

AES BULLETIN

NOVEMBER • DECEMBER • 2023

Anshe Emet
Synagogue

1873 • 2023

150 



Honoring Our Heritage • Focused On Our Future

The Need to Publicize the Miracle of Chanukah in Our Age



Michael S. Siegel
Senior Rabbi
The Norman Asher Rabbinic Chair
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There is something wonderful about kindling the lights of the Chanukiah. Chanting the blessings and watching the candle for the night ignite from the flame of the *Shamash* amidst the unmistakable aroma of latkes, are all part of the joy of our eight day Festival of Lights. Of course, this being a Jewish holiday, there are also rules for its observance. According to the Rabbis:

- Each of the eight candles are traditionally on the same level to remind us that there is no day of the holiday that is more important than the others.
- The candles are lit with a *Shamash*, a helper candle, to underscore the idea that the single purpose of the light is *Pirsum Hanes*, the publicizing of a miracle in the time of the Maccabees, as well as the wonder of the Jewish people in our day.
- While the candles are burning, we avail ourselves of their light in celebration of a victory of the few over the many, and when Jewish faith and bravery won the day.

One tradition that you may not be familiar with is that, according to the Rabbis, the way to fulfill the Mitzvah of *Pirsum Hanes* is by ensuring that the Chanukiah can be seen by those outside your home. In the ancient world, Jews would place the Chanukiah outside of their homes to proclaim the miracle of the festival to the passersby on the street. That would include placing the Chanukiah in the windows of our home for all the world to see. Sadly, during our history, we also see Rabbis advising their communities to light the candles behind drawn curtains during times of heightened anti-Semitism.

When I originally wrote this article, it was before October 7 and the terrible pogrom that took the lives of nearly 1400 Israelis. My focus at the time was on the growing cancer of anti-Semitism in America. In a world where Jews are being made to feel marginalized, I advised to embrace the notion of *pirsum hanes*, the outward publicizing the miracle by placing a Chanukiah in your window as a statement of outwardly embracing our Jewish identity in the face of those who stand against us.

The world is a very different place after October 7. None of us could have predicted how quickly, vociferously, and effectively the anti-Israel groups around the world would be in pushing their message. Israel has been maligned around the world as a colonialist apartheid state that does not deserve to exist, much less defend itself. We see it everywhere, especially on college campuses. Our young people who attempt to stand with Israel, or express concern for family or loved ones there, are seeing a level of hatred brought against them, which their parents have never experienced.

This year, I want to encourage us to consider the Rabbis' dictum and place our Chanukiot in our windows with blue and white candles to proclaim to the world, as the letters of the dreidel indicate, a great miracle happened there in the time of the Maccabees, and that of the modern State of Israel in our own day. However, the Rabbis also said that in a time of danger, or heightened anti-Semitism, one was not responsible to place the Chanukiah in their window. This may be especially relevant to those on college campuses. Typing these words, it is hard for me to comprehend that I am writing them in the United States of America in 2023!

But that is our reality, and I leave the decision of where to place your Chanukiah to each of you.

In 167 B.C.E. a war was fought against those who wanted the Jewish people to disappear. Under the leadership of Judah Maccabee we fought and defeated our foes. When Jews began to return to the land of Israel, they saw themselves as modern Maccabees. Our prayer is that we will be victorious in our day just as they were against the Assyrians.

- Just as they created a secured Jewish country, so shall we.
- Just as they had the courage to kindle the light of the Menorah and that of Jewish identity, so shall we.

Each morning Jews pray: *Or Hadash Al Zion Tair: May a New Light Shine on Zion. May there be a new light shining over Israel, and for all those who live there. We ask for God's blessing of a true Chag Urim Sameach: a holiday of light and joy.*

Am Yisrael Chai!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MSiegel'.

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A Message from Our Board President*

Danielle Lazar
President
Anshe Emet Synagogue
dlazar1971@gmail.com



Many of you may be aware that my mom has lived with us since about a year after my dad died. It was a decision born from a number of factors, but that is not why I share this with you. What I love most about my mom is her passion for living as full a life as possible, and her fearlessness. Over the past few years, she has taken time to reconnect with many friends from childhood. Some of these friends – and family – she hadn't spoken to for many years. About a year ago, we were able to find the name and address of my parents' friend, Junior. To give you some context, in all of the stories my parents told me about growing up in the Bronx, none of them were without mention of their friend Junior. He wasn't Jewish, but certainly had a Jewish heart. He was my dad's best friend – they considered themselves brothers. All the tales of fun and craziness, well into their twenties, were of Mom, Dad, and Junior. Unfortunately, as often happens, life intervenes with even the closest of friendships, and without the miracle of the Internet even on the horizon, my parents lost touch with Junior.

