

AES BULLETIN

MAY / JUNE 2023

A Historic and Vibrant Community in the Lakeview Neighborhood of Chicago



The Power of A Book



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

Remembering Rabbi Byron Sherwin and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

Can a book change the trajectory of your life?

I believe that the answer is yes.

In the fall of 1972, I was a freshman at Hiram College. Had you asked me what my career path was at that time, I would have quickly told you dentistry. I knew what courses were required, and what dental school I wanted to attend. That was before a professor handed me a copy of *The Sabbath*, by Abraham Joshua Heschel. I remember sitting down outside, under a tree on a beautiful fall day, and opening the book, utterly unprepared for its contents. The book begins with this: *He who wants to enter the holiness of the day must first lay down the profanity of clattering commerce, of being yoked to toil. He must go away from the screech of dissonant days, from the nervousness and fury of acquisitiveness and the betrayal in embezzling his own life.*

The inspired words of Abraham Joshua Heschel touched my Jewish soul in a way nothing else had before. Making my way through Heschel's poetic prose, I found myself sitting at the feet of a Jewish spiritual master, his impact on me was profound. The Sabbath as a "Sanctuary in Time", or a concept such as "Eternity Utters

a Day", took on meaning and urgency. When I finished reading the book, I immediately read it again. On that day, I discovered a fire burning in my soul which served as the beginning of a Jewish journey that ultimately led me to the rabbinate.

Can a book change the trajectory of your life?

As I discovered, along with thousands of others who were impacted by the power of Abraham Joshua Heschel's books, the answer is a resounding yes. By the time my spiritual journey led me to the Jewish Theological Seminary, Heschel was no longer alive. He died a few months after I first read *The Sabbath*. Truth be told, I envied those who had the privilege of actually studying with Heschel.

One of the people who did study with Heschel was Dr. Byron Sherwin. A philosopher, theologian, writer, and gifted teacher, Byron taught at the Spertus Institute for many years and shared his creative thinking widely until his death in 2015. A sampling of Byron's works range from the Golem to goodness to the Jewish relationship with the Church; from a theology of Judaism to a mystical view of the Chicago Cubs. Byron also had a special relationship with Anshe Emet. He and his wife Judy met here. Their

wedding was to take place in our congregation, with Rabbi Heschel presiding. Tragically, Heschel died suddenly a few days before the wedding. This year marks the 50th Yahrzeit of Dr. Heschel, and we will honor his memory, as well as that of Dr. Sherwin, in a memorial lecture featuring Rabbi Arthur Green.

A renowned scholar of Jewish mysticism and neo-Hasidic theology, Rabbi Green helped to found Hebrew College, a non-denominational rabbinical school. Rabbi Green was also a student of Rabbi Heschel. On June 12, I will have the privilege of having a Zoom dialogue with Rabbi Green where we will discuss Heschel's mission to recast Hasidism for the contemporary world as well as look deeper into his central notion that God is in need of human beings. Rabbi Green will also share some of his reminiscences of Heschel. I hope that you will join us for what promises to be a powerful evening.

Can a book change the trajectory of your life?

If you have not read Heschel, I encourage you to pick up *The Sabbath* and gauge its impact for yourself.

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A Message from Our Board President

Danielle Lazar
President
Anshe Emet Synagogue
dlazar1971@gmail.com



This past year, we have been reflecting on and celebrating the legacy of leadership of our Senior Rabbi, Michael Siegel. We have had multiple events—speakers, lectures, celebrations—in honor of all he has done for our community.

Yet, what is a legacy? I looked up the “dictionary” meaning recently and found this. A legacy (noun) is 1. A gift by will especially of money or other personal property: Bequest. 2. Something transmitted by or received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past.

Interesting. The definition does not seem to be as broad as we have come to think of it. Yet legacy—a legacy—is simultaneously about learning from the past, living in the present, and building for the future.

Throughout his tenure to date, Rabbi Siegel has done all of this and more. He has built for us a community that honors our past history as a congregation and Jewish people, addressed the pressing issues of the current day—AND constantly worked to build a tight-knit community that will be here for decades to come. On June 20, at 6:30PM, we will have our community’s annual meeting and (spoiler alert), I will have the honor of reporting

that our congregation—despite the headwinds of the past several years—is stronger than ever. We are 1,200 plus member families, with more than 200 children in our religious school, individuals that represent every stage of life, and a richness of diversity of opinion and practice. Our finances are in a good place thanks to the generosity of our donors and the recognition that a vibrant community also needs resources. Our staff bring their best every day of the year as evidenced by the outstanding programming we are privileged to have at Anshe Emet, a true Center for Jewish Life. Our clergy, under Rabbi Siegel’s leadership, lead us in learning and prayer, and are also here with us for life events—both the joyful and the difficult. In the coming year, we will also welcome a new Rabbi to further serve our families.

