

AES BULLETIN

JANUARY • FEBRUARY • 2026





MICHAEL S. SIEGEL

Senior Rabbi
The Norman Asher
Rabbinic Chair

msiegel@ansheemet.org

CLERGY & STAFF

Rabbi Michael S. Siegel, Senior Rabbi
Cantor Rachel Brook, Senior Cantor
Rabbi D'ror Chankin-Gould, Rabbi
Rabbi Benjy Forester, Rabbi

Cantor Josh Rosenberg, Hazzan Sheini
Hazzan Alberto Mizrahi, Hazzan Emeritus

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Javier Cruz, Executive Chef/Director of Kitchen Management

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and the Malkin Family Program Director

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TA SHMAH:

COME, LISTEN AND LEARN ABOUT A RENEWED VISION OF ZIONISM

There is a beautiful phrase in the Talmud, **תא שמע** *Ta Shmah*, which literally means come and listen. However, for the Rabbis the phrase was an invitation to come and study an issue more deeply. In these two words is a reminder that if we are to be successful in our exploration of challenging ideas, we need to be willing to do more than simply share our knowledge and opinions. We should also listen to the thoughts of others on a given topic. *Ta Shmah* is, by definition, a call to hear the voices of others even when we strongly disagree. That ability to carry on a difficult conversation thoughtfully and respectfully is one of the hallmarks of the Talmud and our Jewish tradition. Considering the divisions within the Jewish community in our post October 7th world, the rabbinic approach of **תא שמע** , *Ta Shmah*, is especially needed.

The iEngage program of the Shalom Hartman Institute has epitomized that “come and listen” approach for our congregation. Over the years, the scholars of the Hartman Institute have modeled this approach of thoughtful listening as we explored ideas of Jewish peoplehood and the challenges facing Israeli society. I am very excited to invite you to the latest course of study entitled **Liberal Zionism: Between Crisis and Aspiration**. The use of “liberal” here is not a reference to progressivism, but to the classic understanding of political liberalism. That is a political philosophy centered on individual liberty, equality, and rights, emphasizing limited government, free markets (classically), consent of the governed, and rule of law, evolving from Enlightenment ideas. The curriculum draws on a series of vibrant new podcast conversations between Tal Becker and Hartman faculty on key issues shaping and challenging Liberal Zionism today. The topics will include *Pariah Nation: Countering*

the Criminalization of Israel, Is Zionism a Colonial Project?, Warrior Nation, and The Legacy of Gaza for Israel and in the Diaspora.

The classes will take place on **Sunday mornings beginning on February 15 at 10AM**. In the past, our iEngage sessions have drawn a true diversity of views. The material is powerfully engaging, but what has been the most exciting for me as a facilitator is the depth of the discussion and the real listening that goes on. **תא שמע** : *Ta Shmah*, please plan to come, to listen, and to join in one of the most important Jewish discussions of our time.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR AES BOARD PRESIDENT

As we turn the page to a new year, I want to begin by wishing each of you and your families a healthy, and meaningful year ahead. The start of a new year is always a time for reflection and renewal, and I am deeply grateful for the strength, warmth, and commitment that define our congregation.

This year is particularly significant for us as we honor Rabbi Siegel during his final year of service to our community. Leadership is not only about titles—it is about responsibility, vision, and the courage to guide others toward shared purpose. Rabbi Siegel has embodied this teaching throughout his tenure, Rabbi Siegel's leadership has shaped our synagogue in countless ways, and we are planning a series of programs and celebrations to express our gratitude and celebrate his remarkable contributions. Please keep an eye on the calendar and join us for these events—they will be wonderful opportunities to come together as a community and share our appreciation for his decades of dedication.

At the same time, I want to extend heartfelt thanks to all of you for the warm and gracious

welcome you have given to Rabbi Burg and Rabbi Nevins as part of our search process for our next Senior Rabbi. Your kindness and enthusiasm has been so meaningful to witness. They bring incredible energy and vision, and we are excited about the opportunities ahead as they begin to share their wisdom and leadership with us. We know that many of you have questions about what comes next. Please know that the Board and leadership team are working diligently to ensure a thoughtful and transparent process. Additional communications will be coming soon with more details about the steps. Our goal is to keep you informed and engaged every step of the way. As we prepare for succession, we are committed to ensuring that our congregation continues to thrive under strong and thoughtful leadership.

