

THE CHRONICLE

OF CONGREGATION NEVEH SHALOM

FOR WE WERE STRANGERS...

EXPLORING OUR BONDS TO IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

WE WERE
STRANGERS TOO

GRATEFUL

WELCOMING STRANGERS

CNS MEMBERS HELPING
THE ROHINGYA

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Who's a Nothing Now?

Rabbi's Corner

By Rabbi David Kosak

Featured among the treasury of enduring Jewish humor is the story of a rabbi who stands in front of the ark on Yom Kippur, exclaiming, "I am nothing, I am worthless." After a moment, the cantor ascends to the ark and also cries out, "Oh God, I am worthless, before you I am nothing." Moved by this display, the synagogue president hurries to the ark and shouts out, "I am nothing, oh God, nothing at all." Watching the president's display, the cantor and rabbi look at one another, roll their eyes and in unison mutter, "Look who thinks they're nothing now?!"

It's a great joke; at least when the punchline is delivered well, with the proper tone of superiority, it can bring the house down. Part of its success is its delicious sense of irony. Those who claim they are nothing hold their inferiority as a mark of superiority and accomplishment, and in a wry way deny the president the same opportunity of being a nobody.

There is a branch of Jewish spiritual practice which is concerned with *bitul hayesh*, or the art of selflessness by which one's awareness is subsumed in God consciousness. But that aside, **this is a joke that could only come from a people versed in powerlessness.** We have been a nation in exile, whose well-being for so long depended on the tolerance and acceptance of the host culture. Jews mastered the art of self-abnegation as a survival strategy. I just can't imagine a majority religion telling this joke, let alone really getting it.

And then there's our Torah. It commands us to identify with the widow, the orphan and the immigrant *36 times* "be-

cause you were slaves in the land of Egypt." No other *mitzvah* appears as often. This is serious business in other words.

It's one thing to be powerless, but it's another thing entirely to venerate our experience and to hear a commanding voice instructing us to identify with the newly powerless. The Torah is unequivocal in its demand that we exercise our moral imagination and our empathic capacities to link our history with the fate of society's undesirables. What's more, this *mitzvah* compels us precisely when we are not an orphan, widow or stranger. It speaks to us from our status as insiders.

The Torah is concerned that once we become landed and well-off that we will lose our ethical compass and our cultural sensitivity. We will become estranged from the purpose of our own history. Phrased differently, this appears the rare case when our very realistic tradition demands that we act prophetically rather than practically. The prophetic always entails risk—sometimes great risk.

Over the past four years, I have given several *divrei torah* on immigration from a Jewish lens, both here and in Cleveland. I have spoken and corresponded with many congregants on this issue. All four of our rabbis signed on to a letter one year ago; we wanted to send it out to the congregation urging us to become a sanctuary community. Knowing that many parents would worry if we housed refugees within the synagogue, the concept was that individual households would provide temporary shelter to immigrants in need. I vetted it with



some of our attorneys who worried about our exposure. After much internal struggle, I reluctantly let myself be swayed, although there are churches in town who have found their way past liability concerns to actively house people. Instead of that greater commitment on our part, a small, dedicated group of volunteers decided to make care packages and provide relief for refugees in quieter ways. Sometimes the smaller gesture is all a community can muster. Or perhaps this is a case where I abdicated my duty as a religious leader.

Two final thoughts:

A few weeks back, I caught an interesting podcast by an economic biologist. She wanted to understand why an otherwise rational species, ours, often acts irrationally in money matters. Most of

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We Were Strangers Too

Rabbi's Corner

By Rabbi Eve Posen

One of my favorite pastimes is hearing stories about families and their ancestry. When I was very young, I learned that we have the family tree on my maternal grandmother's side dating back to 1492 and the Spanish Inquisition, when the name was changed to Auslander. With that kind of history, there's plenty to tell about my great-great-grandparents and how my family came to America. I also take pride in knowing that my husband's family owned the first kosher bakery in Dallas. For me, knowing where I've come from helps me find my place in our world today.

The Torah reminds us that family history is an important piece in completing the puzzle of our lives. So many times the Torah teaches us that we do something because "you were strangers in the land of Egypt." While I wasn't actually there, I'm sure my family knew what it was like to be strangers when they were ousted from Spain, a part of history which certainly helped determine that I would be

here today to talk about it. And I am most definitely fortunate to have had the opportunity to ask my grandparents about this history personally.

At the end of the Torah, we read Moshe's final poem to the Israelite people. In it he reminds the people of God's grace, compassion, and loving leadership, while at the same time criticizing the Israelites for their lack of faith and understanding. In this poem we read, "Remember the days of old, / Consider the years of ages past; / Ask your father, he will inform you, / Your elders, they will tell you." As Moshe is moving towards his final farewell to the people, he implores them to ask their elders to clarify laws and to share their stories. Remember, you were the stranger. Remember your obligation to help others.

We often think of this mitzvah at Pesach when the story of the Israelites in Egypt is fresh in our mind, but Moshe and God in our parshah tell us that once a year is simply not enough. In order for our peo-



ple — and our families — to continue to move forward, we must regularly teach the past. We must be reminded of our obligation not only to educate our children, but also to love and embrace the stranger, who just might be trying to do the same.

Who's a Nothing Now? *continued from Page 3*

us would rather avoid losing five dollars than gain ten dollars. That's how our brains are wired. Loss-thinking about it, worrying about it, let alone experiencing it—is far more powerful than considering a greater profit. It leads us to make bad fiscal decisions. When we think about refugees, I suspect the potential downside captures our imagination far more readily than the upside. We imagine the worst, despite a wealth of studies which

indicate how much more immigrant communities contribute than cost.

There's an argument I've heard from fellow Jews, particularly as it applies to Muslim refugees. Namely, they are not like we were when we were fleeing Europe. No one could have imagined that Jews posed a threat. We were too abject, or well-behaved, or hard-working or 'fill in the blank' of your choice.

Of course, that's not historically accurate. Anyone who remembers the ship, the MS St. Louis, filled with Jews fleeing the Nazis, knows that it was turned away from US shores. To an American eye in those days, what was visible was a boatload of loss. And all I can think about when well-intentioned, kind, and caring people make that sort of argument about Muslim refugees is, "look who thinks they're an immigrant now."

Updates from Steve

President's Corner

By Stephen Blake

Did you “Get Your Game On”? If not, you missed a fantastic evening. On Saturday, January 27 CNS held its annual auction. This year’s theme celebrated sports and was chaired by Mia Birk and Glen Coblens. They and their committee did an excellent job of putting together an entertaining and financially successful event, netting over \$80,000. Guests had a great time, you could feel the positive energy in the room, and many of us bid on a huge assortment of items. This annual event is a critical component of our annual budget. A successful evening like this helps assure that we are able to continue to offer the wide variety of programs and events that make Congregation Neveh Shalom the wonderful place that it is.

One of our congregation’s greatest assets is our educational program. The other day, as I was leaving our synagogue, I happened to be following a mother who was picking up her young son, approximately three years old, from Foundation School. As they were leaving, he was bubbling over about all of the things they had done in school that day. His energy level was infectious and you could clearly see the joy in his mother’s eyes.

He is one of about 350 children who participate in one of our educational programs. Currently there are over 100 preschoolers, ages 12 months to five years, attending Foundation School. There are 172 children enrolled in our ALIYAH K-6th grade program and another 75 students in our Tichon (High School) program. The Foundation School is aptly named. It lays the foundation upon which learning can build. The youngest students begin with pre-literacy teaching. As they get older, they work on developing fine motor skills, letter and number recognition and social interaction. All of this is accomplished within a Jewish framework.

To quote Mel Berwin, Director of Congregational Learning, “The ALIYAH program helps students feel at home in Judaism.” This is achieved through not only teaching Hebrew reading and prayer skills, but also through a range of classes and electives. Many of our students continue their Jewish education through participation in our TICHON (High School) program. This program meets on Wednesday evenings and keeps our students involved in Jewish learning and social life. The students are also given the opportunity to participate in leading services and have the opportunity



to interact with older congregants through our Mensches and Mavens program.

It is inspiring to see these children who represent Judaism now and in the generations to come. We should be very proud of these programs that draw so many young people into our building. There is something going on every day.

The future is bright for Neveh Shalom and our Portland Jewish community!

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Grateful

By Cantor Eyal Bitton

Cantor's Corner

My parents are both immigrants. My mother's parents were both Germans who, before they knew each other, fled their place of birth at the start of World War II and ended up in London, England, where they met, got married, and started a family. In the early 1950s, they came by boat to Canada, moved to Ste. Agathe, Quebec, and then, a few years later, to Montreal. My maternal grandmother's parents were executed in Tarnow, Poland, and only one of her siblings survived — one sister died of illness, one brother was beaten to death for being a Jew, and one sister and her family died at Auschwitz.

Due to increased anti-Jewish hostility in Morocco, my father's parents left the city of Marrakech in 1959. There was more and more mob violence towards Jews throughout the country, and it was impossible for Jews to get visas. My grandfather, Nissim Bitton, was a tailor. He made suits for a few powerful people who were able to procure a "flying visa." This was a separate piece of paper that did not appear on a passport. My grandparents and their children went "on vacation" to France, where it was permitted to travel. Once there, they showed their "flying visa" and

were able to get on a plane to Canada. They moved to another French-speaking city, Montreal. (My grandparents found it far too cold, and a few years later, they and a few of their children wisely moved to Miami!) Were they immigrants or refugees? Semantics.