When I was finally able to track down his phone number, I watched my mom's face as we dialed. She had feelings of trepidation, just like when she reconnected with others. *Would he be happy to hear from me after all of these years? Would he remember me? Would it be too awkward?*

He answered – and after much amazement and crying on both sides – these two people reconnected. Junior and my mom talk most every

week now. They have shared all the highs and lows that happened during the time they were out of touch. In October, between what would have been my dad's 82nd birthday, and my mom's 82nd birthday (they were 8 days apart), my mom travelled to San Francisco to visit with Junior and his partner. My mom cannot stop speaking of it – and my heart is filled with joy knowing that my mom and Junior will get to spend important time together. At the same time though, my heart breaks knowing that my dad will not get to see his friend again – and Junior has said that he is so sad and misses my dad terribly.

All of this comes into sharp clarity as I reflect on what it means to build community and create relationships. We do not know what will come and what the future holds. The most important thing that we can do as people, as individuals – as humans – is to reach out to each other.

To take the step forward and make that call, even if it seems like a long shot. If we wait, the moment and opportunity may pass. If we don't wait and take the chance that our long-lost friend or family member will be on the other side of the line, we may discover, or rediscover, a friendship that is more beautiful than we remember.

After the holidays, it is easy for us to step back into routine and put off, or put aside, connecting with our Jewish community of Anshe Emet. Maybe we do it because of work, because of kid's activities, because we are nervous we won't

know people. The beauty of our community, however, is that we offer hundreds of ways to connect with each other, be it through Shabbat services, lectures, or social events.

There are two events that I want to highlight for you. The first is the "We Are Here" concert on November 6. This event is a reprise of the Carnegie Hall concert highlighting songs from the Shoah. Our very own Rabbi Michael Siegel, and Cantor Rachel Brook will be part of this special event. The second event is our annual Kaplan concert, co-chaired this year by Tracy and Howard Ankin. This year, we will feature the Shul Sisters, with our very own Cantor Brook, on November 12. This special event should not be miss. Of course, if these are not your cup of tea, there are other ways to lean into Anshe Emet.

This year, as we enter the winter months – Thanksgiving, Chanukah – take a page from my mom. Pick up the phone, write that email, and connect with your friends, including those that maybe you haven't seen or talked to in a while. Then, invite them to join you at one of Anshe Emet's multitude of offerings so you can have something planned on the calendar. I promise, you won't regret taking that step closer to your friend, and closer to Anshe Emet.

Wishing you and your loved ones good health and peace,

Danielle Lazar

* - This article has been read and approved by my mom, Lenore Kimmel, who is simply one of the best people I know. I am grateful to learn from her every day.

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AES Moments

Anshe Emet
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*Honoring Our Heritage
Focused On Our Future*

Judith Hausler Duckler was born in Israel in 1946 (Interestingly, her birth certificate does not list a country of birth, but rather “Jerusalem”). She immigrated to the United States with her family at the age of 11. Her father, Dr. Ephraim Hausler, was a Hebrew teacher at Anshe Emet Day School and later became Educational Director at Anshe Emet. Judi’s mother, Lotte Hausler, was also a Hebrew teacher. Judi and her brother became b’nai mitzvah at Anshe Emet; “Uncle Ben” (Ben Aronin) was their teacher. In 1967, she married Harold Duckler at Anshe Emet in a large wedding officiated by Rabbi Seymour Cohen and Cantor Moses Silverman. Judi has remained a lifelong member of Anshe Emet. She and Harold live in Edgewater.

Her Anshe Moment describes her entry into Anshe Emet Day School upon arrival in the United States:

My parents left Europe to go to Israel before World War II; my father was from Germany, my mother from Poland. After the war, they toured Europe to find relatives but sadly, no one had survived. During this period, we lived in Germany, England, Switzerland, France, and Belgium. My father’s friend, Hans Erman, worked at Anshe Emet as a Hebrew teacher. He wrote to my father and invited him to bring our family to America.

When we arrived, my father was immediately hired by Anshe Emet and my younger brother Jay and I started at Anshe Emet Day School. I was put in the 6th grade and my brother started 1st grade. I was immediately moved to the eighth grade because my education in Europe was extensive and I was more suited to a higher grade. I spoke Hebrew, German, and English, and my mathematics background was more akin to high school math at that time. We also started attending Anshe Emet Synagogue on Friday night, Shabbat morning, and Hebrew school to help us get integrated into the American mainstream.