On behalf of the Board, I wish you and your loved ones a year filled with joy, health, and peace.

Sam Schwartz-Fenwick



**SAM
SCHWARTZ-FENWICK**

President
Anshe Emet Synagogue
samschwartzfenwick@gmail.com

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EMMA STERNBERG

Director of Engagement
and the Malkin Family
Program Director

esternberg@ansheemet.org

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

HAZAK: SENIOR LEARNING

Mondays
12:30PM (CDT) Lunch
1PM (CDT) Class

Bring a friend in person or feel free to join us online in your time zone, coast-to-coast. HaZak is taught by Rabbi Benjy Forester. Upcoming dates include: January 5, 12, 19, 26, February 2, 9, 16, and 23.

MISHNAH MONDAYS W/ RABBI FORESTER

Mondays
8AM • In Person & Zoom

Join us for Mishnah Mondays, where we'll schmooze after minyan over coffee and breakfast and learn a little Mishnah together. Learners of all levels are welcome. Dates include: January 5, 12, 19, 26, February 2, 9, 16, and 23.

TALMUD TUESDAYS W/ RABBI FORESTER

Select Tuesdays
7:30PM • Zoom Only

Join us for this Beit Midrash style class as we study Talmud throughout the year, sharpening our understanding of both its content and structure. Learners of all levels are welcome; all texts will be available in their original language and in translation. Dates include: January 13, and 27.

PROGRAMS AT AES



SAPIR SALONS AT ANSHE EMET

Monday, January 5
7PM • In Person

Anshe Emet will be participating in Sapir's Salon program where we will be bringing members of our community to engage in discussions on some of the Sapir articles. We will be serving light nosh and beverages at our first session.

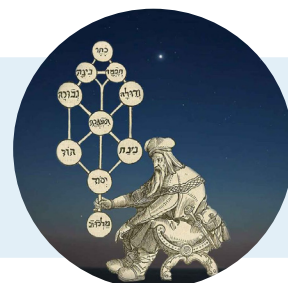
Jan. 5: in person; members: \$10 // nonmembers: \$15; Feb. 9: Zoom only; free.



CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM AROUND THE WORLD

Sunday, January 18
10:30AM • In Person

Session 2: Rabbi Irina Gritsevskaia from Ukraine
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. Our guests will join us via Zoom in Malkov Chapel.



FABULOUS FORTIES: INTRODUCTION TO KABBALAH

Mondays
7:30PM • Virtual*

The Jewish tradition instructs us to learn Kabbalah (Jewish mysticism) only when we reach the age of 40. In this course, members in their 40s & 50s are invited to explore the riches of ancient mysticism texts by leaning into the wisdom acquired at this age and stage. Co-taught with Jane Shapiro, local Jewish educator, and Rabbi D'ror Chankin-Gould. *Anshe Emet is grateful to Katy and Jeff Katz for underwriting this important class.*



THE SOUL OF A NATION: FAITH LEADERS REFLECT ON 250 YEARS OF AMERICA

Sunday, January 18
3PM • Bright Star Church

Anshe Emet Synagogue & Bright Star Church Present: The Soul of a Nation: Faith Leaders Reflect on 250 Years of America. Lunch and learn featuring discussion on *A Letter From A Birmingham Jail* by Martin Luther King Jr. and excerpts from *The Prophets* by Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel.



THE PLANTED PLATE: A VEGETARIAN COOKING CLASS WITH CHEF JAVIER CRUZ

POSTPONED

Join us for a flavorful evening of hands-on cooking with Anshe Emet's very own Chef Javier Cruz. Whether you're a seasoned home cook or just dipping your spoon into vegetarian cuisine, Chef Javier will guide you step-by-step in preparing a delicious, full vegetarian meal—and yes, you'll get all the recipes to take home! Anshe Emet Members: \$36; Non-Members: \$45.



AN EVENING TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF THE AMERICAN RABBINATE

Tuesday, January 20
7PM • Zoom Only

Join Rabbi Michael Siegel in conversation with esteemed former rabbis of Anshe Emet as they reflect on their journeys and share insights into the evolving role of rabbinic leadership in America. Together, they will explore the challenges, opportunities, and visions shaping the future of the American rabbinate in a changing Jewish landscape.