My father arrived in Montreal for his last year of high school and then went to university to become an electrical engineer. While his father had been a successful tailor in Marrakech and had his own store making suits, in Montreal they struggled. As a result, my father went to work during the day and went to university at night for a couple of years until he could afford to go full time. He recalls applying for a job in Montreal, being told he was the best candidate and had the position, and then, upon the employer learning my father was Jewish, not being given the job.

Nevertheless, the anti-Semitism both families encountered in Canada was still a better option than the lives they had left. My mother left England, yes, but her parents were actually leaving the scars of Nazi Europe. In Canada at least, their lives were not in danger.

I have a good life. This life I have — this



GOOD LIFE I have — is thanks to the courage both sets of my grandparents displayed in surviving and escaping danger. My maternal grandmother has described the day she received her visa for England as the happiest and the saddest day of her life; she knew she'd live, but she knew she'd never see her parents again. May I, my daughter, and all my descendants, never know such joy or sadness. Thanks to my grandparents' and my parents' immigrant experiences, I understand and cherish the value of my freedom, my identity as a Jew, and my ability to pursue my passions and dreams. I am grateful.

Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah



Maya Schwartz – March 3

Maya is the daughter of Talia and Gregory Schwartz, big sister to Nina and Leo, and granddaughter to Bracha Loren, and Ann and Steve Schwartz. She is a talented 7th grader at Ashbrook Independent School, where she enjoys all subjects, particularly English and Math. Maya dances ballet at Corvallis Academy of Ballet, is a member of the Willamette Apprentice Ballet, and plays the French Horn in the Junior Honors Symphony. Maya's kind nature, loyalty, and sense of humor is greatly appreciated by her friends and family. Mazel tov to Maya on all her accomplishments and hard work!



Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah



Ariana Ross – March 10

Ariana Ross is the daughter of Barry and Dena Ross, and sister to Maia and Aidan. Proud grandparents are Alan and Judith Wilensky of Mercer Island, WA, and Michael and Benita Ross of Dedham, MA. Ariana is a 7th Grader at Portland Jewish Academy. She loves reading, the visual arts, animals and Taekwondo (she's a second degree black belt). Adjectives used by her siblings and other family members to describe her: artistic, caring, diligent, creative, smart, curious, determined, and passionate.



Moses Peet – March 17

Moses Peet is the son of proud parents Abby Guyer and Eric Peet, and older brother to Gemma. He is the grandson of Sheila and Martin (z"l), Guyer and Charlotte Harrison, and Gene Peet (z"l), who would have celebrated his 71st birthday on Moses' bar mitzvah date. Moses is a funny, good-natured 7th grader at Mt. Tabor Middle School, where he plays percussion in the band and basketball on the Mt. Tabor Eagles. He is a talented skateboarder who loves sports, hanging out with his many friends, traveling to warm locations, fishing with his dad, and going to Camp Solomon Schechter.



Serena Daphne Song – April 14

Serena Daphne Song is the daughter of Sally Segel and Howard Song, sister to Derek and Jonah Song, and granddaughter to Nathan and Esme Segel, and Kim and Han Song. Serena is a 7th grader at the Oregon Episcopal School. She loves playing soccer, playing the piano, spending time with friends, and watching movies. Mazel tov to Serena on becoming a bat mitzvah and for all of her hard work and dedication!



Rachel Bourne – April 21

Rachel Bourne is the daughter of Tricia and Dave Bourne and granddaughter to Linda and Ken Bourne (Sherwood, OR) and Sharron and Joseph Mayer (Jacksonville, FL). Rachel is a busy 7th grader at Portland Public School's Odyssey Program, where she is performing in *Twelfth Night* in this year's 6,7,8th grade school play. Her passion is art and writing, and she loves to combine the two into short novels and comic strips. In the past year, she's gotten very involved in producing her own animation shorts. She loves to create! Rachel also enjoys swimming and paddleboarding with friends, and is getting to be quite the skier.



Maxwell Blauer – April 28

Max is the son of Felicia Blauer and Jeffrey Blauer, and the younger brother of Sophie and Ben. He is the grandson of Judy and Stan Blauer (Portland, OR), and Frances and Harlan Steffe (Gilbert, AZ). Max is an active 7th grader at Lake Oswego Junior High. He's a basketball enthusiast and loves to play on his competitive club Team Fly, enjoys skateboarding, summer water activities, and golf. Max is known for his sense of humor and compassion towards others. In his spare time, he enjoys hanging out with his friends and playing video games. Max has always loved BB Camp and is looking forward to spending his eighth year with his camp friends. Mazel tov Max!

Welcoming Strangers:

From Avraham and Sarah, to Noam Firestone, to Kitah Bet

By Mel Berwin, Director of Congregational Learning

Each year, our 2nd graders in Kitah Bet learn the stories of *Breshit* (Genesis) from ALIYAH teacher Noam Firestone. Beginning with Avraham and Sarah, they focus on the narratives of leaving home, setting out on new adventures, overcoming challenges, family struggles, and welcoming strangers or being strangers ourselves in new lands.

Noam brings his love of history to these narratives, and often has the kids act out the stories, making a big tent out of rugs and blankets, providing costumes for them to dress up as Avraham and Sarah, and experiencing the feeling of being welcomed, as strangers, with food and drink.

The 2nd graders move through *Breshit*, covering Joseph's entry to Egypt, the famine that came over the land of Israel, and the dramatic escape from Egypt after generations of slavery.

As they learn about the stories of our ancestors, they create a family tree showing the lineage of the first generations of the Israelites. At the same time, they create their own beautiful family trees, using fingerprints in ink to represent the

leaves of the trees and all of the family members they know or have learned about from their own families.

The theme of family stories doesn't end there. Each 2nd-grade student is tasked with learning one of their own family stories. We invite their families and other older members of our congregation to come share these family stories on a given Sunday morning, this year on February 11. As each person tells their story, students connect the themes of adversity, resilience, immigration, oppression, and starting over in new places to the stories of *Breshit*. In the biggest picture, we are telling the story of the Jewish people, and the miracle of our survival throughout the generations and across many lands.

Noam says that he tries to emphasize the idea of Diaspora: "We talk about the diaspora in context of Biblical stories as well as Chanukah. It's inspiring to realize that despite all of the times we've been kicked out of countries where we've lived, we're still here."

Stories from *Eretz Yisrael* and *Mitzrayim* (Israel and Egypt) resonate with Noam on a personal level. When he was 5 years old, his family moved to Israel for a year, and in high school, they moved to Egypt for a year. His father, Rabbi Reuven Firestone, a professor at Hebrew Union College, was working on a project on Judaism and Islam. He spent the year in Cairo working with a Koranic scholar. His mother, Ruth Sohn, also a rabbi, wrote a book about their year in Egypt called *Crossing Cairo*. Noam moved back to Israel as a young adult and spent a year in Jerusalem during the second intifada in 2000-2001.

When asked about his experience of being a Jewish-American teen in Egypt,



Ava Gottheiner (2nd grade)
holding up her family tree

he said: "The general culture was super welcoming. If you asked for directions on the street, they'd close up shop and take you personally to where you wanted to be. But on the other hand, I was told not to tell people I was Jewish. My brother and I were the only Jews ever to step into the school. Eventually a friend who was half Egyptian and half American asked if I was Jewish. I hesitated to answer and then went ahead and told him. So then everyone knew. At home, we closed our shades to light Shabbat candles. It was uncomfortable, for sure. And there was a disconnect between the obvious culture of welcoming and knowing that because of my particular heritage I had to hide."

For our students, connecting their own stories to the stories that came before them, whether a generation ago or thousands of years before, helps them see their own part in the long chain of our tradition, the miracle of our survival, and the obligation to be welcoming when someone else feels like a stranger in our land.



ALIYAH Teacher Noam Firestone

CNS Teens Support Portland Lawyer Who Dedicates Her Expertise to the Most Downtrodden

By Jenn Director Knudsen



Cheryl Coon with clients at Refugee Adjustment Day

In Oregon, one in 10 residents is an immigrant, according to the American Immigration Council. Our state — and Portland, in particular — also is home to refugees, people fleeing unimaginable hardships like war, persecution, and natural disasters.

Last year, some CNS teens involved in the Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation (OJCYP) heard a presentation about the many needs of our city's newest residents. The high schoolers were so moved by the information provided by *Refugee Disability Benefits of Oregon (RDBO), they recommended that the OJCYP support it.

As a result, the OJCYP granted \$2000 to establish RDBO's Community Navigator program, said Sonia-Marie Leikam, OJCYP's collaborative giving program coordinator. OJCYP is overseen by the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, whose executive director is CNS member **Julie Diamond**.

Neveh Shalom's **Derek Song** and **Matt Zola** were among those who supported the grant. Now a college freshman, Zola reflects that, "Over the course of last year,

one thing that our OJCYP instructors taught us was that we can make a bigger difference in the community if we focus on teaching other youth to give back to their community."

He added, "Our hope is that these youth will grow up and continue to serve their communities, which multi-

plies the benefit we can provide. **As Jews, we also can closely identify with refugee and immigrant groups.**"

The mind behind and person at the helm of RDBO is local Jewish lawyer Cheryl Coon.

Coon, RDBO's executive director, says she is motivated by two of Judaism's central social-justice tenets. "My work is so intrinsically of a Jewish undertaking," Coon said from her downtown Portland RDBO office. "It's about *tikkun olam* — repairing the world — and helping the stranger." She added, "Most of my Muslim clients have never met a Jew before. ... I talk with them about *tikkun olam*, and they share what they thought about Jews. I see the transformative power of that one encounter."

