunteer roles that keep Shaare Emeth running, everything from driving older members to services to crafting the budget to visiting other members in a time of need.

...**connections** to help other members find their next career moves, to help new members make friends, to help other community members secure items or services they need to meet their basic needs.

...**spirit** to uplift others and make Shaare Emeth a place where people feel welcome and inspired.

We're truly grateful to serve this inspiring group of members. We look forward to celebrating you on May 17!

Beth Kodner & Emily Cohen
The Membership Team



Questions? Contact Beth Kodner at bkodner@sestl.org, or Emily Cohen at ecohen@sestl.org or call the temple office at 314-569-0010.



A Message from Rabbi Andrea Goldstein, Director of the Jewish Mindfulness Center of St. Louis

Every year, in our weekly Mindfulness Monday emails, the Jewish Mindfulness Center of St. Louis observes National Poetry Month by sharing one poem every week during the month of April. This year, Passover begins on the evening of April 1st. To celebrate both Passover and National Poetry Month, we want to share Lynn Unger's poem, Passover, as a way to bring added meaning to our holiday celebrations this year. The inspiration for the poem comes from Exodus 12, verses 7 and 13, where we read:

Then you shall take some of the blood, and put it on the door posts and the lintels of the houses . . . and when I see the blood, I shall pass over you, and no plague shall fall upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

PASSOVER by Lynn Unger

*They thought they were safe
that spring night, when they daubed
the doorways with sacrificial blood.
To be sure, the angel of death
passed them over, but for what?
Forty years in the desert
without a home, without a bed,
following new laws to an unknown land.
Easier to have died in Egypt
or stayed there a slave, pretending
there was safety in the old familiar.*

*But the promise, from those first
naked days outside the garden,
is that there is no safety,
only the terrible blessing
of the journey. You were born
through a doorway marked in blood.
We are, all of us, passed over,
brushed in the night by terrible wings.
Ask that fierce presence,
whose imagination you hold.
God did not promise that we shall live,
but that we might, at last, glimpse the stars,
brilliant in the desert sky.*

From everyone at the Jewish Mindfulness Center of St. Louis, we wish you a Passover holiday filled with meaning, imagination, possibility, and hope.

Prayer Lab

A MINDFUL SHABBAT EXPERIENCE

Prayer Lab Schedule

Prayer Lab is a non-traditional Shabbat evening service combining contemporary readings and poetry, participatory music, time set aside for meditation, and more. Worshippers are encouraged to come with open minds and open hearts. All are welcome!

UPCOMING PRAYER LAB DATES & THEMES

March 27 – Keep the Fire Burning

April 24 – Enacting Love

May 29 – Blessings of Shalom

THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Thoughts & Prayers

with Rabbi Andrea Goldstein

**Wednesday evenings, March 11, 18, & 25
7 – 8:30 p.m.**

Based on the series “Thoughts and Prayers” offered through the Shalom Hartman Institute, participants will be invited to listen to an episode from this popular podcast and then join with Rabbi Goldstein and other community members to learn, discuss, and broaden our understanding of what prayer can mean for us today. Join for one or all three classes. All are welcome. Registration is required so that we can send you listening materials in advance.

March 11 – Does Prayer Work?

March 18 – Between Me and We

March 25 – When Prayer Meets Politics

Register at sestl.co/thoughtsprayers

Want more poetry, mindfulness tips, and rabbinic wisdom in your inbox?

Sign up to receive Rabbi Goldstein's weekly e-mails at sestl.co/jmccemail or contact Stacy Jespersen at sjespersen@sestl.org.



HAPPY PASSOVER

2nd Night Seder

Thursday, April 2

A Seder for All Generations

Led by Rabbi Andrea Goldstein, Rabbi Lori Levine, Cantor Seth Warner, Zoey Waldman-Schein, and the Shaare Emeth Religious School's Seder Singers.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for check-in and registration. The Seder and our shared journey from slavery to freedom will begin promptly at 6 p.m. Arrive a little early to find your table, greet friends old and new, and get ready to share the story, the songs, and a delicious Passover meal together.

