As we pass the one-year anniversary of COVID lockdowns, we are beginning to see new signs of optimism in the fight against the pandemic.

At Congregation Shaare Emeth, our foremost considerations have always been protecting the physical and mental health of our community, as well as following best practices and guidelines put forth by medical authorities.

We remain cautiously optimistic and hope to be able to reopen our building for limited programming soon. The conversations on whether and how to accomplish that – while upholding the safety of our community – are well underway. We look forward to updating you on our next chapter in the near future.

In the meantime, we have new updates for you as we look forward to our future together.

On Page 5, view the encouraging news on our congregation’s financial status.

On Page 6, see details on our upcoming Annual Meeting, to which all congregants are invited.
Please note that all worship services continue to be available online via live streaming from our website, www.sesltl.org.

You can join us from home via computer, tablet or smartphone at www.sesltl.org/livestream.

Saturday, May 1, 2021
9:30 a.m.  Torah Study
11 a.m.  Shabbat Morning Worship
         *Dylan Scissors, son of Jennifer and Irl Scissors, becomes a Bar Mitzvah*

Friday, May 7
6 p.m.  Kabbalat Shabbat Service
        May Birthday Blessings

Saturday, May 8
9:30 a.m.  Torah Study and Kaddish

Friday, May 14
6 p.m.  Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Saturday, May 15
9:30 a.m.  Torah Study
11 a.m.  Shabbat Morning Worship
         *Lottie Rochester, daughter of Carolyn and Sean Rochester, becomes a Bat Mitzvah*

Sunday, May 16
8:30 p.m.  Virtual Community Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Monday, May 17
9:00 a.m.  Shavuot Yizkor Service

Friday, May 21
6 p.m.  Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Saturday, May 22
9 a.m.  Shabbat Morning Worship
        *Maxwell Sigel, son of Lori and Randy Sigel, becomes a Bar Mitzvah*

9:30 a.m.  Torah Study
11 a.m.  Shabbat Morning Worship
         *Isaac Warner, son of Cantor Seth and Shayna Warner, becomes a Bar Mitzvah*

Sunday, May 23
11 a.m.  *Charlie Glass, son of Lindsay and Brian Glass, becomes a Bar Mitzvah*

Friday, May 28
6 p.m.  Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Saturday, May 29
9 a.m.  Shabbat Morning Worship
        *Parker Wachler, son of Melissa and Brad Wachler, becomes a Bar Mitzvah*

9:30 a.m.  Torah Study and Kaddish
11 a.m.  Shabbat Morning Worship
         *Rachel Wahl, daughter of Debbie and Aaron Wahl, becomes a Bat Mitzvah*

---

**Israel through your eyes! Travel to Israel with Shaare Emeth in 2022**

As we look hopefully forward to a return to normalcy, we are planning for two different Shaare Emeth trips to Israel in 2022! Rabbi Jim and Amy Bennett invite you to join them and others from our congregational community to connect with the land, people and history and to see Israel through your own eyes!

**March 12-26, 2022 – Israel Pilgrimage for Adults**
First-timers and returning visitors will love this memorable five-star deluxe two-week tour. A journey you will never forget!

**June 5-16, 2022 – A Family Israel Adventure**
A family adventure, with a special celebration for B’nei Mitzvah students, past, present and future. Parents, children, grandparents and more will love this 11-day overview of highlights of this amazing land, including a group B’nei Mitzvah celebration.

We are now planning these amazing congregational Israel trips. Space is limited - so don’t get left behind! To learn more and to reserve your spot, please contact Rosalie Stein, rstein@sesltl.org.
Thank You for Being a Part of Congregation Shaare Emeth

You matter. You make a difference. You are part of a community that needs you and appreciates you.

According to the latest Gallup research, in 2020, 47% of Americans said they belonged to a church, synagogue or mosque, down from 50% in 2018 and 70% in 1999. Shaare Emeth appears to be exceptional. Thanks to you and your commitment, involvement and support.

We do not take you for granted. We are grateful that you have remained supportive, particularly through these past difficult months. The clergy, staff and leadership of Shaare Emeth see you, we appreciate you, and we want to thank you. We recognize that a congregation is only as strong as its membership, and we are grateful that we are a strong, vibrant and sustainable community. Thanks to all of you!

We also know that many of you have experienced profound losses, challenges, and sadness during this past year. We have sought to reach out to you, to support you, to be there for you through these dark months, to create a sense of community when being together has been so hard, and to help fill these moments with meaning, purpose and joy whenever we have been able.

We have seen a transformation in ourselves and in our congregation, and in many of you as well over this past year. While so much of our society, and the world of religious institutions in general, has become more and more transactional, focusing in recent years on what we get more than what we give, we have witnessed at Shaare Emeth so many examples of a deeply caring and relational transformation of our congregation. We have heard from so many of you in recent months, telling us how much you have appreciated the connection we have provided by offering weekly virtual Friday night Shabbat services, regular classes and programs and other virtual gatherings. You’ve told us how much you have loved and appreciated what we have tried to do to decrease the separation and loneliness that has been a necessity during this pandemic.

We have received letters and emails of gratitude that have brought us to tears, testimonials from many of you telling us just how much it means to you that someone from Temple called you, offered you help, supported you, cared about you. Similar notes of thanks have spoken of the lifeline that being able to log onto a Zoom gathering, streamed worship or learning experience has provided, not only to be able to pray and study and deepen your Jewish connection, but just to know that you are part of something bigger than yourselves. Your words of gratitude and your expressions of appreciation have sustain us, reminding us that what we do matters.

