

# Welcome Rabbis



Andrew Terkel  
AND  
Morgan Tobey

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CONGREGATION SHAARE EMEITH  
**BULLETIN**

SUMMER  
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 temple office, Camp Emeth, and Camp Micah will be closed:*

Friday, June 19 (Juneteenth)  
Friday, July 3 (Independence Day)  
*Kabbalat Shabbat services will be held on each of the above dates.*

## When Will The Next Bulletin Arrive?

The digital version of the Fall Bulletin will be sent in ShaareMail in mid-August, and the print version will arrive during the first week of September.

## 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](http://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](http://sestl.org/shaaremail) or contact Hannah Michelson, Director of Communications, at [hmichelson@sestl.org](mailto:hmichelson@sestl.org).*



*Thank you to Rabbi Dr. Rachel Mikva for an enlightening Scholar-in-Residence weekend, April 17-19, 2026, and to our partners at Grace United Methodist Church. Special thanks, also, to the Harvey and Leanne Schneider Interfaith Forum.*

# Clergy Transition: *Key Dates*

## JULY 1, 2026

- Rabbi Tobey begins as Assistant Rabbi
- Rabbi Andrea Goldstein formally assumes the title of Successor Senior Rabbi

## AUGUST 2026

- Rabbi Terkel joins the clergy team as Associate Rabbi

## 2026–2027

- Transition period of collaboration among clergy, staff, and lay leadership
- Continued planning to ensure a smooth and thoughtful leadership transition

## END OF 2027

- Rabbi Jim Bennett retires after more than 30 years of service
- Rabbi Bennett becomes Rabbi Emeritus

## JANUARY 1, 2028

- Rabbi Goldstein officially assumes the role of Senior Rabbi

# A Milestone Moment for Shaare Emeth



BY DANA DEBLASI,  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
*On Behalf of the Board of Trustees*  
President@sestl.org

**D**ear Shaare Emeth Community, We are delighted to share exciting news about the future of our clergy team and the continued strength of rabbinic leadership at Congregation Shaare Emeth.

**Rabbi Morgan Tobey** will join our congregation as Assistant Rabbi beginning July 1, 2026. Rabbi Tobey was ordained on Sunday, May 3, from Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, where she also earned a Master of Arts in Hebrew Literature and a Certificate in Jewish Organizational Leadership from the Zelikow School of Jewish Nonprofit Management. She distinguished herself during her studies with numerous honors, including the Burton Lehman Prize in Jewish Leadership, the Sylvia Levenstein Prize in Human Relations, and the Gavi Klonsky Award for Amitz Lev, recognizing spirit, character, and strength of heart. She holds a BA in Political Science from the University of Southern California.

During her time at HUC-JIR, Rabbi Tobey gained meaningful experience through internships at Community Synagogue of Rye and Cornell University Hillel, where she taught, led worship, offered pastoral care, and helped create vibrant holiday and Shabbat experiences. The Rabbinic Search Committee was deeply impressed with her warmth, authenticity, scholarship, and kindness, and we are confident she will be a wonderful addition to our clergy team.

As part of this same search process, we were fortunate to encounter another extraordinary candidate already familiar to many in our community: **Rabbi Andrew Terkel**. After thoughtful conversations, meaningful engagement, and enthusiastic feedback from our Rabbinic Search Committee, it became clear that Rabbi Terkel is also an exceptional fit for Shaare Emeth's values and future.

We are therefore thrilled to share that Rabbi Terkel will join our clergy team on August 1, 2026. This decision, unanimously approved by our Board, reflects a commitment to securing outstanding leadership when the opportunity arises and ensures continuity and stability as we look ahead to Rabbi Bennett's retirement at the end of 2027 and Rabbi Goldstein's transition into the role of Senior Rabbi.

Many in our congregation already know Rabbi Terkel as both a member of the Shaare Emeth family and a dedicated Jewish professional. He was ordained at HUC-JIR, where he also earned a Certificate in Jewish Nonprofit Management, and holds a BA in Political Science and International Studies from the University of Kansas. His professional experience includes serving as Assistant Rabbi at Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim, working with the Union for Reform Judaism through NFTY and the Greene Family Camp, and most recently serving as Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of North America's Student to Student program.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the members of our Rabbinic Search Committee—a dedicated and diverse group of leaders and congregants across generations—for their thoughtful and diligent work throughout this process. At a time when there are fewer rabbis entering congregational service, we feel especially fortunate to welcome not one, but two outstanding new members to our clergy team.

These additions position Shaare Emeth to move forward with strength, intention, and vision as we continue to plan for the future of our congregation.

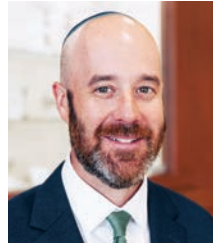
Please join us in offering a heartfelt mazel tov and warm welcome to Rabbi Morgan Tobey and Rabbi Andrew Terkel. We look forward to celebrating with both rabbis at upcoming services and events, and to the many ways they will enrich our community in the months and years ahead.

## Thank You, Rabbinic Search Committee Members!

Rabbi Jim Bennett	Betsy Kelly	Michael Sherberg
Robert Bernstein	Natalie Kalmar	Sam Sigel
Betsy Cytron	Craig Neuman	Michele Siler
Dana DeBlasi	Rachel Pereles	Renee Silverstein
Rabbi Andrea Goldstein	Bill Remis	Amanda Stein
Mark Gubernik	Jenn Schwesig	Lisa Suffian
Amy Hammerman	Stan Shanker	Kathy Wiesman

WELCOME  
RABBIS

# Welcome, *Rabbi Andrew Terkel!*



BY ANDREW TERKEL

Shaare Emeth has been our family's congregation since we moved to St. Louis in 2022. For me, my wife Hannah, and our two sons, Avi and Micah, it has always felt like home. It is where we have prayed, sang, and studied. It is where we have marked our life cycle events and where we send our children to learn and grow. I am thrilled to be joining the incredible team of clergy and staff at Shaare Emeth as your new Associate Rabbi, and I look forward to getting to know each of you and your families.

I grew up in a family that was very involved in our synagogue in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and really found my place and my Jewish identity through camp and youth groups. I still love playing guitar, being outdoors, and finding ways that our traditions can inspire us as individuals and as a community. You can also often find me on the walking trails in Olivette with our two Goldendoodles, Mollie and Murphy.

Congregation Shaare Emeth occupies a unique place in the Jewish landscape; able to touch our lives at every stage, inspire us, comfort us, and help us connect with one another and the broader *Am Yisrael*, the People of Israel. I look forward to learning from and working alongside Rabbi Bennett, Rabbi Goldstein, Cantor Warner, Rabbi Levine, and Rabbi Tobey as we serve this congregation together. Thank you to the board and search committee who engaged in this process with such thoughtfulness and grace, and to the board of my current organization, Student to Student, which I know will continue to go from strength to strength.

My family and I are excited to get to know your families this fall, and I am honored to become one of your rabbis.

Sincerely,  
Rabbi Andrew H. Terkel



# Welcome, *Rabbi Morgan Tobey!*



BY MORGAN TOBEY

I am overwhelmed with joy and excitement to be joining the Shaare Emeth community on July 1! From the very first Zoom call, you felt like home. I had the opportunity to meet with many of you in January, and I was immediately impressed with Shaare Emeth's warmth, commitment to *tikkun olam*, passion for learning, and your depth of connection with one another. My visit was filled with laughter, learning, and personal stories. I giggled with preschoolers, listened as the teenagers shared so beautifully about what keeps them coming back to Shaare Emeth each week, and visited with adults of all ages who expressed how much this community has sustained them through thick and thin. I feel incredibly lucky to get to be a part of such a sacred community.

A little about me: I was born and raised in Dallas, Texas. My Jewish journey began at Hillel at the University of Southern California, where I saw rabbinical students who shattered all of the stereotypes and invited me into Judaism, exactly as I was. Following graduation, I returned to Dallas, where I worked as an elementary and early childhood educator while also serving in numerous lay leadership roles at Temple Emanu-El. During my time in rabbinical school, I have served the Community Synagogue of Rye, Cornell University Hillel, and my classmates as Student Association President. I was ordained on May 3rd! Outside of synagogue life, you can find me cheering on the Dallas Cowboys and Dallas Wings, obsessing over Amy Poehler's podcast, and planning Disney trips!

I cannot wait to join you in St. Louis in July and to begin getting to know each and every one of you!

B'Shalom,  
Rabbi Morgan Tobey



# Protest, Holiness, & Radical Kindness:

A JEWISH REFLECTION FOR AMERICA 250



BY RABBI JAMES M. BENNETT

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

As our nation approaches its 250th anniversary this July, there is a renewed, distinctly American spirit of protest in the air. Our nation was born from protest – protest against monarchy, against state-sponsored religion, against injustice, and more. For 250 years, generations of Americans have worked to make the United States a beacon of fairness, liberty, and justice for all. Healthy debate in the public square invites us to question and, when needed, to peacefully resist and even protest the actions and priorities of those who may lead in directions with which we may not agree, using the mechanisms of democracy to steer the nation toward our shared values.

This same impulse, of course, can be seen in how many Jews around the world think about and relate to Israel. As we support and seek to strengthen the State of Israel, it is also natural to ask whether the values we cherish are being realized as envisioned in Israel's Declaration of Independence.

So yes, there is a distinct sense of protest in the air these days, and it is not new. In many ways, righteous concern and protest are part of our Jewish and our American obligations: when we see something wrong, we feel compelled to act. Since ancient days, the prophetic voice of our tradition has reminded us repeatedly that while "it is not your duty to finish the work, neither are you free to neglect it" (Pirkei Avot 2:16). Even when our sense of duty feels unpopular. Even when we are speaking truth to power.

Consider one of the Torah's most famous stories that we read this month, known as *Parashat Korach*. In the wilderness of Sinai, a people newly freed from oppression faced the responsibilities of freedom. In the Book of Numbers, the story of *Korach* presents a difficult challenge: *Korach* gathers leaders to protest Moses and Aaron, saying, "You have gone too far! For the whole congregation are holy... Why do you exalt yourselves

above the assembly of the Lord?" (Numbers 16:3). My first reaction has always been to sympathize: *Korach's* claim sounds fair and egalitarian. The Torah calls us to strive to be holy, reflecting God's holiness through kindness, decency, fairness, and compassion, a view shared by many commentators.

Yet the Torah's narrative shows that *Korach's* rebellion was met with a severe response. That outcome has long troubled me. It feels harsh, and it raises the question of whether there is a nobler way to protest, one that resists arrogance without destroying the opposition. Perhaps the balance lies in holding more than one truth at once. *Korach* may have been right that every person has the potential for holiness, for we are all created *B'tzelem Elohim*. But that potential does not give us permission to act without regard for the community. Living in partnership with one another and with God requires responsibility. True holiness is not only a claim; it is a way of life. It asks us to embody our highest values, like kindness, decency, care, and respect, and, as the prophet Micah taught, to do what is just and right, to practice radical kindness, and to remain humble before God.

We are faced with a dual obligation: to lift our voices and use our gifts to work to change what we see as wrong, to fight for our values, to work with our hearts and hands, and yet, when necessary, to protest with our votes and our voices and with kindness and compassion. In the immortal words of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, this is how we "pray with our feet." This is how we, as Americans, as Jews, and as human beings created in the Divine image, can bring these gifts of kindness and compassion and love to make the world a better place for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James M. Bennett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# Back to the Future: Member Engagement and the Road Ahead



BY CRAIG NEUMAN,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CNeuman@sestl.org

Great Scott! One of my favorite films of all time is *Back to the Future*. And if the movie teaches us anything, it's that the story changes when ordinary people decide to show up and take part. Like Marty McFly, our congregation is at a pivotal moment, standing with one foot in the past and one foot firmly planted in the future, and the next scene depends on all of us.

