YEAR IN REVIEW 2019

2020 Annual Report

The 152nd Annual Meeting of Congregation Shaare Emeth
June 9, 2020

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>2 Letter from the President</th>
<th>17 Communication</th>
<th>Membership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 Preschool PAC</td>
<td>18 Archives</td>
<td>27 Membership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Early Childhood Engagement/Preschool</td>
<td>18 Camp Emeth</td>
<td>28 Fundraising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Education/Religious School</td>
<td>20 Camp Micah</td>
<td>29 Human Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 B’Nei Mitzvah Program</td>
<td>20 Caring Committee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Simchat Shabbat</td>
<td>21 Interfaith Programs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21 KeSHEr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish Life and Learning</td>
<td>21 Mental Health Initiative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Adult Education / MakomSTL</td>
<td>22 Mitzvah Garden</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Senior Programming</td>
<td>23 MOSHE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Baby Boomer</td>
<td>24 Young Adults</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Seniors on the Move</td>
<td>24 Youth Program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Justice</td>
<td>Building and Grounds</td>
<td>Supplemental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Israel Engagement</td>
<td>25 House</td>
<td>32 Operating Committee, and Board of Trustees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Justice at the Center</td>
<td>25 Religious School Traffic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Mindfulness Center</td>
<td>26 Safety and Security</td>
<td>33 Past Presidents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Wise Aging</td>
<td>26 Technology</td>
<td>34 2020 Nominating Committee Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Tzedek</td>
<td>26 Traffic and Safety</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 New Americans</td>
<td></td>
<td>Annual Meeting Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 International Institute</td>
<td></td>
<td>May 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Room at the Inn</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From the President

A little over two years ago, as I was about to assume the role of Shaare Emeth President, I sat in the Rabbinic Conference Room at Shaare Emeth, surrounded by several Past Presidents of the congregation, while they graciously imparted words of wisdom and advice. One of them said, “if you’re not enjoying your time as President, you are doing something wrong”. I guess that means, for the most part, I’ve been doing it right, because I have thoroughly enjoyed my two-year term as President of this incredible congregation.

This Annual Report highlights many of the reasons Congregation Shaare Emeth is so special. First, an outstanding and compassionate Clergy team sets the spiritual tone of our warm and inclusive congregational community. Second, a talented, hardworking professional staff brings their passion to work each and every day, ensuring well-run, interesting, creative and original programs for our members and broader community. Finally, countless volunteers, young and old, give their time, talent and treasure because they believe in the importance of fulfilling our mission to make Judaism relevant, meaningful and joyful. It has been my honor and pleasure to work with and learn from all three of these groups during my presidency. As you read this Annual Report, I hope you share my feeling of gratitude for all those that make Congregation Shaare Emeth such an amazing community.

At this time last year, on the heels of the Tree of Life Synagogue and Poway Chabad shootings, I wrote of our need to create a safe and secure campus. This year I again am concerned for our safety and security, as we plan to reemerge from the Covid-19 global pandemic. By taking a conservative approach to reopening our building and resuming in-person worship and programs, we can best ensure your safety. I’m incredibly proud and impressed with how quickly our clergy and staff were able to create meaningful virtual programming and worship services. Even through crisis, Shaare Emeth continues to seamlessly serve our congregational community.

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, we closed our Shirlee Green Preschool and canceled both Camp Emeth and Camp Micah. These necessary measures will have significant negative financial impact. In the past, I’ve written about our deficit budget and the need for our members to act philanthropically, giving what they can, rather than what they want. Now more than ever, if we are to reemerge offering the programming and services that our members desire, we need your help. When asked to contribute, please give what you can. Also, please do your best to fulfill your Membership Responsibility commitment. While we rely heavily on the generosity of our Emet and Ner Tamid Society members, at this time, we need everyone’s help.

Let’s not let the pandemic overshadow all the great things that Shaare Emeth has accomplished this past year. At the time of our Shirlee Green Preschool closure, we were at capacity, with a waiting list. We are excited to welcome our new Early Childhood Engagement and Preschool Director, Brandi Cartwright, who brings impressive credentials to Shaare Emeth. Our religious school, under the direction of Rabbi Educator Lori Levine, was wrapping up a successful year, with new flexible programing to meet the needs of our busy families. And hats off to Camp Director Beth Kodner, who after a full year of planning and preparation, had to make the very difficult but smart recommendation to cancel in-person camp. Add to these accomplishments our thriving Mitzvah Garden, successful Baby Boomer and KeSHEr Women’s programs, numerous youth group activities, mindfulness classes, Prayer Lab and so much more, it truly was another outstanding year at Shaare Emeth.
This past year we made some great additions to our staff. Lucy Greenbaum joined Shaare Emeth as our Music & Youth Engagement Coordinator. Lucy’s beautiful voice is a welcome addition to every service. Scott Berzon also joined Shaare Emeth as Director of Business Operations adding his skills to our administrative team. And in just a few weeks, we will welcome Associate Rabbi Rachel Bearman as the newest member of our clergy team, focusing on teens, young adults and young families.

In closing, I want to thank all of you for placing your trust in me. As President, my goal was to hand the congregation over to the next President, in just a little better shape than it was handed to me. Notwithstanding a global pandemic, with a lot of help from too many people to name, I think we achieved that goal. I’m excited to see where our next President, Josh Wallach, takes us. I can assure you that we are in extremely capable hands, as Josh is the biggest Raving Fan of Shaare Emeth I know. I only hope Josh enjoys his time as President as much as I have. If not, he’s doing it wrong!

Sincerely,

Mike Lefton
President
The PAC enrichment to Shirlee Green Preschool (SGP) children and families included:

- **Square One Art Fundraiser**- Every teacher created an art project for the children to create. The children’s work is made available to order gifts. In large part because of our teachers, we had every child participate. Orders increased by 8%, raising over $150; this is an increase of 115% over last year.
- **School Pictures**- LifeTouch Photography captured remarkable photos of the children and teachers of SGP. SGP receives a portion of all picture sales occurring throughout the year.
- **Scholastic Book Fair**- Kate Colton coordinated and executed one of the most successful book fairs to date. SGP earned over 3,000 points, a 50% increase over last year, for the preschool to purchase additional materials for classrooms, yet to be determined.
- **VIP/Grandparents’ Night**- This is a special evening enjoyed by the children and their grandparents, or a very important person, in their lives. This year, Clifford the Big Red Dog visited as his story was read. Kate Colton authored a book for the children to decorate, while enjoying dinner and dessert. Families also purchased and donated scholastic books as tzedakah.
- **Chanukah**- Many parents volunteered to play dreidel, read stories and cook over 150 latkes.
- **Shushan Bakery**- Heather Lampert coordinated the annual tradition of baking hamantashen. Several parents volunteered to assist the children with baking hamantashen to bring home for Purim.
- **Challot**- Kara Richey graciously organizes the SGP challah for Shabbat and SGP families. The PAC offers Challah to the children each Shabbat morning. To assist families in reinforcing this tradition at home, families may order their challah through the Preschool. The PAC profits from each challah ordered from Breadsmith Bakery.
- **Dining Out Fundraisers**- The number of dining out fundraisers increased to four. Families of SGP, Congregation Shaare Emeth and the community were encouraged to dine at our partners: Mod Pizza, Panera, California Pizza Kitchen, and Panda Express on specific days.
- **Kendra Scott Fundraiser**- Unfortunately canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic public health and safety measures. Based on prior years earnings, this is an expected loss of approximately $400.

The PAC uses donations to enhance SGP and provide extra items that are not included in the preschool’s budget. 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 60 teachers and staff members; one for winter holidays and one for springtime teacher appreciation.
Early Childhood Engagement / Preschool – Kara Richey, Administrative Assistant

The 2019-2020 preschool year offered several opportunities for success and change. The weekend prior to the official beginning of our school year, Shirlee Green Preschool hosted our annual “Bounce Back to School” event. This event is an opportunity for our families to gather as a group and get to know each other, as well as the teachers and staff of the preschool. On August 21st, 2019, we opened the doors to begin our 2019-2020 school year. The school started and finished the year at full capacity (150 students), where we were brought together throughout the year with different events such as Tater Tot Shabbat, our Sukkot Celebration, and Open House (our registration event).

The parents and staff were especially excited about two new initiatives to Shirlee Green Preschool: the inauguration of our third infant room and opening of a new support center, The Sensory Room, to service all children within the congregation. This room offers comfort and calm to the many children who need the extra support.

