Year in Review
2017

OUR MISSION:
Congregation Shaare Emeth is a compassionate and inclusive community that makes Judaism relevant, meaningful and joyful.

149th Annual Meeting May 15, 2018

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From the President

Being President of this Congregation these past two years has been a true joy. It has been a tremendous experience that I will always cherish. I have had the opportunity to meet many of you, and I am a better person because of all of you!

This has been a wonderful time to be president. As our 150th year as one of the leading Reform congregations in the United States comes to an end, we have so much to be thankful for and so much to appreciate. Our new space is so exciting! So many people stepped up, both financially and with their time to help; we are eternally grateful! People walk in and are amazed at both how spectacular our building is as well as how homey and comfortable it feels.

We had so many remarkable programs to celebrate our 150th year. From the picnic, to the gala, to Rejoice! A Musical Celebration and more! Sharing these events with all of you throughout the year has been a privilege.

Our preschool and camps are thriving, our adult education programs are successful, and we have hired a new rabbi educator to lead our religious school to even greater success. We have explored many new programs, we are attracting more congregants to our services, we are enacting new social justice initiatives, and we opened our new Mindfulness Center. And, these are just a few of the many wonderful things happening at Shaare Emeth. I can’t even begin to name them all!

Please know that I loved serving this congregation, but I didn’t do it without a lot of help. So many of you offered your time and your encouragement. From the clergy, the directors and the staff to all the board members and lay leadership that really support all that we have done and all we continue to do, thank you! And a special thank you to my family, who listened and advised behind the scenes. I couldn’t have done this without you! I look forward, as past president, to continuing to serve and support in any way I can.

I know that we will continue to thrive as Mike Lefton takes over as our next President. He has been there the last two years supporting and leading with me, and I know he will continue to strengthen the congregation as he leads the congregation forward.

And, lastly, a quick reminder; don’t forget to get involved! I think you’ll find, as I did, that the more you do, the more you’ll get.

Sincerely,

Renee Silverstein
President
EDUCATION

Shirlee Green Preschool Parent Advisory Council (PAC) - Jen Barton, Chairperson

The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is a volunteer organization for all parents of children who attend Shirlee Green Preschool at Congregation Shaare Emeth (SGP). PAC provides support for the preschool through planning events and providing funds for many things; to helping to create a sense of community among its families. Parents are encouraged to participate in ways that are meaningful to them.

PAC enrichment for Shirlee Green Preschool

*VIP/Grandparents’ Night – an evening where children and their guests enjoyed dinner and dessert, made mitzvah crafts, petting zoo, storytelling and yoga. Families also purchased and donated Scholastic books as tzedakah.

*Chanukah – a fun filled party with crafts, games and latkes. Many parents and other family members of SGP children volunteered to make the party successful.

*Pancakes and Pajamas – Our children’s event was chaired by Erin Seltzer, Jen Barton and other parent volunteers. There was a craft area, storyteller, Ms. Holly sang with children, and raffle baskets were made by classes, and there was an auction for special teacher events. This event raised approximately $1500.

*Challot – Melina Rilo gladly organized the SGP challah for Shabbat and SGP families. PAC profits on each challah ordered from Bread Smith.

*Square 1 Art Fundraiser – The children created beautiful artwork that was printed on mugs, note cards and a variety of other products. Families had the opportunity to purchase their child’s artwork with a percentage of profits benefiting the preschool. PAC raised $300.

*Scholastic Book Fair – Ashley Katcher made our book fair a success raising $2,470.

PAC uses donations to enhance SGP and provides extra items that are not included in the preschool’s budget and donates back to Congregation Shaare Emeth. Donations also provide teachers’ gifts by requesting a donation from families to cover the cost of two $25 gift cards to each of the approximately 40 staff members.

Finally, thank you to all the parents who invested time and energy into the Parent Advisory Council. PAC is a great opportunity to socialize while improving and enhancing SGP.
Religious School Liessa - Alperin, Staff Liaison

Shaare Emeth Religious School has had another amazing year! The faculty at Shaare Emeth Religious School is like none other with an incredibly dedicated and caring group of educators. This was the second year that our Clergy created and facilitated a two-year Confirmation program. It has proven to be highly successful!

Whether the student is in preschool or is a preteen, we at Shaare Emeth continue to provide an innovative Jewish education for our youth. Shaare Emeth continues to be at the forefront of Jewish education. We are proud to be the only congregation in St. Louis providing our innovative engaging, and integrated approach to Jewish education in our 3-6th grade program.

I will be leaving Shaare Emeth after an amazing 13 years. It has been a true honor to be a part of this incredible school and synagogue. Rabbi Lori Levine will be joining the staff of Shaare Emeth as the Rabbi/Educator in July. Shaare Emeth looks forward to continuing to provide the BEST program to our students and their families.

Simchat Shabbat - Cantor Seth Warner

This year our congregation explored a new worship initiative called Simchat Shabbat. (Simchat means celebration.) On the first Friday of each month, the focus of our Friday evening service is different than other weeks. The music of the service includes cantor, song leader with guitar, piano and drums and has an upbeat, folk rock feel. Children of Religious School age are encouraged to come a few minutes early and learn the opening song. A Shaare Emeth family is asked to briefly describe their feelings of gratefulness during the service. After receiving a birthday blessing for the month, the students participate in an age-appropriate Torah study and song session in the B’nai El Chapel while the adults engage in a sermon in the Stiffman Sanctuary. Simchat Shabbat is invigorating and celebratory and seeks to being an innovative worship model to our diverse population.

JEWISH LIFE AND LEARNING

Jewish Life and Learning - Debbie Bram, Staff Liaison

The mission statement at Congregation Shaare Emeth states that we are a compassionate and inclusive community that makes Judaism relevant, meaningful and joyful. As the Director of Jewish Life and Learning at Shaare Emeth, I am honored to guide this work with the following committees to achieve our mission:

- Adult Learning
- Baby Boomer Initiative
- Caring Team
- Holiday
- Celebrations
- Morning at the Movies
- Seniors
- Tzedek
- Wise Aging
Adult Education/Learning - Michael Sherberg

Since its inception the committee has experimented with a variety of learning formats, and we have learned a great deal from our successes and not-so-successes. We count the Unscrolled series as one of our significant hits, and we hope to repeat it in the future. This series involved six events in which lay and clergy led discussions of the six scrolls of the Hebrew Bible (Ecclesiastes, Esther, etc.). The idea came in response to requests from the Torah Study community that the congregation expand its Bible learning opportunities beyond the yearly cycle of the Five Books. In like manner, discussions are ongoing about introductory Talmud classes. We have also fielded suggestions for some other classes that we believe will offer broad appeal for congregants, including a series of classes focusing on Jewish genealogical research, and another series that would use Adam Kirsch’s *The People and the Books* to introduce learners to some of the seminal texts of Judaism.

