



*Engage • Connect • Discover*

**ANSHE EMET**  
SYNAGOGUE  
*for all the days of your life*



# A Note from Rabbi Siegel

ANSHE EMET SYNAGOGUE



How would you design a synagogue for the modern day?

This brochure contains the basic blueprint for the Anshe Emet Synagogue. The foundation is built on three ideas: *engagement, connection and discovery*. The contents reveal the depth, diversity and vibrancy of our congregational family.

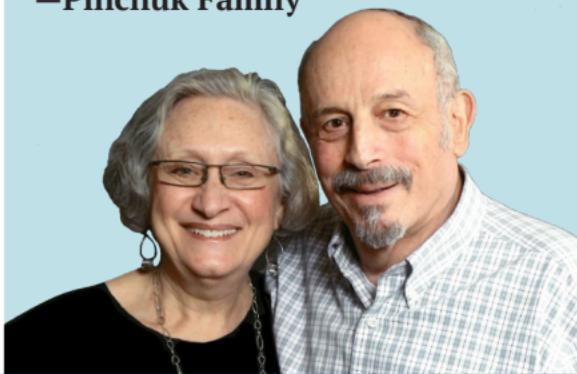
Your participation is that which truly fulfills the potential of our community and programs. You are invited to take part in the life of an historic and remarkable community, as well as help design its future.

— Rabbi Michael Siegel



*"We moved to Chicago five months ago and began attending services at Anshe Emet. From the beginning we found it to be a warm, welcoming community. Then we had the pleasure of hearing Rabbi Siegel give a d'var Torah and we were just delighted to become a part of this dynamic congregation."*

**—Pinchuk Family**



*"The community at Anshe Emet Synagogue doesn't just talk about inclusivity, it embraces it; whatever stage of life or challenge, our community welcomes you and your involvement."*

**—Jay & Karen Goodgold**



## *In Their Own Words*

*"We arrived in Chicago—two men and one young daughter—and were so pleased to find our spiritual home at Anshe Emet. As our family grew to include our second daughter, we felt so welcomed and supported by the Anshe Emet community. We are active participants in the synagogue's young family programming and are grateful for the rich set of educational opportunities it offers."*

**—Brian Grossman & Malcolm Haar**



# *Young Adult Community (Y.A.D.)*

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- A place to connect with 22-36 year old adults.
- A home to over 135 members under the age of 31.
- Monthly social programs.
- Social Action opportunities.
- First Friday Shabbat dinners.
- Programming for newly married couples.



*"I became involved with the Y.A.D. community because I wanted to help plan activities that were impactful to me and [that lead] to valuable friendships. I am the Y.A.D. volunteer chair and truly enjoy organizing volunteer efforts with the Lakeview Pantry on an ongoing basis."*

— Edeth Engel  
with husband Igor Shleypak



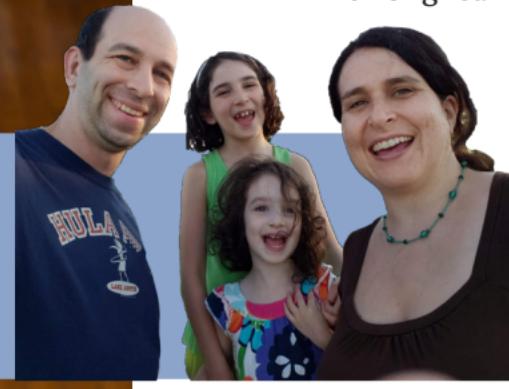
# *Young Families*

- We strive to facilitate Jewish experiences that inspire families—from all backgrounds—to seek out and create their own points of connection to Jewish life.
- Each family is unique and we recognize engagement in Jewish life is not one size fits all.
- The pathways to Jewish life and community at Anshe Emet are inclusive, accessible and paved with opportunities for life-long learning for each individual or family.
- Programs include:  
*Connecting the Expecting Babies and Bagels*  
*Little Builders*  
*Shabbat Family Dinners*  
*Shalom Shabbat*  
*Putting Jewish Values Into Action*



