

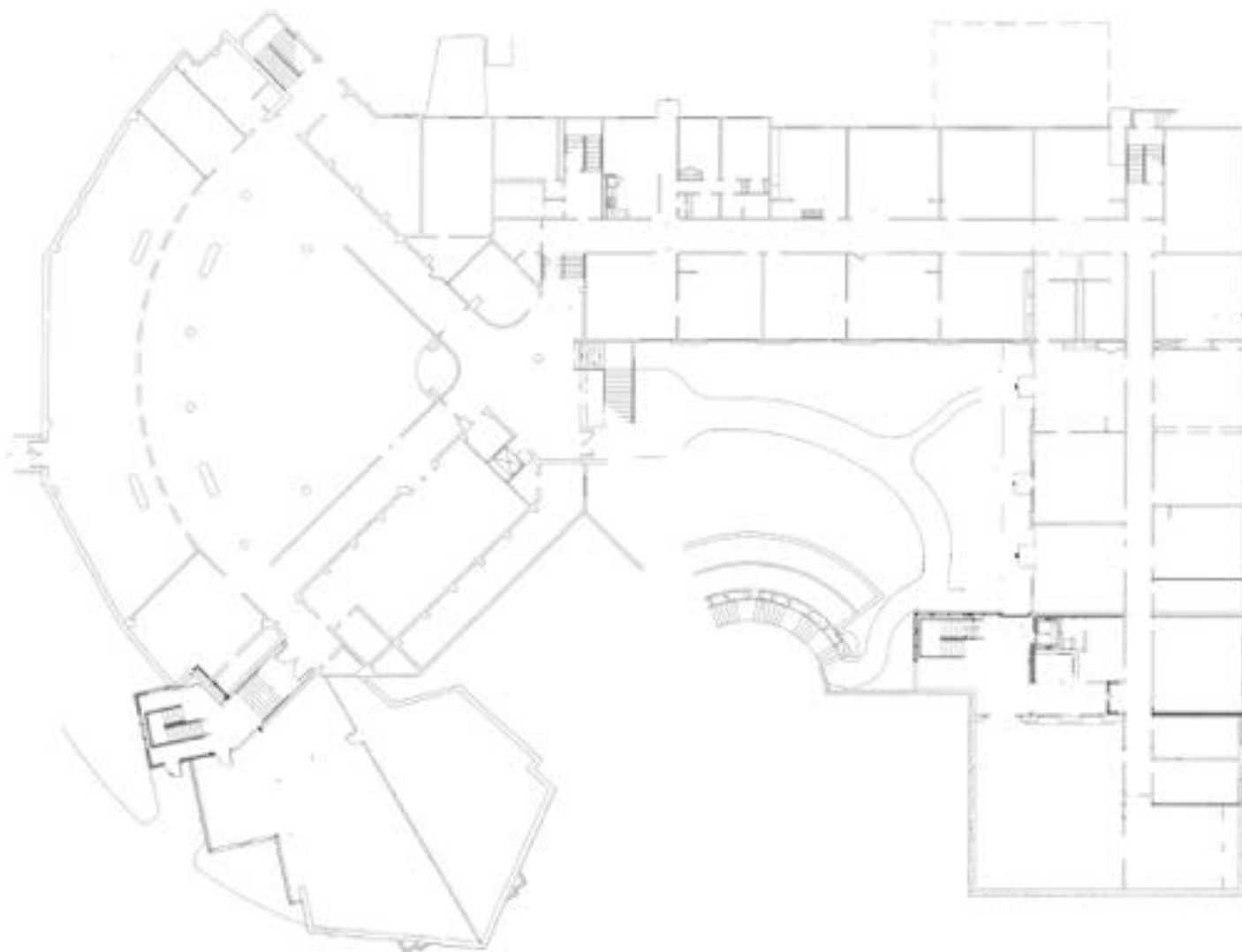
THE
CHRONICLE

A PUBLICATION OF CONGREGATION NEVEH SHALOM



*Chazak, Chazak,
V'Nitchazek*

We miss gathering in our building! This issue of the Chronicle is organized around the physical spaces of Neveh Shalom and represent the many aspects of the Holy Days that are symbolized by the Main Sanctuary, Stampfer Chapel, Kitchen, Holzman Plaza, Lower Courtyard, Zidell Chapel, and more. Thank you for being a part of our community!



