Tradition, Rupture and Creativity

Rabbi David Kosak

One of the most important foundational stories of rabbinic Judaism features a coffin, chutzpah and a holy dream.

It was during the great siege of Jerusalem by the Romans in year 66 of the Common Era. No one was allowed in or out of the city of Jerusalem, and Judaism itself was in danger. In those days, most of our tradition was passed on orally. Indeed, a law existed that prohibited oral teachings from being written down, lest the relationship between teacher and student be ruptured, and the direct transmission of Torah from one person to another should whither. But this was a time of war. Many of our great sages and teachers perished by the sword, and with them, the living “books” they carried in their hearts and minds. In order to save Judaism, bold and decisive action was necessary.

Thus it was that Rabbi Yohanan ben Zakkai faked his own death, and was carried through the closed siege gates in a coffin, ostensibly to be buried. Once outside, Rav Yohanan had the audacity to request an audience with the Roman general, Vespasian, and requested two main favors—possession of the city of Yavneh, and the right to resettle there along with some of the greatest living sages. According to legend, Vespasian granted his requests. There, 70 kilometers west of Jerusalem, the formerly sacrosanct law not to write down the Oral Torah was abandoned, and over the next century and a half, the Mishnah was recorded. The Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed, but Judaism was saved and entered a new era characterized by remarkable creativity and renewal.

Let’s be clear, to save Tradition, sometimes you have to abandon traditions.

This edition of our Chronicle celebrates Tradition—the larger shared customs of our community, as well as our individual ways of passing on Judaism, both to ourselves and also to our friends and families. Like Rav Yohanan, we too live in an age of rupture. Many of us were never given a Jewish education when we were young, or somehow found it less than compelling; at times we couldn’t find our place in the formal Jewish world. Some of us come from different backgrounds and chose Judaism as adults. Others never encountered much tradition or home-based rituals, and are only now embracing Judaism and discovering its many riches. Rabbi Yohanan teaches us that it is never too late. At Neveh Shalom, we offer so many creative opportunities for us all to learn and grow Jewishly. Whether you are old or young, a beginner or an advanced student, there is something here for you. You can indeed find your place. I hope you will invest some time learning about traditions old and new, and incorporating them into your lives.

Tradition is powerful. It is a love letter from the past to the present. It shapes and gives significance to milestones in our lives. It creates a community and provides a place for us to make and meet friends. It raises us up in times of joy, and holds us close in darker periods. As with other areas of life, the more we invest in it now, the more we can withdraw in times of need.

Wishing you a year filled with Jewish customs: foods, arts and music, learning and prayer. It’s waiting for you!

Warmly,
Rav D

Upcoming B’nai Mitzvah

Jordan Hornick, December 19

Mazel tov to Jordan Hornick on his Bar Mitzvah. Jordan is son to Joshua and Jennifer Hornick, older brother to twins Sid and Nico, and grandson to Dr. Laurence Hornick and Clement Fong. He is a 7th grader at West Sylvan Middle School, where he plays on the West Sylvan competitive soccer team. In his spare time, Jordan volunteers regularly at the Oregon Food Bank by giving back to the community by helping to repackage food for those in need. He has also spent the past 3 summers at B’Nai Brith summer camp, where he has made many great friends.
When our family moved into our house 11 years ago, our 18-month-old daughter Orly enjoyed sitting at the corner spot of our kitchen table. At breakfast time, as we’d watch the sun rise over Mt. Hood, that corner received the first light of the day. Not long after, our older kids started calling Orly’s seat “Sunny Day,” a name that has stuck ever since. And Orly (whose name means “light unto me”) has sat at Sunny Day at nearly every meal since then. It’s a family tradition that started innocently and accidentally, but over time, it gained staying power and a special meaning in our family.

This January, she will celebrate her bat mitzvah, the eighth member of her generation to take part in an ever-evolving tradition of becoming a Jewish adult.

In my parents’ home, Shabbat always included my mom reciting the Hannah Senesh poem “Blessed is the Match” before blessing the Shabbat candles and depositing the spent match in a heart-shaped box, followed by my dad blessing my brothers and me in age order. Then, he would ask one of us to lead the Kiddush and another to do Hamotzi. It was simple, almost always the same, but it gave meaning and specialness to our weekly Shabbat meals. With our own families, my brothers and I have adapted this tradition to each of our families, and I hope our children will do the same when they have families.

As Tevya said in “Fiddler on the Roof,” “You may ask, how did this tradition get started? I’ll tell you. I don’t know. But it’s a tradition.” One aspect of Conservative Judaism that rings true for me is that we take our traditions seriously -- even those whose origins we don’t understand -- and adapt them help make our modern lives more meaningful.

I’m sure many of us are unaware of the organic origins of our Neveh Shalom traditions, but they continue to give identity and meaning to communal life. Whether it’s the “cookie brigade” at b’nai mitzvahs, the extra line chanted as the Torah is lifted, the descendants of the Rosenberg brothers who sit on the bima during Ne’ilah, or Shabbos Mouse at Tot Shabbat, our Neveh traditions infuse our life together with a hamish feeling that brings light to all of our lives.
I am a lover of tradition. Sometimes that means that no matter how hard I try, I can't change the way I do something because this is the way I've always done it, even if I don't remember the reason for it. I was raised with certain traditions: the family recipe for mashed potatoes on Thanksgiving, the special dreidel game my dad made up for Chanukah. My husband Duncan was also raised with traditions, like marshmallows on his sweet potatoes at Thanksgiving (not a tradition I've adopted) and a special song his grandmother taught him and his cousins for candle lighting on Chanukah. These traditions color our sense of holidays, Judaism, and how we live our lives.

We also have some ways the traditions with which we were raised don't really mesh with our world today. For example, I grew up within a few miles of both sets of grandparents, so I was used to spending the holidays with each side of my family fairly easily. Now with Shiri living in a different state from both sides of her family, we have to plan trips and balance our visits. As another example, Duncan did not grow up in a kosher home, but several years ago found a new tradition to add to his lifestyle, and we are a kosher-keeping family together.

We associate the Jewish home as one filled with traditions. Some come from the Torah and others from our families, but they're often intermingled, as famously illustrated in the opening musical number from Fiddler on the Roof. But the term “Jewish home” is a broad term and evolves over time and even within a family.

