

# The Stone or The Story?



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

## On the Enduring Power of Passover and the Jewish People

### The great poet Percy Bysshe Shelly

was likely not thinking of Passover when he penned this poem in the early 19th Century. He was reflecting on Napoleon's Egyptian campaign and the reawakening of Europeans to the remains of the Egyptian civilizations. Shelly muses at the irony that at the base of the statue of the powerful Pharoah Ozymandias posed the remarkable challenge to every passerby: "Look on my Works, ye Mighty and despair." When the statue was completed, the grandeur of the Egyptian empire must have been plain for anyone to see. Shelly points to the irony of gazing upon the face of the Pharoah so many years later amidst the ruin of ancient Egypt: "Nothing besides remains. Round the decay of that colossal Wreck."

Shelly was not thinking of Passover when he wrote this poem, but he should have been!

While the civilization of Egypt is something that can only be imagined on tours of what remains of the pyramids or in museum exhibits, astonishingly, the descendants of Moses continue on.

A successor of the Pharaoh that Moses confronted, Merneptah IV, wrote after a battle with the Israelites: "Israel is laid waste, her seed is destroyed." How wrong he was! Israel yet lives and the Egyptian empire is gone, destroyed. The difference between the two is that one attempted to write their legacy in stone and precious metals, and the other in words.

The Jews have left no architectural wonders, no pyramids filled with gold and exquisite artifacts. We have only our words and our stories to sustain us. They have proven to be more lasting than stone, and more life-affirming as well. Such is the power of the word, and the enduring strength of a story. No matter where our ancestors wandered, they carried that story with them and told it to their children. In every age, they saw aspects of enslavement in their own time and hard-hearted Pharoahs in their midst and wove it into the story as they fulfilled the words of the Torah:

"You shall tell your child on that day, 'It is because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt." As you gather around your Passover tables, I invite you to begin your Seder with the words of Shelly's "Ozymandias" and reflect on the fact that one civilization lies in the dust and another continues to thrive through the power of the story. In that spirit, tell the tale of Yetziat Mitzrayim: the going out of Egypt. Allow the Haggadah and its commentaries and illustrations serve as aids to the telling. Challenge one another to add new questions along the way. Remember that ritual is important, but the words of the Haggadah are only meant to be catalysts to engaging with the essential story of our people. Each of us will tell it differently; some humorously and others more scholarly. What matters is that we tell it in a way that deepens the story's meaning and relevance for those sitting around the table, in fulfillment with those timeless words of the Haggadah:

"In every generation a person is obligated to see themselves as if they were personally taken from Egypt."

Janet joins me in wishing you, and all you hold dear, a joyous Passover. Chag Sameach!

## **CLERGY**

**Michael Siegel** Senior Rabbi

Rachel Brook Senior Cantor

Elizabeth Berke Cantor

D'ror Chankin-Gould Rabbi

**David Russo** Rabbi

## A Message from the Board President

Danielle Lazar President Anshe Emet Synagogue dlazar1971@gmail.com



### The Spring cycle of holidays which

starts with Purim and ends with Shavuot is here. What is also here is a milestone of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been two years since the public became acutely aware of COVID-19. Our lives changed more than we could have ever anticipated. As I have reflected before, it is the cycles of our Jewish calendar and this Anshe Emet community that have been two of the most important touchstones for me.

This time of year, I start thinking about how Passover is right around the corner and maybe I should not buy that 50 lb. bag of flour at Costco. I start to plan menus, create shopping lists, bake hamantaschen, and check on my days off. It is a special time, but why?

In an article from 2012, Nigel Savage, Executive Director of Hazon, and Leah Koenig, a food writer and cookbook author, reflect on this very question.

"The entire period from Purim to Shavuot is a single cycle; the centerpiece of this cluster of holidays is the Pesach seder. Seder night is when we recall and relive the journey our Jewish ancestors

took from slavery to freedom.

That night, we ourselves are radically free. And...to be free. in the days and weeks leading up to Pesach, we first must get rid of chametz - both the literal crumbs and also the areas of fluff and superfluity crowding our lives. Preparing for Pesach gives us a chance to sort through our files, examine our relationships, quiet our own egos... This personal cleansing and the preparation...are precisely the point of Purim's overindulgence."