Every great journey needs power, and in a synagogue that power source is not a machine; it's people. Our community's "flux capacitor" is the energy of members who learn, pray, volunteer, check in on one another, bring friends, ask questions, and say yes when something matters. When we engage, we do more than attend programs; we strengthen relationships, deepen Jewish life, and make sure the values we cherish show up in the world around us.

But *Back to the Future* also reminds us that honoring the past does not mean staying there. The DeLorean only works when it moves. That is why member engagement is a key priority in our strategic plan: not simply to do more, but to do what matters most, helping more people find a place, a purpose, and a pathway into community. Think of it as a recalibration, adjusting the clock tower just enough so the lightning can strike at exactly the right moment.

Engagement can feel challenging. Marty does not always know whether things will work out. He only knows that showing up, engaging, and acting with purpose matters. The same is true here. Jewish life is built one choice at a time: coming to

services even when it's easier to stay home, joining a class, introducing yourself to someone new, volunteering for a committee or a mitzvah project, hosting, attending, calling, comforting, celebrating. Every generation inherits tradition not as a finished script, but as a living document, and what we pass on depends on how actively we participate.

Perhaps the most hopeful line from the film says it best: *the future hasn't been written yet*. That truth sits at the heart of our focus on member engagement. Our next chapter will be shaped by relationships still to be formed, Torah yet to be learned, and moments of holiness we have not yet imagined, because more people are finding their way in, and more of us are finding meaningful ways to plug in. More details will be shared in the weeks and months to come.

As we journey back to the future, may we honor the traditions that brought us here and embrace the opportunities in front of us. May we fuel this moment with curiosity, welcome, and commitment. And may we remember that while the DeLorean may be iconic, the real power source, the values, soul, and shared responsibility of this *kehillah* (community), remains constant.

After all, where we are going, we do not need roads.

We have each other.

# Shaare Emeth Has a New *Code of Ethics*

One of the Board's important responsibilities is helping ensure that Congregation Shaare Emeth remains not only strong and vibrant today, but well-positioned for generations to come. Over the past year, we have been focused on strengthening the policies, practices, and shared commitments that support a healthy, welcoming, and values-driven community. As part of that work, the Board recently approved a new Code of Ethics.

This Code of Ethics is less about changing who we are and more about affirming who we already strive to

be. It reflects the values that have long defined Shaare Emeth: respect for one another, integrity in our actions, compassion in our relationships, accountability in leadership, and care for every person who enters our sacred community. It provides a clear framework for how we engage with one another as members, clergy, staff, lay leaders, volunteers, and guests—grounded in both Jewish values and best practices for congregational life. The introduction is included below, and we invite you to read the full Code of Ethics on our website and see how it helps express the community we continue to build together.

## *An Introduction to Our Code of Ethics*

Shaare Emeth is a *Beit Tefilah* (spiritual nourishment), a *Beit Midrash* (impactful Jewish learning), and a *Beit Kehillah* (meaningful community connections). Our values prioritize deepening connections with one another and with our faith through intentional relationship building. We lift up and live by the Reform Jewish values of honoring the image of God in every person, celebrating with one another in times of joy, caring for one another in times of need and pursuing acts of justice in our communities and in the world.

We therefore strive to hold ourselves to the highest standards of integrity, social responsibility, and human decency. When we behave ethically and hold ourselves accountable, Shaare Emeth is a safe, welcoming, and sacred environment for all who are connected to it.

Although not encompassing every possible concern, this Shaare Emeth Code of Ethics ("Code") provides a framework for the principles and expectations for all persons associated with Shaare Emeth, including without limitation, members, lay leaders, clergy and staff ("Community Members").

All Community Members are participating in this sacred *brit* (covenant) to uphold this Code as an expression of our communal values and responsibilities and to hold ourselves and one another accountable with a balance of *Din* (justice) and *Rachamim* (compassion). As a living document, this Code will be reviewed regularly and revised as appropriate in light of experience and evolving needs.

To read the full Code of Ethics, please visit:

[SESTL.CO/CODEOFETHICS](https://sestl.co/codeofethics)

# LEADERSHIP IN TRANSITION

BY DANA DEBLASI AND MARK GUBERNIK  
IN CONVERSATION WITH HANNAH MICHELSON

**Hannah:** As this issue of the Bulletin reaches your mailbox or inbox in late May or early June, our congregation will have just gathered for the 159th Annual Meeting on May 20, marking the transition of Board leadership from Dana DeBlasi to Mark Gubernik. Rather than offer separate reflections, I invited them into a shared conversation about what it means to lead Shaare Emeth at this moment in our history — the lessons learned, the hopes carried forward, and the evolving vision for our community's future.



**Dana DeBlasi**  
Immediate Past President



**Mark Gubernik**  
President



**Hannah Michelson**  
Director of Communications

## OPENING REFLECTIONS

**Hannah:** Dana, two years ago you stepped into this role with deep history and a clear sense of purpose. Looking back, what surprised you most?

**Dana:** I knew the work would be demanding, but not quite this demanding. What surprised me was how energizing it became. Seeing what this community can accomplish together has been inspiring. None of us builds a sacred community alone.

**H:** What moments stand out as most meaningful?

**D:** The rabbinic transition stands out. When Rabbi Bennett announced his retirement, that kind of moment can either unsettle a community or reveal its strength. Ours revealed its strength. Our Board made a courageous, forward-thinking decision to give the Search Committee latitude to recommend more than one clergy hire if they believed we found more than one that would be a good fit for our congregation. Allowing Rabbi Goldstein to step into her role as our Successor Senior Rabbi with the full confidence of this community behind her is genuinely consequential. It reflects a congregation that leads with confidence rather than fear, and I think it sets us up beautifully for what comes next.

**H:** Mark, tell our members a bit about you, your family, and your history with Shaare Emeth.

**Mark:** My wife, Lisa, and I were born and raised in St. Louis, were married at and have been members for over 25 years. Our daughters, Melanie and Amanda, grew up here—preschool, Camp Emeth, B'Mitzvah. Volunteering at Mitzvah Day when our kids were young drew us in, then Lisa was Shirlee Green Preschool's PAC President, and I joined the Board in 2014, deepening our connection. Professionally, I'm a financial planner and run my own firm. Outside of work, I'm a lifelong drummer.

## STEPPING INTO LEADERSHIP

**H:** Mark, what feels energizing about beginning your presidency now?

**M:** After years on the Board and serving as Treasurer, I've seen the impact lay leaders can have. What excites me most is the sense of momentum—welcoming two new rabbis, supporting the Senior Rabbi transition, and continuing the work of our Strategic Plan. It's a meaningful moment to help shape our future.

**H:** Dana, as you began your presidency in May of 2024, you said you hoped to “lift others into leadership” - where did you see that happen?

**D:** The Search Committee is a highlight—we built a group that was diverse, representative, and deeply thoughtful. What emerged was one of the best working committees I've been part of or facilitated in my years in the Jewish community. They didn't just execute a process; they led it with wisdom and care.

I'm also proud of the Operating Committee restructuring. Clear portfolios, more relational board meetings, and Strategic Plan Goal Owners have created conditions where leadership can truly grow.

**H:** Mark, what aspects of Dana's leadership do you hope to carry forward?

**M:** I'd really like to carry forward Dana's incredible work ethic and dedication, and the Operating Committee and Board structures we built together. They've already created a more engaged Board. I hope to bring my own style while building on that momentum.

One thing that stands out to me is how Dana shows up as a leader. Her approach has helped shape a culture where people feel motivated to step up and contribute. It's made a real difference in how the board works together.

## STRENGTHS, CHALLENGES, & OPPORTUNITIES

**H:** What do you see as Shaare Emeth's greatest strengths today?

**M:** Our people. The sense of community translates into action—leadership, volunteerism, and shared purpose.

**D:** Absolutely. The care in this community is deep and genuine. Members show up for one another and believe in something larger than themselves. That combination of connection and outward purpose is our greatest strength.

**H:** Dana, you previously emphasized the congregation's willingness to “roll up their sleeves” and take risks. Did that hold true?

**D:** Speaking out, advocating for our values, and standing visibly for what you believe are not risk-free acts. But when it matters most, Shaare Emeth chooses to show up. That gives me real confidence about what this community will continue to do long after my presidency.

***H: Mark, what strengths do you hope to amplify or spotlight during your tenure?***

**M:** One of my priorities is to build on our congregation's strengths of compassion and unity by turning them into action. During my tenure, I hope to deepen that sense of compassion and unity by creating more ways for members to engage, connect, and feel a true sense of belonging.

***H: What challenges and opportunities lie ahead?***

**D:** Sustaining the momentum of our Strategic Plan through years two and three is not automatic. Plans are only as powerful as the commitment to see them through, and that requires continued energy, accountability, and resources. Fundraising remains essential, not as an end goal, but as a means to continue finding even better ways to live out our values and serve our community.

And the Senior Rabbi transition is both a challenge and a profound opportunity to affirm the foundation Rabbi Bennett built, embrace Rabbi Goldstein's leadership with full confidence, and grow into the next chapter of who Shaare Emeth is called to be.

**M:** Financial strength is always a priority—budgeting thoughtfully, building endowments, and helping members feel ownership and pride in supporting Shaare Emeth. Having served as Treasurer for several years, I've developed a deep understanding of our financial picture, but also an appreciation that it's not just about the numbers—it's about what those resources allow us to do as a congregation.

At the same time, we're entering an important period of transition with the hiring of two new rabbis, along with our Senior Rabbi transition. Moments like this can bring some uncertainty, but they also create real opportunity, and I believe we're well-positioned to embrace that and help shape the next chapter of Shaare Emeth.

***H: Dana, you've previously noted polarization within the Jewish community and communal strain as major concerns. How have you seen the congregation navigate those pressures?***

**D:** The most honest answer is that we have continued to be ourselves. In a moment when polarization can tempt communities to hedge, to soften, or to avoid, Shaare Emeth has responded with honesty, respect, and transparency. We haven't always taken the easy path, but we have taken the authentic one. And I believe that consistency is what holds a community together when the outside world feels fractured.

***H: Mark, how do you envision leading a community amid heightened concerns about Jewish identity, safety, and belonging that are so visibly felt and publicly discussed?***

**M:** I agree with Dana—we've continued to stay true to who we are, approaching difficult moments with honesty, respect, and commitment to one another. In leading through this time, I see our role as creating stability and connection amid broader uncertainty. Concerns around Jewish identity, safety, and belonging are real, and

I believe Shaare Emeth can continue to be a place where people feel grounded, supported, and part of something larger than themselves.

## LEADERSHIP & GROWTH

***H: Dana, did you reach your goal to become a better listener and remain more open to differing ideas?***

**D:** The most meaningful growth was my learning to resist the pull toward resolution and instead make space for the full complexity of what someone was sharing. Leadership in a congregation means holding many different truths at once, and I became more comfortable with that than I expected. And over time, that patience changed something deeper. Listening became less about gathering information on the way to a decision and more about allowing what I heard to genuinely shape the decision.

***H: Mark, what personal values or leadership principles do you hope will guide you through the next two years?***

**M:** I will try to lead with humility and patience—taking the time to really listen and understand different perspectives before moving forward. At the same time, I value transparency and collaboration, making sure people feel informed, included, and part of the process. For me, leadership works best when people feel both heard and engaged.

***H: To both of you, what does shared leadership between clergy, staff, and lay leaders look like to you at its best?***

**M:** At its best, shared leadership means we're not just aligned on goals but genuinely engaged with one another's ideas and perspectives. Clergy, staff, and lay leaders each bring something important to the table, and the strength comes from really listening, respecting those contributions, and working together toward what's best for Shaare Emeth.