Goethe said, “Choose well. Your choice is brief, and yet endless.” I know that all of you have choices when it comes to being part of a congregation. We are so fortunate that all of you have chosen to be part of Anshe Emet. As a community, we are also fortunate that Senior Rabbi Michael Siegel has chosen Anshe Emet as his community to lead these past 40 years!

I look forward to seeing you all at our May 7 celebration for Rabbi Siegel’s 40th anniversary and at our June 20 annual meeting.

With warm regards,

Danielle Lazar

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Rabbi Michael S. Siegel

Celebrating 40 Years of Leadership



RSVP

ANSHEEMET.ORG/40

Due to the generosity of our donors,
there is no charge for attendance on May 7.
Registration is required.



RABBI MICHAEL S. SIEGEL'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SUNDAY, MAY 7 · 4PM THE EVENING

4PM

Reception

5PM

Program with special guests

Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove, Pastor Chris Harris,
and Comedian Matt Friend

7PM

Dessert Celebration

RAV / RABBI

Helen & Michael Arkes
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*Mayer Freed z"l
*William (Bill) J. Neiman z"l

* - Denotes Synagogue President during Rabbi Siegel's 40 years.

Upcoming Programs at AES



Jewish Calcutta Through Music and Memory with Rahel Musleah

Thursday, May 4
7PM

The personal story of a Baghdadi Jewish family through the vivid prism of her family's story and a heritage of lyrical songs. **Rahel Musleah** introduces audiences to the rich culture of the Jews of India and Iraq.



Words of Light: Jewish Poetry Panel

Thursday, May 18
7PM

What does it mean to be a Jewish poet during these dark times? How do we keep our voices raised in song amidst so much suffering? Poetry can be a source of light in the darkness. **Dina Elenbogen, Hila Ratzabi, and Jamie Wendt**, three Chicago-based Jewish women poets and astute witnesses, see and write through a Jewish lens as they celebrate and lament the worlds in which they are engaged. They

write of loss and displacement, but also faith, hope, and healing. Together they are a powerful chorus of voices that help us discover how to live as a Jew and a mensch during these troubling times.



What Are The 3 Most Common Fears About Death?

Monday, May 22
7PM

Join Doula **Catherine Durkin Robinson** in a frank discussion relating to end-of-life issues. What are the 3 most common fears about death and how can we reduce them? Reducing fears means less anxiety while you're alive and a more joyful death when your time comes. You can also help people you're caring for to reduce their fears.



Dinner and Lecture with Special Guest Speaker, Jonathan Orenstein

Friday, May 12

Enjoy Shabbat service, followed by a dinner and a lecture on the topic: "In the Shadow of Auschwitz: How JCC Krakow is Rebuilding Jewish Life in Poland and Supporting Ukrainian Refugees."



SAVE THE DATE

Byron Sherwin Lecture with Rabbi Art Green

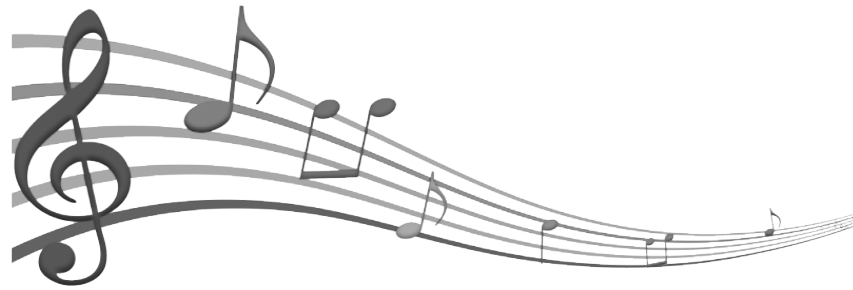
Monday, June 12

Dr. Sherwin was an internationally renowned Jewish theologian, ethicist, and scholar, who served on the Spertus Institute faculty for more than three decades. *Look to our website for coming details!*

Register for these events and much more at ansheet.org/events.



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



Spring is in the air! While Chicago springs may be fickle, we are embracing the rebirth of life that is in the air during this time of year, even if the temperature sometimes indicates otherwise.