My first days at school were a bit challenging: Although I spoke English, it was British English—not American English—and I spoke that English with a heavy-duty accent. I dressed in short skirts as was the style in Europe at that time and here all the girls were wearing saddle shoes and longer skirts.

On my first day, everyone asked, “Who’s that?” and “Where’s she from?” I introduced myself as Judith Hausler from Israel, but was immediately identified as “Dr. Hausler, the Hebrew teacher’s, daughter.” Unfortunately, from then on, I was known to everyone as merely “Dr. Hausler’s daughter,” not Judith, Judi, or even Yehudit. This went on for years. Finally, I had a good friend who was a jeweler make me two necklaces, one in English (Judith) and one in Hebrew (Yehudit). From then on, I would point to these necklaces and say, “this is who I am.” Dr. Hausler is my father, but I am Judith.

Little by little, though, I became used to American customs and became integrated into the community. I later taught kindergarten at Anshe Emet Day School. I am still very involved in Anshe Emet and attend each Shabbat—it is an integral part of my life.

Judith Hausler Duckler
AES Member

Photo: Judith’s 1968’-69’ Anshe Emet Day School’s Senior Kindergarten class.

If you’d like to share your Moment, to help us create a full picture of our vibrant AES community at 150, please contact Elaine Seeskin: elaine.seeskin@gmail.com or 314.882.1252.

AES Programs

Cooking and Feasting in Rome’s Jewish Kitchen
Book Launch & Cooking Demo with Leah Koenig
Tuesday, November 14
7PM

The Roman Jewish kitchen is defined by its simple-but-elegant approach to vegetables, its love of frying foods in olive oil, its saucy braised meats, and its beguiling desserts. Join Leah Koenig, author of *PORTICO: Cooking and Feasting in Rome’s Jewish Kitchen* as she demonstrates two recipes from the book. Books will be available for purchase.



Eilu v’Eilu:
The Core Debate:
A Debate on Jewish Values and American Politics
With Dr. Tevi Troy and Rabbi David Saperstein
Monday, December 4
7PM

In Person and Livestreamed

As the 2024 elections loom, America has rarely felt as divided over politics and policies as it does today. So, too, the Jewish community.

At such a time as this, is bipartisan/cross-ideological comity, compromise, and common ground possible? And what is the path to greater bipartisan cooperation and tolerance, both in America and within the Jewish community?

Dr. Troy and Rabbi Saperstein will discuss issues, and model how even political protagonists with sharply differing political, religious, and ideological views can engage in respectful and constructive debate.

This program is generously sponsored by Jacqueline G. Gilbert, in loving memory of Howard N. Gilbert.



Movie Night: *Farewell Mr. Haffmann*

Link Available November 14 & 15

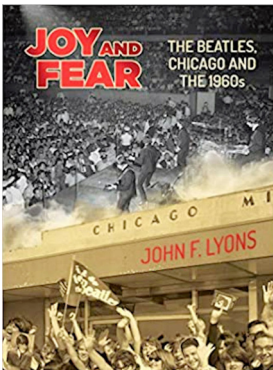
After the Nazi occupation of Paris, a talented jeweller, Joseph Haffmann, arranges for his family to flee the city and offers one of his employees the chance to take over his store until the conflict subsides. You must be registered to receive the movie link.



Tanach and Liturgy: The Holiday Connections: A series for Sukkot, Chanukah and Passover with Jacob Cytryn

Wednesday, November 29
& December 6
7PM

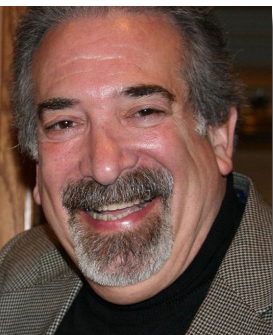
Chanukah is one of two times during the year when we say the full *Hallel* (Psalms 113-118) for eight days in a row. Join us for one or more of our three sessions, in the run-up to Chanukah, as we do a deep dive into the structure of *Hallel*, close readings of some of the individual Psalms, and the Talmudic rabbis' discussions of the service itself!



JCC Program: 60 Years of the Beatles with Dr. John Lyons

Monday, November 27
NOON

Sixty years ago, the Beatles released their first recording in the United States, "Please Please Me." To commemorate this momentous event, Dr. John F. Lyons examines the impact of the Beatles on the Chicago metropolitan area. Registration is done through JCC.