Other initiatives have turned out to have less appeal, and we have evaluated them as well in an effort to further understand what sort of adult learning experiences will appeal to congregants. At the same time we have supported events that are part of the regular congregational calendar: the Deutsch Scholar-in-Residence Weekend, the Stiffman Lecture, and the new MakomSTL project. MakomSTL is a rabbinic initiative that provides a framework for ongoing adult learning at the congregation. It includes short-term (three- to six-week) classes as well as long-term courses (Adult Hebrew). In response to the development of MakomSTL, the committee has undertaken (1) a new survey to better define adult learning interests in the congregation; (2) to dialogue with the clergy to better define its role under the umbrella of MakomSTL. We hope that both initiatives will deliver clarity about future directions for learning, and the role the committee can play in fostering that learning.

Our group includes Richard Cohen, Bob Taxman, Ilene Brooks Scharnhorst, Suzi Bayne, and Vicki Platke, and the tireless Debbie Bram, our Director of Jewish Life and Learning.

Finally, the committee suffered a terrible blow late in December, when our wonderful member Carol Wolf passed away suddenly. Carol was a mainstay of the committee, as she was of every group she joined, and we miss her terribly. We have talked about ways to honor her memory and we hope to develop some programming in the future.

Baby Boomer Initiative- Marcia Feit

Our Baby Boomer initiative is part of a Community of Practice (CoP) of the Reform Movement. Congregation Shaare Emeth is one of 15 congregations chosen to participate in this project. This past year we completed the following:

- Successful completion of our work with the Community of Practice.
- Successful completion of a listening campaign to gather information about the interests and needs of the baby boomers who belong to our congregation.
- Creation of a committee to work on the first program
- Highly successful first program celebrating the first night of Chanukah at Temple with music from the 60's and 70's, delicious food, lighting of the chanukiah, teaching from Rabbi Bennett about the text base for the ark in the sanctuary and tours of the sanctuary. At the end of the program, we asked people who are interested in helping plan future programs to be in contact with either Marcia or Debbie.

Since that first event, our committee has grown, and we are currently working on planning 3-4 events for the coming year. The next event will be June 13: Munchies, Movie and More.

Committee: Lorry Blath, Ron and Betsy Cytron, Bill and Lynn Elliot, Kristi Gallup, Larry and Julia Mendelow, and Vicki Platke. Staff Liaison is Debbie Bram.
Caring Committee - Bob Sparks
The Caring Committee exists to provide comfort and caring to members of Congregation Shaare Emeth who might otherwise feel overlooked and alone.

We send notes to members who are ill. We provide them with homemade matzah ball soup and challah to cheer them up. (And we made matzah ball soup during flu season this year for the preschool teachers to let them know we hoped they stayed healthy.) We attend Shiva for members who have lost loved ones and provide booklets that we hope will provide comfort to the bereaved. We provide care packages to elderly congregants who are housebound and/or staying in assisted living facilities during the High Holiday and Purim periods. This year we set up a booth at the 150th anniversary picnic and the Purim carnival to ask congregants to help in the distribution of packages, and many congregants stepped up to help with the deliveries.

We have just begun to explore how we might serve another part of the congregational community – people who are enthusiastic members of Shaare Emeth, but who, as newer members, don’t know many of their fellow congregants.

Debbie Bram advises the Caring Committee. Eunice Reichman, the chair of the committee until her Board of Directors term expired last year, has continued to be an active co-chair of the Caring Committee. Other active members include:

- Brenda Baron
- Allen Brockman
- Susie Frank
- Ann Gottesman
- Barbara Kramer
- Alice Ludmer
- John Reichman
- Marsha Rothman
- Sheri Seigel
- David Victor
- Suzanne Bierman
- Ronnie Brockman
- Jessica Goltzman
- Patty Kaplan
- Linda Levin
- Marcia Moskowitz
- Eunice Reichman
- Linda Sandmel
- Barbara Victor
- Sharon Weissman

Senior Programming - Debbie Bram
Congregation Shaare Emeth, Temple Israel and United Hebrew are fortunate to have joined together for both our monthly Senior Lunches as well as our quarterly “Seniors on the Move” programs. Both programs are funded by a grant from The Nathan Kahn-Ernestine Kahn-Charles Kahn Foundation of Congregation Temple Israel. The monthly lunches are also funded by The Women’s Auxiliary Foundation for the Jewish Aged. Since joining together, our numbers for the lunches and “Seniors on the Move” have increased dramatically. Our average lunch participation was 70 people and now is 180 or more. Each of the four programs for Seniors on the Move have sold out.

Our Senior Lunches are planned by a steering committee made up of volunteers from all three congregations and the three professionals as well: Lisa Hirshberg (Temple Israel), Cori Neidenberg (United Hebrew Congregation) and Debbie Bram (Congregation Shaare Emeth). We have enjoyed both concerts and lectures this past year covering topics from sports to the Holocaust.
Seniors on the Move - Debbie Bram
Seniors on the Move trips this past year:
Tri-Faith Tour and lunch. Tours of The Hindu Temple, Islamic Foundation and St. Raymond’s church with lunch at the church.
Lincoln Museum tour, speaker and lunch in Springfield, Illinois.
Coffee concert at the Sheldon with lunch.
Becky Thatcher Riverboat tour and lunch.
We are already planning our trips for this next year which we hope will include tours of the Art Museum, the Big House Penitentiary in Jefferson, Missouri, the Federal Reserve Museum and a concert at the Sheldon.

Holiday Celebrations - Debbie Bram
In our mission and vision, it states, “We honor the holiness that surrounds us at every moment of our lives, through meaningful rituals and ceremonies, moments of worship and prayer, and joyful Shabbat and Jewish holiday celebrations.” Our Jewish calendar year began with preparing for Elul. We were all inspired during the High Holy Days as we returned to our new Stiffman Sanctuary. Sukkot was celebrated at the Butterfly House and on Simchat Torah we were able to march proudly in our newly renovated Simcha center. This Chanukah we consecrated our newest students and enjoyed music from Noah Aronson and our own Chanukah Band followed by dinner with brisket being made by Hans and Marcia Oberdorfer. Our annual Purim Carnival returned and Patrick Siler wrote and produced Queen Esther’s Purim. An intergenerational group enjoyed Breaking Free: A 21st Century Seder with Rick Recht. Our congregation hosted the community-wide celebration of Israel’s 70th birthday.