Bring the whole family to our intergenerational, one-hour seder featuring readings from traditional and modern haggadot, generous amounts of music, and activities and games just for kids. Following the seder, you'll be treated to a gourmet catered meal with vegetarian options available.

Details & registration coming soon! Watch ShaareMail.

MATZAH *and a movie*

For Families with 0-5 Year-Olds

**SATURDAY, APRIL 4,
11-12:30 P.M.**

AT SHAARE EMETH

Celebrate Passover with a make-your-own matzah pizza bar and a classic Passover favorite: The Rugrats Passover Special!

Free and open to the community.

**RSVP REQUIRED AT
SESTL.CO/MATZAHMOVIE**

Questions? Contact Emily Cohen,
ecohen@sestl.org or 314-692-5323



See page 32 for Yizkor service information for Passover and Shavuot.

CELEBRATE SHAVUOT

Shavuot celebrates the moment the Torah was given at Mount Sinai, inviting us to reconnect with its teachings and draw inspiration from the wisdom of Jewish tradition.

The word Shavuot means “weeks,” marking the seven-week journey from Passover to this holiday. Like many Jewish festivals, Shavuot began as an ancient agricultural celebration, signaling the end of the spring barley harvest and the start of the summer wheat harvest. In biblical times, it was one of the pilgrimage festivals, when Israelites brought offerings from their crops to the Temple in Jerusalem. Today, Shavuot has evolved into a celebration of Torah, learning, and the ongoing choice to engage meaningfully in Jewish life.



COMMUNITY SHAVUOT AT UH

EREV SHAVUOT: CONNECTIONS,
COMMANDMENTS & CHEESECAKE

Thursday, May 21
United Hebrew Congregation

Join Shaare Emeth, United Hebrew, Temple Israel, and Temple Emanuel for our third annual community Shavuot celebration.

7:30 p.m. Festival Yizkor Service

8:15 p.m. Dessert Reception

8:30 p.m. Choice of Classes with Clergy

9:30–10 p.m. Closing Ceremony with
Reading of the 10 Commandments

Details and RSVP to come!

SHAVUOT *on the Farm*

Thursday, May 21, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
at Shaare Emeth

For Families with 0-9 Year-Olds

Since Shavuot is the spring harvest festival, we are bringing the farm to Shaare Emeth to celebrate! We'll have activities, snacks, and even some furry friends. Activities will be ongoing, so stop by on your way home from school and work whenever it is convenient for you. Free and open to the community.

RSVP required at sestl.co/shavuotfarm

In Partnership with PJ Library

Questions? Contact Emily Cohen,
ecohen@sestl.org or 314-692-5323

יזכור Remember Yizkor

One of the greatest gifts that Judaism gives us is our religion's approach to grief. While each of us have individual yahrzeits (anniversaries of loved ones' passings), Judaism goes beyond the individual by providing a communal space for memory and grief four times a year (Yom Kippur, Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah, Passover, and Shavuot). On these holy days, we gather for Yizkor services, and we embrace the opportunity to look inward and to ask ourselves:

How has our grief changed since we were last together. Is it heavier now than it was then? Is it lighter?

At this new season, has the weight of our personal grief shifted enough for us to support those who stand next to us with their burdens or do we need to ask others for help?



Is the absence of our loved one at the front of our mind or is our heart filled up with memories of their presence?

While some of us grew up with strict traditions around who could/should attend a Yizkor service, the truth is that Yizkor is open to anyone who seeks the comfort of community, the grounding of tradition, and the space to feel whatever it is that they are feeling at that moment.



In our congregation, whether we are remembering a parent, a partner, a sibling, a cousin, an aunt or uncle, a friend, or anyone else, there is a space for us at Yizkor and there is value in embracing all that Yizkor offers us.

The Shaare Emeth clergy team invites you to join us at two upcoming Yizkor services:

PASSOVER YIZKOR

Wednesday, April 8

9–10 a.m.