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The Good-Enough High Holy Days

Rav D's Office

By Rabbi David Kosak

When my oldest niece was barely a toddler, my sister Deborah did something brilliant. She purchased two identical stuffed animals. Each week, she would wash both of them and rotate them into usage. In this way, they continued to look identical, and my little niece never realized that her most beloved animal was actually a twin. Even though Mo Willems's wonderful book, *Knuffle Bunny*, had yet to be written, my sister ensured that some of the meltdowns and tantrums that come from loss could be avoided.

Where did my sister find her inspiration? From an undergraduate psychology class where she learned about Donald Winnicott, a pediatrician and psychoanalyst active in the middle of the last century. One of his big ideas was the "transitional object." Basically, he argued that the reason young children are so attached to a favorite teddy bear or blanket is because it helps them to emotionally regulate and persevere in a new or challenging environment without their primary caregiver. When things change, and who you depended on isn't available, you need a good enough substitute.

Which brings us to a second concept Winnicott taught about: "the good-enough mother" (these days, we'd say the good-enough parent or primary caregiver). According to Winnicott, in the earliest days of an infant's life, a child's needs are addressed almost instantaneously. If they cry, they are picked up, perhaps burped, swaddled, or fed. Yet as the child matures, the parent does not immediately fulfill every need. They allow moments of frustration to creep into the infant's experiences. In this way, the child develops a more accurate understanding that they are not the center

of the universe. A good-enough parent fails the child for the child's benefit. If they get the balance right, the child will feel secure attachment, while also coming to realize that the world doesn't conform to our desires.

I want to use these two concepts to explore what a "good-enough High Holy Days" will look like. The high holiday services we love and depend on, like a nurturing parent, has left the room—literally. We aren't gathering in the Main Sanctuary, or Birnbach, or Room 102, or any room for that matter. We aren't *kibbitzing* in the Eleanor Fischer Foyer or the Isaak Foyer. Since the pandemic closed the world, our professional and lay leaders at Neveh Shalom have been busy creating transitional objects in our live-streamed services, Zoom classes, and so on. None of us consciously understood that we were crafting spiritual teddy bears and blankets, we were just hustling to adapt. But in effect, that's what we and the rest of the Jewish world were doing.

As wonderful as our new online offerings can be, they can't replace the real thing. We know that, because we don't feel the same in our *kishkes*, in our insides. To varying degrees, all of us feel some additional anxiety. Like that beloved blanket, our online offerings at work, home, and at synagogue help us to transition successfully, if a bit uneasily.

It's probably worthwhile for Jews everywhere to carry this notion of the "good-enough High Holy Days" with us. Here at Neveh Shalom, our passionate and dedicated clergy, teachers, and administrators have been designing new and exciting avenues for us to observe High Holy Days together. It is my hope that we will all find tremendous emotional, social, and spiritual support in these offerings.



Simultaneously, a bit of honesty is required. We adults don't like to think of ourselves as children. We'd rather view ourselves as successful, capable and adaptable grown-ups. Mostly we are. Yet in the face of a global pandemic, social unrest, and continuing uncertainty, there's a way that the "good-enough world" has failed us—precisely so we can get a better glimpse of reality.

What does that mean? There will undoubtedly be ways that our High Holy Days will fail all of us. Personally, I am terribly disappointed that so many of us can't pray in person. One of the most profound moments of the year for me is *Neilah* on Yom Kippur, when hundreds of us are praying with deep fervor, energy, and even excitement as our day-long fast nears an end.

At the same time, our good-enough High Holy Days will be exactly what we each need—providing enough of the familiar to allow us to make it through these troubling times with our hearts lifted and our faith strong.