We have also been deeply touched by the generosity of those who have been able to share your blessings and continue to give what you can to sustain Shaare Emeth’s work, and those who have even gone beyond and increased your giving this year. You have helped us to ensure that all of our employees have continued to be supported so that they can, in turn, support all of you. You have made all of our creative programming possible. You have helped us stay focused on our mission. Because this is what it means to be a community.

Religious affiliation may be on the decline in America, but connection and community are alive and well here at Shaare Emeth. Thank you for believing in the power of community. Thank you for being present for each other. Thank you for helping us to sustain the power of Congregation Shaare Emeth as a compassionate and inclusive community that makes Judaism relevant, meaningful and joyful.

James M. Bennett, Rabbi
jbennett@sestl.org
It’s hard to believe that we are already well into Spring 2021. Not so long ago, it seemed as if time was standing still. And while we are still living in this new normal, there are wonderful signs on the horizon. With the trees in full bloom, birds singing, and daylight lasting longer than nighttime (which my kids absolutely love), planning at Shaare Emeth has turned to some of our favorite programming options of the calendar year.

Camp Emeth is, at the time of writing, almost at full capacity for summer 2021. Additional options are being offered at the Shirlee Green Preschool to support our families who need pre-care, and hopefully by the time you read this we will have found it successful and can begin implementing post-care options as well. Our Religious School, after a very successful virtual school year, is exploring how to bring our young learners back together in person for the 2021/2022 school year. And yes, believe it or not, our clergy are already hard at work preparing for the High Holidays.

As the end of the first year of my Presidency approaches, I can say without fail that the team with whom I work on a daily basis, including the Clergy, staff, lay leadership and others, is second to none. Quite simply, all are outstanding team players. Part of making hard decisions means you won’t always agree with one another, and I am proud to be part of a team that respects one another, and respects the process such that once a decision is made, we are unified in carrying it out. Since I began my lay leadership journey over a decade ago, this has always been the case. Our leadership understands that to fulfill our congregational mission, this must be the case.

At the end of March, I attended one of our amazing virtual programmatic offerings. Rabbis Goldstein and Bearman, and Lucy Greenbaum, along with the entire clergy team, organized and presented “Both Sides Now,” a program commemorating one year living with the coronavirus pandemic. I was asked to participate by offering a few words of welcome, and then to present the first of several readings. I’d like to conclude by sharing that reading with you as well.

From The Price of the Ticket by James Baldwin

For nothing is fixed, forever and forever and forever, it is not fixed; the earth is always shifting, the light is always changing, the sea does not cease to grind down rock. Generations do not cease to be born, and we are responsible to them because we are the only witnesses they have. The sea rises, the light fails, lovers cling to each other and children cling to us. The moment we cease to hold each other, the moment we break faith with one another, the sea engulfs us and the light goes out.

Very Sincerely,
Josh Wallach, President
Our Congregation’s Financial Health

In March 2020, Shaare Emeth’s Executive Director, officers, and lay leadership, like so many others, were thrown for a loop when the pandemic was thrust upon us. Suddenly, all our financial and budgetary assumptions no longer held the same relevance. With the stock markets reacting to emerging world conditions, our endowment values dropped precipitously along with the general stock market.

Thankfully, due to policies already in place, our cash reserves for our immediate needs were secure, as many congregants had sent their Membership Responsibility payments the previous December.

With our building closed to the public, the Board of Trustees knew this was not the time to stop doing everything we could to support our Congregation. Staffing reductions were off the table; preserving our programming and innovating new ways of serving our members were paramount, and, while many costs were reduced, we began investing heavily in technology to assure our online services were as welcoming and meaningful as possible. Camp Emeth was limited to 30 campers, and the Shirlee Green Preschool was closed for much of the year – both decisions based on guidance from the appropriate authorities.

Still, by late summer we were looking at a deficit of $1.1 million dollars, dramatically more than we had budgeted. The budget committee, a group of staff and lay leadership combined, met frequently, providing updates to both the Board of Trustees and the Operating Committee. Fortunately, as the year went on there was some good news:

First, we applied for and received over $500,000 of PPP funds; we kept all of the necessary records to successfully secure this amount, and ultimately it was all forgiven by the U.S. government. Second, the Endowment, along with the stock market, recovered all that we had lost and continued to increase.

And most importantly, congregants who had not yet paid their Membership Responsibility (MR) contribution in December 2019, and who could not or chose not to pay during the early days of the pandemic, generously supported the congregation through Membership Responsibility payments later in the year. Though we continue to believe that staffing and programming remain paramount to fulfilling our mission as a congregation, we were able to make expense cuts in other areas. These cuts combined with the increase in MR contributions have allowed us to reduce the 2020 deficit to just under $344,000, not so much more than the $255,000 deficit we had budgeted. Facing the most challenging times many of us have ever lived through, we consider this a partial victory.

What about 2021? Our current year budget calls for a deficit of $388,000. Some expenses are down while the physical building is currently closed. We need less heat and air conditioning, and we did not need to plow the entire parking lot when it snowed. At the same time, our Shirlee Green Preschool has had to spend money for safety supplies AND has had to reduce enrollment to maintain the child and teacher safety. Plus, we were not able to provide pre- and post-care safely, but we hope pre- and post-care can return when deemed safe. Besides safety, our most important consideration, it has been hard to find staff when many of our teachers have had to care for their own children. We anticipate that Camp Emeth will be able to host a larger number of campers in 2021. And soon, we hope to have the ability to gather once again in person in one fashion or another. There are many positive signs on the horizon!

