# YEAR IN REVIEW 2018

2019 Annual Report

The 150th Annual Meeting of Congregation Shaare Emeth

MAY 22, 2019

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

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Membership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Preschool PAC</td>
<td>14 Archives</td>
<td>21 Membership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Early Childhood Engagement/Preschool</td>
<td>14 B’Yachad</td>
<td>21 Fundraising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Education/Religious School</td>
<td>14 Camp Emeth</td>
<td>21 Human Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 B’Nei Mitzvah Program</td>
<td>15 Camp Micah</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Simchat Shabbat</td>
<td>15 Caring Committee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16 Community Building for Couples</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jewish Life and Learning</strong></td>
<td>16 KeSHER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Adult Education</td>
<td>16 Mental Health Initiative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Baby Boomer</td>
<td>17 MOSHE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Makom STL</td>
<td>17 Young Adults</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Senior Programming</td>
<td>18 Youth Program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Seniors on the Move</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Holiday Celebrations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social Justice</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Supplemental</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Israel Engagement</td>
<td></td>
<td>24 Operating Committee, Board of Trustees, and Past Presidents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Justice at the Center</td>
<td></td>
<td>25 Directors and Clergy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Mindfulness Center</td>
<td></td>
<td>26 2019 Nominating Committee Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Wise Aging</td>
<td></td>
<td>27 Annual Meeting Minutes May 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Tzedek</td>
<td>19 House</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 New Americans</td>
<td>19 Religious School Traffic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Room at the Inn</td>
<td>20 Technology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 Traffic and Safety</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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From the President

The old adage “time flies when you’re having fun” could not be more fitting. As the first year of my two-year term as president comes to a close, I can’t believe how quickly time has passed. I have thoroughly enjoyed the role as president, as I have been given the opportunity to meet so many wonderful congregants, who like me, love Congregation Shaare Emeth, and are willing to volunteer time, talent and treasure to ensure our success and sustainability. As you read this annual report, you will see the names of countless volunteers and dedicated staff members, as well as the myriad of programming that makes Congregation Shaare Emeth a vibrant, meaningful and necessary part of our community.

I began the year with my mission to create Raving Fans of Shaare Emeth. It’s been rewarding to hear people tell me they are raving fans or to hear the phrase work its way into conversations as we discuss new programs or events. It doesn’t happen overnight, but I feel we are making progress and we will continue to strive for those raving fans.

I’ve also been vocal about the need to support the temple financially to the best of your ability and to view your support as philanthropy, helping others as well as yourself. Here again, I feel the message has been well received. We are seeing progress, but still have a way to go to overcome our deficit budget. With good success, we have rolled out a new giving opportunity called the Emet Society, which targets substantial, multi-year commitments to the congregation. Everyone’s support is important, and I urge you to give what you can.

Sadly, we have had to devote significant time and money to security this year. The tragic events in Pittsburgh and more recently in San Diego, remind us that we can never let our guard down. We have made many improvements to our security over this past year, and more is coming. Please know that the safety of all those who enter our building is our top priority.

This really is a great time to be a Shaare Emeth member. Pre-school enrollment is at an all-time high. Rabbi Levine has presented some innovative new options for our Religious School program, creating great flexibility for our families. Camp Emeth is looking forward to a great summer under the leadership of our new camp director, Beth Kodner. MOSHE and Kibbitz Cafe continue to delight, and our new Women’s program, KeSHEr, has hosted several successful events. These are just a few of the great successes of Shaare Emeth that you can read about in this report.

One other success I must mention is our Friday evening Shabbat services. It’s not uncommon to have 200-250 people at Shaare Emeth on any given Friday night. Whether attending Kabbalat Shabbat, Tater Tot Shabbat with your kids, or our new and innovative Prayer Lab service combining music and mindfulness, there is something for everyone. Come see for yourself what many have already discovered, a beautiful way to engage in your Shaare Emeth community.

I look forward to this next year and the opportunity to meet even more congregants. I enjoy hearing your Shaare Emeth stories and your ideas for making an even better congregation. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me if you have something to share, good or bad. It is truly an honor to serve as president of Congregation Shaare Emeth. I’m grateful that you put your trust in me and I will continue to work hard in this final year of my term, to make our Shaare Emeth the best it can be.

Sincerely,

Mike Lefton
President
president@sesil.org
Shirlee Green Preschool Parent Advisory Council (PAC) - Erin Seltzer, Chair and Sara Lauer, Treasurer

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 help create a sense of community among its families. Parents are encouraged to participate in ways that are meaningful to them.

PAC enrichment to Shirlee Green Preschool children and their families included

- 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.

- Children’s Circus – Our children’s event was chaired by Erin Seltzer, Jen Barton and other parent volunteers. There was a craft area, Circus Performers, balloon animals, face painters, and an auction for raffle baskets made by classes and teachers. The event raised approximately $3000.

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

- Square One 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 $70.

- Scholastic Book Fair – Elisa Keppler-Veyva made our book fair a success raising approximately 2000 points for the preschool to purchase 3 light tables for classrooms.

- School Pictures - LifeTouch captured wonderful pictures of our smiling children. SGP also received a portion of all picture sales.

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.
As I reflect upon the preschool year, I think about the success stories. Therefore, I reached out to the most reliable resource, the teachers. Here are some of their stories...

Success Story #1: We've had a lot of small successes this year such as children learning to write their names, cutting with scissors, using words to negotiate, putting on their own shoes, cleaning and packing up their snack/lunch areas, waiting their turns patiently, using the bathroom independently, using strategies to regulate their own emotions, etc. However, we will describe one young man in particular who has shown a lot of growth this year:

At the beginning of the school year, one of the children in our class displayed the following behaviors:
1. Parroted (repeated) the last word the teacher said. For example, do you like ice-cream? "ice-cream".
2. Played in the same center daily without any interaction with the other children (even with attempts by the other children).
3. Could not follow age-appropriate directions. Required each step verbally repeated one at a time by the teacher with additional assistance. (i.e., cleaning snack/lunch area, packing up backpack with snack bag/lunch box, putting on shoes after yoga, lining up to transition to a new activity outside the classroom, etc.)
4. Unable to verbally express himself when needing help (i.e., would sit with an unopened lunchbox until we would approach him).

As the end of the school year approaches, many of the areas listed above have shown a great deal of growth:

1. Speaks more often in complete sentences. Also gives responses that are appropriate. What is your favorite color? "red" instead of saying "color".
2. Plays in more than one center. Will now occasionally build with another child (train tracks for example). Will run around the motor room or Outdoor Kitah with other children even if just to be in their proximity.
3. Able to more independently complete routines (clean snack/lunch area, zip up backpack most of the time independently, use the bathroom without assistance, put on shoes without help after yoga).
4. Will now on occasion remember to use words to ask for help.