Shanah Tovah,
Rav D

Be Strong, Let Us Strengthen One Another

Rabbi Eve's Office

By Rabbi Eve Posen

A few months ago, I stumbled across an online concert of one of my favorite Jewish musicians, Dan Nichols. His music lifted me up out of the darkness I experienced one particular summer, and has always been a go-to for me when I needed my soul to be filled. One of the songs he sang on this virtual performance was “Chazak.” The lyrics of the refrain are “Be strong, let us strengthen one another, be strong, let us celebrate our lives. Be strong, let us strengthen one another. *Chazak, chazak, v’nitchazek.*”

This song is adapted from the words we say when we finish a book of the Torah. It’s in these moments of transition when we wish one another the strength to move through the transition in the presence and power of community.

“Each of these actions and so many countless others have shown me the strength and the power of our community when we’re working together.”

This spoke volumes to me in my current situation, one that hasn’t been easy. Working from home with two kids who still want me to be fully present with them, coupled with looking at the state of affairs in our country and across the globe, has often led me into a place of darkness and, if I’m not careful, despair. Vacations and trips were cancelled, camps and family visits weren’t able to

come to fruition. This has been a major transition in so many ways, leaving me feeling weary and without strength.

As I write this article, nearly five months into our Covid-19 experience, I am also struck by the ways in which I have seen community strengthen each other. I look to signs from the “quaran-baking” and sharing of those delicious treats on the doorsteps of neighbors and friends, to the mutual offers of grocery pickups for one another, to finding beautifully painted rocks around town. Each of these actions and so many countless others have shown me the strength and the

power of our community when we’re working together.

The High Holy Day season is one in which we’re asked to reflect back on our own, individual years and how we might have missed the mark or might

want to change moving into a new year. We’re also given prayers to recite that are written in the plural, for communal missteps and transgressions. How odd it feels to be praying in the plural when I haven’t been a “we” with the world in quite some time.

You’ve likely heard the phrase “together apart” used as the description of



what community looks like right now, and for most of this year. We’re keeping our distance from one another, but still together on the journey. I imagine that might be what the Israelites at the back of the caravan felt about the front of the caravan: distanced, but united.

For me, that’s also what the phrase *chazak, chazak, v’nitchazek* means. We are strongest when we’re together. And when we can’t be physically together, we must find other ways to strengthen one another. As we enter into 5781, a year that holds so many unknowns (which itself isn’t so unusual), may we be aware of the ways in which we can lend our strength to each other.

Seeing Like Prophets in the New Year

Cantor Bitton's Office

By Cantor Eyal Bitton



Days during a pandemic. Rather than gathering together physically, it will be a virtual experience. As I consider what has already happened in terms of the pandemic and social upheaval, I wonder if any of this could have been foreseen and what the future holds. As I consider what this experience will be like and what the New Year will be like, I am reminded of the greatest prophet in Judaism, Moses.

Moses was not a fortune-teller. Indeed, the word for prophet in Hebrew is "*navi*." Its root letters (*nun-bet*) are not related to seeing the future; they actually relate to openness. Prophets are able to see things differently from the average person because they are open. They are open to interpreting what they see. They are open to understanding things differently. They are open, then, to new perspectives.

The New Year, Rosh Hashanah, is about looking to the future. We look to the past in order to inform ourselves about how to engage with the future. It's about newness and hope.

In terms of newness, there is no doubt that this year offers something new. For the first time in our community's history, we will be celebrating the High Holy

In a year that none of us could foresee, let us be like prophets—open to seeing things in a new way. Let us be open to seeing in new ways, particularly in ourselves.

Every time the shofar is blown on Rosh Hashanah, we sing "*Hayom harat olam*," "on this day, the world was created." Is it this day oh so many years ago? Or is it this day—this very day? If so, then this year is the start of creation! This day is a birth of sorts. *Lev Shalem* translates this line as: "Today the world stands as at birth." The next lines remind us that we are called to judgment by God. This isn't necessarily something to fear; it is a reminder that we have a chance to begin anew, to give ourselves a clean slate, but we must do so with a moral center and with the understanding that our actions have consequences.