So much over the past two years has been disrupted. It has, though, forced us to continually examine what is most important in our lives - to get rid of the superfluous. My relationships with family, friends, colleagues, and this community are what matter. Everything else is "fluff."

I remember that first "COVID" Passover. We knew so little. We were in lock-down and everything had been upended. However, the holidays come no matter what. As we edged closer to Passover, my sense of what was important shifted. I remember going food shopping at the Jewel on Howard

and thinking, "Ah, yes. Passover.

This is what is important." It was the first time that I had any sense of peace or normalcy. That year wasn't the Seder we knew or maybe would have wanted. However, I am still struck as to how we grounded ourselves through the familiarity of the Seder and holidays.

We are in a different place than we were two years ago. We are once again back at Purim, Passover and Shavuot. This year, as I prepare mentally for this time, I look forward to the many moments we can come together in person and online—to sing, eat, learn, and laugh together.

Wishing your families and loved ones a joyful Purim and meaningful Pesach.



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## AES Has an Affinity Group for You!

## **MEN'S CLUB**

### The Award-Winning Men's Club

at Anshe Emet Synagogue provides adult male members of the synagogue with a vehicle to meet and socialize with other adult male members!



## Conversation with ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt & Anshe Emet Senior Rabbi Michael Siegel

### Tuesday, March 22 · 7PM

The Anshe Emet Men's Club is sponsoring a talk between Rabbi Siegel and the Anti-Defamation League's CEO & National Director, Jonathan Greenblatt. The conversation will focus on Greenblatt's new best-selling book. It Could Happen Here, which is about the scary rise of hate plaguing America and what we all can do to stop it before it is too late. Last year, Anshe Emet joined the ADL Signature Synagogue Program which partners to provide resources to congregants to combat antisemitism.

Register at https://tinyurl.com/ADLAES.

### **MEN'S CLUB SHABBAT**

Saturday, March 26 · 9:30AM

Come to shul (in person or virtually) to join members of the Men's Club as they participate in leading the Shabbat Service. It's a once-a-year opportunity to recognize the club's contributions. Don't miss it!

March 22 program is sponsored by:











Photos from the recent Men's Club World Wide Wrap program from February 13, 2022.

## **SISTERHOOD**

Deborah Gubin and Laura Kordon. the Co-Presidents of the AES Sisterhood, are grateful to our of our members who participated in the Tu B'Shevat Seder and Sisterhood Shabbat. Our members are what make AES Sisterhood so special!

The AES Sisterhood is pleased to announce these upcoming events...

- · Protecting Women: Stopping **Domestic Violence and Advocating** for Those Who Act in Self Defense. Wednesday, March 9 · 7PM Panelists will include Rachel White-Domain, Tewkunzi Green, Debra Pogrund Stark, and moderator Nancy Kohn.
- Torah Tea Fund Sunday, April 3 · 4PM Details to follow
- Save the Date: Kiddush Cup Fundraiser Sunday, July 17 We will be making sure Sisterhood is able to provide a Kiddush Cup for everyone who celebrates a B'nai Mitzvah at AES for years to come.

- Our Program Chair, Benita Cohen, is planning a program with the Simon Wiesenthal Center; details will follow.
- · Sisterhood also has a book club with a professional facilitator. Those interested please contact Judy Metzer at 773-383-0978.
- · We continue to work with the Night Ministry.
- If you would like more information or have any suggestions for programs, please contact Deborah Gubin at 312-802-5275.

We look forward to seeing everyone virtually and in person!

## AES Holidays & Celebrations



## Sunday, March 13 **Purim Carnival**

#### 9:30AM - 11AM

Purim Carnival open to families of children ages 4 and younger and those with special needs who may need a quieter environment.

#### **11AM**

Purim Shpiel!

### **12PM**

Purim Carnival open to Community, Wristbands include games, prizes, inflatables, face painting, character meeting and a dairy lunch!

## Wednesday, March 16 **Megillah Readings**

#### 5:45PM

\*\*\*Community Dinner\*\*\*

#### 6:30PM

Young Family Megillah Telling Best for children 5 and under and their grown ups

### 6:30PM

Sanctuary Megillah Reading & Shpiel

#### 7:30PM

No Frills Megillah Reading

### 8:15PM

Purim Under the Sea Party with Silent Auction, music and fun!