*"Anshe Emet is a second home. My two daughters love everything about it, from the Friday night dinners with friends and stories, to reading Torah at youth services. The retreat is another highlight of the year, where we spend a whole Shabbat surrounded by community."*

— The Fleischer Family



# Anshe Emet Religious School

The Joseph & Belle Braun Anshe Emet Religious School is based on four core pillars. Here are exciting examples of what we innovated this year:

- **Knowledge:** We created exciting art projects to bring learning to life, giving our 4th graders a hands-on approach to the Megillah and the story of Esther.
- **Flexibility:** Our busy families can choose *when* and *where* to learn with new online classes!
- **Diversity:** Our partnership with Keshet, the only one in the city of Chicago, helps us include and celebrate *all* our learners.
  - **Community:** On Mitzvah Day, 400 people volunteered with their children all over Chicago, bringing our values to life!



*"We have been constantly impressed with the Anshe Emet Religious School's moves towards innovation. The staff works hard to make the curriculum relevant and involve the whole family in meaningful ways. My daughters come home bubbling with stories of Chicago social justice classes and connections their teachers have made between the Torah and today's world. It is a warm and welcoming community and we feel lucky to be a part of it."*

— Becca Tatel



*"SHMUSY has functioned as a haven from the rush and pressure of everyday life—I feel that when I walk into the youth lounge I [can forget] about my problems in favor of spending quality time with new and old friends."*

—Ava Berkwits

## Kids & Teens

- Award winning Youth activities for every age K-12.
- USY Chapter of the Year for CHUSY Region.
- Life long friendships created through the Youth community.
- **Home of Tikkun Chicago:** The first multi-denominational High School program in Chicago for grades 8-12, in partnership with Anshe Shalom, Emanuel Congregation, Bernard Zell & CJDS.



# B'nai Mitzvah

- As children prepare for their b'nai mitzvah, they focus on their Jewish identity as independent adults and their Jewish learning, all while building vital skills with caring and expert Jewish mentors.
- Students have one-on-one tutoring and individual meetings, with the clergy.
- Families participate in the Journey 2 Mitzvot (J2M) program, which deepens our students understanding of what it means to be a Jewish adult.
  - We work with each family to make a meaningful and accessible experience.



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*“Having had two b'nai mitzvah in back-to-back years, we found the Anshe Emet experience very meaningful. ‘Meaningful’ meaning it was indeed rigorous for our kids—a good thing—and simultaneously emotionally rewarding for the whole family. In short, we grew closer through the process, which Anshe Emet facilitated the entire way.”*

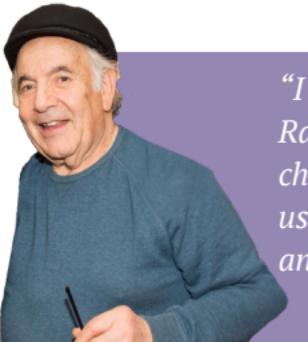
— The Choslovsky Family

# Milestones & Memories



*"We've been fortunate to have Rabbi Russo with us at a number of family events, but having him officiate at our out-of-town wedding was truly wonderful."*

**—Brad & Julie Rose**



*"I will never forget the kindness shown to Diane and me by Rabbi Siegel and the entire Anshe Emet Clergy during a very challenging time for us. They made remarkable efforts to be with us during Pesach; their warmth and presence made us feel loved and part of a nurturing family. We are very grateful."*

**—Stuart Grauer**

*"The staff and clergy at Anshe Emet told us exactly what we needed to do to plan our son's bris. Thanks to them, as new parents, we had a beautiful [ceremony] without having to stress about the details."*

**—Scott and Lauren Kaplan**



# *Something for Us*

- A social group for the baby boomer generation!
- Monthly Shabbat Shelanu featuring a Pro-Neg, abbreviated service with special guest speakers and scholars-in-residence.
- Activities from theater outings to Trivia bar nights.
- Volunteer opportunities with Lakeview Pantry.
- Weekend Shabbaton new in 2019.
- Tisch sessions with Rabbi Siegel.