Historical Synagogues of Chicago with Robb Packer

Tuesday, December 5
7PM • Via Zoom

As AES celebrates its 150th year, join us for a dynamic Zoom program on Chicago's Historic Synagogues. Robb Packer is an authority on Chicago synagogues and the author of *Doors of Redemption: The Forgotten Synagogues of Chicago* (BookSurge Publishing, 2006) and *Chicago's Forgotten Synagogues* (Arcadia Publishing, 2007).



6TH ANNUAL LIGHT AND LATKES: ISRAELI-STYLE

Thursday,
December 14
5:30PM-7:30PM

Enjoy:

- Candle lighting
- Singing
- Delicious food
- Games and more!



Bake and Bond

Sunday, December 17
12:30PM-2PM

Join us for a community building Mitzvah baking event for Gen Z and Boomers! We will be making various types of cookies to donate to Fight to Feed for the holidays.

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



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

As the weather turns colder, we here at Anshe Emet are leaning into the warmth of being together. Especially during these trying times, coming together with our Jewish community can ground us, inspire us, and bring hope and joy into our lives at a time when we most need each other. The Anshe Emet Music Team is excited to present our **21st Annual Dr. Arnold H. Kaplan concert**, this year featuring the **Shul Sisters**, a cantorial trio that I founded in 2019 along with my fabulous colleagues Cantors Laurie Akers (Congregation Or Shalom of Vernon Hills, IL) and Rachel Goldman (Congregation Beth Yeshurun, Houston, TX). Our goal as a musical trio has been to uplift Jewish voices through song. We have sung at communities all across the country for the last 4 years and I am so excited and proud to finally bring this very special group to my spiritual home here at Anshe Emet. Mark your calendars for **Sunday, November 12 at 4PM**, we can't wait to see you there!

Our **Youth Choirs** are back in action. Please join us on the following dates for special Friday night Youth Choir Shabbat participation:

November 17 – 3rd-5th
December 15 – K-2nd

Come Jam with us on **Sundays from 12:30PM-2PM** as **Todd Kessler** leads us in Jewish music both new and old. Previous music experience required (able to read music/chords) and the minimum age for participants is post-B'nai Mitzvah. The first Jam Session will take place on **October 29**.


Last but not least, the buzz is out! This year the **Anshe Emet Purim Spiel** is going to **BROADWAY (the other one)!** Light the lights, because Esther and Mordechai will be singing and dancing their way into our hearts at the Spiel this year. Rehearsals begin in January.

With Song,
R. Brook

21ST ANNUAL DR. ARNOLD H. KAPLAN CONCERT PRESENTS

Shul Sisters

Far Above Rubies



SUNDAY • NOVEMBER 12 • 2023
4PM • ANSHE EMET SYNAGOGUE

Purchase Your Tickets or Sponsorships Online Now!
[ANSHEEMET.ORG/KAPLAN](https://ansheemet.org/kaplan)



Maxine Handelman
Director of Family Life & Learning
mhandelman@ansheemet.org

Baby Jam

Sunday, January 14
3:30PM-5PM

Families with children 2 years old and younger are invited to join Max Handelman and Miss Aimee for songs, stories, and schmoozing. This is a great way to connect with other families with kids the same age as yours!

Baby Beginnings Taster Classes

Thursday, November 30
9:30AM-10:30AM

Adults and babies 12 months and under join Max Handelman and incredible Community Experts for music, postpartum health, Jewish life with baby, and more! Gather with friends old and new for a variety of experiences this Fall. Many classes kick off with a song session with Cantor Rachel Brook! Light snacks will be provided.

Family Tefillah Services EVERY Shabbat

Shalom Shabbat • 10AM

Join our musical and joyful service designed for families with **kids 4 and under**.

Shachar • 11AM

Join our musical service for kids in **K-2nd grade and their families**.

Shabbat HaNoar • 11am

Join this lively service for families with **3rd-5th graders** with Mr. Todd and AES Clergy.



Teens to Uptown Café

AES Teens—please volunteer with us at Uptown Cafe on **Monday, November 13 from 5:30PM-7:30PM!**

Open for teens 9th – 12th grade!

We will be meeting at the Uptown Café location (909 W Wilson Ave, Chicago, IL 60640).

Madrichim Update

We are so excited to have 20 amazing teens working with our Religious School this year as Madrichim. Teens are assisting teachers with classroom activities and supporting the learning and success of the students in religious school by forming meaningful connections. All of our teens went through an application and interview process and teens have and will continue to engage in meaningful professional development opportunities. These teens are rockstars, and we can't wait to watch them be mentors for our Anshe Emet youth.