## Thursday, March 17 Minyan, Megillah Reading & **Purim Pancake Breakfast!**

### 9AM

Join us for a late minyan, with Megillah reading, followed by a delicious pancake breakfast for the community!

Sign up for the fun! ansheemet.org/ purim

## **CARNIVAL PRICING**

## **EARLY BIRD PRICING**

- Members- Adults- \$10, Children 4 and older \$20 (children 3 and under are free)
- · Non-members- Adults \$15. Children 4 and older \$25 (children 3 and under are free)

### **REGULAR PRICING** after March 7

Members- Adults- \$15, Children

- 4 and older \$30 (children 3 and under are free)
- Non-members- Adults \$25, Children 4 and older \$35 (children 3 and under are free)

\*\*\*If carnival prices are prohibitory please contact Sam Isenstein:

## sisenstein@ansheemet.org

or any of our clergy, we will not let finances get in the way of your Purim Fun!\*\*\*

## **AES Music Center**



**Rachel Brook** Senior Cantor The Arnold H. Kaplan, M.D. Cantorial Chair rbrook@ansheemet.org

Throughout the challenges of this winter, moving from in-person to virtual and back again, I have been continuously inspired by the resilience and joy found in our community. We have been able to dream big and share wonderful moments of song together and I am so excited for all we have coming up this spring!

On March 5, we will welcome Jewish rock star, Noah Aronson. His beautiful music is found in most congregations around the country (including Anshe Emet!), and we are so lucky that he will spend Shabbat morning with us, and then help us say goodbye to

Shabbat with a special Havdalah program for the entire community.



Noah Aronson

Our fabulous group of Shpielers has been rehearsing all winter long and can't wait to delight you all with our seriously silly "Under the Sea" Purim Shpiel! We will have two hilarious performances during the week of Purim, Sunday, March 13 and Wednesday, March 16 and we hope to see you there!

The Anshe Emet Youth Choir wowed us all with their first service performance at Kabbalat Shabbat services in February. If you have a 2nd-5th grader who loves to sing, we encourage you to participate. Rehearsals take place on the first Fridays of each month at 5:30pm.

Looking forward to spring and to singing with you in shul!

### Thank you to our Purim Shpielers!

Below is the list of everyone who's participating in our Shpiel:

Darren Anders

Morgan Anders

Kylie Anders

Raina Barkoff

Elyce Block

Reni Dickman

**Emily Feder** 

Rina Krugel-Lee

Cheryl Krugel-Lee

Rachel Lessem

Jane Lippow

Marsha Nagorsky

Alexander Nessel

Stephen Schwartz-Fenwick

Hava Shifrin

Gavriella Strong

Taylor Maurand

Avelet Lazar

Sadie Rau

Marcie Marcovitz

Freddrika Kammer

Ken Shapiro

Benjamin Fleischer

Erica Fleischer

Rina Fleischer

Nava Fleischer

Scott Frazin

Mava Frazin

Lila Brook-Holman

Miriam Aronin

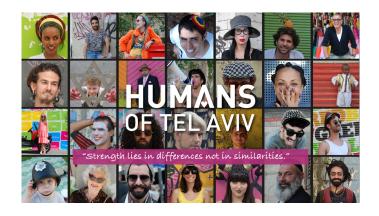
Shira Schwartz

Photos from our Purim Shpiel rehearsals.



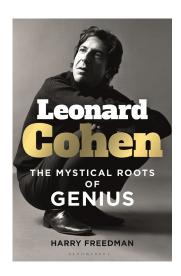


# Social Programs for Everyone



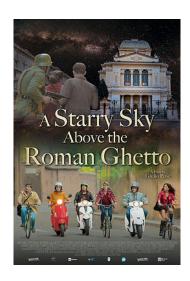
## **Humans of Tel Aviv** with Erez Kaganovitz Sunday, March 20 · 10AM

Join us for a Zoom discussion with photojournalist Erez Kaganovitz as he explores the multiculturalism of Tel Aviv, celebrating the city's vibrant life through its people's stories.



## **Leonard Cohen:** The Mystical Roots of Genius Sunday, March 27 · 10AM

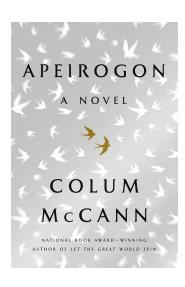
A Dialogue with author Harry Friedman and Rabbi Siegel. Here, then, is a book that looks deep into the soul and imagination of one of the greatest singers and lyricists of our time. Here is the landscape of his soul. This is not a biography but a biographical narrative into the treatment of each song or theme, so that by the end, the reader will in fact have a good understanding of Cohen's life story.



