THE

CHRONICLE

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF NEVEH SHALOM



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Anafim Bowling Fun





Community Enrichment Award Honoring Judith and Garry Kahn



Veterans Day Flag Planting (pictured are only some of the many helpers)





You Shall Build Me a Home and I Will Dwell Within You

By Rabbi David Kosak

ot long ago, Jeff Bezos stated on the record that Amazon, the trillion-dollar company he built, will fail. It is the goal of all Amazon employees, he stated, to delay that failure for as long as possible by always keeping the needs of their customers first and foremost.

In an age where we are taught to sell the sizzle, his honesty was simultaneously refreshing and disconcerting. Anyone who has studied sufficient business history understands that large businesses don't tend to survive. They have a maximum longevity. Thirty or fifty years is a long time. On the other hand, there are some smaller companies that have stood the test of time. Japan possesses the honor of having the oldest business. The Keiunkan Inn dates back 1,300 years.

Scholars of business have noted that those businesses which long endure do so because they are about something greater than the bottom line. They stand for some sort of enduring value that outlasts the rise and fall of fashions. The Keiunkan Inn has directed itself outward, to a life of service. When Bezos speaks of placing the customer first, he probably has something similar in mind.

Within the realm of religion, however, the laws of longevity are less constrained. This summer, I prayed at the Magdala, a recently-excavated synagogue from Second Temple times. While that particular building has not been in "continuous operation," faithful Jews have worshipped by the Kotel, the Western Wall, non-stop. During the worst periods of exile, when only a small fragment of Jews remained in the

Holy Land, they maintained this ancient connection.

There is no doubt that successful religious institutions survive in part by being cognizant of the needs of those who worship there. Certainly, the dedicated professional staff, teachers, and clergy at Neveh Shalom labor to meet your needs. We also endeavor to be a learning institution, so that we can grow from our occasional missteps.

Yet one reason that religions and their institutions outperform businesses in life expectancy is because we stand for something even greater than service. Something more magnificent even than providing community and human interaction in a lonely world. We endure because we are focused on the transcendent. We speak of the human longing to touch the infinite, and we ground ourselves in an ethic that guides us through the shifting sands of time and culture. We persist because we embrace the ancient covenant forged between God and Abraham. For such causes, people are willing to sacrifice their time and treasure.

As Congregation Neveh Shalom marks its 150th anniversary, these thoughts are on my mind.

We are here because people of vision understood the verse from the book of Exodus (25:8): v'asu li mikdash v'shakhanti b'tokham. "If you build me a sanctuary, then I will dwell in their midst." Every year at the Neilah service on Yom Kippur, the descendants of our founding family, the Rosenbergs, stand as an honor guard on our bimah. Each brother headed one of our original two communities, Ahavai Shalom and Neveh



Zedek. Their decendants, the Menashe, Holzman, and Golbert families, now stand next to the Torah scrolls and the ark of the covenant. Their silent presence powerfully states, "Am Yisrael Chai, v'Ado-nai Elo-heinu Kayam." The people Israel still lives, and our God, the one God of all humanity, endures.

Over this year, we are going to celebrate and observe, rejoice, and remember. We are also going to build for the future, just as our ancestors built this house for us, by establishing an endowment and securing our financial footing for the next 150 years. We will continue to strengthen our education programs for both youth and adults alike. After all, we are a people of the book, and we must invest in our minds as well.

There is one final investment which calls powerfully to us. That is the path of mitzvot. As Jews we maintain our connection to God and the Torah by living a life of action and by doing our share to fulfill the words found in the Aleynu prayer—"I'takein clam b'malkhut Shadai." We have to make a good faith ef-

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Advocating the "Rights" Way

By Rabbi Eve Posen

hen Lois Shenker and I wrote our book, Pirkei Imahot: Wisof Mothers, Voices of Wisdom, my life changed. Not only did I find a lifelong friend in Lois, but I was connected with Ruth Messinger, the Global Ambassador for American Jewish World Service. Ruth is a force to be reckoned with when it comes to social justice causes around the world. When we met face to face at our book launch, she asked me to join her on a rabbis-only mission, the Global Justice Fellowship. I politely declined, citing my then nine-month-old son and my inability to leave for a combined 14 days of work.

A year later, there was Ruth in my inbox again, encouraging me to apply for the fellowship. This time I couldn't turn her down.

The mission of AJWS is: "Inspired by the Jewish commitment to justice, American Jewish World Service (AJWS) works to realize human rights and end poverty in the developing world." And that's exactly what they do. The adventure began in November when I travelled to New York for two days to do some intensive learning about the work of AJWS around the world in the 19 countries where they

have a presence and meet the other fellows who will travel with me.

The way that AJWS approaches their work is through rights-based advocacy. This approach shifts the model from one focusing on fulfilling the needs of the poor to empowering the poor. Theorists of rights-based approaches emphasize that the process of realizing rights is a political one, rather than a technical one, and that it entails confronting the structural causes that underlie the denial of rights, as well as understanding how rights can shift power relations. Said another way, rights-based approaches conceive of people with limited resources as active agents—not recipients or beneficiaries—of development. At the very heart of the rightsbased approach is the notion that communities themselves have a right to set their own vision and process for development, and the role of outside development organizations is to support their vision, not set it for them.

