



## LOCAL | YOM HASHOAH



**REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS** Linda Luks reads the names of Holocaust victims during the Yom HaShoah community commemoration on May 1. B'nai B'rith St. Louis holds the reading each year. Volunteers began reading the names an hour and a half before the ceremony began. Photo: Mike Sherwin. For more photos, visit [www.stljewishlight.com](http://www.stljewishlight.com).

## Community observes Yom HaShoah

BY JILL KASSANDER  
SPECIAL TO THE JEWISH LIGHT

More than 800 people attended the annual community commemoration of Yom HaShoah held this year at United Hebrew Congregation. "Broken Glass, Shattered Lives: The 70th Anniversary of Kristallnacht" featured the poignant eyewitness testimony of local survivors who shared their memories of that strategic turning point during the Holocaust.

The event began in the late afternoon with the reading of the names of the victims of the Holocaust. "Unto Every Person There Is A Name," an international program, was organized by local B'nai B'rith Director Michelle

Gralnick.

The evening program began with the sounding of the *shofar* by Rabbi Mark Fasman of Shaare Zedek Synagogue followed by the Holocaust Torah processional.

Rabbis Fasman, John Franken (Congregation Temple Israel), Andrea Goldstein (Shaare Emeth Congregation), Mordecai Miller (Brith Sholom Kneseth Israel), Daniel Plotkin (B'nai El Congregation), Neal Rose (Congregation B'nai Amoona) and Brigitte Rosenberg (United Hebrew) carried in the Holocaust Torahs housed at their individual congregations and placed them in an honored place on the *bimah*. Pianist

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## LOCAL | BALLOT IS NON-BINDING

## Vote favors stand alone option at T.E.

BY JILL KASSANDER  
SPECIAL TO THE JEWISH LIGHT

Temple Emanuel President Laurie Reitman said there were no surprises as a result of the non-binding balloting to help determine the future of the congregation.

"After the articles about our proposed merger with Temple Israel appeared in the [St. Louis] Post-Dispatch and the [St. Louis Jewish] Light, people assumed it was a done deal," Reitman said. "It never was."

Ballots were distributed in April to members of the congregation to identify their preference for the future direction of the congregation: stand alone, merge with a smaller congregation or merge with Temple Israel. There was a 70 percent response rate with 172 of the 245 ballots distributed preferentially.

"We had 65 percent of the ballots identify the stand alone path as their first choice or only choice," Reitman said. "Twenty-one percent selected merging with a small congregation and 15 percent selected merging with Temple Israel. When you look at first and second choices, 83 percent preferred the stand alone option."

Reitman reiterated the balloting is non-binding and is just an advisory vote to the congregational board which has many decisions to make about the future of the congregation.

"The board still has a lot of work ahead of them on how to meet the needs of the congregation: both financially and

## BALLOT RESULTS

**A non-binding ballot of Temple Emanuel congregants finds 65 percent in favor of keeping the congregation independent.**

EMANUEL | PAGE 4A

## LOCAL | EVENT COMBINED FASHION, SUPPORT OF JEWISH STATE

## More than 500 attend sold-out 'Couture and Cocktails'

BY JILL KASSANDER  
SPECIAL TO THE JEWISH LIGHT

They came to see their friends. They came to enjoy dinner. They came to see the fashions. They came to support Israel.

The Women's Connection of the Jewish Federation of St. Louis 'Couture and Cocktails' was a sold out with 540 people attending the event at the Frontenac Hilton Hotel. The evening of

"celebration, fashion and bling" was held in honor of Israel's 60th anniversary. Toby Chod, Heidi Silberman, and Stacy Siwak chaired the festivities.

"We are here to highlight the Jewish Federation's ongoing relationship with Israel," Siwak said.

The film *Just One More Thing* was shown on two large screens to highlight some of the ways Jewish Federations make a difference in Israel and around the world. Women of all

ages from throughout the community were seated at tables named for cities, sites and organizations in Israel such as: Tzfat, the Tower of David and the Israeli Defense Forces. One of the goals of the evening was to show participants a sample of Israel's history and cultural life not often seen in newspapers or on television or portrayed in movies.

"Israel is a small country at the crossroads of the world," Chod said. "It inspires and connects us to our Jewish

roots."

Rick Recht and the Beit Israeli Choir opened the program. The Israeli vegetarian meal was catered by Kohn's Kosher Market.

Honorary chair Galia Movitz was joined by her great nieces and nephew, Sophie, Lili and Jeremy Toledano who walked down the runway wearing Israeli children's couture. Movitz led

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Shabbat starts  
Friday, May 9, 7:43 p.m.

Shabbat concludes  
Saturday, May 10, 8:46 p.m.



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SPECIAL, SECTION B

# EMANUEL

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spiritually,” Reitman Past president Ken

said. “None are new challenges. We still have more questions than answers.”

Cohen was pleased with the results. He feels more comfortable in a smaller congregation.

“I am hoping we can make it work financially, which is always the challenge for small congregations,” Cohen said. “I hope our new board will look into sharing some of our programming with other small congregations. It is important for small congregations to support each other.”

The congregation worked with B’nai El Congregation and Congregation Kol Am to combine their youth

‘Our stored vitality and strength places us in a position where our members find a community of comfort, energy and faith.’

— Claire Kaufman

values and culture of the congregation our founders envisioned 50 years ago,” Sherman said.

How that future develops and how the congregation will move forward is still a work in progress, said Sherman. He said there has been a groundswell of interest and enthusiasm from the members and he feels very good about the direction and prospects for the future of the congregation.

“We know we need to grow our numbers in terms of members, our religious school and programming,” Sherman said. “There are a lot of different avenues we can take to accomplish those goals. There are a lot of ways to grow and we are not taking anything off the table.”

Kaufman feels the results of the balloting demonstrate the faith and confidence the membership places in the leadership to secure a future for the congregation.

“Our stored vitality and strength places us in a position where our members find a community of comfort, energy and faith,” Kaufman said.

Incoming president David Sherman said he felt the balloting was clearly a mandate from the congregation.

“They want us to remain independent, in our own building and to preserve the traditions,

groups over three years ago and created KABEEY (Kol Am B’nai El Emanuel Youth). They also have a joint team with B’nai El for the Intercongregational Softball League. Cohen said the results of their recent opening game further highlights the potential when small congregations join forces.

“At today’s opening games, for the first time in history, our team won,” Cohen said. “Rabbi [Daniel] Plotkin drove in the winning run at the bottom of the last inning. I have never seen a rabbi so joyous.”

Member Claire

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## LOCAL | CONGREGATIONS

### SETYG sponsors ‘Evening at the Ballpark’

Shaare Emeth Temple Youth Group (SETYG) invites the whole community to the Cardinals-Pirates baseball game on Saturday evening, May 31 at 6:15 p.m.

For \$18 participants can watch the game and hang out with friends from all over town. Proceeds from the sales will benefit Camp Rainbow, a camp for children with cancer and blood-related

diseases, as well as the SETYG Scholarship Fund.

Participants can also enter a raffle to win an on-field visit for two to watch batting practice.

Raffle tickets cost \$3; \$5 for three tickets, and \$10 for five tickets.

For a ticket and raffle form, contact Jodi Miller, [jmiller@shaare-emeth.org](mailto:jmiller@shaare-emeth.org) or 314-569-1273.

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