We hope you will all join us for West County Tikkun Leil Shavuot: “One Heart…Many Rooms” on Saturday May 19 at 7 p.m. at Congregation Bnai Amoona.
COMMUNITY
Archives Committee - Brenda Baron, Chair
Mission: To organize and categorize the history of Congregation Shaare Emeth including staff, events, congregants, art and clergy

The Archives role is collecting data that relates to Shaare Emeth and the St. Louis Jewish Community.

The Archives was visited frequently by Rabbi Jeffrey Stiffman, Rosalie Stein, Rabbi James Bennett and Sue Matlof who were preparing for the 150th anniversary celebration. They used historical pictures and information about The Temple, Rabbis and Board Members.

All history in regard to all anniversary celebrations is now stored in one box.

Camp Emeth - Jodi Miller
At Camp Emeth, campers of all ages have the opportunity to learn new skills, make new friends and enjoy traditional and innovative camp activities. Our goal is to provide a safe, nurturing camp environment where children can learn about their world, discover their own strengths and feel connected to our community in the context of Reform Judaism.

The 2017 camp season continued to provide campers with a well-rounded curriculum that included general camp activities, such as swimming, sports, arts and crafts, and music. The swimming program is under the supervision of YMCA of Chesterfield and includes both specialized instruction and free swim. Once again we outsourced many of our weekly chuggim offerings and were able to keep the afternoon choice time creative and diverse. We applied for the Jewish Federation’s Mini-Inclusion Grant and received funding in the amount of $4,000 to hire a full time Inclusion Specialist. The Inclusion Specialist collaborated with parents who had children with diverse learning needs prior to camp and created an ICP (Individualized Camper Plan). The ICP guided protocol for working with each of the campers who had one and provided the communication framework between the Inclusion Specialist and the parents. We have added the Inclusion Specialist salary to our 2018 camp budget.
The activities are complimented with twice weekly Shiurim that include age-appropriate, hands-on activities related to the camp’s Jewish theme for the summer—which in 2017 was “welcome”.

Summer 2017 enrollment was strong, many age groups were at maximum enrollment for one or more weeks. We had 37 campers that were attending Camp Emeth for the first time and 15 campers added weeks to their original enrollments.

Camp Micah at Shirlee Green Preschool - Kayla Ellis

The theme for Camp Micah 2017 was Disney Movies. We explored animals, toys, super heroes, foods, gardening, science, space, and transportation all through the help of some of our favorite Disney movies!

Camp started May 22, 2017 and went through August 15, 2017, Monday-Friday 7 a.m.–6 p.m.

There were 96 children in attendance at Camp Micah for Summer 2017:

- 11 K’tanim (0-1 years old)
- 15 Kofim (1-2 years old)
- 18 Dubim (2-3 years old)
- 25 Zebrot (3-4 years old)
- 27 Pilim (4-5 years old)

Mental Health Initiative - Rabbi Zinn, Staff Liaison; Dr. Dan Weinstein, Chair

Shaare Emeth’s Mental Health Initiative strives to create a community which is perceived by all as a safe place that supports people with mental illnesses, their families and loved ones. We work to educate parents and young people about mental health and wellness, connect them with available resources, and offer social and spiritual support for those struggling with mental illness, their families and loved ones. This year the steering committee identified two areas of focus which will guide our work moving forward: developing educational opportunities for the entire community and providing opportunities to provide spiritual and social support to individuals with mental illness and their loved ones.
The Men of Shaare Emeth operates as an Auxiliary of Congregation Shaare Emeth, providing the men of Shaare Emeth an opportunity to lend a helping hand to the Temple, its congregants and the Jewish Community at large. MOSHE also provides the Men of Shaare Emeth a chance to develop camaraderie and fellowship. We have been very active over the last year with various social activities, community outreach and donating our time and monies collected to help Shaare Emeth.

MOSHE re-kindled its operation and enhancement of the “Kibitz Café,” our pop up breakfast café. It has served as our main fundraiser and has given us the means to help fund gifts for life cycle, B’nai Mitzvah, Confirmation and consecration occasions. Kibitz Café is serving over 700 guests per full school year and our audience continues to grow. Though Kibitz Café went on hiatus during construction on the auditorium and sanctuary we are back, full steam ahead.

Funds have also been contributed to donate a sponsorship of the Congregation’s 150th anniversary, sponsor a dinner at Camp Rainbow and for Ginger Bread House kits for pediatric patients at Ranken Jordan Pediatric Hospital. MOSHE held many social functions over the past year which included, SLU Billiken Basketball, a comedy night and dueling piano bar nights in Westport. We continued our tradition of sponsoring, preparing and serving a pancake breakfast for the families of the Shirlee Green Preschool.

MOSHE has lent a hand at the Covenant Place on several occasions. We’ve worked at meals at Covenant Café where MOSHE prepares a hot meal, serves it and provides musical entertainment. MOSHE spent an evening, for a third year in a row, at the Ranken Jordan Pediatric Hospital assisting patients building and decorating Ginger Bread Houses. MOSHE provides 100% of the kitchen help for the Purim Carnival and has provided significant support for the Congregation’s Channukah Dinner. Members have also selflessly contributed time and a significant sponsorship to support Camp Rainbow by preparing and serving meals to kids with cancer. MOSHE has also been very generous with its funds and has given to various agencies and efforts. Moshe has also supported Share Emeth Trivia “Fun” Raiser evening through its sponsorship of a round of trivia and by contributing free meals for Kibitz Café.

MOSHE has provided strong support for the “Shaare the Vision” campaign. As a group, MOSHE has committed a significant amount and has also been able to gain firm commitments from all of MOSHE’s officers’ families and many of its members. We are continuing to work to support this important campaign.

MOSHE continues to welcome incoming new members to our congregation and is always looking for any male member over the age of 18 to get involved in our mission: looking for some quality male bonding time.
**Young Adults - Rabbi Jonah Zinn, Staff Liaison**

Shaare Emeth builds community for every stage of life. Recognizing the diverse needs of young adults in their 20s and 30s, our program strives to create a range of opportunities that address the spiritual, religious and social needs of this population. Two of our major initiatives for young adults include: B’yacha and Community Building for Couples.

**B’Yachad**

Shaare Emeth continues to co-sponsor the B’Yachad Shabbat Experience for young adults this year with CRC on a quarterly basis. These evenings include an interactive and participatory peer-led service and communal dinner. B’Yachad meets in creative venues throughout St. Louis that are located in areas popular with young adults.

**Community Building for Couples**

Another initiative of our young adult program strives to help couples in their 20s and 30s connect and build community. The program is for newcomers and not so newcomers, couples with young children and those without children, who are looking to connect with other couples in a similar stage of life. This year this program sponsored programs including a BBQ, Sukkot Open House, Chanukah Event and The Dapper Doughnut and Pre-Passover event with an immigrant family from the International Institute. We look forward to continuing to expand this initiative in the year ahead.