**D:** Shared leadership is about clergy, staff, and lay leaders bringing their expertise and passion to joint decision-making, but also in recognition of the unique roles of clergy grounding us in values and vision, staff bringing operational excellence and continuity, and lay leaders connecting the institution to the community it serves. No one carries the weight of the work alone, and with mutual respect as the critical foundation.

## STRATEGIC VISION & COMMUNITY LIFE

***H: How do you each see the Strategic Plan shaping the next chapter?***

**D:** I am most proud that we didn't just create a plan; we built the structures to actually carry it out. Lay leaders, staff, and clergy really own it, and there is genuine accountability for progress. We also designed it to be a living document, with a built-in rhythm of review and renewal, so it grows with our congregation and stays responsive to whatever the world brings. A strategic plan is only as good as the commitment behind it, and that commitment is there.

**M:** I see the Strategic Plan as a guiding framework not just for my priorities, but for the work of the entire board, clergy, staff, and congregation. It will help shape our monthly board meetings and provide direction for both the day-to-day work and the longer-term vision over the next two years and beyond.

**H: Dana, what initiatives, committees, or behind-the-scenes efforts from the past two years deserve more recognition?**

**D:** Our staff deserves far more recognition. What they do goes well beyond managing programs and operations. They are constantly investing in people. They cultivate relationships, identify potential in members who may not yet see it in themselves, and create conditions where leadership can shine. The work they do is often quiet and behind the scenes. That kind of dedication is extraordinary, and it deserves to be named.

**H: Mark, are there areas of congregational life where you hope to deepen or expand your engagement?**

**M:** I'd like to deepen my own connection to worship. I've come to appreciate that it's not separate from the rest of congregational life—it actually helps connect and strengthen our work in education, social justice, and community engagement. I want to be more intentional about keeping that at the center.

**H: Dana, how has the work of representation evolved?**

**D:** This is one of the real tensions of institutional leadership. A board can never be a literal mirror of every member, every perspective, every life experience in a congregation our size, but it can be intentional. What matters most is that members trust their leadership, and that trust is built through a culture of genuine listening and transparent communication. We make every effort to bring in voices before decisions are made, and to be clear and honest about how and why decisions are reached. That commitment to openness is how a large congregation earns and keeps the confidence of its community.

**H: Mark, how do you plan to continue efforts toward representation, inclusion, and belonging?**

**M:** I hope to continue engaging with as many members as possible so I can truly listen to their experiences, perspectives, and concerns, and make sure those voices are reflected in the work of the Board.

## CLOSING REFLECTIONS

**H: Mark, what has serving Shaare Emeth taught you about yourself?**

**M:** Serving Shaare Emeth has reinforced how much I value being part of something larger than myself. It's shown me how fulfilling it is to give back and contribute to a congregation that has such a meaningful impact on others.

**H: Dana, what advice would you offer Mark as he steps into this role?**

**D:** Be yourself. This community chose you because of who you are. Trust that and trust them. Never underestimate the power of simply being present. People remember that you showed up long after they've forgotten what was decided. And know that you are never carrying this alone.

**H: Dana, if you had to craft a headline that summed up your presidency, what would it be?**

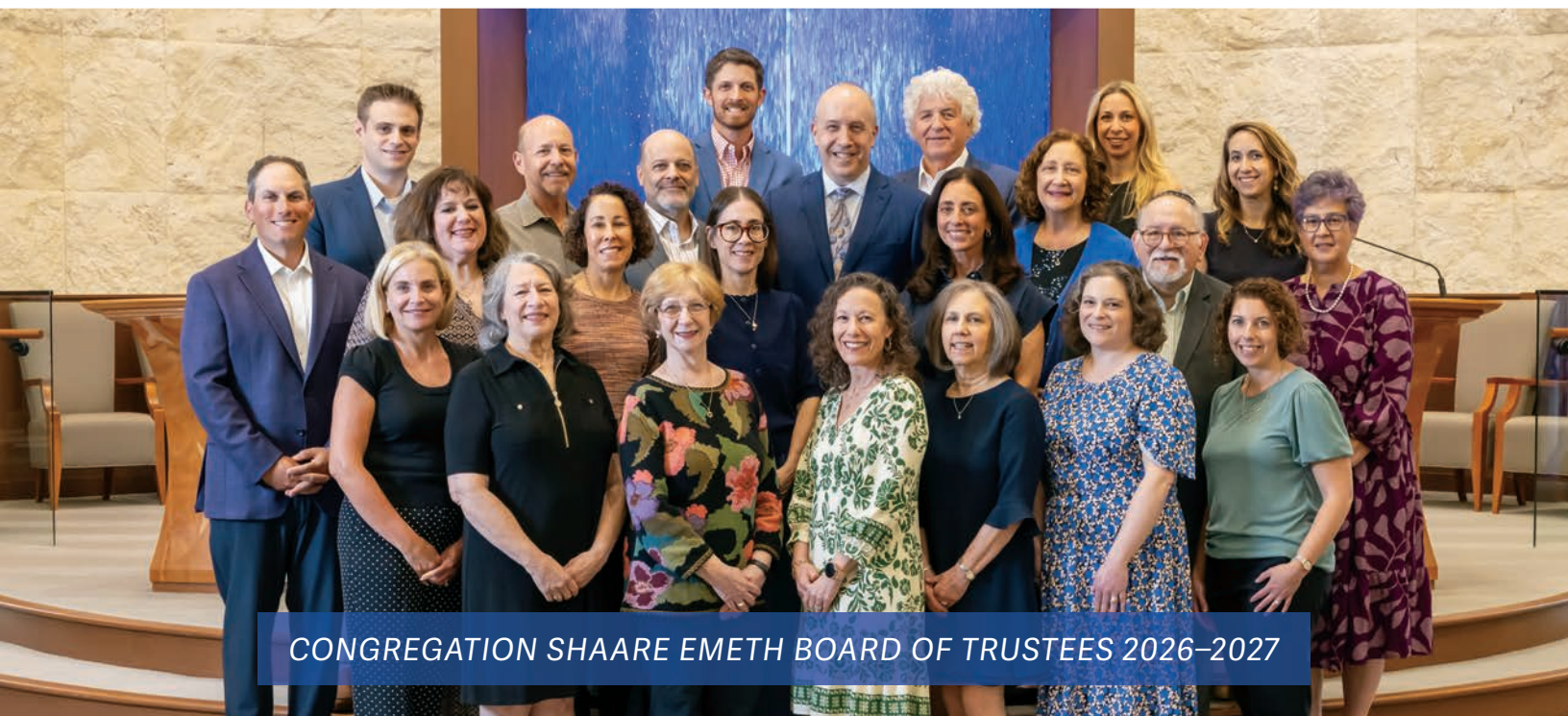
**D:** Strength to Strength: Intentional, Accountable, Together.

**H: Mark, what would you title your first letter to the congregation as you begin your presidency?**

**M:** A Bright Future for Shaare Emeth.

**H: And finally — what do you hope the headline will be at the end of your presidency in 2028?**

**M:** Shaare Emeth, Stronger Than Ever.



CONGREGATION SHAARE EMETH BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2026-2027

# Guiding *Shomrei Adamah*:

## SGP Wins State Environmental Education Award

BY BRANDI KANOYA  
BKanoya@sestl.org

27. 3. 1.

**Only 27 schools in Missouri history have earned this distinction.**

To reach this exceptional achievement, schools must demonstrate leadership, dedication, and excellence in **three** pillars of sustainability: reducing environmental impact, improving health and wellness, and providing effective environmental and sustainability education.

Shirlee Green Preschool is the **only** Jewish school in Missouri to receive this recognition.

The US Department of Education Green Ribbon School presented awards in April and Shirlee Green Preschool was announced as an honoree. It is a prestigious distinction which identifies institutions that have made environmental habits and healthy learning spaces as a priority, weaving sustainability into academics, operations, and student life. And for five years, the teachers and children at our small preschool have been doing just that.

At Shirlee Green Preschool, stewardship is a core value of all we do. It is a habit we teach every day to every child. We show each young learner that we have entrusted in their care the plants, the creatures, and the beloved friends and spaces of the community we share. As said in a powerful Midrash, "God showed Adam around the Garden of Eden and said, 'Look at my works! See how beautiful they are...Take care not to spoil or destroy My world, for if you do, there will be nobody after you to make it right again.'" (*Midrash Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:13*)

To preserve, protect, and nourish each other and our planet is an obligation we have instilled in all of our school practices. Embodying the *mitzvah* of a *shomrei adamah* (guardian of the earth), we have made significant changes over the past five years to earn the distinction of Green Ribbon School.



**With the careful support of preschool teachers, parents, and school partners, Shirlee Green Preschool:**

- **Composts all food scraps**
- **Eliminated car idling**
- **Planted butterfly habitats at the front of the preschool and on our student playscapes**
- **Eliminated use of paper towels in classrooms**
- **Eliminated use of bleach and cleaners containing dyes and perfumes**
- **Installed filtered water bottle filler stations**
- **Began Meatless Mondays**
- **Added air filters to classrooms, and more!**

Stewardship is never ending. Though we have made great strides, as we learn more, we find there is yet more to do. Each year, we will recommit to a high standard of sustainability while guiding each child to live a life of care for each other, themselves, and our natural world.



BY HELENA COOPER  
HCooper@sestl.org



# Growing as an Educator Through *the Mandel Fellowship*

In November 2025, I was honored to be selected as part of the inaugural cohort of the Early Career Educators Fellowship through the Mandel Institute for Nonprofit Leadership. The Mandel Institute works to strengthen talented professionals who lead—or have the potential to lead—important nonprofit institutions, and the Early Career Educators Program aims to give talented Jewish educators the boost they need to better serve their learners and extend their influence in the field. The selection process included several essays, videos, and interviews, and I feel very honored to be part of this inaugural cohort.

The program officially began with a week-long intensive in Boston and will include three more in-person cohort experiences: one at the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center, one in Israel, and a final one in Boston. Between seminars, our learning is focused on three strands: Jewish learning, educational theory and practice, and personal and professional development. Thus far, I have studied *The History of Jews in Sepharad*, *Passover: How*

*Ritual and Story Shape Meaning*, various *Tikkun Middot*, and I am preparing for a summer Hebrew intensive.

As someone who is innately curious and excited to learn, I have loved the opportunity as an adult to dive into texts, topics, and deep conversations.

I am about a quarter of the way in and I feel very blessed to be a fellow. The Jewish professionals leading the program have helped me expand my vision for what youth engagement could look like at Shaare Emeth and have helped me explore how I can engage more deeply with our kids and families. There will also be practical applications in the coming months: teaching Texting Tuesdays, expanding our definition of youth programming, and creating more bridges between the many ways our youth can connect Jewishly.

I want to thank Shaare Emeth for supporting my professional development, and I look forward to the tools and knowledge I will continue to bring back to our community.

## Introduction to Judaism

**TUESDAYS, Beginning in October**

7 – 9 p.m. at St. Louis-Area Reform Congregations

Once again, the Reform Rabbis in our community are joining together to offer an Introduction to Judaism course, designed for anyone interested in learning about the Jewish faith. This class is appropriate for individuals, interfaith couples, potential and current conversion students, and those seeking to refresh their knowledge of Judaism.

The curriculum and program is supported by the Union for Reform Judaism.

**Registration is available online at <https://bit.ly/judaism26>**

For more information, contact Stacy Jespersen at [sjespersen@sestl.org](mailto:sjespersen@sestl.org) or 314-569-0010.

***Because your  
Jewish education  
shouldn't end  
at age 13.***



# Looking Back On a Flourishing Year

BY RABBI LORI LEVINE  
LLevine@sestl.org



When classes end and the last books and crayons are put away as our students and teachers shift into summer mode, a specific kind of quiet settles in for me. Not strictly emptiness, but a gentle pause filled with meaning. It reminds me of the peace of a garden after months of tending, when you step back and realize that what once looked like a pile of brown dirt with some potential is now alive with bright colors and delightful growth.

