

# AES BULLETIN

JANUARY • FEBRUARY • 2024

Anshe Emet  
Synagogue

1873 • 2023

150 

HONORING OUR HERITAGE • FOCUSED ON OUR FUTURE

Cover Artwork by Judith Horwich





# Century of Progress: Jewish Day Pageant



**Michael S. Siegel**  
Senior Rabbi  
The Norman Asher Rabbinic Chair  
[msiegel@ansheemet.org](mailto:msiegel@ansheemet.org)

**The greatest Jewish show ever staged** in Chicago took place on Monday evening, July 3, 1933, at Soldier Field, before more than 125,000 people. Sponsored by the Jewish Agency for Palestine, *The Romance of A People* was the culminating event of Jewish Day at A Century of Progress of the World's Fair held along Chicago's lakefront. To add to the luster of the evening, the most famous Zionist of that time, Chaim Weizmann, addressed the audience. The next day, under a front-page headline, **125,000 Witness Jewish Spectacle**, Chicago Tribune reporter James O'Donnel Bennett wrote: *One hundred and twenty-five thousand men, women and children of Chicagoland's Jewry unrolled on Soldier Field last night a gigantic scroll emblematic of the resounding Pentateuch, and thereon they read the story, now tragic, now triumphant, of their race's march down forty centuries to the new Palestine of today.*

What strikes me about this unprecedented event was the audacity of the Jewish community to put it on at this moment. This was the same year that the Nazi Party came to power in Germany. The concern for the German Jewish community was so great that Weizmann asked that \$100,000 be raised in his honor to help move as many Jews out from the grip of the Third Reich to Palestine. The anti-semitism, which was one of the foundations

of Hitler's victory, did not register a concern outside of the Jewish community. In addition, Jews were feeling under attack in this country. Father Coughlin's Sunday night radio program was laced with anti-semitic vitriol and yet remained one of the most popular shows in the country. At a moment in American history when there were those who advised the Jewish community to maintain a low profile, a *sha shtil* attitude, the Jews of Chicago stood tall that evening, proudly portraying their history and dreaming aloud of a Jewish homeland. At the center of it all was Anshe Emet and its Rabbi.

This summer will be 90 years since the Jewish community staged *The Romance of A People* as part of the Chicago World's Fair. Much has changed over the years. The Holocaust went well beyond the worst fears of Jews in 1933. The State of Israel was established in 1948 and the American Jewish community has become the strongest in the history of our diaspora. But, as I write these words, Israel is at war after suffering its worst attack in its 75 year history and, unbelievably, anti-Zionism and anti-semitism are at an all time high.

- We have been witness to congressional hearings on why great universities in this country have allowed Jewish students to feel threatened on campus and in classrooms for their Zionist beliefs.



- We have been witness to many around the world focusing their attention on Israel's response to a violent and inhuman pogrom, rather than on the actions of Hamas.
- We have been witness to women's groups openly ignoring gender based crimes by Hamas on October 7th and those held hostage.

In the 150th year of our congregation, we have something to learn from our synagogue's past. We must not remain silent nor cower in fear. We must make the best use of Jewish organizations, such as the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago, the Anti-Defamation League, and the American Jewish Committee to name a few. We must reach out to our elected officials and consider the manner in which they represent our interests as we cast our votes. We must demand that our college campuses be safe spaces for Jewish students just as we would speak up for any other group.

The powerful story of the Jewish people that was portrayed in *The Romance of a People* is in our hands today. We do not need to hold a spectacle at Soldier Field to portray it. Rather, we need only to employ the passion of our Jewish hearts, and the power of our voices, to celebrate it in our age and into the future.

## CLERGY & STAFF

### CLERGY

**Rabbi Michael S. Siegel**, Senior Rabbi  
**Cantor Rachel Brook**, Senior Cantor  
**Rabbi D'ror Chankin-Gould**, Rabbi  
**Rabbi Benjy Forester**, Rabbi  
**Cantor Liz Berke**, Hazzan Sheini  
**Hazzan Alberto Mizrahi**, Hazzan Emeritus

### STAFF

**Mimi Weisberg**, Executive Director  
**Yair Bernstein**, Director of Ritual Advancement  
**Tamar Brooks**, Clergy Administration Manager  
**Michelle Brown**, Operations/Benefits Accountant  
**Mardi Caminer**, Grodzin Director of Education & Innovation  
**Kim Carter**, Director of Hospitality  
**Javier Cruz**, Executive Chef/Director of Kitchen Management  
**Danielle Goldman**, Education Team Coordinator  
**Maxine Handelman**, Director of Family Life & Learning  
**Hannah Jarvis**, Development & Advancement Manager  
**Carol Karlinsky**, Office Manager

**Amy Karp**, Director of Engagement,  
The Malkin Family Program Director &  
Director of Adult Education  
**Hannah Kinsella**, Youth and YAD Engagement Specialist  
**Tyler Manning**, Director of IT  
**Victoria May**, Executive Assistant to Rabbi Siegel  
**Brian Schmidt**, Director of Communications  
**Emma Sternberg**, Music Team Administrator  
**Steve Strien**, Director of Finance  
**Matthew Tobias**, Director of Safety & Security  
**Gilberto Vargas**, Director of Facilities