Coon, 65, is a member of Kol Shalom and a career lawyer. She left the for-profit world of law in June 2016 to dedicate herself full time to her nonprofit, which she believes is the only one of its kind in the entire country. RDBO assists the neediest refugees and immigrants — those with disabilities, whether physical, emotional, or both.

Coon said these are the foreign downtrodden who are the last to seek — or even be capable of seeking — government assistance. And yet, these people are the most impacted by traumatic circumstances like kidnap, rape, and torture in the countries they've fled. She has story after story to illustrate her point.

Coon tells of an uneducated Rohingya woman — a member of Myanmar's Muslim minority who many around the globe believe are targets of an extermination campaign — who arrived here at age 24 after suffering rape, witnessing her brother's and parents' murders, and living in a refugee camp. "Though it may seem unbelievable [that] these people are turned down for help," reports Coon, referring to RDBO's 130 clients (a number on the rise), "they are."

She tells a personal story, too, illustrating her professional passion: When 8, her family relocated from L.A. to a foreign country. They were rejected from some of their desired spots. Why? Because they were Jewish. That seminal experience, coupled with witnessing poverty "unlike anything I'd ever imagined" when traveling through China at age 10, inform Coon's work to this day.

How can you help local immigrants and refugees? RDBO needs volunteers — for example, accompanying clients during visits to Social Security Administration offices — and always seeks financial support. To find out how you can give of your time or resources, visit rdbo.org, or contact Coon directly at cheryl@rdbo.org or (971) 270-0755.

**RDBO is soon changing its name to Refugee and Immigrant Services and Empowerment (RISE) to more accurately reflect its work and clientele.*

Never is Now

A Look at What CNS Members are Doing and Can Do to Help the Rohingya and Other Refugees

By Debra Shein

They're outsiders. They don't really belong here. They're inferior. They're non-human beings. It's their fault that all of the bad things going on in our country are happening.

That's how it began, with cruel slanders and misinformation. First they were robbed of their rights of citizenship. They lost their jobs. Then the ruling dictatorship started to drive them from their homes, set fire to their villages and places of worship, murdered children in front of their mothers, raped and pillaged, forced them into concentration camps.

Is this a description of the fate of Europe's Jews under the Nazi regime? No. The time is now. The people being persecuted and slaughtered are the

Rohingya of Myanmar/Burma. Close to three-quarters of a million people have been displaced since the fall of last year (2017), and many have been brutally murdered. Most of those who have managed to escape are living in primitive conditions in camps in Bangladesh where food is in short supply, latrines pollute the only available drinking water, and a diphtheria epidemic is raging. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has described the crisis as "a humanitarian and human rights nightmare."

What should be the Jewish response?

The answer to that question was addressed in late January at an event held at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education (OJMCHE), jointly sponsored by the **Never Again Coalition (of which Neveh Shalom is a part), founded and led by CNS member Lauren Fortgang**; the Oregon Board of Rabbis; OJMCHE; and the Holocaust and Genocide Studies Project at Portland State University. Speakers included Rabbi Joshua Rose of Congregation Shaarie Torah, Rabbi Debra Kolodny of Portland's UnShul, Holocaust sur-

vivor Evelyn Banko, and photojournalist John Rudoff, who shared the stage with representatives of the community of nearly 1,000 Rohingyans now living in

The Never Again Coalition is Portland's response to genocide and other crimes against humanity.

Portland: Yusuf Iqbal and Mohammed Hussein Ali of Americans for Rohingya (afrusa.org); Reza Uddin of Friends of Rohingya (friendsofrohingya.org); and Portland Community College students Ali Yusef and Yazmin Amin.

According to Evelyn Banko, who fled Vienna as a child in 1940, the parallels between the treatment of the Jews under Hitler and the treatment of the Rohingya today are striking. "They're repeating the same falsehoods used against Jews during the Second World War," she averred, "and we should not stand idly by." As put by Rabbi Rose, "There is a moral emergency unfolding in our world, and all human beings have an obligation to see that it ends." As Jews, he reminded the audience, we have the obligation to *lilmod* and *lelamed*, learn and teach. It's important that we raise our voices and not remain silent.

And the audience did learn. Iqbal recounted how the Rohingya, a native people of the historical region of Arakan, now in Myanmar, were purpose-



Reza Uddin distributing food and clothing on a humanitarian trip to Bangladesh.



Lauren Fortgang (NAC co-founder), Rudwan Dawod (Sudanese American recently released from prison in Sudan), and Diane Koosed (NAC co-founder)

fully marginalized under the regime of General Ne Win beginning in 1962, and increasingly persecuted, leading to the slaughter of thousands and the forced displacement of hundreds of thousands in 2017. Ali, whose wife and 12 family members remain in a refugee camp in Bangladesh, pled with his listeners to “take immediate steps, for if not my community will sink down in the water.” Rudolf showed photos of the camp, taken during his recent visit, where Ali’s family and all of the others reside in densely-packed, tarpaulin-covered bamboo huts and are “completely dependent on humanitarian aid” for survival.

The Never Again Coalition (neveragaincoalition.org), is Portland’s response to genocide and other crimes against humanity. Originally formed close to ten years ago to address the crisis in Darfur, it evolved from the Darfur Committee established at Neveh Shalom under the inspiration of Rabbi Greenstein and his wife Sarah. Its job is to teach, to raise awareness of such crises throughout the world, and to advocate for both local and national legislation leading to their resolution. It “refuses to be silent as the world’s silence is allowing these tragedies to happen.”

Other crisis situations it addresses are those in Sudan, South Sudan, and the Congo. Members of a number of Portland congregations participate, and it is actively supported by Havurah Shalom and Kol Shalom as well as by CNS. **Mel and Elaine Ball**, who had previously established a memorial fund for their son Robbie at CNS, dedicated it to funding the organization.

Lauren Fortgang, who along with her husband Andy, owns two local restaurants, Le Pigeon and Little Bird Cafe (with a new cafe and wine bar, Canard — “duck” in French, soon to open), started her career as a pastry chef and now dedicates her time to Never Again. She emphasizes that although “people might not know what they can lend to a group, because we have so many different things going on, there’s a way for anyone with any skills to get involved and help out.” She and CNS member **Dale Oller**, a psychiatrist by profession who has also been involved with Never Again since its inception, went to Washington DC in February to attend the Lemkin Summit to End Genocide and Mass Atrocities. In conjunction with the conference, they met with representatives on Capitol Hill to advocate for legislation to help ameliorate the Rohingya crisis.

In February, Never Again also sponsored its fifth annual Chocolate for Congo, in which 13 local restaurants served desserts made with Congolese chocolate and donated a share of the proceeds to help alleviate the suffering of the many impoverished and violence-plagued people of that nation. Other Never Again projects include advocating for limit-

ing government purchases of electronics, etc., to companies that are “conflict mineral free.” The organization is also a sponsor of upcoming film screenings and public lectures on topics related to their work (see sidebar for details).

What can CNS members do to help?

- Join Never Again’s “Postcard Brigade” For a contribution of only \$5 per person per month, Never Again will send several pre-addressed and pre-stamped postcards each month with timely messages for leaders who can make a difference. Members can also help pass crucial legislation. Learn more at neveragaincoalition.org.
- Contribute to the Robbie Ball Memorial Fund for Darfur or to a partner organization.
- Attend an upcoming event (see page 18)
- Make a gift through Neveh Shalom or to a Never Again partner such as Jewish World Watch or i-ACT. You can also donate directly to Friends of Rohingya or Americans for Rohingya.
- Participate in Never Again Coalition meetings. Contact Lauren Fortgang to find out more: neveragaincoalition@gmail.com.
- Stay informed; tell others about what you learn.

Continued on page 18



What Does Judaism Say About Refugees? What Can We Do to Help?



By Michelle Imori-Goldenberg

When I started pondering the question of who were the first refugees, I began to wonder if the first refugees were Adam and Eve, or perhaps Abraham? Our forebears in the Torah were forced to leave the lands in which they were born, but were they refugees? I turned to the dictionary for help and found that a refugee is “a person who has been forced to leave their country to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.” That being the case, it’s clear that Abraham and his family are among the first refugees described in the Torah.

Therefore, it is not surprising that when we received the law at Mt. Sinai, we were instructed on how to behave towards refugees. All humans were created *b’tselem elokim*, in the image of *Hashem* (Genesis 1:26). Leviticus teaches us not to taunt foreigners who live among us and to treat them as natives living in our midst. We are to leave the corners of our fields, the gleanings of our harvest, the twigs from our vines, and the fallen fruit for the poor and for refugees (foreigners). Furthermore, we are obligated to provide refuge and shelter for those who have escaped slavery and oppression.

We are also mandated to create cities of refuge, and the Talmud dictates that the roads to these cities must be *twice* the width of a public road. Maimonides asserts that the court

must maintain these roads and remove all obstacles so as not to delay the refugee.