B'nai El Chapel

Congregation Shaare Emeth

SHAVUOT YIZKOR

Thursday, May 21

7:30 p.m. at United Hebrew

For the first time, we will be gathering for a communal Yizkor service. Please join us at United Hebrew as we begin our communal Shavuot celebration with Yizkor.

Zichronam L'vrachah. May we all find the blessings of strength and comfort in the memories of our loved ones.

SAVE *the* DATE

Congregation Shaare Emeth's

159th Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 20

This important gathering is an opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments, discuss future plans, and celebrate our shared commitment to our community. We will install our officers and trustees, recognize staff years of service, thank our outgoing board members, and more. Your voice and presence matter!

Stay tuned for more details.

The Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry Needs Our Help

Please help the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry by donating money or donating food. Below are some suggestions for food items the pantry needs for the month of March:

1. Canned Beef Stew, Chili, and Protein-Rich Foods
2. Kosher Non-Perishable Food
3. Hot and Cold Cereals (low sugar preferred)
4. Healthy Snacks
5. Peanut Butter & Jelly
6. Any Kind of Canned Vegetables (e.g. peas, carrots, green beans, and corn)
7. Macaroni and Cheese
8. Personal care items such as: Toothpaste, Dental Floss, and Diapers

Donations can be dropped off in the North Lobby bin whenever the building is open. The need is great, so please help in any way you can. Thank you. For further information, please contact Louise Levine at 314-368-5902.



Have You Set Up Your 2026 Payment Plan?

Reminder: Payment plans for Membership Responsibility do not carry over from year-to-year. Even if you had a payment plan for 2025, you need to set up a new one for 2026 (unless you have already signed up for the auto-renew option which just launched last summer).

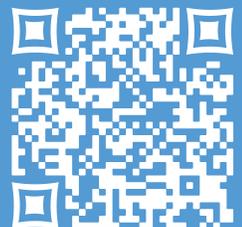
To sign up for the auto-renew payment plan that DOES carry over from year-to-year, visit sestl.co/autorenew.

To set up a traditional one-year payment plan, log in to your Shul Cloud account or contact the temple office at 314-569-0010.

Shaare Emeth Communications Survey

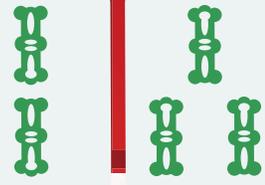
WE VALUE YOUR INPUT!

*If you haven't yet had chance, please take a few minutes to complete our communications survey. Your feedback will help us understand how you engage with our content and guide us in creating meaningful communications for our community. Thank you for sharing your thoughts! **SCAN or CLICK** the QR code above.*



九萬 九萬

Mahj, Munch, & Mingle



Congregation Shaare Emeth's First Mah Jongg Tournament was a Huge Success!

With over 120 players, the Simcha Center was abuzz with community and competition. Players enjoyed a breakfast nosh, a delicious lunch, and three rounds of mah jongg. Amid bams and craks, door prizes were awarded and raffle baskets were won.

Thank you to our hard working committee!

Sue Propper, Fran Glucroft, Betsy Cytron, Rosalie Stein, Laura Beer, Scott Berzon, Staci Gerchen, Stephanie Lalezari, Julia Mendelow, Anna Poger, Marsha Rothman, Sherry Shuman, and Shana Tozer. Beth Kodner, staff.

Thank you again to our donors and sponsors!

Tournament Sponsor

Anonymous
The Needlepoint Clubhouse

Mahj Maven

Mahj with a Twist
Julia Mendelow
New York Life – Ruth Gerchen

Flower Friend

Lorry Blath
Betsy Cytron
Rachel Goltzman
Sue Propper
Iris Shepard

Donations

Anonymous
Altair Travel & Cruises
Bagels & Bliss
The Berzon Family
Café Amalia
Dermatone
Grapevine Wine & Spirits
Kestral Coffee Roasters
Love-Launch Clothing & Accessories

The Needlepoint Clubhouse
Paisley Boutique
Iris Shepard
Studio Branca
THRIVE STL Personal Training & Coaching
The Tournament Committee
Caryn Vredenburgh



Tournament Winners

Congratulations to our tournament winners!