** As a side note, the teachers, Ms. Susan, and Ms. Karen, wrote anecdotal notes over an extended period of time, incorporated strategies to evaluate success, reached out and met with parents to share concerns and advise additional steps such as an additional screening/evaluation through their local school system. These steps ultimately led to an IEP through his local school district. He is now receiving additional support in the areas of fine motor and language.
Success Story #2: We have a student in our class that started in the beginning of the year experiencing challenging moments while transitioning in and out of the classroom. He would bang his head on the floor and cry every time we would move. He would not sit or participate in any activity. We spent a lot of time taking walks down the hall trying to console him. This behavior lasted until December. When the second part of the school year started we noticed some improvement with him. He would sit in his own chair at circle and music and be part of the class. Now at the end of the year, he unpacks and packs his backpack, checks himself in every morning, and he does class jobs. He plays with his friends and is so happy to be at school. It’s amazing to see such a huge transition.

In the beginning of the school year we had a hard time with our class just doing basic classroom management. They wouldn’t sit for circle, would not clean up, would fight over toys. We had a lot of yelling and crying when some couldn’t get their way. Every day we go over the class rules and what’s expected. When we came back to school in January we started to introduce stations, we started class jobs such as lunch/snack helper, line leader, weather and caboose. They started to clean on their own so they could all have a job. They work together to clean stations. The sharing has gotten better and some are able to use words and not have meltdowns. They love to do big floor puzzles together and work in small groups to do them. They have made such huge strides and are definitely ready to go to Tzipporim.

We had two new families join us over the summer and they loved us and the program so much, they enrolled for the school year too.

The children love to watch the plants grow and flourish in the outdoor kitah. They were so excited to share the surplus with their families in the farmers market we had in the fall. This allowed our children to integrate science, math and literacy into a family fun experience.

Our children are all able to write and recognize the letters in the alphabet. Our children can often be found writing and illustrating their own stories, which allows them to be creative while learning letter sounds, blends and basic sight words.

During music class we are excelling in playing the melodica. They are able to play chords rhythm patterns, identiïy solfege (do re mi fa sol la ti do), and have gained the confidence to perform in a group anc solo setting.

Other celebratory moments include:
- The preschool year (August 2018) started at full capacity; 120 children
- 4th year recertifying the Outdoor Kitah (Classroom)
- 1st place in the Creve Coeur Arbor Day Art Contest
- 3rd infant room opening on June 17, 2019 – projected to be full by September 2019 with full time families only
- Preschool is scheduled for capacity expansion from 120 children to 150 children beginning August 2019
- Ended the preschool year at full capacity; 120 children

I cannot wait for next year!!
The Religious School had a wonderful school year and I have had an incredible first year as Rabbi Educator of Shaare Emeth. In partnership with a fabulous team, Assistant Director Marci Diamond and Administrative Support Tammy Beaird, we spent the year with the goals of assessing the current state of the school and building new relationships.

The Shaare Emeth Religious School currently has a little over 420 student enrolled in our Pre-K through 12th Grade education programs. Our school is staffed by 52 dedicated faculty members, including classroom teachers, Hebrew specialists, Special Needs Support staff, specialty area leads like art and music, and more. Over 50 of our teens (9th-12th Grade) are engaged with Religious School as Madrichim, teachers in training, helping all over the school and learning to be leaders.

For the 2018-2019 school year, a few highlights of our stellar program included...

- New family programs and grade-level programs to bring families together and engage our participants outside the classroom.
- Introducing new rituals and spiritual moments to our community gatherings.
- A grant that allowed us to provide inclusion training for our faculty and parents from Keshet, the nation’s leading Jewish LGBTQ organization, to make our temple spaces and classrooms more welcoming and inclusive.
- Creating new connections to tikun olam, our obligation to prepare the world, with our Mitzvah Day at Midweek and creating a relationship of support between our temple and Washington Park Cemetery.

Based on data from attendance records, we started an initiative to reach out to families and learn more about their current needs and challenges. I spoke to dozens of parents and asked for their feedback on our programs. This effort resulted in a new programming structure for our 3rd-6th Grade students to provide multiple scheduling options. We also created different learning tracks for our 7th Graders to provide more choice and ownership over their learning as our teens become Jewish adults. Both will be piloted in the 2019-2020 school year. We hope our next school year will be one of continued growth, creativity, and experimentation. We believe that our Religious School program will continue to thrive and we will all benefit from new ideas and insights.
B’Nei Mitzvah Program – Cantor Seth Warner
The B’nei Mitzvah program continues to educate, assist and facilitate our thirteen year-olds leading a Shabbat morning service and reading from the Torah. The program reflects students’ interacting with the Rabbis, Cantor and the educational team. Each student is challenged with texts and ideas that meet their educational needs while working privately with the clergy and in cooperative small group environments. On a regular basis, parents report that the B’nei Mitzvah program beautifully challenges their kids and connects them and their family to the congregation through meaningful relationships in important ways. The program is exploring new modalities and partnerships within the congregation, especially the Religious school, to continue striving for excellence.

Simchat Shabbat – Cantor Seth Warner
Simchat Shabbat for this year, held on the first Fridays of each month, celebrates Shabbat in a family-friendly service. The music of the service is led by Cantor Warner along with music intern Lucy Greenbaum on vocals and guitar, with added accompaniment on piano and drums. Appropriate for all ages, students in the Religious School participate in grade level experiences and are often given their own special service and story during the sermon time. Response to Simchat Shabbat is overwhelmingly positive. The atmosphere of the service is aimed at casual and appropriate for all ages.

JEWISH LIFE AND LEARNING – Debbie Bram, Director of Jewish Life and Learning
Adult Education/Learning - Michael Sherberg, Chair
Adult learning remains an important element of the culture of our congregation. This year the Adult Learning Committee continued to provide a regular schedule of learning opportunities as well as some special events. Topping the latter category was our December 2018 Shabbaton in honor of Carol and Dale Wolf, who passed away a year earlier. The event, which included a variety of learning opportunities and a lunch, allowed many of Carol’s and Dale’s friends, and two of their children, to gather and share joyful memories while doing something the Wolfs liked best: engage in Jewish learning.

Baby Boomers
Our Baby Boomer group put on 4 very different programs this year to sell-out attendance at each one. Last June we had a weeknight program Movies, Munchies and More which included dinner, movie and a discussion led by Dr. Nancy Berg, Chair of the Department of Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at Washington University. In September we celebrated Sukkot with UP On The Roof. This program was held in the courtyard at Temple with appetizers, Sukkot service and a wine and chocolate tasting. On a post snow storm Sunday afternoon in January, Baby Boomers came out in full force for a Slam Dunk program at the Art Museum. We began with a docent led tour of Kehinde Wiley: Saint Louis and Graphic Revolution: American Prints 1960 to Now, followed by a discussion led by our own members Bruce Feldacker and Carl Lyss. Our final program for this year was Pickleball and dinner at Vetta West in March. If you have never played Pickleball, look for a repeat of this fun program.