# A Message from Our Board President

## The Power of Tzedakah

**Right now, as I write this letter, we are** in the middle of Chanukah, contemplating the meaning of this holiday in light of the horrific terror of October 7th, the ongoing crisis for our hostages, and the continuous war being waged between Israel and Hamas. At Anshe Emet, the clergy and staff have been working overtime to do everything possible to support us all – whether that is in the guise of Frozen Shabbat, individual counseling, bringing in speakers, holding challah baking events, or simply supporting us all being in community with each other. This, to be honest, has not been easy. We are a large and diverse community with a wide range of views. What I do know, however, is that in one way or another, every single person has been impacted by what is going on in Israel and Gaza. The loss of life and suffering is beyond imagination. The healing that will be required, and the skills professionals will need to lean into are not even known. We see the alarming rise in anti-semitism and at times, at least for me, I feel stuck and without words, my heart shattering and I find myself asking: *where do we go from here?*

It is during these moments that I am brought back to where we were a few years ago, during COVID. We were dealing with something we had never seen. In my work (community health care, for those that do

not know), we were trying to balance the safety of our staff with our commitment to our patients and communities. This all happened under the backdrop of extreme unrest that was especially hard for our patients and staff, because many live and work in the areas hardest hit in the city – the south and west sides. It was hard to know what to do moment to moment. Things were changing rapidly. A close friend and colleague shared these words of how she was finding strength. She asked herself every day, *“How can I be of service today?”* This question is the one that I ask myself when I feel stuck and observing a world that barrages us with messages and images that make us feel helpless.

At Anshe Emet, our Na'aseh (Social Justice) Committee has created many opportunities to give back to the Chicago community. You can support refugees moving to Chicago, make and serve meals with the Night Ministry, fight hunger with the JUF Uptown Café, or Nourishing Hope (food pantry). We collect items to support other organizations like Mercaz Nediv Lev Giving Center and, starting in December, will be supporting the needs of newly arrived migrants through a sponsored Legal Clinic. This group, led for many years by Samantha DeKoven, does good every day. I encourage everyone to check

out some of the opportunities to serve with Na'aseh on our Anshe Emet website, including a link to the JUF TOV Calendar. While participating in the opportunities created by Na'aseh are important for making connections to each other, I want to encourage each of you to consider a new, increased, or additional gift to our sustaining fund. At a time when anti-semitism and acts of anti-semitism are at an all-time high, our costs for security have increased significantly, as we aim to create as safe an environment as possible. Your gift now will help defray these costs and also support the additional programs and staffing that we have felt is needed to give everyone in our community a chance to come together in solidarity with our larger Jewish community.

A friend sent me this quote by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks z”l - *“There always were two ways to live in a world that is often dark and full of tears. We can curse the darkness, or we can light a light, and as the Chassidim say, a little light drives out much darkness. May we all help light up the world.”*

With prayers and hopes for more light in this dark time.

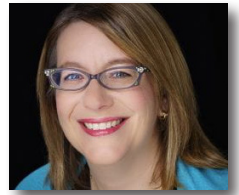
*Danielle Lazar*

**Danielle Lazar**

President

Anshe Emet Synagogue

[dlazar1971@gmail.com](mailto:dlazar1971@gmail.com)



## BOARD OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

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**Melissa Walny**

**Art Friedman**

Immediate Past President

## Anshe Emet Synagogue

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150 

## Honoring Our Heritage Focused On Our Future

Debby Lewis started coming to Anshe Emet in 1986, but her daily involvement with the congregation really began in 1999 after the death of her mom, Lil Roth. At that time, she started coming to morning minyan to say Kaddish and essentially never left. She found her “Jewish voice” and the Hazzan Sheni at the time, Cantor Shelley Kaszynski, taught her how to leyn, chant haftarah, and lead the morning service. Debby was hired as the Anshe Emet Ritual Director in 2001 and remained in that role for 15 years. She continues to tutor Bar/Bat Mitzvah students and adults and to participate in services. Debby met her husband, Gabor, at morning minyan in December of 2001 and they were married in 2003. They have 4 grandchildren: Nellie, 9, and Leo, 7, in Berkeley, and Noah, 4, and Elliott, 1 1/2, in Salt Lake City. They travel often to visit the grandkids. Debby loved her life as the Ritual Director of Anshe Emet but equally loves retirement! She is most grateful for all the meaningful and loving relationships she made as a result of years in service to others.

The Friday night service at B'nai Emunah Synagogue in Skokie in the 1950s and early 1960s was *the* big service of the weekend. It began at 8PM and the full choir would sing each week. I loved Cantor Stearns' beautiful voice and I loved the little *hors d'oeuvres* at the oneg afterward. So, when I found myself as a newly single mom in 1984 living in Lakeview, I decided to attend the Friday night service at the nearest Conservative synagogue to my apartment. I wanted to introduce a non-Jewish friend to the amazing Friday night service that I remembered from my youth, so we went to Anshe Emet on a Friday night in August 1984.

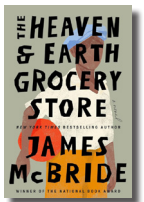
I was skeptical about the 6PM start time for the service but was even more surprised when we walked into the Malkov Chapel where there were—at most—15 people. Rabbi Siegel immediately walked up to us, introduced himself, and asked me if I was set for the High Holy Days. “How much are the tickets?” I asked. “Don't worry about that,” he said. How could I not worry about that?? As a single mom, I had no discretionary money to spend! After the simple Friday night service (clearly NOT the service of my childhood!) Rabbi Siegel asked me to come into the office with him. He handed me two tickets for the High Holy Days. “I am going to give you these two tickets with the condition that you use them,” he said. Use them? I was thrilled to be able to attend. When I sat in Blum on Rosh Hashanah and Cantor Silverman begin to sing, I started to cry. There was the sound and spirit of prayer that I remembered; I knew I had “come home” and found my synagogue. My subsequent involvement and life at Anshe Emet began with that simple act of hospitality and kindness by Rabbi Siegel and I will be forever grateful to him for reaching out to me.