I am excited to do this work in Guatemala from January 13th to 20th and invite you to follow along on the neveh Shalom Facebook page, or at my blog, www.rabbieve.com.

Beyond the scope of this individual fel-



lowship, I find rights-based advocacy to be highly relevant to the work that we do within our own congregation. We are all active agents, and we need to recognize that in the work that we do. Our congregation has sustained itself for 150 years through the tireless efforts and dedication of our members and will continue to grow, provided each of us does our part. It is our job to create and set a vision of where we want to go in the next 150 years and then join together to do it.

You Shall Build Me a Home Continued from Page 3

fort to repair this world, this house, so that God can indeed live within it. As we secure Neveh Shalom—our home—how fitting it will be to secure a home for God's most downtrodden. So we are going to build at least one very tiny home for one of Portland's homeless. Meetings to accomplish this task have already begun, and a small group of us recently toured a community of these

small homes to learn best practices. Please stay tuned to learn how you can participate in this milestone mitzvah.

I confess, when younger, the notion of attaching my life to an institution was foreign to me. Stranger still was the idea of dedicating my life's work to strengthening one. Yet time has a way of helping us discard the illusions of youth. We are all only caretakers—for homes, for children, for our possessions, and even for our bodies. It is our willingness to care for those well that ensures us lives of meaning and significance. We are all in service of something. I am proud to be one link in the legacy of this *kehillah kedoshah*, this holy community. And I am grateful that you are also one of those links. *L'chayim!* -Rav D

Updates from Jason

By Jason Kaufman, President

ach challenge we face brings a certain amount of pain, whether ours, our loved ones', our community's, or even the world's. With life precious and finite, and with our own mortality and flawed nature, we know we don't have a choice when it comes to suffering. We resent the burden and drag suffering places on our lives. Our world today seems filled with never-ending pain and sorrow. What I know is we all have the God-given ability to respond. It is this response that allows our souls to heal over time. I personally am glad that we have texts that help us to know how.

Rabbi Shimon said: "We have learned that the expression 'And it came to pass in the days of' denotes sorrow, while the expression 'And it came to pass' even without 'in the days of' is still tinged with sorrow" (Zohar I:119b). Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson focuses on "tinged with sorrow." He says: "I can't think of a better description of what it feels like to be alive. We know that the dominant flavor of life is bittersweet — even in our moments of greatest joy, we recall our losses. Even in our greatest grief, we draw consolation from our love and our hope."

I am thankful that we have a religion and a kehillah that continues to have hope and to thrive, despite the world telling us we should not be here after 3,000+ years. CNS is here for each of us throughout our lives, no matter what we are experiencing at any moment. And we have many congregants that step up to help when asked and many that just do without being asked, because they know they want someone there for them in times of need. This is something we should be proud of as we begin 2019 and celebrate our 150th anniversary. Very few institutions survive this long. I, and our Board of Directors, am honored to serve our kehillah during this time where we will come together many times to honor our past, take stock of the present, and cement our future.

So my "Help Me" is to please join us, whether asked or not. Let's be there for each other in good and bad times. Each of us has a choice, and I thank you for your dedication to CNS and our *kehillah*.

Finally, as I mentioned at the annual meeting, we will be submitting revised bylaws for a vote in June. Before then, we will communicate these changes

and have the ability to ask questions. We owe it to our *kehillah* to bring these up to date so that we can operate in a modern, efficient manner.

L'shalom (and happy secular New Year)!
- Jason

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Cantor's Corner

Out of the Darkness

By Cantor Eyal Bitton



hen I was 17, I participated in an organized summer trip to Israel for six weeks. One day we visited Hezekiah's Tunnel, which the Tanakh tells us was built by King Hezekiah in preparation for an anticipated siege of Jerusalem by the Assyrians under King Sennacherib. This tunnel would ensure that water from the Gihon Spring would flow into the city. Standing in this dark and ancient tunnel was deeply moving, as it served to make our sacred writings and our history tangible.

This tunnel was an early example of our people's resilience. In the face of adversity, if not complete annihilation, the Jews of ancient Jerusalem were determined to survive and to bounce back. This was not the first, nor would it be the last, encounter with calamity.

As we walked in single file through this dark tunnel, we noticed that there was a group in front of us. They were young Israeli soldiers, men and women, who had recently joined the IDF. I could hear them as they were singing, "Kol ha'olam kulo gesher tzar m'od, gesher tzar

m'od, gesher tzar m'od... V'ha'ikar, v'ha'ikar lo l'fached, lo l'fached klal...." Their voices resonated and echoed through the narrow walls of the tunnel. And their voices rose in volume, in emotion, in unity, and in resilience. The sound resonated not only through the walls of the dark tunnel, but through my very being.