For each of the above programs, our baby boomers were asked to donate needed supplies to support specific programs, including the International Institute, Oak Hill Elementary School and Harvey Kornblum Food Pantry. The Committee is busy planning next year’s programs, the first to be in August. Look for a save-the-date in your email box, followed by a printed invitation delivered to the mailbox by your curb!
Presented by the Baby Boomer Committee - Lorry Blath, Betsy Cytron, Ron Cytron, Bill Elliot, Lynn Elliot, Julia Mendelow, Larry Mendelow, and Vicki Platke; Marcia Feit, Chair; and Debbie Bram, Director of Jewish Life & Learning

MakomSTL continues to evolve. We have moved to Monday night and have exchanged the multi-week mini-course format for a potpourri of topics that change from week to week. Some of our programming is calendar-related—for example, prior to Passover, a class on how to make your own Hagaddah—while some pursue other topics. Our goal is to make the synagogue a Monday night destination for Jewish learning and social interaction, where study and schmoozing come together with happy results.

Finally, a dedicated group of learners began to study Hebrew with Cantor Warner. We hope that they will be able to continue in the future.

Special thanks to committee members Suzy Bayne, Richard Cohen, Vicki Platke, Ilene Brooks Scharnhorst, and Bob Taxman. And, of course, nothing happens in the adult learning arena without the unfailing devotion of our Director of Jewish Life and Learning, Debbie Bram.

Senior Programming/Senior Lunches
The word is out! The waiting lists are already being filled! Our monthly senior lunch programs are selling out. Congregation Shaare Emeth, Congregation Temple Israel, Temple Emanuel, and United Hebrew Congregation have joined together to put on a monthly senior lunch and program. These lunches are made possible by a grant from The Nathan Kahn, Ernestine Kahn, Charles Kahn Foundation of Congregation Temple Israel and the Women’s Auxiliary Foundation for the Jewish Aged. Our seniors have enjoyed musical programs to lectures to information about issues on the voting ballot as well. Our average attendance at any given lunch is around 230 seniors and frequently we have reached 260 which is the capacity of our congregational venues! If you know someone who should be on our mailing list, stop by the Temple office and let us know. These events are not to be missed.

Seniors on the Move
Congregation Shaare Emeth, Congregation Temple Israel, Temple Emanuel, and United Hebrew Congregation have joined together to provide four trips a year to seniors. These trips are again funded by a grant from The Nathan Kahn, Ernestine Kahn, Charles Kahn Foundation of Congregation Temple Israel and the Women’s Auxiliary Foundation for the Jewish Aged. Each of these programs includes lunch. Our four trips this past year were: the Sunken City Exhibit at the Art Museum where we had docent led tours followed by a delicious lunch at Olympia Greek Tavern; A tour of the Federal Reserve Museum and lecture by Bill Emmons, a member of Congregation Shaare Emeth followed by lunch at Lucas Grill Park; a concert at the Sheldon followed by lunch at the Kirkwood Brewery; and a tour of the Prison Museum in Jefferson City followed by lunch catered by Avenue Q. Our biggest issue for these trips is finding a lunch venue that will accommodate 150 seniors. If it is spring, we must be starting up again ..so get ready to move!
Holiday Celebrations at Congregation Shaare Emeth

Congregation Shaare Emeth provides a wide variety of ways to celebrate the Jewish holidays beyond our meaningful worship experiences. This year we celebrated Sukkot and the beginning of Religious School at the same time with a wonderful program and lunch made by MOSHE. Chanukah dinner is always a sell-out with the delicious brisket and latkes from MOSHE and the fun games and entertainment planned by both Beth Kodner, Camp Emeth Director and Debbie Bram, Director of Jewish Life and Learning. All departments of the Congregation joined together to put on a supercalifragililicious Purim Carnival this year. Shout out and thank you to Rabbi Lori Levine, Karen Lucy, Beth Kodner and, of course, MOSHE. 2nd Seder with Rick Recht and Lucy Greenbaum was sold out and a wonderful inter-generational celebration. We hope to see all of you next year for various holiday celebrations.

Social Justice

Israel Engagement - Rabbi Bennett and Debbie Bram

Engagement with Israel continued to be a priority of our congregation this year. Many members of our congregation traveled to Israel, including more than a dozen teens during the summer of 2018, numerous young adults who participated in various Birthright Israel trips throughout the year, and nearly 30 members of all ages who joined Rabbi Goldstein on an intergenerational mission to Israel in the Spring of 2019. All of these travelers experienced first-hand the learning and excitement of walking the ancient and modern streets of Israel, meeting the people of Israel and understanding the deep connection of our people to this land. Forty adult members of the congregation are also planning to travel to Israel with Rabbi Bennett in the fall of 2019 on a similar journey. We were also very privileged to host our second representative of the "Shinshinim" program, Snir Dagan, who spent the year teaching, building relationships and speaking about Israel as a representative of the Jewish Agency for Israel in our community. Snir, an 18-year old young man, quickly found his place within our community and will continue through the summer, working with the campers and staff of Camp Emeth. We also were privileged to welcome to our congregation during Chanukah, Rabbi Alona Nir Keren of Kehilat Mevasseret Zion, the Reform Congregation in the thriving community of Mevasseret Zion just outside of Jerusalem. Rabbi Nir Keren taught and interacted with our students and staff and helped initiate new connections with a sister community in Israel. Similarly, we will welcome Rabbi Micha Ken Tor from the Yokneam-Megiddo region back to Shaare Emeth this summer to continue to build on our partnership with her work in the Reform communities in her area. Finally, Shaare Emeth regularly hosts and welcomes speakers from and about Israel to help educate our community. For example, this year we hosted Michael Kopolow, Policy Director of the Israel Policy Forum who spoke on the recent Israel Elections to members of the St. Louis community. Later this year we will welcome Rabbi Josh Weinberg, Vice President, Israel and Reform Zionism of the Union for Reform Judaism and Executive Director, ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America, to help us strengthen our connections with Israel and the Reform Movement.
Justice at the Center Committee - Stefanie Greenberg and Bill Remis, Co-Chairs, Rabbi Andrea Goldstein, Clergy Liaison
Justice at the Center successfully completed its first campaign this past year. After wrapping up research on possible actions, we launched the "Vote Your Values" campaign. The goal of the campaign was to get all members of Shaare Emeth registered to vote and then to help make sure all members actually voted in the 2018 general election. The campaign enlisted over 200 volunteers from the congregation who provided services to congregants which included – assistance with voter registration, providing outreach and assistance with registration to college students, driving voters to the polls, and poll monitor training. The campaign also sponsored a Candidate's Forum for congressional candidates running for office in Missouri's 2nd Congressional District. The campaign also endorsed Missouri's Amendment 1 Ballot Initiative which supported greater transparency for campaign finance laws and required a non-partisan method for drawing district lines within the state. After the election and the end of the Vote Your Values Campaign, the Justice at the Center Committee, chaired by Stefanie Greenberg, Bill Remis and Rabbi Goldstein continues to work on researching new social justice initiatives for the coming year.

