



**Elise Cole** is an Iranian Jewish comedian from Saint Paul. She is a wife, mother and published author who uses humor to navigate the challenges of marriage and parenting. In addition, she is now one of the newest company members at Acme Comedy Co in Minneapolis.



**Meytal Ben Shlush** is a comedian, lecturer and mother of four. She was always “the funny one” everywhere she went in school, during her military service, etc. Her humor developed at an early age, as a chubby little girl getting repeated insults for being overweight. She discovered that if she made fun of herself, she could make people laugh with her and not at her. She became the funny, fun to be around person, who always dreamed of being a comedian. Ten years ago she made her dream come true by studying acting and performing on open stages in the center of Israel. Because of the distance from her home and the need to make a living, she began working and performing with children. Meytal enjoys making both children and adults laugh. She also lectures on how to cope and overcome trauma with humor as well as decision making and life choices, which started after having two open heart surgeries, two years ago.



**Jonathan Eisenthal** is a freelance writer and professional dilettante, based in St. Paul, since 1994. He lives perilously close to the Highland Bridge development with his wife Kate and son Abe, a student at Hamline University. Daughter Lily, her BF Bobby and their fur senior citizens Max and Henry, live close by. Jonathan has been volunteer chairman of the St. Paul Federation P2G (Partnership Together) program for the past three years. P2G builds personal connections between Jews around the world and Jews in Israel. Ever since his first trip to Israel in 2016, Eisenthal has cajoled and persuaded as many people as he can to visit Israel and discover its wonderful people.



**Shai Avny** was born and raised in Israel and was an active member of the Noam youth group, which is part of the Israeli Conservative Movement. Shai is the Congregational Engagement Director at Mount Zion Temple and has been for the past three years. Shai is happily married to Mirit and they have three ‘active’ young boys, Gev, Tzuk, and Raviv, plus an 11-year-old yellow lab, Marley.