Looking back on my eighth school year at Shaare Emeth, I find myself energized and inspired by all the ways our teachers, learners, and families helped nurture innovation and growth for our community. Seeds planted three or four years ago are now fully blossoming!

Our JQuest program for PreK through 1st Grade is thriving. What started as a seed of an idea five

years ago to help families with early elementary-aged children plant their roots while their children are young is now a firm reality. Unaffiliated families are finding a home and becoming enthusiastic members of Shaare Emeth. They build new connections with other Jewish families while braiding challah dough, bringing the Exodus to life, and embracing a messy, beautiful, joyful Judaism. With the support of the Krasner Fund, investing in the Jewish lives of families is bearing fruit that will sustain our religious school for years to come.

Our reimagined approach to b'mitzvah, BMA (B'Mitzvah Academy), has transformed over the last four years what the journey towards this important milestone looks like for our young teens. Walking around the Library and Kehillah Center during Midweek religious school, there is a definite buzz of focus and determination. With Cantor Warner and our amazing teachers as guides, students are stretching and

spreading their branches to walk this journey together. They are chanting prayers with one voice, cheering each other on, and supporting each other along the way. B'Mitzvah now centers on connection and community in addition to celebrating the individual child becoming a young adult.

Tikkun, the 8th–10th Grade teen learning experience, is budding in a new direction as well. Our participants' experiences are focused on Jewish values, social justice, and theology, while the immersive learning opportunities outside of the classroom deepen the impact. Local field trips to organizations and houses of worship all over the St. Louis region as well as three- or four-day trips out of town are guided by our rabbis and Helena Cooper as their trusted partners. Traveling outside their comfort zone allows participants to explore how Judaism lives in the real world. Sitting with friends studying ancient texts, they are creating and deepening relationships while wrestling together with big questions in a challenging, complicated world.

At the start of the year, our incredible teachers and madrichim (teen assistants) planted seeds. Some were carefully chosen, mapped out in lesson plans and curriculum guides; others were more hopeful and spontaneous, scattered with the belief that something meaningful might take root. We worked the soil together—teachers, students, families, and staff—each bringing different tools, instincts, and visions for what could grow. In that shared effort, we lived out the power of kehillah, building a community where each person's presence and contribution helped create the conditions for new life.

Now, we stand at the edge of summer with new clarity. Not every seed grew in the way we expected, and not every plant unfolded perfectly. The true beauty of this season lies in noticing what did take root—the small breakthroughs, the shared laughter, the risks that led to new possibilities. In this moment, I feel called to *hakarat hatov*, to recognize the good before us and name it with intention. It is here, in this practice of gratitude, that we honor not only what has grown, but the many hands and hearts that made it possible...

*(see opposite page)*





**THANK YOU TO OUR TEACHERS AND STAFF**

Noa Ablin  
 Avidan Abramson  
 Rebecca Alter  
 Julia Bautz  
 Lauren Bayne  
 Beth Beakley  
 Rabbi Rachel Bearman  
 Alex Beer  
 Rabbi Jim Bennett  
 Jared Berger  
 Jacob Berry  
 Amy Blumenfeld  
 Justin Bohm

Deborah Bryant  
 Mark Burstein  
 Nava Carlyle  
 Emily Cohen  
 Helena Cooper  
 Marci Diamond  
 Beth Dubro  
 Nava Feldman  
 Natalie Goldman  
 Rabbi Andrea Goldstein  
 Annie Gottesman  
 Howard Granok  
 Jodi Granok

Hannah Green  
 Melanie Gunn  
 Orli Hahn  
 Shari Hollander  
 Laura Horton  
 Talia Jacobsohn  
 Michael Kodner  
 Linda Levin  
 Stacy Lynn  
 Lacey Malawey  
 Ophira Melnick  
 Jill Milstein  
 Eli Perlin

Rachel Persellin-Armoza  
 Andrew Press  
 Lottie Rochester  
 Brittany Rotskoff  
 Megan Rubenstein  
 Lauren Rudolph  
 Tracy Schulman  
 Naomi Sharon  
 Debbie Sher  
 Morgan Siegel  
 Max Sigel  
 Jeremy Slaten  
 Caleb Stanfield

Jennifer Stanfield  
 Harriet Sudduth  
 Jacob Swier  
 Emily Throgmorton  
 Sherri Tons  
 Zoey Waldman-Schein  
 Isaac Warner  
 Cantor Seth Warner  
 Brooke Williams  
 Mike Winograd  
 Amy Worth

**THANK YOU TO OUR MADRICHIM**

Gwen Benson-Reschke  
 Izzy Berger  
 Jacob Berger  
 Isabella Bernier  
 Coco Bland

Kaylee Brown  
 Lucas Cohn  
 Audrey Fine  
 Michal Kenigsberg  
 Itai Lerman

Asher Levey  
 Ruby Morris  
 Margot Pratt  
 Jillian Reppy  
 Sam Rochester

Drew Rosenblum  
 Lee Rutherford  
 Evan Sagett  
 Dylan Scissors  
 Blake Siegel

Sam Sigel  
 Kyla Spiegelglass  
 Julia Vesper  
 Landon Waldman  
 Zooley Wheeler



BY RABBI LORI LEVINE

*LLevine@sestl.org*

# A Celebration of *Marci Diamond*

Marci Diamond has never sought the spotlight. She much prefers stepping back, watching her hard work come to life as others take center stage. And yet, when someone retires after 17 years at one very special congregation—and more than 30 years serving the St. Louis Jewish community—that moment deserves to be recognized.

As Marci prepares to retire this summer, it is an opportunity to celebrate the many roles she has filled, both personally and professionally, and to honor her as she begins her next chapter.

Family has always come first for Marci. A native St. Louisan, she grew up at Shaare Tzedek Synagogue, celebrating her bat mitzvah and Confirmation there. She is a devoted daughter to Jackie and Alan (of blessed memory) Kolker, who raised Marci and her two brothers and older sister in a close-knit Jewish home. Marci treasures lifelong friendships, maintaining deep connections with friends she first met more than 50 years ago.

After completing her undergraduate and graduate studies in education in Colorado, Marci returned to St. Louis, where she met her husband, Ronn. Together they raised two wonderful daughters, Erica and Amanda. Becoming a mother—one of her most joyful and demanding roles—has been among her greatest accomplishments. Her daughters remain the lights of her life, and she is immensely proud of them.

Marci's professional journey reads like a vibrant story of Jewish life in St. Louis. She volunteered as a teacher at Congregation B'nai El (where she was also a member), worked in the preschool at B'nai Amoona, and contributed to many other community institutions along the way.

Her connection to the Jewish Community Center (the J) began early. Having grown up attending JCC summer camps, Marci held her first job there as a high school student, returning each summer throughout her early adulthood. So when she officially joined the J staff, it felt like coming home. She quickly became a leader, moving from part-time work to a full-time role in family programming and helping launch J West in Chesterfield in 1997.

Alongside colleagues Marci Mayer Eisen and Marilyn Warren—affectionately known as “the Mar’s”—she helped build an extraordinary range of programs that served Jewish families across St. Louis. What began in modest surroundings flourished into something truly special.





Through this work, Marci demonstrated a guiding principle: meaningful experiences and relationships matter far more than buildings or trends. Her playgroups nurtured multiple generations of families, and she had the unique privilege of watching those children grow up.

In 2009, Marci joined Congregation Shaare Emeth through a grant supporting educational programming, working alongside her friend and colleague Liessa Alperin. That grant proved to be an extraordinary blessing. Marci contributed to teen programming and b'mitzvah preparation, and over the next 17 years, she would help shape nearly every aspect of the congregation's educational offerings. From sustaining the cherished Shirlee Green Preschool during a critical year, to innovating Hebrew curriculum, developing Judaica art projects, and creating meaningful family learning experiences, Marci has truly done it all.

As Assistant Director of the Religious School—and as a close collaborator—I have seen firsthand Marci's willingness to try new ideas and embrace challenges. Together, we navigated the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, learning new technologies and often working late into the evenings as the only ones in the building, while still bringing joyful Jewish learning into the homes of our families.

Perhaps most importantly, Marci has always cared deeply for the people around her. She nurtures colleagues and families alike—making sure we are fed and hydrated, offering a smile, a laugh, a listening ear, or thoughtful advice whenever it is needed. She has a remarkable ability to turn even the smallest task or most routine errand into something joyful simply by being present.

Marci's impact was celebrated on the final day of the 2025–2026 Religious School year, May 3, when our community gathered to honor her remarkable career and lasting contributions. On that special day, she was presented with a heartfelt blessing written by the teachers, students, and staff of the Shaare Emeth Religious School community—a fitting tribute to someone who has given so much of herself to nurturing Jewish learning and connection. As Marci steps into retirement, she carries with her the gratitude, admiration, and deep love of a community that has been forever enriched by her presence.



## VOTING RIGHTS COMMITTEE

# Why I Became an Election Judge

BY MELISSA LYNN POMERANTZ

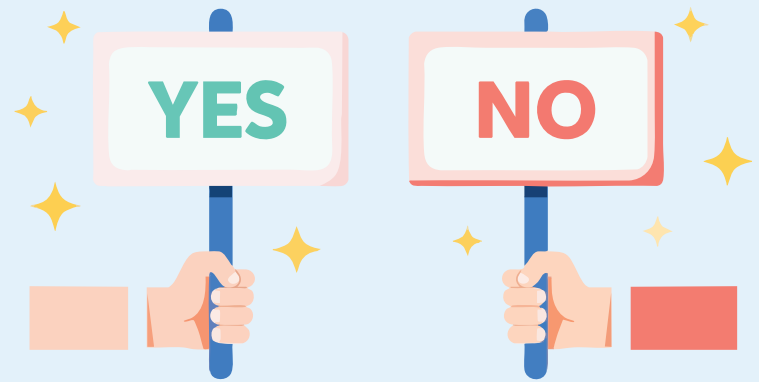
When I retired, I decided to train as an election judge. The first time you serve, you attend an in-person training where you learn to use the voting equipment, look up voter information, print ballots, set up and close machines, and troubleshoot issues that may arise on Election Day. After that, refresher training is offered online or in person.

Election judges work a long but meaningful day. Typically beginning around 5 a.m. for setup and staying until about 8 p.m. to close everything down. Judges are assigned where needed, though requests can sometimes be made.

I wanted to become an election judge because I knew they were needed, and I finally had the time to help. I've continued serving in every election I can because I love helping people vote easily, efficiently, and safely.

One of my favorite moments is welcoming first-time voters. I always make a big deal out of it, and people waiting in line often clap and cheer. Although it's an exhausting day, *I leave every time feeling renewed in my optimism for our democracy.* I spend the day partnering with people from different political backgrounds, and we always work well together, often with plenty of laughter. *It restores my faith in people.*

**LEARN MORE & APPLY AT  
SESTL.CO/ELECTIONJUDGE**



### IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION ON TUESDAY AUGUST 4, 2026

Absentee voting begins: June 23, 2026

Registration deadline: July 8, 2026

Early Voting begins: July 21, 2026

Stay tuned to Shaare Mail for additional information  
about ballot issues and voter resources.



## *An Update on Our Neighbor to Neighbor Family*

Our Neighbor-to-Neighbor family continues to grow and thrive in many ways. The most joyful news is the arrival of baby Iklas, born on September 4. She is happy, healthy, and already adored by her sisters.

Congregation Shaare Emeth has committed to sponsoring the family through December 2026 as they continue building stability and independence here in St. Louis.

Because the family has grown, they will need to move to a three-bedroom apartment this June. The committee is actively working to help them find the right home, ideally one that allows the girls to remain in the same school community.

The children's English skills have improved dramatically through tutoring, and they are making strong progress in reading, writing, and math. Additional support through Parkway's Parents as Teachers program will soon begin for family members as well.