In March of 2019, we were proud to recertify our Outdoor Kitah (classroom) for the 5th consecutive year! The children use this vital space to practice their gross motor skills, learn while planting a garden and discovering insects, as well as practice their social skills while playing and problem solving together.

February 2020 brought an uplifting and meaningful event to Shirlee Green Preschool and Congregation Shaare Emeth- the ECE-RJ Conference. During the conference, we hosted approximately ninety (90) attendees participating in varying activities, and a development evening with approximately 150 local developers in attendance at Shaare Emeth. Rabbi Andrea Goldstein joined us as the featured Scholar-In-Residence.

On March 13th, 2020, our preschool said, “See you later,” to an important piece of our school and our heart at Shirlee Green Preschool, Ms. Karen Lucy. While we were sad to see her go, we look forward to watching her flourish in her new endeavor.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought about many changes globally as well as locally. Being physically present in the classrooms at Shirlee Green Preschool was not possible beginning March 18th, 2020. Though our lives were altered drastically, the teachers of Shirlee Green Preschool tirelessly worked to continue connecting with our preschool families. Using platforms like Facebook, Zoom, and Brightwheel, the teachers were able to engage our children by offering meaningful lessons and activities.

Though we were not able to be together in person, Shirlee Green Preschool offered many virtual Early Childhood Engagement opportunities for our families. Utilizing Zoom, the interim director, Rosalie Stein, with the help of clergy of Congregation Shaare Emeth, was able to hold our annual Passover Sing-A-Long, VIP Breakasts, and our end of the year event: Chaverim Night.
Our first event after closing was our "Planting Parade." The families drove through the Shaare Emeth parking lot to pick up small bags full of seeds to plant for our garden in the Outdoor Kitah and waved to all their teachers. It was a great way to safely practice social distancing while still showing support and love to our Shirlee Green Preschool community.

On June 1st, 2020, we officially welcomed our new Early Childhood Engagement Director Miss Brandi Cartwright. The teachers, staff, and families of Shirlee Green Preschool welcomed Brandi to the team and look forward to growing under her leadership and direction.

Though the year did not turn out exactly the way we had expected, the way our community banded together was incredible to see. SGP is grateful for the love and support from our families, the hard work of our teachers, and the encouragement of our clergy. We cannot wait to see what next year brings, and we send a thank you to everyone involved for continuing to support us as we grow.

Early Childhood Engagement Director Search Committee: Rebecca Rubin-Schlansky, Chair; Melissa Adler, Tod Greenberg, Natalie Kalmar, Mike Lefton, Rabbi Lori Levine, Rachel Pereles, Helene Platke, Matt Schwerin, Ben Silvermintz, Hillary Walsh, Felise Waxman, Rosalie Stein
The Religious School experienced a year full of creativity, meaningful learning, and memorable moments for our learners and their families. We employed 58 fantastic teachers across our Pre-K through 12th Grade programming. We also had nearly 50 9th-12th Grade teens from our community serving as madrichim (teaching assistants) in our learning spaces three days a week. Our school had 380 students enrolled for the 2019-2020 school year. Though we faced some unexpected challenges in our last few months, we continued to thrive and adapt. We already eagerly look forward to a fantastic 2020-21 school year ahead!

A few major highlights and accomplishments from this wonderful school year:

1. **We piloted our new tracks model for 3rd-6th grade**, with 3 options available to families. Our Sunday-Only program doubled in size with 40 students enrolled, and our new Small Group Midweek Only model was launched and worked well for those enrolled. Our Sunday and Midweek program remained strong and continued to be the choice for the majority of families. We will build on their success next year.

2. **We also created a new approach to our 7th Grade program**, with multiple choices for families with new curriculum focused on social action, teen wellness, and training to be madrichim. Our participants described the experiences as relevant to their lives, a safe space for deep conversation, helpful, and even enjoyable!

3. **We received a Bohm Grant from the Jewish Federation of Saint Louis to do high-level professional learning for our teachers around different principles of inclusion.** Our Coordinator of Student Support, Amy Blumenfeld, led multiple workshops throughout the year to help our teachers develop new tools to make our learning spaces effective and inclusive of all learners.

4. **We had our first ever MLK Day On!** Our families came together to support organizations all over Saint Louis with hands-on action projects and participated in age-appropriate social justice learning in their classrooms. We marked this national holiday weekend in a Jewish way and lived out our communal values of tikkun olam together.

While we were sad not to end our school year together in person, we have adapted in new and exciting ways to meet the needs of sheltering in place in face of COVID-19. Our Religious School team acted quickly to plan, prepare, and move our community online.

- We reached out personally to every single teacher to offer support and ask for their input on future learning opportunities. They stepped up and continued to teach!
- We coordinated an effort to call every religious school family to check on them and offer support, making meaningful connections to one another. Families appreciated the caring and engagement.
✓ We offered weekly programming virtually, including T’filah, Hebrew Check-In groups, holiday programming for Passover and Israeli Memorial Day, a Holocaust speaker for the 6th Grade families, Rabbi Stiffman’s fabulous 5th Grade Jewish St. Louis talk, music time, an amazing closing day, and more. These experiences were overwhelmingly positive, with appreciation and support expressed by our families.

**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.

In Mid-March 2020, when in-person worship gatherings were suspended because of COVID-19, the B’nei Mitzvah program moved to an on-line only format. Students and teachers work over Zoom technology to listen, chant, learn and teach as students continue to make progress.

Beginning on March 21, B’nei Mitzvah services have been postponed through June. A total of 14 postponements. To date, two families have opted to continue with the service electronically over Zoom with overwhelmingly positive results. Other families have elected to postpone their service to a later date to be decided later. Some families have chosen to have a Zoom family blessing on the Shabbat of the postponed service to mark the day. Student and parents participate in a brief yet meaningful service with their family and friends to acknowledge the postponement.

**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

The mission of Congregation Shaare Emeth is to be a compassionate and inclusive community that makes Judaism relevant, meaningful and joyful. Throughout this past year we as a congregational community have done just that with celebrations, learning and acknowledgement of the holidays and significant events in the community in which we live. Our Congregation celebrated Jewish holidays in meaningful ways for all ages from a beautiful Tashlich service led by SETYG to an Intergenerational Seder.

This past year we created our first Day of Gratitude, an intergenerational afternoon of prayer and projects to benefit a variety of organizations and groups in our St. Louis community. The interest in participating from our congregation was so great that we had a wait list! For Tu B’Shevat we focused on the environment through learning and projects. One group baked pies which were donated to The Harvey Kornblum Food Pantry and another group made bird feeders after learning from a specialist from the Audubon Society. Covid-19 did not stop us from helping congregants prepare for Passover on Zoom and our Congregation participated in a community-wide Tikkun Leil Shavuot.

Adult Education/Learning - Michael Sherberg, Chair MakomSTL

The Adult Learning Committee had a somewhat lean year, though we do not think it was the first of seven. Rabbi Zinn’s departure in mid-2019 made it difficult to continue with the MakomSTL program, particularly as it relied heavily on rabbinic participation. We hope that, once we restored our full rabbinic complement, we will be able to reinstate this important program.

In early 2020, the coronavirus pandemic forced us to change our approach to adult learning. For the time being we do not gather at the synagogue for classes. Certain activities, especially Torah study, continue via Zoom, and the loyalty of congregants who traditionally have participated in these classes has endured despite the switch to a tech platform.

Before we scattered to the safety of our homes, we enjoyed three marquee learning events under the Deutsch Scholars-In-Residence programs. In November 2019 we welcomed Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger for “An Evening with Roots/Shorashim/Judur: A Palestinian-Israeli Initiative for Understanding.” In January 2020, Rabbi Josh Weinberg, Executive Director of ARZA (The Association of Reform Zionists of America) updated us on his organization’s activities. February saw the arrival of Jeanette Kuvin Oren, the designer of our magnificent new Torah covers, and her husband Dan, a genealogy specialist. Jeanette spoke at Friday night services about her design for the Torah covers, and Dan discussed his adventures in genealogy on Saturday, then met with individual congregants on Sunday to assist them in their own pursuit of family history.

May the coming year bring equally stimulating and rewarding learning opportunities.