The Jewish story is replete with anti-Semitism, persecution, oppression, and existential threats to us as a religion and as a people. We have withstood so much. We understand—or should understand—the words of Rebbe Nachman: the world is a very narrow bridge, and it is essential that

you not be afraid. In the Jewish experience, this world has indeed been as a narrow bridge: dangerous and precarious.

Jews have been afraid—but we, collectively and ultimately, have not let that fear overwhelm us. We have shown resilience across borders and across centuries. The greatest display of this resilience in our recent history is in the aftermath of the Holocaust. The Jewish people continued to shape a thriving and successful diaspora, particularly in the USA, and created a Jewish homeland, Israel.

Anti-Semitism has manifested itself in various ways and from various sources through the years—and recently. In 2017, Jews were the victims of 58% of all religion-based hate crimes in the US. But in the Pittsburgh shooting, North American Jews were confronted with a violent anti-Semitism that we thought was a thing of the past.

In the aftermath of the massacre, I am reminded of that experience in Israel so many years ago. The words the young soldiers sang so boisterously ring as true today as they did then. The world is indeed a narrow bridge. There are dangers that surround us. There have been. There will be. But we are not on the precipice. We are not in 1930s Europe. We may be shaken, but we are not crippled by fear. We are a resilient people, and we will not surrender our role in the American narrative, in a society of law which enshrines our freedom and equality.

The father of the Zionist movement, Theodor Herzl, wrote in *Der Judenstaat* in the late 19th-century:

"We naturally move to those places where we are not persecuted, and there our presence produces persecution. This is the case in every country, and will remain so, even in those highly civilized—for instance, France—until the Jewish question finds a solution on a political basis. The unfortunate Jews are now carrying the seeds of anti-Semitism into England; they have already introduced it into America."

Again, we are not in 1930s Europe. America today is not Germany then. And while the Jewish people had nowhere to turn to then, today we have a Jewish homeland. Israel exists. Those young defenders of the Jewish state whose voices I heard in the darkness sang about resilience. Their very presence and the land they defend is proof of that resilience. A week after the Pittsburgh shooting, I stood in the Main Sanctuary singing those very words with you: "Kol ha'olam kulo...." At the same time that I stood with you, I also stood in the darkness of Hezekiah's tunnel, and those Israeli voices joined me as well and we all came out of the darkness of the tunnel singing resiliently, "V'ha'ikar, v'ha'ikar lo l'fached, lo l'fached klal."

A Sesquicentennial Celebration

By Lindsay von Colditz, Membership and Engagement Director

his year marks the sesquicentennial anniversary of Congregation Neveh Shalom. Throughout our 150 year history, we have been a sacred sanctuary and pillar of hope for the Jewish community and beyond. Our yearlong celebration will feature events celebrating our past, embracing our present, and welcoming the future of CNS and the Conservative Jewish movement as a whole.

Under the guidance of co-chairs **Erika** and **Rich Meyers**, the CNS 150 Program Committee has curated a slate of signature events with a focus on our most valuable asset—you. We will be throwing open our doors and inviting our members and the community to join us for this milestone year of events.

CNS150 signature programs will begin Sunday, February 10, with an interactive experience and champagne toast to the days past and journey ahead; we will explore our history, examine who we are today, and envision where the next 150 years will take us.

Sunday, March 3, will see the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust

Education presenting an exhibit on the history of CNS. This display will highlight the values that define our kehillah, such as how our embrace of change has often guided us to be a voice of leadership.

As we move into summer, Cantor Bitton will take us on a musical journey in "This Is Us: A CNS 150 Concert."

On Friday, July 26, we will celebrate Shabbat in the Park near the site of our original locations, with tours highlighting our storied history in the PDX community.

Rabbi Kosak will be introducing a community mitzvah project to be presented on Erev Sukkot, Sunday, October 13.

We will round out the year on Sunday, December 15, with a closing gala. This will be a time to come together as the community we have been honoring on our journey this year. We will celebrate who we have become and the vision we have shaped together for the generations to come.

Alongside the CNS 150 signature events, we will be expanding our definition of Neveh Shalom as a sanctuary. We aim to create a haven as an emergency



shelter by shoring up our resources of food, water, and emergency supplies. We wish not only to support those who worship and learn in our building, but build relationships within our neighborhoods to deepen existing ties.

We will celebrate through art, such as the ORA exhibit featured on page 13. We will be bringing in speakers and building our oral history archive to preserve your stories.

We encourage each of you to attend, take part, volunteer, and come ready to share your Neveh Shalom story. For more information and to get involved, contact Lindsay von Colditz, programs@nevehshalom.org, 503.293.7313.



Upcoming Bat Mitzvah



Maggie McCaffrey – January 12

Maggie is the daughter of Robin and John McCaffrey, sister to Lyle McCaffrey, and granddaughter of Susan and the late Michael Katz and of Darlene and Larry McCaffrey. Maggie is a 7th grader at Oregon Episcopal School and a proud alumna of Portland Jewish Academy. In addition to all things math, science, baking, and handstand, Maggie loves to hang out with her friends, try new sports, and in her words "go do something." For her bat mitzvah project, Maggie continues to serve meals monthly at Blanchet House in support of their mission to offer food, shelter, and aid, with compassion and dignity, to those in need. Maggie looks forward to sharing the joy of her bat mitzvah with her family and friends.