**Youth Program - Rabbi Jonah Zinn, Staff Liaison**

Our youth program has just concluded another successful year. Through semi-monthly lounge nights, weekend programs, and travel to regional events, SETYG welcomed many new teens into SETYG and worked to build a strong community with our existing members. In addition to a year of meaningful and fun filled programs, SETYG also raised $1000s this year for Camp Rainbow, our youth group Tzedakah project.

We also achieved considerable success with programs for younger children. NFTY 678, Shaare Emeth’s youth program for grades 6, 7 & 8, attracted hundreds of teens to events in partnership with other St. Louis Reform Congregations and SE 45 had another great year of fun and community building for grades 4 and 5. These programs both help strengthen the bonds our children share and provides an important entry point to our high school youth program.

Special thanks to the outgoing SETYG Board for an excellent year.

President: Meghan Platke  
Programming Vice President (PVP): Aerin Leigh Lammers & Amalia Newman  
Social Action Vice President (SAVP): Max Baker & Lauren Bayne  
Religious and Cultural Vice President (RCVP): Macey Goldstein & Michael Siler  
Membership Vice President (MVP): Lauren Mishkin, Daniel Segall, Daniel Shabsin, & Jake Sher  
Communications Vice President (CVP): Jessica Goldberg, Malone Hanis, & Danielle Platke  
Special Projects Coordinator (SPC): Matthew Bloom & Liam Dougan

We also commend two of our youth for an excellent year as NFTY Missouri Valley Regional officers: Daniel Pomerantz, who served as elected NFTY Missouri Valley Regional President, and Julian Albright, NFTY Missouri Valley’s SLIID (St. Louis, Illinois, Iowa District) who served as Membership Vice President.
SOCIAL JUSTICE
Israel - Rabbi Bennett and Debbie Bram

Our Congregation this year hosted two important conversations about Israel. The first was with Yossi Klein Halevi who is a senior fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. The second conversation was with Jeremy Ben Ami, the President of JStreet. We were also host to the community-wide Yom Ha’atzmaut celebration as well.

Justice at the Center—Rabbi Andrea Goldstein, Staff Liaison
Bill Remis and Stefanie Greenberg, co-chairs

Shaare Emeth’s Justice at the Center initiative is a congregation-based model of community organizing that aims to address the root causes of injustice. It begins with relationship-building within our Shaare Emeth community. Justice at the Center is also a congregation-based community organizing effort, which is different than direct service. Through community organizing we are able to get at the systemic root of injustice, and ensure that there are systems in place to ease suffering and bring about greater equity and opportunity for people long-term. It consists of 4 phases: building a core team, holding a listening campaign, researching areas for action, and the final action and evaluation.

Justice at the Center was created from a Religious Action Center Community of Practice which assists congregations to engage in social justice issues through a congregational-based model of community organizing. Rabbi Andrea Goldstein, Rabbi Jim Bennett, Debbie Bram, Stefanie Greenberg, and Bill Remis attended a conference on social justice work at the RAC in Washington, D.C. as part of this training. Andrea, Stefanie and Bill also attend monthly webinars facilitated by the RAC team to train in the details of this initiative. Joy Freidman at the RAC is our congregation’s mentor throughout this process.

Our core team consists of 10 members: Debra Baker, Holly Bernstein, Debbie Bram, Ronnie Brockman, Marianne Chervitz, Amy Hammerman, Cindy Heymann, Hilary Hinz, Ted Houser, and Kevin Spector. This team has been meeting monthly since April 2017.

Our Second phase of the project was to conduct a listening campaign. In this phase of the initiative members sit face-to-face in house meetings listening to one another’s stories about the challenges we face, the injustices we see in our community, and our desire to work toward change. These stories are the building blocks of this initiative as they will help us determine which social justice issue we will tackle first. We have completed our Justice at the Center House Meeting Campaign which was announced at the High Holy Days 2017 and completed in the end of January 2018.

We trained 36 congregation members to facilitate these House Meetings. Our RAC mentor, Joy Freidman traveled to St. Louis to assist in the training. The following members are our facilitators. Debra Baker, David Gerst, Ted Houser, Steve Masaki, Erin Seltzer, Jodi Miller, Holly Bernstein, Vince DeBlasi, Brett Goldstein, Marcia Jaffe, Andrea Newstead, Kevin Seltzer, Debbie Bram, Eve Dyson, Ron Gross, Sharon Jick, Melissa Lynn Pomerantz, Brian Sher, Ronnie Brockman, Ann Mayer Eisen, Amy Hammerman, Jackie Kleban, Andy Pomerantz, Cheri Winchell, Laurie Burststein, Harvey Ferdman, Cindy Heymann, Sara Lander, Leah Rubin, Amy Worth, Marianne Chervitz, Amy Gallant, Hilary Hinz, Susie Levinson, Mark Scissors, Kathy Zigler
During our House Meeting Campaign, we had over 35 congregation members host meetings in their homes for other members to share their stories. Two facilitators were present to run each house meeting. The two questions posed for the stories were as follows:

Tell a personal story about a time you experienced the brokenness in the world.
Tell a personal story about a time you experienced the world as it should be.

We heard over 360 stories. From the brokenness stories, we deduced the current social justice issues that interest our congregants. They are as follows:

![Social Justice Issues](chart)

On April 21, 2018, we held a celebration for the end of the House Meeting campaign and to report the above findings to the congregation. We had over 100 congregants attend the celebration.

We are currently in the third phase of the community organizing process, Issue Selection. We will be doing research in the community to find advocacy groups that we can partner with to organize an action that aligns with our issues and values. The research will continue throughout the summer and we plan to announce the action during the next High Holy Days.
Mindfulness Center-Rabbi Goldstein

On April 28, 2018, Shaare Emeth officially opened the doors to the Jewish Mindfulness Center of St. Louis, hosting over 75 people at its dedication and open house. The Jewish Mindfulness Center is located off the north lobby of Shaare Emeth and will offer classes, workshops and an open space for meditation for the entire St. Louis community. In 2018, the JMC has already hosted one Wise Aging cohort, a 6-week Introduction to Jewish Mindfulness Meditation class, and a 4-week meditation class focusing on compassion and loving-kindness. In the first four months of 2018, over 50 people have registered for classes through the JMC. The JMC also sponsored a 50 Day Meditation and Middot Challenge where subscribers receive weekly emails and voice-recordings that help them begin or strengthen their meditation practice. The Challenge has over 100 subscribers. Rabbi Andrea Goldstein directs the Jewish Mindfulness Center of St. Louis. Teachers at the JMC will include Debbie Bram, Eve Dyson, Carole Lander, David Lander, Sam Silverstein and Sharon Weissman.