THE FIRST LADIES: EVE AND LILITH – A 3 PART SERIES WITH RABBI VANESSA HARPER

Thursdays
7PM • In Person & Zoom

As we weave through Torah, ancient and contemporary midrash, art, and scholarship, we'll examine how these figures change when interpreted through traditional and feminist lenses, and ultimately, look to them as models of changemaking that we can emulate in our own lives. Dates include January 22, 29, and February 5.



AN EVENING TO DISCUSS THE STATE OF AMERICAN JEWRY TODAY

Sunday, February 22
4PM • In Person & Livestream

Join Rabbi Siegel as he speaks with Rabbi Wolpe on the state of American Jewry today. Wine and cheese reception to follow program. Rabbi Wolpe is the author of eight books, including the national best seller *Making Loss Matter: Creating Meaning in Difficult Times* (Riverhead). His latest is titled *David, the Divided Heart* (Yale U Press).

**JDAIM
FEBRUARY**

Jewish Disability Awareness,
Acceptance & Inclusion Month



ISRAEL PARASPORT CENTER
Empowering Life Without Limits
Formerly American Friends of Israel
Sport Center for the Disabled

JEWISH DISABILITY AWARENESS AND INCLUSION SHABBAT (JDAIM)

Saturday, February 7
9:30AM

Join us on Shabbat morning during Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month to hear about The Israel ParaSport Center, an Israeli institution operated by ILAN aimed at rehabilitation of people with physical disabilities, and to learn from a para-athlete. Following Shabbat services and kiddush lunch, families will have the opportunity to play sports with this para-athlete during Shabbat is Awesome.

Anshe Emet is grateful to an anonymous donor for underwriting this year's JDAIM Shabbat with the Israel ParaSport Center.



AES MUSIC CENTER



RACHEL BROOK

Senior Cantor
The Arnold H. Kaplan,
M.D. Cantorial Chair

rbrook@ansheemet.org



ANSHE EMET WELCOMES BACK

Mayta Cohen & Berkalit

FOR SHABBAT SHIRA

JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 1

Join us for a fabulous Shabbat Shira Residency Weekend with **Mayta Cohen** and **Berkalit**, the national award winning Jewish a cappella group from Boston.

Berkalit will bring their beautiful voices throughout the weekend to the following events!

This wonderful program is underwritten by Judy and Bill Goldberg and the Sarah Danielle Goldberg Cultural Arts Fund at Anshe Emet.



Friday, January 30th

6PM – Friday Night Services
7PM – YAD Shabbat Dinner

Saturday, January 31st

9:30AM – Shabbat morning services
10:15AM & 11AM – Berkalit will Pop-in to our Shalom Shabbat, Shachar, and Shabbat HaNoar Youth Services!
5:30PM – Community Dinner
6:30PM – Havdalah Concert

Sunday, February 1st

9AM-11:15AM – Berkalit will Pop-in to our Little Builders class

PURIM SPIEL REHEARSALS

BEGINS SUNDAY, JANUARY 11
12:30PM-2:30PM

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's a SPIEL! If you love to sing, dance, and be silly, and are between the ages of 6-106, then you are invited to join us for this year's **SUPERHERO** themed Purim Spiel. No previous experience needed, just a love of performing and being silly with others. We will meet each Sunday leading up to the Spiel performances on Sunday, March 1 at 10AM and Monday, March 2 at 6PM.



JOIN US FOR SPECIAL **FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES** AT 6PM

Welcome in Shabbat with us at special services elevated by Anshe Emet's Community musical groups!

January 16 – The Friday Nite Lites: AES Community Jam Band led by Jeremy Berkun

February 20 – Shireinu: AES Community Choir led by Tory May

February 27 – The Friday Nite Lites: AES Community Jam Band led by Jeremy Berkun

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR MUSIC CENTER ENSEMBLES, PLEASE CONTACT AVIVA LUPOVITCH AT ALUPOVITCH@ANSHEEMET.ORG.

YAD AT AES / RITUAL

YOUNG ADULT DIVISION IS FOR MEMBERS
AGES 22-36 YEARS OLD.