I was raised in a “Jewish home,” but that idea means something subtly different for me today. The home I was raised in was filled with traditions, love, ritual, and family and that a lot of that centered around Torah and Judaism, yet I also know even as a rabbi I struggle every day with what it means to have a “traditional” Jewish home for our two-year-old.

Our Jewish home is filled with music about holidays, we keep kosher and make special time for Shabbat that is distinct from all other times, and we're constantly learning from each other and trying out new things. But sometimes we find that there's just not enough time for a particular art project, or life is simply too hectic to make challah this particular Friday. In reality, tradition in our family is what works best for us. As much as I would like to be the regular honey cake baker, Havdallah maker, and Hebrew vocabulary builder, sometimes all we can do is push our way to the holidays and breathe in a sigh of relief with Kiddush and pizza when we're all exhausted.

“Tradition” literally means to “give across,” which implies the purpose of tradition is not the direct result of the individual moments, but the way in which your own special moments are given across generations daily, weekly, and yearly with your family. Now if you don't mind, would you please pass the mashed potatoes?

Rabbi Eve Posen
eposen@nevehshalom.org
Making $1 Work Like $100
Understanding the Sophisticated Shift in Philanthropy
By Mara Woloshin

Fickle giving -- from tsunamis to preschools

I’m a fickle giver. Typical Baby Boomer and according to the “Next Generation of American Giving” report by the Pew Research Center, nonprofit organizations are heavily dependent on my generation. Yet only 43 percent of all Boomers make charitable donations. To complicate the struggle of many nonprofits, including Neveh Shalom, unlike our parents and their parents, the Baby Boomer Generation tends to jump from one philanthropic cause to another, and from one nonprofit organization to another. Inconsistent gifts and giving, especially in this post-recession era strains all nonprofits and diverts the organizational focus away from the core mission.

Make the switch from “spot” giving to endowment giving

The AARP estimates that between now and Dec. 31, 2029, on a daily basis approximately 8,000 members of the Boomer Generation (of which there are nearly 80 million) will turn 65, becoming “senior citizens”. We have become mature enough to focus our values into charitable gifts that match the institutions and programs we care the most about.

Here are some solid reasons for creating an endowment and/or an endowment fund.

Peter Wigmore created an endowment after his mother Rosa Wigmore (z”l), died about 18 months ago. His intention was that his gift would fund Neveh Shalom religious school holocaust education as well as books and other holocaust materials for the library. Recently, Peter tied his endowment to the Rosa Wigmore Holocaust Education Fund. Gifts from the interest of the endowment and the Holocaust Education Fund are tied together. Only the interest from the endowment or donations to the fund are used annually by the Neveh Shalom Religious School and the Feldstein Library. These endowment funds will exist in perpetuity. And the donations to the Rosa Wigmore Holocaust Education Fund allow the endowment to grow, generating more interest each year for holocaust education and resources.

Peter understands that his core gift is not only a one-time philanthropic gesture, or a loving memorial to his mother, but a means of perpetual support for holocaust education that donors with gifts of any size have the opportunity to name in their gift to Neveh Shalom. Even my $25 check will make a long-term difference.

Endowments create donations that “work harder”

• Endowment funds are very different from annual fund giving. They are targeted gifts.
• Donors are in control of where their gift goes, The Chronicle of Philanthropy reports that increasingly, sophisticated donors utilize endowments as their philanthropic option.
• Because of targeting resources, endowments have the power to attract new donors by offering donor flexibility. Donors feel better knowing that their gift to an endowment supports what is truly important to them. And endowment fund giving is not just a one-time gift. Donations to endowments allow the interest to grow. Some endowments even allow for gifts of assets rather than cash.
• Finally, endowment creation and giving is directed solely on the individual donor’s values and personal objectives.

Endowments are important financial vehicles. They are an underutilized tool that not only perpetuate the good works of Neveh Shalom, but also rank our synagogue nationally in the eyes of other agencies, grantors and the business community.

Planned Giving is a charitable contribution through a bequest in your will, including CNS as a beneficiary of an IRA or life insurance policy, gift of real estate, or any number of other estate or any number of other estate planning strategies that allows you to make a commitment that benefits and secures our Congregation’s future. Contact Executive Director, Fred Rothstein, frothstein@nevehshalom.org or 503-246-8831 for a more in depth conversation regarding your endowment gift.
Don’t Let the Light Go Out

By Jessica Fenton

There was something comforting about the fact that my boys celebrated Chanukah at Neveh Shalom’s Foundation School. They lit the menorah, cooked latkes, spun the dreidel, sang songs, learned about miracles, and celebrated the triumphs of the Maccabees.

At home as a family, we always lit the menorah, but if life was busy or I wasn’t feeling well, I felt I had the option to omit some of the rituals because they were already covered at school. Perhaps I wasn’t up to making my grandmother’s labor-intensive latke recipe. Maybe I didn’t have the energy to search through our cluttered drawer or toy buckets to find the little dreidels we had accumulated over the years. Regardless, I didn’t stress out that my kids were missing out on Chanukah because they observed it wholly at their Jewish preschool.

Yet times have changed for us. My kids have graduated from Foundation School, and now they attend Oregon Episcopal School (OES). It is a great institution that teaches important human values like compassion, openness, philanthropy, and community involvement. It does not, however, officially observe Chanukah.

It warmed my heart that the OES teacher put out Chanukah books during the holiday season, and during class discussions, she encouraged my son to share his Chanukah experiences with his classmates. That’s when it hit me. The responsibility of our Chanukah traditions would fall solely on me and my husband. I no longer had the Jewish preschool crutch to lean on. If I didn’t make latkes, there wouldn’t be latkes. If I didn’t find the dreidels, there wouldn’t be dreidel spinning. I had to step it up. I couldn’t let the light go out.