- 1st Place:** Joyce Fisher
- 2nd Place:** Bev Shanfeld
- 3rd Place:** Renee Silverstein



CONDOLENCES

Nancy Bly
Carol Derfeld
Wife of Harvey Derfeld
Michael Levitt
Janet Loiterstein
Neal Parnas
Robert "Bob" Paster
Son of Jim (the late Flora) Paster
Robert Prywitch
Husband of Edith Prywitch
Clara "Weezie" Pultman
Wife of Dr. Mark Pultman

Gary Sacks
Husband of Margie Sacks and step-father of Danny (Irene) Fischer
Sanford Schenberg
Alice Schwartz
Daryn Shapiro
Son of Leslie Shapiro and brother of Jason Shapiro
Ralph Sonnenschein
Grandfather of Dann (Hannah) Michelson

SYMPATHY

Laurie Ault on the death of her mother, **Carol Young**, and her father, **Jim Young**
Lorne Baker on the death of his uncle, **Alan Baker**
Debbie Banashek-Twist (John Twist) on the death of her father, **Edmund Banashek**
Robert Cohen on the death of his brother, **Stanley Cohen**
Sheila (Robert) Cohen on the death of her mother, **Eleanor Brin**
Ronn (Marci) Diamond on the death of his mother, **Bertha Schertzer**
Dara Gianetto on the death of her mother, **Joyce Kleiman**
Heather (Adam) Giesing on the death of her father, **Donald Loomstein**
Ashley (Jeremy) Katcher on the death of her father, **Daniel Scher**
Dr. Ed (Joelyn) Levy on the death of his mother, **Constance Levy**
Rick (Audrey) Prywitch and Jamie (Richie) Gallant on the death of his father and her grandfather, **Marvin Prywitch**
Dr. Ron Miller on the death of his brother, **Charles Miller**

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.



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

PERPETUAL MEMORIALS

Tilie E. Berger and Morris R. Berger
Established by Debra Berger Pfeffer
Julius Frank
Established by Janice McKendree
Evelyn Ginsberg
Established by Frank Ginsberg, Mark Ginsberg, Vicki Diedrich and Bruce Ginsberg
Joan F. Goltzman
Established by the Goltzman Family
Milton Karp
Established by Carol Lentini, Bob Karp and Mark Karp
Ellen Reilly Klamon
Established by Jan Carp
Julie Beth Kramer
Established by Ron Kramer and Robert Karmer
Jim Malen
Established by Judy and Larry Deutsch
Kenneth C. Bryant Olsen
Established by Sandra Kisslinger Olsen, Ken Olsen and Jennifer Polniak
Neal Parnas
Donald Gene Soffer

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.

RABBIS' SPECIAL FUND

IN APPRECIATION OF:

Rabbi Bennett for helping Eliot Cooper become a Bar Mitzvah
Carly & Jeff Sparks

Rabbi Bennett for his contributions to the Congregation Shaare Emeth community
Ellen & Dr. Ronnie Gross

Rabbi Bennett for officiating at the funeral for Marvin Prywitch
Audrey & Rick Prywitch and Lynn & Brett Prywitch

Rabbi Bennett and Rabbi Goldstein for helping Dylan Pereles become a Bat Mitzvah
Brenda & Joe Pereles

Rabbi Bennett and Rabbi Goldstein
Jennifer Schwesig & Kevin Mellick

Rabbi Goldstein for her inspiring leadership of mindful meditation
Sally J. Altman

Rabbi Goldstein for their special wedding anniversary blessing
Dianna & Richard Fine

Rabbi Goldstein for officiating at the wedding of Rachel & Robbie Gettinger
Wendy & Chuck Errant

Rabbi Goldstein for her kindness, generosity and for Prayer Lab
Dianna Fine

Rabbi Goldstein for her continued contribution to the Houser legacy
Jennifer & Ted Houser