When you look at the world around you, how do you see it? There are great and tumultuous events that happen around us. How do we perceive them? We can choose to be closed or we can choose to be open to new perceptions. Whether one sees the world as being filled with the worst side of humanity or with the best, one can choose to live one's life with goodness, with promise, and with a heart filled with godliness.

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Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah



Ephraim Hale | September 12

Ephraim Asher is the son of Nava Sherwood and Cameran Hale, oldest brother of Liam, Eitan, and Alia, grandson of Harry and Marta Sherwood, Vikki Klass, and the late Leonard Hale, and great-grandson of Teresa Barbachano (Lihui, HI). Ephraim is an excellent cook who also enjoys science, math, parkour, video games, and playing board games with his siblings, and wants to learn animation, coding, and game design. He just completed 6th grade at Maayan Torah Day School, and is grateful to the community for all their love and support in bringing him to this point.



Hannah Ickes | October 3

Hannah is the daughter of Aaron Ickes and Jill Pelavin and is the older sister to Noah. She is the granddaughter of Edward & Arlene Pelavin and Steve & Barb Ickes and the late Mary Ickes. Hannah is an 8th grader at Beaumont Middle School. She enjoys skiing, dancing, boxing, and baking. Hannah also loves attending summer camp at B'nai B'rith.



Adrian Schulman | October 3

Adrian Schulman is the son of proud parents Melissa Jacobs and Peter Schulman, brother of Samara, and grandson of Rita and Joseph Schulman and Geri Jacobs. He just finished 6th grade at Gilkey Middle School, where he is studying Spanish and French. Adrian loves sports, especially basketball and squash, and has spent countless hours making sack lunches for the homeless during our Covid self-isolation. Given his many years of studying the Spanish language and Latin American cultures, he is developing a strong global perspective.



Samuel Hartoch | October 17

Samuel is the son of proud parents Catherine and Rick Hartoch. He is the grandson of Kenneth and Helen (z"l) Hartoch of Santa Barbara and John and Anita Saunders of Reno, Nevada and Ellen Saunders (z"l) of Oak Park, Illinois. Sam is a 7th grader at Robert Gray Middle School. Sam enjoys basketball, baseball, soccer, and music. He is fluent in Spanish and loves traveling. He has climbed to the top of Mt. St. Helens and several peaks in Ecuador with 180 local kids. He couldn't make his fourth visit to Israel this year because of Covid but hopes to return there soon.



Hannelie Popkin | October 24

Hannelie Popkin is the daughter of Erika Meitzen and Lawrence Popkin, the little sister of Travis, the big sister of Ingrid Isabel, and the granddaughter of Travis and Irene Meitzen, Edward and Karin Popkin, and Jane and Tom Means. She is a 7th grader at Murchison Middle School in Austin, Texas. Hannelie enjoys playing piano and trombone, dancing, scouting, and conducting chemistry experiments.

The Shofar

Holzman Plaza

By Glen Coblens, CNS President

"It is as if the shofar's call is telling us, 'Awaken from your slumber! Examine your actions, return to your true selves, and remember your Creator. Those who forget the truth in the vanities of time... look inside yourselves. Improve your ways and your actions and abandon the negativity in your life'"

– Rambam, Laws of Teshuva 3:4



questions are but a drop in the bucket of those our amazing staff, clergy, board, and volunteers have been pondering, debating, and resolving, with a single-minded focus: to ensure the CNS High Holy Day experience is as powerful and meaningful as ever.

4:00pm on the second day of Rosh Hashanah (the shofar is not sounded on Shabbat, which coincides this year with the first day of Rosh Hashanah). In addition,

"This year, I challenge you to connect even more deeply, and to hear the shofar as a call to Rise Up. Act! Push for equality, justice, fairness, and love!"