OES is not the reason for this new reality. Other families who attend local Portland public schools are also adapting to their children’s current environment. Friends of mine, Jason and Erin Levin, send their older child to public school. They had this to say about the matter:

“The reason why we chose a Jewish preschool (before sending our kids to public school) was to give them that necessary baseline of Jewish education, so that they knew who they were before they were surrounded by people who were different. The majority of Jewish parents don’t send their children to private religious schools. So when it comes to Chanukah (and all of the Jewish holidays) the onus falls squarely on the parents to maintain a Jewish home in order to help foster a Jewish identity in their children.”

Don’t get me wrong. I love taking on this responsibility. As a grandchild of Holocaust survivors, I value my Jewish identity and have prioritized creating a Jewish home for my family. This is why I feel blessed to be a part of the Neveh Shalom community. This “village” enables me to feel confident in my abilities and conviction to raise well-rounded Jewish children regardless of their secular influences in life. Although they are no longer in the Jewish preschool, we are able to continue their Jewish education and enlightenment through Neveh’s ALIYAH religious school program. Through ALIYAH, my children are able to maintain relationships with Jewish peers while continuing to learn about Jewish ritual observance and prayer. My son comes home from Sunday school and helps make Chanukah come to fruition in our home. When asked what his favorite part about Chanukah is, his response was, “the prayers!” That is a beautiful thing.

Forgive me while I pat myself on the back. I may not be the best sufganiyot chef. My dreidel skills are decent. My husband and I can, however, take great pride in our determination to keep Chanukah strong and present in our home with the knowledge that our choice of synagogue membership at Neveh Shalom will allow us to face the pressures of secular life that may pose a challenge to our Jewish identity.

With the new Star Wars movie rapidly approaching, there is a lot of talk about “The Force” in our home. I know the force will be with us this Chanukah just as it was with our ancestors when they rededicated the Temple in 165 BC. I encourage you to hold fast to your Chanukah traditions and be bold enough to establish new ones. Don’t let the light go out, and from my family to yours, “May the Force Be With You.”

Jessica and Garrett Fenton joined CNS in 2013 when they found the Foundation School community to be especially welcoming.
I grew up in a neighborhood without any other Jewish kids around. I didn’t miss belonging to a synagogue, because I didn’t really know that you could.

A few minutes down the road lived both sets of my grandparents. Grandma Rita was a potter and so as Chanukah approached we helped her hand build small oil lamps out of clay like the kind used at the Temple in Jerusalem. At our family Chanukah party we would fill them with olive oil and use small twirls of paper towels to light them. That hands-on experience led us to ponder the miracle of one night’s worth of oil lasting all of those days.

We didn’t share our holiday with others at school or get any days off, so we learned to enjoy Chanukah with family and then revel in the days we got off for “free” to enjoy someone else’s.

Those winter memories made a great impact. We would tuck into the Toyota van and ride over to Savta’s for the Chanukah party with my dad’s family. We would have each drawn a name prior to that night and I remember how it felt, the heart-racing excitement of getting to give an aunt or a cousin one present, carefully selected and paid for with hard-earned babysitting money.

We would also reserve a special sum for our Chanukah Gelt discussion and then together we would decide on a charity to which we would dedicate our seasonal gift, in the hopes of bringing the light of freedom to some other people.

Now that I have a family of my own without grandparents nearby, I decided, with my husband, to join Neveh Shalom. What a gift! To give my children the experience of belonging, to be adopted by local bubbes and zaides!

While Neveh Shalom offers us a place to learn and play, a place to feel included and welcome, our neighborhood windows offer lessons of freedom and hope. As we walk our dog in the evenings we can count them, not just one or two but five and ten homes that have Chanukah lights dancing in their windows.

The lessons do not only tell of what happened in Jerusalem those thousands of years ago. They tell the story of all Jews from the Maccabees until now. As refugees and as new migrants, from tenements to homes with big picture windows, our prosperity can offer a story of hope. Sharing this story with others in our neighborhood can foster friendship and understanding.

I talked about these ideas with fellow new member, Sarah Chenven. These Chanukah lights remind her of both luxury and obligation. She spoke of what a luxury it is that we can join a synagogue and worship openly, celebrating our holidays in public. She also spoke of our obligation to remember that this is a privilege.

On these dark nights, as we cook latkes, spin dreidels, some parents tell their children of ancient cities whose ruins no longer exist. As we sing and dance the Hora, somewhere children are speaking in low voices in the confines of emergency shelters set up in desert refugee camps. How fortunate we are to celebrate Chanukah in a country that strives to protect religious freedom.

As members of the Neveh Shalom community, I am hopeful that my children will learn to work for peace and to be grateful for all that they have. Together we will celebrate the miracle of light, and all that the Jewish people have done to get us to this moment, right where we belong.

Get to know Leah and her husband Darius in our new member profiles on page 14.
The Tradition (and Innovation) of Jewish Education
By Mel Berwin, Director of Congregational Learning

A young woman on the autism spectrum who, at times, struggled through the ALIYAH program herself, returns to be a Madricha, assisting our teachers and helping students have the most positive experience possible. An elective for 3rd-5th graders on Jewish Super-Heroes, in which kids learn about a chapter in Jewish history and create a super-hero figure who could have changed the course of that story. A Judaics teacher who, instead of using textbooks to teach the Torah stories, tells and acts out the stories of Abraham and Sarah within a huge tent that the class has built themselves. A Hebrew teacher who uses popular Israeli Eurovision songs and videos to teach modern Hebrew. A program on inclusion, in which our K-6th graders create presentations to show how important it is that we all have strengths and weaknesses, we all have similarities and differences, and we are stronger as a community for including each other.

How many of these scenarios would have happened a generation ago in a Jewish education setting? How far have we come from the Hebrew schools of yore (I went to one…) with an “old-school” teacher, rapping his hand or his ruler on the desk to restore order, while rows of seated kids memorized and recited prayers line by line?