Rabbi Goldstein for performing the stone dedication for David Wolf
James Hudson & Jason Wolf

Rabbi Goldstein for her "Seeing The Good" program
Debbie Wachspress

Rabbi Bennett, Rabbi Goldstein and Rabbi Levine for helping Gavin Siegler become a Bar Mitzvah
Jacquelyn & Jeffrey Siegler

Rabbi Levine for helping Made-lyn Tasker become a Bat Mitzvah
Shirley & Ryan Tasker

Rabbi Levine for helping Gabriella Wolman become a Bat Mitzvah
Natascha & Jeff Wolman

Rabbi Stiffman for performing the stone dedication for Michele & Sheldon Sandmel
Ben Sandmel

The Clergy of Shaare Emeth for care and compassion in time of need
William Friedman; Mark Pultman

Shaare Emeth for live streaming, especially during High Holidays
Robin Davis Miller

IN HONOR OF:

Rabbi Bennett for recovery and restoration of full good health
Lorry Blath; Arleen & Howard Bly; Sandy Brickman; B'Yachad Rosh Chodesh Group; Carol & Bruce Canis; Sheila Cohen and Family; Victoria Fiegan; Debi & Dr. Bob Feit; Wendy Flusser; Barbara & David Furman; Helene & Richard Glass; Laurie Goldberg; Natalie & Larry Goldman; Sherri & Rick Goldman; Carole & Jay Goldstein; Arlene Goodman; Ellen & Dr. Ronnie Gross; Carol Gusdorf; Debbie & Karl Guyer; Debbie & Kent Hirschfelder; Dolores Kling; Phyllis Kahn and Family; Judy & Jerry Kriesman; Carole & David Lander; Mary & Cary Lang; The Lents Family; Linda & Bill Levin; Jackie & Marty Lipsitz; Adrienne Lyss; Saundra & Bill Peck; Marlene Petrofsky; Marilyn & Gary Ratkin; Sherri & Jim Rosen; Pam & Ron Rubin; Peggy & Alan Schaffer; Jacquelyn & Richard Schnidman; Jill & Mark Schupp; Karen Suoff & Oscar Schwartz; Donna & David Segal; Sheri & Fred Seigel; Dede & Garry Seltzer; Joy Seltzer & Wayne Hoffman; Andy & Stan Shanker; Iris Shepard; Merle & Dale Singer; Jane & Hal Sitrin; Sharon & Leonard Smith; Joy Sterneck; Jo Anne Travis; Sue Wallach; Jody & Mickey Waldman; Ginny Weiss; Rita & Barry Worth; Karen & Mark Zorensky

Amy & Rabbi Bennett on the birth of their second grandchild, Eliora "Elie" Jordan Bennett
Susan & Harry Burack; B'Yachad Rosh Chodesh Group; Sheila Cohen; Dana & Vince DeBlasi; Madeleine Elkins & Harvey Wallace; Sharee & Mark Feldman; Arlene Goodman; Karen & Ronald Herzog; Phyllis Kahn and Family; Amy & Jim Kalishman; Jackie & Ken Kleban; Dolores Kling; Sue & Mark Koritz; Carole & David Lander; Brenda & Joe Pereles; Marilyn & Gary Ratkin; Andy & Stan Shanker; Karen Suoff & Oscar Schwartz; Sue Wallach; Karen & Mark Zorensky

Arleen Bly for a speedy recovery
Linda & Bill Levin

Dianna & Dick Fine on their 60th wedding anniversary
Andy & Stan Shanker

Joyce Kolker for a speedy recovery
Andy & Stan Shanker

Larry Kolker for a speedy recovery
Andy & Stan Shanker

Mary Murawski on her conversion performed by Rabbi Goldstein
Laurie Goldberg

Laurie & Bert Schweizer on their granddaughter, Harper Small, becoming a Bat Mitzvah
Sue Wallach

IN MEMORY OF:

Julia H. Broad
Sharon & Rick Safron

Stanley Cohen
Andy & Stan Shanker

Arthur Carl Foster
Karen & Nelson Foster

Anneda, Merle and Lee Friedman
Michele & Patrick Siler

Judy Friedman
Paula & Mike Geigerman

Eric Goldman
Janet Goldman and Herbert Goldman

Anna Handler
Sharon & Rick Safron

Frances Hartmann and Geri Mercer
Ron Hartmann

Anne Hilecher
Robin & Larry Pevnick

Dolores Kenkel
Rina & Paul Kenkel

Marvin Kenkel
Rina & Paul Kenkel

Bruce Kidder
Estelle Kidder, Nancy & Glenn Goldberg, Stacy Kidder and Alex Basa

Louis M. Kohn
Michael Kohn

Irving Muller
Rina & Paul Kenkel

Dorothy & Ben Peck
Saundra & Bill Peck

Robert Prywitch
Gail & Brian Levine

Clara "Weezie" Pultman
Claire & Greg Powell

Jessica Reif
Ann & Fred Reif

Claire, Bret and Sheldon Tauben
Melodie & Scott Tauben

CANTOR'S SPECIAL FUND

IN APPRECIATION OF:

Cantor Warner for helping Eliot Cooper become a Bar Mitzvah
Sara & Larry Sparks

Cantor Warner for their special wedding anniversary blessing
Dianna & Richard Fine

Cantor Warner for his contributions to the Congregation Shaare Emeth services
Ellen & Dr. Ronnie Gross

Cantor Warner for officiating at the funeral for Ray Marglous
The Ray Marglous Family

Cantor Warner for helping Dylan Pereles become a Bat Mitzvah
Brenda & Joe Pereles

Cantor Warner for officiating at the funeral service for Sanford Schenberg
Karen & Todd Siegel

Cantor Warner for helping Gavin Siegler become a Bar Mitzvah
Jacquelyn & Jeffrey Siegler

Cantor Warner for helping Made-lyn Tasker become a Bat Mitzvah
Shirley & Ryan Tasker

Cantor Warner for helping Gabriella Wolman become a Bat Mitzvah
Natascha & Jeff Wolman

IN HONOR OF:

Arleen Bly for a speedy recovery
Linda & Bill Levin

IN MEMORY OF:

Michael Levitt
Stephanie Towe

Laurie Nest
Patricia Froeckmann

Bob Paster
Pam Sherman-Brown and David Sherman

Jane Schachter
Arlene Goodman

Sanford Schenberg
Carol & Bruce Canis

BEMA FLOWER FUND

IN APPRECIATION OF:

Sharon & Bill Remis for holiday dinner invitation
Leslie Kaufman

IN HONOR OF:

Jackson Glass on becoming a Bar Mitzvah
Leah & Evan Glass

Lyla Goldstein on becoming a Bat Mitzvah
Andrea, Larry and Jacob Goldstein

Max Goldstein on becoming a Bar Mitzvah
Peg Carson & Marty Goldstein and Helen & Ken Goldstein

Arlene Goodman on her special birthday
Sharon & Richard Safron

Remi Lynn on becoming a Bar Mitzvah
Stacy & Jesse Lynn

IN MEMORY OF:

Lillian & Dr. Harry Glassman
The Lillian & Dr. Harry Glassman Family Foundation

Pearl L. Soffer
Mary Beth and Allen Soffer

JOSEPH & LILLIAN BEIL ISRAEL FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Lillian & Joseph Beil
Rosalind B. Sell

BROCKMAN-SIEGELMAN GEMILUT HASADIM FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Michael Levitt
Ronnie & Allen Brockman

Clara "Weezie" Pultman
Ronnie & Allen Brockman

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Hannah Solomon Rosen
Bonnie & Norman Solomon

Diane Schwarzbrott
Gail & Bob Mielziner

SADIE & SIDNEY S. COHEN MUSIC FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Melvin A. Greenspoon
Barbara Greenspoon and Irene Greenspoon (z'l)

CHUSED ISRAEL EXPERIENCE FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Yan Shifran
Linda Schoenfeld