Change, Preparedness, and Resilience at CNS By Mel Berwin, Director of Congregational Learning

"We find our humanity—our will to live and our ability to love—in our connections to one another. Just as individuals can find post-traumatic growth and become stronger, so can communities. You never know when your community will need to call on that strength, but you can be sure someday it will."

- Sheryl Sandberg, Option B

've had the privilege of participating in the program-planning process for our celebration of CNS 150. And although with relatively new clergy and professionals on our team, I've become one of the "oldest" members of the CNS team, I'm hardly a maven of CNS history. I look forward to learning from some of the more long-standing members of CNS and celebrating where we have come from—and I also believe the CNS 150 celebrations provide an opportunity to look forward. What has let us survive, grow, and adapt over the past generations—and in what ways will we need to grow and adapt to meet the needs of the next generation? Where do we want to be as a community 50 years from now, and what would allow us to move towards those goals? What do we, the adult Jewish community today, want to ensure for our children as they grow up and have children of their own?

One comment I've heard about the Neveh Shalom community is that we've always been willing to innovate, to adopt change, to grow and to meet the needs of the next generation—sometimes slowly and at other times ahead of the game. I believe that this openness to change is one facet of our resilience as a community. In my 13 years at CNS, I've seen that willingness. In this short time, our Foundation School, ALIYAH, Tichon, and Lifelong Learning programs have all undergone significant changes in structure and philosophy, to the benefit of our enrollment and of participant satisfaction. Our congregational leadership has invested in welcoming the diversity of our congregation and seeing to the needs of those who have not always fit the conventional image of participants in

synagogue life. Willingness to change is one facet of resilience; after all, changes are risky and challenging, even if they're being made for the right reasons. In order to see where change is necessary, we have to be open to seeing where we're failing or could be doing better. Change requires good leadership, vision, and collaboration among many stakeholders to succeed; not surprisingly, these are also characteristics of a resilient organization.

Another aspect of resilience is preparedness: having strategies and resources in place to deal with adversity. We experienced a small trial of this last month when responding to the horrible news from Pittsburgh. At that moment of heightened awareness, we asked ourselves: what would we have done? How can we prevent such an attack on our own community? Security is certainly one aspect of that preparedness, and there are many others that we—the leadership of CNS—think about all the time as well. After all, if it was a wildfire or an earthquake that had struck down a congregation in another city, we'd be talking about a whole different set of preparations in urgent tones.

This is why, when the program committee for CNS 150 discussed ideas for a community service project that would be beneficial to the wider community, I suggested a drive to shore up our emergency supplies. Did you know that CNS is a registered shelter in case of a neighborhood emergency? Over the past two years, I've attended a number of trainings by our local NET (Neighborhood Emergency Team) to find out more about what would happen in case of an emergency and what Neveh Shalom staff should know about that process. These



teams are coordinated by volunteers and trained by Portland Bureau of Emergency Management (I highly recommend you check out your own neighborhood NET team). A drive to gather supplies—water, food, warming pads, medical supplies—would make our own organization more prepared for adversity and would truly make sure we are an "oasis" for the neighborhood, a life-saving resource for others.

As we enter our year of celebrating CNS 150, I encourage you to join the celebrations as well as this conversation about the future of CNS. What are the changes you imagine we'll need to make in the next generation or two? What do you think Neveh Shalom can and should do in order to prepare for adversity while investing in our best possible future? What, in your opinion, are the ingredients that allow a community to continue to go "from strength to strength"?

Join this conversation on our CNS facebook page and at our events celebrating CNS 150 throughout the year.

The Generations at Neveh Shalom

By Eadie Kaltenbacher

ome of our current families at Neveh Shalom have been members for generations, while others are establishing their first roots. In honor of CNS's 150th anniversary, *The Chronicle* has launched a series which will highlight the stories of members in each category, beginning this issue with the Barishes and the Goldhammers.



Samara, Callie, Noah, and Elijah Barish

Members Callie and Noah Barish live on the eastside of Portland, but make the trip to Neveh Shalom several days a week. Their journey to CNS began several years ago when they moved to Portland as a couple. They were searching for a Jewish home where they could fit in right away, as well as to grow into when they decided to have a family of their own. They helped form a group called Portland Young Adult Shabbat which enabled young adults to rotate through various synagogues in the city on Shabbat. Neveh Shalom offered a group for young adults (Hinenu), which included regular Shabbat programming with a social gathering, and this group drew in the Barishes. They became involved in the leadership of Hinenu.

At the same time, they began thinking ahead to a time when they would start their own family. Callie and Noah

wanted a space where there was family programming, and educational opportunities for kids as well as lifelong learning for adults. Callie explained that for her family, Neveh Shalom covered all the bases. She also noted that it is big enough that it can foster a wide diversity of small communities within the larger umbrella for all interests and life stages. The Barishes joined CNS in 2011, and Noah quickly became a member of the Board of Directors while Callie began leading Shoreshim (Young Families). Callie and Noah now have their son Elijah (6) enrolled in ALIYAH, daughter Samara (3) enrolled in Foundation School, and two twin baby girls.