Mindfulness Center – Rabbi Andrea 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 offers classes, workshops and acts as an open space for meditation for the entire St. Louis community.

Programming through the Jewish Mindfulness Center of St. Louis has included:
- A six-week Introduction to Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Class taught by Rabbi Andrea Goldstein
- A ten-week Let It Ripple class focusing on Tikun Middot (Mindfulness and Musar, co-led by Eve Dyson and Sam Silverstein)
- Two Wise Aging programs co-led by Debbie Bram and Sharon Weissman
- Free Monday evening Meditation Sits led by Rabbi Goldstein or David and Carole Lander
- Erev Rosh Hashanah and Erev Yom Kippur Mindfulness Services led by Rabbi Goldstein, Lucy Greenbaum, Betsy Cytron and Ron Cytron
- Four Prayer Lab Shabbat evening services led by Rabbi Goldstein, Lucy Greenbaum, Robert Bernstein, Brett Goldstein, Tori Luecking, Doug Waxman and Felise Waxman, along with other guest musicians and artists
- An email subscription program to the second annual 50-Day Meditation and Middot Challenge, taking place during the period of the Counting of the Omer
- An email subscription program for the month of Elul (leading up to the High Holy Days)

In February of 2019 the Jewish Mindfulness Center of St. Louis brought in Rabbi Lisa Bellows, an RYT 200 certified yoga teacher and a graduate of the IJS Jewish Meditation Teacher Training program, to lead a training in Jewish yoga for eight St. Louis yoga teachers. The Jewish Mindfulness Center of St. Louis will begin offering yoga classes in the summer of 2019.
Rabbi Goldstein, the director of the Center, was asked to lead workshops and/or speak at the Saul Mirowitz Jewish Day School, Rick Recht’s Songleader Bootcamp, the Jewish Federation’s Access program and the Federal Reserve Bank.

**Wise Aging**
Debbie Bram and Sharon Weissman led a total of six Wise Aging groups over the last two years. Wise Aging is a program from the Institute for Jewish Spirituality which guides people through the aging process using meditation, reflection, Jewish prayer, contemplative listening and group discussion. The goal is to be able to live in this chapter of our lives with joy, resilience and wisdom. This year, Debbie and Sharon wrote a new curriculum for an alumni group of Wise Agers who had completed the first 12 sessions.

**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**
- Made a donation to Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh.
- With the JCNA “adopted” a Congolese Family through the International Institute.
- Petitioned the Board of Trustees to adopt a Weapons Policy.
- Participated in National Refugee Shabbat called for by HIAS.
- Sponsored the “Let Our Families Go” caravan on their stop in St. Louis.
- Established the Mitzvah Garden of Congregation Shaare Emeth. Produce will be donated to the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry. Gary Sherman coordinates.

**On-Going Programs and Projects**
- Participated as a Congregation in the Annual Pride Parade in June 2018.
- Continued to provide support to Christ Church UCC in their sanctuary efforts.
- Created and staffed a summer day camp at the International Institute with the Jewish Coalition for New Americans committee (JCNA) of the JCRC. Our member Stan Shanker is the chair.
- Held a High Holiday Food Drive; 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 our Congolese Family.
- Participated as a Congregation in the Annual Jewish/Muslim day of service in December 2018. Our member Jenny Shrensker is Shaare Emeth’s representative.
- Hosted with Werd Chapel AME a Freedom Seder in April 2019.
- Hosted homeless men, women and children from Room at the Inn on a monthly basis. Ronnie Erockman 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 St. Louis by providing weekly tutors from our Congregation. Lorry Blath coordinates.
- Continued our three 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, congregants volunteer at the Institute and with Parkway UCC offer potluck lunches. Stan Shanker coordinates.
- Promoted education and advocacy through our monthly Social Justice Shabbat Speaker series. Encouraged contacting local and national officials on a variety of topics through Shaare Mall, special emails and Friday night services.
- Promoted our Congregational tzedakah boxes. Donations went to Memory Care Home Solutions, Assisi House, L.E.A.D. Promising Youth, and Project Downtown St. Louis.


**New Americans – Stan Shanker, Chair**
The New American committee has been less active this year than in past; primarily due to the present administration’s immigration policy. We continue to collect household items, furniture, and clothing monthly to deliver to the International Institute.

This past holiday season Shaare Emeth again partnered with United Parkway Church of Christ and collected toys, clothing and three months of rent and utility payments for a Congolese family that arrived June 13, 2018. The family consists of a mother and six children ranging in age from 16 to 2 years old.

**Room at the Inn - Ronnie Brockman, Chair**
Our congregation has been a homeless shelter for Room at the Inn for over 25 years serving as a temporary shelter to homeless women and families in the St. Louis region. 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. Each month we have 10 guests and up to 20 volunteers who give of their time in one of the following ways. We continue to have our 5th graders and families and Bar/Bat Mitzvah students cook our meals and volunteer to serve and hang out with the children guests. We served about 10 guests and had over 50 volunteers during the year help with Room at the Inn.

**Ways to Volunteer:**
- Drive to and from the Room at the Inn site in Bridgeton 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, hang out with our guests, and play with the children while they are at Temple from 5-7 p.m. or 7-9 p.m.
- Sleep at Temple from 8:30 p.m.– 7:00 a.m.
We are grateful for Barb Feldacker and Cindy Heymann who each oversee a part of the program.

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.

COMMUNICATION
Tori Luecking - Director
Over the past year, communications at Congregation Shaare Emeth have expressed our organizational commitment to making Judaism relevant, meaningful, and joyful. In areas such as print publications, social media, and media relations, Shaare Emeth communications have been clear, concise, informative, and engaging.

A congregation-wide communications survey, created by the Director of Communications in partnership with the Executive Director and a volunteer Communications Committee, ran throughout the month of February 2019. From this survey we gained valuable insight into the communications wants and needs of our Congregation. 483 individuals responded to the survey. We found the age demographics of the survey respondents to accurately reflect the general age demographics of our Congregation. For example, roughly 17% of our Congregation is between the ages of 36 and 50, and 17% of survey respondents fell into that age category. The survey indicated that overall, congregants are receiving their Temple information from three platforms, namely, ShaareMail, The Bulletin, and Facebook, in that order. We also learned that in general, congregants are satisfied with the layout and the content of our Temple Bulletin.

At the time of this report’s production, Shaare Emeth is currently exploring new options for printing our Temple Bulletin, as our contract with our current printer, LPI, is up at the end of May. We look forward to some exciting partnerships on the horizon.

With regard to ShaareMail, our weekly E-newsletter, our current average email open rate is 40%. This is compared to an industry average of 27%, placing us 13 percentage points higher than other nonprofits of our size and nature. This shows that, on average, around 800 individuals are consistently reading ShaareMail each week.