It is a true honor to give birth to a new album of music, which will be released in full on Sunday, May 7, in honor of Rabbi Siegel's 40th anniversary at Anshe Emet Synagogue. Titled **Welcome Home: The Sounds of Anshe Emet**, this album features music beloved by and unique to our vibrant community and we hope it will inspire pride and joy in your hearts as you listen and sing along to many of the tracks. Featuring myself, Cantor Berke, Todd Kessler, beloved colleagues from the Chicagoland area, our fabulous Shabbat Band, and a cameo appearance by Hazzan Mizrahi and Cantor Mo Silverman (z"l), this compilation of music was created with love and we hope you will enjoy it for generations to come.



We are also celebrating the new beginning of two exciting additions to our music team. **Emma Sternberg** is joining our team full-time

as our Music Team Administrator in early June and has already become a beloved member of the Anshe Emet community.



Welcome, Emma!

Yair Bernstein, who currently serves our community as Ritual Director, will now be

joining us full time as Director of Ritual Advancement. In addition to overseeing the ritual needs of Anshe Emet, Yair will also oversee our robust B'nai Mitzvah program.

We can't wait to see what else the spring brings and look forward to making music with you soon!

B'Shalom!



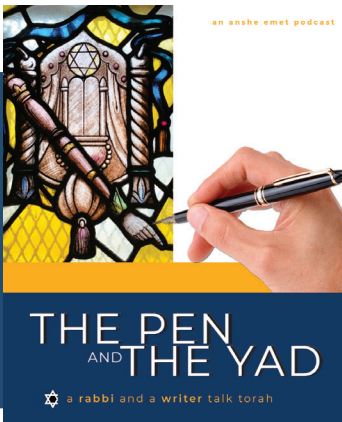
Cantor Rachel Brook • Cantor Liz Berke • Todd Kessler



**LISTEN TO THE ALBUM
ON OUR WEBSITE!**

ansheemet.org/welcome-home

Also available on all streaming platforms.



THE PEN & THE YAD PODCAST

New Episodes Every Week!

Rabbi Michael S. Siegel is joined by Anshe Emet member and acclaimed author, Jonathan Eig, for this weekly podcast. Listen and learn as they discuss the deeper meanings and religious significance of each week's parsha.

[ansheemet.org/
thepenandtheyad](http://ansheemet.org/thepenandtheyad)

Sisterhood

Sisterhood is pleased with the success of **Sisterhood Shabbat**, the **Night Table** dance program and **Torah Fund Event** honoring Rabbi Siegel's 40th Year at Anshe Emet.

Moving forward, Deborah Gubin and Marcie Marcovitz, the Co-Presidents of the AES Sisterhood, are excited about Sisterhood's upcoming programs.

- We are continuing our collaboration with NCJW with the preparation of **Comfort Care Kits**. This program assists women using services of Planned Parenthood clinics in Illinois. Recipients, many from surrounding states, truly appreciate this kind gesture. Our goal is to assemble 250 kits based on items suggested by NCJW and Planned Parenthood. The first step is to raise funds and to collect items to be included. Then we will gather a group to assemble the kits. Dates and further information are forthcoming.
- We are also planning an event on June 25, **Sunday in the Park with Sisterhood**. Save the last Sunday in June for a morning walking tour at one of our beautiful Chicago parks followed by lunch. Details will follow.
- Sisterhood continues working with AES to sustain the **High School Grad Connection**. This program sends gift boxes twice a year to children/young adults of AES members between the ages of 18-22. Boxes contain fun and meaningful reminders of their Jewish Heritage and AES. Passover boxes have been sent.
- We continue to work with the **Night Ministry** under the steady hand of Janine Landow-Esser. If you are interested in getting involved or helping with their bi-monthly food program, please let us know.
- While May 5 is our last Spring **Book Group** meeting, we are already planning our fall selections. If you are interested, please contact Judy Metzger at hgmet1@aol.com.

Men's Club

*Men's Club welcomes you to join in our Spring/Summer programs!
If you are not yet a Men's Club member, please contact Alan Mintz,
Gregg Pollack or Barry Seeskin to learn about joining!*

Stand With Us: A powerful program discussing anti-Semitism issues for our college and high school students, reflecting our interventions for dealing with this important topic. Date being finalized in mid-May. Look for announcements in our weekly emails and on our website.

Pickleball: Wednesdays May 10 and June 7 at 6PM. Come and enjoy an evening of fun, "exercise," and camaraderie!

Hearing Men's Voices: Our next installment is scheduled for later in May. We encourage your participation in sharing your ideas on subjects of interest to Jewish men.

White Sox Game: Join us for a game in late June. This is a terrific outing of fellowship and a chance to see a great ballgame! Look for details online in the near future.