Conversely, the Goldhammer family has been involved with CNS for five generations, according to members Harry and Mary Goldhammer. Harry's paternal grandfather (also named Harry) joined decades ago, and passed the tradition on to his children. Harry and Mary joined in 1988 and have been active ever since, having each served on the board. Mary has chaired the Social Action Committee, and Harry has been Chair of Youth and Education. Mary was also known as the "Wine Lady" when her children were young, as she would serve grape juice to the kids at Friday evening services.



Harry and Elisabeth Goldhammer - 1920s

Mary and Harry's son **Aaron** represents the fourth generation of Goldhammers at CNS, along with his wife **Kaiya**, who is also our beloved librarian. Mary and Harry are still active in CNS, and particularly enjoy the rabbinical classes, *The Chronicle*, and the library. They are thrilled that Aaron and Kaiya's children are thriving at Foundation School.

As Neveh Shalom celebrates 150 years, these families' stories can inspire us to reflect on our past connections to CNS as well as consider what keeps us here, and imagine what our future at CNS will look like.



Three generations of the Goldhammer family

CNS 150: A Pictorial Look at Where We Came From

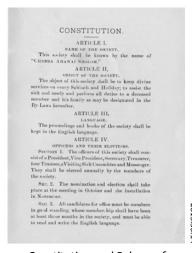
By Rachael Walkinshaw, the Sara Glasgow Cogan Judaic Studies Intern at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education. All images are from the archives at OJMCHE.



Congregation Neveh Shalom is a merger of two synagogues, Ahavai Sholom, founded in 1869, and Neveh Zedek, founded in 1892. Julius Eckman served as the first rabbi at Ahavai Sholom. Rabbi Eckman had come from San Francisco six years earlier to serve as rabbi to Beth Israel, yet he soon left, finding the Reform movement too far from tradition for his liking. It was this sense of duty to preserve tradition that made him a good fit for Ahavai Sholom, although he was only there for three years. The earliest members were traditionally minded Prussian and Polish immigrants, and for decades Ahavai Sholom was referred to as the "Polisha shul," despite actually leaning more toward the German style of worship. Searching to balance and blend modern progressive ideas with conservative rituals from varying countries of origin, Ahavai Sholom was a vibrant, if sometimes tumultuous enterprise, where modern Jewish immigrants could find their place in America.

Rabbi Julius Eckman, c. 1870

By the time of its first-known constitution in 1889, Ahavai Sholom had built a synagogue on SW Sixth between Oak and Pine, established a cemetery, and survived the ups and downs of its first two decades with a growing congregation, yet without consistent religious leadership. The constitution reflects a step toward modernization, specifying that official business should be conducted in English, although services and lectures were also held in German—not Yiddish. Notably, the constitution makes no mention of a rabbi in its objectives, maybe because finding a rabbi who could steady the growing pains in these early years proved difficult. Fortunately, chazzan Robert Abrahamson, who settled at Ahavai Sholom in 1886, was able to play various roles for most of four decades, performing the duties of cantor and rabbi as needed, lending much-needed stability to the still-maturing congregation.



Constitution and Bylaws of Congregation Ahavai Sholom, 1889



Immigrants disembarking, c. 1900

The earliest wave of Jewish immigration to Oregon consisted of Central European single men driven by economic circumstances. In contrast, the Russian immigrants who arrived around the turn of the twentieth century landed in Portland after fleeing violent persecution. They were mostly families, determined to preserve tradition. Congregations Neveh Zedek and Talmud Torah, who would merge in 1902, were both founded by Russian immigrants who sought the same balance as their Ahavai Sholom neighbors—to safeguard and carry forward tradition, while still embracing modernity in liberal worship and rituals. Even at the shul founded by Russian immigrants, services were conducted in English and German, often featuring an orderly choir (the antithesis of the noisy, chaotic scene which characterized traditional Eastern European services), and regular Sunday services were advertised.



Ahavai Sholom synagogue building at Park and Clay, 1905

By the end of the nineteenth century, Ahavai Sholom had outgrown its building, and in 1904 a new synagogue was erected at SW Park and Clay. This building would be home for the next nearly 50 years, witnessing many changes and significant growth of the congregation, including Ahavai Sholom's formally joining the Conservative movement in 1921, an arson fire in 1923, after which the synagogue was rebuilt on the same site, and a wave of German refugees in the 1940s, bringing with them a desire for tradition. Once again the newest members helped to bring balance between tradition and progress.

After the merger between the two Conservative Russian congregations, Neveh Zedek Talmud Torah (usually referred to as simply Neveh Zedek) was also in need of a new building large enough to house its growing membership and educational goals. When the cornerstone was laid for a new synagogue in 1911, the congregation boasted 121 families and 144 students at the Sabbath school, in clear need of the home which would serve them for the next five decades.