The Congregation is active on Facebook, with over 3,000 individuals seeing our content throughout the month of April, and over 4,500 engagements (likes, comments, shares, etc.) with our Facebook content in the month of April. We average 2-4 Facebook posts a day throughout the work week. Our Facebook content often consists of event reminders, photos of recent events, and interest pieces such as articles containing unique Passover recipes or stories about world Jewry. We were particularly pleased with the outcome of our Vote Your Values social media campaign on November 6. Over the course of Election Day from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. we had 31 posts showcasing Shaare Emeth members voting their values at the polls! The campaign was a great success, garnering over 800 “likes”. This campaign is an excellent example of utilizing social media to tell the stories of our community.

We have found that our communications have been successful in promoting our various events, with many of our events this year having high attendance rates. The Chanukah Dinner was attended by 180 individuals, the Purim carnival by ~400, Purimpalooza by ~250, Trivia Night by 235, Passover Seder by over 250, and our new Prayer Lab services by ~80 individuals each week. These attendance rates are, in part, thanks to e-blasts, postcards,
This year, the Director of Communications also began "Spotlight" articles in the Bulletin to highlight unique and exciting members and groups in our Congregation. Both Morning Minyan and Room at the Inn have been featured. In the coming year, we hope to increase the number of human-interest pieces that we produce, including, a Humans of New York-style blog on Instagram.

COMMUNITY

Archives - Brenda Baron
The mission of the Archives is to accumulate and preserve articles and memorabilia pertaining to the members and clergy of our Temple.
- Johanna Schilinger has volunteered to work in the archives. Several others have asked to help and will be when we have more to accomplish.
- Several members have asked for information this year concerning their Hebrew names and those of grandparents.

B'Yachad - Rabbi Jonah Zinn, Staff Liaison
Shaare Emeth continues to co-sponsor the B'Yachad Shabbat Experience for young adults this year with CRC on a quarterly basis. These evenings including 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 including the newly established MaTovu on Blaine Avenue which served as B'Yachad's primary venue this year.

Camp Emeth - Beth Kodner, Director

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 2018 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 activities are complimented with twice weekly Shiurim that include age-appropriate, hands-on activities related to the camp's Jewish theme for the summer. Once again, we outsourced many of our weekly chuggim offerings and were able to keep the afternoon choice time creative and diverse.
outsourced many of our weekly chuggim offerings and were able to keep the afternoon choice time creative and diverse.

We continue to serve our campers with diverse needs with the support of our Inclusion Specialist. This successful program utilizes the Inclusion Specialist to create ICP’s (Individual Camper Plans) and works in collaboration with staff, families and campers. The enrollment for Summer 2018 was strong. Many age groups were at maximum enrollment for one or more weeks. Enrollment included over 200 individual campers over the course of the summer; 42 of those campers attending Camp Emeth for the first time. The 2019 enrollment season brought about the move to a new online registration and camp management system. This new system allows us to be almost 100% paper free and has already improved on processes and efficiencies throughout our operations.

The close of Summer 2018 saw a change in leadership at Camp Emeth. After serving as Camp Director for 13 summers, Jodi Miller retired to pursue personal interests. Beth Kodner, who had served as Program Director for 5 summers, was hired as the new Camp Emeth Director in October 2018.

**Camp Micah – Kayla Ellis, Director**
The theme for Camp Micah 2018 was “Around the World in 12 Weeks”. The campers boarded their recycled cardboard airplanes and traveled around the world. Using their five senses campers discovered different countries by cooking new foods, dancing to fun music, exploring unique toys and artifacts, and were awestruck over beautiful pictures from each country.

Camp started May 21, 2018 and went through August 10th, 2018, Monday-Friday 7a.m.-6 p.m.

There were 118 children in attendance at Camp Micah for summer 2018:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Number of Campers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K’tanim (0-1 years)</td>
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<td>Kofim (1-2 years)</td>
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<td>Dubim (2-3 years)</td>
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<td>Zebrot (3-4 years)</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pilim (4-5 years)</td>
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</table>

**Caring Committee, Bob Sparks, Chair**
The mission of Congregation Shaare Emeth includes a commitment to living in community by accepting the responsibility of celebrating with and caring for one another in times of joy and need. The Caring Committee of Shaare Emeth is the group that reaches out to our congregational community to provide comfort, care and celebration during all of these life cycle events.

The Caring Committee sends notes to members who are ill and provides them with homemade matzoh ball soup and challah to cheer them up. 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 Rosh Hashanah and Purim holidays. We are grateful to our congregants who have delivered these packages on those holidays.

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.
Seigel, Barbara Victor, David Victor, Sharon Weissman

Community Building for Couples – Rabbi Jonah Zinn, Staff Liaison
Another initiative of our young adult program strives to help couples under 40ish connect and build community. The program is for newcomers and not so new comers, couples with young children and those without children, who are looking to connect with other couples in a similar stage of life. Programs sponsored this year included a Welcome BBQ for Rabbi Levine, Sukkot Open House, and Tu BiShvat Seder. Through this initiative couples make meaningful connections with one another which strengthen their ties to the Jewish community and Shaare Emeth.

KeSHER – Jenn Saggett and Robin DeNorscia, Co-Chairs; Rabbi Andrea Goldstein, Clergy Liaison
KeSHER is the new women’s group at Shaare Emeth co-chaired by Jenn Saggett and Robyn DeNorscia. Our goal is to bring Shaare Emeth women together through community engagement. This year we have had four very successful programs led by our wonderful planning committee that includes Susie Bayne, Lisa Berger, Darcy Glidewell, Lisa Guberrik, Jen Kleaman, Michelle Oppenheimer, Anna Poger, Marissa Rosen, Karen Sher, Jill Solomon, and Gabby Tillman.

We kicked off the year with Sweets in the Sukkah in the Fall and had over 30 women in attendance. Rabbi Andrea led a discussion teaching the importance of women in the sukkah. During our next program, we were guided by Rabbi Elana Zaiman to learn about and write our own “forever letters”. Many mother/daughter pairs joined us for this event. Our third program, Shalom Bayit, or peace in the home, focused on women’s safety at home. We heard from Michelle Schiller-Baker, Executive Director of Saint Martha’ Hall, a shelter for abused women and their children, and we were able to make care packages for the women in the shelter as well as make our own mezzuzot to remind us that we are protected in our homes. This was an incredible program with over 50 women in attendance.

Our final program this year welcomed Spring as we had the head of the floral department of Schnucks teach us how to make a beautiful spring flower arrangement and learned about the significance of flowers in Judaism.