Men, Meat, and Midrash: Enjoy an evening of delicious delights from Milt's BBQ for the Perplexed and learning from our Anshe Emet scholars. Tentatively scheduled for late July/early August.

The Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs International Convention: Taking place in Philadelphia, PA from June 29- July 2. We look forward to bringing back great ideas for future programs and relating to important issues facing Jewish men in today's society.

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Tuesday, June 20
5:30PM

The entire congregation is invited to join us as we celebrate a year of programs, services, and building community.

Enjoy a special hot dog and hamburger grill-out with our brand new AES grill.

Help us celebrate our wonderful and dedicated **Religious School** teachers, during the Annual Meeting Program.

We truly hope to see you there!





Day Off Program

Friday, June 9

Please join us for a fun-filled day off program with Anshe Emet on Friday, June 9. We will be crafting, playing outside and more. Breakfast, lunch and two snacks will be provided.

Member: \$80 per child

Non-Member: \$100 per child

If you need financial assistance, please contact Mardi Caminer at mcaminer@ansheemet.org.



High School Senior Shabbat

**Friday, June 2
6PM**

High School Seniors and their families are invited to Friday night Shabbat service. At the service, participants will be called up to the bima for a send-off blessing. We are so excited to celebrate you!

\$36 per person, High School graduates free. RSVP required.

If you need financial assistance, please contact Mardi Caminer at mcaminer@ansheemet.org.

Join us during the **SHAVUOT** holiday for learning and community.

Thursday, May 25

TIKKUN LIL

5:30PM - 7:30PM

COMMUNITY CANDLE LIGHTING

7:15PM

MA'ARIV

7:30PM followed by dinner and community learning with clergy at 10PM

CLERGY ROUNDTABLE:

THEN VS. NOW:

OUR JOURNEY WITH TORAH

10PM - 11:15PM

DESSERTS

11:15PM - 11:45PM

STUDY SESSIONS:

11:45PM - 12:45PM

1AM - 1:50AM

2AM - 2:50AM

3AM - 4AM

CLERGY PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE:

Rabbi Shoshanah Conover

Cantor Shelly Friedman

Rabbi Lizzi Heydemann

Rabbi Sarah Mulhern

Rabbi Michael Siegel

Rabbi David Wolkenfeld

Friday, May 26

SHAVUOT FIRST DAY

FESTIVAL SERVICE

9:30AM

SHALOM SHAVUOT

11AM

For families with children 5 and under

SHAVUOT HANOAR

11AM

For families with kids in 1st-5th grade

SHAVUOT II/SHABBAT EVENING

SERVICE

6PM

Saturday, May 27

SHAVUOT II SHABBAT SERVICE

WITH YIZKOR

9:30AM

SHALOM SHABBAT

10AM-10:45AM

For families with children 4 and under

SHACHAR

11AM-12PM

For families with kids in K-2nd grade

SHABBAT HANOAR

11AM-12PM

Families with kids in 3rd-5th grade

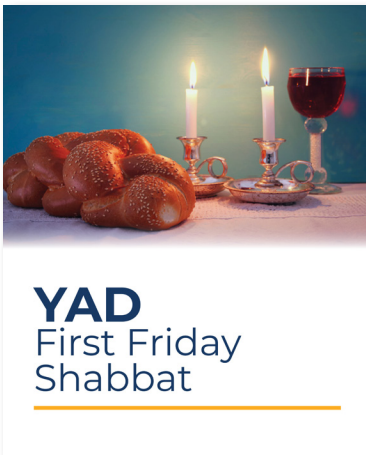
SHAVUOT IS AWESOME

1PM - 4PM



Anshe Emet Joseph & Belle Braun
Religious School Registration is Coming Soon!

Email Mardi Caminer at mcaminer@ansheemet.org to get the link straight to your inbox!



YAD Shabbat

May 5 & June 2
7:15PM

Enjoy a meaningful Shabbat service, followed by a delicious dinner. Afterward, we gather for some schmoozing with friends old and new. We begin with service, followed by dinner around 8:15PM. Feel free to come to both service and dinner, or just dinner. Services are always free with no need to RSVP. If you plan to stay for dinner, RSVP is required! **Our YAD Shabbat Dinners are open to those ages 22-36.**



Flower Power Floral Arrangement Event!

Wednesday, May 10

Join us for a floral arrangement class for Mothers & Daughters & Grandmothers!

If you wish to attend and have a young adult between the ages of 22-36 and are lucky enough to have them live in town, we are excited to welcome you both!