To provide online services to our congregants, we have already spent over $25,000 on new technology – cameras and software, and $3500 for Zoom (less than it would have been because of a URJ discount). If you think back to our early online services and compare them to what we are now experiencing now, you may appreciate that investment. ShulCloud, our new database system already provides cost savings because many congregants are happy to receive statements and make payments online, saving postage and handling costs for the congregation. The ShulCloud database also provides the clergy with more complete information about congregants’ needs.

Several encouraging things have already occurred this year. First, the congregation received many one-time gifts from generous congregants seeking to support us through these challenging times. Second, the Board of Trustees conducted a special fund-raising campaign, calling on many congregants to make a special donation specifically for this year to help us navigate the effect on finances. To date, we have received nearly $70,000 from this campaign. Third, we secured an additional PPP loan when the second round of funding became available. Once again, we will carefully follow all instructions and spending restrictions with the hopes this amount is forgiven. This PPP funding will greatly increase our opportunity to beat our budget projections and minimize our deficit this year.

We thank all Congregation Shaare Emeth members and friends who continue to support and participate in the mission of our temple. We pledge to do our very best to concentrate every day, as we always have, on our mission AND our financial stability.
You are invited!

152nd Annual Meeting of Congregation Shaare Emeth

Tuesday, June 8, 2021 • 6 p.m.

To be held virtually via Zoom only
Register at sestl.org/annual-meeting

Congregation Shaare Emeth

2021 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The 2021 Nominating Committee is pleased to recommend the following slate of Officers and Trustees for election at the Annual Meeting of Congregation Shaare Emeth on June 8, 2021, and acknowledges the returning Officers and Trustees:

OFFICERS

NOMINATED FOR ONE-YEAR TERM, 2021-2022
Josh Wallach: President
Bill Remis: 1st Vice President
Randy Brodsky: Secretary
Mark Gubernik: Treasurer
Bob Sparks: Assistant Treasurer
Dana DeBlasi: Vice President
Rachel Pereles: Vice President
Erin Schreiber: Vice President
Michael Sherberg: Vice President
Lisa Suffian: Vice President
Mike Lefton: Immediate Past President

NOMINATED FOR TWO-YEAR TERM, 2021-2023
Betsy Cytron
Melissa Adler

NOMINATED FOR ONE-YEAR TERM, 2021-2022
Ben Silvermintz

RE-NOMINATED FOR TWO-YEAR TERM, 2021-2023
Richard Cohen
Amy Hammerman

RETURNING TRUSTEES
David Goran
Ed Musen
Doug Kolker
Sue Picus
Julia Mendelow
David Propper
Andy Speller
Gabrielle Tullman
Jill Solomon
Kathy Wiesman
Gene Jacobson

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Doug Kolker, Sue Picus, Jill Solomon, Jill Settler, Steve Tucker, Susan Witte, Kathy Zigler
Nominating Committee Chair: Mike Lefton
Ex-officio members: Rabbi Jim Bennett, Rosalie Stein
Torah Study
Every Wednesday, 10 a.m.
Every Saturday, 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday: sestl.org/wed-torah
Saturday: sestl.org/sat-torah
Join either group on Zoom to encounter teachings from the Torah and other Jewish texts as we explore the weekly Torah portion and more. No experience or registration required.

Matriarchs to Mamalas – Women of Influence

Join us for the next edition of our new and unique Shaare Emeth Book Club. If you like to read and you like a good exchange of ideas, meet with us!

Each month we explore a different topic, and participants read any book they like that pertains to that theme. We provide a list of possible titles to give you some ideas.

Register at sestl.org/bookclub-may and your suggested book list will be accessible.

We gather (via Zoom) on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m. Our subject for May is a rich one, with so much being written about this timely area of interest.

Women in Other Cultures
Tuesday, May 25, 4 p.m.
We look forward to seeing you then!

For questions, please contact Jackie Lipsitz at 314-660-8101 or Debbie Bram at dbram@sestl.org.

Register today!

2021 Virtual Community Tikkun Leil Shavuot

BEGINS SUNDAY, MAY 16TH AT 8:30 PM

Join Rabbis from the St. Louis community on the eve of Shavuot to take part in a customary night of study. The evening will begin with a panel discussion at 8:30 pm followed by continual 50-minute sessions led by individual Rabbis into the early morning of May 17th.

Register at http://sestl.org/tikkun-leil-shavuot
It’s Not Too Late to Sign Up for Our 4th Annual 50-Day Meditation and Middot Challenge

The seven-week period between the holiday of Passover (celebrating our liberation from Egypt) and the holiday of Shavout (celebrating our receiving the Torah at Mt. Sinai) is known as Sefirat HaOmer, the Counting of the Omer. Traditionally, this is a time set aside for personal self-discovery and growth. People often engage in the weekly study of middot (ethical character traits) including honor, silence, compassion, generosity, awe, simplicity and trust.

This year during the Counting of the Omer, the Jewish Mindfulness Center of St. Louis invites you to participate in our 4th Annual 50-Day Meditation and Middot Challenge, including brand new middot to help us grow and stretch spiritually. Challenge yourself to meditate for at least 10 minutes every day and engage in at least one new practice a week to actualize these middot in your life.

This year the period of the Omer culminates with Shavuot on Monday, May 17. Sign up to receive a weekly email that includes teachings on each middah, along with an audio meditation to help you with your daily practice by registering at sestl.org/meditation-middot.
Dear Friends,

I cannot believe that another year of religious school learning has ended. We moved onto Zoom this year to meet in a virtual environment, but the learning itself was authentic, real and deep. We planned very differently for this school year and it was even better than I could have imagined. Our curriculum changes helped us prioritize and focus our learning. Our smaller groups and classes allowed our staff and learners to connect in new ways. We had access to dozens of new technological tools that engaged our learners in a digital space. I have learned so much and I know that for our teachers and students, this year has been challenging yet rewarding.