Ismail continues his Parkway ESL classes and has advanced to higher levels. He is still employed at West County Mall, while also hoping to find a higher-paying opportunity. Another exciting milestone: he earned his driver's permit in December and, thanks to generous donors, has completed driving lessons and with a little more practice will go for his driver's license.

The family also continues to navigate changing benefit systems and the challenges many newcomers face. Through community

support, food pantry partnerships, and careful planning, they are managing these transitions with resilience and determination.

The girls are thrilled to return to Camp Emeth this summer, where they have formed friendships and found joy in camp life.

Perhaps most meaningful of all are the many congregants who continue to spend time with the family taking the girls on outings, offering friendship, and helping them feel truly at home. They have become a cherished part of the Shaare Emeth family.

### **WAYS YOU CAN HELP**

- ★ **Monetary donations to Neighbor-to-Neighbor are deeply appreciated and help meet ongoing family needs such as housing, transportation, education, and essentials.**
- ★ **Employment leads for Ismail are warmly welcomed.**
- ★ **Continued friendship, encouragement, and inclusion make a lasting difference.**

*Please contact Melissa Lynn Pomerantz for more information or to volunteer [mlpomerantz@gmail.com](mailto:mlpomerantz@gmail.com)*

Thank you for helping us live our values of welcome, compassion, and community.

## *Because We Care...*

The clergy and Caring Committee at Shaare Emeth want each of those in our congregational family who are traveling the journey of mourning and healing to know that we are here for you.

The Jewish tradition of "Shiva" reminds us that we need not mourn alone. To that end, the Shiva Committee, which is part of the Shaare Emeth Caring Committee, provides support to members in several ways during this difficult time.

Volunteers, trained by our clergy, make visits during Shiva, bringing comfort and friendship to you, your family, and friends. If you would like, our "Shiva Sitters" will stay in your home during the funeral for safety purposes and to receive deliveries. This allows all relatives and friends to attend the funeral. Upon request, members of the Shiva Committee will pick up leftover food at the end of your Shiva period and deliver it to a local family shelter. This relieves you of excess food and fills a community need at the same time.

### **IF YOU CAN HELP...**

If you would like to serve on the Shiva Committee, contact Nancy Taxman at [nanctaxm@gmail.com](mailto:nanctaxm@gmail.com) or Sue Koritz at [srkoritz@gmail.com](mailto:srkoritz@gmail.com)

### **IF YOU NEED HELP...**

If you are a member in need of shiva support or services, please contact Stacy Jespersen at [sjespersen@sestl.org](mailto:sjespersen@sestl.org) or call 314-569-0010.

# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

*Kabbalat Shabbat Every Friday Night in the Stiffman Sanctuary*

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

**June 5:** Kabbalat Shabbat-  
*L'dor VaDor Service with Simcha Blessings*

**June 12:** Kabbalat Shabbat  
*with Speaker Rev. Katie Nix*

**June 19:** Kabbalat Shabbat  
*Juneteenth Shabbat*

**June 26:** Kabbalat Shabbat  
*Pride Shabbat*

**July 3:** Kabbalat Shabbat  
*Rabbi Tobey's First Shabbat + America @ 250*

**July 10:** Kabbalat Shabbat  
*Camp Shabbat - L'Dor VaDor Service with Simcha Blessings*

**July 17:** Kabbalat Shabbat

**July 24:** Kabbalat Shabbat

**July 31:** Kabbalat Shabbat

**Aug 7:** Kabbalat Shabbat  
*Rabbi Terkel's First Shabbat*

**Aug 14:** Kabbalat Shabbat

**Aug 21:** Kabbalat Shabbat  
*Back to School L'Dor VaDor Service with Simcha Blessings*

**Aug 28:** Kabbalat Shabbat

## Special SHABBATOT

This summer, we invite you to gather with us for our Summer Speakers and Special Shabbatot at Congregation Shaare Emeth for evenings of worship, learning, celebration, and community. Through inspiring guest speakers and meaningful Shabbat experiences, we will honor the diverse stories, traditions, and voices that enrich our sacred community.

Join us on Friday evenings for a 5:15 p.m. Nosh, followed by Shabbat worship at 6 p.m.

*June 12*

Reverend Katie Nix of Grace United Methodist Church will deliver the sermon titled, "Here I Am God, Send Somebody Else!"

*June 19*

Shabbat Worship in recognition of the legacy of Juneteenth.

*June 26*

Pride Shabbat featuring Cantor Kalix Jacobson. See pages 24 & 25 for more information.

*July 3*

Shabbat and Independence Day celebration as we welcome Rabbi Tobey to Congregation Shaare Emeth. Dinner following services; watch ShaareMail for details.

*July 10*

L'Dor VaDor Intergenerational Camp Shabbat — a celebration of Camp Emeth. Naomi Sharon, our Shinshinit, will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah and deliver a D'var Yisrael.

*August 7*

Rabbi Terkel's first Shabbat. Stay tuned for additional information.

*Milestone or Accomplishment?  
Recently Engaged or Married?  
New Child?*

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

E-mail Hannah at [hmichelson@sestl.org](mailto:hmichelson@sestl.org).

*Welcome, New Member Families!*

Ryan Cooper

Jenny & Kyle Elfrink,  
with children,  
Walter & Oscar

Gay Gordon  
& Ira Potter

Mikey & Jake Klamen,  
with children,  
Winnie & June

Anita & Ken Kraus

JoAnn Lewis

Daniel Scharff

# MAZEL TOV, B'MITZVAH STUDENTS!

*Shabbat morning worship is on Saturdays in the Stiffman Sanctuary.*

**JUNE 6 at 11 a.m.**

Bat Mitzvah of *Elizabeth Anderson*,  
daughter of *Rebecca* and *Robert Anderson*

**JUNE 13 at 11 a.m.**

Bar Mitzvah of *Eddie Leimbach*,  
son of *Amy DeBrecht*

**AUGUST 15 at 11 a.m.**

Bat Mitzvah of *Mia Sherman*,  
daughter of *Jane* and *Seth Sherman*

**AUGUST 22 at 9 a.m.**

Bar Mitzvah of *Mason Giesing*,  
son of *Heather* and *Adam Giesing*

**AUGUST 22 at 11 a.m.**

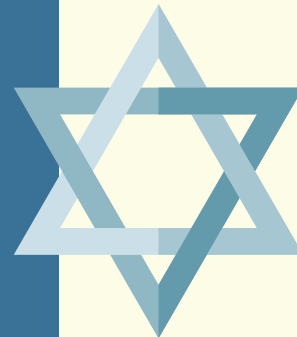
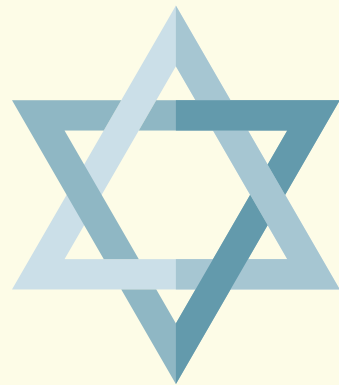
Bar Mitzvah of *Liam Katcher*,  
son of *Ashley* and *Jeremy Katcher*

**AUGUST 29 at 9 a.m.**

Bar Mitzvah of *Jack Ellis*,  
son of *Alysa* and *Chad Ellis*

**AUGUST 29 at 11 a.m.**

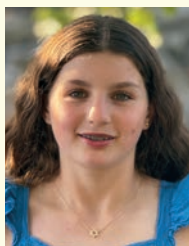
Bar Mitzvah of *Joshua Newman*,  
son of *Margo* and *Drew Newman*



*Ellie Anderson*



*Eddie Leimbach*



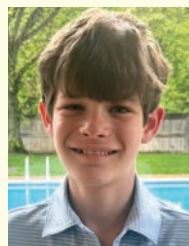
*Mia Sherman*



*Liam Katcher*



*Mason Giesing*



*Jack Ellis*



*Joshua Newman*

*Mazel Tov,  
Confirmation Class  
of 2026/5786!*

*Wishing you  
all the best in  
the future.*



CONGREGATION SHAARE EMETH  
Confirmation Class 2026/5786

*Photo by: Carly Scaduto Photography*

25  
years



# Mazel Tov CANTOR SETH WARNER

on 25 Years of Distinguished Service  
and the Conferral of Your Degree,  
Doctor of Divinity, honoris causa!

BY CANTOR  
SETH WARNER  
SWarner@sestl.org

## A Brief Reflection On 25 Years



One of the most important things to me as a cantor is to help make Congregation Shaare Emeth a safe place where everyone who wishes to be is seen, appreciated, and engaged in a way appropriate for them. Cantor David Silverstein, with whom I worked as a B'Mitzvah student, made me feel safe in middle school when I needed it most. What brings me most satisfaction is when I am privileged to accompany a B'Mitzvah student on their journey to the bima and, at one point or another, whether during the process or long after, see them thrive in their own way. Sure, reading flawlessly from Torah and delivering earth-shatteringly meaningful words of

wisdom at thirteen is nice - but being alongside them as they discover a piece of who they really are is utterly priceless.

This happens on a predictable schedule occasionally, but usually, it surprises me. Like a student for whom Hebrew is really hard, but then improves and chooses to come back in high school and teaches with me. When they stay in touch through high school and then maybe in college, sometimes subtly and sometimes not acknowledging their growth along the journey. There is nothing more meaningful to me than marking each of these moments, big or small, and I see these at the core of our modern *Shalshet HaKabbalah*, chain of tradition.

# MAZEL *Mazel Tov*

**Mazel Tov** to Michelle Brooks, who received the 2025 Annual Community Volunteer MVP Award from her company, Insperity, recognizing her commitment to the company's mission, vision, and values. She volunteers with NCJWSTL, Autism Speaks, Youth In Need, Jewish Community Relations Council's Student to Student program, and the Kappa Alpha Theta – St. Louis Alumnae Chapter.

**Mazel Tov** to Amy Gallant, the new President of J Associates.

**Mazel Tov** to Meagan & Steven Gerchen on the birth of their daughter, Rachel Eva Gerchen, born on January 6, 2026. Mazel Tov to her proud grandparents, David and Ruth Gerchen, and great-grandmother, Genevieve Rondberg.

**Mazel Tov** to Meagan Gerchen on her conversion to Judaism.



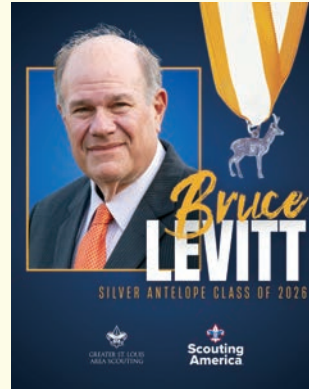
Photo Credit: Shana Tozer Photography



**Mazel Tov** to Jane Grossman on receiving the Silver Buffalo award, Scouting America's highest national adult recognition, for extraordinary service to youth.

**Mazel Tov** to Amy Kuo Hammerman on her election to the Ladue School Board. She will serve as Treasurer.

**Mazel Tov** to Stacy and Jon Jespersen on the engagement of their son, Nick, to Breanna Preston. Also, Mazel Tov to grandmother, Gerry Weinman.



**Mazel Tov** to Bruce Levitt on receiving the Silver Antelope award, a Scouting America recognition of an adult scout of exceptional character whose outstanding service has made a lasting impact on youth across their territory.

**Mazel Tov** to Jenna Mueller on her Pillar of Parkway award from the Parkway

School District. She is a reading specialist and community volunteer at Parkway Northeast Middle School.

**Mazel Tov** to Marilyn & Gary Ratkin on receiving the 2026 Jane and Whitney Harris St. Louis Community Service Award from Washington University. The award honors Jane and Whitney Harris' service to the St. Louis metropolitan area by recognizing a local couple who shares their civic values and makes important contributions to the advancement of the region.