Education has always been, and continues to be, among the highest of our values as Jewish parents. We want our kids to feel at home in Judaism, to be Jewishly literate, to experience the holidays and the rituals and the culture of Judaism and to know who we are as distinct from, but also as part of, the secular society around us. And in our generation, we also demand an engaging, excellent education system, a focus on our children’s individual needs and at the same time, an environment of inclusivity and social cohesion. We want for our children, in general, a better experience than we ourselves had. How do we blend tradition and innovation in education? As educators – and parents!—we intentionally consider: what are our priorities? What do we want our kids to grow up with: what memories, what knowledge, what skills? How do we keep a high standard for content while thinking creatively about the vehicle for learning? How do we help each individual child achieve academically and each class thrive socially? Our theme in ALIYAH this year is “Sharing Our Stories”. And isn’t this story – of innovation and tradition, of taking the best of the world around us and preserving the best of our heritage—the Jewish story? The story of ALIYAH is the story of the Jewish people. Every one of our families’ stories—whether we are passing down family traditions or creating new ones as we go—is the story of our community, and is the story of the Jewish people.

Literary Look
By Kaiya Goldhammer, Librarian

“A Bride for One Night” by Ruth Calderon, translated by Ilana Kurshan (Jewish Publication Society, 2014)

Titled “Reading Talmud Barefoot” in the original 2001 Hebrew edition, Calderon pushes readers to approach these seventeen Talmud selections “barefoot” with new eyes and open minds. Long the purview of academics and rabbis, Calderon seeks to introduce talmudic literature to the lay reader. Each of the selections begins with a direct quote from the text, followed by a short story, and then the author’s own reflections. In her fictional accounts, Calderon explores the motivation of the characters in each entry focusing on their personal experiences. Passionate, religious, emotional, and imaginative, these stories offer a fresh look at the texts. Readers with little or no background in Talmud should find “A Bride for One Night” most valuable. As a reader with limited knowledge of any of the selections, I greatly enjoyed the process of reading the sparse original text, followed by frequently successful imaginative retellings, and then, the best part, the author’s exegesis of the text. Calderon wrings meaning out of the barest words and illuminates the original texts with an obviously practiced mind. As Jay Michaelson wrote in his excellent review for The Forward, “A Bride for One Night” invites “...one into two worlds: that of the Talmudic sages and, perhaps more important, that of Calderon’s own beit midrash, or study hall, where small miracles are happening every day.” If you want to dip a toe into talmudic literature, this is a welcoming place to start. Contains introduction, notes, bibliography.

Join Book Talk @ Neveh for a discussion of A Bride for One Night on November 10th at 7pm.
More info - kgoldhammer@nevehshalom.org
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in appreciation of Rabbi Posen
Harry & Mary Goldhammer:
in appreciation of Rabbi Posen
Joel & Karen Salzberg:
in appreciation of Rabbi Posen
Rosa Wigmore Holocaust Education Fund
Estelle Golden:
in memory of Diana Golden
Peter Wigmore & Randy Katz:
in memory of Rosa Wigmore
Saperstein Chapel Fund
Marlene Brenner:
in honor of Taya Meyer’s special birthday
Rosalie Goodman:
in honor of Taya Meyer’s birthday
Larry & Sandie Huppin:
in honor of Taya Meyer’s 80th birthday
Ronald Meyer:
in memory of Leo Meyer
Stampfer Lecture Fund
Rosalie Goodman:
in honor of Lee & Sheri Cordova’s Anniversary
Leonard Springer:
in memory of Aaron Springer
Soble Renovation Fund
Shirley & Jerry Nudelman:
in honor of our Rosh Hashanah Aliyah Sylvia Pearlman Membership
Gary & Sylvia Pearlman:
in memory of Samuel Pearlman
Stampfer Discretionary Fund
Ian & Bev Getreu:
in appreciation of Rabbi Stampfer
Harry & Mary Goldhammer:
in appreciation of Rabbi Stampfer
Janet Hasson:
in memory of Herbert Cole
Joel & Karen Salzberg:
in appreciation of Rabbi Stampfer
Beulah Schuffman & Family:
in appreciation of Rabbi Stampfer
Frieda Tobin:
in memory of Louis Tobin
in memory of Sadie Feves
Women’s League Scholarship Fund
Sue & Elliot Axel:
in honor of Danit Rothstein’s engagement
in honor of Rachel Rothstein’s engagement
Melvin & Cathy Berlant:
in memory of Arthur Subotnick
in memory of Owen Berlant
in memory of Max Berlant
Bob & Marla Weiner:
in memory of Esther Weinstein
Robert Weiner:
in memory of Lena Weiner
Sala Kryszek Publication Fund
Sylvia Frankel:
in honor of Jake Kryszek’s 97th birthday
Toinette & Victor Menashe:
in memory of Jakob Kryszek’s birthday
USY Travel Fund
Thelma Gefen:
in honor of Stanley Blauer
in memory of Stan Perkel
in memory of Si Newman
Joel Mullin & Sheri Katz:
in memory of Pierre Henrichsen
Sandra Pearlman:
in memory of Laura Mills
Weinstein Chapel Fund
Geraldine Roth:
in memory of Ike Roth
in memory of Ruth Liebreich
Craig A Weinstein:
in honor of Gary Weinstein’s 80th Birthday
Do Tell: CNS Members Answer Ten Intriguing Questions

Brian Scott returned to his native city 18 years ago and enjoys a quiet life surrounded by family and friends. He and his wife, Marianne Zarkin, have been Neveh Shalom Members for 11 years.

**What is your favorite book?**
Gravity's Rainbow, Thomas Pynchon

**If you could have lunch with any three people (real or fictitious/from any time period, dead or alive), which three people would you choose and why?**
My father, since I did not know him as an adult. Captain Kirk to discuss the food and drink on other planets. Copernicus, who was able to think outside the current paradigm.

**If given a choice to skip work for a day, how would you spend the entire day?**
In the woods with my wife.

**What is your favorite season and why?**
Summer as it the season our garden is exploding.

**If you could go anywhere in the world where would you go?**
Cross country skiing in Scandinavia.

**What was the last item you cooked and ate?**
Apple crisp with ginger snap topping.

**Were you named after anyone?**
My middle name was my father's first name.

**What is your favorite Jewish holiday, and why?**
Sukkot of course, could there be a better holiday?

**What is your favorite Hebrew word, and why?**
Shalom because it reminds me of unicorns.

**Can you give us your favorite Portland tidbit?**
My work van was used in a Portlandia episode.

Erika Meyer, better known as "Mother of Three, Pediatrician and Mrs. Challahman," has been living in Portland on and off since 1993. She and her husband, Rich Meyer, have been official Neveh Shalom members since 2000.