Our Hebrew prayer for thanksgiving begins, “Modim anachnu lach” – “we thank you.” Now, I need to say thank you to everyone who made this year possible.

To our families and learners: Thank you for trusting us to make this year happen. Thank you for your continued commitment to your child’s Jewish learning journey in an extraordinary year. I am so thankful for your questions and feedback, which helped us grow and improve. I am grateful for each moment with our learners and the connections we made. Their curiosity, creativity, and enthusiasm made each meeting so enjoyable. Each participant in our learning community reflected the best that Shaare Emeth has to offer. For all this and more, we are grateful.

To our religious school faculty: You are the ones who made this year happen. The time you spent training, learning, and building your skills to teach online proved invaluable. It made us better! Every week, you brought your compassion, love of Judaism, and concern for the wellbeing of every learner to help us create the best experience possible. Thank you for being willing to fail forward and make mistakes, and for your patience when we needed to be a little messy to create something new. I am so grateful to be a part of this team because we are a true community, looking out for one another, lifting each other up, and celebrating our successes. I know all of these experiences will help us grow and be the best educators we can be next year and for years to come.

We are already planning for another amazing year together and can’t wait to see you all there!

Rabbi Lori Levine, Rabbi Educator

TODAH RABAH – Thank You to our 2020-2021 Religious School Staff

Rabbi Rachel Bearman  Rory Bland  Marci Diamond
Danny Baris  Amy Blumenfeld  Isabella Dyson
Tammy Beard  Justin Bohm  Andrew Goldberg
Michelle Bennett  Olivia Brooks  Sophie Goldman
Rabbi Jim Bennett  Caleb Carson  Jake Goldman
Bryce Bernstein  Joey Carson  Rabbi Andrea Goldstein
Sawyer Bland  Sierra Debrow  Brett Goldstein

Ann Gottesman
Jodi Granok
Howard Granok
Hannah Green
Lucy Greenbaum
Melanie Gunn
Orli Hahn
Kalix Jacobson
Ethan Jick
Beth Kadner
Michael Kadner
Ben Levine
Miriam Levitin
Jeri Livingstone
Shira Lyss-Loren
Teresa Mareschal
Scott Massey
Ophira Melnick
Kim Michaels
Lilly Nash
Rachel Persellin-Armoza
Adam Poger
Jenna Prince
Josh Rosen
Michelle Rosenberg
Brittany Rotskoff
Tracy Rubenstein
Miranda Rubin
Lauren Rudolph
Maya Sagett
Griffin Scissors
Debbie Sher
Alyssa Shyken
Katie Silver
Ryan Silver
Julia Solomon
Steven Solomon
Caleb Stanfield
Jennifer Stanfield
Emmaleah Stapp
Harriet Sudduth
Sherri Stans
Halle Tucker
Alex Tward
Simon Warner
Cantor Seth Warner
Mike Winograd
Amy Worth
Ali Worth
In 2020, Shaare Emeth rapidly moved services, classes and celebrations online while retaining our sense of community, meaning, support and joy. To meet Shaare Emeth’s increased technology needs, the AV Club was founded to partner with the Matlof Fund for Connection and Communication. We thank our AV Club members for their generosity in meeting this crucial new mission of expanding the social and spiritual fabric of Shaare Emeth beyond our synagogue walls. For more information or to join, contact Michele Siler at psiler@aol.com, or visit sestl.org/av-club.

Our members at time of printing:

- Adler Video
- Julie Arnold
- Jamie & Scott Berzon
- Suzanne & William Bierman
- Ilene Brooks & Richard Scharnhorst
- Stefany & Frederick Brot
- Sheila Cohen
- The DeBlasi Family
- Marsha & Ernest Demba
- Marti & Harvey Feldman
- Dianna & Richard Fine
- Wendy Flusser
- Lynne Fogel
- Sherri & Rick Goldman
- Arlene Goodman
- Jane & James Grossman
- Cynthia & Daniel Heymann
- Rita & George Heymann
- Phylis Kahn
- Sharon & Arnold Kaufman
- Jacquelyn & Martin Lipsitz
- Ann & Ashley Loiterstein
- Terry Lynford
- Louise Mass
- Jeannine Millner & Steven Brown
- Marcia & Carl Moskowitz
- Laurie Nest
- Carol Rafsky
- Marilyn & Gary Ratkin
- Marian B. Rosen
- Hadley & Joshua Schindler
- Lee & Mark Scissors
- Andy & Stan Shanker
- Sandra Sher
- Victoria Siegel
- Michele & Patrick Siler
- Merle & Dale Singer
- Sharon & Leonard Smith
- Rosalie & Robert Stein
- Connie & Bud Strotheide
- Nancy & Robert Taxman
- Sharon & John Tureen
- Cantor Seth & Shayna Warner
- Anita & Bernard Waxman
- Harvey Weiss
- Virginia Weiss

The Jewish Food Pantry Needs Our Help

You can help the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry during the Coronavirus Pandemic by donating money or donating food. Below are some suggestions for food items the pantry needs for the month of May:

1. Peanut Butter & Jelly
2. Canned Vegetables (corn, beans, peas, carrots)
3. Kosher Non-Perishable Foods
4. Canned Tuna Fish and Canned Chicken
5. Macaroni & Cheese
6. Dry Potatoes, Beans and Rice
7. Canned Chili, Beef Stew and Protein-Rich Foods
8. Personal care items such as: Kleenex, Deodorant, Toothpaste and Dental Floss

Currently, the need is great so please help in any way you can. Thank you.