**Mazel Tov** to Miranda Siler and Nik Jarkowsky on their recent marriage. Mazel Tov, also, to the proud parents of the bride, Michele and Patrick Siler.

**Mazel Tov** to Michele Siler on winning the Outstanding Costume Design in a Musical award from the St. Louis Theater Circle for her work on Cabaret at the New Jewish Theatre.

**Mazel Tov** to Rosalie Stein on joining the Board of Directors of Jewish Family Services.



**Mazel Tov** to Landon Waldman on being named Clayton High School's Sophomore of the Year.



# PRIDE Shabbat Events

## Friday Night

**5:15 p.m. Nosh** in the Sanctuary

**6 p.m. Pride Shabbat Service** Featuring Cantor Kalix Jacobson and the Keshet Committee

*This family-friendly Erev Shabbat will feature readings and music created and inspired by members of the LGBTQIA+ community. Cantor Jacobson will lead the liturgy and music, and offer a sermon in song exploring what it means to be an educated ally.*

## Saturday Morning

**9 a.m. Breakfast Nosh**

**9:30 a.m. How Our Words Matter and Parashat Balak:** Pride-Themed Torah Study led by Cantor Jacobson in the Kehillah Center

**10:30 a.m.** Brunch

**11 a.m. Special Pride Program:** The Language of Blessing & Song Circle of Inclusivity & Acceptance

*We'll study poetry and music written specifically for the LGBTQIA+ community, discussing LGBTQIA+ issues and questions in a safe and open environment, and end with a Song Circle of Inclusivity & Acceptance.*

## About Our Special Guest: Cantor Kalix Jacobson



Cantor Kalix Jacobson (they/them) is a longtime musician and singer with a background in diverse musical styles. Originally from St. Louis, Missouri (they grew up at Shaare Emeth!), Cantor Jacobson has been working in Cantorial spaces since 2014 and has been writing music since the early 2000s. This past fall, their Sh'ma Koleinu premiered at Park Avenue Synagogue—they were the first transgender or nonbinary composer commissioned to write for the congregation. They were ordained from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 2023, having also received a Masters of Nonprofit Management from the college, having been a Weitzman Fellow for JDC-Entwine, and also having been the recipient of the Rabbi Sarah Messinger Prize, the Josef Frudenthal Memorial Prize for Excellence in Composition, the Palm Beach Liturgical Cultural Foundation Prize, and the Lee Gura Memorial Prize for Aptitude in Synagogue Choral Music. They just finished their tenure at Temple Emanuel of South Hills in Pittsburgh, PA, and are looking forward to beginning their journey as Kol Bo at Temple David of Monroeville, PA on July 1st.

*Register for Saturday Morning's Events at*  
**[sestl.co/pride26](https://sestl.co/pride26)**

*Watch Your Email for More Information*  
*about joining JCRC and the Jewish community at*  
*St. Louis PrideFest 2026!*

# ALL ABOARD *Shabbat*



**Saturday June 20, 9:30 a.m.**  
*National Museum of Transportation*

A favorite from last summer is back! **Families with 0-5-year-olds** are invited to gather for a brief, fun-filled Shabbat celebration then hop aboard the museum's train. Families are welcome to stay and explore all the vehicles afterwards.

**RSVP at [sestl.co/AllAboard26](http://sestl.co/AllAboard26)**

# SPLISH SPLASH

## *Shabbat*

**Saturday, August 8, 9:30 a.m.**  
*Millennium Park in Creve Coeur*

Dive right into a special Shabbat celebration just for **families with 0-5-year-olds!** We'll share in a brief musical Shabbat experience then enjoy the splash pad and playground.

**Free and open to all, RSVP required.**  
**RSVP at [sestl.co/Splash26](http://sestl.co/Splash26)**

# CAMP EMETH IS MAKING A SPLASH THIS SUMMER!



# THANK YOU

*Forest Lake Tennis and Swim Club!*

# High Holidays

2026 • 5787

## SELICHOT:

Saturday, September 5

Time TBD

## EREV ROSH HASHANAH:

Friday, September 11

7:30 p.m.

## ROSH HASHANAH:

Friday, September 12

9 a.m. Boker Tov Rosh Hashanah

10 a.m. Rosh Hashanah Morning Service

## NEW! ROSH HASHANAH REMIX:

Saturday, September 12

10 a.m. • Details at Right

## TASHLICH:

Saturday, September 12

4 p.m. at Town & Country Town Square

## KEVER AVOT V'IMAHOT MEMORIAL SERVICE:

New Mount Sinai Cemetery

Sunday, September 20

## KOL NIDRE:

Sunday, September 20

7:30 p.m.

## YOM KIPPUR:

Monday, September 21

9 a.m. Boker Tov Yom Kippur

10 a.m. Yom Kippur Morning Service

11 a.m. L'Dor VaDor Intergenerational Yom Kippur Service

12:30 p.m. Yom Kippur Teen Experience

4:15 p.m. Yom Kippur Afternoon Service

Other Yom Kippur programming TBA

## EREV SUKKOT:

Friday, September 25

6 p.m.

## EREV SIMCHAT TORAH L'DOR VADOR:

Friday, October 2

6 p.m.



## ROSH HASHANAH REMIX:

*New Year, Sweet Start*

## SATURDAY, 9/12 AT 10 A.M.

**This year, our Rosh Hashanah experience for our ages 8+ community is going to be fresher, newer, and sweeter!** A kids-only community will be gathering in the Kehillah Center to welcome in the new year, guided and supervised by our clergy and staff team for a true Rosh Hashanah Remix. During our time together, we will pray, laugh, sing, reflect and create with sweet treats and deep words of Torah. At the end of our time together, we will join the wider Shaare Emeth community (and meet up with all of our parents, grandparents, older siblings, and friends) in the Stiffman Sanctuary to hear the final blasts of the shofar and bless the new year as one congregation.

**More details are coming soon!**



# Save the Date

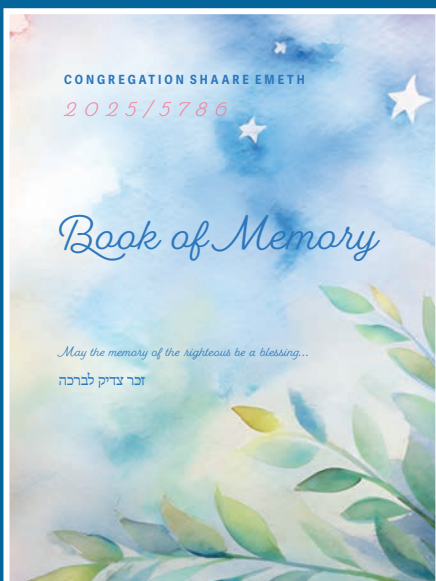
## NEW YEAR IN THE ORCHARD

THE MORNING OF  
*September 6, 2026*

GET READY FOR ROSH HASHANAH WITH  
A MORNING OF APPLE PICKING, FUN, AND  
COMMUNITY WITH SHAARE EMETH!

KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR EMAIL FOR MORE  
DETAILS LATER THIS SUMMER.

## SUBMIT TO THE 2026 BOOK OF MEMORY



One of our most cherished High Holiday traditions is our beautiful Book of Memory, distributed each year during the Yizkor Memorial Service on Yom Kippur afternoon, Monday, September 21. The Book of Memory is a meaningful record of the names of our recently deceased loved ones, along with the names of other family and friends whom we wish to recall with loving memory. We invite you to contribute to our 2026 Book of Memory by submitting the names of your loved ones online or by mail as soon as possible, and no later than July 31, 2026.

To submit the names of your loved ones online, please visit our website to ensure they are displayed in our 2026 Book of Memory per your wishes. Go to: [sestl.org/bookofmemory](https://sestl.org/bookofmemory)

You can easily refer to last year's book to see a copy of your submission by visiting [sestl.org/bom](https://sestl.org/bom).

If you have questions, please contact Jana McGinty at [jmccginty@sestl.org](mailto:jmccginty@sestl.org).



We hope you choose to be  
here for Shaare Emeth

*so that we can continue  
to be here for you.*



*kindly consider a donation  
to our annual appeal.*

Watch your inbox for details & giving options!

*Save the Date*

CONGREGATION SHAARE EMETH PRESENTS

# JUBILATION

*Saturday, October 24, 2026*

— HONORING OUR CONGREGATION AND —

*Leanne & Harvey Schneider*

WITH THE HARRIS FRANK COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE • INVITATION TO FOLLOW

# Secure Our Future: Give Now to Sustain *A Legacy of Care and Commitment*

At Congregation Shaare Emeth, we often speak about *L'Dor VaDor*, our responsibility to care for the generations that came before us and those who will follow. Few gestures embody that value as powerfully as the recent creation of a permanent endowment dedicated to the safety and security of our congregation.

Mona and Larry Swedroe have established an endowment fund to support security needs at Shaare Emeth, ensuring that our synagogue remains a safe and welcoming place not only today, but far into the future. Fittingly, the endowment is named in honor of their parents, the **Rubin & Rose Hersch and Jerry & Joyce Swedroe Fund for Safety and Security**, a lasting tribute to families whose values of responsibility, generosity, and communal care continue to guide the next generation.

Endowment funds play a vital role in synagogue life. Unlike annual fundraising, an endowment is designed to provide ongoing, sustainable support year after year. It represents foresight and stability, allowing a congregation to respond to evolving needs without placing undue strain on operating budgets. In times of uncertainty or urgency, endowments help ensure that critical priorities can be addressed with confidence and integrity.

This moment in our communal existence makes that foresight especially meaningful. Across the Jewish world, congregations are facing heightened security demands. Protecting our people, our staff, and our sacred space is no longer optional. It is essential. At Shaare Emeth, recent steps to strengthen building security, including the addition of a full-time security officer, reflect our commitment to this responsibility. These measures are necessary, but they also bring significant and ongoing costs that were not fully anticipated in the current budget.

The Swedroes understood this reality and responded with vision and leadership. Their endowment is intended to help meet long-term security needs while preserving the financial health of the congregation. Just as important, Mona and Larry have worked thoughtfully and persistently to inspire others to join them in this effort.

Through Larry's professional speaking engagements, he has asked that honoraria be directed not to him



personally, but to the Shaare Emeth security endowment. In this way, his work becomes an opportunity for communal investment. Closer to home, Larry and Mona have also helped launch the **Secure Our Future** initiative, an effort designed to address current, unbudgeted security needs while building momentum for long-term support.

**As outlined in the recent letter to the congregation, they have further deepened their commitment by offering a dollar-for-dollar matching gift of up to \$50,000 for contributions made to Secure Our Future before July 1.** This extraordinary gesture reflects not only generosity, but a desire to engage others in shared responsibility, one gift encouraging another, and one act of leadership inspiring many more.

The security of a synagogue is about more than locks, cameras, or personnel. It is about ensuring that every person who walks through our doors feels protected, welcomed, and able to pray, learn, and gather in peace. The Swedroes' actions remind us that safeguarding Jewish life is a collective endeavor and that thoughtful planning today is an act of love for tomorrow.

We are deeply grateful to Larry and Mona Swedroe for their leadership, their vision, and their enduring commitment to Congregation Shaare Emeth. May their example inspire all of us to help secure our sacred community for generations to come.

**[Visit sestl.co/secure](https://sestl.co/secure) for details and donation options.**

# Accessibility and Inclusion: *Living B'tzelem Elohim*

At Congregation Shaare Emeth, we strive to live out the belief that every person is *b'tzelem Elohim*, created in the image of God and deserving of dignity, belonging, and access to Jewish life. Inclusion is not an add-on to our mission. It is central to who we are as a sacred community. At Shaare Emeth, inclusion is not a program or a single initiative. It is a core value that shapes who we are and how we care for one another. Thanks to the creation of the **Loiterstein Family Fund for Accessibility and Inclusion**, our congregation is better positioned to ensure that every person who wishes to engage in temple life can do so in meaningful and supported ways.

