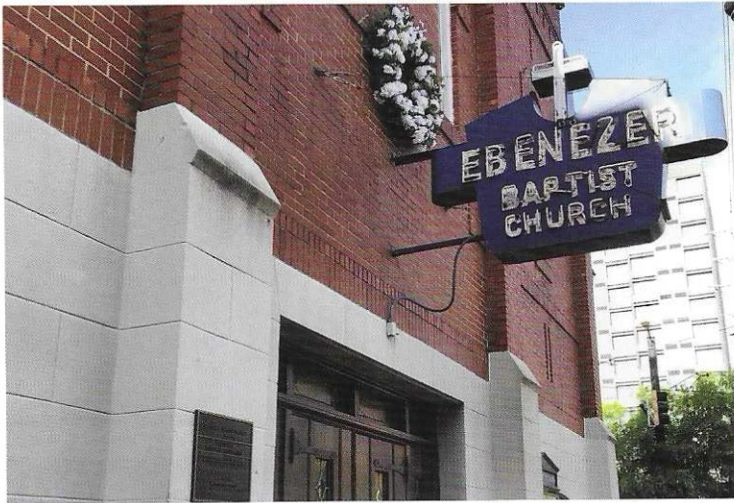


Shaare Emeth Civil Rights Journey

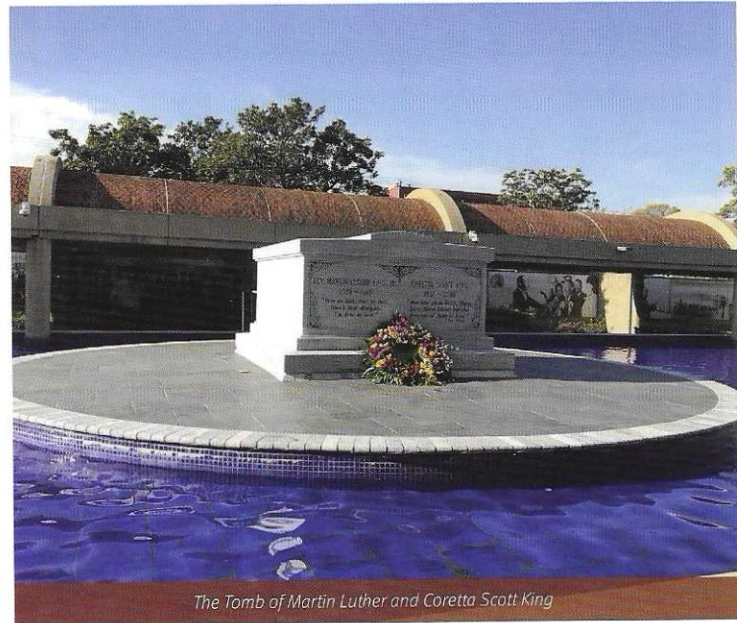
On April 4-7, Rabbi Andrea Goldstein, Debbie Bram, Lucy Greenbaum, and Brett Goldstein led 33 members and friends of Shaare Emeth (ranging in age from 24 – 84) on a Civil Rights Journey that took them from Atlanta to Montgomery, from Selma to Birmingham. They were escorted and taught by a wonderful guide, Scott Fried, and learned so much about our nation's history. Everyone was deeply impacted by the experiences they shared. Here are just a few images and insights from this profound trip.



Ronnie Gross, Shaare Emeth member since 1974
Having grown up in the South (in Nashville) during the freedom movement, I have carried with me a profound feeling of guilt for our country's inhumanity. This tour deepened this feeling. As a Jew, I am now so motivated to "repair the world" for people of color. I've traveled a lot, but this tour was undoubtedly the best I have ever taken.

Michele Siler, Shaare Emeth member since 1998

On this trip, we were challenged to stop looking at our nation's history through our own personal lenses and to be open to learning the authentic narrative from people for whom this painful reality and inspiring justice work continues to this day. I was also immensely affected by the power of the art we saw and the music we heard which spans centuries and continents, as a way to tell stories both heartbreaking and inspiring.



The Tomb of Martin Luther and Coretta Scott King



Rabbi Andrea Goldstein with Ms. JoAnne Bland who was an active participant in Bloody Sunday when she was just 11 years old.

Fran Glucroft, Shaare Emeth member since 2022

In every sacred space, I felt the urgency to learn, witness, and share. Sounds familiar! I felt privileged to experience these few days as I have always believed that travel is the best educational tool, and this trip added another layer to what my family has been doing for many years.



The National Memorial for Peace & Justice



Melissa Pomerantz, Shaare Emeth member since 1995

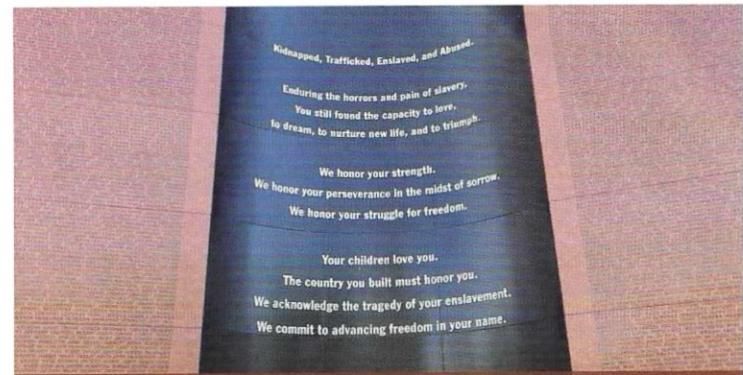
I will keep in my memory not only the horrors that enslaved people were forced to endure, but also the resilience and hope of them and their descendants. The reflection slabs at the Freedom Monument Sculpture Park read Hope, Perseverance, Faith, and Strength. I don't think it's an accident that the light creates a mirror for you to become a part of the monument when you stand in front of it—it's reminding us of our part in this continuing story. It is not about an other, it is about all of us.

Jay Goldstein, Shaare Emeth member since 2012

The sights and sounds of this trip will live with me forever. As a child of Holocaust survivors, I have always had a deep feeling and understanding of what bigotry and hatred can do. And as Nikole Hannah Jones recently wrote about in her article on the whitewashing of the Civil Rights movement, we must stand up and speak out against this new form of bigotry and racism.

Dayle Norber, Shaare Emeth member since 1988

Five of us on the trip are part of the Witnessing Whiteness class offered through Shaare Emeth. The author of Witnessing Whiteness, Shelly Tochluk wrote (paraphrased): "We have to become response-able. Witnessing requires movement, action that brings us a step closer to acting as an ally or solidarity partner." I find myself realizing I am not paying close enough attention to what that action might look like. I believe we will now.



Equal Justice Initiative's Freedom Monument Sculpture Park