SARA VENTURA
Young Adult &
Development Specialist
sventura@ansheemet.org

**YOUNG
ADULT**
DIVISION for ages 22-36

YAD & MOISHE HOUSE VINYASA FLOW YOGA



Thursday, January 8
7PM

Join Anshe Emet YAD and Moishe House for a free Vinyasa Flow yoga class at Anshe Emet. Kick off the new year feeling strong, centered, and connected. We'll have light snacks available. Please bring a water bottle and comfortable clothing. If you have a yoga mat, feel free to bring it; we will also have a limited number available. Scan code to register.



YAD WINTER WONDERLAND SHABBAT



Friday, January 30
6PM Service • 7:15PM Dinner

Join YAD for a Winter Wonderland Shabbat service and dinner. Enjoy a warm baked potato bar with vegetarian chili, and stay for a live performance from Berkalit, a Jewish a cappella group, during dinner. You're welcome to join us for services, dinner, or both. Scan code to register.

IPF ATID CHICAGO EVENT



Wednesday, February 4
7PM

IPF Atid Chicago—Trump, Israel, and the Future of the Middle East With Policy Fellow Elisa Ewers.

Join IPF Toronto for an in-depth discussion with Elisa Ewers, Policy Fellow at Israel Policy Forum. Elisa will offer expert insights into the current U.S. administration, Israel, and the evolving dynamics of the Middle East. This event is in partnership with Anshe Emet Synagogue's Young Adult Division.



YOUNG ADULT WINTER DATE NIGHT SOCIAL



Wednesday, February 11
6:30PM

Join us for a warm and inviting Winter date night social. Connect with other couples, enjoy a spread of sweet and savory treats, and take part in a fun cookie-decorating activity together. Scan code to register. *In partnership with Anshe Emet YAD, JUF's Young Leadership Division, and The Norton and Elaine Sarnoff Center.*



YAIR BERNSTEIN
Director of Ritual Advancement
ybernstein@ansheemet.org

To help make sure we have a Minyan on all of our in-person days, we're trying a new sign-up system for morning Minyan! With this setup, you can sign up for multiple days at once (no need to submit over and over), switch days if your plans change, and get a reminder before each day you're scheduled to come. Just scan the QR code to sign up for any mornings you can join us. As a reminder, we meet in person on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 7AM. Bring a friend— we look forward to seeing you at Minyan!



Shabbat morning Torah reading: If you are interested in reading Torah on Shabbat or Chag (Jewish holiday), you can sign up using the QR code. You can then email me with the date and Aliyah you signed up for, and I will send you resources to help you prepare.



J2M4 next steps: For our 4th grade families, we have one more J2M4 session on February 6, 2026. We'll gather for a learning session, Friday night service, and dinner. Please arrive by 4:45PM so your child can grab a quick snack before we start at 5PM. We'll take a short break from 5:50PM–6PM, then head to the Sanctuary for the service. Dinner will follow around 7:15PM.

If you haven't registered yet, please scan the QR code.



J2M6 next steps: For our 6th grade families, we have three more J2M6 gatherings coming up:



January 25, 2026 – Session 4: Mitzvah Fair: Your child will get to learn about the organizations we partner with and start thinking about their Mitzvah project. Breakfast at 9:15AM; session begins at 9:45AM.

January 30, 2026 – Friday Night Service & Dinner: *Please note the date change.* Families should bring their child's Parsha food for this event. The service begins at 6PM—please arrive a few minutes early so you can set up your dish. Your Parsha dish should be vegetarian or dairy and nut free.

February 1, 2026 – Final J2M6 Session: We'll wrap up our year together by exploring Tefillin and Tallit. Breakfast at 9:15AM; session begins at 9:45AM.



MARDI CAMINER

Grodzin Director

of Education & Innovation

mcaminer@ansheemet.org



6TH GRADE MINCHA SERVICE & 3RD GRADE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL HAVDALAH

We are excited to invite you to our 6th grade Mincha Service & 3rd Grade Religious School Havdalah on Saturday, January 24th from 4-6:30PM! Please join us in a night celebrating the hard work of our 3rd & 6th graders with lots of singing and food! If you'd like to participate in the service, please reach out to Mardi Caminer (mcaminer@ansheemet.org). We expect all 3rd and 6th grade Religious School families to attend, but families of all grades are welcome! Cost: \$15 per adult / \$10 per child (3rd & 6th grade students free).