**What is your favorite book?**
Olive Kitterage by Elizabeth Strout, Bel Canto by Ann Patchett and for nonfiction Joseph Telushkin's Rebbe

**If you could have lunch with any three people (real or fictitious/from any time period, dead or alive), which three people would you choose and why?**
One would definitely be my father. He died just before I turned 15 so I never really had a conversation with him as an adult. I am a realist. I can't have lunch with my father. But I could have lunch with my father-in-law Jim Meyer and I'd like to have lunch with my friend Carmit Mcmullen, she just lives in Lake Oswego and yet I haven't had lunch with her in over a year!

**If given a choice to skip work for a day, how would you spend the entire day?**
I'd spend it with Rich. We'd go on a ridiculously long run in Forest Park, walk to Pacific Pie for lunch, maybe Powell's and the art Museum for the afternoon. Importantly, we would never get in the car. Then home for dinner with the kids.

**What is your favorite season and why?**
Summer. I love the light and the sunshine.

**If you could go anywhere in the world where would you go?**
Back to Israel.

**What was the last item you cooked and ate?**
Last night I made parsley mint cilantro garlic topping for the delicious cedar plank halibut that Rich prepared.

**Were you named after anyone?**
I was supposed to be a boy named Herbert for my paternal grandfather. My parents came up with Erika/Erica. My middle name is Louise, named for my maternal grandmother.

**What is your favorite Jewish holiday, and why?**
Yom Kippur. I love it because it challenges me. It's really, really hard for me to fast. I am uplifted by the sense of community I feel on Yom Kippur.

**What is your favorite Hebrew word, and why?**
Sh'ma. Our central prayer but also central to what I need to remind myself to do thoughtfully every day. Listen. Unplug.

**Can you give us your favorite Portland tidbit?**
I love that I can walk everywhere. I certainly wouldn't leave Portland. Besides my home and Forest Park, another favorite place in Portland is Director Park. I just love the vibe there. It feels very European. I also love The Fields (the people, too, but I am referring to the park).
Lend a Hand

Hygiene Supplies
Thank you for leaving new hygiene items for the homeless in the boxes in the Administration and Stampfer Chapel Foyers. We are requesting the following TRAVEL SIZE items: Deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, razor, soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion and unopened free gift bags from cosmetic companies. Help CNS help Transition Projects
Contact: Cathy Blair at cathyblair55@yahoo.com

Neveh Shalom Supports JFCS’s Thanksgiving Food Boxes - Help families in need celebrate Thanksgiving. Neveh Shalom has committed to providing 150 bottles of Martinelli’s Sparkling Cider. Collection boxes will be out from Nov 1- Nov 18.

Neighborhood House is in Need- Men’s Club Responds
Toilet paper is costly and can be a strain for families who are working hard to make ends meet. Help us flush away economic stress for neighbors in need. Watch for collection boxes after Thanksgiving and bring your packages of wrapped T.P. to CNS between Nov 30 and Dec 13.

Sisterhood volunteering opportunities
Help Sisterhood raise funds! Join us for Sisterhood Sundays, where we will be preparing sack lunches to be sold to ALIYAH families. Gift shop volunteers needed, all shifts. Sisterhood funds support religious school, Break-the-Fast and the renovation of the kitchen. Contact Dana Sirkin: ottrbanana@frontier.com to get involved.

Monthly meeting of the Never Again Coalition
Monday, November 8 and December 6, 7pm Join us to learn more about the current situations in Sudan, South Sudan and the DR Congo. We will be signing postcards and planning events. All are welcome. Contact lolorosa@gmail.com

Shomrei Teva Creekside Restoration Project
Sunday, November 15 and December 20, 9:45am, lower parking lot. Join to remove non-native invasive like ivy, blackberry, clematis, and morning glory. Help beautify and restore our natural area. Dress for the weather, have shoes with good traction, and bring a small gardening tool (trowel, shears, small shovel, weeder, clippers) if you have one. Bring your stories and sense of humor as we like to schmooze while we work. Contact Jordan Epstein, yaakovm@comcast.net or 503-245-6580 with questions.

Volunteer to be a Shabbat Greeter!
It’s a wonderful way to welcome in Shabbat and greet everyone who enters CNS! Try it once or become a regular. Sign up at: tinyurl.com/ShabbatSchmoozer

On the Calendar

Join In

Wed, Nov 4, 7pm
Join Sisterhood and Men’s Club in Stampfer Chapel for the first of our Speaker Series, featuring Fred and Nora Rothstein, who will share reflections on their trip to Cuba. Open to all!

Sunday, November 8th
New Member Coffee with Rabbi Kosak
Get to know your synagogue team! Enjoy time that’s just for our newest members to connect with Rabbi Kosak. Members of the Board of Directors and staff will be available to answer questions and make sure you’re finding your way at CNS.

Tue, Nov 10, 7:00- 9:00pm
Book Talk @ Neveh. A Bride for a Night by Ruth Calderon. All are welcome to join the discussion- Room 111.

Fri, Nov 13, 6:15pm
Men’s Club Shabbat - Members of our Men’s Club, along with our clergy, will be participating in the Friday evening service.

Sun, Nov 15, 9:45am
Men’s Club presents George Fendel on Gershwin - It’s hard to imagine anyone involved in Portland’s jazz scene not knowing who George Fendel is, he’s been active in jazz radio for over twenty years. Men’s club is pleased have George break from a busy schedule. George will discuss Gershwin's music and will even play for us. You can look forward to a lively presentation and discussion.

Sun, Nov 15, 10:00am
Sisterhood Sunday - We have created a time and space for women to gather and enjoy each other’s company once a month. Join us to learn and share new ideas and talent. We will also be preparing sack lunches for ALIYAH school, part of a new Sisterhood fundraiser. Meet in the foyer behind the main sanctuary.