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](mailto:elaine.seeskin@gmail.com) or 314.882.1252.

## Historical Synagogues of Chicago with Robb Packer

Thursday, January 11  
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).



## AES & Bright Star Book Club

Sunday, January 14  
1:30PM

Anshe Emet Synagogue and Bright Star Church will again have a joint discussion on the book, *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by author, James McBride. Participants should order a copy of the book. We will meet at the TURN Center, 4444 S. Evans Ave., the school right around the corner from the Bright Star Church at the end of the block.

## Rabbi Meir of Rothenburg: The Life and Legacy of One of Jewish History's Most Famous Captives

Begins Tuesday, Feb. 20  
7PM

Rabbi Benji Forester leads this series focusing on Meir of Rothenburg, the premier Ashkenazi rabbi of his day, who was kidnapped and held at an exorbitant ransom. In this 4-part series, we will learn about who he was, the powerful details of his captivity, and how his captivity, and death, shaped the trajectory of Jewish history. Tuesdays, February 20, 27, and March 5, 12.





## JCC Community Days

Monday, January 22

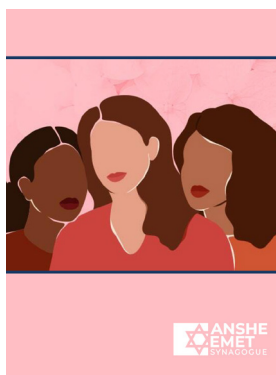
12PM

Learn about these fascinating free events! Complimentary lunch will be provided. Registration opens the first Monday of the month prior. All in-person events start at 12PM. Registration is required. For adults 18+.

Question? Contact Hillary Wenk at [hwenk@jccchicago.org](mailto:hwenk@jccchicago.org) or 224-406-9257 to learn more.

*Support for this program has been graciously provided by*

*The Albert and Lucille Deligher and Marcella Winston Foundation, a Supporting Foundation of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago.*



## Celebrating the Diversity of the Jewish People

Thursday, January 25

7PM

Join us for a discussion on Jewish Diversity with guest panelists **Jacob Wilkenfeld**, **Becca Nix Tham**, and **Hagit Lewis**. Using clips from movies, our panelists will engage in a conversation about representation and its impact on our community. *In Person or Zoom options available.*



## A Ruthless Criticism of Everything Halakhic with Natan Hason

Select Saturdays following Mincha  
1:30PM

We are members of a "halakhic movement" as Conservative Jews, but what does that mean? Halakhic discourse has been at the heart of debates within our movement and others regarding gender and obligation, sexuality, marriage and divorce, and so many other issues that intersect with core areas of our identities

and lives. Over four sessions we will explore together what this thing called "halakha" really is and if it is even possible to talk about a "halakhic system" at all. **Session dates are 12/23, 1/27, 2/24 and 3/23.**



## Israel Story: Wartime Diaries with Mishy Harman

Sunday, January 21

11AM

Israel Story is the foremost podcast team in Israel hosted and produced by Mishy Harman. Join us via Zoom, as we talk with Mishy Harman and hear how his group of storytellers are documenting this unique moment in Israel's history and their experiences curating these episodes.



## Conservative Judaism Around the World

4 Sessions Beginning  
Sunday, February 4  
9:30AM-11AM

Join **Rabbi Dror Chankin-Gould** for breakfast and a discussion as he explores Judaism around the world with four rabbis representing Jewish life in four different countries. Together we will Zoom with our friends and learn about their communities as well as the opportunities and challenges they face. Each session will begin with a light breakfast from the country represented that morning, so we encourage folks to join in person. All guest speakers will join us via Zoom.

**2/4:** Rabbi Fernanda Tomchinsky Galanternik & Leandro Galanternik: Brazil (10:30AM Start time for this session)

**2/11:** Rabbinerin Gesa Ederberg: Germany

**2/18:** Rabbi Gershom Sizomu: Uganda

**2/25:** Rabbi Chaya Baker Rowan: Israel

## Hebrew 1.0 with Cantor Liz Berke

Begins Monday, Feb. 5  
6PM-6:45PM

Join Cantor Liz to **learn the basics of reading Hebrew**: letters, vowels, reading exercises, and a little singing. Course runs 10 weeks. In person or via Zoom.



## Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance & Inclusion Month Shabbat Guest Speaker, Rena Rosen

Saturday, February 17

**TOPIC: Tikkun Olam—Shifting Perspective and Attitudes to Embrace a Community Where Everyone Belongs**

Rena will read a story about inclusion to the Shalom Shabbat group, talk with Shabbat HaNoar, and give a D'var Torah in the Sanctuary.

Rena was born with carniofacial differences and has had many surgeries and social challenges. A 2017 JUF 36 Under 36 winner, she uses the challenges that she has faced in her own life to inform her inclusion work and inspire others.