Wake Up! Listen! Remember! Engage! So many different meanings we can take from those sharp piercing sounds, so many emotions. This year, I invite

you to close your eyes. As you hear the first *tekiah*, notice what happens to your heart. Does it beat harder and faster? Does your heartrate drop or continue to race throughout? Then, when the final *tekiah gedolah* fades, do you smile? Do you feel more relaxed? Do you feel just a tiny bit better about yourself, your community, the world? This year, I challenge you to connect even more deeply, and to hear the shofar as a call to *Rise Up*. Act! Push for equality, justice, fairness, and love! Invest in yourself, our community, and each other.

Tekiah! Shevarim! Truah! Tekiah Gedolah!!! These sounds bring me back to the first time I held a shofar, placed into my hands by my uncle **Alan Montrose** when I was five years old. Just a couple of weeks ago, I selected my favorite shofar, a gift from Uncle Alan who has been blowing for almost 50 years. As I pursed my lips, I instantly felt the joyous vibrations of our long, ancient history and traditions.

This year, I've had to make adjustments. Normally, I'd blow in Zidell Chapel at morning minyan a couple of times a week during the month of *Elul*. Since morning minyan is now virtual and I log in anyway, should I blow, knowing I'd awaken my household? Is hearing the shofar over Zoom enough? How can we ensure those who are isolated are still able to hear the unique sounds? These

tion, Alan and I will be in the Holzman Plaza blowing for those who choose to come into the sanctuary to stand before the ark (be sure to register with the office). And as you blow and/or listen, I ask you to consider: What is your *main thing* for 5781? How can our *kehilla kedosha* be a part of your journey? How do you want to help make this world a better place to live, work and play? *Chag sameach!*



I welcome all of you to step outside and blow your own shofars at

The Big Picture of Our High Holy Day Offerings

Main Sanctuary

By Mel Berwin, Director of Congregational Learning

One of the most jarring aspects of working at a synagogue is having to plan the details of High Holy Days beginning in June, just when the school year has finished, summer begins, and we would rather be reflecting, refreshing, and taking a breath before pushing ahead with plans for the new year. This year, plans began even earlier, as we knew we had to prepare for the eventuality of our High Holy Day services looking different than ever before.

So what does it take to plan High Holy Days as a synagogue in a year when our primary experience of holidays—our ability to gather together as one whole community in our sacred space—is impossible?

First, it takes a lot of thought. After all, each of us has something that most connects us to the holidays. For some it's the taste of tart apples dipped in sweet honey, for others it's the recitation of *Kol Nidre*, or hearing the special tunes or trope of the holidays. For some it's the gathering of friends and family around a table piled with fall foods, and for others it's the feeling of being surrounded by hundreds or thousands of fellow Jewish community members, dressed in holiday clothing and buzzing with greetings of "*gut yuntuf!*" or "*shana tovah!*" So our team had to step back and think about all of the experiences we wanted to offer this year, how to transform ourselves from the physical space of the Main Sanctuary to Zoom and beyond, to the many social, educational, and spiritual touchpoints that we could offer for congregants in new ways.

Second, it takes creativity and coordination. All of us—the clergy team, the education team, the communications team, our lay leaders and volunteers—worked harder than ever this year to think creatively and coordinate efforts so that we could offer as full a range of programs and experiences as possible. We looked at the opportunities as well as the challenges. After all, we no longer are limited by the size of a room or the number of chairs that our sanctuary spaces can hold. That means we can hold services in which all of our clergy participate, and family services that incorporate a wider range of ages, so families don't need to choose between services for their younger or older children. We can't gather all together, but we could gather in small neighborhood groups. What if the shofar is sounded outside, all throughout Oregon, at the same time on Rosh Hashanah, so Jews across the region can hear it?

Third, it takes technology. Fortunately, we have dedicated volunteers like **Ed Kraus** and staff like **JoAnn Bezodis**, who have spent countless hours working behind the scenes—and the cameras and computers—in Stampfer Chapel to develop our capacity for live-stream and Zoom capabilities. Videographer and congregant **Ken Klein** added his production expertise to film and edit the many sections of High Holy Day services, including sermons and Torah readings, beginning in July.