Neveh Zedek Synagogue c. 1950



Neveh Zedek Choir with Cantor Abraham Rosencrantz, 1915

Neveh Zedek, like Ahavai Sholom, struggled to find a steady rabbi, leaning heavily on their cantor, Abraham Rosencrantz, who acted as interim rabbi, led services, and directed education. In this lovely photo of Cantor Rosencrantz with the boys' choir he directed, the bridge he formed between many parts of synagogue life is evident. Rosencrantz served Neveh Zedek until his death in 1936 and is today remembered for his wonderful voice as cantor.

In 1937, Ahavai Sholom welcomed Rabbi Charles Sydney, bringing his steady, calm leadership to guide the congregation for the next 14 years—much longer than any previous rabbi. While the Jewish community reeled from the impact of the Second World War, the influx of German refugees and survivors of the Holocaust into the congregation shifted the tone of services toward the more traditional. Rabbi Sydney kept the congregation on an even keel, weathering the changes in stride.

Continued on next page



Ahavai Sholom Religious School Graduates with Rabbi Charles Sydney, 1950

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CNS 150: A Pictorial Look at Where We Came From continued



Ahavai Sholom and the JCC in the midst of Urban Renewal, 1963 - Photograph by Dr. William Galen

By 1950, membership at Ahavai Sholom had grown to 350 families, prompting the building of a new synagogue at SW 13th and Market. Yet fewer than ten years later, the City of Portland would undertake its South Portland urban renewal project, razing most of what had long been considered the heart of the Jewish community, despite the reality that Jews had moved all throughout the city in the preceding decades. This photo shows the demolition in progress, with Ahavai Sholom's still-new building on the left and the JCC in the center. Rabbi Joshua Stampfer arrived in Portland in 1953, just in time to guide Ahavai Sholom steadfastly through these turbulent changes.

In 1961, Ahavai Sholom and Neveh Zedek both voted to merge, unifying Portland's Conservative movement into one congregation. After much vigorous debate, the property on SW Peaceful Lane was selected, continuing the shift westward of many of Portland's Jewish institutions. On March 6, 1965, nearly one hundred years after its history began, Neveh Shalom dedicated its new home, the Ten Commandments serving as a beacon for Jewish unity in Portland.



Aerial view of Neveh Shalom on SW Peaceful Lane, 1963

We would like to thank all of the staff at OJMCHE, particularly Judy Margles, Anne LeVant Prahl, and especially Rachael Walkinshaw, for their extensive work putting together this pictorial essay of our very beginning 150 years ago, through the merging of Ahavai Sholom and Neveh Zedek, and the dedication of our present location.

Rachael Walkinshaw is a Judaic Studies minor at Portland State University and currently the Sara Glascow Cogan Judaic Studies Intern at the OJMCHE. Her great-grandparents were members of Ahavai Sholom, and she has been involved with Jewish education for more than ten years, teaching at Shir Tikvah's Nashira Project.

The People of the Book Turn to the Smallest Part of the Whole — Words —

for CNS 150

By Jenn Director Knudsen

olumes have been written about words and their meaning. In honor of CNS 150, a handful of Jewish artists are turning words into a visual representation.

As Congregation Neveh Shalom turns 150 this year and we fête this milestone, a few members of *ORA:* Northwest Jewish Artists contemplate in their respective media the words that led to the creation of our kehilla:

Neveh. Zedek. Ahavai. Shalom.

Eddy Shuldman, ORA founder and glass artist, believed that "there ought to be a special art exhibit to celebrate" the shul's sesquicentennial. Esther Liberman, ORA's president and a bead artist, agreed: "Artwork should always be part of a community celebration, as should music, dance, food, and poetry. Each medium brings more people's energy and interpretation into the whole, making it more meaningful and more memorable."



ORA founder and glass artist Eddy Shuldman

Further contemplation prompted Shuldman to turn the words that make up Neveh Shalom's past and present into a visual spectacle.

Study sessions on the four words' meanings commenced. Artists Laurie Fendel, Liberman, Shuldman, Diane Fredgant, and Wendelin Russell have spent months leaning on our classic texts—Talmud, Pirkei Avot, the Tanakh—to glean profound meaning from the words neveh, zedek, ahavai, and shalom. (They also plan to "dabble" in Gematria, Shuldman admits.)

"This deeper understanding fuels artists," Shuldman says. "And we are Jews, the people of the book." (Or, in this case, books.)

Shuldman says that althought most of the study sessions are self-directed, the group invited **Rabbi Eve Posen** to help lead one on the tricky word "neveh," translated as "oasis." "I pulled together a few of the texts from our Bible ... [to] conceptualize 'oasis' through the images in our text," Posen said.

She cited, for example, Exodus 15:13: "In Your love, You lead the people You redeemed; in Your strength, You guide them to Your holy abode."

The artists and rabbi studied in the Isaak Foyer, where the installation will begin with silk artist Fredgant's visual representation and modern interpretation of *mishkan* in her beloved smooth and flowing fabric.

"Zedek," "avahai," and "shalom" haven't



Art installation by Laurie Fendel in Room 102

yet required rabbinical assistance. Shuldman said "shalom," for example, is clearly about community.

