



Anshe Emet *monthly*

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Put Your Heart Into It!

Michael S. Siegel
Senior Rabbi, The Norman Asher Rabbinic Chair
msiegel@ansheemet.org



How do you summarize the Jewish approach to Tzedakah?

For me, this verse in Deuteronomy accomplishes this beautifully:

If, however, there is a needy person among you, one of your kinsmen in any of your settlements in the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not harden your heart and shut your hand against your needy kinsman. (Deuteronomy 15:7)

While the Torah reminds us of our sacred responsibility to help those in need, it adds an element which distinguishes the Jewish approach to giving: the human heart. The Torah could have simply spoke against the prohibition of shutting one's hand to the



poor. After all, what can be more important than opening your hand to help others? From the Torah's perspective, the act of giving is not complete unless one does it with an open heart. That is, to allow ourselves to feel our deep connection to one another, empathize with their situation, and respond in a way that reflects that recognition. In Chicago, one organization that encapsulates this understanding is The ARK.

Now celebrating its fiftieth year, The ARK has always exemplified the importance of heart and hand. It is an organization that has always based itself on volunteerism, whether doctors, mental health professionals, dentists, or people who were willing to make the time to stock the shelves of its food pantry. Inside its locations in Rogers Park or the Northwest suburbs this special institution that represents the caring heart of the Chicago Jewish Community inspires thousands of helping hands.

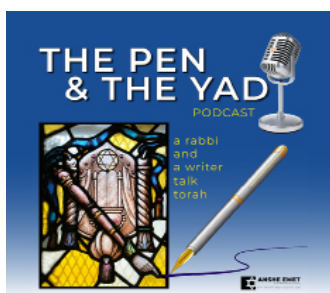
The Anshe Emet community can take special pride in the recent announcement that Marna Goldwin has been named Chief Executive Officer of The ARK. Aside from growing up in our congregation, she and her husband Dan have raised their daughters in this community. Marna has distinguished herself, and her very caring heart, as the Chief Advancement Officer of the Bernard

Zell Anshe Emet Day School. Now, the entire Chicago Jewish community will be able to benefit from her leadership.

I had the occasion to speak with Marna and was impressed with her enthusiasm for the work of the organization and the sheer breadth of the work of The ARK. This organization cares for people with comprehensive case management and access to its:

- Food Pantry
- Employment services
- Medical Care
- Psychological counseling
- Pharmaceuticals
- Eyeglasses
- Housing opportunities

Marna was quick to note that The ARK is much more than a safety net. It is a place where people across the spectrum of the Jewish community can learn to be self-reliant and achieve financial independence. Accomplishing this at a time when the economic impact of COVID is so pronounced is a serious challenge. But Marna also added with pride that at a time when The ARK has been inundated with new clients, including 400% more visits to the food pantry, it has also placed 42 people in good jobs. *(continued on next page)*



With
Rabbi Michael Siegel &
Jonathan Eig

New Podcasts Weekly.
ansheemet.org/podcasts

(continued from page one)

It was also reassuring to hear that people are coming forward to help in a variety of different ways.

The Anshe Emet family wishes Marna well in this new position. Let us also be reminded that our tradition calls on us to lend our hearts and our hands to the important work of The ARK. Please visit arkchicago.org, or the Anshe Emet website to discover ways for you and your family to engage in this vital work.



Adult Education

Courses Now Available!



OMG, Can You Believe? with Tzivia Garfinkel

In this six-week exploratory course, we'll seek answers to the BIG questions around God and God's relationship to Humankind. **Mondays beginning January 11 at 7PM.**

Let's Talk About the Prophets with Prof. Ken Seeskin

A six-week class on some of the most fascinating Prophets in our arsenal of study. Examine questions such as Does God Experience Emotion? and Why Must God's Chosen Servant Suffer? and much more. **Sundays beginning January 17 at 10AM.**

Talmud Study with Rabbi Joel Goldstein

Join us as we study the eighth chapter of the Babylonian Talmud tractate *chullin*. This chapter begins with the rules of separating milk and meat and how we react when the two are mixed together. **Wednesdays beginning January 20 at 7PM. (6wks)**

Fees apply. For more information, and to register, visit: ansheemet.org/adulted

Anshe Emet Synagogue Strategic Planning Project

KADIMAH

Moving Forward Together

*The vital question before us is,
what comes next for the Anshe Emet community?*

To answer that question in a thoughtful manner we have launched Kadimah! (Forward!) a strategic visioning and planning process that will guide our congregational leadership in decision making for the next 6-18 months and beyond. **Thank you to all community members who participated in our survey. Your thoughtful input is so vital because we have such a diverse community.** We will have more opportunities to hear from you in the coming weeks as we move forward together!