Tue, Nov 17, 2:00pm
Tea at Two with The Wondering Jews - The Wondering Jews, our CNS group for those who are older and wiser, are thrilled to present Portland author Phillip Margolin, author of A Women with a Gun, Worthy Brown's Daughter and other bestsellers. Learn where Margolin gets the ideas for his many novels; how he approaches writing and why Portland and environs inspire his settings and more. Zidell Chapel

Mon, Nov 30, 7:00pm
An evening with Shoshana Bean - Q&A and musical performance- The Institute for Judaic Studies and Congregation Neveh Shalom announce the second of the “Fruit of the Vine” series, highlighting accomplished talent
and scholars who were brought up in our very community. Don’t miss the evening of Monday, November 30, with the Broadway acclaimed singer, actress and songwriter Shoshanah Bean! Best known for playing Elphaba in the musical Wicked. Shoshanah, daughter of CNS member Felice Moskowitz, will be speaking about her career path and treating us to a performance. $8 suggested donation/at door.

Wed, Dec 2, 7:00pm, Birnbach Hall
Can you imagine healthy cooking for Chanukah? Come join CNS Sisterhood and learn some luscious ideas!

Thur, Dec 3, 6:30pm
The Rabbi Stampfer Community Enrichment Award honors yearly an outstanding and charitable member of the Greater Portland community who represents the values of Rabbi Stampfer himself. The Stampfer Community Enrichment Award nominating committee this year selected Paul and Alice Meyer as the 2015 honorees. $60/person -RSVP tinyurl.com/stampferaward2015

Sat, Dec 5, 2-3:30pm
Jazz in Shanghai - Mittleman Jewish Community Center and Congregation Neveh Shalom present Larry Nobori and his jazz group will play the pre-World War swing music of the 1930s. He will discuss the music in relation to A Night in Shanghai. $5, at the MJCC.

Tue, Dec 8, 2pm
Tea at Two with The Wondering Jews - Who Were the Maccabees Really? Rabbi Emeritus Daniel Isaak will shed light on this renegade group who made history. How are they different than in the story books? Come find out. Neveh Shalom atrium.

Thur, Dec 10, 6:00pm
Neveh Shalom Chanukah Party! Bring a friend, bring the family, and bring the T.P.! Men’s Club is leading the way in lightening the economic load of families in our neighborhood through a Toilet Paper Drive. Bring your wrapped packs of toilet tissue and help us construct the largest toilet paper menorah ever. Latkes, music and fun. $15 per adult? $18 Adult non-member, $9 child, $48 max per family. Registration info on www.nevehshalom.org or call the main office, 503 246-8831

Sun, Nov 1, 12:15 pm- 2:00 pm
KADIMA (6th-8th Grade), Fun time after ALIYAH, with snacks, games and surprises. $5, RSVP: CNSKadima@gmail.com

Sun, Nov 1, 3:30-5pm
USY (8th-12th grade) Fall Kinnus Pump Up: Ice skating, Donuts, Hot Chocolate at Winterhawks Skating Center

Sun, Nov 8 12:00-2:30pm, Youth Lounge
JR. KADIMA, (3rd-5th Grade), Popcorn Lounge day!! Yummy food and hanging out in the USY lounge makes for a fun afternoon! RSVP to CNSKadima@gmail.com $5

Weekend, Nov 20-22
USY Fall Kinnus at Camp Solomon Schechter

Weekend Dec, 4-6
Winter Kadima Kinnus (6th-8th graders) Experience the essence of USY by attending our popular Kinnusim. Held at Camp Solomon Schechter and is attended by Kadimanicks from across the Pacific Northwest, you will not want to miss it!

Dec, 13 12:00-2:30pm
JR. KADIMA/KADIMA (3-8th) Chanukah Extravaganza Crazy driedle games, edible art and perhaps…latkes!

Dec, 13, 5:00-7:00pm
USY (8th-12th grade) Chanukah Party: Latke Cook-Off and Dreidel Competition @CNS

Dec, 23-31
USY International Convention in Baltimore

Young Family Activities:

Saturday, Dec 12, 5:30pm
Havdalah in Pajamas Hang out in your favorite jammies with friends! Enjoy a kid friendly dinner, Havdalah, crafts and a milk and cookie story time. $12/adults $7/kids $42 max per family.

Sun, Dec 13, 9:40am
Men’s Club Meets Rabbi Kosak - Come meet Rabbi Kosak up close and personal as we celebrate the 8th day of Chanukah, have a nosh and learn together. All are welcome, men and women! No need to RSVP.

Sun, Dec 13, 10:00am
Sisterhood Sundays, see details on Nov 15
Who's New?

Welcome David and Tricia Bourne, and daughter Rachel!
David is from Sherwood, while Tricia is originally from San Diego. Rachel (age 10) attends Hayhurst Elementary. The Bourne family enjoys spending time on Mt Hood - hiking in the summer, and skiing or snowboarding in the winter. One of the reasons they joined CNS was the connection Rachel made with Rabbi Greenstein's daughters when he was the junior rabbi. The Bourne family has a special tradition of discovering a new place to do Tashlich each Rosh Hashanah. This past year they explored the new Tilikum Crossing.

Natasha and Cameron Hale joined CNS along with their four children: Ephraim (8), Liam (6), Ethan (3), and Alia (8 months). Originally from the Bay Area, they now reside in Hillsboro. Natasha's hobbies include sewing, knitting, and any form of crafting, while the whole family enjoys hiking together. The Hale family joined Neveh Shalom after being invited to Tot Shabbat by friends; and feeling warmly welcomed there. One tradition in their home is that each child has their own special menorah to light at Chanukah.

New members Leah Klass and Darius Amjadi have two daughters, Liliana (5) and Simone (2). Leah has lived in many places, including Argentina, Brazil, Germany, and on a kibbutz. The family has a love of music and languages, and they speak Portuguese at home. Darius is particularly interested in politics, and the whole family makes a point to discuss global issues. They joined CNS, along with several other families they knew, with the intention of their kids being a part of the same B'nei Mitzvah class. Their family tradition is using Shabbat candlestick holders that were handmade by Leah's grandmother, a potter. The candlestick holders got passed down to the family because they couldn't be sold - they say 'Shabbat Sholam'!