As individuals and as a *k’hilah*, *Hashem* calls upon us to help the refugee as we were provided for when we left Egypt. Here are a few ways that others have been helping, and opportunities to join in:

- Members of Neveh Shalom participate in the Never Again Coalition which responds to genocide and other crimes against humanity (there is an article on that organization on pages 10-11).
- Neveh Shalom also aids the Refugee Care Collective (RCC). For Sukkot we collected items for “restart kits” containing all of the items a refugee family would need to turn a house into a home. From sheets and towels to toilet paper and a welcome mat, the collection was quite complete! We plan to do this again next Sukkot. In addition, Dana Sirkin of Neveh Shalom has knit beautiful hats and scarves for the RCC and has now gathered a group of Neveh Shalom knitters who join her. Their garments were delivered in January. To participate in either the restart kit campaign or the knitting group, contact the CNS office.
- The Refugee Care Collective trains interested volunteers to work as family mentors or ESL tutors. Email Megan Tragethon, Executive Director, for more info about that or ways to contribute financially (megan@refugeecarecollective.org).
- Rabbi Debra Kolodny of Portland’s UnShul is working with Portland United Against Hate (PUAH), which has assisted refugees. She can be reached at rabbiDebra@asthespiritmovesus.com.
- Havurah Shalom is also helping refugees in the Portland area. They have partnered with Catholic Charities to become “cultural navigators,” have hosted refugee families, and have provided rental assistance. They, too, work with the Never Again Coalition. More information can be found on their website.
- Nationally, there is the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS). Visit HIAS.org to learn about this organization which has been aiding refugees since 1881.



Hats knitted by Dana Sirkin for Refugee Care Kits

Please Consider: To Praise, to Labor and to Love

Are you an
Upstander or
a Bystander?

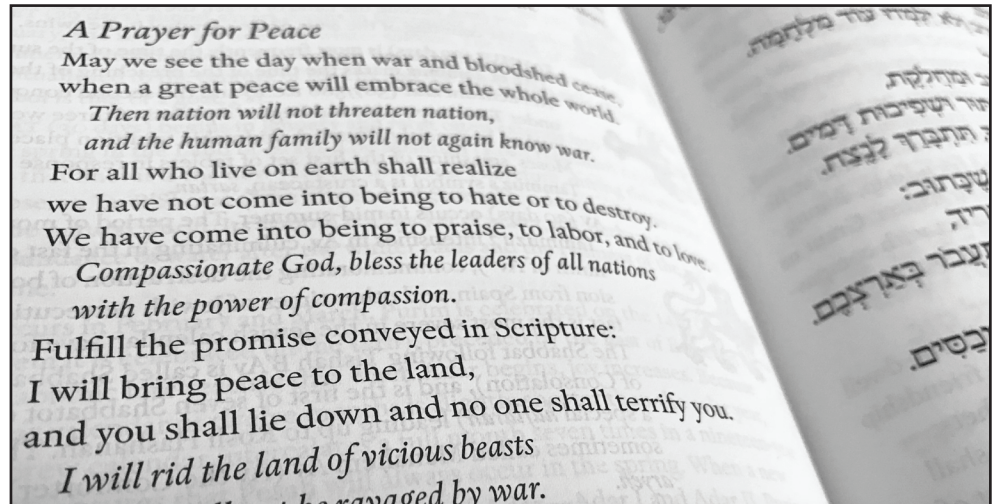
By Sarah Rohr

In the opinion of many great poets, rabbis, healers, and scholars, the holiest act is to see the divine in another, and in oneself at the same time. Particularly when people are feeling broken, scared, hurting, ailing, the greatest thing we can give is to see our own wholeness and their wholeness and to see how *HaShem* animates us all. It's a hard-won skill, to look for the sacred in another, particularly those who trigger us, whether in annoyance or raw hatred, but it's a worthy skill to cultivate.

In the "Prayer for Peace" (in *Siddur Sim Shalom* pg. 149, and in our new prayer book *Siddur Lev Shalem* pg. 178), the lines that sting me the most are, "For all who live on earth shall realize we have not come into being to hate or to destroy. We have come into being **to praise, to labor, and to love.**" What does that actually mean on a pragmatic level? The way I've heard it translated, that resonates the most, is that we must train our minds to actively seek out the good, true, and authentic expressions in ourselves and in others. This is not a Pollyanna notion; this is a fundamental guiding principle that is sewn into the fabric of our tradition. To praise, to labor, to love.

We must turn around, and standing, we must say Kaddish with our whole hearts, for the Egyptians, as the sea returns and we are standing on the shores of trembling, tentative freedom, while we are looking on and mourning our former neighbors taken down by the waters of life.

This particular kind of freedom is a 'not free yet' variety; the Israelites have no idea where they are headed. It is not a 'joyous, we won, prevailed, and have



"A Prayer for Peace" from Siddur Lev Shalem

charted our course' sort of freedom. It is a 'we are not free yet, we are still looking over our shoulder,' version of freedom.

Hillel said, "That which is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow. That is the whole Torah; the rest is the explanation; go and learn."

Who are those archetypal Israelites from the Torah standing on the shores of tentative freedom, in our own Torah of daily life? For me, those Israelites are the Dreamers, are the Muslim Americans who are looking over their shoulders saying, "Am I really free here? Are we safe? Are our children and grandchildren safe?" That our neighbors are having to evaluate their fundamental safety is unacceptable.

I will not stand idly by. Will you? **Are you an Upstander or a Bystander?**

Our ancient ancestors and immigrant kin alike are whispering through the veil, "Remember, please remember, how hard we worked to get here. Remember that when you hear 'chain migration,' it means families that were separated

coming back together. Please don't stop working on behalf of those immigrants who are currently facing the great forgetting of all of our origins. America, you are a mutt, remember? A charming mutt, but a mutt nonetheless."

At our Seder tables this year, may we honor and call in our neighbors who have arrived here seeking shelter. Not too long ago that was us. At a subatomic level, it still is us. To praise, to labor, and to love is to wake ourselves from the sense of powerlessness that can overtake our ability to think and act in the face of fear. Every year we are tasked with retelling the tale of the Exodus and linking it to our own present reality of who is living under that looming sense of oppression.

How can we as free people help? We can trade rhetoric, find moral high ground, parade around, or we can remember that the psychic journey from Egypt to Israel is a life's work, one that involves and requires our full, wholehearted, and active participation. No matter what our age or ability, we have a voice. We have privilege and agency, and must use them.

Member News

Kvell With Us

Mazel tov to Karen and Robert Metter on the birth of their first grandson, **Joshua Elijah**.



ALIYAH teacher and congregant Sarah Rohr sharing stories about Martin Luther King Jr. during the MLK Day of Service for Preschoolers community event on Monday, January 15. Rabbi Eve Posen

also shared a story. The event was organized and put on by PJ Library.

Mazel tov to Vicki and Alan Rotstein on the engagement of their daughter, **Hosia**, to **Andrew Keene**, son of **Nancy and Ronald Keene** of Portland, OR. The two became engaged October 15, 2017. They are planning a September 2018 wedding.

Thank you to Karen Wilkins, Tracey Riha, and Noah, Callie, Elijah and Samara Barish who have joined **Rabbi Kosak** for his *Soup to the Streets* program. After cooking and preparing soup and sandwiches, they delivered the food to three different homeless camps, serving over 200 people. Thank you to Jack Kauppila of Hobo Bread for donating all of the bread used to make the sandwiches.

Mazel tov to Mira Katz, daughter of **Amy and Jeff Katz**, and **Izzy Levy**, daughter of **Jo and Charles Levy**, on their election to positions on the International General Board of USY (United Synagogue Youth)! We're proud that they'll represent our chapter, Portland Rishonim, and our region, Pinwheel, internationally!

Mazel tov to Manny Berman on his recent retirement as President and CEO of Tuality Healthcare.

Mazel tov to Duncan Gilman on his new endeavor with Loudmouth Projects. Check him out at www.loudmouthprojects.com.

Thank you to everyone who contributed warm clothing and feminine hygiene products to Transition Projects for people dealing with homelessness. They were very appreciative. FYI, they indicated that there is a need especially for undergarments, including pants and socks. The bin for dropping off donations is in the admin lobby. Thank you to Dana Sirkin for being the lead on this project!



Mazel tov to recording artist and Broadway star (*Hairspray* and *Wicked*) Shoshana Bean as she celebrates the release of her fourth and newest album, *Spectrum*. She will be performing a benefit concert

for the art programs at her alma mater, Beaverton High School, on Wednesday, March 21. Shoshana is the daughter of member **Felice Moskowitz** and the niece of **Marci and Riley Atkins & Geri and Stuart Luxenberg**. She had her bat mitzvah at CNS in 1990. For a full description of the evening and ticket information, visit: <https://www.tickettomato.com/event/5367>.

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

Our condolences to Stephanie (John Sheldon) Arnheim, whose dear mother, **Nancy Arnheim (z"l)**, passed away on Friday, December 15th in Los Angeles, CA.

Our condolences to Arleen Zucker, whose dear mother, **Vivian Genser, z"l**, passed away on the morning of December 22.

Our condolences to Dennis (Susie) Steinberg on the passing of his beloved mother, **Bernice Brown, z"l**.

Our condolences to Lawrence (Naomi) Fink on the passing of his beloved father, **Harvey Fink, z"l**.

We regret to have to inform you of the passing of Dorothy Strull (z"l), beloved wife of **Eugene Strull**, mother of **Sandy (Harvey) Platt** and **Jackie Strull**, grandmother to **Jennifer (Averill Hovey) Platt** and **Melissa Platt**, and great grandmother to **Avi**.

We regret to have to inform you of the passing of our dear congregant, Alfred Furie (z"l), beloved husband of **Carol** and father of **JoAnn Eden**, **Betty (Dennis) Paulsen**, and **Linda Furie**, grandfather to **Anthony and Chris Eden**, and friend to many in our community.