The intention behind this endowment is to think about inclusion as broadly and thoughtfully as possible. Participation in synagogue life can be affected by many different challenges, some visible and some not. These challenges may be physical, financial, developmental, or otherwise. Each can make it harder to attend services, participate in education, connect socially, or feel fully part of the community. This endowment allows Shaare Emeth to respond to those realities with compassion and flexibility.

The impact of this gift will be felt across the congregation and over time. Endowment funds are designed to sustain values beyond any single year or budget cycle. By supporting inclusion

through an endowment, Shaare Emeth can continue to invest in accessibility, belonging, and participation for generations to come. This strengthens not only those who directly benefit from accommodations or support, but the entire community, making us more empathetic, responsive, and whole.

Inclusion enriches Jewish life. When more people are able to participate fully, our worship is deeper, our learning is stronger, and our relationships are more meaningful. This endowment affirms that Shaare Emeth is committed to being a place where everyone is welcomed and where differences are met with understanding and care.

We are deeply grateful to Ann and Ashley Loiterstein for making this vision possible through their generosity and foresight. Their gift affirms the importance of meeting people where they are and investing in a future where everyone who wishes to be part of Shaare Emeth can participate meaningfully.

**If you or someone you know could benefit from this fund, please contact Debbie Bram, Director of Lifelong Learning, at [dbram@sestl.org](mailto:dbram@sestl.org).**

**Likewise, if you are interested in learning more about establishing an endowment fund to support Shaare Emeth's future, please contact our Director of Development, Beth Kodner, at [bkodner@sestl.org](mailto:bkodner@sestl.org).**



# Reminder: Check Your Payment Plan for Membership Responsibility 2026

Every dollar of MR members give is used to bring alive Shaare Emeth's vision of becoming a vibrant, inclusive center of Jewish life where every person can find a sense of belonging, meaning, joy, and hope. We hope you will fulfill your full pledge for 2026 so we can remain financially strong while including as many as possible in this important work.

Mid-year is a great time to check in and make sure your MR commitment is set up as you planned. Reminder: Payment plans do not automatically carry over from year-to-year (unless you are enrolled in the new auto-renew option, see below). Each household must set up a new payment plan for 2026.

Please take a moment this week to check your bank or credit card account and make sure your MR is being paid as you expected. If you need to make a change or set up a payment plan, please call the temple office at 314-569-0010.

## NEW THIS YEAR:

# Auto-Renew Payment Plan Option

For those who prefer an automated option, you can set your MR to renew automatically.

To opt-in to this auto-renew option, visit [sestl.co/autorenew](http://sestl.co/autorenew)

Even with the auto-renew option, you will still receive a letter every fall with your suggested amount and have the opportunity to make adjustments before anything is charged.

If you have any questions, please call the temple office at 314-560-0010.

We are here to help!

# We Use ShulCloud & You Should, Too!

We use our database, ShulCloud, for all kinds of important tasks at Shaare Emeth: e-mail communications, snail mail, keeping track of lifecycle events, upcoming yahrtzeit reminders, payments, finding smaller communities within Shaare Emeth, and more. But any database is only as useful as the data you put in it.

*If you change your e-mail address, move to a new home, get a new credit card, or have any other changes, please log in and update your profile so you don't miss anything.*

Access ShulCloud easily from the "Member Login" link at the top of our website, or at [congregationshaaremeth.shulcloud.com](http://congregationshaaremeth.shulcloud.com)

If you prefer and would like us to do the updating, please contact our office.



## Farm to Table Restaurant & Market



Hormone-Free  
Pasture-Raised  
Beef

Market, Bakery, Deli,  
Restaurant, Bar, &  
Butcher Shop

Local Farm  
Produce, Eggs,  
& Cheese



10405 Old Olive Street Rd • Creve Coeur  
314-900-1424 • [PierceCreekSTL.com](http://PierceCreekSTL.com)

## Condolences

**Shirley Cohen**

**Elaine "Cookie" Fixman**

**Dr. Terry Gardner**

Husband of Vivien  
Gardner

**Jane Goodman**

**Etele Kohn**

Mother of Linda (Philip)  
Dembo

**Ilene Litvag**

Mother of Joe (Lisa)  
Litvag and Julie (Larry)  
Dyson

**Floryne Marks**

**Steven Rosenberg**

Husband of  
Sandra Rosenberg

**Robert Schnidman**

Husband of Simone  
Schnidman and brother  
of Donna (Eddie)  
Karfeld and Rich (Jacci)  
Schnidman

**Raymond Silverberg**

**Irene Sivak**

**Eugene "Gene" Weisman**

Husband of Roxanne  
Weisman and father of  
Susie (Jeff) Horowitz

**Peter Wolff**

Husband of Joann Wolff



*We express condolences to Shaare Emeth members and families who have recently lost a loved one and sympathy to Shaare Emeth members who have had a death in their extended family.*

## Sympathy

**Chris Clark (Amanda Gilbert)** on the death of his mother,

**Dr. Rhonda Ridinger**

**Bob (Susan) Cohen**

on the death of his father,  
**Ralph "Buffy" Cohen**

**Gene (Terri) Jacobson**

on the death of his father,  
**Jerry Jacobson**

**Marina (Dmitery) Kuznetsov**

on the death of her father,  
**Vladimir Rubezhin**

**Carole (David) Lander**

on the death of her sister,  
**Barbara Morris**

**Jeff (Joanne) Mishkin**

on the death of his father,  
**Marvin Mishkin, MD**

**Irene & Jon Newman** on the death of her sister,

**Judith Davidson**, and his mother, **Shulamit Newman**

**Jim Paster** on the death of his son, **David Paster**

**Amy (Jason) Pollock**

on the death of her mother, **Ellen Lasky**

**Rick (Audrey) Prywitch and Jamie (Richie) Gallant**

on the death of their mother and grandmother,  
**Shirley Prywitch**

**Jodi Sudin** on the death of her father, **Leslie Cohen**

**Robert (Carolyn) Suffian**

on the death of his brother,  
**Michael Suffian**

**Susan Schreiber** on the death of her brother,  
**Steven Goldfarb**

## New Perpetual Memorials

*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](mailto:SJespersen@sestl.org) or 314-692-5302.*

**Cheryl Bierman Isley**

Established by the  
Loiterstein Family, the  
Isley-Kagan Family and  
Jon Isley

**Joyce R. Kleban**

Established by Betsy &  
Spencer Garland and  
Ken & Jackie Kleban

**Sheila Kunitz**

Established by Steven  
Kunitz and Andrew  
Kunitz

**Lawrence S. Rothman**

Established by Marsha  
Rothman, Robert &  
Jolene Rothman and  
family, and Beth & Bobby  
Kodner and family

**Dorothy Saenger**

Established by Jan  
McKendree, Lawrence  
Saenger, and Dan  
Saenger

Weekly Yahrzeit listings  
can be found online at  
**[sestl.org/yahrzeits](http://sestl.org/yahrzeits)**.

**RABBIS' SPECIAL FUND**

IN APPRECIATION OF:

Rabbi Bennett for performing the stone dedication for Jay Baron

*The Baron Family*

Rabbi Bennett for officiating at the funeral for Nancy Bly

*Wendy Flusser*

Rabbi Bennett for officiating at the wedding of Rachel & Robbie Gettinger

*Michelle & Kraig Zang*

Rabbi Bennett for performing the stone dedication for Mimi Klamen

*The Family of Mimi Klamen*

Rabbi Bennett for care, compassion, and officiating at the funeral service for Ilene Litvag

*The Litvag and Dyson Families*

Rabbi Bennett for care, compassion, and officiating at the funeral service for Steven Rosenberg

*Sandy Rosenberg and Family*

Rabbi Bennett for officiating at the funeral service for Gary Sacks

*Marjory Sacks and Family*

Rabbi Bennett for officiating at the funeral service for Dr. Robert Schnidman

*Jacquelyn & Richard Schnidman; Simone Schnidman*

Rabbi Bennett for officiating at the funeral service for Eugene Weisman

*The Family of Eugene Weisman*

Rabbi Bennett and Rabbi Goldstein for the care and concern shown to Barry Worth after surgery

*Rita & Barry Worth*

Rabbi Goldstein for officiating at the wedding of Rachel & Zach Errant

*Wendy & Chuck Errant*

Rabbi Goldstein for giving the blessing at the installation of officers at The J Associates Spring Luncheon

*Amy & Steve Gallant*

Rabbi Goldstein for performing the baby naming for Maxwell Kraus

*Mara & Danny Kraus*

Rabbi Goldstein for her kindness, support, and performing her conversion ceremony and blessing

*Mary Murawski*

Rabbi Goldstein for her kindness

*Barbara Schuver*

Rabbi Goldstein for officiating at the wedding of Miranda Siler & Nik Jarkowsky

*Michele & Patrick Siler*

Rabbi Bearman for officiating at the funeral service for Janet Loiterstein

*Terri Silies, Karen Taylor, Debbie Glen, and Family*

Rabbi Bearman for her care and concern

*Donna & Ed Karfeld*

Rabbi Stiffman for officiating at the funeral service for Steven Rosenberg

*Sandy Rosenberg and Family*

IN HONOR OF:

Rabbi Bennett for recovery and restoration of full good health

*Gail & Charles Eisenkramer; Louise & Steve Epner; Deborah Gilula; Phyllis & Steve Kamenetzky; Sue & Mark Koritz; Lynn & Dr. Carl Lyss; Lucy Moses; Leanne & Harvey Schneider*

Rabbi Goldstein on being named Successor Senior Rabbi

*Gail Lewis; Stephanie & Stephen Newman; Jacquelyn & Richard Schnidman; Harvey Weiss*

Rabbi Goldstein for helping Max Goldstein become a Bar Mitzvah

*Debbi & Jeff Goldstein*

Rabbi Bennett on his upcoming retirement and planned transition to Rabbi Emeritus, and Rabbi Goldstein on being named Successor Senior Rabbi

*Debbie & Karl Guyer; Merle & Dale Singer*

Rabbi Bennett and Rabbi Stiffman, with gratitude

*Mary & Cary Lang*

Rabbi Terkel to welcome him to Shaare Emeth as Associate Rabbi

*Susie Lerner Wallach and Family*

Rabbi Tobey to welcome her to Shaare Emeth as Assistant Rabbi

*Susie Lerner Wallach and Family*

Gail & Charles Eisenkramer on their 65th wedding anniversary

*Margie & Bruce Gutnik*

Debbie & Mike Lefton on their daughter Sydney's marriage to Almog

*Andy & Stan Shanker*

IN MEMORY OF:

Jay Baron

*David Baron*

Geoffrey Belgeri

*Marjorie & Syd Pessen*

Frieda Bernstein

*Sue Wallach; Eleanor Wolf and Family*

Nancy Bly

*Pamela Katz*

Julia Broad

*Sharon & Richard Safron*

Carol Derfeld

*Jackie Katz Fredman & Mark Fredman*

May Fagan Miller

*Sheila Cohen*

Cookie Fixman

*Jody & Mickey Waldman*

Naomi Foster

*Karen & Matt Foster*

Ben Goldman

*Sherri & Rick Goldman*

Maurice Goldman

*Janet Goldman and Herbert Goldman*

Gertrude Harris

*Frances Poger*

Ruby Harris

*Frances Poger*

Bertha Kenkel

*Rina & Paul Kenkel*

Joseph Kenkel

*Rina & Paul Kenkel*

Sam A. Kessler

*Ruth-Ellen & Steve Lichtenfeld*

K.R. Koeneman

*Sarah Lohmeyer*

Ilene Litvag

*Sandy Brickman*

Barbara Morris

*Debbie Gilula*

Beverly Muller Banks

*Rina & Paul Kenkel*

Fannie Muller

*Rina & Paul Kenkel*

Barbara Pessen

*Marjorie & Syd Pessen*

Gary Sacks

*Bonnie M. Korenblat Donato; Andy & Stan Shanker; Val & Rob Weiss*

Dorothy & Adolph Safron

*Sharon & Richard Safron*

Dr. Robert Schnidman

*Bebe Brasloff; Carole & David Preston; Jane & Hal Strin*

Mollie & Joe Shanfeld

*Judy & Jerry Shanfeld*

Louise & Alfred Trommler

*Rina & Paul Kenkel*

**CANTOR'S SPECIAL FUND**

IN APPRECIATION OF:

Cantor Warner for helping Max Goldstein become a Bar Mitzvah

*Debbi & Jeff Goldstein*

Cantor Warner for care, compassion, and officiating at the funeral service for Ilene Litvag

*The Litvag and Dyson Families*

Cantor Warner for his hospital visits with Dr. Robert Schnidman

*Simone Schnidman*

Cantor Warner for officiating at the funeral service for Eugene Weisman

*The Family of Eugene Weisman*

IN HONOR OF:

Cantor Warner on receiving his Doctor of Divinity

*Stephanie Turner & Will Schachter*

Richard Alexander on receiving a cancer-free diagnosis

*Richard Alexander*

Arleen Bly on her special birthday

*Linda & Bill Levin*

Will Schachter on his special birthday

*Eunice & John Reichman*

IN MEMORY OF:

Nancy Bly

*Paula & Mike Geigerman*

Eleanor Brin

*Paula & Mike Geigerman*

Bill Cohen

*Arlene Goodman and Stephanie Turner & Will Schachter*

Ellen Farber

*Peggy & Kenny Brown*

The tributes listed here are those made for \$18 or more and processed from February 1-April 30, 2026.

To make a tribute donation, visit [sestl.org/give](http://sestl.org/give). Email Jana McGinty at [jmcginty@sestl.org](mailto:jmcginty@sestl.org) with questions.

Sylvia Flusser

*Wendy Flusser*

Marion & Norman Goodman

*Arlene Goodman*

Ilene Litvag

*Paula & Mike Geigerman*

Bob Paster

*Mary Louise Brown & Elbert Williams*

**BEMA FLOWER FUND**

IN HONOR OF:

Elizabeth Anderson on becoming Bat Mitzvah

*Rhonda Miller*

Jack Ellis on becoming

Bar Mitzvah

*Henry Ellis*

Liam Katcher on becoming

Bar Mitzvah

*Linda Scher*

Eddie Leimbach on becoming Bar Mitzvah

*Amy DeBrecht*

Joshua Newman on becoming Bar Mitzvah

*Margo & Drew Newman*

Mia Sherman on becoming Bat Mitzvah

*Lidya & Simon Kaganov*

**BROCKMAN-SIEGELMAN GEMILUT HASADIM FUND**

IN HONOR OF:

Ronnie & Allen Brockman on being the recipients of The Founders Award presented by Camp Braveways

*Barbara Sterneck*

Barbara Winnerman on her birthday

*Ann & Ashley Loiterstein*

IN MEMORY OF:

Ilene Litvag

*Ronnie & Allen Brockman*

**MICAH DAVIS MEMORIAL FUND**

IN MEMORY OF:

Frieda Bernstein

*Susie & Leon Kravetz*

Barbara Morris

*Norman Davis; Mickey Goorman; Andy & Stan Shanker*

Alice Schwartz

*Lisa Davis*

Michael Suffian

*Norman Davis*

**ESSMAN SCHAEFFER CAMP FUND**

IN HONOR OF:

Rabbi Goldstein on being named Successor Senior Rabbi

*Sharyn, Bennett, and Izzy Essman*

**ESTELLE & ED FISCHER CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

IN MEMORY OF:

Ellen Paskar

*Jeffrey Paskar*

**AL & EVA FLEISCHER HEALING FUND**

IN MEMORY OF:

Alice Schwartz

*Joy & Jay Liss*

**SHIRLEE GREEN PRESCHOOL FUND**

IN MEMORY OF:

Judy Brandvein

*The Brandvein Family*

Carol Derfeld

*Ken Cohen and Family; Rosalie & Bob Stein*

Janet Loiterstein

*Adrienne Lyss*

Dr. Marvin Mishkin

*Susie & Jay Joffe*

Ralph Sonnenschein

*John Brandvein*

IN HONOR OF:

Rabbi Bearman on being named Senior Rabbi at Temple Beth Or

*Carole & Jay Goldstein*

Alison & Michael Seidler on their grandson Parker becoming Bar Mitzvah

*The Fagin Family*

The baby naming of Maya Rose Kootman

*Andrea & Randy Brodsky*

**ALAN GREENBERG EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND**

**ALAN GREENBERG EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND**

IN MEMORY OF:

Ellen Lasky

*Barbara & Michael Dorman*

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

IN HONOR OF:

Larry Swedroe

*Jeff Vistica*

IN MEMORY OF:

Shulamit Newman

*Irene Newman*

**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:

**Ida & Harris Kramer**

*Steven Kramer*

**Barbara Morris**

*Marcia & Carl Moskowitz*

**Robert Prywitch**

*Karen & Jeff Wagner*

**TODD JASON  
KRONEMER YOUTH  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

IN MEMORY OF:

**Gary Hartwig**

*Cathleen & Mark Kronemer*

**KUSHKIN  
LANDSCAPE FUND**

IN MEMORY OF:

**Dr. Robert Schnidman**

*Sherrie & Randall Aach*

**ANTHONY B. LAKE  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

IN MEMORY OF:

**Jonathan Goldberg**

*Linda & Philip Dembo*

**LEBMAN/MOSHE  
ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT  
FUND**

IN HONOR OF:

**Rabbi Bennett on his upcoming retirement and planned transition to Rabbi Emeritus, and Rabbi Goldstein on being named Successor Senior Rabbi**  
*Vicki Oren and Ruth Long*

**LISA'S STAR FUND  
FOR CAMP EMETH**

IN HONOR OF:

**Joe Tripodi for a speedy recovery**  
*Nancy Bernstein*

**LIVINGSTON/  
GROSSMAN YOUTH  
ENGAGEMENT FUND**

IN HONOR OF:

**Arleen Bly on her special birthday**  
*Joan Dobkin*

IN MEMORY OF:

**Elaine Weiss**  
*Dan Coughlin*

**LOITERSTEIN FAMILY  
ACCESSIBILITY AND  
INCLUSION FUND**

IN HONOR OF:

**Betsy Wegusen on her birthday**  
*Ann & Ashley Loiterstein*

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IN HONOR OF:

**Rabbi Bennett for recovery and restoration of full good health**  
*Lynn & Dr. Carl Lyss*

**Rabbi Goldstein on being named Successor Senior Rabbi**

*Lynn & Dr. Carl Lyss*

**Gail & Charles Eisenkramer on their 65th wedding anniversary**

*Marcia & Carl Moskowitz*

**Mark Feldman on his special birthday**

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HUNGER FUND**

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**Michael Fox for a speedy recovery**  
*Nancy Bernstein*

**Leanne & Harvey Schneider on their 60th Wedding Anniversary, and Harvey Schneider on his 90th birthday**

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**Ellen Farber**

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IN HONOR OF:

**Rabbi Bennett on his upcoming retirement and planned transition to Rabbi Emeritus**

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*Sharyn Levitt*

**Bruce Canis on his special birthday**

*Linda & Bill Levin*

**Gail & Charles Eisenkramer on their 65th wedding anniversary**

*Dianna & Richard Fine; Adria Klein; Marsha Rothman*

**Mark Feldman on his special birthday**

*Judy & Howard Rosen*

**Leanne & Harvey Schneider on their 60th Wedding Anniversary, and Harvey Schneider on his 90th birthday**

*Debbie Gilula*

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**Rabbi Goldstein for her important Faith Perspectives: An Interfaith Conversation About Reproductive Justice event during Repro Shabbat**  
*Wendy Flusser*

**Leanne & Harvey Schneider** for making the weekend with Rabbi Mikva and Grace Church possible  
*Arlene Goodman; Sarah Watson*

IN HONOR OF:

**Leanne & Harvey Schneider** on their 60th Wedding Anniversary, and **Harvey Schneider** on his 90th birthday  
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**Rabbi Stiffman** for being such a great listener  
*Harvey Weiss*

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**Gail & Charles Eisenkramer** on their 65th wedding anniversary  
*Ellen Bluestone; Rochelle & Stan Ferdman; Ellen Goldstein; Judy & Stan Kolker; Eunice & John Reichman; Rita & Barry Worth*  
**Andy Zuckerman** for a speedy recovery  
*Andy & Stan Shanker*

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**Rabbi Goldstein** for performing the stone dedication for **Stanley Dveris**

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**Rabbi Goldstein** for officiating at the wedding ceremony of **Olivia Jurgiel & Matan Gottesman**

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**Rabbi Goldstein** for her kindness and support, and for performing her conversion ceremony and blessing

*Mary Murawski*

**Rabbi Goldstein** and **Cantor Warner** for their wedding blessing

*Susie & Art Stone*

IN HONOR OF:

**Rabbi Goldstein** for her kindness **Kay Schlesinger**

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Congregation Shaare Emeth's clergy team is always here to support you, honor you, and guide you through life's moments. Whether you're celebrating a milestone, experiencing a challenging health event, or have other information you would like to share, please reach out to us at 314-569-0010 or info@sestl.org.



# Flippin' Awesome!

## THANKS FOR A GREAT MEMBER APPRECIATION BRUNCH

Thank you to the 200+ members who joined us on May 17 for Member Appreciation Brunch – it was a blast! Pancakes were flying and so were the laughs! We enjoyed a tasty breakfast complete with pancake toppings galore and coffee bar, schmoozing with new and old friends, and some light Shaare Emeth trivia. Shaare Emeth members give so much time, energy, and treasure to make the congregation the inclusive, joyful community it is and we always love showing our appreciation for them.



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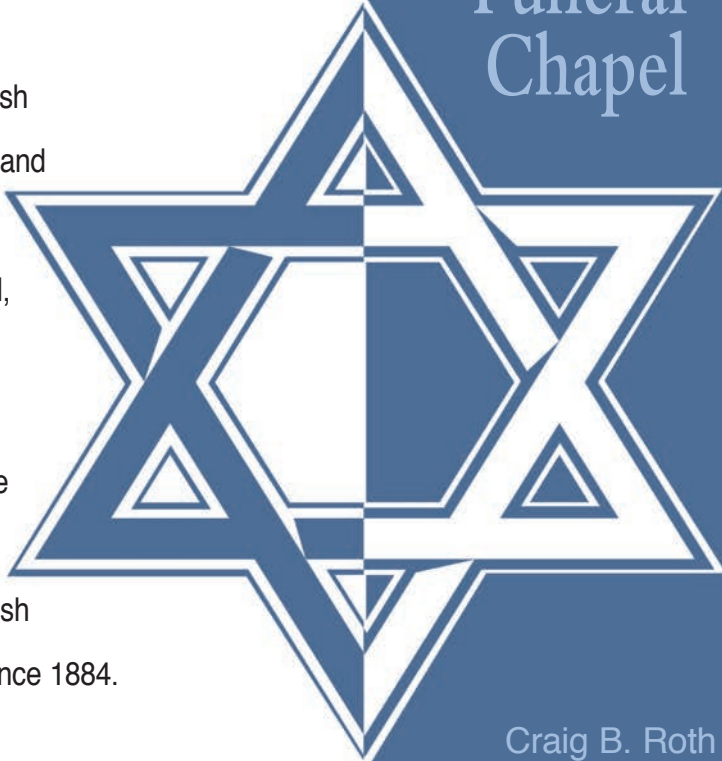
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