**Rachel Brook**  
Senior Cantor  
The Arnold H. Kaplan,  
M.D. Cantorial Chair  
[rbrook@ansheemet.org](mailto:rbrook@ansheemet.org)

**Happy 2024!** On behalf of the Anshe Emet Music Center, we all offer blessings for a hopeful beginning to the new secular year. One of the benefits of being a Jew integrated into the larger world is the multiple opportunities we have for new beginnings, and we hope that your new year's resolutions will involve your Anshe Emet community. We have so many exciting musical opportunities happening within these walls in the coming months.

**Purim Spiel** rehearsals are beginning **Sunday, January 14**, and this year, we are going to **BROADWAY!** The writing team for **"The Spiel Must Go On"** worked hard throughout the fall to bring us the most hilarious and heartwarming script and the time has come to bring those words and songs to life.

**Rehearsals will take place Sundays from 12:30PM-2:30PM throughout January, February, and March.**

Make sure to mark your calendar for the Spiel performance on Sunday, March 17th at 10am! If you are interested in being a Spieler this year, please be in touch with me.

Our **Anshe Emet Youth Choirs** continue to light up our services in these dark winter months. Future dates are **January 19 for our 3rd-5th graders** and **February 9 for our K-2nd graders**. All AE kids are welcome and encouraged to join!

On **Saturday evening, February 3**, we are excited to present **Anshe Emet's Got Talent!** A much beloved community talent show is now back and better than ever. Look out for more information on how to be a performer, and make sure you mark your calendar to come cheer on your friends and their fabulous talents.

**Todd Kessler** and the **Anshe Emet Jam Band** had a spectacular debut over Chanukah when they performed at our Friday night Shabbat services. **Rehearsals for the Jam Band begin again on January 14** and meet weekly on **Sundays from 12:30PM-2PM**. For more information on how to Jam with Todd, please be in touch with him at [tkessler@ansheemet.org](mailto:tkessler@ansheemet.org).

Last but not least-! **The 21st Annual Kaplan concert has been RESCHEDULED!** **Sunday, March 3 at 4PM**, we can't wait to welcome the Shul Sisters for a joyful, and meaningful concert. See you there!

Who says the winter is dark? Here at the Anshe Emet Music Center, we look forward to lighting up the coming months together with all of you. Here's to 2024!



## LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES?

**We have just the thing for you!**

We are looking for greeters to help welcome congregants on **Friday evenings from 5:50PM-6:10PM** and on **Saturday mornings between 9:15AM-10:15AM**. **Scan the QR code to sign up for a date and time.**





**Maxine Handelman**  
Director of Family Life & Learning  
[mhandelman@ansheemet.org](mailto:mhandelman@ansheemet.org)



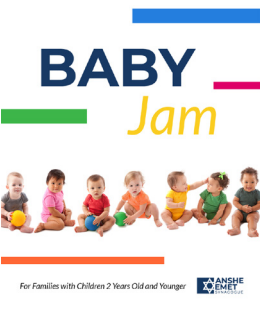
SCAN TO LEARN MORE  
AND REGISTER FOR OUR  
FAMILY PROGRAMS!



## Baby Beginnings • Thursdays

9:30AM-10:30AM

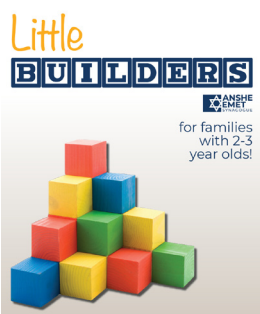
Baby Beginnings is a delightful gathering designed for babies 12 months and younger and their grown-ups. Join incredible community experts for music, postpartum health, Jewish life with baby and more! I'll be there, and Cantor Rachel will be kicking off some of our classes with music. Winter session runs January 11 through February 8.



## 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! **Session dates: January 14, March 3, and May 5.**



## Little Builders • Sundays

9:15AM-10AM

Little Builders is Anshe Emet's amazing class for families with 2-3 year-olds! The Winter class will dive into Shabbat and the Jewish values of caring for the world around us, with song, crafts and some baking. Registration is limited. **Winter dates are January 21, 28, February 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2024.**



## Fabulous Fours! • Sundays

9:15AM-10:45AM

If your child is turning 4 before September 1, and will be eligible for JK next year, please join this new Spring class taught by Maxine Handelman!

**Fabulous Fours will meet Sundays, March 3, 10, April 7, & 14.**

With a format similar to Little Builders, Fabulous Fours engages 4 year olds and their grown-ups in Jewish values connected to Purim, Passover and the world around us.

Families with children  
4-12 years old are invited to...

# MARVEL SHABBAT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

Enjoy Snacks and Schmoozing,  
a Marvel-Themed Shabbat Service,  
a Delicious Family Dinner,  
and Fun Activities for All!

SCAN TO REGISTER!



**Mardi Caminer**  
Grodzin Director  
of Education & Innovation  
[mcaminer@ansheemet.org](mailto:mcaminer@ansheemet.org)



## Mark Your Calendars with These Important Dates!

### ✧ 6TH GRADE MINCHA & 3RD GRADE HAVDALLAH

Saturday, January 27 • 4PM

Join the Religious School community as our 6th grade helps to lead Mincha and then our 3rd grade leads a Havdallah.

### ✧ PARENT EDUCATION: WELCOMING SHABBAT INTO YOUR HOME WITH RABBI BENJY

Sunday, February 4

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. **A wonderful way to prepare for the JK-2nd grade Shabbat on Friday, February 23!**

### ✧ JK-2ND KABBALAT SHABBAT

Friday, February 23

Join the Religious School community as our youngest students help to lead our Friday night Shabbat service.