"You cannot individually create peace; it requires an entire community," she said, adding, "We've formed a community, too, in our community of artists contributing to this significant place of Jewish learning and worship."

The wordplay, learning, and creating continue, all part of a "delicious" process, as Shuldman puts it.

Posen adds, "I don't usually work toward putting vision to text. It was a treat to be a part of the creative process, as I usually create with words and this forced me to switch to the visual representation."

The instant the Feb. 9 auction is over, ORA will install the centerpiece mishkan, by 9am, Feb. 10, the day of the CNS 150 celebration. ORA's objets d'art will be in the cases in the Isaak Foyer and will remain through March; Shuldman hopes to convene an artist talk-back in the interim.

Resiliency as Well-Being

By Cory Willson, Assistant Director at Foundation School

"Note to self: every time you were convinced you couldn't go on, you did."

— Unknown

Though I have only been at Foundation School for 2.5 months, I am quite proud to have been hired as Assistant Director. To me, Foundation School means family and community. Although I have only been here a short time, the feeling of joining a warm community is palpable. I took quite a leap of faith when I took on this new position, leaving behind students, co-workers, and families whom I loved, but I've not regretted it once! I have worked at many preschools as a teacher and can say with certainty that this is a very special place. Simply put, the community at Foundation School just has its heart in the right place... It's something that must be felt and is thus hard to describe (like all good things).

Resiliency is a topic that I'm passionate about. It can be defined as "the ability to recover readily from illness, depression, adversity, or the like; buoyancy." Something many people don't know about me is that beyond teaching, I'm also a trained family and child counselor. Part of going to graduate school meant discovering that counseling has two main branches, mental illness and mental health. The bulk of the "training and education" that I received fell under the heading of illness, but I saw the answers I was looking for within the concepts of health & well-being. At this time, I began to devote myself to these topics both professionally and personally. The most important thing I learned was that resilience lies within each of us as our natural state. It is buoyant (just as the definition states) and will rise to the surface the moment we get out of our own way. There's nothing to do, but there is something to know.

Resiliency means knowing that the way we think about our circumstances is exactly what creates our experience of life. The circumstances themselves are not a part of the formula (as hard as that can be to believe). There's a responsibility in knowing this, but also great relief. When you really know that you're creating your experience of life moment by moment, you must also know that the place to look when you're off is

right where you stand. You hold the key to your experience.

Over the years I have seen how contagious resiliency is. I have seen that as I polish my practice of allowing my natural resiliency to rise to the surface, there is a ripple effect. As I decide not to take some of my thinking seriously and instead wait for a deeper message, people notice and they do this too. This, of course, is old wisdom, but it is also something we naturally gravitate towards as people. It's something that children show us every day if our eyes are open. Children keep it simple, bounce back, and don't take their own thinking so seriously. Amazing!



The biggest gift I've witnessed through my focus on well-being comes when we bring resiliency to our communities and watch it flourish. It catches like wildfire and gets absorbed through all of our senses. Soon our automatic thinking changes, because our old way of thinking no longer seems/feels good enough, and there are fewer and fewer people around us who make it seem real to us. As this gets reflected back to us again and again, it becomes hard to separate the individual from the community, as we all are a part of the greater good together. The community at Foundation School is a most beautiful example of this, and I'm so lucky to be a part of it.

Member News

Kvell With Us

Mazel tov to CNS Member and ALIYAH kindergarten teacher Sarah Rohr, who was accepted into the Judaic Studies program at PSU.



Mazel Tov to Riley and Marci Atkins on the birth of their first grandchild, Levi William Atkins, born October 21. Proud parents are Adam and Ari Atkins from Seattle, WA. Maternal grandparents are Bob and Alayne Sulkin from Mercer Island, WA.

Rabbi Daniel Isaak's letter to the editor was published in the *Oregonian* on Wednesday, October 31. Visit here to read: https://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2018/10/readers_respond_lets_rid_our_c.html.

Mazel tov to Debbie Menashe on being honored at the *Daily Journal of Commerce's* Women of Vision award ceremony. The award "supports the women who are shaping our built environment with their leadership, mentoring efforts, community involvement and the promotion of industry diversity." More at: http://djcoregon.com/wovmagazine/digital-edition.



Mazel tov to Kurt Rice, our Director of Facilities, on becoming a grandfather! Kellan Richmond Warren Rice was born on October 31 at 7:41am in San Antonio, TX. The parents and baby are all doing well.

Mazel tov to Sharon Fendrich's father, whose photos of the Yom Kippur War are published for the first time and have been received by the National Library of Israel. Read the fascinating article here: https://tinyurl.com/ykwarphotos.



Mazel tov to Arlene Cogen on the release of her new book, *Give to Live: Make a Charitable Gift You Never Imagined*. According to her PR, this book is "a love story about your finances, taking care of family and making a difference. It is a guide about how to make giving, or philanthropy, a meaningful and rewarding part of your life." You can learn more, or purchase the book by searching Amazon.com. You

can also read an article in *Oregon Jewish Life* by visiting here: http://orjewishlife.com/you-can-buy-happiness-give.