AM YISRAEL HIGH

Am Yisrael High is a module-based learning experience for 9th-12th graders that will cover topics such as Israel, religion and science, and entrepreneurship. There are also two Around the World learning sessions offered throughout the year. Each lesson will run from 11:30AM to 12:30PM on certain Sundays.

Dates:

Teen Olam 1 - January 11

Module 2 - January 25, February 1 and 8

Teen Olam 2 - March 15

Module 3 - April 19, 26, and May 3



8TH GRADE LAKEVIEW SERIES:

This year we are offering two 8th grade series throughout the 2025-26 school year. Our fall session wrapped up nicely and we are excited to invite all Jewish 8th graders to join for our second session! We will learn about the different denominations of Judaism and about Israel. The sessions occur on four consecutive Sundays lasting from 9:30-11AM. The group will be traveling to Temple Sholom, Anshe Emet and Anshe Sholom to learn about Reform, Conservative and Orthodox Judaism.

Series 2 Dates:

January 11, January 25, February 1, & February 8.



JK & SK KABBALAT SHABBAT

We are excited to invite you to our JK & SK Religious School Kabbalat Shabbat on Friday, February 20! Please join us in a night celebrating the hard work of our students with food, friends, and a lot of singing.

Schedule:

4:45PM - Arrive at AES

5PM - Shabbat Service

5:30PM - Dinner

Cost: JK & SK Children: FREE!

Adults: \$15 each

Non 1st & 2nd Grade children: \$10 each



JOIN BBYO!

Upcoming GMR BBYO regional events:

Sunday, January 11 • 1PM - 4PM:
Chapter Board Training at the Weinger JCC

Tuesday, January 27 • 6:30PM - 8PM: GMR BBYO City Information Session at AES
(registration thru QR code)

Sunday, February 1: Spring Semester Regional Kickoff event, location is being finalized

February 12 - 16: International Convention (IC) in Philadelphia, PA

YOUTH & YOUNG FAMILIES



CONNECTING THE EXPECTING COHORT 45

Expectant parents at similar stages of life will gather to socialize, share resources and discuss issues pertaining to being pregnant and preparing for parenthood.

Dates include January 22, 29, February 5 and 13. All sessions are in person and begin at 6:30PM.



HAVDALAH MOVIE NIGHT 2

Saturday, January 10

Inviting all JK-6th graders! Come join us at Anshe Emet for a cozy movie night with popcorn! Two movies (TBD) will be shown in different rooms to accommodate the wide age range. Wear your comfiest pajamas and bring a blanket and pillow for extra coziness,

KAYITZ BA'SHELEG SUMMER IN THE SNOW WITH AES & CAMP RAMAH



Friday, January 23

We look forward to seeing many Ramah campers and alumni, as well as welcoming those without prior Ramah affiliations who are looking to tap into the spirit of summer camp! For families with children 0-8 years old.

Schedule:

4:45PM-5PM: Snacks & Schmoozing

5PM-5:30PM: Musical Shabbat Service

5:30PM-6PM: Seudat Shabbat (Shabbat dinner)

6PM-7PM: Activities for 3 to 8-year olds, and a play space for 2s and under

7PM: Lilah tov and Shabbat shalom!



LITTLE BUILDERS



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.

Winter 2026 dates:

January 11, 25 & February 1, 8, & 22

Time: 9:15AM-10:30AM

Cost is \$100 for member families /
\$120 for non-member families.

If you need financial assistance, please reach out to Mardi Caminer at mcaminer@ansheemet.org.



CELEBRATE OUR GESHER STUDENTS

Gesher is the adult B'nai Mitzvah program in memory of Linda J. Karno z"l.

Plans are already underway for the next cohort. Contact Cantor Josh Rosenberg at jrosenberg@ansheemet.org if you are interested.

COME CELEBRATE OUR SIX ADULT B'NAI MITZVAH GESHER STUDENTS!



Wade Bacon • Matt Sicker • Joseph Wooden, III • Shosh Bernstein • Samantha Latham • Sireasa Martin
(Names in order of the photo)

Community Mincha Service

Saturday, January 3 • 1PM

Come hear students read Torah and share a d'var Torah during our Community Mincha service.

Shabbat Evening Service

Friday, January 9 • 6PM

Gesher students will welcome in Shabbat and participate in the service. We will hear two divrei Torah during the service.

Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday, January 10 • 9:30AM

Gesher students will read the Torah, lead teffilot, and we will enjoy more divrei Torah.

cje SeniorLife

**CJE'S
MY GO-TO
PLACE:**

January 20
& February 17

Gather & Give Back
Tuesday, January 20
1PM • In Person

More Than Machines
Tuesday, February 17
11AM • In Person

jccchicago

COMMUNITY DAYS
AT AES:

**BETTY WHITE
WITH
MICHELLE GIBBONS**

Wednesday, January 28
12PM Lunch • 12:30PM Program

We're back with more of the most cherished love songs, dance pairings, and romantic moments in the history of filmmaking. Step into the vibrant world of Betty White, brought to life by captivating historical presenter Michelle Gibbons. Transporting audiences through time, White shares the cherished tales of her Illinois upbringing while delving into the extraordinary journey that led to her fame and accomplishments.

jccchicago

COMMUNITY DAYS
AT AES:

**JEWISH STORIES
THAT MAKE YOU LAUGH
AND TICKLE THE
FUNNY BONE**

Wednesday, February 25
12PM Lunch • 12:30PM Program

Jewish writers and performers have long contributed stories, jokes, and humor in a class of their own. Award-winning storyteller, Lynn Hazan, shares her passion for Jewish humor with a unique interactive performance style. She is excited to share Jewish stories in honor of Purim and especially when we need to take a break. Lynn recently performed at the Women over 70 Symposium and for the Consul General of Israel podcast on her Sephardic heritage.

AES AFFINITY GROUPS & COMMUNITY



THE AES SISTERHOOD STARTED THE YEAR WITH MANY EXCITING PROGRAMS WITH MANY MORE ON THE HORIZON.

As part of our Feminism in Judaism series, Rabbi Marianne Novak enlightened us with three sessions on "Rebecca, Miriam and Ruth: Women of Power and Kindness." These deeply curated evenings focused a fascinating lens on three seminal women.

On November 13, Sisterhood partnered with National Council of Jewish Women and the Women of Temple Sholom to assemble Whistle Bystander Packages for the greater Lakeview community. These packages provide information with best practices during encounters with ICE to help protect our neighbors. Thanks to NCJW President and AES member Jan Schwartz for bringing this program to AES.

Thanks to the continuing efforts of Marla Gordon and Nancy Kohn, Sisterhood and AES sent 59 gift packages for our High School Grad Connection Program. Thanks to Anita Shore, Debby Gubin, Miriam Lichstein, and Jill Tomar for their help with assembly. Through this program we keep our recently graduated offspring connected to the synagogue with a box of seasonal goodies, this time for Hanukkah!

On December 21, we enjoyed an artist talk from member Gabriella Boros about her commissioned show "Magical Botanicals" at Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum. We walked through the exhibit with Gabriella, followed by lunch in a private room catered by AES while learning more about her techniques. Also, thank you to Anita Shore for coordinating this program on behalf of Sisterhood.

On January 22, 29, and February 5, our Feminism in Judaism series continues with a three evenings on "The First Ladies: Eve and Lilith", with Bernard Zell's Rabbi Vanessa Harper. We will explore the world's first women: the biblical Eve and midrashic Lilith through a wide swath of sources from ancient through contemporary. Thank you to Julian Blumenthal for all the hard and continuing work of putting this series together for Sisterhood!

Our bi-annual Tu B'Shevat Seder returns with Anshe Emet's Gather Group on Sunday, February 1, 2026. Thanks to our leaders Sara Aron and Rena Grosser, we will celebrate this special female-oriented holiday with a customized Haggadah, traditional fruit, four cups of wine/juice, lunch and a craft project.

Our annual Sisterhood Shabbat will take place on February 28, 2026. Many of our members and friends will participate in all aspects of this special service by reading Torah, leading prayers and giving a D'var Torah. Sisterhood will also sponsor a special Kiddush Lunch. Thanks to the efforts of Chair Larisa Kenen for ensuring this special event happens each year.

Upcoming Programs

We have other programs in planning stages including a Mikvah Learning Series with Cantor Liz Berke in March.

In the Spring our annual Torah Fund Reception will take place once again. This national scholarship program of WLCG raises funds for students in all Conservative/Masorti schools. This year's theme is Oseh Shalom – Maker of Peace. Keep a lookout for these and other events.