Arranged by Eadie Kaltenbacher

Welcoming the following new members to our congregational family:

Kol HaKavod...Thank You!
Irv and Rhoda Leopold have been members of Neveh Shalom for over 50 years. They are responsible for keeping our youngest congregants active by donating the Foundation School playground equipment over the last several years. This summer they set the stage for Foundation School to launch our 18-24 month program. Their generosity has allowed us to fully furnish our new classroom. We now have a full group of 18-24 month toddlers who are joyously beginning their Jewish preschool life here Neveh Shalom's Foundation School. And, Irv and Rhoda couldn't be happier to make this opportunity come to life. They worked with Foundation School Director, Leah Conley and were "so impressed with her energy, professionalism and presentation on behalf of the new program." It makes them happy to see the entire program growing and thriving, especially with their long-time connection to CNS.

Snapshots

Foundation School's Monkeys in their new classroom

Throwing birdseed into the Willamette at the Eastside/Mizrach Bike Ride and Tashlich outing.

The "Wondering Jews," our 65+ group, at Ponzi Vinyard for an afternoon of wine tasting.

Lucille Kraiman shakes the lulav with Rabbi Posen at Courtyard Village.

Mayor Charlie Hales visits our Sunday Parkway Sukkah themed booth.
In Memoriam

We mourn the recent loss of these cherished Neveh Shalom members:

**Roslyn Srebnik:** March 10, 1929 - September 3, 2015  Roslyn is survived by her sons Craig, Brad and Mark and one grandchild.

**Stanley Harold Perkel:** June 20, 1931 - September 5, 2015 - Stanley is survived by his wife Esther, children Lynn, Victoria, Richard and Steven, his brother Robert, 8 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

**Carol Haber:** March 28, 1932 - September 9, 2015 - Mother of Gordon (Meryl) Haber, Eric Haber (Tracy Reith) and Martha Claire Crittenden (Brian); sister of John and Thomas E. Lofgren; grandmother of two; and great-grandmother of one.

**Simon "Si" Newman:** August 6, 1930 - September 29, 2015 - Mr. Newman was 85 years old. Simon is survived by his brother, Jerry Newman (Dora), his 3 children, Roseanne Levi (Al), Marlene Newman Davis and Nanette Willhite (Bruce) and 5 grandchildren.

Yihi Zichram Baruch - Our condolences to CNS members who have recently lost loved ones

**June Martel (z”l),** dear Grandmother of Helene (Jaime) Wren and mother of Gary (Sheryl) Martel.

**Pierre Henrichsen (z”l),** dear father of Jon (Monica Brenner) Henrichsen and his brothers Mark, Cary, Paul and David and their spouses, and grandfather to Ethan and Eli Brenner along with numerous other grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**Sam Zarkin (z”l),** dear father of Marianne (Brian Scott) Zarkin

**Harris Rosenthal (z”l),** dear father of Eli (Chantal) Rosenthal

**Jean E. Konick (z”l),** beloved mother of our congregant Sarah (Ross) Coblens and Catherine Dunton, Larry (Karen) Konick, Debbie (Dave) Mehan and Bob (Robin) Konick, grandmother to seven and great-grandmother to three.
Out and about the hallways of CNS, our 2900 Peaceful correspondent Rick Hartoch asked: “Could you share with us a memory of Chanukah traditions?”

Charles and Jo Levy:
Charles remembers celebrating Chanukah as a child in Essaouira, Morocco where 500 children watched as only one menorah was lit. "Now every kid has one!" he chuckles. Jo smiles as she recalls her family’s annual non-stop 24 hour drive from Massachusetts to Florida. Her mom packed 144 kosher sandwiches for the family of 7 and they lit candles in their giant army tent on the beach!

Noam Firestone
Growing up, Chanukah was a fun celebration with singing, great food and dreidel. Since gift giving was not traditionally part of the holiday until recently, we never focused on presents. There are enough great things in Chanukah that gifts are not necessary and may take the focus away from the history and the holiday itself.

Eghbal Rostamian and Betty Nematinia
Growing up in Iran, Chanukah was a very minor holiday. We lit candles and spun dreidels but not much else. We were so surprised to see how Chanukah is celebrated in America, probably because it competes with Christmas!

Phil Kane
We are a Chanukah family! I celebrated my Bar Mitzvah on Shabbat Chanukah in a small store-front Orthodox synagogue in Brooklyn. The shul didn't have a name, we called it Rabbi Pikus' Shul. The language of the shul was Yiddish which none of us understood. Aside from that I had no formal Jewish education until my college years when I was exposed to the Conservative movement. My daughter in San Francisco celebrated her Bat Mitzvah on Shabbat Chanukah and hopefully my grandson will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on Shabbat Chanukah too!
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**Notes:**
- **Kadima Winter Kinnus**
- **Rosh Chodesh**
- **Veyechi**
- **Miketz - Chanukah**
- **Vayiqra**
- **5:00pm Talmud Class**
- **6:30pm Tichon/ALIYAH**
- **6:30pm Siddur Basics**
- **7:00pm Machon Ivrit**
- **7:30pm Hebrew for Prayer**
- **7:30pm Koleinu (choir) Rehearsal**
- **9:00am Morning Minyan**
- **9:15am Morning Minyan**
ONGOING

These classes have started but you can join in at any time:

Everyday Holiness with Natan Meir
Sundays, Oct. 4-Nov. 8, 9:15am-10:15am
This class focuses on giving contemporary Jews the tools we need to bring holiness into our daily lives through prayer and blessings. Each class will introduce blessings and prayers with an explanation of their meaning and their accompanying melodies. Free to Neveh Shalom members, $36 non members.

Hope & Healing: Jewish sources of comfort in times of crisis or transition. First Sunday each Month, 9:45am-10:45am
What can we turn to from Jewish tradition during death, divorce, or times of need? What are the unique prayers and traditions that help us face our fears? Led by Rabbi Eve Posen. Nov. 1, Dec. 6, Jan. 3, Feb. 7, Mar. 6, Apr. 3, May 1

Machon Ivrit
Hebrew Institute: Year-long course in Modern Hebrew. Whether you are new to Judaism or a lifelong learner who feels stuck in prayerbook repetition, parents keeping up with your kids, or teachers who want to raise your professional standards, we invite you to join Machon Ivrit!
October 13 through May 31, 7:00pm-9:15pm
$720/year for CNS members; $800 for non-members; financial aid available.