Neveh Shalom has an email list to notify congregants about deaths and funerals in our community. If you would like to join this list, please contact news@nevehshalom.org.

The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

Adult Education

Sharon and Laurence Perrin:
in memory of Sharon's father,
Harry Sahanow

Annual Giving Donation

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in memory of Mrs. Nancy
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in memory of Rebecca Israel
Wendi and Sanford Menashe:
in honor of Rick and Abby
Menashe's anniversary

Cantor's Discretionary

**Stephanie Arnheim and John
Sheldon:**
in appreciation of Nancy's
memorial service
Bruce and Deborah Cohen:
in honor of Manny Berman's
retirement
Samuel Gottlieb:
in honor of Cantor Bitton
Raul and Lidia Krivoy:
in honor of Ilene Safyan for her
amazing concert performance
Ellen Singer and Eamon Molloy:
in honor of Cantor Eyal Bitton;
thank you for your dedication

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in memory of Hannah Bodner
in memory of Herbert Bodner

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in memory of Jacob Borenstein
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Irina and Roman Munblit:
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in memory of Louis Slifman
Laura Vilderman:
in memory of Eugene
Vilderman

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John Barton:
in honor of Rabbi Stampfer's
3rd bar mitzvah
Philip and Rosalind Kane:
in memory of Nathan Kane
Joni Cady and Jane Rosevelt:
in memory of Charles Schroeder
in memory of Marguerite
Schroeder

Charack Kitchen

Jacqueline Constantine:
in memory of Rita Pearlmutter
in memory of Alan Roth

Camp Solomon Schechter

Delphine Davis:
in honor of Rabbi Stampfer's
3rd bar mitzvah
Rosalie Goodman:
in honor of Rabbi Stampfer for
continued good health and in
honor of your bar mitzvah
**Joya Menashe and Vaune
Kemp:**
in memory of Sam Schaffer
Leonard and Nira Levine:
in honor of Rabbi Stampfer's
3rd bar mitzvah and the many
contributions to the Jewish
community
Wendi and Sanford Menashe:
in honor of Rabbi Stampfer's
3rd bar mitzvah

**Steven Shain and Wendy
Tobin-Shain:**
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3rd bar mitzvah
Allan and Marjorie Sherman:
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Frieda Tobin:
in honor of Robert Mudrick
in memory of Rebecca Mudrick
in memory of Jake Mudrick
Robert and Marla Weiner:
in honor of Rabbi Stampfer's
3rd bar mitzvah

Elaine & Gloria Schiller

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Robert and Jeannie Rosenthal:
in memory of David Weiner
in memory of Lillian "Babe"
Weiner
in memory of Nellie Levenson
in memory of Julius Levenson
in memory of Joyce Singer

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**Ricardo and Rosana
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in memory of Samuel Garber
Stuart and Reena Davis:
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in memory of Rose Cohen
**Jeff Edmundson and Ethel
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in memory of Archie Freedman

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in memory of Sidney Lakefish
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in memory of Pearl Leopold

Nancy and Allan Lipton:
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in memory of Yoni Suher
in memory of Louis Wolinshy
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Arnheim's mother
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in memory of Edward Kay
Barry and Barbara Caplan:
in honor of Garry Pearlman's
birthday
Steven and Tess Caplan:
in memory of Robert Caplan

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Mitch and Eileen Cooper:

in memory of Arthur Cooper

Geri Crain:

in loving memory of Alice Kern

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in memory of Candise Jones

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in memory of Milton Konecke

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in memory of Maxwell Eason

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in memory of Eugene Eiseman

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in memory of Anne B. Ellis

Joan Fraser:

in memory of Harry Mandrow

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in honor of Manny Berman's retirement

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in memory of Wilma Caplan

in memory of Anne Geffen

Bernice Gevurtz:

in memory of Harry Rosenfield

Bradley and Julie Gevurtz:

in memory of Suzy Gevurtz

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in memory of Roman

Govshiyevich

Peter Grant:

in memory of Charlotte Grant

Boris Gurfinkel and Yevgeniya**Chizhik:**

in memory of Motl Gurfinkel

in memory of Klara Chizhik

Peter Way and Jana Hopfinger:

in memory of Carl Hopfinger

Steven, Wendy, Michael and**Rebecca Kahn:**

in memory of Roberta "Bunny"

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in memory of Harold Meyers

Steven Kaufman:

in memory of Bernard Kaufman

Anthony and Priscilla Kostiner:

get well wishes for Toby Blake

Burton Leventhal:

in memory of Kenneth

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Isaak and Ninel Mad:

in memory of Bayla Mad

Dan Mandrow:

in memory of Harry Mandrow

Ron and Alona Mayslin:

in memory of Yida Yaroshetsky

in memory of Rosalia Garger

James and Lora Meyer:

in memory of David Rabinowitz

Robert Michel:

in memory of Jacob Michel

Simon Moraru:

in memory of Motria Moraru

in memory of David Rosenbaum

Allison Mudrick:

in memory of Robert Mudrick

Pat and Nolan Newman:

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in honor of Mimi Sorkin

Jordan and Debra Plawner:

get well wishes for Gary Weinstein

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in memory of Sam Olds

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in memory of Yoni Suher

Harold and Ferne Ross:

in memory of Selma Mesher

Fred and Nora Rothstein:

in honor of Elliot Axel's Birthday

in honor of Lidia and Raul

Krivoy's new grandson

Joseph Rubin:

in honor of Rabbi Stampfer's

3rd bar mitzvah

Helen Runstein:

in memory of Richard

Brownstein

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in memory of David Shaman

Jen Singer:

in memory of Joyce Singer

Diana and Stephen Sirkin:

in memory of Nancy Arnheim

in memory of Vivian Genser

Sybil Slate:

in memory of Bertha Rothkow

Yakov and Anna Smetana:

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in memory of Ayzik Dinets

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Laura Starushok:

in memory of Lily Malenkovich

Dennis and Susan Steinberg:

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in memory of Celia Blank

Gregory Stelmakh:

in memory of Eydil Stelmakh

Peter and Alla Tolchinsky:

in memory of Gregoriy

Tolchinsky

Larry and Linda Veltman:

in memory of Eugene Veltman

Martin Vidgoff:

in memory of Laura Vidgoff

in memory of Ben Vidgoff

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in memory of Alexander Raskin

in memory of Lorraine Weger

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in memory of all of my

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in honor of my friends in the

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in memory of Arthur Gottlieb

in memory of Nancy Arnheim

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in memory of Rosa Mermelstein

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get well wishes for Toby Blake

Mazel Tov on the birth of

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in honor of Joel's nngagement

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in memory of Sonia Nudelman

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in memory of Arleen Zucker's mother

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in honor of Sidney and Linda Alpert's granddaughter's bat mitzvah
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in memory of Nancy Arnheim

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in appreciation of Nancy Arnheim's memorial service
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in appreciation of Rabbi Kosak
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in honor of Rabbi Kosak
Diane Kahn:
in memory of Eddie Vosen
Jacqueline Lerner:
in memory of Alfred Furie – it was a lovely service

Larry and Brenda Schwartz:
in memory of Charlotte Schwartz
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in honor of Rabbi Kosak – thank you!
Julian and Carol Veatch:
in memory of Louis Wolinsky
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in honor of Rabbi Stampfer's 3rd bar mitzvah

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for the yahrzeit of Jonathan Epstein

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Marvin Wolfson and Katherine Snook:
in memory of Philip Wolfson

Stampfer Lecture

Abby and Richard Menashe:
in honor of Rabbi Joshua Stampfer's 3rd bar mitzvah
Mimi and Robert Sorkin:
in memory of Mrs. Vivian Genser, may her memory be a blessing

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in memory of Ida Soble

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in memory of Vera Katz

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in honor of Toinette Menashe birthday
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in memory of Joanna Menashe
Victor and Toinette Menashe:
in memory of M'Liss Gilbert
in memory of Joanna Menashe
Leah Nepom:
in honor of Toinette Menashe's birthday

Weinstein Chapel

Delphine Davis:
get well wishes for Gary Weinstein
Sylvia and Gary Pearlman:
for the recovery of Gary Weinstein
Ron and Devora Weinstein:
in memory of Max Weinstein

Yad B'Yad Comforting Mourners

Rachel & Michael Lewine:
for the yahrzeit of Lillian Babroff Chinitz
Sanford and Wendi Menashe:
in memory of Roberta "Bunny" Oberlander

Books and Films Celebrating the Themes of Passover

**By Kaiya Goldhammer,
Feldstein Library Librarian**

The days are getting longer, Purim is past, and we find ourselves looking toward Passover. Passover invites discussion of liberation, immigration, and refuge. Jewish books and films are full of immigrants, refugees, and seekers both literal and metaphorical. Here are some selections on these themes from the Feldstein Library.



Books:

Song for the Butcher's Daughter by Peter Manseau

Isra Isle by Nava Semel

To Wear the Dust of War: From Bialystok to Shanghai to the Promised Land, an Oral History by Sam Iwry

Out of Egypt: A Memoir by Andre Aciman



Films:

The Lemon Tree (2008)

Yippee: A Jewish Journey to Joy (2006)

Divan (2004)

Leaving the Fold (2008)

Never is Now: Upcoming Events

Continued from Page 11

Free unless otherwise indicated.

Screening of *Desert Wounds*

Sun, March 11, 2:00-4:00pm, OJMCHE

In honor of International Women's Day. Chronicles the journeys of two women from Sudan and Eritrea fleeing war and persecution.