Wise Aging - Debbie Bram

Wise Aging is a program through the Jewish Mindfulness Center of St. Louis. Sharon Weissman and Debbie Bram are the co-leaders of this 12-session program which enables participants to discover the possibilities for living the years ahead with joy, resilience and spirit. Wise Aging combines Jewish texts and practices with poetry, experiential exercises, secular writings, and heartfelt dialogue, to challenge participants to develop their own sense of what it means to “number their days” and “grow a heart of wisdom.” Sharon and Debbie are beginning their sixth group.

Tzedek - Sue Picus and Bill Remis, co-chairs; Rabbi Andrea Goldstein and Debbie Bram, Clergy and Staff Liaison

This year the Tzedek Committee continued to pursue our congregational interest in the issues of Hunger and Child Welfare. We maintained our on-going projects and became involved in new programs as well.

New Initiatives and Awards

* Shaare Emeth received the Fain Social Justice Award at the URJ Biennial for our work with the International Institute.

* Representation on the new Jewish Coalition for New Americans committee (JCNA) of the JCRC. Our member Stan Shanker is the chair.

* With JCNA and 4 reform congregations created and staffed a month long summer day camp for children at the International Institute.

* Participated in the community program in the summer of 2017 focusing on hunger with the Mazon Truck.

* Included a Tzedek piece with each of the 150th anniversary celebrations; Holly Bernstein coordinated.
* Completed a Listening Campaign with our Moving Justice to the Center initiative. A sub-committee, chaired by Bill Remis and Stefanie Greenberg coordinated this important advocacy program, which included 36 trained facilitators and met with 375 congregants.

*Began to explore the Sanctuary Movement by hosting educational events for our congregation and committee members. Provided support to Christ Church UCC in their sanctuary efforts.

*Made a donation to Temple Beth Shalom in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

*Participated as a Congregation in the March for Our Lives demonstration in St. Louis.

*Created and hosted a Freedom Seder with Ward Chapel AME in April 2018.

*Encouraged letter writing and calling to local and national officials on a variety of topics through Shaare Mail, special emails and Friday night services.

On-Going Programs and Projects
* Participated as a Congregation in the Annual Pride Parade in June 2017.
* Held a High Holiday Food Drive where we collected food and money to support the St. Louis Food Bank and the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry.
* Organized Holiday collections for students at Oak Hill Elementary and with Parkway UCC collected for 2 new American Families at the International Institute.
* Participated as a Congregation in the Annual Jewish/Muslim day of service in December 2017.
* Continued to host homeless women and children from Room at the Inn on a monthly basis. Ronnie Brockman coordinates.
* Provided and served dinner once a month to homeless men at St. Peter and Paul’s shelter. Ted & Jen Houser coordinate.
* Continued our partnership with Oak Hill Elementary School in the St. Louis City Public School District by providing weekly tutors from our Congregation. Lorry Blath coordinates.
* Continued our 3 weekly pick-ups of Bread Co. donations that are delivered to the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry. Stefanie Greenberg coordinates.
* Continued our involvement with the International Institute of St. Louis welcoming refugees. In addition to the summer camp noted above congregants volunteer at the Institute and offered potluck lunches. Stan Shanker coordinates.
* Promoted education and advocacy through our monthly Social Justice Shabbat Speaker series.
* Promoted our Congregational tzedakah boxes, which continue to see increased donations. Donations went to the work that Rabbi Michal Ken Tor is doing in Israel for the IMPJ (Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism), Let’s Start, We Stories, Hartman-Elifelet Refugee Day Care Center in Israel
Our congregation is celebrating our 25th year being a homeless shelter for Room at the Inn. Room at the Inn provides immediate, temporary shelter to homeless women and families in the St. Louis region. In addition, Room at the Inn works with the clients to create an individualized plan back to self-sufficiency, including referrals to other human services agencies. They also provide guidance in job hunting, finding housing, meeting with social workers and encouraging their participants to find ways to be independent again.

Shaare Emeth hosts Room at the Inn on the First Monday evening of every month to Tuesday morning. The temple hosts 10 guests overnight from Room at the Inn. Each month we have up to 20 volunteers who give of their time in one of the following ways. In the last year, we have had our 5th graders and families and Bar/Bat Mitzvah students cook our meals and volunteer to serve and hang out with the children guests.

Tasks:
- Drive to and from the Room at the Inn site in Maryland Heights to Temple. (4:30 p.m. pick up at site or choose to drive at 6:30 a.m. to return guests back to the Site)
- Cook for dinner and/or breakfast. Bring food to temple, stay and serve, or drop off food.
- Welcome and hang out with our guests while they are at temple from 5-7 p.m. or 7-9 p.m. Talk with our guests or help entertain the children.
- Sleep at Temple from 8:30 p.m. – 7 a.m.

We are grateful for Barb Feldacker and Cindy Heymann who each oversee a part of the program each month.

If you want to get involved, please contact:
Barb Feldacker, bfeldacker@gmail.com – to cook, serve and hang with guests from 5-7 p.m.
Cindy Heymann, cindyhey@sbcglobal.net – to hang with our guests from 7-9 p.m.
Ronnie Brockman, ronnie@camprainbow.com – to drive or sleepover at temple
BUILDING AND GROUNDS
House - Robert Colton
In addition to wrapping up the Shaare the Vision renovation work, day-to-day maintenance has included painting, HVAC repairs, plumbing repairs and electrical work. Carpets have been routinely cleaned at breaks during the school year. Repairs have also been made to the roof over the 2001-2002 renovation areas.

Religious School Traffic Committee- Aaron Wahl, Chair
I am pleased to inform you that 2017-2018 Sunday School Traffic Duty has completed and was a success. Unless there is a desire to have someone else chair the committee I would be happy to do so while my kids are in Religious School. Please see my comments below and let me know if you have any other questions regarding this committee.

Technology – We used www.signupgenius.com again for volunteers to sign-up for a shift.

Religious School Staff and Parents – The staff were very helpful in sending out regular emails requesting people to sign-up for a shift. We did not get very many new people to help this year. I will make a flyer next year to be submitted to the incoming parents urging them to sign up.

Manual and Training – We sent out a simple manual with pictures. There were no issues with the cones each week.

Traffic Pattern – We had a great pattern; however, we requested and never received 1-2 signs stating, “One Way Traffic Drop Off At Ballas Entrance”. These would have been useful to keep people from coming into our one-way traffic area the wrong way on Sunday mornings.

Crosswalks – People have been getting better using the crosswalks. I did see at least twice people not paying attention, not using the cross walk, and crossing right in front of cars.

Shaare the Vision- Greg Yawitz, Chair
As you have hopefully witnessed for yourself, we have completed the renovation plans for Shaare the Vision. Aside from a few tune-up issues and adjustments everything went fairly smoothly and we were able to use our new sanctuary for the High Holy days last year. If you have not had a chance to see the renovated space, I hope you will make time to do so.