Gabriella Boros
Artist & AES Member

Gabriella Boros was born in Jerusalem, Israel to Holocaust survivors. Her family immigrated to the U.S. for her father's career when she was young.

A graduate of the University of Michigan School of Art, Gabriella has exhibited her woodblock prints both nationally and internationally since 1986. She has completed three artist residencies and is a recipient of a State of Illinois Artist Grant. She has been chosen to participate in two fellowships: the Spertus Museum's Midwest Artist Lab and the Amen Institute's Artist Week. Her work is included in both private and institution collections. Her three handmade books *Esh: Sanctity in Fire*, and *Symbiosis and Eighteen Stones*, are in the permanent collection of the University of Michigan Libraries Special Collections.

Her themes include the intersection of plants and humans, and gender and cultural commentary, sometimes, all in the same work.

Gabriella's relationship with Anshe Emet goes back to 1992 when she was on the board of Central Synagogue and found out it was in bankruptcy. As a young twenty something, she resigned immediately and joined the largest, most active conservative synagogue in Chicago, Anshe Emet.

Her art studio was around the corner, and she would come worship on Saturdays before spending the day painting. Gabi met husband Eric Bergson at a Young Adult Division Shabbat service, and her entire life changed. Even after leaving the city for Skokie, Gabi and her family never stopped belonging to Anshe Emet. They both love the worship service, the amazing clergy (including a long roster of wonderful rabbis trained by Rabbi Siegel) and most of all, the congregants. Their best friends come from the synagogue!



JOIN US ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 TO SEE THE MOST SENSATIONAL HIT MUSICAL OF THE SEASON: HAMILTON!

Before heading to the play together, we will be having an elevated brunch at Anshe Emet starting at 12PM, so dress in your best Broadway-going attire!

We will be providing bus transportation to and from Anshe Emet to Nederlander Theatre.

We have a limited number of tickets so fill out this form as soon as possible to reserve your spot! Open for teens 7th – 12th grade!

AES Religious School



Mardi Caminer
Grodzin Director
of Education & Innovation
mcaminer@ansheemet.org

A Note from the Director of Education, Mardi Caminer

Our year is off to a great start and there's so much more exciting learning and programming to come! Over the High Holy Days, we welcomed hundreds of children to our newly designed Youth Programs in which we talked about environmental justice. Highlights included a live beehive, a compost bin with real worms, and guest speakers from Chicagoland environmental organizations. We also brought back youth services in the morning for our 1st-5th graders. On Sukkot, many families joined for our 10am and 11am services with family programming – it was so great to see families learning together! Then, we had a blast on Saturday night of Simchat Torah at READiculous and the Scavenger Hunt!

Our teens enjoyed spending time with each other over the High Holy Days. We had a group of volunteers at the SelfHelp Home, others joined Rabbi Benjy in the sukkah for Mishmar & Marshmallows, and Hannah Kinsella led teens at our first teen board meeting. Please spread the word to teens you know who may be interested!



Our Young Adult Community is growing, meeting, learning, and socializing. Rabbi Benjy hosted a group of 25 for Break-Fast, we partnered with JUF's Young Leadership Division for a Shabbat Dinner in October and we are joining with Windy City Minyan for our November Shabbat. Come by Tuesdays to find 24 adults playing pickleball in the gym. Our young adult community also helped us with the Mosaic Project which commemorates and celebrates Anshe Emet's 150th Anniversary. It is hanging up by the Malkov Chapel, just across from Rose Crown, if you haven't seen it yet!

Finally, on October 15, we welcomed almost 200 students and began the Joseph & Belle Braun Religious School year 5784. We hope to see the entire community at the Religious School services and Textploration events. We are excited for another year of learning!

Wishing you all a fall season filled with family, friends, and lots of laughter!

Best,
Mardi

Mardi Caminer

Religious School Parent Education Begins Sunday, November 5

All parents of the Religious School are invited to join us for 4 education sessions throughout the year. Advanced registration is requested. Please read below for more information:

Even God Had Bad Parenting Days with Max Handelman

Sunday, November 5 • 11AM-11:45AM

Using the book *Even God Had Bad Parenting Days*: ancient Jewish wisdom for new parents by Alicia Jo Rabins, we lean into biblical examples of parenting to help us see beyond the challenges of living with young children and recapture a sense of wonder at the process of raising small humans. For parents of kids of all ages.