For further information, please contact Louise Levine, 314-368-5902.
Join us for a wonderful, guided tour of St. Louis’s LGBTQ+ story with MHS Presenters Sharon Smith and Ian Darnell. If you love St. Louis History and want to learn and reminisce about the LGBTQ+ community’s rich local stories, please join us on Thursday, May 13 at 7 p.m. on Zoom for a fascinating look at St. Louis’s past and present. Admission is free.

DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 13
TIME: 7 – 8 P.M.
REGISTRATION: SESTL.ORG/GATEWAY-TO-PRIDE
COMING IN JUNE: Shaare Emeth’s Pride Shabbat Celebration!
Look for more info in Shaare Emeth’s June Bulletin.
Summer will be here before we know it. It’s time to make your summer plans. There are very few spaces left in each Camp Emeth group. Please register as soon as possible. You don’t want your children to miss out on community, friendship, fun, socialization, learning, Judaism, exploring and growing. This is the perfect time to give them this gift. Go to www.sestl.org/campemeth for more information and to register.

In case you hadn’t heard, we are pleased to announce that we are now offering pre/post care for our campers… and – we’re going to the pool! We are thrilled to be able to bring our swimming program back this summer.

You are able to now register for any weeks you wish… come for 1-8 weeks. Space is limited.

If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to me by phone or email: 314-692-5362 or bkodner@sestl.org.

Beth Kodner, Camp Emeth Director
bkodner@sestl.org

Become a Camp Emeth T-Shirt Sponsor!

Camp Emeth is seeking sponsors for our staff and camper t-shirts. For only $100 your ad will be seen on hundreds of shirts. We appreciate your support.

Current Camp Emeth T-Shirt Sponsors:

MARYVILLE HILLEL
ADLER VIDEO
SITTER HOUND
WOOL CUSTOM HOMES
SOUTHWEST ORAL SURGERY
STOMP THE WORLD
AR WORKSHOP
Thank You

to the
Congregation Shaare Emeth Clergy, Staff,
Board of Trustees, and
Chesed Calling Team
for their thoughtful ongoing efforts to call congregants
during the COVID-19 outbreak.

These caring phone calls demonstrate
the great sense of love and understanding
on which our community is built.

Thank you also to Jewish Family Services
and the Jewish Federation of St. Louis.

May the memory of those who have passed be a blessing.

May those who are suffering from illness
be blessed with healing.

Congregation Shaare Emeth Member
What does Judaism say about the ‘Right to Die?’

Rabbi Jim Bennett responds:

Jewish tradition has always held the value of human life as precious. The rabbinic tradition teaches that saving and preserving life takes precedence over almost every other mitzvah, or commandment of Judaism. Every human being is precious, unique, and valuable. Each moment of human life is imbued with meaning and holiness. As a result, traditional Judaism has guided generations of Jews to view suicide, assisted suicide and euthanasia as anathema to the strictest interpretation of Halacha, or Jewish law.

At the same time, we know that in Jewish tradition, and particularly from the viewpoint of Reform Judaism, things are never as clear cut and simple as we might think. In the realm of bio-medical ethical questions such as the question of the so-called ‘Right to Die,’ there are many legitimate points of view.

Rabbinic authorities throughout the ages have struggled over the question of suicide, for example. Many if not most rabbis have taught that one who chooses to take one’s own life must not be held accountable for their decision. It is assumed that one who does so must have been mentally ill, or “lost.” Reform and other liberal rabbis mostly agree that one who takes their own life is not to be condemned or considered a sinner.

The realities and advances of modern medicine have brought about many additional questions. For example, many liberal rabbis support the right of people to decide our own end of life choices. In an age when Palliative Care and Hospice Care medicine have become widespread and advanced, rabbis often have the privilege of accompanying individuals and their families on decisions to allow their own deaths to occur naturally, to discontinue or even refuse treatment, and to otherwise determine the time and place of their ultimate death.

Reform Judaism, while maintaining a deep commitment to the value of human life, thus also counsels that we understand death as a natural partner to life, and affirms the uniqueness of each of our journeys along the way, and our ultimate autonomy and freedom to choose our own path.
With great joy, 
we invite you to celebrate with us the 
Bar Mitzvah of our son

ISAAC ASHER

يزחק אישר

SATURDAY
MAY 22
2021

11 AM
CENTRAL TIME

The Service will be Live-Streamed
Congregation Shaare Emeth
St. Louis, Missouri

www.sestl.org/streaming

Shayna & Seth Warner
New Members

Please join us in welcoming two new member families to Congregation Shaare Emeth!

Samantha and Scott Rosen with son, Oliver
Stephanie and Jonathan Zoller, with children, Lilly and Amelia

Simchas

Mazel tov to these members...

Andrew Goldberg, son of Nancy and Glenn Goldberg for receiving his Eagle Scout badge.

Carole & Jay Goldstein and Laurie Weinberg and the late Steven Y. Sykes on the birth of their grandson, Cy Alexander Goldstein. Proud parents, Jennifer & Adam Goldstein.

Mark Manlin on being elected to the Creve Coeur City Council representing Ward 1.

Ellen & Dr. Larry Paskar on the birth of their granddaughter, Mia Hannah Sachman. Proud parents are Dr. Jason & Julie Sachman.

Marissa Rosen on being elected to the Ladue School Board.

45th Wedding Anniversary for Barb & Meryle Rosenfeld.

Aaron Wahl on being elected to the Chesterfield City Council representing Ward 2.