## A Starry Sky Above the Roman Ghetto Thursday, March 31 • 7PM

After discovering an image of a little girl in an old photograph, high school student Sofia becomes compelled to probe the history of Rome's Jewish ghetto during World War II.

This screening will be in person and is part of the Sarah Danielle Goldberg Memorial Arts Fund Film Series, established by Judy and Bill Goldberg in memory of their beloved daughter, Sarah.



## **AES Book Club Apeirogon** Thursday, April 7 • 7PM

Apeirogon is a novel by Colum McCann, published in February 2020. The novel explores the conflict in the Middle East. It follows the story of two men who each lost a daughter. One is Palestinian, the other Israeli.

For more information and to register for these programs, visit: ansheemet.org Contact Amy Karp with questions: akarp@ansheemet.org 773.868.5139

Click each graphic above to register for event.

## Social Programs for Everyone



## Yom HaShoah Program with Julie Kohner. Founder and CEO of Voices of the Generations Wednesday, April 27 • 7PM

Presenting the amazing Holocaust experiences of her parents, Walter and Hanna Kohner, who were born in Teplitz Schonau, Czechoslovakia. Hanna survived 4 concentration camps. Her parents were reunited after the war, married, and moved to California. They wrote their autobiography in Hanna and Walter, A Love Story. Hanna was the first Holocaust survivor to appear on a national TV show, This Is Your Life.

Look to the Anshe Emet website to register. Sponsored by the Anshe Emet Men's Club. Details about Men's Club Yellow Candle program to follow.



New courses are now available! Register and learn from our Anshe Emet clergy and guest educators. Course highlights include:



## By the Grace of the Game: The Holocaust, a Basketball Legacy and an Unprecedented American Dream

With guest, Dan Grunfeld—just in time for March Madness!



The Great Debates Mondays, March 14 — April 14 • 7PM

## Led by Rabbi D'ror Chankin-Gould,

this 4-session course offers a look at four contested issues in Judaism:

Monday, March 7 · 7PM

· Hamentaschen v. Latke

· Deuteronomy v. Job (Why Bad Things Happen to Good People)

· Herzl v. Ha'am (Why Zionism)

· Heschel v. Kaplan (Who/What is God)



## The Many Faces of Israel Journalism Roundtable



## Amir Tibon, Anna Ahronheim & Haviv Gur Sunday, May 1.10AM

Rabbi Michael Siegel moderates a fascinating conversation with Amir Tibon from Ha'aretz, Anna Ahronheim from JPost, and Haviv Gur from Times of Israel. This program is virtual only.

The Sarah Danielle Goldberg Memorial Arts Fund was established by Judy and Bill Goldberg in memory of their beloved daughter, Sarah.

## **AES Community Announcements**

## HAZAK FOR SENIORS

## Beginning Monday, March 7, HaZaK will be held both IN PERSON and via Zoom!

## Mondays at 1PM

HaZaK is an Anshe Emet daytime program for mature adults with active minds. Co-taught by our clergy, and other community educators and is generously funded by Beatrice Mayer, z"l.

### **MARCH**

3/7 · Rabbi Michael Siegel 3/14 · Elie Berkman 3/21 · Cantor Liz Berke 3/28 · Rabbi D'ror Chankin-Gould

#### APRIL

4/4 · Rabbi David Russo 4/11 · Cantor Rachel Brook 4/18 · Elie Berkman 4/25 · Cantor Liz Berke

Join at ansheemet.org/livestream Meeting ID: 663 098 957 Password: Hazakclass

"Being a regular part of HaZaK has allowed me to get to know the clergy better. If it weren't for the time we regularly spend together, I would not have had as many opportunities to interact with our rabbis and cantors."

— Ha7aK Member

## Help Resettle a **Refugee Family**

#### **UPDATE!**

### Thanks to this amazing community,

we have welcomed two Afghani refugee families to Chicago, along with our partners at HIAS, a program of JCFS Chicago.

You can help by making a tax deductible donation, volunteering, or donating household items.

Email AERefugeeResettlement@ gmail.com with questions.