Ongoing Programs

We continue our monthly Pickleball Game on Wednesday evenings with Men's Club. Members play for free, and all equipment is provided by AES.

Our Sisterhood Book Group has already started, but it's not too late to join. We will read three books in the Spring, titles to be announced. If interested, please contact Judy Metzger at hgmet1@aol.com.

Marcie Marcovitz
President

Deborah Gubin
Vice-President

Sisterhood is an affiliate of Women's League for Conservative Judaism—website wlcj.org. Women's League offers a wide range of online educational programs, including Zoom conversations with Masorti congregations in Israel. Your membership automatically provides access to this impressive resource.

Anshe Emet

MEN'S

Club

PICKLEBALL

**Wednesday, January 7 and Wednesday, February 4
6PM-8:30PM**

Men's Club has open pickleball for members in the synagogue gym – usually, but not always, on the first Wednesday every month. Experienced players and beginners are welcome. We provide the equipment, so you just come ready to play. Be sure to check AES announcements for the latest dates and to reserve your spot. For more information, contact Barry Balik at bmbguy03@yahoo.com. No charge.

HEARING MEN'S VOICES (HMV)

Wednesday, January 21 • 7PM

Hearing Men's Voices is a unique program that engages Jewish men in Jewish life, enabling deeper connections and better relationships among our members. For this HMV, join us as we discuss personal aspects of anti-Semitism. Share your experiences, thoughts and concerns in the current rise in anti-Semitism. The discussion will be facilitated by Jay Lewkowitz, Men's Club VP of Programming. For more information, contact Jay Lewkowitz at jaylewkowitz@gmail.com. Cost: \$5.00. Snacks and drinks provided. This program is open to men only.

WORLD WIDE WRAP

Sunday in-person minyan, February 8 • 8:30AM

World Wide Wrap is an in-person instructional minyan led by Rabbi Siegel and Anshe Emet Men's Club. This happens every year at Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs (FJMC) synagogues throughout the world on Superbowl Sunday. There is no charge and it is followed by breakfast. For more information, contact Alan Mintz mintzad@gmail.com or Neil Schwartz nschwartz007@gmail.com.

BINNY'S WINE TASTING

Thursday, February 19 at Binny's, Lincoln Park • 6:30PM

This annual tradition is a great opportunity to schmooze, enjoy pizza, and taste and pre-order domestic and Israeli wines for Pesach. Event is at Binny's in Lincoln Park (1720 N Marcey St, 60614). The wines are available at highly competitive prices and are delivered to Anshe Emet for pick up prior to Pesach. \$10/per participant (everyone 21 and older welcome). For further information, contact Jon Norton at JonathanWNorton@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership has swelled to over 140 members. If not already a member, you are still welcome to join the corps for this fiscal year ending June 30. To learn more, please contact Neil Stern at: NPSChicago@sbcglobal.net.

Upcoming Programming – Check the AES website and your weekly Monday This Week @ Anshe emails for the most up-to-date details and registration links for these events.

Kol Tuv,

Barry Seeskin

President, Anshe Emet Men's Club

KADIMA! CAMPAIGN

OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN SUPPORTS VITAL RENOVATIONS AND ADDITIONS THAT HONOR OUR HISTORY WHILE PREPARING US FOR A VIBRANT FUTURE. EACH PROJECT HAS BEEN CHOSEN WITH CARE TO ADDRESS CURRENT NEEDS, ENHANCE SECURITY, AND EXPAND OUR CAPACITY TO SERVE.

FOR OVER 150 YEARS, Anshe Emet Synagogue has been the Center for Jewish life in our community—a sacred space for prayer, learning, celebration, and connection across generations. Now, we are on the cusp of completing a renewal that will ensure our physical spaces reflect the spiritual, communal, and educational excellence that defines us.

Under the visionary leadership of Rabbi Siegel, we have already secured \$13.786 million of our \$15 million goal. This incredible momentum reflects a shared belief in the future we are building together. We are poised to complete this work—but we **need your help to reach our goal**. With your support, we can complete this transformative work and ensure that our synagogue continues to be a source of pride, purpose, and peace for generations to come. *List in formation as of December 1, 2025.*



PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE AT **ANSHEEMET.ORG/KADIMACAMPAIGN** OR SCAN THE QR CODE.