Screening of *Stand Up: Lessons from the Holocaust*

Tues, April 10, 12:00pm, OJMCHE

Short documentary featuring interviews with Holocaust survivors and their thoughts on how to stand up against persecution today. (Brown bag).

Speaking engagement with Valentino Achak Deng

Tues, April 17, (time TBD), PSU

Deng, a former Lost Boy from Sudan, will share his story and tell about his work to provide education and employment in the region that he is from.



Screening of *Intent to Destroy*

Mon, April 23, 7:30pm

Fox Tower Stadium 10

Explores US Government pressure on Hollywood to censor genocide, the violent history of the Armenian Genocide, and the legacy of Turkish suppression and denial.

Public lecture by Timothy Snyder

Wed, April 25, 7:00pm, PSU

11th Annual Sara Glasgow Cogan Memorial Lecture featuring noted genocide scholar of Yale University.

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Please recycle The Chronicle when finished

Get Your Game On! CNS Auction 2018 Round Up

Coming together as TEAM CNS was the ultimate goal for this year's auction. And come together we did! Most of our 200+ attendees came sporting their favorite team jersey as they socialized with their friends, met new people, browsed and bid on the huge array of silent auction items and sign-up parties, and enjoyed the delicious sports-themed appetizers by Century Catering. Our personable auctioneer, Ian Lindsay, infused humor and spice while directing attention to some of the top-notch items for auction. Our surprise guest, former Harlem Globe Trotters player Pee Wee Harrison, delighted the crowd with his basketball tricks, adding to the overall team spirit ambience.

By the time we were ready to go downstairs for the live auction and meal, the team spirit vibe was felt throughout the crowd. Our readers, Nicole Elovitz and Felicia Rosenthal, did an excellent job describing the live auction items, while Ian made the entire event run smoothly and build a sense of camaraderie and

amicable competition for some of the live auction items. The Mitzvah Moment video by Ken Klein was a true crowd pleaser and the Mitzvah Moment paddle raise was a huge success!

The biggest kudos go to auction chairs, Mia Birk and Glen Coblens, who did an outstanding job securing sponsors, attendees, sign-up parties, live and silent auction items, and the list goes on. Their love for this community is infectious and showed throughout the evening, and yielded amazing results. Together, we raised over \$80,000!

Go team CNS!! Save the Date for next year's auction – Feb 9, 2019!



5778
2018

March

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FEBRUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	APRIL S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	For ALIYAH/TICHON schedule, please visit: nevehshalom.org/aliyah-k-6 or nevehshalom.org/aliyah-7-12 	For Foundation School schedule, please visit: foundationschoolpdx.org 	1 14 adar 7:00am Morning Minyan - Purim PURIM	2 15 adar 5:42pm 7:15am Morning Minyan 6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat SHUSHAN PURIM	3 16 adar 6:43pm Maya Schwartz Bat Mitzvah 9:00am Shabbat Services 10:00am Torah Troop 10:15am Tot Shabbat 10:15am Kiddush Club <i>Ki Tisa</i>
4 17 adar 9:00am Morning Minyan	5 18 adar 7:15am Morning Minyan 7:00pm Never Again Coalition 7:15pm Koleinu Rehearsal	6 19 adar 7:15am Morning Minyan 5:00pm Talmud Class 7:00pm Machon Ivrit	7 20 adar 7:15am Morning Minyan 7:00pm Jewish TV Theme Songs with Cantor Bitton	8 21 adar See Below	9 22 adar 5:51pm 7:15am Morning Minyan 6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat	10 23 adar 6:53pm Ariana Ross Bat Mitzvah 9:00am Shabbat Services 9:30am Downstairs Minyan 12:30pm Women's Torah Study Vayakhel-Pekude SHABBAT PARAH
11 24 adar 9:00am Morning Minyan 10:00am Mishna Berurah Class 11:45am Jasmine Spiegel, z"l Unveiling, AS 12:00pm Outside In Cooking 2:00pm NAC Film Screening	12 25 adar 7:15am Morning Minyan 6:00pm Soup to the Streets 7:15pm Koleinu Rehearsal	13 26 adar 7:15am Morning Minyan 2:00pm Wondering Jews 5:00pm Talmud Class 7:00pm Machon Ivrit 7:00pm Sisterhood Board	14 27 adar 7:15am Morning Minyan 2:00pm Giving Care and Caring for Ourselves 6:15pm Membership Committee	15 28 adar 7:15am Morning Minyan 10:00am R. Isaak Class 11:00am R. Stampfer Class 3:15pm Bible Class R. Isaak 6:30pm Hebrew for Prayer 7:00pm Board of Directors 7:35pm Siddur Basics	16 29 adar 7:00pm 7:15am Morning Minyan 6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat	17 1 nisan 8:02pm Moses Peet Bar Mitzvah 9:00am Shabbat Services 10:00am Torah Troop 10:15am Tot Shabbat 10:15am Kiddush Club Vayikra SHABBAT HACHODESH ROSH CHODESH
18 2 nisan See Below	19 3 nisan 7:15am Morning Minyan 7:15pm Koleinu Rehearsal	20 4 nisan 7:15am Morning Minyan 5:00pm Talmud Class 7:30pm Dad's Night Out 7:00pm Machon Ivrit SPRING BEGINS	21 5 nisan 7:15am Morning Minyan 4:00pm Book Talk: <i>Isra-Isle</i> by Nava Semel 4:30pm ALIYAH Tour	22 6 nisan 7:15am Morning Minyan 10:00am R. Isaak Class 11:00am R. Stampfer Class 3:15pm Bible Class R. Isaak 6:30pm Hebrew for Prayer 7:00pm Israel360 7:35pm Siddur Basics	23 7 nisan 7:10pm 7:15am Morning Minyan 5:15pm 4th Friday w/ R. Eve 6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat	24 8 nisan 8:11pm 9:00am Carlebach Music Shabbat Services 9:30am Downstairs Minyan 12:30pm Women's Torah Study Tzav SHABBAT HAGADOL
25 9 nisan NO ALIYAH 9:00am Morning Minyan	26 10 nisan 7:15am Morning Minyan 7:15pm Koleinu Rehearsal	27 11 nisan NO ALIYAH 7:15am Morning Minyan 5:00pm Talmud Class	28 12 nisan NO ALIYAH 7:15am Morning Minyan	29 13 nisan 7:15am Morning Minyan 10:00am R. Isaak Class 3:15pm Bible Class R. Isaak SEARCH FOR CHAMETZ	30 14 nisan 7:19pm 7:00am Morning Minyan NO Kabbalat Shabbat Service Due to Passover FIRST SEDER	31 15 nisan 8:20pm 9:00am Shabbat Pesach Services PASSOVER

March 8: 7:15am Morning Minyan, 8:00am Building & Grounds, 10:00am R. Isaak Class, 11:00am R. Stampfer Class, 3:00pm Nosh & Drash, 3:15pm Bible Class R. Isaak, 6:30pm Hebrew for Prayer, 7:00pm Executive Board Meeting, 7:35pm Siddur Basics; **March 18:** 9:00am Morning Minyan, 10:00am Mishna Berurah, 11:00am Sisterhood Mah Jongg Tournament, 11:15am Ritual Committee, 1:00pm Leonard Balk, z"l Unveiling, NZ, 2:00pm Shroud Crowd, 5:00pm Michael Allen Harrison Concert

Mark Your Calendars And Join Congregation

Talmud Class with Rabbi Stampfer
Tuesdays, 5:00pm, R. Stampfer's home
Join our Emeritus Rabbi for weekly study of our sacred texts. Free.

Bible Class with Rabbi Isaak
Thursdays, 3:15pm, Room 111
Weekly learning and discussion with Rabbi Emeritus, Daniel Isaak. Free.

Adventures with the Mishna Berurah:
A Course in Jewish Literacy
Sundays, 10:00-11:15am, Birnbach Hall
The Mishnah Berurah is the last generally accepted code of Jewish law and custom. For beginners to advanced students. RSVP: kwilkins@nevehshalom.org. Free.

Jewish TV Theme Songs with Cantor Bitton
Wednesday, Mar 7, 7:00pm, Free
Classic TV shows of the past gave us timeless TV theme songs, many written by Jewish composers. With nostalgic video clips and sing-alongs, Cantor Bitton examines these melodies and the people who wrote them.

Nosh & Drash with Rabbi Eve Posen
Thurs, Mar 8, Apr 12, 3:00pm, MJCC
Mar: Passover Torah; **Apr:** Jewish perspectives on Gun Control. Free.

Women's Torah Study
Sat, Mar 10, 24, Apr 14, 28, 12:30pm
Room 111 Join Mel Berwin for uplifting learning and conversation—all levels welcome! Free.

Never Again Coalition: Screening of Desert Wounds at OJMCH
Sun, March 11, 2:00-4:00pm
For more info: <https://tinyurl.com/DesertWounds-NAC>

Wondering Jews Tea for Two Presentation - Tues, Mar 13 & Apr 10, 2:00pm, Stampfer Chapel, Free
Mar: A screening of "Living while Dying," by filmmaker, Cathy Zheutlin. **Apr:** Mara Woloshin - Maximize your benefits: Medicare and Medicaid 101. More info: programs@nevehshalom.org.

Writing Your Ethical Will with Laurie Fendel
Wed, Mar 14, 2:00-3:00pm*, Zidell Chapel
***Note time and date change.** An ethical will passes on your beliefs, experiences,

life lessons, shares your wisdom, values and love in written form. You'll explore many kinds of content you can include and construct a plan for your writing. For more info: jbezodis@nevehshalom.org. Free.