Hebrew for Prayer Year 1
Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30pm, Oct-May
Learn the 50 most commonly used words in the siddur—what they mean and how to recognize them—to increase your understanding of what we say when we pray. Taught by Deb Freedberg. $50 course materials fee.

Crash Course - Review of Hebrew Reading Skills
Wednesdays, 6:00pm-6:30pm
10 week course starting October 28th, taught by Deb Freedberg. Free to enrolled students, $36 material fee for others.

Hebrew for Prayer Year 2
Tuesdays, 7:30-8:30pm, Oct-May
For advanced learners or those who took Hebrew for Prayer last year! Understand what we say when we pray—an in-depth look at Hebrew vocabulary and construction of prayers and their meanings. Taught by Deb Freedberg. $50 course materials fee.

Siddur Basics
Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30pm, Oct-May
Join us to learn the Shabbat morning service. The course is divided into modules that last from 4-6 weeks. Each week we go through different parts of the service slow enough so that each class member can learn to recite the words. No more mumbling through services! Drop-ins welcome. Taught by Deb Freedberg. $50 course materials fee.

Trope: Learn to Leyn
Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30pm, Oct-May
This class is for those who want to learn to chant Torah and for those who want to improve their skills. We will learn the common trope patterns with an introduction to sentence structure, as well as the less common tropes. There will be time during each session for students to work on—and get help with—individual readings. Taught by Deb Freedberg. Prerequisite: Working knowledge of the Alef-Bet. $50 course material fee.

Women’s Torah Study
An uplifting hour of study on Shabbat! Delve into biblical and midrashic text, (Hebrew and English text available) with a group of other women to find meaning from our traditions that relate to our lives. All levels of experience welcome. Taught by Mel Berwin. Free.
Saturdays at 12:30 p.m. Dec. 19, Jan. 9, Feb. 13, Mar. 12, Apr. 9

STARTING THIS JANUARY:

Shalom for the Soul:
Jewish Wisdom for Stress Management
Wednesdays, 7:00pm-8:30pm
Americans are among the most stressed-out people in the world, with detrimental effects to our health and well-being. We might be busy, productive, and creative, but we also struggle with our every-day emotions, unhealthy behaviors, and a lack of balance in our lives. When extra stresses are added—crises like divorce, death of a loved one, family or financial challenges—these struggles are exacerbated.

JoAnn Bezodis has both personal and professional experience with family crisis and stress management. After catastrophe hit her home and family, she was trained in Dialectical Behavior Therapy, an evidence-based treatment that helps people cope with intense emotions and self-destructive behaviors, and she is currently completing a Master in Divinity focusing on Pastoral Care. She has deeply considered how Judaism, with its focus on life and health and balance, blends with the skills she has learned on her own life path.

In this six week course, participants will be introduced to the practice of DBT through a Jewish lens, and learn skills such as emotional regulation and stress tolerance, in order to create healthier habits and gain more life balance. Begins January 6. $36 course material fee.

To register or learn more contact:
Mel Berwin, 503.293.7306 mberwin@nevehshalom.org
JoAnn Bezodis, 503.293.7309 jbezodis@nevehshalom.org
An evening with Shoshana Bean
Q&A and musical performance

Don’t miss an evening with acclaimed singer, actress and songwriter Shoshana Bean! Best known for playing Elphaba in the Broadway musical Wicked.

Monday, November 30
7:00PM
Stampfer Chapel
Cong. Neveh Shalom, 2900 SW Peaceful Lane, 97239

Open to everyone
$8 suggested donation

Shoshana Bean’s independent solo releases have topped the iTunes R&B and Blues charts in the US and UK with the release of her latest EP Shadows to Light. Shoshana is a veteran of the Broadway stage having debuted in the original cast of Hairspray and starred as the very first replacement for Elphaba in Broadway’s Wicked. Most recently she appeared in the pre-Broadway production of the new musical Beaches as CeeCee Bloom. She sang back up for Michael Jackson for his 30th anniversary concert at Madison Square Garden and arranged vocals for Jennifer Lopez’s American Idol performance. Shoshana’s music has been featured in television shows on NBC, MTV, Oxygen and Showtime.

Shoshana is a Portland Native and celebrated her Bat Mitzvah at Congregation Neveh Shalom.

*Over the years young Portlanders have moved on and established a name for themselves in a wide variety of fields. This series will bring some of them back to Portland to share their insights in their respective areas.

Sponsored by:
Order your Sack Lunch from Neveh Shalom’s Sisterhood!

Take a break from preparing lunch for yourself and the kids one Sunday a month! Buy a sack lunch and support sisterhood’s fundraiser.

Sacks include: bagel and cream cheese (or peanut butter if wanted). Each month we will provide either a fruit or fruit cup, carrots, chips or cookies or another sweet treat and water or Milk. A side of Lox is provided for $2.

ONLY $5

Your name:__________________________________________________________

Email or phone number:______________________________________________

Dates that you want Sack Lunches:  ☑ Nov 15  ☑ Dec 13  ☑ Jan 17  ☐ Feb 7  ☑ Mar 13  ☑ Apr 10

How many Sack Lunches (per date)?_________

How many of each (per date):

_________Plain Bagel   _______Whole grain bagel

How many bagels with peanut butter instead of cream cheese _________

Side of Lox ($2 extra) _______

Choice of water _______or milk _______

Your Total $_________

Please provide sisterhood with Cash or Check, you may leave it or send it in with this form at the Neveh Shalom office - hand in form by Wednesday before the designated Sack Lunch day.

For more information contact: Dana Sirkin otrbanana@frontier.com or Catherine Hartoch csaunderssiam@yahoo.com

*Sisterhood is a service organization that uses their funds for support of the religious school, and have provided funds for the Break-the-Fast and for the renovation of the kitchen.
Come hang out in your jammies! (adults too)

Havdalah in Pajamas with Rabbi Eve Posen

Join friends for dinner, Havdalah, crafts and a milk and cookie story time!

Saturday
December 12th
5:30PM

Birnbach Hall, Congregation Neveh Shalom
$12 Adults, $7 kids, $42 max per family

RSVP online: http://tinyurl.com/pjhavdec
Or e-mail kwilkins@nevehshalom.org

Sponsored by