Morning at the Movies is another wonderful Adult learning program designed by volunteer committee. Every two months, there is a bagel breakfast, movie and discussion led by a different moderator each time. This year we enjoyed watching a movie about Yiddish followed by a discussion with Will Sol. Rabbi Bennett led a discussion about the movie Keeping the Faith. There was a special ‘Morning at the Movies’ with Camp Emeth during Chanukah where we viewed An American Tail, played dreidle and ate pizza.
Baby Boomers
Our Baby Boomers group was booming with four exciting and different programs last year. The components of each of our programs included socializing, laughter and learning. Participants were asked to bring an item or two to each of our programs to support an organization in St. Louis such as Oak Hill Elementary School, International Institute or Harvey Kornblum Food Pantry.

This past year we enjoyed the following programs:
- Slam and Dunk at the Art Museum which included docent led tours of the Kehinde Wiley and Graphic Revolution American Prints 1960 to Now exhibits, followed by cookies, coffee and tea with a discussion led by our own members Bruce Feldacker and Carl Lyss.
- Boomers, Boots and Barbecue was a fun time for all to learn how to line dance and, of course, eat a delicious barbecue dinner at Stovall’s Grove.
- In the fall, we enjoyed a beautiful Sunday at Defiance Vineyards with a genealogy talk by our own amazing Dr. Arlene Stiffman, followed by lunch.

Covid-19 didn’t stop us from enjoying our first Zoomer Happy Hour with a program on Jewish humor led by Rabbi Jeffrey Stiffman.

The Baby Boomer Committee:
Lorry Blath, Richard Blath, Betsy Cytron, Ron Cytron, Bill Elliot, Lynn Elliot, Julia Mendelow, Larry Mendelow, and Vicki Platke; Marcia Feit, Chair; Debbie Bram, Director of Jewish Life and Learning

Senior Programming

Senior Lunches Our Congregation participates with Temple Emanuel, Congregation Temple Israel and United Hebrew Congregation in monthly senior lunches and 4-times per year with Seniors on the Move. The monthly lunches now are so popular that we can only accommodate 250 at one time and consistently have a wait list. Lunches include acknowledgement of birthdays and anniversaries with a healthy meal followed by a program. Our Senior Steering Committee made up of members from all four congregations decide on the program whether it will be music or speaker. Lunches rotate from congregation to congregation each month.

Seniors on the Move is a program which occurs 4 times per year. We travel to interesting places around the St. Louis area, followed by lunch. This year we did a tour of the St. Louis Arch and museum, went to a concert at The Sheldon and saw a play at the Repertory Theater. Our final trip of year was scheduled for the State Capitol with a tour, viewing the senate in session and a visit with Jill Schupp. Unfortunately, we had to postpone that trip due to Covid-19.

Both of these programs are underwritten by a grant from the Nathan Kahn-Ernestine Kahn-Charles Kahn Foundation of Congregation Shaare Emeth and by the Women’s Auxiliary Foundation for Jewish Aged.
SOCIAL JUSTICE

Israel Engagement
Congregation Shaare Emeth continues to be deeply committed to creating meaningful opportunities for engagement with the Land and People of Israel as a part of our congregational mission. During this past year, we were very lucky to be able to continue our participation in the Shinshinim Program through the Jewish Federation and the Jewish Agency for Israel. Shaked Birenboim served as our shinshinit for most of the year until the COVID-19 epidemic forced an early end to her time in our community. While she was here she impacted our congregation in numerous ways, working with children in the Preschool, Religious School, Youth Groups and more, and also interacting with our entire congregation in powerful and meaningful ways. Even after her return to Israel, Shaked has continued to meet with us virtually and offered opportunities for us to created ongoing relationships with her and with Israel.

In November 2019, a large group of adults traveled with Rabbi Jim and Amy Bennett to Israel and were guided by our Shaare Emeth Guide, Yael Vatury, on a remarkable tour of Israel and the West Bank, encountering the land and people in wonderful ways. Those participating included: Phyllis and Paul Amsterdam, Ellen and Morris Berger, Betsy and Ron Cytron, Sharee and Mark Feldman, Betsy and Spencer Garland, Norm Handshear, Jackie and Ken Kleban, Judy and Jerry Kreisman, Susan Meltz, Debra and Donald Nevard, Sherri and Steve Newstead, Diane and Michael Packman, Laurie and Earl Rosenberg, Sheri and Fred Seigel, Ann and Stewart Sheinbein, Janice and Gary Sherman, Jane and Hal Sitrin, Rosalie and Bob Stein, Jody and Mickey Waldman, and Kathy Zigler.

We look forward to future tours and programs that will continue to build the strength of our congregation's connection with Israel.
Justice at the Center Committee – Stefanie Greenberg and Bill Remis, Co-Chairs, Rabbi Andrea Goldstein, Clergy Liaison

Justice at the Center successfully completed its second campaign this past year. After wrapping up the "Vote your Values" campaign from 2018. We went back to our results from our listening campaign and researched several options for our next steps. Given that combating racism was a major area of concern for our community, we chose to center our next campaign around reconciling a racist action which had happened in our own neighborhood of Creve Coeur.

During our listening campaign, one of our own members, Jim Singer, brought the story of the racist history of Beirne Park to our attention. In 1956, Dr. Howard Venable, an African American doctor attempted to move to Creve Coeur, but was blocked by a group of citizens. The group, led by later mayor, John Beirne, used eminent domain to take the Venable land and make it into a community park.

Our campaign goals were to educate as many people as possible about this history and rally the community to pressure the current government to make amends. We wanted to make sure that the government did more than just quietly change the name. Through a several town halls meetings, a facebook group and many calls to other Creve Coeur organizations, the Venable Park Coalition was formed. Three of our committee members, Jim Singer, Amy Hammerman and Jodi Miller stepped up to chair this coalition of concerned citizens. One major accomplishment was the town hall with the mayor in October 2018, which was attended by hundreds of people, including many of our members. This continued and public pressure on the government, forced some immediate action. The city of Creve Coeur passed a resolution to change the name of the park to the Howard Phillip Venable Memorial Park. They will be including an educational memorial so that the history of the park is never forgotten, and they will be holding a rededication of the park in the Fall of 2020. This is a perfect example of a situation in which Shaare Emeth was able to use its numbers to put pressure on the government to act justly and to do the right thing. As this campaign concludes, the committee will continue to research new social justice initiatives for the coming year.
Mindfulness Center – Rabbi Andrea Goldstein
Throughout this past year, the Mindfulness Center has hosted a variety of programs and opportunities for the Shaare Emeth and St. Louis Jewish Community.

Programming through the Jewish Mindfulness Center of St. Louis has included:
1. Free weekly Meditation Sits led by Rabbi Goldstein or David and Carole Lander
2. Two Wise Aging programs co-led by Debbie Bram and Sharon Weissman
3. Three 4-week Jewish Yoga sessions – open to all
4. Three consecutive 4-week Yoga for Men sessions (the third one was interrupted due to COVID-19)
5. Erev Rosh Hashanah and Erev Yom Kippur Mindfulness Services led by Rabbi Goldstein, Lucy Greenbaum and the Prayer Lab musicians
6. Seven monthly 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 (the July 2019 Prayer Lab service was held at MaTovu, and the March and April 2020 services were conducted virtually)
7. 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
8. An email subscription program for the month of Elul, leading up to the High Holy Days

In February 2020, Rabbi Goldstein, in her capacity as Director of the Jewish Mindfulness Center of St. Louis, was asked to be a scholar-in-residence for a national kallah attended by 85 ECE directors from across the country. She led 9 unique workshops on the themes of Intentionality and Spirituality. In that same month, the Jewish Mindfulness Center of St. Louis was asked to sponsor a Jewish Mindfulness track at Song Leader Bootcamp. Rabbi Goldstein served on the faculty of the 3-day conference and personally taught and led 6 unique session over the course of the conference.

Once we were faced with the COVID-19 pandemic, teachings from the Mindfulness Center moved online. From the beginning of April through the end of May, Rabbi Goldstein has conducted 2 weekly Mindfulness Meditation sessions that see anywhere from 10-25 people per session (a marked increase from the in-person sessions that we offered before the pandemic arose). Rabbi Goldstein and Lucy Greenbaum also offered a weekly Healing Service (Mi Shebeirach Moments) that saw an average of 20 people attending from Shaare Emeth and across the community. Rabbi Goldstein and Lucy Greenbaum also recorded 4 YouTube videos focusing on Meditation and Prayer that people can access for their own personal use.