To learn more about Kadimah! and how you can share your voice, contact Boni Fine: bfine@ansheemet.org • 773.868.5115

AES Families *stay connected!*

Anshe Emet Families—join our listserv to be the first to hear about all the great things happening for your family, plus hand-me-downs and recommendations for nannies and other helpful things. Visit groups.google.com/g/anshe-emet-young-families and Click "Ask to join group"

Join us on Facebook too: facebook.com/groups/AESYF

STAND UP

T O H A T E

A 5-part Series examining intolerance and the responses of communities in America

Thursday, January 21

The American Jewish Committee Report on Anti-Semitism with Executive Director, Laurence Bolotin

Tuesday, January 26

A Discussion of the film *Rosenwald* with Director Aviva Kempner
Discussion includes Pastor Chris Harris, Rabbi Michael Siegel and Peter Ascoli, grandson of Julius Rosenwald.

Tuesday, February 2

A Discussion with George Washington University student, Blake Flayton on Anti-Semitism

Tuesday, February 9

A Hillel Roundtable: Anti-Semitism on Campus and the Response from Hillels Around the Country with Aaron Weil, Hillel Executive Director of the University of Central Florida (South), Noam Benton, Hillel Executive Director of John Hopkins University (East); Tilly Shemer, Hillel Executive Director of the University of Michigan (Midwest).

Thursday, February 18

Taking a Stand for the Jewish Community with Zach Banner, Offensive Tackle for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

For more information on this series, and to register, please visit: ansheemet.org/events

Seeking Comfort On These Winter Days

Arthur Friedson

President, Anshe Emet Synagogue

art.friedson@gmail.com

Dear Friends,

It's full-on winter in Chicago. The days grow dark in late afternoon. The wind whips off the lake. The temperatures plunge. The footing gets dicey. And on top of all of that, we still have to contend with COVID. At times like this, we need to seek out comfort for our cold, tired souls.

When I look for comfort on these dark days, I turn first to my kids and grandkids. Just the shortest Zoom or FaceTime with those delicious faces warms me to the core. Of course, I long to hug them, but seeing them smile when they see their Saba makes it all okay for me.

I look to my wife, Nancy, who is always there for a good laugh. We celebrate each other's achievements in the kitchen, share shows we would never have watched in "normal" times, and tease each other about our life together, 24/7 in 2,000 square feet.

I look to my shul—my kehila—for comfort. Anshe Emet has always been a source of comfort and joy for me, but never so much

**Anshe Emet
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been a source
of comfort
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but never so
much as now.**

as now. The seemingly endless stream of outstanding programs broadens my horizons while simultaneously educating and entertaining me. The services—particularly the delightful new Friday night service, Shabbat Chavaya—provide real comfort in a deeply satisfying way. Watching the b'nai mitzvah on Saturday mornings reminds me

that life continues on despite this pesky pandemic. In a very different way, that's true, too, as I Zoom into funerals and shivas.

Friends, as we go through a Chicago winter in the grasp of a pandemic, I thank each of you for the support, comfort, love and joy I get from being a member of this dynamic, warm,

caring, compelling community. While we still have a long way to go in both winter and the pandemic, the end is in sight for both. Meanwhile, we have each other under the "sheltering tabernacle of peace" that is Anshe Emet. I am deeply grateful.



Sustained by Your Generosity

An **anonymous donor** has come forward with a \$100,000 donation to Anshe Emet to lessen the financial impact of COVID on the Synagogue.