To share your simcha, visit www.sestl.org/simcha or call Stacy Jespersen in the Shaare Emeth office, 314-569-0010.
In the Temple Family

Looking for Yahrzeits? We are continuing our Yahrzeit listings online in an effort to make our monthly Bulletins leaner and more impactful. You can view these at sestl.org/yahrzeits.

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

Condolences

Dolores Berg  
Wife of Robert Berg

Marjorie Karp  
Wife of Milton Karp

Esther Langsam  
Mother of Barbara (Michael) Shuman

Gilbert Spieldoch  
Husband of Maxine Spieldoch

Dmitri Uchitel  
Son of Yefim and Ninel Uchitel

Sympathy

John (Debra) Abrams on the death of his father, Stanley Abrams

Ken (Sandy) Birenbaum on the death of his brother and  
Elaine Unell on the death of her step-brother, Steven Birenbaum

Aaron (Ellen) Franzel on the death of his father, Gerald Franzel

Helyn Kevrick on the death of her daughter and Teri (Harvey) Brandvein on the death of her sister, Tami Kiem

Joelyn (Ed) Levy on the death of her mother, Karen Knopf

Jeffrey (Stacey) Mormol and Julie (Tim) Stern on the death of their mother, Naomi Mormol

Larry Muskin on the death of his brother, Arthur Muskin

Rachel (David) Pereles on the death of her grandmother, Sarah Conroy

Dr. Larry (Stephanie) Samuels on the death of his father and Brian (Jennifer) Sabin on the death of his grandfather, David Samuels

Ken Schwartz on the death of his mother and Ruth Cohn on the death of her sister, Dorothy Schwartz

Sandy Sher on the death of her aunt, Marion Meyer

Marsha and David Schuman on the death of their grandson, Noah Arnold

Randy (Lori) Sigel on the death of his father, Robert Sigel

Steven Slutsky on the death of his father, Arnold Slutsky

Ferne (Ron) Wiesenthal on the death of her step-mother and Ben (Chelsea) Silvermintz on the death of his grandmother, Mildred Wolf

Perpetual Memorials

A memorial has been established for:

Sally Cutter Friedman,  
Established by Susan Kelter

Irene Rosalie Funk Greenspoon,  
Established by Melvin Greenspoon (z’l) and Barbara Greenspoon

Doris Sue Grossman,  
Established by Marcene and Doug Menendez

Frances Lerner,  
Established by Donna & David Segal and family and Garry & Gwen Lerner and family

Michael Lerner,  
Established by Cantor Seth & Shayna Warner and family, Marc Lerner & Lynn Frazin and family and Dr. Neil Lerner

Robert Paul Rothenberg,  
Established by Donna Rothenberg, Michael Rothenberg and Andrew Rothenberg

Susan “Soozi” Fay Waxman,  
Established by Scott Waxman

The names of those remembered by a Perpetual Memorial will be read during the Friday Shabbat Services. They will also be remembered by yahrzeit date reminders sent to designated family members’ homes and are automatically included with the Perpetual Memorials in our memorial book on Yom Kippur. For more information on establishing a Perpetual Memorial, please contact Stacy Jespersen at sjespersen@sestl.org or 314-692-5302.
Tributes

The tributes listed here are those made for $10 or more and processed March 1st to March 31st, 2021. A tribute gift made in another’s name is a lovely way to honor a friend or in memory of a deceased loved one on their yahrzeit (anniversary of death), or to show appreciation for someone. To make a tribute donation, please visit www.sestl.org/give. Hard copy forms are available in the Shaare Emeth North lobby vestibule or you may email jmcginty@sestl.org.

RABBIS’ SPECIAL FUND
A DONATION:
To help reduce hunger security in our Shaare Emeth Community

IN APPRECIATION OF:
Rabbi Bennett for the beautiful eulogy, care and concern, and officiating at the funeral for Dolores Berg
The Berg Family
Rabbi Goldstein for officiating at the funeral for Karen Knopf
Joelyn & Ed Levy
Rabbi Goldstein for reading Leon Blumoff’s beloved name on his Yahrzeit
Jody & Mickey Waldman
Rabbi Berman for helping prepare Evan Falke to become a Bar Mitzvah
Evan Falke
Cantor Warner for helping prepare Sabbath prayer and officiating at the funeral for Dolores Berg
The Berg Family
Rabbi Goldstein for reading Leon Blumoff’s beloved name on his Yahrzeit
Jody & Mickey Waldman
Rabbi Bennett for the beautiful eulogy, care and concern, and officiating at the funeral for Dolores Berg
The Berg Family
IN HONOR OF:
Amy & Rabbi Jim Bennett on the engagement of Erica and Ethan Sharee & Mark Feldman; Andy & Stan Shanker Dick Fine for a Speedy Recovery Joyce & Larry Kolker Carole & Jay Goldstein on the birth of their new Grandson Cy Alexander Joyce & Larry Kolker; Rita & Barry Worth Julie & Dr. Jason Sachman on the birth of their new daughter and our new Granddaughter, Mia Hannah Ellen & Dr. Larry Paskar Sandy Sher for a Speedy Recovery Anita & Bernard Waxman