### ✧ MADRICHIM TRAINING

Sunday, February 25 • 11:30AM-12:30AM

Madrachim will be refining their leadership skills in this special training.

**NOTE: Religious School is ON BREAK for the New Year. Classes resume Monday, January 8.**

## TEFILLAH INCENTIVE PARTY

Sunday, February 4

For our children Kindergarten through 5th grade, we are offering for the 2nd year, a tefillah incentive. This year, there will be two opportunities to celebrate. From October 14 through February 3, join us for at least 5 tefillah opportunities 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 4th and June 2nd for silent disco and sugary treats for those that are eligible.

## J2M: Journey to Mitzvot

Select Sundays

9:15AM

### Reminder for 6th Grade B'nai Mitzvah

**families!** J2M resumes in January with a Friday night Shabbat dinner, followed by our final two Sunday morning sessions in February. *Please note the time change for our final session on February 11, since we will be participating in The World Wide Wrap!*

Friday, January 19 • 6PM • Shabbat Dinner

Sunday, February 4 • 9:15AM • Session 4

Sunday, February 11 • 8:15AM • Session 5



## Tu B'Shevat Walk in the Woods

Sunday, January 21 • 1PM

Celebrate the birthday of the trees among the trees! Join Rabbi Benjy Forester and Max Handelman for a Tu B'Shevat winter hike at North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 N Pulaski Rd, Chicago, IL 60646. Share some Tu B'Shevat stories, collect nature items for future projects, play amongst the trees, maybe even spot a deer! Families of all ages are invited. Trails are not very stroller-friendly. **Dairy Lunch at Anshe Emet at noon (optional) is \$10 per person. There is no fee for the hike.**

## Day Off Program

Friday, February 9

Kids are welcome to join us for a fun-filled day-off program with Anshe Emet when CPS is out. We will be crafting, playing outside and more, all while meeting other Jewish friends. **Breakfast, lunch and two snacks provided.**





# AES Teens

YAD

Contact Hannah Kinsella to learn more about AES Teen Opportunities: [hkinsella@ansheemet.org](mailto:hkinsella@ansheemet.org) / 773.868.5153

This year we have kickstarted a new program, AES Teens! Over the past couple of months, we have been running events, board meetings, and engaging the teens of Anshe Emet. We have a group of strong teen leaders who put together a bowling night where teens spent two hours bowling and shmoozing at Lucky Strike in Wrigleyville. Our teens are committed to building an inclusive and fun community that provides a space for Jewish teens to connect. Days later, we took another group of 15 teens to see the hit Broadway musical Hamilton! We had a blast watching this show, and hope to do more Broadway musicals together. Meanwhile, our Madrichim program is running very successfully. Teens continue to be involved in Religious School classrooms by working with teachers to run activities and provide classroom support. I am so impressed by the Madrichim and their dedication and hard work. We are lucky to have these rockstar teens in our community helping to educate the children in Religious School.

The opportunities for teens to get involved in Jewish life are endless. Alongside our teen programming at Anshe Emet, partners around the city also provide educational and social opportunities

for teens to connect, engage, and learn together. We have compiled this list on our website so that you and your teen can see all of the options. Please visit [ansheemet.org/teen-opportunities](http://ansheemet.org/teen-opportunities) to learn more.

We can't wait to continue watching the teens grow their leadership skills as these programs flourish!



## ✧ AES TEEN BOARD MEETING

Monday, January 8

All 7th – 12th graders are welcome to join our AES Teen Board to help us plan and execute events! Our next meeting is January 8 from 6PM-7PM at Anshe Emet. Please reach out to Hannah Kinsella if you or your teen is interested in joining: [hkinsella@ansheemet.org](mailto:hkinsella@ansheemet.org).

## ✧ RED CROSS TRAINING

Sunday, January 21

See page 10 for details!

## ✧ SAVE THE DATE: TEEN HAVDALLAH & MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday, February 17

## ✧ DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM: @AES\_TEENS

**NEW**

## 8th Grade Lakeview Series

Select Sundays • 9:30AM-11AM

All Jewish 8th graders are invited to this unique 4 week series in which we will learn about the different denominations of Judaism. The group will be traveling to Temple Sholom, Anshe Emet, and Anshe Sholom to learn about reform, conservative, and orthodox Judaism. On the fourth Sunday, 8th graders will do a Mitzvah Project together at Temple Sholom. Series dates: January 21, 28, February 4, and 11.

## YOUNG ADULT DIVISION

for ya's 22-36



ANSHE EMET SYNAGOGUE

### Winter Learning Nights Series with YAD, Base Logan Square & Makom Begins Wednesday, January 17

Please join us for our very first cozy learning evening from January- March where we will join together to study Jewish ideas and eat soup. This learning is co-hosted by Rabbi Benji Forester (Anshe Emet YAD), Rabbi Moshe Webber (BASE Logan Square), and Rabbi Rena Singer (Temple Sholom Makom).

### Pottery: L'chaim to Love in Lakeview Thursday, January 18

Join us for a pottery class at Anshe Emet, where you and your significant other are invited to make mezuzahs with us and GnarWare Workshops!

### Save the Date: YAD Havdallah Saturday, January 27

### A Rabbi Walks Into a Bar... Monday, January 29 • 7PM

Join Rabbi Benji Forester (Anshe Emet - YAD) and Rabbi Rena Singer (Temple Sholom - Makom) for a night of drinks and dialogue at the Burning Bush Brewery as they talk about relevant Judaism of course!