## **Sponsorship Opportunities**

### Anshe Emet is blessed to celebrate

many special occasions, s'machot, in our community. Anshe Emet is now offering several sponsorship opportunities for you to consider in memory or honor of someone you love or in celebration of a simcha. Please fill out our form (the link is listed below) or visit our website to make arrangements. For any questions, please contact Mimi Weisberg at mweisberg@ ansheemet.org or 773.868.5123.

Fill out our form at: tinyurl.com/aessponsorships

## Siman Tov U'Mazel Tov

Mazel Toy to these families who have welcomed newborns in the past weeks:

**Pevnick Family** Campbell Family **Swidler Family** Lyttle Family Tarjan-Letourneau Family Segal-Kamin Family

## Sincerest Condolences

Anshe Emet expresses its sincerest condolences to the families of:

**Harold Louis Gordon** Philip Appelbaum H. Pierre Eilian Dr. Richard Shermer **Sharon Samuels** Herbert Y. Weber Nathan Geller Sarah Milder Jones Miriam Harris Mary Jane Asher Lubas R. Lehner

## Monthly Online Bereavement Group

March 28 & April 25 7:30PM via Zoom

Please join us online for our monthly support group for adults who have experienced the death of a loved on within the past two years. Learn more and join us at: ansheemet.org/bereavementgroup

## Misheberach List

If you would like to have a name placed on the misheberach (prayer for healing) list, contact Antoinette Nunez. at **773.868.5120** anunez@ansheemet.org

Names will be kept on the list for two weeks unless otherwise requested.

## **Musical Family Shabbat Services**

**Every Shabbat Morning** 

## **10am Shalom Shabbat**

In person and via Zoom! Families with children 5 and under are invited to join Noa Appelbaum for a lively, musical, Shabbat morning service! We will sing, dance and share a story. Join us in the Malkoy Chapel plenty of room to spread out – or on Zoom. Bring an instrument and lovey to cuddle with if you join us by Zoom.

## 11am Shachar

In person and via Zoom! Families with kids in K-2nd grade are invited to join Dalya Lessem Elnecave for a lively, engaging Shabbat morning service! We will acknowledge our blessings, dance, study some Torah, and maybe even make a new friend. Join us in the Malkov Chapel – plenty of room to spread out - or on Zoom. Meeting ID: 860 3480 3837 Look to your morning emails for Zoom passcode.

## 11am Shabbat HaNoar

Musical Shabbat for 3rd-5th graders In person and via Zoom! Join us in the Rose Crown Room or on Zoom. Can't make it this week? No. worries! Shabbat HaNoar is here to stay! Join a member of our clergy and musical leader EVERY Shabbat at 11am.

> Learn more about Young Family programming by contacting Maxine Handelman: mhandelman@ ansheemet.org

## Machar for 3rd - 5th Graders

**Annual Chocolate Seder is Back!** Sunday, April 3 12:15PM-1:15PM Religious School students can go right from class to the program.

Registration in advance is required.

## Gesher

## **Purim Setup Late Night**

Saturday, March 12 7PM - 11PM

**Chicago Wolves Game** Sunday, April 3

## **USY**

### **Purim Setup Late Night**

Saturday, March 12 7PM - 11PM

#### Sushi in the Sukkah

Tuesday, March 22 7PM - 9PM

## Teens, Treats, & Talmud

Tuesday, April 5 7PM - 9PM

## **Young Adult Division**

**First Friday Shabbat** Friday, March 4 Sushi Shabbat.

First Friday Shabbat Friday, April 1

**Torah On Tap** Thursday, April 7

Matzah Pizza Making Thursday, April 21

After I Do: Cohort 3 will start in May! Save the date to join this fantastic program for couples who are in committed relationships on the path to marriage, engaged or newly married. May 10, 17, 24, June 3. Open to all couples—interfaith and LGBTQ are welcome!

Learn more and register for these programs at: ansheemet.org Or contact Samantha Isenstein: sisenstein@ ansheemet.org

## **AES Community Retreat Returns!**

## Join the Anshe Emet **Community Retreat at** the beautiful Perlstein **Resort in Wisconsin!** May 20-22

Our entire community is invited young adults, families with young kids through high schoolers, singles & older adults, and everyone in between.

