

Congregation Anshe Emeth



E-Newsletter April 2026

Services, Led by our Shaliach Tzibur, Jese Shell

Friday, April 17 @ 7:30 pm

- Shabbat Services
- Oneg and Book Club Discussion

From Jese:

Please join us during the oneg as we continue our thoughtful and engaging book club conversation on "My Jewish Year" by Abigail Pogrebin. This week, we will focus on the Passover chapter, reflecting on themes of freedom, memory, and personal meaning and sharing highlights of our own seders and holiday celebrations. It's a wonderful opportunity to share insights, ask questions, and connect our own experiences to the rhythms of the Jewish year.

All are welcome to join in whether you've read the chapter closely or simply want to listen and participate in the discussion.

Friday, May 8 @ 7:30 pm

- Shabbat Services, followed by an Oneg

Hope you can join us!



Window Work Starting!

The anticipated storm window installation will begin on Friday, April 17 (weather permitting). Protective storm windows will be installed over the three south facing stained glass windows. The work is being done by Blanck Glass Studios, and paid for with grant money provided by The Piqua Foundation.



Thank you for your support . . .

. . .Cory and Sharon Lemmon, for their continued financial support.

Zichrono Livracha

Jeff Litchfield, brother of Steve Litchfield, brother-in-law of Eileen, uncle to Becca and Dan, passed away in March. Z”L

Mi Shebeirach . . . Prayers for Healing

*Bill Peck
Sue Young
Mitzi Seaman
Joey Ferrell
Rosanne Youngstein
Holly Stephenson
Leonard Wyrobnik
Ruthie Wyrobnik-Davis
Shelly Seigel-Weiss
Galta Giltala bat Cillia
Chaya Vidal
Zeke Levi
Itzca Zohar*

Prayers for healing are a mitzvah, but a true joy is knowing someone is healed. Please let us know when your loved one is better so we can joyfully remove them from the Mi Shebeirach list!

Yahrtzeits for April . . . Of Blessed Memory

*Leora Shell
Lil Feinstein
Jackie Henkle
Jackson Hogenkamp
Florence Kastner
Lilian Katz
Arthur "Rusty" Litchfield
Hortense Louis
Joseph Shuchat
Mollie Willner*

Shabbat Across America—March 13!

Temple Anshe Emeth's first Shabbat Across America hosting was a huge success, thanks to the hard work, warmth, and support of our small and mighty congregation. Thirty-seven people gathered to celebrate Shabbat, representing four different synagogues in the area- Beth Jacob Synagogue, Temple Sholom-Springfield, Ohio, Beth Abraham Synagogue, and, of course, Temple Anshe Emeth. We also had seven non-Jewish guests come to experience Shabbat. According to a trusted source (Jese!), our new friends are still raving about the food, the warmth of our members, and the beauty and meaning of the prayer and services.

A big thanks to all who made it happen, particularly the Bowman family, Lauren, Marcia, and Renee for all the kitchen work!



Parashat Vayakhel-Pekudei: A Mishkan of Our Own
Jese Shell- Congregation Anshe Emeth

As we gather together for our monthly Shabbat, we are reminded of the beauty of connection between each person, each voice, each act of kindness helping to sustain and uplift our sacred space.

On April 17th, we will be in the midst of a double portion in the Torah, *Tazria–Metzora*, which explores themes of purity, illness, and healing, particularly through the lens of *tzara'at*, a mysterious skin affliction described in the Torah. While it may initially seem distant or difficult to relate to, our sages teach that these passages are deeply connected to the power of speech, community responsibility, and personal reflection.

The *metzora*, one afflicted with the illness, is temporarily separated from the community; not as punishment alone, but as an opportunity for introspection and renewal. Healing comes not only through physical change, but through spiritual growth and reconnection.

In our modern lives, we may not encounter *tzara'at*, but we do experience the consequences of harmful words, assumptions, and disconnection. This parsha challenges us to reflect:

- How do we speak about others?
- Do our words build up or tear down?
- Are we mindful of the unseen struggles others may carry?

In the Jewish community of Beta Israel (Ethiopian and Eritrean Jews), there is a powerful story told about the time leading up to their journey to Israel. For generations, many lived in isolation, cut off from the broader Jewish world, practicing traditions passed down orally. During times of hardship, particularly before their eventual exodus, community leaders emphasized the importance of guarding one's speech and maintaining unity. They believed that internal division and harmful words could weaken not only individuals, but the entire community's hope for redemption. As they prepared for their journey to Israel, they also observed Passover with deep intensity. Their retelling of the Exodus was not just memory, but lived experience: a people longing for freedom, preparing to leave uncertainty for promise. During this season, they would begin counting the Counting of the Omer with a heightened sense of purpose. Each day was not just a number, it was a step closer to redemption, both spiritual and physical.

The Torah reminds us that true healing, both personal and communal, begins with compassion, accountability, and the courage to reconnect. May this coming Shabbat bring you rest, renewal, and a sense of belonging. May we continue to grow as individuals and as a community, lifting one another with kindness, understanding, and faith.

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<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7643723318?pwd=STJIR1drNXFoL29XRGw0L1AzMThxQT09>

Or go to your Zoom App and put in this information:

Meeting ID: 764 372 3318 Passcode: 0092

Or simply dial by your location:

646 876 9923 US (New York)

When prompted, put in for the Meeting ID: 764 372 3318 and push #

Passcode: 0092 and push #