Mental Health Initiative - Rabbi Jonah Zinn, Staff Liaison; Dr. Dan Weinstein, Chair
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 three areas of focus which will guide our work moving forward and established subcommittees to work on each of these areas.
- Develop educational opportunities for the entire community
- Integrate mental health and wellness education into our religious school
- Train Shaare Emeth staff (including SGP, Religious School, & camps) to better support our members

**MOSHE (The Men of Shaare Emeth) - Gene Jacobson, President**

MOSHE operates as a financially independent auxiliary group of Shaare Emeth, providing the men of Shaare Emeth an opportunity to lend a helping hand to Shaare Emeth, its congregants, and the community at large. MOSHE's mission is "Having Fun! Doing Good!"

- MOSHE provides the men of Shaare Emeth an ongoing opportunity to develop camaraderie and fellowship, while serving the needs of Shaare Emeth and our community. This past year was filled with a variety of social activities, community outreach, and donations of our time and funds.
- MOSHE donated $1,500 total to fund 3 brand new $500 needs-based scholarships to 3 Shaare Emeth youth programs, and plans to continue this new tradition into the future.
- MOSHE continued the beloved "Kibitz Café," our pop-up hand-crafted Sunday breakfast café. It serves as one of our main fundraisers, affording us the opportunity to do our good work. Kibitz Café is serving over 700 guests per school year and our audience continues to grow.
- MOSHE continues to donate to Shaare Emeth and our community in many other ways as well. For example, we continue to donate to "Shaare the Vision," we sponsor Shaare Emeth’s annual Trivia night, we sponsor various lifecycle event gifts within Shaare Emeth, provide funds and manpower for serving a dinner at Camp Rainbow, and we purchase gingerbread house building kits and help build them with pediatric patients at Ranken Jordan Pediatric Hospital.
- MOSHE held several great social functions over the past year which included a happy hour at Westport Social, attended by over two dozen MOSHE members, old and new. We went axe and knife throwing, followed by some great barbeque. We cook dinner and serve it to the fine folks at the Covenant Place at their Covenant Café, along with providing live music. MOSHE provides kitchen help for the Purim Carnival and provides significant support for the Congregation's Channukah Dinner.

As a group dedicated to helping others, and having fun while doing such, MOSHE commits a significant amount of monetary support and manpower to make Shaare Emeth and our community stronger. MOSHE members also financially help support MOSHE with their own personal donations. MOSHE continues to welcome incoming new members to our congregation and is always looking for any male member age 18 or over to get involved, so join us!

**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’yachad and Community Building for Couples.
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 $1,000 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.

SETYG Board 2018-2019

President: Danielle Platke
Programming Vice President: Daniel Segall
Social Action Vice President: Michael Siler
Religious and Cultural Vice President: Amalia Newman
Membership Vice Presidents: Lauren Mishkin & Maddie Sokolik
Communications Vice President: Jessica Goldberg
Special Projects Coordinator: Liam Dougan
Member at Large: Lili Toledano

This year two of our youth also served with distinction as NFTY Missouri Valley Regional officers: Lauren Bayne, who served as NFTY Missouri Valley Regional Vice President of Social Action, and Julian Albright, NFTY Missouri Valley’s SLIID (St. Louis, Illinois, Iowa District) who served as Membership Vice President.

We are thrilled to welcome a new SETYG Board for the 2019-2020 academic year. Mazel tov to the newly elected board members.

SETYG Board 2019-2020

President: Lauren Mishkin
Programming Vice Presidents: Ryan Silver & Danielle Platke
Social Action Vice Presidents: Andrew Goldberg & Samuel Baker
Religious & Cultural Vice President: Jake Goldman
Membership Vice Presidents: Lili Toledano, Katie Silver & Jordan Eisen
Communications Vice Presidents: Sarah Pernik & Liam Dougan
Special Projects Coordinator: Aidan Dougan
Finally, this year we marked the conclusion of Staci and Joe Gerchen’s time as youth group advisors after over a decade of working with Shaare Emeth’s youth groups. Their commitment and hard work have helped build community for hundreds of teens, connecting them with each other, Shaare Emeth, and their Jewish tradition. The relationships they built and the opportunities they helped create as the leaders of our SE 45 program for grades 4 and 5 and NFTY 678 program for teens in middle school have touched lives and helped create wonderful memories. As the advisors to SETYG for the past five years, Staci and Joe have mentored our teens, helping them to develop their leadership skills, sense of self, and their Jewish identity in hopes they will continue their Jewish journey after high school. While Staci and Joe will no longer serve as our youth group advisors, we look forward to their continued involvement with Shaare Emeth and our youth programs. Staci and Joe have already set their sights in engaging in other aspects of temple life including chairing the Topgolf Takeover benefiting Shaare Emeth’s youth and education programs on Wednesday, June 19, at Topgolf. We are incredibly grateful to Staci and Joe for their hard work over the years.

**Building and Grounds**

**House - Robert Colton, Director of Operations**
This has been an active year for the building. We are still settling in from the renovation and getting everything just right. Thanks to a generous donation, the teaching kitchen received some long needed new equipment. Donations also made possible the enhancement of the landscaping near the new South entrance.

In addition to routine maintenance, repairs and painting, other projects completed include:
- New carpet installed in the educational wing of the building
- Plaques and signage added to the renovated spaces of the building
- Enhancements to the sound systems
- Installation of a web-based HVAC control system
- The North parking lot was repaired and resurfaced.
- New security features were added to the building

**Religious School Traffic - Dr. Aaron Wahl, Chair**

1. **Technology** – We used [www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com) again for volunteers to sign-up for a shift. This again proved helpful.

2. **Religious School Staff and Parents** – The staff were very helpful in sending out regular emails requesting people to sign-up for shifts. Rabbi Levine put together a religious school facebook group and we were able to recruit some new parents.

3. **Manual and Training** – We sent out a simple manual with pictures. There were no issues with the cones each week. Next year, I will work on a video manual that everyone can watch prior to their shifts.
4. **Traffic Pattern** – The new sign works great. During all of my shifts, we only had two cars come the wrong way during drop off. THANK YOU!!

5. **Crosswalks** – People have been getting better using the crosswalks. There are still those that choose not to obey the crosswalk/traffic rules. Some of them have walked right in front of moving cars. I just take deep breaths and realize they are adults that are ultimately responsible for their own safety.

**Technology - Tod Greenberg, Chair**

Our major technology project for this past year was to move all of our systems and files to the cloud. This includes systems such as MM and CYMA as well as all electronic files used by our staff. This change will allow our staff to more easily access files from outside the building. In addition, by utilizing the cloud we will no longer have to maintain and periodically upgrade our own servers.

We are also in the midst of replacing older computers as part of our regular replacement cycle.

Finally, we moved to a more modern web-based management system for camp.

**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.

In the past year, after developing a strategic plan to revise traffic and parking patterns to accommodate the Temple’s new entrance and parking on the south side of the building in 2017, the Committee continued to tweak the plan to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety even though we were missing several traffic volunteers. 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 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.