*“Something for Us has enriched our lives by connecting us to an adult community that has enabled us to share meaningful contemporary life experiences.”*

— Neil & Adrienne Schwartz

## Adult Learning

*"Anshe Emet's variety of classes [range] from Torah study, to movies, to ancient cultures and modern history, to literature and Jewish humor. Each one interesting, provoking good discussions, helping create an engaged and engaging community."*

— Esther Rosenbloom



- We utilize curriculum offered by the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning, the Jewish Theological Seminary and other leading institutions.
- Morning, afternoon and evening classes.
- Multiple weekly Parsha study opportunities.
  - Classes offered via Zoom for learning at home or the office.
  - Specialized learning for seniors.

# *Engage with Your Community*

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In 2019/5779 over 150 programs were held, exemplifying the social, educational and cultural diversity of Anshe Emet. Highlights included:

- Super Sukkah Sunday
- Tour de Shul
- Lights and Latkes
- BBQ's
- Cooking programs
- Guest lecturers including Rabbi Mark Borovitz, Rabbi Danny Matt, Jonathan Weisman, Mimi Rocah and others
- Spectacular Purim Events
- A community-wide Tikkun Leil Shavuot program
- Israeli Film Series





## SANCTUARY SERVICES

A traditional egalitarian clergy-led service that holds services on Friday evenings and every Shabbat and Yom Tov morning.



## ROSE CROWN MINYAN:

A traditional, egalitarian, lay-led minyan that holds services every week on Shabbat and Yom Tov mornings.

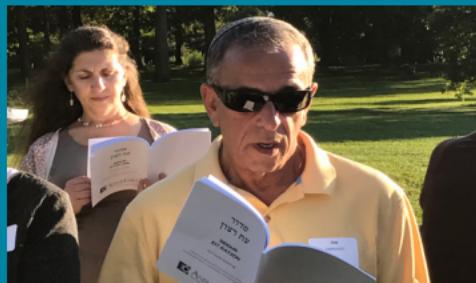
**RCM** ROSE  
CROWN  
MINYAN

# Discover New Ways to Worship

Anshe Emet offers a variety of worship services, weekly and monthly, to nourish your spiritual life.

## SHABBAT SHELANU:

A monthly shabbat experience for our baby boomers with a Pro-neg, abbreviated service and lively discussions with guest speakers.



## ALTERNATIVE SERVICES:

**SHABBAT AS YOU ARE:**  
A musical Shabbat experience designed for families with kids in 5th thru 12th grades.

**SHABBAT NESHAMAH:**  
A meditative and melodious experience with guitar music and relevant readings.

# *By the Numbers*

**630** Donors contributed 965K dollars.

**300** Families receive financial assistance to become members of Anshe Emet.

**60** Families belong to the Dor L'Dor Society.

**32** Children receive scholarships to Jewish camp.

**20** Families receive tuition assistance for religious school.

**18** People signed Declarations of Intent in 2018-19 to include Anshe Emet in their estate plans, ensuring the vibrance of the synagogue for generations to come.

**3** Families made meaningful endowment gifts in 2018-19 totalling 1.3M dollars to safeguard Anshe Emet programming.



*"We believe that it is our responsibility to support our community. We know that dues only cover about 30% of the Synagogue's operations. We make annual gifts over and above our dues so that everyone in our community can enjoy membership at Anshe Emet despite financial barriers."*

**— Stephanie & Jeremy Liss**



*Engage, Connect & Discover*  
with us in **5780**

## *You Make a Difference!*

- 1,466 parents and their children attended Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Young Family Services together.
- 1,325 people volunteered at Anshe Emet and other agencies within Chicagoland through the work of *Na'aseh* – the Anshe Emet Social Justice Committee.
- 350 people, on average, attend weekly Shabbat services.
- 298 people delighted in spinning the dreidel at our Light and Latkes event.
- 178 families have participated in the Connecting the Expecting classes.
- 125 families ate Shabbat dinner together once a month.
- 90 adults participated in the Shalom Hartman program on Modern Israel.
- 58 teens attended Tikkun Chicago, Anshe Emet's Jewish High School program.
- 48 B'nai Mitzvah were celebrated.
- 30 people attend the Lerner's of Torah weekly Parsha Class.
- 1 Anshe Emet Youth Group, SHMUSY, was named CHUSY Region Chapter of the Year.



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