IN MEMORY OF:
Hyman Bernstein
Mellie & Mitch Bernstein
Stephen Dardick
Harold Glassman
Sally C. Friedman
Susan Kelter
Marvin Harber
Phyllis Harber
Gertrude Harris
Fran Poger
Ruby Harris
Fran Poger
Gloria Simon Hirsch
Ruth & Irl Hirsch
Al Kandel
Evelyn & Frank Ginsberg
Lillian Katzman
Roma Witcoff
Marjorie Karp
Milton Karp
Bruce Kidder
Estelle Kidder, Nancy & Glenn Goldberg, Stacy Kidder & Alex Basa
Tami Kiem
Iris Eliot
Gertrude Keechmar
Ellen & Dr. Larry Paskar
Barbara J. Liberman
Stacy & Michael Singer
Sidney Loiterstein
Janet Loiterstein and Family
May Fagan Miller
Sheila Cohen and Family
Sydney Moonshine Rosen
Lynn Moonshine and Family
Ruth & Morris Rudolph
Mary & Phil Marblestone
David Samuels
Harold Glassman; Kathy McDaniel & Gary Melz; Carolyn & Steve Wolff
Robert Sigel
Roberta & Lester Horwitz; Cheryl & Ken Land; Stephanie & Will Schachter
Hortense Sievers Tarkow
Karen & Mark Zorensky
Mollie Shanfeld
Judy & Jerry Shanfeld
Ted Stein
Harold Glassman
Cantor Warner for the wonderful music he sings at services
Jill Feldman Malen
IN MEMORY OF:
Fred M. Reichman
Martii Reichman
Bentley Taylor
Susan & Joel Allen

B’NAI EL TZEDEKAH FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Julia Broad
Sharon & Richard Safron
Dorothy Safron
Sharon & Richard Safron

BEMA FLOWER FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Marilyn Farber
Jacqueline Rudolph
Joyce Rudolph
Jacqueline Rudolph
Gerald Allen Rudolph
Jacqueline Rudolph
William Rudolph
Jacqueline Rudolph

BROCKMAN-SIEGELMAN GEMILUT HASADIM FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Helen & Oscar Brockman, Evelyn & Sidney Goldberg, Wilma & Caroline Siegelman & George Siegelman
Ronnie & Allen Brockman
Sandra Sokolik
Ann & Ashley Loiterstein

BUILDING FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Richard Poletsky
Rhonda & David Banford

CHUSED ISRAEL EXPERIENCE FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Aaron Carafiol
Susan & Lawrence Carafiol
Hilda Dahl
Erich Dahl, Jackie & Ken Kleban & Linda & Ed Dahl

ELSIE & FRED DEUTSCH LECTURESHIP FUND
IN HONOR OF:
Sandra Sher for a Speedy Recovery
Susanne & Bill Bierman

ESTELLE & ED FISCHER CHILDREN’S SCHOLARSHIP FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Robin Alpert Colbert
Doris Alport

LISHA GAYLE PRESCHOOL ENRICHMENT FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Melvin Shanker
Philip Shanker

GOLDBERG CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND
IN HONOR OF:
Evan Falke on becoming a Bar Mitzvah
Susan & Mark Wolf

SHIRLEE GREEN PRESCHOOL FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Diana & Todd Waldman on the birth of Poppy Sidney Waldman
Jody & Mickey Waldman

IN MEMORY OF:
Barbara & Stanley Malashock
Jessica & Aaron Goltzmann
David Marc Segall
The Fagro Family
Vernon Shapiro
Julie & Brian Oglander
Bob Sigel
Julie & Brian Oglander

ALBERT & RUTH KOPOLOW BEAUTIFICATION FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Helen Hyatt
Carolyn & Neil Schechter

IDA & HARRIS KRAMER SOCIAL ACTION FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Steven Birenbaum
Leanne Krase
Frances Glazer
Ron Glazer

LIBRARY FUND
IN HONOR OF:
Barbara Feldacker for a Speedy Recovery
Anta & Buddy Waxman

IN MEMORY OF:
Steven Birenbaum
Jackie & Marty Lipsitz;
Rosalie & Bob Stein
Barbara Ann Bilow
Gerson Bilow
Dr. Arian Cohn
Ricki & Neil Marglous
STANLEY LYSS & ESTHER LYSS-GREENSTEIN LIFELONG LEARNING FUND

IN HONOR OF:
Amy & Rabbi Jim Bennett on the engagement of Erica and Ethan
Debbie & Kent Hirschfelder

IN MEMORY OF:
Steven Birenbaum
Marcia & Carl Moskowitz
Ann Lux
Lynn & Dr. Carl Lyss
Bluma Lyss
Lynn & Dr. Carl Lyss
Bernard Tobin
Lynn & Dr. Carl Lyss
Roger Sachar
Lynn & Dr. Carl Lyss
David Samuels
Lynn & Dr. Carl Lyss

LISA'S STAR FUND FOR CAMP EMETH

IN MEMORY OF:
Henry Katz
Marsha & Larry Rothman
Joseph Litvag
Litvag & Dyson Families
Lawrence J. Lux
Lois Sher
Ronald Sher
Lois Sher
Nancy Sherman
Susan & Shawn Rimerman

MANN FAMILY HUNGER FUND

IN MEMORY OF:
Esther Langsam
Leanne & Harvey Schneider

MICHAEL MATLOF CONNECTION & COMMUNICATION FUND

IN APPRECIATION OF:
Michele & Patrick Siler and the Not-Ready-For-Prime-Time Players for the Wonderful Purim Shpiel
Suzanne & Bill Bierman

IN HONOR OF:
Lorry Blath on her Special Birthday
Carole & Jay Goldstein
Diane Freyman for a Special Person on her Birthday
Sue Matlof & Michael Cohen
Carol & Jay Goldstein on the birth of their new Grandson, Cy Alexander
Ellen & Ronnie Gross
Alice & Alan Ludmer on their Granddaughter Sari Gross becoming a Bat Mitzvah
Susan Rich
Mandy Rubenstein on the birth of her Granddaughter Vivi
Ellen & Ronnie Gross
Sandy Sher for a Speedy Recovery & Birthday
B’Tachad Rosh Chodesh Group; Sheila Cohen
Susie & Rick Sololik on their Granddaughter Maggie’s Bat Mitzvah
Ellen & Ronnie Gross
Steve Weinstock on his Special 80th Birthday
Sue Matlof & Michael Cohen; Bob Summers; Harriet Summers & Allen Sherman