### Healing Ink Documentary Showing Wednesday, February 28 • 7PM

Join us for a showing of this documentary that follows 8 tattoo artists as they travel to Israel for the first time. These artists tattoo 24 survivors of war and terrorism and is a small window into the stories of the artists, survivors and the relationships built between the two. We will also have a panel discussion following the screening.

SCAN THE QR CODES TO LEARN  
MORE AND REGISTER!

YAD  
BASKETBALL



JAN/FEB  
PICKLEBALL



MAR/APR  
PICKLEBALL





The Kehillah Kedosha committee is honored to help support Anshe Emet's efforts to make our synagogue an inclusive community for all of our members. We are proud of our accomplishments in the last seven years and want to be sure you are aware of accommodations that are currently available to our members:

- All first floor places of worship are accessible, including the lower bima in the sanctuary
- An automatic door allowing independent entry to the building from the sukkah side
- Assistive listening devices, kept at our security desk, can be borrowed during any service
- Large print siddurim
- Print copies of D'verei Torah are available every Saturday morning in the Rose Crown Minyan, and available for every rabbinic sermon during the High Holydays
- Quiet room available during events
- Being a resource to AES staff & community-wide events in strategizing access needs

If you are in need of any accommodations that will allow you or a family member to better participate in the Anshe Emet Community, please do not hesitate to reach out to Mimi Weisberg at [mweisberg@ansheemet.org](mailto:mweisberg@ansheemet.org).

We hope you will join us for our Jewish Disability and Awareness and Inclusion Month (JDAIM) featured speaker Rena Rosen. She will be speaking before the synagogue on Saturday, February 17 at approximately 11:40AM. She will also be sharing a story with Shalom Shabbat as well as learning with Shabbat HaNoar on February 17.

We look forward to a continued partnership as we strive to ensure all members of Anshe Emet may participate in our community.

## Sisterhood

Sisterhood begins 2024 with the return of the [Women's Seder for Tu B'Shevat, on Sunday, January 21.](#) Our chair, Sisterhood member **Sara Aron** has written a customized Haggadah for the occasion! **Chef Javier** and his staff will prepare food for us. **Plan to attend to experience a meaningful Seder and participate in a craft activity too.**

**Sisterhood Shabbat returns on February 3, for Parashat Yitro.** Under the guidance of clergy, women lead each and every part of the morning service. As in years past, Sisterhood will sponsor Kiddush lunch. Many thanks to **Larisa Kenen** who, once again, is our chair for this important program. If you would like to participate in the service, or if you have questions, please contact her at [larisak@gmail.com](mailto:larisak@gmail.com).

A group of women gathered at AES to assemble and mail a record 93 Hannukah gift packages to AES High School graduates for Sisterhood's High School Grad Connection. Thank you to **Marla Gordon** who coordinates this program during Chanukah and Passover. **Contact Marla if you have a child who recently graduated from high school and would appreciate staying connected with AES [marlasg@aol.com](mailto:marlasg@aol.com).**



In collaboration with the **AES Social Action Committee, Na'aseh, Sisterhood** helped provide breakfast for migrants living at police precincts. Thanks to **Jamie Wendt** who coordinates the program and volunteers: **Samantha DeKoven, Emily Feder, Freddi Kammer, Janine Landow-Esser, Marcie Marcovitz, Sharon Markman, Jill Stein, and Jeanette Zemsky.**



**Our Book Group** has decided on its three Spring books: *Girl, Woman, Other* by Bernadine Evaristo on February 1; *Go Tell it On the Mountain* by James Baldwin on March 7, and *Trust*, by Herman Diaz on May 2. All sessions are via Zoom. **If you are interested, please contact Judy Metzger at [hgmet1@aol.com](mailto:hgmet1@aol.com).** We meet three times in the fall and three times in the spring with a professional facilitator.

Sisterhood proudly participates in the **Women's League's Torah Fund Scholarship Program** that provides financial assistance to students at rabbinical schools. **Co-Chairs Laura Kordon and Jill Tomar** are hard at work organizing Sisterhood's **annual Torah Fund Tea**. Please check this space again for details.

As an affiliate of Women's League for Conservative Judaism we encourage our members and prospective members to look at their website: [WLCJ.ORG](http://WLCJ.ORG) to learn more.

### The Joseph and Ruth Tumpeer Scholarship Fund . . .

...encourages Jewish summer experiences for youth by offsetting a portion of the cost of Jewish summer camp attendance. The scholarship is need-based. Anshe Emet Synagogue is committed to Jewish education inside & outside the classroom and has a limited number of funds to offset the tuition of Jewish summer programs, trips to Israel, and Jewish Day School. Applicants must be members of the Synagogue to apply.

To request a Scholarship for Jewish Summer Camp or other Jewish Summer Program, or if you would like to donate to help Anshe Emet send children to camp, please **visit us online and search CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS.**

**Deadline for summer program scholarship requests is February 23, 2024.**

SCAN FOR CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FORM



SCAN TO DONATE TO SUPPORT THE KIDS' FUND





## 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.

### MEMBERSHIP

It's 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](mailto:bseeskin@gmail.com), Alan Mintz at [mintzad@gmail.com](mailto:mintzad@gmail.com), or Neil Stern at [npschicago@sbcglobal.net](mailto:npschicago@sbcglobal.net).