Welcoming Shabbat into your Home with Rabbi Benjy

Sunday, February 4 • 10AM-11:15AM

Explore traditions that will enhance your family's Shabbat at home. You'll also learn about Kabbalat Shabbat and how to make a dinner feel extra special. Then, JK-2nd grade families will be joining their children in the classrooms to braid challah. A wonderful way to prepare for the JK-2nd grade Shabbat on February 23.

Talking with kids about Tricky Topics with Rabbi Siegel

Sunday, March 10 • 9:30AM-10:30AM

Ever want to talk to your kids about Israel or the Holocaust but don't know how? Join Rabbi Siegel and a staff member of Jewish Child and Family Services to learn some tips.

Sacred Text Learning with Rabbi D'ror Chankin-Gould

Sunday, April 14

Ever wonder how the arc of the sacred text is taught at the Joseph & Belle Braun Religious School? Join Rabbi D'ror to learn the organization behind the curriculum. Then, 3rd-7th grade families will be joining their children in the classrooms to engage in a culminating experience.

**SCAN THE QR CODES
TO ADD OUR
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
GOOGLE CALENDARS
TO YOUR DEVICE!**



Sunday
RS Schedule



Monday
RS Schedule



Thursday
RS Schedule

J2M: Journey to Mitzvot Begins Sunday, October 29 9:15AM

Reminder for 6th Grade B'nai Mitzvah families!

J2M begins with a light breakfast and coffee before getting to know other families, sharing advice and information, and asking questions from 9:45AM-10:30AM. Subsequent sessions are on the following dates: November 5, November 12, February 4, and February 11.

4th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Meeting Thursday, November 16 6PM

Save the date!

Join Anshe Emet's Clergy, Director of Ritual Advancement, and Executive Director for dinner and community at the 4th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Meeting. This meeting is an opportunity to meet the Anshe Emet team and your 4th grade cohort, as well as learn about the B'nai Mitzvah and date selection processes.

Textploration Event Sunday, December 17

The Joseph & Belle Braun Religious School, along with almost ten other synagogues around the nation, utilizes The Beverly Goldstick z"l Curriculum for 21st Century Learning that was written by Anshe Emet clergy and staff. Our students learn about various sacred texts. Our **3rd-7th graders** internalize their learning and creatively produce Textploration Projects. This December, our students will showcase their first Textploration project of the year, pottery! **We are looking for volunteers to keep our children happy and safe on Sundays!** Can you offer a little TLC (tender loving care) to our kiddos? Sometimes our children need some adult attention to make their tummies, heads, and hearts feel better.

Please reach out to Mardi if you are interested in helping!

Tefillah Incentive

Every Saturday morning at 11am, Anshe Emet offers two exciting and engaging musical services for families: Shachar for K-2nd graders and Shabbat HaNoar for 3rd-5th graders. These services are the perfect place to connect with community, join vibrant Torah discussions and immerse in the tefilla (prayer). And in case your kids need a little more reason to attend services, we are offering a tefillah incentive for our children Kindergarten through 5th grade. This year, there will be two opportunities to celebrate. From October 14 through February 3, join us for at least 5 tefillah opportunities (Shabbat evenings or mornings at Anshe Emet) and you will be invited to our winter celebration. And in the spring, join us for at least five tefillah opportunities between February 10 and June 1 to be invited to our spring celebration. Save the dates February 4 and June 2 for silent disco and sugary treats for those that are eligible.



Frozen Shabbat!

Friday, December 1
4:45PM • Nosh
5PM • Shabbat Service

Families with children 0-8 years old are invited to join us for a joy filled musical Shabbat service with Mr. Todd and Anshe Emet clergy. Wear your PJs and prepare to Let It Go! A delicious dinner is followed by chillingly delightful activities.

Rock of Ages Family Event Saturday, December 9 6:30PM-8PM

Join us at Movement Chicago Wrigleyville (1115 W Addison) for our Rock of Ages Chanukah Bouldering Event! **This event is geared toward families with children in grades K-6.**

YOUNG ADULT DIVISION

for ya's 22-36



ANSHE EMET SYNAGOGUE



A Rabbi Walks Into a Bar Series

Join YAD for a learning series with Rabbi Benjy, as we try out local Chicago spots, and talk about torah. **Our first session will be on Monday, January 29 at 7PM at the Burning Bush Brewery (4014 N. Rockwell St).**



YAD Basketball

Join our every Tuesday for pick-up games.

Follow our [YAD Google calendar](#) to stay up to date with upcoming events!