MICAH DAVIS MEMORIAL FUND

IN APPRECIATION OF:

Alice Davis, Micah Davis and Margot Davis, in life and in memory
The Meyers Family

IN HONOR OF:

Peggy & Alan Schaffer on their 60th wedding anniversary
Norm Davis and Pam Davis

IN MEMORY OF:

Stanley Cohen
Norm Davis

Alice D. Schwartz
Nancy Baker; Marcia & Jack Boonshaft; Heather Desmond; Judy & Larry Deutsch; Paula & Mike Geigerman; Mickey Goorman; Judy Mange; Lynn & Tim Marsden; Sue Matlof; Jessica & Daniel Poscover; Sharon & Jeffrey Rosenblum; Donna & David Segal; Peggy & Alan Schaffer; Andy & Stan Shanker; Aliza & Barie Spiegel; Carolyn & Bob Suffian and Family; Jill Weinreich and Steve Weinreich;

The tributes listed here are those made for \$18 or more and processed from November 1, 2025–January 31, 2026. To make a tribute donation, visit sestl.org/give. Email [Jana McGinty at jmcginty@sestl.org](mailto:Jana.McGinty@jmcginty@sestl.org) with questions.

Every effort has been made to include accurate, up-to-date information on these listings. To report an error or omission, please call the Shaare Emeth office at 314-569-0010.

ESTELLE & ED FISCHER CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Ben Crane on his 50th birthday
Amy & Kevin Fischer

Abigail & Jeffrey Small on Harper Small becoming a Bat Mitzvah
Amy & Kevin Fischer

Jenn Sommerman & Dan Rubin on their marriage
Amy & Kevin Fischer

SHIRLEE GREEN PRESCHOOL FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Rabbi Bearman on the birth of Henrietta "Hetty" Leo Bearman
Sharon T. Silverstein

Ed Musen on his special birthday
Shari & Eric Cohen

IN MEMORY OF:

Lawrence Hoffman
The Fagin, K.Segall and S.Segall Families

Constance Levy
Ethel Newman

Barbara Cutler Peck
Sandra & Bill Peck and Family

RUBIN & ROSE HERSCH AND JERRY & JOYCE SWEDROE FUND FOR SAFETY & SECURITY

IN HONOR OF:

Mona & Larry Swedroe on their birthdays
Irene & Robert Swedroe

KOPOLOW BEAUTIFICATION FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Holly Bernstein on being named a 2025 Unsung Hero by the St. Louis Jewish Light
Karen & Gary Silverman

IDA & HARRIS KRAMER SOCIAL ACTION FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Holly Bernstein on being named a 2025 Unsung Hero by the St. Louis Jewish Light
Linda & Ed Dahl

IN MEMORY OF:

Robert Prywitch
Karen & Jeff Wagner

ANTHONY B. LAKE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Steven Bressler
Linda & Philip Dembo

LIBRARY DONATION FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Jackie Lipsitz on her special, 90th birthday
Dianne Schwartz

Anita & Buddy Waxman on Miriam Jeng-Waxman becoming a Bat Mitzvah
Leah Rubin & Jeff Cohen

IN MEMORY OF:

Beulah Schnieder
Jackie & Marty Lipsitz

Miriam Schnieder
Jackie & Marty Lipsitz

STANLEY LYSS & ESTHER LYSS-GREENSTEIN LIFELONG LEARNING FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Holly Bernstein on being named a 2025 Unsung Hero by the St. Louis Jewish Light
Marcia & Carl Moskowitz

Evelyn Cohen for a speedy recovery
Lynn & Dr. Carl Lyss

Dianna & Dick Fine on their special wedding anniversary
Marcia & Carl Moskowitz

Marti Zuckerman on being named a 2025 Unsung Hero by the St. Louis Jewish Light
Marcia & Carl Moskowitz

IN MEMORY OF:

Ruth Bamnolker
Lynn & Dr. Carl Lyss

Paul Cahn
Lynn & Dr. Carl Lyss

Ruth Gallup
Marcia & Carl Moskowitz

Barbara Holtz
Lynn & Dr. Carl Lyss

David Lieberman
Lynn & Dr. Carl Lyss

Ray Marglous
Lynn & Dr. Carl Lyss

Dr. Steve Teitelbaum
Lynn & Dr. Carl Lyss

EUNICE MANN JEWISH EDUCATION FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Ellen White on her special birthday
Susan Mann & David Lowe

MANN FAMILY HUNGER FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Irving Bernhardt on his special birthday
Leanne & Harvey Schneider

Holly Bernstein on being named a 2025 Unsung Hero by the St. Louis Jewish Light
Leanne & Harvey Schneider

Debbie Hirschfelder on being named a 2025 Unsung Hero by the St. Louis Jewish Light
Leanne & Harvey Schneider

Nancy Litz on being named a 2025 Unsung Hero by the St. Louis Jewish Light
Leanne & Harvey Schneider

Ellen White on her special birthday
Susan Mann & David Lowe; Leanne & Harvey Schneider

Marti Zuckerman on being named a 2025 Unsung Hero by the St. Louis Jewish Light
Leanne & Harvey Schneider

IN MEMORY OF:

Muriel Beckerman
Cheryl & Sheldon Kane

Joseph Harris
Marci & Jim Hennessy

Donna Schwartz
Leanne & Harvey Schneider

MICHAEL MATLOF CONNECTION & COMMUNICATION FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Jerry Kreisman for a speedy recovery
Carole & Jay Goldstein

Sue Matlof & Rabbi Howard Kaplansky on their marriage

Ronnie & Allen Brockman; Sheila Cohen; Yvonne & Rick Darrow; Lynn & Bill Elliot; Carole & Jay Goldstein; Deborah & Kent Hirschfelder; Margie & Martin Jaffe; Karen & Larry Kotner; Sharon & Jeffrey Rosenblum; Marian Steen & Rick Knox; Karen Suroff & Oscar Schwartz; Diane & Stephen Weinstock; Kathy Zigler

Susan Meyers as a Chanukah gift and in appreciation of live streaming
Kristi, Ted, Sam and Annie Gallup

IN MEMORY OF:

Leonard Bushman
Wendy & Sandy Wax

Harvey Cohen
Sheila Cohen

Ben Dalin
Debbie & Karl Guyer

Judy Friedman
Wendy & Sandy Wax

Louis Goldford
Doris Alport

Gary Jaffe
Harriet Summers & Allen Sherman

Clara "Weezie" Pultman
Wendy & Sandy Wax

Ronnie Saks
Harriet Summers & Allen Sherman

Selma Wax
Wendy & Sandy Wax

OPERATIONS ENHANCEMENT FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Jackie Berk on her special birthday
Sue Ellen & Larry Maneson

Carlie & Jeff Sparks and Sara & Larry Sparks on Eliot Cooper becoming a Bar Mitzvah
Linda & Bill Levin

Mark Gubernik
Sandy Brickman

Ed Musen on his special birthday
Karen Suroff & Oscar Schwartz

Brenda & Joe Pereles on their granddaughter Dylan Pereles becoming a Bat Mitzvah
Sue Wallach and Family

Shirley & Ron Tasker on Madelyn Tasker becoming a Bat Mitzvah
Brenda & Joe Pereles

IN MEMORY OF:

Muriel Beckerman
Marcia & Hans Oberdorfer

Rebecca Berns
Suzan Berns

Ervon Brasler
Wayne Brasler

Judith Friedman
Sharon & Warren Danziger and Family; Joel Frank

Robert Horowitz
Suzy Elkins and Family and Roberta Goran and Family

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TRIBUTES

Joan Seltzer on her special birthday

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Rabbi Goldstein for capturing the essence of Ida Stack and giving meaning to the Ida Stack Scholarship

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Arlene Goodman

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Shaare Emeth clergy, staff and Shaare The Love committee members for making Jubilation 2025 a success

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Madeleine Elkins & Harvey Wallace on receiving the Harris Frank Community Service Award

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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.

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