### SUPER FUNNY JEWISH MEN

Wednesday, January 3

6:30PM

Come laugh with others at a Zoom presentation on Jewish comedy by two media mavens, Irv Slifkin and Laurence Lerman. They'll present highlights from great Jewish comedians—including Jack Benny, Milton Berle, Henny Youngman, Don Rickles, Rodney Dangerfield, Lenny Bruce, Mel Brooks, Jerry Seinfeld, Larry David, and Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky. \$18 to attend. Cost includes pizza, beer, soft drinks and schmoozing. Can't join us in person? Then join via Zoom for \$5, with the presentation beginning at 7PM.

### PICKLEBALL

January 10 & February 7

6:30PM-8:30PM

Men's Club has a pickleball event in the synagogue gym every month. We provide the equipment, so you just come ready to play. Look for the reservation link in weekly AES email announcements.

For more information, contact Barry Balik at [bmbguy03@yahoo.com](mailto:bmbguy03@yahoo.com).

### HEARING MEN'S VOICE

Wednesday, January 24

6:30PM

Topic: "Being a Jewish Man During These Times". This is part of a series of small group meetings, involving a lot of sharing of stories and personal opinions. It can be refreshing to share your thoughts as well as learn how others think on the same topic.

### WORLD WIDE WRAP

Sunday, February 11

8:30AM

Once again, on the morning of Super Bowl Sunday, our Men's Club will join all other FJMC Men's Clubs around the world by sponsoring a special morning minyan. Rabbi Siegel will explain many elements of the morning minyan service, with particular emphasis on the mitzvah of wrapping tefillin. **Breakfast provided after the service.**

### MEN, MEAT AND MIDRASH WITH MILT'S

Stay tuned for a February date and time via Anshe Emet weekly emails.

This event is at Anshe Emet. We order our dinners from Milt's and, over good food and drink, we are treated to a discussion on a topic of interest.

### POKER NIGHT

Wednesday, February 28

6:30PM-9PM

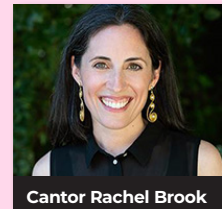
Pay \$20 to play and put your poker skills on the line for a fun night at Anshe Emet. Top winners get prizes and praise from peers for their poker prowess. Look for details in synagogue emails in early February. **To learn more, contact Jon Norton at [JonathanWNorton@gmail.com](mailto:JonathanWNorton@gmail.com). Snacks and drinks are provided.**

Save the Date!

## Shul Sisters Far Above Rubies:

A Concert  
of Song and  
Solidarity

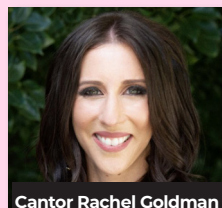
Join Us this Spring!  
Sunday, March 3, 2024  
4PM



Cantor Rachel Brook



Cantor Laurie Akers



Cantor Rachel Goldman

SCAN CODE TO  
REGISTER NOW!



American  
Red Cross

AES Blood Drive  
Sunday, January 28



Join AES for a blood drive to benefit Chicago hospitals. If you are able to donate, please pick a schedule a time to do so. As a fun challenge, Joshua Malina (*West Wing*, *Scandal*, *Sports Night*) has a competitive challenge in which you can sign-up for your donation to be on his team. In order to do this, one must download the red cross application and sign up to "join a team" and choose "Josh Malina is nice." Learn more on the AES website.

# Your Donations — Thank You!

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**\$36,000+**

Phillip & Nancy Resnick

### NER TAMID

**\$25,000+**

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Janice Honigberg

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### SOFRIM

**\$0-\$539**

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& Barbara Gressel

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Esther Joy Schwartz  
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Benno & Rachel Weisberg  
Jeffrey Lewis & Shari Young Lewis  
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David Schwartz & Miriam Aronin  
SAMIRA BALESH: David  
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##### In honor of:

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##### In memory of:

RUTH JACOBSON STERN: Andy

Schapiro & Tamar Newberger

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SHABBAT CREW: Shiran & Matt Posner

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RUTH JACOBSON STERN:

Andrea Schur Levy

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Karyn Hurwich

#### COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE FUND

Susanne Glink z"l

##### In memory of:

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Ed Grossman

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Chuck & Sara Aron

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Adam Levine

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Marirose Occhiogrosso

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MICHAEL & JENNIFER'S WEDDING:

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##### In honor of:

SCOTT FRAZIN'S 40TH BIRTHDAY:

The Schaffer, Hartz, Brook, Schechter,

and Bernstein Families

#### CANTOR LIZ BERKE

Josh & Hannah Deason-Schroeder

Nathan Kahn & Caitlin Riley

Ilya & Michelle Karagodin

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##### In honor of:

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##### In memory of:

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RENEE SCHWARTZ: Esther Joy Schwartz

#### RABBI BENJY FORESTER

Sam & Rebecca Tatel

##### In honor of:

RABBI BENJY'S FIRST HIGH

HOLY DAYS WITH ANSHE EMET:

Elliot & Elizabeth Darvick

## A Message from Our Cover Artist, Judith Horwich

## Mazel Tov to Our B'nai Mitzvah!

### My connection to Anshe Emet is beyond strong.

It is a part of my being that lives in my heart. The leaders, facility, structure, were part of the puzzle pieces that formed my Jewish Identity. Anshe Emet is fundamental to me and continues today with my extended family. It started when I was four years old. I had my first experience with art in a nursery school class. It was the early 40's. There were not many responsible choices for my full time working mother to find child care at that time. There was no Anshe Emet Day School. However, mother's oldest sister, my aunt Freida Goldman, was president of the Sisterhood and that just might have played a role. My going to Shabbat services was always a family gathering that included my folks, aunts, and grandma.