Anshe Emet is grateful to **Susie Karkomi** and **Marvin Leavitt** for their remarkable donation of \$100,000 to lessen the financial impact of COVID on the Synagogue.

Anshe Emet extends its heartfelt gratitude to **Sandra** and **Michael Perlow** for their remarkable donation to create the **Bertha Perlow Synagogue Transformation Fund**. This gift of \$100,000 will be used in a multitude of ways including providing support to our Strategic Plan efforts.

Anshe Emet gratefully acknowledges the very special gift of a Megillat Esther—The Book of Esther for us to use on Purim. This very special donation was made in memory of **Devora R. Budnick**, wife of **David Casalino** and mother of **Kaila Casalino** and was kindly shepherded by AES Congregant Jeanne Horowitz Huff.

Please call Mimi Weisberg if you would like to make a contribution to help defray expenses during this difficult year.
mweisberg@ansheemet.org • 773-868-5123

Thank You!

HAZAK
FOR RETIRED ADULTS

HOKHMAH (WISDOM)

ZIKNAH (MATURITY)

KADIMAH (LOOKING AHEAD)

HaZaK is an Anshe Emet daytime program for mature adults with active minds. Co-taught by our clergy and other community educators, this year HaZaK is focusing on Jewish Ethics with the Melton curriculum "Ethics of Jewish Living." Generously funded by Beatrice Mayer, z"l.

**Join HaZaK Mondays in
January & February:**

1/4 - Hazzan Berke

1/11 - Rabbi Chankin-Gould

1/18 - No HaZaK (MLK Day)

1/25 - Rabbi Russo

2/1 - Rabbi Siegel

2/8 - Hazzan Berke

2/15 - No HaZaK (President's Day)

2/22 - Naomi Richman

Join us at ansheemet.org/livestream

Meeting ID: 663 098 957

Password: Hazakclass

Contact Hazzan Liz Berke for more info:
eberke@ansheemet.org



**Drop-in
Bereavement Group**
Supporting our Community
in Times of Loss

Next meetings:

**January 25 & February 22
7:30 PM via Zoom**

Please join us online for our monthly support group for adults who have experienced the death of a loved one within the past two years.

**Learn more at
[ansheemet.org/
bereavementgroup](https://ansheemet.org/bereavementgroup)**

Trivia Night

Something for Us, Anshe Emet's social group for members 50+ will be hosting their annual **Trivia Night with WhatDaYaKnow Trivia** on **Saturday, January 23** (time TBD).



Rabbi Josh Warshawsky

Embedded within each text that we sing aloud are stories, deep secrets, and intricate connections between Hebrew words and themes. The melodies we create and sing are intended to help better express what the words are already attempting to say. Leading up to Shabbat Shira, on

Wednesday, January 27 at 7PM, join Rabbi Josh Warshawsky "backstage" as we discuss the stories behind the music, deepen our understanding of the wisdom of our tradition, and sing out with a newfound understanding of the words

Shabbat Shira—The Shabbat of Song

Our **Saturday, January 30 Shabbat morning service at 9:30AM** will be filled with new music. Tune into our services, which will be accompanied by **Emma Rehfeld** on guitar.



Anshe Emet

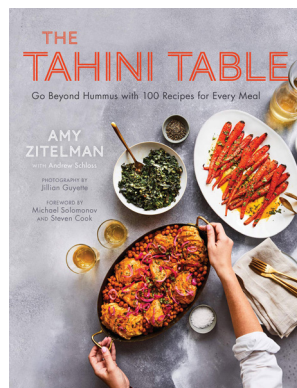
SISTERHOOD

Bridging Generations • Creating Community • Enriching Lives

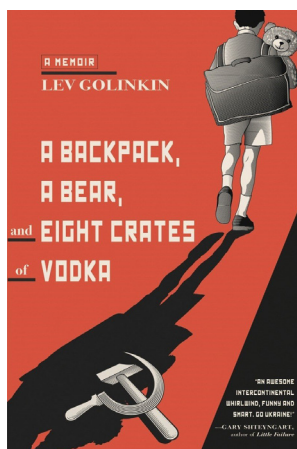
Mark your calendars for our **Annual Sisterhood Shabbat** service on **February 13, 2021**. Under the guidance of the Anshe Emet clergy, women will lead all parts of the morning service via Zoom with a limited number of in-person participants.