Wise Aging – Sharon Weissman – Chair; Debbie Bram, Staff Liaison
Sharon Weissman and Debbie Bram continue to offer Wise Aging groups through the Jewish Mindfulness Center of St. Louis at Congregation Shaare Emeth. This year, they offered a group that physically took place at Covenant House. This was the sixth Wise Aging group to be offered. Sharon and Debbie also offered a view one-shot session for alumni of past groups including a special Wise Aging Zoom Seder.
The Tzedek Committee continued to pursue our congregational interest in the issues of Hunger, Homelessness, and Child Welfare. We conducted a congregational Social Justice Survey.

New Initiatives

- Social Justice Survey had 248 responses; will use the top five topics to focus our advocacy and guide our work going forward. Top five topics are Gun Violence, Anti-Semitism, Racial Justice (incorporates economic justice, criminal justice and voting rights), Climate Collapse and Reproductive Rights.
- Began to form Circles of Concern to involve interested congregants in these new areas. Climate Collapse (coordinators Josh Goldman & Caroline Foss) and Racial Justice (coordinator Holly Bernstein) are formed. We plan to establish groups in the other areas.
- New American committee was renamed Immigration Advocacy and Action Committee and continues its work and includes people who indicated an interest on the survey. Prior to COVID-19 the committee applied for and received a $5,000 grant from the Gilbert and Eleanor Kraus Initiative for Immigration and Refugee Justice. It has been used to provide IFCLA (St. Louis Interfaith Committee on Latin America) with needed computers, transportation and supplies for asylum seekers. Stan Shanker co-ordinates.
- First year harvest of the Mitzvah Garden of Congregation Shaare Emeth; donated 127 lbs. of produce to the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry. Received advice and grants from Gateway Greening, and planted apple & pear trees. Worked to incorporate the Garden into Religious School, Preschool and Camp curriculums. Coordinator transitioned from Gary Sherman to Lorry Blath and Gary Ratkin.
- Shaare Emeth was honored at the International Institute’s Centennial Celebration (along with JCRC and JCNA) with the Lebadang Community Service Award.
- Show me Hope: provided weekend meals to persons released from Clayton Justice Center. Kathy Wiesman co-ordinates.
- Gathering For Gratitude in November had congregants participate in various Mitzvah projects that were donated to the community.
- Joined the IPL (Interfaith Power and Light) organization that provides information about climate issues.
- Participating in a pilot project, Mobilizing the Faithful Expansion Project, organized by Faith and For the Sake of All; on hold with COVID-19. Holly Bernstein is coordinating.

On-Going Programs and Projects

- Participated as a Congregation in the Annual Pride Parade in June 2019.
- Continued to provide support to Christ Church UCC in their sanctuary efforts.
- Provided 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, the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry, and MAZON.
- Organized Holiday collections for students at Oak Hill Elementary and with Parkway UCC collected for refugee families.
- Participated as a Congregation in the Annual Jewish/Muslim day of service in December 2019. Jenny Shrensker is Shaare Emeth’s representative.
• Room at the Inn: hosted homeless men, women and children from Room at the Inn on a monthly basis; on hold with COVID-19. Ronnie Brockman, Jennifer Rosenthal and Cindy Heymann co-ordinate.
• Provided and served dinner once a month to homeless men at St. Peter and Paul’s shelter; on hold with COVID-19. Ted and Jen Houser co-ordinate.
• Continued our partnership with Oak Hill Elementary in St. Louis providing weekly tutors from our Congregation, and a school supplies drive. Lorry Blath coordinates.
• Continuing, despite COVID-19, 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, congregants volunteer at the Institute with Parkway UCC to 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 ShaareMail, special emails and Friday night services.
• Promoted our Congregational tzedakah boxes. Agencies selected for this year: Parents Circle – Families Forum, Winter Outreach, Rukanade. Continuing to promote direct donations to organizations during our virtual services and via ShaareMail.


**Immigration Advocacy and Action Committee (New Americans) – Stan Shanker, Chair**

The Immigration Advocacy and Action Committee formerly known as the New Americans Committee. We voted on and approved a new name change for our committee that better describes our mission. We applied for and received a $5,000 grant from the Gilbert and Eleanor Kraus Initiative for Immigration and Refugee Justice at the Religious Action Center (RAC), which will be used to assist undocumented individuals in applying for asylum through IFCLA. We provided 4 new laptops as part of the proceeds of this grant used in the last pro se clinic held February 1, 2020. Additionally, some of our committee members volunteered their services during the clinic. Our intention is to provide volunteers and food for the next three pro se clinics. Unfortunately, just as everything else, these clinics are postponed until further notice due to COVID-19.

The committee continues to be engaged regarding actions that can be taken regarding immigration issues. Our engagements are primarily limited to phone calls and emails to state and federal legislatures. Most of our contacts are being suggested to the committee to act as individuals rather than our committee speaking on behalf of the Temple. Congregation Shaare Emeth signed on the RAC Brit Olam Immigration committee and I have been attending the monthly conference calls. Both Dede Seltzer and I are Shaare Emeth’s representatives.
The International Institute – Stan Shanker, Chair
Since last October, St. Louis has welcomed 116 refugees, mostly from Afghanistan and The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). More than 40 refugees arrived in St. Louis during the week prior to the issuance of the region’s shelter in-place order in March. As first responders, we have been focused on a number of priority services for our vulnerable client populations, including: • COVID-19 Information – We now provide numerous immigrant community updates about safety and health, including native language updates to 800 client households using recorded telephonic messaging translated by IISTL multi-lingual staff.

• Emergency needs – We are helping clients access emergency community resources including food, housing, and energy assistance, assisting immigrant entrepreneurs to connect for small business loans, and helping laid-off workers apply for unemployment compensation. And we are assisting dozens of new arrivals file their first income tax returns to receive stimulus relief checks.

• Teleservices & online training – We have successfully moved several of our ongoing services online. We have also shifted much of our immigration application support, counseling, and health services to online platforms.

Please see the websites to see actions that you can take to help the International Institute and IFLCA.

https://www.iistl.org
https://stl-ifcla.org/covid19

Room at the Inn - Ronnie Brockman, Chair
Shaare Emeth hosts Room at the Inn (a homeless shelter for women and families) on the First Monday evening of every month to Tuesday morning. The temple hosts families overnight from Room at the Inn. 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 110 guests and had over 50 volunteers during the year help with Room at the Inn

Since December we have made a few changes within our Room at the Inn Commitment. First, I would like to thank Barb Feldacker for her unrelenting commitment to Room at the Inn over the last 10 years. Barb over saw the 5-7 shift which meant she organized the volunteers who brought food for dinner and breakfast and served the meal and visited with the guests. She set up the sleeping room before the guests arrived and welcomed our guests every first Monday of the month. We will miss her dearly. With that said, we are also very lucky to have Jennifer Rosenthal take over for Barb. Jennifer and her daughter, Demi have volunteered for many years with Barb. Jennifer is bringing new ideas to enhance our program and new volunteers to help us as well. Cindy Heymann still oversees our 7-9 shift and Ronnie Brockman the sleeping and driver shifts.

The last time we hosted Room at the Inn was in February. In March, we were asked by Room at the Inn to bring a meal to them. We were not allowed to stay, however, thanks to Sue Picus and Betsy Cytron, our guests ate well. They dropped off the meal which they had catered for 25 people. Many thanks Sue and Betsy. Because of COVID-19, beginning April first all Host temples and churches were asked to donate $150 per month to help cover the costs for meals being served for the clients and staff on our night of service. Debbie Bram and Rabbi Goldstein were able to use some of our appropriate temple funds for April and May. Once we know more about the restrictions after May 15th, we will plan accordingly for June, July and August.
Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to donate their time, talents, items of need and financial donations to Room at the Inn. If you are interested in volunteering for Room at the Inn, please contact Ronnie, ronnie@camprainbow or Debbie Bram, dbram@sestl.org.

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.

Based off of the 2019 congregation-wide Communications Survey, we know that our three biggest communications media are ShaareMail, The Bulletin, and Facebook, in that order. Therefore, we have continued to utilize these platforms in a variety of ways this year to stay in touch with our community.

Since the summer of 2019, Congregation Shaare Emeth’s monthly newsletter has been printed by Modern Litho. Along with the new printer, we have explored various different print schedules for the Bulletin, such as combining issues. Additionally, we have experimented with changing color schemes, adding and eliminating certain sections based off of reader interest, and have begun the conversation about a possible future rebranding of the publication. We also added Shirlee Green Preschool families to our regular Bulletin mailing list, increasing our monthly readership to roughly 1,700.