AES Affinity Groups

Na'aseh is Social Justice at Anshe Emet

Thousands of migrants/asylum-seekers have flooded into Chicago in the last year; they continue to arrive on a daily basis. Approximately 1,000 of them are housed at the American Islamic Center (AIC) located at Irving Park and Marine Drive. Another 150+ are temporarily housed at the 19th Police District on Addison Street. Many are Venezuelan and many are here with their families. They traveled thousands of miles to arrive in Chicago and have arrived with little beyond their lives and the clothes on their backs.

In the spirit of *tikkun olam* and welcoming our new neighbors, Anshe Emet Synagogue (AES), as a community, is planning several initiatives to support these individuals. We recently completed a coat drive. Many thanks to all who contributed.

We are also launching a mentorship program. Our vision for the mentorship program is founded upon the positive experience gained by members of the AES community while mentoring immigrants from Burma, Sudan, and Afghanistan. We will hold an information session soon. If you would like to learn more about mentoring a family, please contact naaseh.ansheemet@gmail.com.

In addition to direct service, we seek to address systemic change. We advocate, partnering with HIAS and JCUA, to remind our elected leaders that the Jewish experience is the refugee story. We urge our leaders to advance policies that protect refugees and asylum-seekers. With dedicated, consistent work we have and can achieve big wins at the state level. This work is ongoing. Want to get involved in advocating for systems change? JCUA's immigration committee offers training and social events to educate ourselves, and opportunities to take action. **Melissa Sterne** is our liaison to JCUA's Immigration committee.

Contact her at naaseh.ansheemet@gmail.com. Thank you for your participation in these important initiatives.

Sisterhood

Sisterhood welcomes returning and new members to our programs for 5784!

Our Annual Meeting on Thursday, October 5, 2023, was delightful.

Members participated in tiling the AES 150th Anniversary Mosaic and enjoyed each other's company. Many thanks to **Marla Gordon** and **Nancy Kohn** for their helping make the evening a success:



Sisterhood ongoing programs include:

High School Grad Connection, providing gift packages to AES High School graduates at Hannukah and Passover. [Look online for more information.](#)

The Sisterhood Book Group's fall selections are: *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingslover, on November 2 and *So Much Blue* by Percival Everett, on December 7. We meet six times over the Fall and Spring with a professional facilitator. If you are interested, please contact **Judy Metzger** at hgmet1@aol.com.

We have two programs scheduled in early 2024 for your calendar. **Tu B'Shevat Women's Seder**, on Sunday, January 21, 2024, and our annual Sisterhood Shabbat, on Saturday, February 3, 2024. Details will follow.

More meaningful programs are in the planning stage. If you have ideas or, better yet, would like to lead an event, please reach out! Our President, **Marcie Marcovitz** and the entire Sisterhood Board are excited about Sisterhood's upcoming year.

As an affiliate of **Women's League for Conservative Judaism** we encourage our members and prospective members to look at their website: wlcj.org to learn more.



AES Softball Players!

Thank you to those who participated in the Chicago Metropolitan Sport's Association summer softball league. All those who are interested in playing with us next year should reach out to **Sam Neusner** at sneusner@yahoo.com.



Men's Club

Our Men's Club strives to have a broad array of activities that are welcoming and provide something for everyone. Eat, pray, play, celebrate, and learn with us. We are always open to suggestions and we encourage participation from all who are interested.

We wish the newly installed Men's Club leadership a hearty Mazel Tov: Barry Seeskin and Alan Mintz, Co-Presidents; Jay Lewkowitz, V.P. Programming; Neil Stern, V.P. Membership; Neil Schwartz, Treasurer; Gary Wigoda, Secretary; Gregg Pollack, Immediate Past President; Brian Caminer and Dan Kenen, At-Large; Barry Balik, Jon Norton, and Larry Kosova, Past Presidents.

MEMBERSHIP

It's still not too late to become a member, though our main seasonal membership drive is behind us. Membership is just \$36 for the synagogue fiscal year (July-June) and it includes lower prices to many of our events as compared to non-members. If interested in joining and participating, please contact Barry Seeskin at bseeskin@gmail.com, Alan Mintz at mintzad@gmail.com, or Neil Stern, Membership V.P., at npschicago@sbcglobal.net.