Membership

Membership - Jill Solomon, Chair; Rosalie Stein, Staff Liaison
Membership is steady from 2018 to 2019 with a total of 1613 total family units. This year we have had a multitude of events for members of all different demographics to enjoy. These range from tatter tot shabbats, Kibitz Cafes led by MOSHE, dessert parties sponsored by the new women’s group KeSHER, Torah studies, Trivia Night and our annual Gala. We continue to strive to provide programs to meet all of our member’s needs.

This year we launched a new Membership Responsibility giving program called The Emet Society. The word Emet, or “truth”, was selected to reflect the importance that these significant contributions will have, allowing us to maintain our traditions and innovate for the future. A unique benefit of the Emet Society is that these one-time gifts are all-inclusive. We thank these members for their commitment to Shaare Emeth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Gold Level</th>
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<th>Bronze Level</th>
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<td>Pam and Ron Rubin</td>
<td>Lee Bohm</td>
<td>Jerri &amp; Bill Livingston, Jr.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Norman Schwesig</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Steinback</td>
<td>Kathy Zigler</td>
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</tbody>
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Fundraising

Heart and Soul Gala – Teri Brandvein and Ann Sheinbein, Co-Chairs; Rosalie Stein, Staff Liaison
The event was held on October 13, 2018 at the temple with a full house of 260 attendees. This year we honored Joy and Jay Liss with the Harris Frank Community Service Award and Stan Shanker with the Tzedek Award. Heart and Soul...Take a Stand, was a tremendous success. The Gala helps us to continue to inspire lives with programs that develop our youth into strong leaders, impact our community, and continue our mission of educations, spiritual practice, social justice and outreach.

Committee: Teri Brandvein Ann Sheinbein – Co-Chairs, William Livingston – Sponsorship Chair, Amy Bennett, Ann Mayer Eisen, Lisa Gans, Gerry Kowarsky, Julie Lazarus, Lauren Levinson, Laurie Naer, Sue Matlack, Brenda Porclo, Abby Small, Linda Yatkeman, Rosalie Stein – Executive Director

Human Resources - Randy Brodsky, Chair; Rosalie Stein, Staff Liaison
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 by switching carriers and implementing minor changes in the employee healthcare coverage.
The HR Committee held one-on-one meetings with all full-time employees, asking about employees’ likes/dislikes of working at Shaare Emeth and a variety of other topics that arise in the workplace. The feedback was very open, with the understanding that anything shared would be kept in full confidence by the HR Committee. The Committee then summarized the comments and shared at a high level with the Operating Committee. Actions have begun to take place where appropriate in response to common themes. In particular, job descriptions are being reviewed and redone to help with clarity around job and reporting responsibilities.

Committee Members: Randy Brodsky (Chair), Eric Feinstein, Gary Glassman, Norman Handshear, Mike Lefton, Ken Levine, Rachel Pereles, Eunice Reichman, Bonnie Solomon, Josh Wallach; Rabbi Andrea Goldstein, Rosalie Stein, Staff Liaison

FINANCIAL
Investment - Mark Gubernik, Associate Treasurer
2018 was another volatile year in the equity markets including both domestic and international. U.S. Large Cap equities as measured by the S&P 500 Index had reached all-time highs in September, only to see a selloff in the 4th quarter. The S&P 500 Index ended down 4.4% for the year. Small Cap stocks were down as well with a year to date loss of 11%. Developed International markets were down 13.8%, while Emerging Markets finished the year down 14.6% hindered by a strong dollar. The 10-year Treasury slumped to 2.69% at year end after beginning the 4th quarter at 3.08%.

Market corrections like we saw in 2018 are a normal part of the economic cycle, especially after the above average equity returns witnessed in 2017. The Investment Policy Statement for the Temple’s endowment that was adopted on 2/20/18 establishes an overall investment objective of prudent growth of principal over long time periods, while acknowledging short term fluctuations in the capital markets. The investment strategy addresses the current and future needs of the Congregation while at the same time remaining sensitive to the risks in the markets. We hold a well-diversified portfolio, managed according to the Investment Policy and rebalanced as needed.

The Investment Committee continues to meet quarterly along with the asset manager TIAA, to review the portfolio’s performance, discuss the current economic environment, and review the philosophy for managing the Temple’s funds. As of December 31, 2018 the total portfolio value was $3,779,088 and managed as follows:
$2,531,058 was managed by TIAA in the equity portfolio consisting of passive mutual funds and ETFs including domestic equity, international equity, and cash equivalents. $1,248,030 was managed by TIAA in the fixed income portfolio including high quality bonds, US Treasuries and cash equivalents. The inception date of asset management from TIAA was 2/28/18. The time weighted return of the portfolio since inception was -6.47% net of fees. The current Investment Policy provides for an allocation of 65% Equities/Alternatives and 35% Fixed Income/Cash.

Members of the committee are: Randy Brodsky, John Corn, Bill Eliot, Doug Kolker, Mike Lefton, Dan Loiterstein, Steve Meyers, Alan Schaffer, Andy Speller, and Rosalie Stein.
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 the Board of Trustees.

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 areas of the Congregation’s operation.

Fee for Service income for 2018 was $1,328,570, up 5% year-over-year and up 4% vs. 2018 budget. Fee for Service expenses for 2018 was $1,199,297 up 4% year-over-year and up 4% vs. 2018 budget.

Non-Fee for Service income for 2018 was $2,090,819, up 9% year-over-year and down 7% vs. 2018 budget. Non-Fee for Service expenses for 2018 was $3,317,545, up 4% year-over-year and down 2% vs. 2018 budget.

In December of 2018, the Board of Trustees passed the 2019 Operational budget. Total income is budgeted to increase 6% year-over-year while total expenses are budgeted to increase 7% year-over-year to produce a deficit of ($290,133). 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 2019.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017 Actual</th>
<th>2018 Budget</th>
<th>2018 Actual</th>
<th>2019 Budget</th>
<th>% Change (18/17) Vs. Budget</th>
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<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$3,196,328</td>
<td>$3,375,163</td>
<td>$3,317,545</td>
<td>$3,551,901</td>
<td>-1.7%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td>$4,083,238</td>
<td>$4,424,022</td>
<td>$4,210,416</td>
<td>$4,461,065</td>
<td>-0.8%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>$4,279,470</td>
<td>$4,453,645</td>
<td>$4,438,445</td>
<td>$4,751,198</td>
<td>-0.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NET CONTRIBUTION (DEFICIT)</strong></td>
<td>($196,232)</td>
<td>($209,623)</td>
<td>($228,029)</td>
<td>($290,133)</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 2018-2019 Operating Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President</th>
<th>1st Vice President</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mike Lefton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josh Wallach</td>
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<td>Jill Solomon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renee Silverstein</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immed. Past Pres.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Board of Trustees