ANSHE EMET ALSO ACCEPTS STOCK AND WIRE TRANSFERS. GIFTS EXCEEDING \$25,000 CAN BE PAID OVER 3 YEARS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE KADIMA! CAMPAIGN,

PLEASE CONTACT HANNAH JARVIS AT **HJARVIS@ANSHEEMET.ORG** OR **773.868.5143**.

**We extend our deepest gratitude to our Kadima donors for their meaningful investment in our vision.
Your leadership and generosity are shaping the future of Anshe Emet.**

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The Kipper Family

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\$3,600+

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Mark & Giselle Ratain
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\$1,800+

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TZION) KADISH:

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RETURN OF THE HOSTAGES:

Don Shapiro

In Memory of:

THEODORE PIERSON:

Ed & Elaine Pierson

CHARITABLE GIVING is an important part of Judaism, and we are deeply grateful for your support of our Anshe Emet Community. Together, we can continue to maintain and build our exceptional variety of daily and special event programs, create innovative new projects and initiatives, further establish our position as a premiere Conservative synagogue, and plan for tomorrow so that generations to come may experience all that Anshe Emet has to offer.

THE SUSTAINING FUND is our congregation's annual significant fundraising campaign which provides support to the creation and continuance of our exceptional programming and meaningful worship. It also allows us to offer membership to all, regardless of ability to pay.

Contributions listed were received between October 8, 2025 - December 1, 2025.

AES B'NAI MITZVAH

JANUARY 2026



NOA JACOBY

Daughter of
Elan and Tamar Jacoby
January 17, 2026



WILLIAM AARONSON

Son of
Daniel and
Rachel Aaronson
January 17, 2026



AMIT COHEN

Son of
Hadas and Ilan Cohen
January 24, 2026



MIRA PUCHTTEL

Daughter of
Max and Jenny Puchtel
February 14, 2026

AES ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE JOSEPH AND RUTH TUMPEER SCHOLARSHIP FUND



This 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.

For more information please contact Hannah Jarvis
at hjarvis@ansheemet.org or 773-868-5143.

The deadline for summer program scholarship requests
is February 6, 2026. Applications for Israel programs and Jewish Day School
are accepted on a rolling basis. All submissions due by February 6, 2025.

ANSHE EMET BUILDING UPDATE!

I am excited to share that the Bennett library is moving to a new location in our building next year. There are plans to transform the Reich Room into a resource room for our community. I have volunteered to coordinate the move and do a thoughtful review of the current collection. The goal of the review is to shape the collection to represent a solid foundation of texts including but not limited to *Talmud*, *Midrash*, *Mishnah* and *Torah*.

As part of the process, we will be downsizing the collection by offering books to the congregation on specific dates at no charge. More details to follow.

This is an exciting opportunity to reimagine one of our synagogue's valued resources and I warmly welcome volunteers who would like to help. If you are interested in helping, I would love to hear from you. **Please email me:** libraryresource18@gmail.com.

Neil Schwartz
Bennett Resource Room Coordinator

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

January 26 & February 23
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/events/beravementgroup.

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.

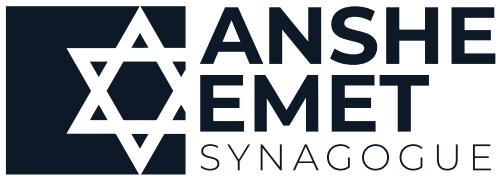
If you have added a name to this list, and circumstances have changed, please make sure to notify Tory May so our announcements remain up to date. Thank you.

SINCEREST CONDOLENCES

Anshe Emet expresses its sincerest condolences to the families of:

Elinor Laupheimer
Barbara Gelfeld
Norman Gilbert Levin

Allyson Bass
Gloria Rosing



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SAVE THE DATE FOR
PURIM
AT ANSHE EMET

Sunday, March 1

Superhero-Themed Spiel,
Sensory Friendly Carnival,
& Purim Community Carnival

Monday, March 2

Young Family Megillah &
Song, Community Dinner,
Superhero-Themed Spiel,
& Megillah Readings

Tuesday, March 3

Megillah Reading and
Breakfast with AES Clergy



ANSHEEMET.ORG/PURIM