Marianne Wollstein Mah Jongg Madness Brunch and Tournament
Sunday, March 18, 2018
11:00am: Brunch and explanation of rules; 12:00pm: Tournament and prizes
Join us for a day of Mah Jongg and friendship. Experienced and new players welcome (no teaching). \$30. RSVP by March 12th. Sponsored by the Sisterhood. More at: nevehshalom.org/mahjongg2018

Michael Allen Harrison Concert
Sunday, March 18, 5:00pm
Join us for an unforgettable evening of music and friendship with a world famous pianist at his private studio in Canby, OR. \$36. RSVP: meverett@nevehshalom.org

Dad's Night Out
Tuesday, March 20, 7:30pm
Dad's Night is a city-wide program planned by a group of guys who like having a reason to head out, get to know other dads, and have a drink with clergy. Open to all dads raising Jewish kids, at any stage of parenting. Contact Daniela Meltzer, programs@nevehshalom.org.

Book Talk: *Isra-Isle* by Nava Semel
Wed, March 21, 4:00pm
Join the Feldstein Library for a book discussion all about *Isra-Isle* by Nava Semel. kgoldhammer@nevehshalom.org.

American Synagogue Music - Shabbat Morning Service
Sat, March 24, 9:00am
Cantor Bitton highlights great liturgical pieces by American cantors, composers and others.

Shomrei Teva Pesach Hike at Tualatin Hills Nature Park
Sunday, April 1, 1:00-4:00pm
Join us for a beautiful, easy hike at Tualatin Hills Nature Park. Meet at the park at 1pm or at CNS at 12:30pm to carpool. We'll stroll amidst the forests and open areas, along creeks and trails, making several stops for reflections. All ages welcome. No

Israel360 Presents:

Screening of the Documentary Film:
The Gatekeepers
Thursday, March 22, 7:00pm
Birnbach Hall



Join us to watch and discuss "The Gatekeepers," a 2012 documentary featuring interviews with all surviving former heads of Shin Bet at that time. The interviewees shed light on the controversy surrounding the contested territories in the aftermath of the Six Day War. Also, explore a range of Israeli responses from a positive critical review to those who felt the film reinforced the anti-Israeli narrative in the West. *Co-sponsored by: Israel360, Beth Israel Brotherhood, and Havurah Lifelong Learning Committee.*

The Next 35 Years of Social Change in Israel: New Leadership for a New Era
Sunday, April 29, 7:00pm
Stampfer Chapel, Free



Join us for a conversation with New Israel Fund Executive Director in Israel, Mickey Gitzin. As a liberal, openly gay son of Russian immigrants, Mickey recognizes both the great leaps forward that Israel has made in advancing equality for all its citizens and the challenges that remain. He is one of a new wave of young Israeli leaders bringing an intersectional approach to the issues of the day.

More info about Israel360 at:
nevehshalom.org/israel360
503.246.8831

Please note: programs are subject to change, please contact the office for more information.

Neveh Shalom For These Great Programs!

pets allowed on the trails. Bring a Pesach treat to share. The hike is mostly level and about 2.25 miles. Contact Jordan Epstein at yaakovm@comcast.net or 503-245-6580.

Kabbalat Shabbat with Ilene Safyan Friday: April 6, 6:15pm

Join us for this special Kabbalat Shabbat accompanied by Ilene Safyan.

Pirkei Imahot Book Talk

Sunday, April 15, 6:30pm, Offsite

Study Rabbi Posen and Lois Shenker's book. Facilitated by Kaiya Goldhammer and Dorice Horenstein (Shaarie Torah). RSVP: tinyurl.com/PirkeilImahotBookClub2017.

Sparks of the Tradition: An Evening of Jewish Storytelling - Tues, Apr 3, 7:00pm, Rose Schnitzer Manor, Free

A second performance was added by special request to be held at the RSM. For more info: brohr@nevehshalom.org.

Stephanie Schneiderman Concert Sunday, April 22, 7:00pm

Join us for an exclusive evening of music at this private house concert of CNS' own Stephanie Schneiderman. \$36 includes appetizers, wine and dessert. Limit to 36 people. RSVP: meverett@nevehshalom.org

CNS Sisterhood Hosts the NxNW Region Spring Conference April 22-24, 2018

Join Sisterhood for the annual Women's League for Conservative Judaism's NxNW Regional Spring Conference, hosted here in Portland, OR this year. For more info, please contact Diana Sirkin: otrbanana@frontier.com.

Young Family & Youth

Young Family Tot Shabbat (0-5 years) 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 10:15am

Zidell Chapel Join other young families for singing, dancing, stories, indoor picnic-style lunch and Shabbat fun.

Kiddush Club for K-2nd Graders 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 10:15am

Room 19. Join other families for prayer, singing, conversation and fun followed by an indoor picnic-style lunch.

Torah Troop for 3rd-5th Graders 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 10:00am

Meet in the MAIN service for the beginning of the Torah service, and then come out for a fun lesson on the Torah portion (parsha) of the week. Return to the service to help lead Adon Olam, and join the community for lunch!

Fourth Fridays with Rabbi Eve (age 0-5) Friday, Mar 23, 5:15pm

Rabbi Eve welcomes Shabbat with music and stories, potluck dinner to follow. Contact Rabbi Eve for location: eposen@nevehshalom.org. Co-sponsored by PJ Library.

Kindergarten/New Family ALIYAH Tours Wed, March 21 & May 2, 4:30pm Sun, April 15, 29, 9:30am

Join Director Mel Berwin for a tour of ALIYAH. To RSVP, please contact: mberwin@nevehshalom.org.

Lend a Hand

Never Again Coalition Monthly Meeting Mondays: Mar 5, Apr 2, 7:00pm

Meet at Congregation Kol Shalom.

Cooking for Outside In Sunday, Mar 11, Apr 22, 12:00-2:00pm

Meet in the CNS Kitchen to do a mitzvah and help feed homeless teens. Info: Rick Botney, 8888octopus8888@gmail.com.

The Shroud Crowd Meeting Sunday, Mar 18, Apr 15, 2:00-4:00pm, Rm 102

Help create traditional burial clothing which will then be used by the *Chevra Kavod haMet* for their work. Contact Sandy Axel: sandyaxel@msn.com.

Soup to the Streets Monday, Mar 12, 6:00pm

A special initiative by Rabbi Kosak where we gather at Rabbi's house, prepare a meal and go to the streets to feed those that need it the most. RSVP: kwilkins@nevehshalom.org.

Habitat for Humanity Build Sunday, April 22, 10:00am

Join volunteers from CNS and Bilal Mosque to do a good deed for the community. Contact Steve Sirkin: stevejew18@frontier.com.

Unveilings

Unveiling for Jasmine Spiegel, z"l
Sunday, March 11, 11:45am, Ahavai Shalom Cemetery

Unveiling for Leonard Balk, z"l
Sunday, March 18, 1:00pm, Neveh Zedek Cemetery

Unveiling for Edward Glick, z"l
Sunday, April 22, 11:00am, Neveh Zedek Cemetery

CNS Family Camp at Camp Solomon Schechter April 27-29, 2018



Families with children ages 0-2nd grade join together for a fantastic weekend at Camp Solomon Schechter. Together we'll celebrate Shabbat with family friendly services, activities and games. Adults will have time to relax as well. Located on the beautiful grounds of Camp Solomon Schechter in Olympia, WA we'll enjoy the natural surroundings throughout Shabbat. Pricing includes: shared cabin, Friday dinner, three meals and two snacks on Saturday and a Sunday brunch.

Adults: \$135 each
Children 5-11: \$85/child
Children 2-4: \$30/child
Kids under 2: FREE
Max per Family: \$385