Our updated Stiffman Sanctuary, renovated Simcha Center (formerly the auditorium), new south lobby without any steps, new Memorial Room, our new south entrance with a covered canopy and the renovated B’nai El Chapel look great. Our audio and projection systems are state-of-the-art and we recently hosted a live video chat for the Jewish Community Relations Council where participants were able to interact in real time with David Makovsky who was in London.

New security cameras and access devices have been added along with a spectacular new Ark designed and built by Ian Gilula, a world-renowned glass artist who grew up at Shaare Emeth.
We hope you enjoy the new comfortable seating, barrier free access and overall design. The project was completed within two percent of the budget approved by the Board due to the hard work of the committee, our architects from TRi and our contractor ICS Construction.

Additional projects are planned for the future including refreshing the north parking lot, replacing the carpet in the Religious School wing, and more.

Shaare the Vision Committee Members: Marci Bluestone, Richard Cohen, Tod Greenberg, Rich Kramer, Mike Lefton, Joe Pereles, Aaron Rosen, Renee Silverstein. Josh Wallach
Staff Members: Rabbi Bennett, Rabbi Goldstein, Cantor Warner, Robert Colton, Rosalie Stein Committee Chair: Greg Yawitz

Technology -Ben April, Chair
This year the operating committee approved a full technology audit. Through this audit there have been significant changes that have occurred. We have changed our WiFi configuration in order to provide a network for guests, staff, monitors and security. This new system has been flawless.

We are currently working on a three year replacement plan for computers. At this time we are meeting with prospective vendors, and acquiring bids in order to take all of our servers onto the cloud.

Beginning in January 2018, our technology service contract changed to EMS networks.

Traffic and Safety -Rick Gans, Chair Neil Elias, Assistant Chair
The Shaare Emeth Traffic Committee was formed in 1994 and has been charged with creating and implementing plans for the safety of members on Temple grounds during the High Holidays. This includes traffic and pedestrian flow during these busy times. The Committee coordinates and works with police to ensure the well-being of Temple members and visitors.

This past year, the Committee was tasked with the challenge of putting together a strategic plan that included only one fully useable entrance on Rosh Hashanah and an entirely different and new plan on Yom Kippur when both entrances were open and useable. The traffic flow proved to be smoother than expected thanks to the cooperation and patience of Temple members and extra hours put in by Committee members. The permanent addition of 100 parking spaces on Temple grounds means a little more work for Traffic Committee members, but it also means a greater convenience now that more vehicles can park right at Temple and fewer members have to use off-site parking.

Committee Members:
MEMBERSHIP

Membership – Rosalie Stein

Member families at Shaare Emeth are at a current total of 1617. There were 45 new members and 72 dearly departed members since last year.

This year was an amazing year honoring the 150th celebration! It started off with a bang as MOSHE hosted a tremendous family picnic celebration in September! The Shabbat celebration and Gala showcased our 150 year history, reestablishing that we are still helping members to find Jewish life meaningful and relevant. Spring Trivia Night was an easy way to have fun at our Temple and enjoy the new space that the Shaare the Vision renovation developed. The 150th celebrations culminated with a beautiful musical, Rejoice! A Musical Celebration! What a great way to wrap up a year long celebration!! Now, onto the next 150 years!

Human Resources – Randy Brodsky, Chairperson

Members of the Committee spent time last fall reviewing the temple employee medical plan for the annual renewal. As costs continued to rise across the healthcare industry, we were able to keep costs down while implementing minor changes in the employee healthcare coverage.

Members of the HR Committee participated in interviews for the Rabbi Educator and the Communications Director.

The HR Committee developed training materials and provided in-person sessions with all the staff on how to write effective business and developmental goals. Each member of the Clergy, and full-time staff have now written goals for themselves that will help support their respective departments as well as the congregation as a whole. An all-staff meeting was held where everyone shared their goals so they could see how they can support each other and work together in certain areas. At the request of the Board, everyone has included a communications goal with the intent of improving communications within the staff, to the congregants and to the community.

Committee Members

Randy Brodsky (Chair) Eric Feinstein
Gary Glassman Rabbi Andrea Goldstein
Norman Handshear Mike Lefton
Ken Levine Rachel Pereles
Eunice Reichman Renee Silverstein
Bonnie Solomon Rosalie Stein
150th Celebration—Sue Matlof, Chair

This year marked the celebration of Congregation Shaare Emeth’s 150th year serving the St. Louis Jewish community since 1867. And celebrate we did!

The first event, a congregational picnic on the first day of religious school, was such a success with people of all ages enjoying a beautiful fall day. Jen and Irl Scissors, and Mark and Lee Scissors planned a fun event with music and activities while MOSHE, under the leadership of Shawn Rimerman, provided a delicious picnic lunch.

November 3 & 4, 2017 was our fabulous 150th celebration weekend.

The 150th Anniversary Shabbat celebrated the past, but moved us into the future as we Reconsecrated the Stiffman Sanctuary. The Torahs returned to our new ark designed by Ian Gilula. Ronnie Brockman and Kim Lieberman along with their committee planned a delicious “small plate” Taste of Shabbat preceding the service. Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union of Reform Judaism spoke to a crowd of 600.

The following evening Teri Brandvein and Ann Sheinbein with their committee put together a fabulous Gala evening in the newly renovated lobby and Simcha Center. 280 guests enjoyed cocktails, appetizers and sit down dinner. Congregation Shaare Emeth was our Gala Honoree!

Marian Steen’s painting following the history of our congregation graces the lobby. This beautiful work of art has many hidden treasures representing the journey of our congregation.


Thanks to 52 sponsors of the 150th Celebration we were able to provide many Congregation Shaare Emeth events to our members at no cost or a nominal amount. It has been my privilege to chair this celebration. Shaare Emeth is ready for the next 150 years!
FINANCIAL

Investment Committee—John Corn, Chair

Members of the Committee are: Randy Brodsky; John Corn; Chairperson; Bill Elliot; Mark Gubernik; Joy Liss; Bill Livingston; Bert Schweizer III; Derry Seldin; Alan Schaffer; Renee Silverstein; Andy Speller; Rosalie Stein; and Doug Weber.

In 2017, equity markets were up across the globe, with US stocks returning 21.8%, developed international markets up 25.7% and emerging markets up 37.5%. Despite predictions that rates were sure to rise in 2017, the yield on the 10-year Treasury closed the year at 2.41%, down from 2.44% on 12/31/2016.