I still remember the first day I was brought to the Anshe Emet Nursery School. Four years old and we climbed to the top floor. What a hike it seemed! The classroom had desks with attached seats. My father's old big shirt was a cumbersome smock that became a huge dress on me. My folks kept a very tidy house. I knew I was not supposed to make a mess. Having a sense of order was expected. My teacher put down a piece of "oilcloth" to cover the desk. That said to me that I was not to make a mess here either, and I was right at home with that order. With everything protected, I was given a piece of paper and some liquid paints. Finger Painting!! Oy, I was terrified of getting anything dirty. The teacher walked off and I dipped my tiny pointer finger tentatively and pushed some paint around slowly, and very carefully. When the teacher came back we had a chat. She told me finger painting was freedom. I could paint with my elbows if I wished! Astonished, I realized that Art was freedom. What an awakening! The paternal side of my household came from Germany. Maternal side came from Russia. They were quiet and reserved. It was a *shanda* to show any ego, let alone powerful expression. Art was a language I could pour out freely, and I had permission to do so! It has remained a passion from that moment on. I wish I knew that teacher's name. Bless Her!

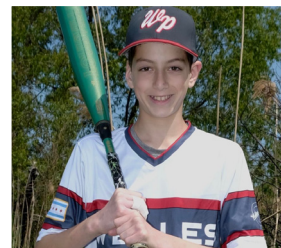
This cover piece, *The Rose*, is about time. Photography has always been about time. Cartier Bresson said the photographic image holds a moment in time smaller than the eye can see. Now, in this modern age, we click the shutter and the basketball player jumping for a 3 pointer is held in mid air, defying gravity, while the ball, also in mid air, is on the way to the basket, but only part way there. That millisecond is held forever on the negative and in the photographic print. But, photography holds time in other ways too. Documentary photographers have held moments in history to be recorded and remembered. Great moments in history like wars, or the depression, historical happenings large and small. Families save important moments in their lives in the

snapshot records they keep. How does all that relate to this piece? Bresson was correct for his time. But does his meaning hold for today? Today, time is different. Everything is much faster. We live in a capitalistic society. No longer do we need pony express or snail mail to transfer funds across the country or world. Fortunes can be moved with a touch of a button. Business is pushed to a flurry of activity with immediate responses to queries via technological means. The world seems to be operating at lightning speed.

Growing up at Anshe Emet helped me to think and analyze as we studied Torah. I loved all the holidays, and especially Shabbat. I saw that our religion has an architecture of time structuring it. And yet, our Torah is timeless and everlasting. Today time is different, moving so fast. Perhaps I am drawn to photography as a means to hold on to all the moments, and not lose anything. I received my Masters Degree from IIT at the Institute of Design. Photography was a renowned part of the school. I was mesmerized by the magic of the darkroom. *The Rose*, is a large scale piece, 41" x 32". In the flash of a viewer's moment you see a multitude of views of a small rose in different light and tones. Not only are different views given, but different lighting shown, a quiet emphasis on time. The film and print development both in color and black and white are hand done by me. I was painting with chemistry and temperature in the darkroom. Interesting to me that it takes so much time to visually discuss time.

*The Rose* is part of a larger series of grid pieces investigating these thoughts of much information given in a fast burst. An idea of time in our time of grabbing a multitude of information on a subject in a single moment in our age. I hope you enjoy it.

## JANUARY 2024



**Owen Rich**  
Son of  
Katie &  
Matt Rich  
January 13,  
2024



**Maya Lessem Elnecave**  
Daughter of  
Rachel Lessem &  
Isaac Elnecave  
January 20,  
2024

## FEBRUARY 2024

**Samuel Rome**  
Son of Lisa Rome  
February 24, 2024

## AES Community Announcements

### Sincerest Condolences

Anshe Emet expresses its sincerest condolences to the families of:

**Susan Dickman**  
**Ronna Jo Cantor Schulhof**  
**Linda Redlick Hirshman**  
**Richard L. Ettelson**  
**Diana B. Turk**  
**Ruth Jacobson Stern**  
**Max Fertel**  
**Dr. Rhoda Pomerantz**  
**Susanne Rae Kraus Glink**

### Monthly Online Bereavement Group

January 22 & February 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://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](mailto:vmay@ansheemet.org) or 773.868.5120.

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





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S A V E T H E D A T E S !

SATURDAY, MARCH 16 • SATURDAY, MARCH 23 • SUNDAY, MARCH 24

PURIM

AT ANSHE EMET

TEEN UNDERNIGHTER • SENSORY FRIENDLY CARNIVAL • COMMUNITY CARNIVAL  
• PURIM SPIEL: *THE SPIEL MUST GO ON!* • COMMUNITY AND NO-FRILLS  
MEGILLAH READINGS • FAMILY MEGILLAH TELLING • COMMUNITY BREAKFAST  
• COCKTAIL PARTY • MUCH, MUCH MORE!

WITH  
**THE  
SPIEL  
MUST  
GO  
ON!**  
BROADWAY - STYLE

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