RSVP at:
tinyurl.com/CNSFamilyCamp2018

5778
2018

April nisan
iyar



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div>116 nisan</div> <div>NO ALIYAH</div> <div>9:00am Pesach Services</div> <div>1:00pm Shomrei Teva Passover Hike</div> <div>EASTER PASSOVER</div>	<div>217 nisan</div> <div>7:00am Morning Minyan Chol HaMaod Pesach</div> <div>7:00pm Never Again Coalition 7:15pm Koleinu Rehearsal</div> <div>INTERMEDIATE DAY</div>	<div>318 nisan</div> <div>NO ALIYAH</div> <div>7:00am Morning Minyan Chol HaMaod Pesach</div> <div>7:00pm An Evening of Jewish Storytelling at Rose Schnitzer</div> <div>INTERMEDIATE DAY</div>	<div>419 nisan</div> <div>NO ALIYAH</div> <div>7:00am Morning Minyan Chol HaMaod Pesach</div> <div>INTERMEDIATE DAY</div>	<div>520 nisan</div> <div>7:00am Morning Minyan Chol HaMaod Pesach</div> <div>10:00am R. Isaak Class</div> <div>3:15pm Bible Class R. Isaak</div> <div>7:00pm Executive Committee</div> <div>INTERMEDIATE DAY</div>	<div>621 nisan</div> <div>7:28pm</div> <div>OFFICE CLOSED</div> <div>9:00am Pesach Morning Services</div> <div>6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat w/ Ilene Safyan</div> <div>PASSOVER</div>	<div>722 nisan</div> <div>8:29pm</div> <div>9:00am Shabbat Pesach Services w/ Yizkor</div> <div>10:00am Torah Troop</div> <div>10:15am Tot Shabbat</div> <div>10:15am Kiddush Club</div> <div>YIZKOR PASSOVER</div>
<div>823 nisan</div> <div>9:00am Morning Minyan</div> <div>10:00am Mishna Berurah Class</div>	<div>924 nisan</div> <div>7:15am Morning Minyan</div> <div>7:00pm Men's Club Board of Directors</div> <div>7:15pm Koleinu Rehearsal</div>	<div>1025 nisan</div> <div>7:15am Morning Minyan</div> <div>2:00pm Wondering Jews</div> <div>5:00pm Talmud Class</div> <div>7:00pm Machon Ivrit</div> <div>7:00pm Sisterhood Board</div>	<div>1126 nisan</div> <div>7:15am Morning Minyan</div>	<div>1227 nisan</div> <div>See Below</div> <div>YOM HASHOAH</div>	<div>1328 nisan</div> <div>7:37pm</div> <div>7:15am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat</div>	<div>1429 nisan</div> <div>8:38pm</div> <div>Serena Song Bat Mitzvah</div> <div>9:00am Shabbat Services</div> <div>9:30am Downstairs Minyan</div> <div>12:30pm Women's Torah Study</div> <div>Shemini</div>
<div>1530 nisan</div> <div>9:00am Morning Minyan</div> <div>9:30am ALIYAH Tour</div> <div>11:15am Ritual Committee</div> <div>2:00pm Shroud Crowd</div> <div>6:30pm Pirkei Imahot Book Club</div> <div>ROSH CHODESH</div>	<div>161 iyar</div> <div>7:00am Morning Minyan</div> <div>7:15pm Koleinu Rehearsal</div> <div>ROSH CHODESH</div>	<div>172 iyar</div> <div>7:15am Morning Minyan</div> <div>5:00pm Talmud Class</div> <div>7:00pm Machon Ivrit</div>	<div>183 iyar</div> <div>7:15am Morning Minyan</div> <div>YOM HAZIKARON</div>	<div>194 iyar</div> <div>7:00am Morning Minyan</div> <div>10:00am R. Isaak Class</div> <div>3:15pm Bible Class R. Isaak</div> <div>6:30pm Hebrew for Prayer</div> <div>7:00pm Board of Directors</div> <div>7:35pm Siddur Basics</div> <div>YOM HA'ATZMA'UT</div>	<div>205 iyar</div> <div>7:46pm</div> <div>7:15am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat</div>	<div>216 iyar</div> <div>8:47pm</div> <div>Rachel Bourne Bat Mitzvah</div> <div>9:00am Shabbat Services</div> <div>10:00am Torah Troop</div> <div>10:15am Tot Shabbat</div> <div>10:15am Kiddush Club</div> <div>Tazria-Metzora</div>
<div>227 iyar</div> <div>See Below</div>	<div>238 iyar</div> <div>7:15am Morning Minyan</div> <div>8:00am Sisterhood NxNW Spring Conference</div> <div>7:15pm Koleinu Rehearsal</div>	<div>249 iyar</div> <div>7:15am Morning Minyan</div> <div>8:00am Sisterhood NxNW Spring Conference</div> <div>5:00pm Talmud Class</div> <div>7:00pm Machon Ivrit</div>	<div>2510 iyar</div> <div>7:15am Morning Minyan</div>	<div>2611 iyar</div> <div>7:15am Morning Minyan</div> <div>10:00am Cemetery Committee</div> <div>10:00am R. Isaak Class</div> <div>3:15pm Bible Class R. Isaak</div> <div>6:30pm Hebrew for Prayer</div> <div>7:35pm Siddur Basics</div>	<div>2712 iyar</div> <div>7:55pm</div> <div>Family Camp at CSS</div> <div>7:15am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat</div>	<div>2813 iyar</div> <div>8:56pm</div> <div>Family Camp at CSS</div> <div>Maxwell Blauer Bar Mitzvah</div> <div>9:00am Shabbat Services</div> <div>9:30am Downstairs Minyan</div> <div>12:30pm Women's Torah Study</div> <div>Acharei Mot-Kedoshim</div>
<div>2914 iyar</div> <div>Family Camp at CSS</div> <div>9:00am Morning Minyan</div> <div>9:30am ALIYAH Tour</div> <div>6:00pm Israel360: Mickey Gitzin/New Israel Fund</div>	<div>3015 iyar</div> <div>7:15am Morning Minyan</div> <div>7:15pm Koleinu Rehearsal</div>	<div>MARCH</div> <div>SMTWTFSS</div> <div>123</div> <div>45678910</div> <div>11121314151617</div> <div>18192021222324</div> <div>25262728293031</div>	<div>MAY</div> <div>SMTWTFSS</div> <div>12345</div> <div>6789101112</div> <div>13141516171819</div> <div>20212223242526</div> <div>2728293031</div>		<div>For ALIYAH/TICHON schedule, please visit: nevehshalom.org/aliyah-k-6 or nevehshalom.org/ aliyah-7-12</div> <div>ALIYAH Jewish Learning Program for K-12</div>	<div>For Foundation School schedule, please visit: foundationschoolpdx.org</div> <div>Neveh Shalom Foundation School Watch Us Grow!</div>

April 12 - 7:15am Morning Minyan, **8:00am** Building & Grounds, **10:00am** R. Isaak Class, **3:00pm** Nosh & Drash, **3:15pm** Bible Class R. Isaak, **6:30pm** Hebrew for Prayer, **7:35pm** Siddur Basics
April 22- 9:00am Morning Minyan, **10:00am** Mishna Berurah Class, **10:00am** Habitat for Humanity, **11:00am** Edward Glick, z"l Unveiling, NZ, **12:00pm** Outside In Cooking, **2:00pm** Sisterhood
NxNW Spring Conference, **7:00pm** **Stephanie Schneiderman Concert**

JEWISH TV THEME SONGS

WITH CANTOR EYAL BITTON

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 7:00PM
STAMPFER CHAPEL
FREE

Classic TV shows of the past gave us timeless TV theme songs, many of which were written by Jewish composers.

With nostalgic video clips and sing-alongs, Cantor Eyal Bitton examines these memorable melodies and the talented people who wrote them. It's a fun and informative evening that is sure to put a smile on your face.



2900 SW Peaceful Lane, Portland, OR 97239
503.246.8831 | nevehshalom.org



Lifelong Learning at
Congregation Neveh Shalom

WRITING YOUR ETHICAL WILL

PASSING YOUR BELIEFS & BLESSINGS
TO FUTURE GENERATIONS
WITH LAURIE FENDEL

Wednesday, March 14
2:00-3:00pm, Zidell Chapel

An ethical will is the passing on of your beliefs, experiences, life lessons, sharing your wisdom, values and love in a written form to your children and grandchildren.

We will explore the types of content you might include in an Ethical Will, and construct a plan for your writing.

*This is the last class of the series entitled **Giving Care and Caring for Ourselves: a Series on Rituals & Resources for End of Life**. In this series we explore Jewish end-of-life traditions that provide spiritual, logistical, and ethical frameworks for walking through the process of grief.*



For more information, please contact:
jbezodis@nevehshalom.org, 503.246.8831
2900 SW Peaceful Lane, Portland, OR 97239





Marianne Wollstein Mah Jongg Madness Brunch and Tournament



Sunday, March 18, 2018

\$30.00 per person

Please join us for a fun-filled day of Mah Jongg and friendship.

Experienced and new players welcome. (no teaching)

11:00 am - 12:00 pm Brunch and explanation of rules

12:00 pm - 4:00 pm Tournament and prizes



Register by March 12th



For more information please contact: Judi Goodman (503) 531-7205 or Elisa Stevens (503) 929-1680

Sponsored by Neveh Shalom Sisterhood

Payment must accompany registration form

Please make checks payable to Neveh Shalom Sisterhood

No registrations taken after 3/12/2018

Mail to: Congregation Neveh Shalom, 2900 SW Peaceful Lane, Portland, OR 97239

Attn: Sisterhood Mah Jongg

Name(s) _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I will be attending brunch: Yes ____ No ____

I can provide a Mah Jongg set ____ card table ____



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Michael Allen Harrison

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EVENING AT THIS PRIVATE CONCERT WITH
A WORLD FAMOUS PIANIST.**

Sunday, March 18 / 5PM / \$36
At his private studio in Canby, OR



For tickets, contact: meverett@nevehshalom.org | 503.246.8831



NEVEH SHALOM PRESENTS

An Exclusive Evening of Music

with CNS' very own

STEPHANIE SCHNEIDERMAN

IN THE BEUTIFUL HOME OF
JANINE AND DAVID SEGAL
SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 7PM

\$36 PER PERSON
INCLUDES APPETIZERS,
WINE AND DESSERT

LIMIT 36 PEOPLE

PURCHASE TICKETS AT
MEVERETT@NEVEHSHALOM.ORG
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CNS Family Camp

• AT CAMP SOLOMON SCHECHTER •

APRIL
27-29

Families with children ages 0-2nd grade, join us for 3 days of fun!



"Family Camp was amazing and I would do this twice a year. My children loved it and are asking when they can go back!"

-Naomi Fink

Celebrate Shabbat with family-friendly services, activities, games and meals. The lake and ropes course will be open.

\$135/Adults
\$85/Children 5-11
\$30/Children 2-4
FREE/Kids under 2
Max per Family: \$385



Registration at: tinyurl.com/CNSFamilyCamp2018

Scholarships available, contact Rabbi Eve: eposen@nevehshalom.org