With regard to ShaareMail, our weekly E-newsletter, our current email open rate is 46%. This is compared to an industry average of 25%, placing us 21 percentage points higher than other nonprofits of our size and nature. This shows that, on average, around 880 individuals are consistently reading ShaareMail.

The Congregation is active on Facebook, with over 3,000 individuals seeing our content each month. This year we were happy to introduce “Torah Tuesdays” to our Facebook content. The short 3-5 minute videos feature one of our clergy giving an explanation of that week’s Torah Portion. They have been a great vehicle to communicate our values of relevant, meaningful Judaism in an easily accessible and digital way.

Digital content has become more important for the Congregation than ever before in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We have created sections of our website that are dedicated to keeping congregants informed on all of our health and safety updates and online virtual opportunities. We switched our streaming technology to utilize Zoom in order to allow worship services to feature our clergy from their homes. These streams have been broadcast both to our website as well as to our Facebook page.

Virtual Friday night Shabbat Services are well attended via Facebook Live, with many services garnering somewhere between 500 and 700 unique viewers. Readership for email communications are stable with little perceivable effect from COVID-19.

Lastly, with the introduction of ShulCloud, the Congregation’s new membership database, comes a new email builder platform. We look forward to switching our ShaareMail and other email communications to this media and continuing to send out visually appealing, clearly drafted emails to stay connected with our community.
COMMUNITY Archives - Brenda Baron

The mission of the Temple Archives is to keep a well documented history of Shaare Emeth. The papers we have accumulated date from 1867.

With the remodeling of the office area, we inherited boxes of information and had to determine if information was archivable and relevant to the temple. The archives area is being remodeled to accommodate the influx of documents from the administrative and clergy offices.

Johanna Shilinger has worked with me since 2018.

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 2019 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 were complimented with twice weekly Shiurim that include age-appropriate, hands-on activities related to the camp’s Jewish theme for the summer—which in 2019 was Eitz Chayim (Tree of Life). The swimming program, under the supervision of YMCA of Chesterfield, included both specialized instruction and free swim. We outsourced many of our weekly chuggim (elective activity) offerings and were able to keep the afternoon choice time creative and diverse.

We continued to serve our campers with diverse needs with the support of our Inclusion Specialist. This successful program utilized the Inclusion Specialist to create ICP’s (Individual Camper Plans) and worked in collaboration with staff, families and campers.

The enrollment for Summer 2019 was strong. Many age groups were at maximum enrollment for one or more weeks. Enrollment included over 215 individual campers over the course of the summer; 63 of those campers attended Camp Emeth for the first time.

Our new online registration and camper management system was implemented for the 2019 enrollment season and was a huge success. This new system allowed us to be almost 100% paper free and has improved on processes and efficiencies throughout our operations.

Camp Emeth continues its mission to help children appreciate their special qualities, build friendships, develop Jewish values & their own sense of Jewish identity & strength of character, and provide an opportunity for children to gain appreciation for diversity and respect of self, others, and the environment.
Camp Micah – Kayla Ellis, Director
The theme for Camp Micah 2019 was “Out of This World”. The campers used their imaginations to blast into space where they learned about the sun, planets, stars and what it is like to be an astronaut. The expanded their learning and development through specialists like art, science, yoga, water play, and music. Camp Micah teamed up with Green Tree Plastics for our tzedakah project. The congregation helped us collect 150 pounds of plastic caps and tops that Green Tree Plastics recycled into a picnic bench that is now in the Outdoor Kitah.

Camp started on May 28, 2019 and went through August 16, 2019, Monday-Friday 7a.m-6p.m.

There were 132 children in attendance at Camp Micah 2019:
28 K’tanim (0-1 years old) 31 Zebrot (3-4 years old)
17 Kofim (1-2 years old) 26 Pilim (4-5 years old)
30 Dubim (2-3 years old)

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 matzah ball soup and challah to cheer them up. In normal times 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.

Our newest initiative has been the creation of the Welcoming Committee. We are looking forward to the time when Shaare Emeth members can once again attend Shabbat services in person. At that time, we will once again facilitate the presence of a Shaare Emeth member whose responsibility is to visit with people in the lobby before the service begins. We are particularly interested in talking to people who are not otherwise engaged in conversation. Many of our newer members especially are enthusiastic about Shaare Emeth, the clergy, and the staff, but they sometimes don’t know many of their fellow congregants. Our goal is to help change that.

During the current period of sheltering at home, Caring Committee members enthusiastically joined in the effort to reach out by phone to everyone in the Shaare Emeth family.

Debbie Bram advises the Caring Committee. Active members include: Brenda Baron, Suzanne Bierman, Allen Brockman, Ronnie Brockman, Susie Frank, Jessica Goltzman, Ann Gottesman, Patty Kaplan, Barbara Kramer, Linda Levin, Alice Ludmer, Marcia Moskowitz, Eunice Reichman, John Reichman, Marsha Rothman, Linda Sandmel, Sherie Seigel, Barbara Victor, David Victor, Sharon Weissman
Interfaith Programs – Subie Banaszynski, Coordinator

In July 2019 Congregation Shaare Emeth hired a staff part-time person, Subie Banaszynski, to create programming for our interfaith community. Shaare Emeth was awarded a grant by the Weil Fund through the St. Louis Jewish Federation to help support this position.

The first few months were spent interviewing staff and interfaith adults to learn what types of programs were of interest and what particular needs this community has. As we do not ask our congregants or Early Childhood/Preschool families if they are Jewish, we searched through data to determine who the target audience(s) are for programming.

Additions through the Interfaith initiative has included:
- Navigating your Child’s Bar/Bat Mitzvah as an Interfaith Family. A session to explore some of the challenges and opportunities for a meaningful Bar/Bat Mitzvah experience.
- New section in the Bulletin, For Those Who Might Be Curious. Each month one of our clergy or professional staff answers a question about Jewish thought, customs and practices.
- Tater Tot Chanukah Shabbat – Themed Multifaith Winter Holidays. An educational and experiential event for young children and their families to learn about other religious observances in the month of December.
- Website Review. Ensuring that our website is multifaith family inclusive.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, we had several programs cancelled or postponed. Including:
- Grandparenting Interfaith Grandchildren
- Early Childhood Parent Breakfasts
- Mezzuzah making for young interfaith adults
- Interfaith Affinity Groups

Each of these programs have been rescheduled for virtual experiences or future dates.

KeSHEr – Jenn Saggett, Chair; Rabbi Andrea Goldstein, Clergy Liaison

KeSHEr was very excited to kick off its second year with a kugel cook off in the sukkah. We enjoyed some delicious kugels as well as spending time together. In December, we partnered with Home Sweet Home and learned about their incredible organization. We made baskets of cleaning supplies to donate to them as well as made our own artwork of a blessing for the home. In February, we learned from Elisa Recht about gematria and its significance in Judaism. We were not able to have our scheduled spring program but we were all able to come together over Zoom for an artist led program about doodling.

We have a wonderful planning committee that worked hard to make it a great year! The committee is made up of Lisa Berger, Kristin Friedman, Jen Klearman, Michelle Oppenheim, Allison Reppy, Gabby Tullman, Lori Zucker and chaired by Jenn Sagett.

Mental Health Initiative - Dr. Dan Weinstein, Chair

After taking a hiatus, the Shaare Emeth Mental Health Initiative began meeting again last fall.

Our first presentation occurred last month, via Zoom, with psychologist, Dr. Brad Reedy, Author and Co-owner/Clinical Director of Evoke Therapy Programs. The presentation was titled, “Managing Anxiety and Mental Health in Close Quarters” and was well attended, with approximately 25-30 participants. We are working on plans for continued programs and services as we move forward with this important initiative.
The Mitzvah Garden's (MG) first year was a breakthrough in many ways. It went from an idea to a real food growing garden within a year. One hundred and twenty-seven pounds of fruits and vegetables were produced for the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry in 2019 and that was a good start. We look forward to producing much more this year.

The Mitzvah Garden became a one of Gateway Greening’s Community Network Gardens. That allows the MG to have access to grants for the purchase of equipment, trees, seeds, seedlings, and much more along with free expert guidance on operating all aspects of the garden. One thing that was not expected was how the MG blended into Shaare Emeth. Last Summer we worked with Camp Emeth campers to teach them about how things grow and to show them that their food does not originate in the grocery store. In the Fall, Rabbi Lori Levine chose to incorporate the MG into the Religious School curriculum. Students came each Sunday to learn about plants and to help in the MG. They also learned of the connections between growing food and sharing it with others as is outlined in the Torah.