Mazel tov to Victor Menashe. Oregon Health and Science University has honored Vic with an endowed professorship in his name in Adult Congenital Heart Disease. This ensures the continuity of research in this field at OHSU.

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

We regret to inform you of the passing of Evelyn Freedman (z"I), beloved wife of Howard Freedman.

We regret having to inform you of the untimely passing at the tender age of 25 of Stephanie Shternberg (z"I), beloved daughter of Boris and Elena Shternberg and brother of Bobby Shternberg.

Our condolences to Daniel (Shannon) Jonoff on the passing of his father Walter Janoff, z"l. Walter Janoff was married to Marianne Janoff for 48 years living in Rancho Palos Verdes, CA. He suffered a devastating spinal cord injury in 2012, but proved an inspiration to his friends, family, and community with his positive attitude and drive that allowed him to continue to live a fulfilling life for as long as he could.

We regret having to inform you of the passing of our congregant, Daniel Solondz (z"l), dear husband to Jackie Solondz and father to David (Kim) Solondz, Michael, Barry, Tami, and nine grandchildren.

Our condolences to Jonathan (Sarah) Glass on the passing of his dear mother, Lucy Glass (z"I), on November 16.

Our condolences to Steven (Stephanie) Goldsmith on the passing of his beloved mother, Caroline Skerker (z"I), on November 22.

We regret to inform you of the passing of congregant Esther Wayne, z"l, mother of Dr. Ronald J. Leon and Wendie L. Wayne, aunt of **Donna Jackson**, grandmother to four and great-grandmother to two.

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.

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Bim Bam: Reflections after Pittsburgh from a Foundation School Morah By Ilana Jaffe

very Friday morning, Foundation School celebrates Shabbat together. We gather in one room, sit in a circle, and sing.

We also dance. My absolute favorite part of this service is "Bim-Bam." It's part niggun, part prayer, part silly mosh-pit. The song starts like a chant (a niggun), and when we get into the chorus (the prayer), the kids get to run to the center of the room and jump up and down with pure, unapologetic joy (the silly mosh-pit). They hold hands, they shout (sometimes too loudly), they giggle, and we all clap for them.

Sometimes it's not all joy and laughter. Sometimes this song creates conflict. Sometimes someone bumps into someone else. Sometimes someone doesn't get to dance with the person they wanted to dance with. Sometimes it gets too loud, and a child grows overwhelmed. Sometimes my own students (toddlers under two who are too small to join in on the jumping) stop dancing in their seats and look up at me as if to say: "Why can't I join?" But nevertheless, we still Bim-Bam every Friday.

The first time I witnessed this beautiful mess of Judaism embodied, I cried. Seriously. I doubt anyone noticed, but I was absolutely tearing up at the site of these tiny humans dancing and singing and completely unaware that there are some people out in the world who do not want to clap for them. It was beautiful and sad and inspiring.

It terrifies me to think that we might be at the mercy of those who hate. But I do feel a spark of pride, even after such a sad day on which the Pittsburgh shooting occured, that I work in a school that creates a space that is safe enough for the truly epic mosh-pit of love that is "Bim-Bam." I am often afraid of my own anger. I think this is because I know it could easily turn into hate. The Hateful always start as The Fearful. But I'm starting to believe that my students won't let that happen to me. Because every Friday morning, after a long week of navigating the pure, uncensored humanity that only a preschool teacher encounters, the kiddos sing and dance and jump and bump and cry and hide and remind us all that, whether The Hateful clap or not, we are "Bim-Bam." Am yisrael chai. The Jewish People Live.



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Join us for On Broadway! Our CNS Fundraising Gala

"Legacy. What is a legacy? It's planting seeds in a garden you never get to see"
- Alexander Hamilton, "The World Was Wide Enough," Hamilton



The Richardson Family

Il the world's a stage, and on this special night make CNS yours! We are excited to celebrate Neveh Shalom's 2019 On Broadway! fundraising gala with the community on Saturday, February 9th, starting at 6pm.

This years auction chairs, Marissa Richardson and Mike Khavul, are active Shoreshim (young family) participants.

They, along with countless volunteers and CNS staff, have worked tirelessly to put together an event that will lift your spirits and make you proud to be part of our dedicated *kehilla*. We have a great array of silent auction items, one-of-akind live auction items, mouth-watering food, signature drinks, and much more!

For the last 150 years, Neveh Shalom has been a force in the Jewish community; this is your opportunity to help Neveh Shalom raise the necessary funds to keep our programs thriving and flourishing for many more years to come. While many nonprofit organizations such as hospitals, schools, and universities rely on grants to help them meet their operating budgets, for the most part, religious institutions are excluded from grant funding and count on the support of individual donors to meet their financial needs. No matter at what level you can participate, all financial contributions are welcomed



The Khavul Family

and needed. Moreover, if you are unable to join us the night of the auction, you can still be a part of it by making a donation or having a friend bid for you via proxy.

Treat yourself to a great night out with your friends, and show up in your finest duds or dress up as your favorite character from a Broadway show!