While it is always hard, if not impossible, to predict what markets will do, we believe that capital markets will provide a fair return over the long term for the risk that investors are willing to take. Our job as Fiduciaries for the Temple’s Endowments is to avoid this temptation and stick to our well-thought, long-term plan. Thus, we will continue to hold a well-diversified portfolio, managed in accordance with our Investment Policy, designed to not only help us achieve our financial goals, but also stay the course and rebalance as needed.

The Investment Committee continues to meet quarterly to review the philosophy for managing the Temple’s funds and to review the performance of the investments. As of December 31, 2017 the portfolio value was $4,153,439 and managed as follows:

$2,877,182 was managed by Plancorp of St. Louis, Missouri and invested in globally-diversified, passively-managed mutual funds. The inception date of Plancorp’s management was June 8, 2006. The time-weighted return of the portfolio was +12.79% in calendar year 2017. The inception (June 8, 2006) to December 31, 2017 annualized time weighted rate of return net of fees was +5.96%.

$1,276,257 was managed by UMB Bank of St. Louis, Missouri and invested in high-quality bonds and CDs. The inception date of UMB Bank’s management was September 14, 2006. The inception to December 31, 2017 rate of return is not available; however the weighted-average yield of the bond portfolio was +2.05% as of December 31, 2017.

In February, the Board approved the Investment Committee’s recommendation to move all of the assets to a new Investment Manager, TIAA-CREF. The current Investment Policy provides for an allocation of 65% Equities/Alternatives and 35% Fixed Income/Cash.
Treasurer’s Report-Andy Speller, Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for the budget process, fiscal policies, and the financial affairs of the congregation. He is assisted by the Associate Treasurer and reports to the Operating Committee and/or the Board of Trustees.

During 2017 the congregation completed the construction on the west side expansion. The Shaare the Vision Capital and Endowment campaign raised $13 million in commitments. As of December 31, 2017 we have seen cumulative payments by members of $8.3 million. As a result the Congregation was able to complete the building renovation without having to borrow on our construction line of credit. Thanks to increased income from Membership Responsibility, Preschool and Camp, the Congregation’s total deficit for 2017 of ($196,232) showed significant improvement from both 2015 and 2016 actual deficit amounts.

The Board of Trustees analyzes the congregation’s operation in two distinct areas: Fee for Service operations (that includes Preschool and Camp Emeth) and Non-Fee for Service that includes all other area’s of the Congregation’s operation.

Fee for Service income for 2017 was $1,271,182, up 22% year-over-year and up 18% vs. 2017 budget. Fee for Service expenses for 2016 was $1,083,142, up 14% year-over-year and up 10% vs. 2017 budget. Larger enrollment at both Preschool and Camp during 2017 contributed to better than expected results.

Non-Fee for Service income for 2017 was $2,812,056, flat year-over-year and down 5% vs. 2017 budget. Non-Fee for Service expenses for 2017 was $3,196,328, up 2% year-over-year and down 1% vs. 2017 budget. Better collection of past due Membership Responsibility was offset by lower Fund Raising and Religious School tuition that contributed to lower than expected income. However strong expense control, primarily due to lower personnel expenses within Religious School and reduction in extra help for the building due to construction, was able to partially offset the lower income expectations vs. budget.

Shaare Emeth operates on a voluntary contribution model, and we do not turn away any member due to financial issues. We believe this philosophy is consistent with our Jewish values, and is one of the things that makes Shaare Emeth great. However, a voluntary membership philosophy requires a communal commitment to fulfilling our obligations. During 2017, the Congregation’s total membership was 1,620 families. Of these families 1,195 made Membership Responsibility payments. The average payment for these families was $1,549, significantly below our 2017 suggested contribution amount of $2,520. Far too many members who can meet our Membership Responsibility needs are not fulfilling their communal responsibility for the Congregation to meet its operating expenses.

The Board of Directors asked all members to consider raising their communal Membership Responsibility commitment to $2,595. We thank all those member families that have increased their commitment in 2018. If you have not increased your 2018 Membership Responsibility yet, there is still time, and we would like all those Members that can afford to increase their commitment to do so. Please feel free to contact our accounting department to make a change to your 2018 Membership Responsibility commitment.
In December of 2017, the Board of Trustees passed the 2018 Operational budget. Total income is budgeted to increase 4% year-over-year while total expenses are budgeted to increase 4% year-over-year to produce a deficit of ($209,632). Fee for Service income and expenses are budgeted to be flat year-over-year. Non-Fee for Service income is budgeted to increase 6% year-over-year driven by a 15% year-over-year increase in Membership Responsibility. The Operating Committee and Board of Trustees is focused on increasing the annual commitments from Membership Responsibility and will be executing on plans to achieve this goal during 2018. Non-Fee for Service expenses are budgeted to increase 6% year-over-year, primarily due to increased personnel and building and grounds costs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEE FOR SERVICE INCOME</th>
<th>% Change (17/16)</th>
<th>% Change (18/17)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$820,132</td>
<td>$845,003</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camp Emeth</td>
<td>$222,588</td>
<td>$228,592</td>
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<td>$1,042,720</td>
<td>$1,073,595</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
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<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$769,922</td>
<td>$801,610</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
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<td>Camp Emeth</td>
<td>$177,018</td>
<td>$181,491</td>
<td>-0.7%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
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<td>$946,939</td>
<td>$983,101</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
<td>-0.4%</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NON-FEE FOR SERVICE INCOME</th>
<th>% Change (17/16)</th>
<th>% Change (18/17)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Membership Responsibility</td>
<td>$1,867,908</td>
<td>$2,159,000</td>
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<td>Total Fundraising</td>
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<td>Religious School</td>
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<td>$248,913</td>
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<td>Use of Unrestricted Endowment</td>
<td>$48,915</td>
<td>$38,402</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALL OTHER</td>
<td>$89,458</td>
<td>$106,190</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$2,812,842</td>
<td>$2,958,641</td>
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| EXPENSES                   |                  |                  |                  |                  |      |
| Personnel                  | $2,142,334       | $2,131,003       | -3.7%            | -4.2%            | 7.8% |
| Building & Grounds         | $447,656         | $464,000         | 0.2%             | 3.8%             | 4.7% |
| Congregational & Programs  | $171,981         | $235,300         | 9.3%             | 49.6%            | -2.1%|
| Administration             | $194,892         | $192,005         | 13.1%            | 11.4%            | -1.5%|
| ALL OTHER                  | $191,308         | $204,659         | 0.3%             | 7.3%             | 2.3% |
|                            | $3,148,171       | $3,326,967       | -0.9%            | 1.5%             | 5.6% |

| TOTAL INCOME               | $3,855,562       | $4,032,236       | 1.3%             | 5.9%             | 3.9% |
| TOTAL EXPENSES             | $4,095,111       | $4,210,069       | 1.6%             | 4.5%             | 4.1% |
| NET CONTRIBUTION (DEFICIT) | ($239,548)       | ($177,833)       | 10.3%            | -18.1%           | 6.8% |
2017-2018 Operating Committee

Renee Silverstein President
Mike Lefton 1st Vice President
Richard Cohen Secretary
Andy Speller Treasurer
Doug Kolker Assoc. Treasurer
Dana DeBlasi Vice President
Beth Manlin Vice President
Bill Remis Vice President
Jill Solomon Vice President
Josh Wallach Vice President

2018-2019 Operating Committee

Mike Lefton President
Josh Wallach 1st Vice President
Rachel Pereles Secretary
Andy Speller Treasurer
Mark Gubernik Assoc. Treasurer
Randy Brodsky Vice President
Richard Cohen Vice President
Dana DeBlasi Vice President
Bill Remis Vice President
Jill Solomon Vice President
Renee Silverstein Immed. Past Pres.