In the Fall of 2019, an orchard was added to the MG with four fruit trees. At the start of the growing season, in 2020, two more raised beds were added to the others to bring the MG up to a total of eight raised beds. The new beds will be used to grow blackberries, strawberries, and a type of blueberry.

Our hope for this very unusual year of 2020 is to have more abundant crops and more members of the Congregation to join us in watering and caring for the MG. Being in the garden seems to take one away from thoughts and worldly worries. In some respects, it relaxes much like meditating. We leave refreshed and renewed by witnessing the miracles that turn our seeds and seedlings into beautiful plants, knowing that the food produced will go to those who are in need. Taking the harvested food to the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry is a Mitzvah.

All of this could not have been accomplished without a dedicated committee, each willing to be a hard worker. The MG committee members are: Lorry Blath, Allen Brockman, Gary Ratkin, Alan Schaffer, Vicki Schaff, Stan Shanker, Gary Sherman, and Debbie Bram, (Shaare Emeth Staff Member). I was privileged to be chair of the Mitzvah Garden Committee in its first year and I have now handed off that honor to Lorry Blath and Gary Ratkin who are the Co-Chairs now.
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 the 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 worked with the community to gather new face masks to get them to our local Hospitals to protect our critical and beloved health care workers as they fought Covid 19.
- MOSHE donated $1500 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 with your help.
- 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 provides kitchen help for the Purim Carnival
- MOSHE sunsetted the beloved “Kibitz Café,” our pop up hand-crafted Sunday breakfast café. It served as one of our main fundraisers, affording us the opportunity to do our good work. Kibitz Café served over 700 guests per full school year.

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 18 or over to get involved, so join us!
**Young Adults**

During the year 2019-2020, our efforts to build relationships with our young adult congregants and others in the St. Louis community were put largely on hold, as we searched for a new rabbi to fill the position vacated when Rabbi Zinn left last summer. We are excited that Rabbi Rachel Bearman will join us effective July 1. Her responsibilities will include picking up where Rabbi Zinn left off in building this dimension of congregational life and programming. In particular, she will be helping to create ways of building community for young couples and families, connect our Shaare Emeth young adult community, and develop further relationships in the greater community with Young Adult initiatives like B’yahad, Ma Tovu, NextDor and other efforts to expand the reach of our congregation in these important areas.

**Youth Program - Lucy Greenbaum, Music and Youth Engagement Coordinator**

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 our youth group and worked to build a strong community with our existing members. In November, SETYG hosted and planned NFTY-MV’s first regional event of the year, Fall Chavurah, which was camp-themed. We tie-dyed, made s’mores, got hypnotized and so much more with friends from all across our region. In addition to a year of meaningful and fun filled programs, SETYG raised nearly $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 many 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 provide an important entry point to our high school youth program.

In the last few months, we have moved all of our programming to virtual spaces, coming together for check-ins, pictionary, movie night, trivia, and more! Special thanks to the outgoing SETYG Board for an excellent year!

**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

We are thrilled to welcome a new SETYG Board for the 2020-2021 academic year. This group will continue to help our teens feel connected (both virtually and, hopefully, in person), and are very much looking forward to working collaboratively with Rabbi Bearman. Mazel tov to the newly elected board members!
**SETYG Board 2020-2021**

President: Katie Silver  
Programming Vice President: Ryan Silver  
Social Action Vice Presidents: Andrew Goldberg & Samuel Baker  
Religious & Cultural Vice Presidents: Jake Goldman & Noah Sentnor  
Membership Vice Presidents: Jordan Eisen & Sasha Albright  
Communications Vice Presidents: Sarah Pernik & Aidan Dougan  
Special Projects Coordinator: Simon Warner  
Junior Youth Group (SE45 & NFTY 678) Representative: Lila Goldstein  
Merchantise & Finance Coordinator: Amelia Swier

**BUILDING AND GROUNDS**

**House - Robert Colton, Director of Operations**

It has been another busy year for the building. In addition to routine maintenance, repairs, and painting, other projects completed include:

- New concrete pad installed at the “Upper Pavilion”
- Preschool Hallway carpet has been replaced to match the rest of the education wing’s carpet
- Preschool restrooms, dating back to 1974, have been renovated
- New Staff Break Area was created by renovation an existing space
- Administrative Office was reconfigured to fit the needs of the current staff
- Utility work involving the water meters was completed to comply with regulations
- Additional parking lot lighting was installed based on recommendations from the Creve Coeur Police
- Replacement of outdated classroom intercom system with new integrated telephone system
- Workstations have been equipped with plexiglass barriers to protect staff from the spread of COVID-19

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

- **Technology** – We used [www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com) again for volunteers to sign-up for a shift. This again proved helpful.
- **Religious School Staff and Parents** – The staff were very helpful in sending out regular emails requesting people to sign-up for a shift. Rabbi Levine was especially helpful again this year.
- **Manual and Training** – We updated the manual and those that read it said it was helpful. There were no issues with the cones each week.
- **Crosswalks** – Congregants and Clergy were usually good about using the main crosswalk. There are still times when people just don’t care to use the main crosswalk and will walk out in front and between cars and that includes the Clergy.
- **We are in need of volunteers to ensure that entering and exiting Religious School remains safe and timely.**
Safety and Security – Mark Rubin, Chair; Robert Colton, Staff Liaison

Beginning in May of 2019 the temple has employed security staff to be present during Friday evening Shabbat Services and Saturday morning Shabbat Service, as well funerals held at the facility.

A fund was set up to offset security costs.

The Shaare Emeth Safety and Security Committee met with local law enforcement periodically for guidance and consultation on security procedures. Based on their recommendations, additional security and surveillance equipment was installed at the Camp Emeth pavilion, and the following training courses occurred:

- May 17th, the Security Committee met with Creve Coeur Police (CCP) Chief Eidman.
- June 5th, Active Killer training session for Camp Emeth staff.
- August 12th, Active Killer training session for preschool staff, conducted by CCP
- September 8th, Active Killer situation lecture for religious school staff, conducted by CCP.
- October 13th, Situational Training session for religious school traffic volunteers, led by Scott Biondo

The Jewish Federation of St. Louis announced that during the Spring of 2020, security assessments of various temples, including Shaare Emeth, would be used to assist local temples with additional security features. If approved, additional security bollards will be installed on the property.

In April of 2020 Shaare Emeth applied for a grant through The Department of Homeland Security to enhance the temple’s current Access Control Door system; funding announcement will be made in September 2020.

Technology - Tod Greenberg, Chair

Our major accomplishment in the technology area over the past year has been to complete the temple’s move to the cloud. This included training all staff on how to access files and systems from either inside or outside temple, which has proven extremely beneficial as we have all dealt with the pandemic over the past few months. We have also replaced a number of older computers in order to help the temple staff be more productive and increase security. Finally, we are in the process of moving from Membership Management (MM) to ShulCloud. This move will not only provide greater operational benefits but it will simplify our technology as well since ShulCloud is 100% web based, unlike MM.

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, the Committee 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, continued to tweak the plan to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety even though we were missing several traffic volunteers including the Chair. The traffic flow ended up being smoother than expected thanks to the cooperation and patience of Temple members and extra hours put in by Committee members even though we were short staffed. 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
Congregation Shaare Emeth welcomed the following families to since April 2019:

- Lauren and Brad Abel, with children, Charlotte and Levi
- Melissa and Jason Adler, with daughter, Brinley
- Marci Allison, with son, Ryan
- Jenny Barfield, with children, Emma and Maggie
- Stephanie and Jeffrey Barnett, with children, Stuart and Madeline
- Emily and Daniel Bernstein, with daughter, Lena
- Jennifer Brodsky, with son, Troxler
- Allison and Darin Buford
- Mara and Brett Bunsick, with children, Elliana and Lainey
- Emily and Brent Cohen, with daughter, Abby
- Carol Cohen
- Lauren and Nick Del Gaiso, with children, Delaney and Nola
- Jeannie and Guillaume Diedisheim, with children, Maxime, Isabelle and Juliette
- Beth and Neal DuBro, with son, Aiden
- Jackie and David Elias, with children, Coleman and Emma
- Emily and Colton Fenton, with son, Cooper
- Barbara and Allen Geller
- Dara Gianetto, with children, Charles and Joshua
- Sallie and Jason Glaser
- Josh Goldman, with children, Jacob and Sophie
- Kelsey and Geoffrey Grammer
- Jill and Robby Gross, with son, Louie
- Mary Hartman and Peter Michelson
- Barbara and Brian Herstig, with children, Gabe, Ben and Goldie
- Carly and John Hildreth
- Caroline Hoff, with children, Mya and Kate
- Emily and Rob Huekler, with daughter, Hannah
- Natalie and Mitchell Kalmar, with children, Benjamin, Julian, and Zoe
- Linnea and Andrew Kogan, with daughter, Gerri Rae
- Diane and Jerry Kopp
- Ruthie and Chad Leftwich, with children, Sadie, Easton and Colton
- Rochelle Popkin
- Amanda and Andrew Robinson
- Rachel and Michael Rosen, with children, Graham and Reid
- Adrielly and Brandon Rosenfeld, with daughter, Alara
• Amy Rubenstein, with children, Jordyn and Leighton
• Linda Rubin
• Lindsay and Josh Scheinerman, with children, Mia and Drew
• Betsy Schmidt
• Susan and Phillip Schreiber
• Miriam Seidenfeld
• Roberta Stolz
• Julie and Neil Tzinberg
• Michael Zucker, with children, Graham, Henry and Julia

Shaare Emeth had 53 total resignations with 14 families voluntarily resigning and 39 families being resigned by the temple. The total family units for the period was 1,568.

Fundraising
Heart and Soul Gala – Ronnie Brockman and Fran Mannis, Co-Chairs; Rosalie Stein, Staff Liaison

The event was held on October 21, 2019 at the temple with 200 attendees. This year we honored Sue Matlof with the Harris Frank Community Service Award and Ted Houser with the Tzedek Award. Heart and Soul “Gathering in Gratitude and honoring Greatness” was an amazing success. We integrated the holiday of Sukkot throughout the evening by building a special sukkah, having our centerpieces made of leaves of myrtle and palms and continuing the Social Action Committee Project, the Giving Tree. The Gala helps to support congregational programs like social justice programs, our temple mission of education, spiritual practice and outreach.

Top Golf Takeover – Joe Gerchen and Irl Scissors, Co-Chairs; Rosalie Stein, Staff Liaison

The Topgolf Takeover was an amazing opportunity to give back to the temple with a golf outing that was marketable to couples, instead of having a standard golf tournament that would take all day. It was a huge success! We had about 100 attendees and it seemed that everyone had a great time. Top Golf Takeover events included a hole in one contest, 50/50 raffle, and silent auction. We raised around $4,000 for the temple and we couldn't have been happier! Thank you to all who showed up to support the temple by participating in Top Golf Takeover 2019!

Trivia Night 2019 – Kathy Wiesman, Chair; Debbie Bram, Staff Liaison

Trivia Night 2019 was another successful event for Shaare Emeth. We had a sell out crowd again, a very robust silent auction and donations galore! We received positive feedback from the Trivia Night attendees. Trivia Night Committee members were Alan and Suzi Bayne, Holly Bernstein, Neil Elias, Gil Gross, Shari Gross, Mike Lefton, Carol Levin, Bill Livingston, Vicki Platke, Steve Tucker, and Kathy Zigler.

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, implementing minor changes in the employee healthcare coverage.

As a follow-up from one-on-one staff interviews in the prior year, the HR Committee sought out communications training for all clergy, directors and staff. We agreed to perform additional one-on-one interviews again to hone in on the area of communications most needed, and to get additional feedback from all staff members. The one-on-one meetings with all full-time employees this year provided positive feedback for the Committee’s prior year work, and noted marked improvements in communications throughout the temple. Once again, the feedback was very open, with the understanding that anything shared would be kept in full confidence by the HR Committee.

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

**Investment Committee - Mark Gubernik, Associate Treasurer**

Domestic equities finished 2019 with their best returns in 6 years after coming off negative returns in 2018. U.S. Large Cap equities, as measured by the S&P 500, returned 31.5% during the year outpacing the 30.5% return for mid cap stocks and 25.5% return for small cap stocks. International and Emerging Market equities rebounded from disappointing performance in 2018 with returns of 22% and 18.4% respectively, while still lagging domestic equities over the last 5 years. Large Cap Growth continues to outperform Large Cap Value as well. Fixed income rallied in 2019 with interest rates continuing to fall. The 10 Year Treasury Bond closed at 1.9% while the broad-based fixed income BB Aggregate Index returned 8.7%. Inflation continues to remain low and in check.

After realizing strong gains in both the equity and fixed income markets in 2019, we still need to understand that risks remain and future volatility can be expected. 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 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 market. 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 TIAA asset manager, to review the portfolio’s performance, discuss the current market environment, and review the philosophy for managing the Temple’s funds. As of December 31, 2019, the total portfolio value was $4,841,089 and managed as follows by TIAA: $3,639,044 was in the equity portfolio consisting of passive mutual funds and ETF’s including domestic equity, international and emerging market equity, and cash equivalents. $1,202,045 was in the fixed income portfolio including high quality corporate bonds, US Treasury Bonds, and cash equivalents. The YTD portfolio return net of fees was 19.18%. The current Investment Policy provides for an allocation of 65% Equities/Alternatives and 35% Fixed Income/Cash.

Members of the Investment Policy Committee include: Randy Brodsky, John Corn, Bill Elliot, Mike Lefton, Dan Loiterstein, Steve Meyers, Allan 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 Assistant Treasurer and reports to the Operating Committee and/or 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 2019 was $1,591,834, up 20% year-over-year and up 15% vs. 2018 budget as the both Camp and Preschool operated at near capacity. In addition, Preschool benefited from a third infant room during the year. Fee for Service expenses for 2018 was $1,242,314, up 11% year-over-year and up 4% vs. 2018 budget as primarily due to higher staffing.
Non-Fee for Service income for 2018 was $3,129,442, up 9% year-over-year and up 2% vs. 2018 budget. The primary reason for the increase in revenue was due to use of Building Fund endowment income pay for planned building improvements. Excluding the Building Fund income total Non-Fee for Service income was up 1% year-over-year. Membership Responsibly income was up 5% and offset a decline of 25% in total Fundraising income. Non-Fee for Service expenses for 2018 was $3,317,545, flat year-over-year and down 7% vs. 2018 budget.

In December of 2019, the Board of Trustees passed the 2020 Operational budget. Total income is budgeted to increase 4% year-over-year while total expenses are budgeted to increase 3% year-over-year to produce a deficit of ($253,618). The Operating Committee and Board of Trustees is focused on increasing the annual commitments from Membership Responsibility and will be continuing to execute its plans to achieve this goal that started during 2019. However, the crisis surrounding COVID-19 may have a negative impact on our 2020 income and expenses.

Congregation Shaare Emeth was able to participate in the Paycheck Protection Program to keep workers employed amid the pandemic and economic downturn. Use of this additional funding should help offset lost income while covering our ongoing expenses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018 Actual</th>
<th>2019 Budget</th>
<th>2019 Actual</th>
<th>2020 Budget</th>
<th>% Change (19/18) Vs. Budget</th>
<th>% Change (20/19) Vs. Actual</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FEE FOR SERVICE INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Preschool &amp; Camp</td>
<td>$1,328,570</td>
<td>$1,385,159</td>
<td>$1,591,834</td>
<td>$1,728,924</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
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<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Preschool &amp; Camp</td>
<td>$1,120,900</td>
<td>$1,199,297</td>
<td>$1,242,314</td>
<td>$1,335,816</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NON-FEE FOR SERVICE INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Membership Responsibility</td>
<td>$2,090,819</td>
<td>$2,305,650</td>
<td>$2,201,803</td>
<td>$2,418,984</td>
<td>-4.5%</td>
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<td>ALL OTHER</td>
<td>$791,027</td>
<td>$770,256</td>
<td>$927,639</td>
<td>$741,316</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$2,881,846</td>
<td>$3,075,906</td>
<td>$3,129,442</td>
<td>$3,160,301</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>$3,317,545</td>
<td>$3,551,901</td>
<td>$3,317,545</td>
<td>$3,551,901</td>
<td>-6.6%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td>$4,210,416</td>
<td>$4,461,065</td>
<td>$4,721,276</td>
<td>$4,889,224</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>$4,438,445</td>
<td>$4,751,198</td>
<td>$4,979,852</td>
<td>$5,142,843</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
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<td><strong>NET CONTRIBUTION (DEFICIT)</strong></td>
<td>($228,029)</td>
<td>($290,133)</td>
<td>($258,577)</td>
<td>($253,618)</td>
<td>-10.9%</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 2019-2020 Operating Committee