IN MEMORY OF:
Fanny Baum
Barbara & Bruce Feldacker
Esther Bierman
Suzanne & Bill Bierman
Steven Birenbaum
Sue Matlof; Susan & Alan Witte
Gitel Dalin
Barbara & David Furman
Lillian Dalin
Barbara & David Furman
Edna & Henry Fiman
Barbara & David Furman
Esther Langsam
Barbara & Bob Cohn; Iris Elliot
Robert Fauser
Toby & Rich Cremer
Milford Feldman
Marilys & Mark Feldman
Naomi Mormol
Harriet Summers & Allen Sherman
David Saumuel
Toby & Rich Cremer
Joan Sessel
Barbara & Bob Cohn
Barbara Smith
Buddy Lehman
Bernard Tobin
Harriet Summers & Robert Summers
Aileen Weinstein
Barbara & David Furman

DONNA MEYERS CHILDREN’S BOOK NOOK FUND

IN MEMORY OF:
Betty Zerman
Robert Feinstein and Family

OPERATIONS ENHANCEMENT FUND

IN APPRECIATION OF:
Shaare Emeth Clergy & Staff for the Virtual Classes being offered.
Brenda & Jay Baron
Shaare Emeth Clergy, Staff & Purim Players for the Wonderful Purim Shpiel
Louise Mass

IN HONOR OF:
Carole & Jay Goldstein on the birth of their Grandson Cy Alexander
Sherri & Rick Goldman
Terriann Kleiner on her Special 70th Birthday
Randee & Andy Rimmel
Alice & Alan Ludmer on their Granddaughter Sari Gross becoming a Bat Mitzvah
Sherri & Rick Goldman
Sandy Sher for a Speedy Recovery
Linda & Bill Levin
Jody & Mickey Waldman on the birth of their Granddaughter Penelope Sidney
Sharon & Mark Feldman

IN MEMORY OF:
Steven Birenbaum
Sheron & Richard Cohen; Sherri & Rick Goldman; Gail & Robert Mielziner Jr.; Brenda & Joe Pereles; Eunice & John Reichman; Leah Rubin & Jeff Cohen
Jean H. Brandwein
Judy & John Brandwein
Dr. Arlan Cohn
Selma Balk
Sarah Conroy
Brenda & Joe Pereles
Gitel Dalin
Debbie & Kari Guyer and Family
Sandra Gold
Charles H. Gold
Ron Greenspan
Linda Edelman & Irv Bernhardt
Henry Fiman
Debbie & Karl Guyer and Family
Margie Karp
Jerri & Bill Livingston
Henry Katz
Leslie & Ronnie Becker
Tami Kiem
Diane & Sam Valencia
Joan & David Klearman
Sally Katzif, Micki Klearman & Susan Melz
Marshall Margolies
Mark Margolies
Lulu Mannis
Mannis Family
Jacob Neuman
Estelle Kent
David Samuels
Sherri & Rick Goldman; Deena & David Goran; Debbie & Mike Lefton; Brenda & Joe Pereles
Bob Sigel
Barbara & Bill Heftel
Barbara Smith
Carol & Don Mitchell
Sandra Sokolik
Ellen & Ronnie Gross
Harold W. Sparks
Perry H. Sparks
Tami Kiem
Susie & Alan Wallach

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

IN MEMORY OF:
Lillian Katzman
Jeannie & Aron Katzman
Robert Frankel Meyers
Sherri & Rob Meyers
Beth Millstone Roman
Jeannie & Aron Katzman

SAM & GOLDYE ROSEN MUSIC FUND

IN HONOR OF:
Erlich Dahl's 101st Birthday
Bonnie & Steve Rosen

IN MEMORY OF:
Louise Teper
Patty Teper

JOAN & HARRY SELTZER FAMILY FUND FOR IMPROVING WOMEN’S LIVES

IN HONOR OF:
Alex Hoffman on his Birthday
Joan Seltzer
Charlise Hoffman on his Birthday
Joan Seltzer
Jordan Hoffman on his Birthday
Joan Seltzer
Kaylee Waite on her Birthday
Joan Seltzer

IDA STACK SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF:
Ida Stack
Cheryl & Jerry Stack

RABBI JEFFREY B. STIFFMAN LECTURE FUND

IN MEMORY OF:
Pearl Hitt
Susan T. Allen

MARSHALL C. WEISMAN FUND FOR PRESCHOOL SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

IN MEMORY OF:
Nancy Hines Harvey Geerlof
Susie & Jeff Horowitz
Vern Shapiro
Susie & Jeff Horowitz

KATHY & MARTY ZIGLER FUND FOR ENRICHMENT OF PRESCHOOL TEACHERS

IN MEMORY OF:
Marty Zigler
Michael Tatarka

Every effort has been made to include accurate, up-to-date information on these listings. To report an error or omission, please call the Shaare Emeth office at 314-569-0010.
Tell Your Mom How Much She Means To You This Mother’s Day

Congregation Shaare Emeth offers Scrip cards – gift cards you can purchase that double as fundraisers for our synagogue. This Mother’s Day, let your mom know just how much you appreciate her by purchasing a Scrip card from us! Treat her with a gift card to the spa, a nice dinner out, or a trip to the mall. Call 314-692-5343 for more information.