WE ARE HERE: SONGS FROM THE HOLOCAUST CONCERT AT THE SALT SHED KRISTALLNACHT

Monday, November 6
7:30PM

This 85th Anniversary Remembrance Event will be located at 1357 North Elston Avenue, Chicago, IL. Men's Club is supporting Anshe Emet and the community in a city-wide program and concert. The presenters include Rabbi Michael Siegel and Cantor Rachel Brook, as well as other clergy, musicians and celebrities. If still available, buy your tickets at: wearehereconcert.com

PICKLEBALL

November 8 & December 6
6:30PM-8:30PM

We all know that pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the U.S. But you may not know that we have regular Men's Club pickleball in the gym at the synagogue. It's fun and the physical activity and social interaction makes for a great night out. It's fun partly because the game is easy to pick up. We provide the equipment, so you just

come ready to play and have fun. These are usually scheduled one Wednesday per month. Reservations requested (see weekly AES email announcements). For more information, contact Barry Balik at bmbguy03@yahoo.com.

CHICAGO BULLS BASKETBALL

Tuesday, December 12
7PM

We have secured a block of good seats at just \$50 a ticket in which the championship Denver Nuggets challenge the Chicago Bulls. Tickets are sold on a first-come-first-served basis. To buy your ticket, contact Jon Norton at jonathanwnorton@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE

FILMSHUL

Wednesday, January 31
6PM-8PM

Do you like to laugh? Well, we have a fun-filled program planned in which Irv Slifkin and Laurence Lerman share their knowledge and expertise on Jewish comedians from the beginning days of film industry. This includes Jewish comedians of vaudeville, radio, the Borscht Belt, nightclubs, TV, records, movies and beyond—including Jack Benny, Milton Berle, Henny Youngman, Don Rickles, Rodney Dangerfield, Lenny Bruce, Mel Brooks, Jerry Seinfeld, Larry David, and Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky.

In friendship,
Barry Seeskin and Alan Mintz, Co-Presidents



AES CELEBRATES 300 BABIES AT OUR RECENT CONNECTING THE EXPECTING REUNION!

Connecting the Expecting, an AES program that connects expectant parents to each other and to synagogue life, created by AES Director of Engagement, and the Malkin Family Program Director Amy Karp, and funded by a grant from JUF's JBaby began in the Spring of 2014 with a single cohort of 6 couples expecting their first child. Every year, 4 cohorts participate in our program about childbirth and raising Jewish children. On October 22, 2023, we celebrated the amazing success of our program which now boasts 318 babies with a fabulous Fall Festival reunion attended by over 70 families and 250 people! Games and activities were provided for kids ages 0-9, while the adults had lots of time to reconnect and make new friends with parents of young children. Anshe Emet is extremely grateful to an anonymous donor who valued this program for their family and made this event possible!



Your Donations — Thank You!

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Mazel Tov to Our B'nai Mitzvah!

NOVEMBER 2023



Rafi Shalit
Son of
Rebekah &
Ilan Shalit
*November 4,
2023*

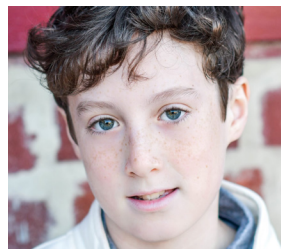


Stella Graines
Daughter of
Rebecca &
Gregg Graines
*November 11,
2023*

DECEMBER 2023



Justin Schulhof
Son of
Julie & Scott
Schulhof
*December 2,
2023*



Asher Estell
Son of
Erin & Brett
Estell
*December 16,
2023*

AES Community Announcements

Sincerest Condolences

Anshe Emet expresses its sincerest condolences to the families of:

Barbara Haspel Galey
Barbara Koretz Katz
Merle Lefkowitz Levy
Toby Lee Pogrand
Paula A. Golden
Marc Levenstein
Norma May Rosenberg
Paul Edelsberg
Stacie Choslovsky
Vivian Drucker

Monthly Online Bereavement Group

**November 27 & December 25
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

Misheberach List

If you would like to have a name placed on the misheberach (prayer for healing) list, contact Victoria May at vmay@ansheemet.org

or 773.868.5120.

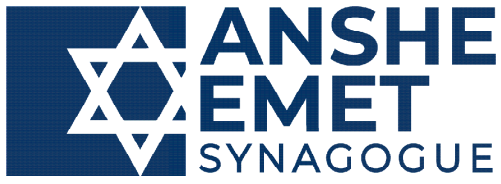
Names will be kept on the list for two weeks unless otherwise requested.

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



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6TH ANNUAL

LIGHT AND LATKES: ISRAELI STYLE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14
5:30PM-7:30PM

REGISTER TODAY!
[ANSHEEMET.ORG/EVENTS/
LIGHT-LATKES](https://ansheemet.org/events/light-latkes)