- David Goran
- Tod Greenberg
- Doug Kolker
- Julie Lazarus
- Ken Levine
- Julia Mendelow
- Melissa Lynn Pomerantz
- Aaron Rosen
- Mark Rubin
- Jenn Sagett
- Erin Schreiber
- Irl Scissors
- Michael Sherberg
- Michele Silber
- Bob Sparks
- Lisa Suffian
- Aaron Wahl
- Dan Weinstein
- Dan Weinstein
- Mark Zorensky

### 2019-2020 Operating Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>1st Vice President</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mike Lefton</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Board of Trustees

- Danny Fischer
- David Goran
- Tod Greenberg
- Amy Hammerman
- Doug Kolker
- Julie Lazarus
- Julia Mendelow
- Mark Rubin
- Jenn Sagett
- Erin Schreiber
- Irl Scissors
- Michael Sherberg
- Michele Silber
- Bob Sparks
- Lisa Suffian
- Aaron Wahl
- Dan Weinstein
- Mark Zorensky

### Past Presidents

- Ken Brenbaum
- 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
### Clergy and Directors

**Congregation Shaare Emeth**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rabbi James M. Bennett</td>
<td>Senior Rabbi</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jbennett@sestl.org">jbennett@sestl.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabbi Andrea Goldstein</td>
<td>Rabbi</td>
<td><a href="mailto:agoldstein@sestl.org">agoldstein@sestl.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabbi Jonah Zinn</td>
<td>Rabbi</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jzinn@sestl.org">jzinn@sestl.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabbi Educator</td>
<td>Rabbi Educator, Religious School</td>
<td><a href="mailto:llevine@sestl.org">llevine@sestl.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cantor Seth Warner</td>
<td>Cantor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:swarner@sestl.org">swarner@sestl.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabbi Jeffrey B. Stiffman</td>
<td>Rabbi Emeritus</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jstiffman@sestl.org">jstiffman@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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Colton</td>
<td>Director, Operations</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rcolton@sestl.org">rcolton@sestl.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beth Kodner</td>
<td>Director, Camp Emeth</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bkodner@sestl.org">bkodner@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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tori Luecking</td>
<td>Director, Communications</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tluecking@sestl.org">tluecking@sestl.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Congregation Shaare Emeth**

*Founded in 1867*

11645 Ladue Road  
St. Louis, MO 63141  
www.sestl.org
Officers & Trustees

Congregation Shaare Emeth
2019 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The 2019 Nominating Committee is pleased to recommend the following slate of Officers and Trustees for election at the 150th Annual Meeting of Congregation Shaare Emeth on May 22, 2019, and acknowledges the returning Officers and Trustees:

OFFICERS

NOMINATED FOR ONE-YEAR TERM,
2019-2020

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOMINATED FOR TWO-YEAR TERM,
2019-2021

Mark Zorensky
Michele Siler
Amy Hammerman
Danny Fischer

RE- NOMINATED FOR TWO-YEAR TERM,
2019-2021

Tod Greenberg
Jenn Sagett
Michael Sherberg
Bob Sparks
Lisa Suffian

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Bill Remis, Julie Lazarus, Mark Rubin, Ted Houser, Holly Bernstein, Ron Cytron, Betsy Garland, and
Nominating Committee Chair: Renee Silverstein
Ex-officio members: Rabbi .im Bennett and Rosalie Stein

Congregation Shaare Emeth’s
150th Annual Meeting

May 22, 2019 • 5:30 p.m. Nosh • 6 p.m. Annual Meeting

Award Presentation

THE VOLUNTEER AWARD is given to an individual or group of volunteers that have consistently provided assistance to the Temple. This year’s recipient is:

KEN LEVINE
Congregation Shaare Emeth – 2018 Annual Meeting

May 15, 2018

The 149th Annual Meeting of Congregation Shaare Emeth was called to order at 6:08 pm by President Renee Silverstein.

Renee began by introducing the past Presidents, the clergy and staff, and a 50-year member in attendance. In her address, she reflected on her term as President, thanking all those who helped her throughout the two years.

She presented the Presidential Award that is given to a congregant who goes above and beyond the call of duty to Andy Speller. Renee cited Andy’s extraordinary work in making sure the Congregation’s financial house was in order.

Renee introduced an officer from the Creve Coeur police and the Community Service director from the Federation to present the Volunteer Award to the members of our traffic committee, including: Chair Rick Gans and members Steve Becker, Gregg Berdy, Jay Burstein, Dan Burstein, Mark Burstein, Steve Chervitz, David Elias, Neil Elias, Tom Falke, Danny Fischer, Steve Gorin, Ted Houser, Keith Klein, Jay Kwislin, Alan Kwiatok, Jean Millner, Christine Mold, Craig Mold, Judy Mold, Graham Moses, William Moses, Robert Protzel, Bill Rubin, Mike Solomonov, Michelle Stapp, Bruce Tons, Aaron Wahl and Larry Zablin.

Renee introduced Donald Meissner, the new Director of the Mount Sinai Cemetery.

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

2018-2019 Operating Committee (One Year Term)

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

Board of Trustees (2018-2020)

- Dr. David Goran*
- Erin Schreiber*
- Dr. Aaron Wahl*
- Mark Rubin**
- Doug Kolker*
- Irl Scissors**
- Dr. Dan Weinstein**
- Julie Lazarus**
- Julia Mendelow*

* two-year term
**renominated for two-year term

A motion by Mr. Eisenkramer, seconded by Mr. Silverstein, to accept the Nominating Committee report was unanimously adopted.
Renee introduced and thanked the outgoing Board members including Beth Manlin and Greg Yawitz who were in attendance, along with Sandy Glassman and Marianne Chervitz.

In his remarks, Rabbi Bennett referred to this week's Torah portion, B'Midbar, that begins with the taking of a census by "lifting the head." He cited commentaries that point to this as extolling the individual worth of every person and the contributions that everyone can make. He thanked the families of all who work to support the Temple, Rabbi Goldstein, Cantor Warner, Rabbi Zinn, the leadership and staff of the Temple, Rabbi Stiffman, and the lay leadership. He expressed gratitude to Renee for her service during a historic time for the Congregation.

Rabbi Bennett called the officers and Trustees to the bima for installation and blessing.

Mike Lefton made a presentation of gratitude to Renee on behalf of the Congregation. In his remarks, Mike expressed confidence that the Congregation will continue on the trajectory of being one of the leading Reform congregations in the country. Mike provided a summary of his background and family. He said one of his goals is to help others to realize that Shaare Emeth has something to offer to everyone and expand their connection to the Temple. He wants to introduce the concept of "raving fans" to the culture of Shaare Emeth.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Richard Cohen
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.

TRAVEL WITH SCP RP
Keep the kids entertained with road trip friendly
snacks and games while you listen to your favorite
tunes.

Contact Stacy Lynn in the Temple office, 314-692-5343.
Schnuck’s eScript Program - Pick up your card at Schnuck’s
Courtesy Center, activate your card, and then use at checkout before
you make your purchases.