Please email Larisa Kenen at larisak@gmail.com if you are interested to participate.

For more information on these programs, and to register, please visit: ansheemet.org/events



Tuesday January 19 7PM
Cooking with Tehina with special guest, Amy Zitzelman, author of *The Tehini Table*.



Thursday January 28 7PM
AES Book Club
A Backpack, a Bear, and Eight Crates of Vodka by Lev Golinkin.



Thursday February 11 7PM
Kehilla Kedosha (our Inclusion Committee) and Anshe Emet Synagogue are pleased to host **Rabbi Darby Leigh**, one of two deaf rabbis ordained in the United States.

Thank you to these people for honoring their Minyan commitment. Join us online for minyan Monday thru Friday at 7am Sundays & National Holidays at 8:30am

Ben Abrams, Fran Abramson, Bruce Arenson, Sara Aron, Izi & Sapat Aviyente, Barry Balik, Naomi Bank, Terry Behrman, Michael Bellows, Matt, Vanda, Nissa, Asher and Toby Berman, Gabriella Boros, Deborah & Matthew Brown, Adam Cooper, Mark DeBofsky, Steve Durchslag, Beth Farber, Erica Fleischer, Mike Glasser, Jay Goodgold, Michael Goodgold, Galit Gottlieb, Elana Hiller, Sarah Hirszen, Ariela Housman, David, Juliette, Karie Katz, Larry Katz, Barbara Katz,

Synde Keywell, Eliora Kordish, Jay Levine, Debby Lewis & Gabor Tarjan, Jay Lewkowitz, Jane Lippow, Darya Lisserman, Rachel Lopatin, Marcie Marcovitz, Alan Mintz, Wendy Newberger, Gerard Nussbaum, Nikolai Pamukov, Shelly Parker, John Pomeranz, Fraeda & Gary Porton, John Ragir, Raquel Rajstein, Nurit Rajstein, Esther Rosenbloom, Ed Salomon, Jerry Salzberg, Allen Schechtman, Neil Schwartz, Caroline Schwarzkopf,

Our Sincerest Condolences

The Anshe Emet Community expresses its sincerest condolences to the families of:

Marvin E. Cooper, MD
Harriet Evnin
Helen Regina Schmookler
Barry Mark Kreiter
Lawrence Ernst
Marilyn Cohen
Fay Gerrick Harris
Don R. Copeland
Berta Zelechonok
Steven Crane
Jack P. Rimland
Sam Grodzin

*May their memory
be for a blessing.*

Misheberach List

If you would like to have a name placed on the misheberach (prayer for healing) list, contact Antoinette Nunez. Names will be kept on the list for two weeks unless otherwise requested.

Antoinette Nunez
773.868.5120
anunez@ansheemet.org

Siman Tov U'Mazel Tov

Mazel Tov to these families who have welcomed newborns in the past few months:

Kaplan Family
Pehr-Ross Family
Gressel Family
Seeskin Family
Hite Family
Altman Family
Kahn Family
Kraff-Franklin Family

Elaine & Barry Seeskin, Ken Shapiro, Michael Simon, Michael Simon, Rhonda Singer, Yedida Soloff, Greg Stern, Amiel Steuerman, Maya Tkachuk, Abe Trieger, Helen Ullman, Leigh Weber & Michele Smith, David Weil, Evelyn Wilk, Jeanette Zemsky

we appreciate your thoughtful DONATIONS



LISTINGS CONTINUE
ON NEXT PAGE

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 Michael & Sandra Perlow

Ner Tamid:

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 Phillip & Nancy Resnick
 Michael & Mary Silver

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Jeff & Elise Lennard

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Jeff Parker & Zipporah Porton

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Gary Wigoda & Barbara Gressel

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Sylvia Arbetman

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Harriet Schab

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Barry & Elaine Seeskin

Thomas & Linda White

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To donate, please visit ansheemet.org/donate.

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PURIM

Megillah Reading
Thursday, February 25, 2021
Purim Celebration TBA



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