Board of Trustees

Randy Brodsky Aaron Rosen
Marianne Chervitz Mark Rubin
Sandy Glassman Jenn Sagett
Tod Greenberg Irl Scissors
Mark Gubernik Michael Sherberg
Julie Lazarus Bonnie Solomon
Ken Levine Bob Sparks
Rachel Pereles Lisa Suffian
Melissa Lynn Pomerantz Dan Weinstein

Board of Trustees

David Goran Jenn Sagett
Tod Greenberg Erin Schreiber
Doug Kolker Irl Scissors
Julie Lazarus Michael Sherberg
Ken Levine Bonnie Solomon
Julia Mendelow Bob Sparks
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Aaron Rosen Aaron Wahl
Mark Rubin Dan Weinstein

Past Presidents

Ken Birenbaum
Harris Frank
Joy Liss
Harvey Schneider
Greg Yawitz
Robert A. Cohn
Michael Geigerman
Carl Moskowitz
Alice Schwartz
Patricia Croughan
Kenneth Kleban
Joe Pereles
Renee Silverstein
Charles Eisenkramer II
Sanford Lebman
Steve Rosen
Charles Werner
## Directors and Clergy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Rabbi James M. Bennett</td>
<td>Senior Rabbi</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jbennett@sestl.org">jbennett@sestl.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rabbi Andrea Goldstein</td>
<td>Rabbi</td>
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<td>Rabbi Jonah Zinn</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:jzinn@sestl.org">jzinn@sestl.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rabbi Jeffrey B. Stiffman</td>
<td>Rabbi Emeritus</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jstiffman@sestl.org">jstiffman@sestl.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cantor Seth Warner</td>
<td>Cantor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:swarner@sestl.org">swarner@sestl.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosalie Stein</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rstein@sestl.org">rstein@sestl.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debbie Bram</td>
<td>Director, Jewish Life &amp; Learning</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dbram@sestl.org">dbram@sestl.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ron Bergman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Colton</td>
<td>Director, Operations</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rcolton@sestl.org">rcolton@sestl.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Lucy</td>
<td>Director, Early Childhood Education</td>
<td><a href="mailto:klucy@sestl.org">klucy@sestl.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Liessa Alperin</td>
<td>Director, Religious School</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lalperin@sestl.org">lalperin@sestl.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jodi Miller</td>
<td>Director, Camp Emeth</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jimiller@sestl.org">jimiller@sestl.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Phone: 314-569-0010           Fax: 314-569-0271
The 148th Annual Dinner and Meeting of Congregation Shaare Emeth was called to order at 6:00 pm by President Renee Silverstein.

In her remarks, Renee alluded to this week’s double Torah portion, B’har- Bchukotai. She pointed out how the former’s reference to the Jubilee year coincides with our celebration of the 150th Anniversary of Shaare Emeth. She pointed out the progress that has been made in many areas of congregational life as we strive to walk, “according to My laws.”

Rabbi Bennett challenged the meeting attendees to ask how do we know if we are doing the right thing. He pointed out that while Shaare Emeth is thriving in many areas, we must focus on the needs of others as we have an obligation to care for those in need. He said that justice is our duty and building a better world is our responsibility. We need to devote our spirit, our money and our time to building a better world.

Greg Yawitz gave the 2018 Nominating Committee report providing for the following:

2017-2018 Operating Committee
(Nominated for One-Year Term)

OFFICERS
President- Renee Silverstein
1st Vice President- Mike Lefton
Secretary- Richard Cohen
Treasurer- Andy Speller
Assoc. Treasurer- Doug Kolker
Vice-President- Dana DeBlasi
Vice-President- Beth Manlin
Vice-President- Bill Remis
Vice-President- Jill Solomon
Vice-President- Josh Wallach

Immediate Past President- Greg Yawitz

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Nominated for Two-Year Term, 2017-2019
Sandy Glassman Michael Sherberg
Tod Greenberg Bonnie Solomon
Melissa Lynn Pomerantz Bob Sparks
Aaron Rosen Lisa Suffian
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Re-nominated for Two-Year Term, 2017-2019
Mark Gubernik
Ken Levine
Jenn Sagett

Returning Trustees, 2018-2019
Randy Brodsky
Marianne Chervitz
Julie Lazarus
Rachel Pereles
Mark Rubin
Irl Scissors
Dan Weinstein

Respectfully Submitted by the Nominating Committee: Evan Buxner, Sandy Glassman, Tod Greenberg, Joe Pereles, Sue Picus, Aaron Rosen, Jill Settler, Chair: Greg Yawitz.
Ex-Officio Members: Rabbi Jim Bennett; Jill Solomon, Rosalie Stein

A motion by Bob Cohn, seconded by Bill Livingston, to accept the Nominating Committee report was unanimously adopted.

The Clergy offered a blessing for the lay leadership which was followed by Renee introducing the staff members in attendance.

Josh Wallach reported that the Shaare the Vision Campaign will exceed its $9.5 million goal. He thanked Greg Yawitz for his tireless efforts on the construction phase and announced that Ian Gilula will be the artist for the new Ark.

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Cohen
Secretary
Help Temple earn while you Shop!
Our expanded Gift Card Program includes:

* Dierbergs, Shop ‘n Save, Whole Foods, iTunes, Starbucks, AMC Theaters, and Panera Bread Co.*

Gift cards are available in the temple office, by mail, and at many temple events.

Contact Stacy Lynn in the Temple office, 314-692-5343.

**Schnuck’s eScrip Program** - Pick up your card at Schnuck’s Courtesy Center, activate your card, and then use at checkout before you make your purchase.

Looking for the perfect gift for your graduate or teacher appreciation? Pick up SCRIP gift cards! You can use SCRIP to pick up dorm room essentials, treat your mom to a nice dinner out or say “thank you” to your teachers. They’ll love it! Available in the Shaare Emeth office.