- **President:** Mike Lefton
- **1st Vice President:** Josh Wallach
- **Secretary:** Rachel Pereles
- **Treasurer:** Andy Speller
- **Assoc. Treasurer:** Mark Gubernik
- **Vice President:** 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.:**

### 2020-2021 Operating Committee

- **President:** Josh Wallach
- **1st Vice President:** Bill Remis
- **Secretary:** Rachel Pereles
- **Treasurer:** Mark Gubernik
- **Vice President:** Bob Sparks
- **Vice President:** Randy Brodsky
- **Vice President:** Richard Cohen
- **Vice President:** Dana DeBlasi
- **Vice President:** Erin Schreiber
- **Vice President:** Michael Sherberg
- **Immed. Past Pres.:** Mike Lefton

### Board of Trustees

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

- **Jeffrey Bland**
- **Danny Fischer**
- **David Goran**
- **Todd Greenberg**
- **Amy Hammerman**
- **Gene Jacobson**
- **Doug Kolker**
- **Julia Mendelow**
- **Ed Musen**
- **Sue Picus**
- **Dave Propper**
- **Jill Solomon**
- **Andy Speller**
- **Lisa Suffian**
- **Gabby Tullman**
- **Kathy Wiesman**
- **Mark Zorensky**
### Past Presidents of Shaare Emeth Temple

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Names</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1869-1871</td>
<td>Barney Hysinger Z&quot;L</td>
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<tr>
<td>1871-1878</td>
<td>Abraham Kramer Z&quot;L</td>
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<tr>
<td>1878-1888</td>
<td>Barney Hysinger Z&quot;L</td>
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<tr>
<td>1888-1889</td>
<td>Frank Block Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1889-1890</td>
<td>S.A. Rider Z&quot;L</td>
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<tr>
<td>1890-1892</td>
<td>Louis Hellman Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1892-1894</td>
<td>Gustave Rosenberg Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1894-1895</td>
<td>Nicholas Scharff Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1895-1899</td>
<td>William Goldstein Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1899-1908</td>
<td>Louis Straus Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1908-1910</td>
<td>Ben F. Stromberg Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1910-1912</td>
<td>Henry Sayers Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1912-1914</td>
<td>J.D. Goldman Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1914-1916</td>
<td>Alfred C. Einstein Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1916-1919</td>
<td>Judge Irvin V. Barth Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1919-1937</td>
<td>Edwin B. Meissner Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1938-1939</td>
<td>Major B. Einstein Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1939-1940</td>
<td>A.B. Frey Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1941-1942</td>
<td>Nathan H. Burgheim Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1943-1944</td>
<td>Harvey Frohlichstein Z&quot;L</td>
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<tr>
<td>1945-1946</td>
<td>Lee Kaufman Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1947</td>
<td>Arthur Kahn Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1947</td>
<td>Paul. H. Berwald Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1948-1950</td>
<td>Herbert Frank Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1951-1953</td>
<td>Alvin A. Abramson Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1954-1956</td>
<td>Louis Shifrin Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1957-1958</td>
<td>Alfred W. Petchaft Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1959-1960</td>
<td>Ely E. Goldwasser Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1961-1962</td>
<td>Alfred J. Fleischer Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1963 - 1964</td>
<td>Elmer Abramson Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1965 - 1966</td>
<td>Joseph Chused Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1967</td>
<td>David Corwin</td>
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<tr>
<td>1968 - 1969</td>
<td>Harris Frank</td>
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<td>1970 - 1971</td>
<td>Bert Rosen Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1972 - 1973</td>
<td>Louis M. Weltman Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1973 - 1975</td>
<td>Minna Fendell Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1975 - 1978</td>
<td>Robert Frey Z&quot;L</td>
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<tr>
<td>1978 - 1981</td>
<td>Charles Eisenkramer</td>
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<td>1981 - 1983</td>
<td>Bernard Pasternak Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1983 - 1985</td>
<td>Buddy Lebman</td>
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<td>1985 - 1987</td>
<td>Alice Davis (Schwartz)</td>
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<td>1987 - 1989</td>
<td>Carl Moskowitz</td>
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<td>1989 - 1991</td>
<td>Harvey Schneider</td>
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<td>1991 - 1993</td>
<td>Joy Liss</td>
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<td>1993 - 1996</td>
<td>Charles Werner Z&quot;L</td>
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<td>1996 - 1998</td>
<td>Mike Geigerman</td>
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<td>1998 - 2001</td>
<td>Bob Cohn</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001 - 2003</td>
<td>Patty Croughan</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003 - 2005</td>
<td>Ken Kleban</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005 - 2007</td>
<td>Marty Zigler Z&quot;L</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007 - 2009</td>
<td>Steve Rosen</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009 - 2012</td>
<td>Ken Birenbaum</td>
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<td>2012 - 2014</td>
<td>Joe Pereles</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014 - 2016</td>
<td>Greg Yawitz</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016 - 2018</td>
<td>Renee Silverstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018 -</td>
<td>Mike Lefton</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The 2020 Nominating Committee is pleased to recommend the following slate of Officers and Trustees for election at the 152nd Annual Meeting of Congregation Shaare Emeth on June 9, 2020, and acknowledges the returning Officers and Trustees:

**OFFICERS**

**NOMINATED FOR ONE-YEAR TERM, 2020-2021**
- President: Josh Wallach
- 1st Vice President: Bill Remis
- Vice President: Randy Brodsky
- Vice President: Richard Cohen
- Vice President: Dana DeBlasi
- Vice President: Erin Schreiber
- Vice President: Michael Sherberg
- Secretary: Rachel Pereles
- Treasurer: Mark Gubernik
- Assistant Treasurer: Bob Sparks
- Immediate Past President: Mike Lefton

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**NOMINATED FOR TWO-YEAR TERM, 2020-2022**
- Jeffrey Bland
- Ed Musen
- Dave Propper
- Andy Speller
- Kathy Wiesman
- Gene Jacobson
- Sue Picus
- Jill Solomon
- Gabby Tullman

**RE-NOMINATED FOR TWO-YEAR TERM, 2020-2022**
- Dr. David Goran
- Doug Kolker
- Julia Mendelow

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Lorry Blath, Ron Cytron, Amy Hammerman, Lisa Litvag, Irl Scissors, Stan Shanker, Michele Siler
Nominating Committee Chair: Renee Silverstein
Ex-officio members: Rabbi Jim Bennett, Erin Schreiber, Rosalie Stein
Congregation Shaare Emeth’s
152th Annual Meeting
June 9, 2020 • 7:30 p.m. Virtually via Zoom

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 recipients are:

Library Committee
Sandy Birenbaum, Barb Feldacker, Fran Lizzo, Jackie Lipsitz, Barb Raznick, Leah Rubin, Kay Schlessinger, Lee Scissors, and Nancy Taxman

Archives Committee
Brenda Baron and Johanna Schillinger
The 151th Annual Meeting of Congregation Shaare Emeth was called to order at 6:00 pm by President Mike Lefton.

The first order of business was to pass the minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting. Carl Moskowitz made the motion, Richard Cohen seconded, and the minutes passed unanimously.

Mike began by introducing the past Presidents, the clergy and staff, and a 50 year member in attendance. Mike also passed on his condolences to the Goldstein family on the passing of Brett’s father. In his address, he reflected on many accomplishments throughout the year including: Shirlee Green Preschool, Camp Emeth, Rabbi Levine’s hiring, MOSHE and KESHER, Justice at the Center work, security and reducing the Temple’s deficit. He also thanked Rabbi Zinn and highlighted his many accomplishments during his service. In addition, Mike thanked the 4 outgoing board members for their service.

He, along with Rabbi Bennett presented the Volunteer Award that is given to a congregant who goes above and beyond the call of duty to Ken Levine. They cited Ken’s work with MOSHE, Kibbitz Cafe, long standing board service and other acts of volunteerism in this well-deserved honor.

Renee Silverstein gave the Nominating Committee report, providing for the following:

**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
A motion by Renee Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Charles Eisenkramer, to accept the Nominating Committee report was unanimously adopted.

In his remarks, Rabbi Bennett referred to this week’s Torah portion that talked about how it is people not programs that build a community. He thanked the community of people of all who work to support the Temple: members, Mike Lefton, officers and trustees, staff, and clergy. He expressed gratitude to Rabbi Zinn and his family for his service to the Congregation.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Rachel Pereles, 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.

**TRAVEL WITH SCRIPT**

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