Over the weekend, we will celebrate being together, in the woods and as a community. We will share the joy of Shabbat on the serene shores of Lake Delton. We will play and study with our Anshe Emet clergy, and make a perfect s'more by a roaring bonfire.

Come to deepen old bonds and craft new friendships. Hike the woods, play ga-ga and other sports, eat freshly baked chocolate chip cookies, and laugh — a lot.

Back this year - Teen Retreat! 8th graders through high schoolers will craft their own experience under the quidance of Sam Isenstein. Anshe Emet Teens are invited to come to the Teen Retreat even if their families are not attending the retreat.

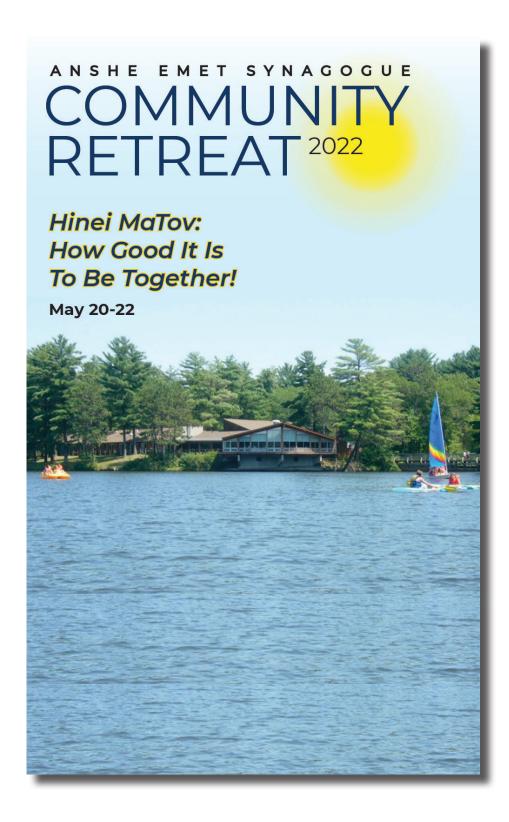
If you or your family are in need of financial assistance, please see our FA form online.

In regard to financial assistance, please contact Mimi Weisberg: mweisberg@ansheemet.org / 773.868.5123

If you have any other questions concerning the Community Retreat, please contact Maxine Handelman: mhandelman@ ansheemet.org / 773.868.5121

Learn more and register at: ansheemet.org/ community-retreat

Registration closes April 10



# Your Donations — Thank You!

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### SIMON SYNAGOGUE FUND

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IDA RUTH MEISELS: Florence Nelson

AINEE PERPER: Marc Perper

& Marianne Katz-Perper

PAUL PERPER: Marc Perper

& Marianne Katz-Perper

MILTON DURCHSLAG: Debra Pincus

HELEN POTICHA:

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MR. SAUL SILVERSTEIN:

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A meaningful gift has been given to Anshe Emet Synagogue by Joanne Moffic-Silver and Gregg Silver in honor of their guiding lights: Parents, Misha & Sam Moffic, Audrey & Edward Silver and our Rabbi & friend, Michael Siegel.

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## Mazel Tov to Our B'nai Mitzvah Families

## **MARCH 2022**





Georgia and Tate Gell Twins of Lindsey Liss & Jeff Gell March 5, 2022



Asher Santiago Salas Escalante Son of Analuisa Escalante & Antony Salas March 5, 2022



Benjamin Matsa Son of Lesley & David Matsa March 19, 2022

## **APRIL 2022**



**Emmett Barkoff** Son of Marla & Jeff Barkoff April 2, 2022



**Noah Harris** Son of Tracie & Andrew Harris April 9, 2022



Oliver Ellis Son of Bess & Paul Ellis April 30, 2022



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# Join Us In Person for Services and Worship...

## **Morning** Minyan

Monday - Friday **7AM** 

Sunday and National Holidays 8:30AM

Lerner's of Torah Parsha Class Fridays 8:45AM

## Kabbalat Shabbat **Evening Service**

Fridavs 6:30PM

**Shabbat Morning** Parsha Class Saturdays 9AM

Rose Crown Minyan Shabbat **Morning Service** Saturdays 9:30AM

**Shabbat Morning** Sanctuary Service Saturdays 9:30AM

Join us **IN PERSON** for services and worship, or visit us online at ansheemet.org/livestream

Cover Artwork by Karin Foreman