If you wish to attend and have a young adult between the ages of 22-36 who lives out of town but you want to participate and be matched with an AES young adult, we'd love to help out and make the shiddach! **Everyone goes home with a floral arrangement!**



YAD Pickleball & Basketball

Join us for Pickleball on Tuesdays & Basketball on Thursdays!

Participants will have to pay to play starting in May.

*For more information on YAD programming, and to learn how you can get involved, please contact **Mardi Caminer**: mcaminer@ansheemet.org*



**RENEWALS
ARE
COMING!**

Check your inbox for renewal information that will be out by the middle of May!

If you have any questions, please be sure to contact **AMY KARP** at **773.868.5139** or akarp@ansheemet.org

Mazel Tov to Our B'nai Mitzvah Students!

MAY 2023



Alexander Triolo-Sapp
Son of
Carlton
& Michael
Triolo-Sapp
May 6, 2023



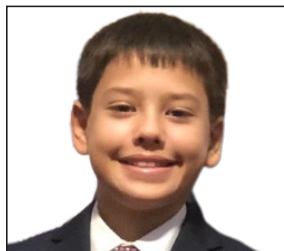
**Aaron
& Maxwell
Stone**
Sons of
Tamar Mizrahi
& Edward
Stone
May 6, 2023



**Maya
Bernstein**
Daughter of
Amy
& Stuart
Bernstein
May 13, 2023



**Theodora
Sara Rindner**
Daughter of
Vitaly Rindner &
Allison Leviton
Rindner,
Granddaughter
of Joyce
Leviton Asher
May 13, 2023



Matt Merovitz
Son of
Debbie
& Lee Merovitz
May 20, 2023



**Jonah
Winkelman**
Son of
Laura
Winkelman
May 20, 2023



Alon Cohen
Son of
Hadas
& Ilan Cohen
May 21, 2023



**Gibor Gabe
Borkowsky
& Chaim Asher
Borkowsky**
Sons of
Shane Borkowsky &
Matthew Landler
May 27, 2023

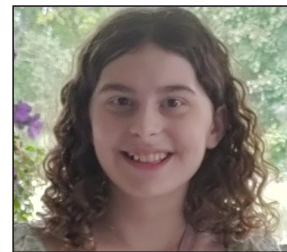
JUNE 2023



Lola Hoke
Daughter of
Sherri
& David Hoke
June 3, 2023



**Mabel
Appelbaum**
Daughter of
Karin
& Daniel
Appelbaum
June 3, 2023



**Lily
Buterman**
Daughter of
Carla and Brad
Carter & Aleks
Buterman
June 10, 2023



**Ezra
Leone Mann**
Son of
Suzan Sultan
& Jeremy Mann
June 17, 2023

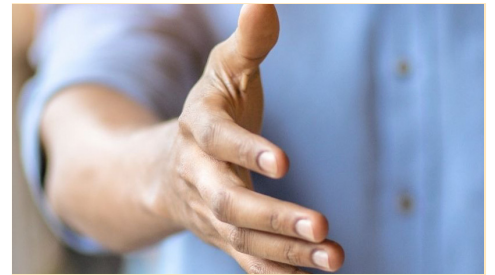
HaZaK FOR Seniors

Mondays at 1PM (CST)

Bring a friend in person or feel free to join in your time zone, coast-to-coast. If you come in person, there is lunch offered at 12:30PM.

Cantor Berke will be teaching the **Walking With Justice curriculum** from American Jewish University, which will provoke discussion on **Social Justice** in our sources, our responsibilities to each other and choices we may make related to areas such as food and the environment.

Visit us online to register for lunch, and to join us via Zoom, if you will not be participating in person.



Anshe Emet's Volunteer Corps:

We are looking for members who are passionate about volunteerism and Tikkun Olam to **join Anshe Emet's Volunteer Corps**. Throughout the year, there are several opportunities for our congregants to lend a helping hand within our community.

If you are interested in being on the contact list, please contact

Hannah Jarvis: at hjarvis@ansheemet.org or **773.868.5143**.

Sincerest Condolences

Anshe Emet expresses its sincerest condolences to the families of:

Cary Ellis Bellows
Dolores Weintraub Ekus
Joan Haase
Merrill Primack
Wilfred M. Weinstein
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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:
[ansheemet.org/sponsorships](https://www.ansheemet.org/sponsorships)

Monthly Online Bereavement Group

May 22 & June 26
7:30PM 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 and join us at:

[ansheemet.org/bereavementgroup](https://www.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.

Your Donations — Thank You!

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