And finally, it takes strength. Our theme for this year, as you read in Rabbi Eve's article at the beginning, and will also



see reflected in my article on education, is "*Chazak, Chazak, v'Nitchazek*"—be strong, be strong, and we will strengthen each other. It takes strength to stay positive, to cope with the grief and the challenges of not seeing our loved ones, not gathering communally, not being able to share our milestones and our daily lives with one another as we are accustomed. It takes strength to ask ourselves: what do we—congregants who are used to gathering together at our shul for the Holy Days—need in order to make the most of this season despite all of the obstacles to our normal rituals and observances? What are the ways we can strengthen ourselves and each other by connecting online or in person with our family, friends, and community? This year, everything takes more intention. We look forward to hearing what you are doing that is special and different this year, and we look forward to celebrating, learning, gathering, Zooming, and praying with you, and wishing you a *gut yuntuf* and *shana tovah*!

Anticipating the High Holy Days Online

Lower Courtyard

By Jenn Director Knudsen

A quick show of hands: Who spends Shabbat in a Zoom box or on the other end of a livestream? Since the onset of the global pandemic, Neveh Shalom has hosted online Kabbalat Shabbat and Shabbat services, and many members of our *kehillah* have logged on to experience them and remain connected. Yet, being online for Shabbat, the most sacred day of the week, is counterintuitive for many for whom the day is marked instead by turning off technology.

What, then, about the High Holy Days, the most sacred time of year? It's a season on the Jewish calendar when folks seek and try to find sacred space in which to ready oneself for and experience the *Yamim Noraim*.

Most often a communal experience, they never before have happened online. Until 5781. Here, a handful of congregants weigh in about Shabbat today and the coming High Holy Days.

The High Holy Days will play in their home on the big screen, via their TV instead of cell phone or tablet, "in order to have a larger sense of the events' magnitude."

"Just like now, when our children were young, we did turn off tech and focus on games, walks, nature, reading, and relaxing together," said **Gail Sherman** of her and husband **Mark's** four adult kids.



The extended Krivoy family in August, lighting the Shabbat candles in Lidia and Raul's home. L to R: Raul, David, Noemi, Jessica, Lidia, Zahava. Their oldest daughter, Jess (not pictured), lives in Sacramento.

Sharing a similar experience, **Mia Birk** said, "Pre-Covid-19, we usually had large Shabbat dinners with family, or some of us would attend services, depending on the situation. And phones and electronics would not be part of dinner; rather, conversation and board games."

And make no mistake about Shabbat practices at the **Shenker** household from days gone by: "It was clear we'd all be together and there'd be no engagement the kids would accept," **Arden** said of his and **Lois'** three children, now parents themselves.

These days, Arden said, "We do no emailing or texting on Shabbat because...they are an intrusion into the time we sanctify the Shabbat."

The couple plans to participate in this year's High Holy Days' services online, "but we're not looking forward to it as a positive pleasure," Arden said. "I don't have a hangup about [attending online]; I just don't have any delight in it."

He and Lois plan to carve out time offline, perhaps engaging together in study and reflection.

To prepare for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, **Lidia** and **Raul Krivoy** plan to read relevant texts and articles "to make us reflect and inspire retrospection," they said. The High Holy Days will play in their home on the big screen, via their TV instead of cell phone or tablet, "in order to have a larger sense of the events' magnitude."

Continued on the next page

Wendy Kahn for more than a decade has been intentional about logging off by 4:00pm on Fridays. But in the era of coronavirus, she said, “I have reconciled observing virtually.”

Wendy continued, “These are not easy times, and health and individual safety are primary. Can you imagine how Jews observed the High Holy Days in 1918? How isolating do you think it was to be sick or to pray then? Technology is helping to connect us.”

For **Karen Wohl**, being connected to people is very important, so she forges connections every day, including on Shabbat, even if it requires tech to do so. Once Covid-19 struck -- and she was one of its many victims and, months after her diagnosis, still struggles to return to optimum health -- she logged on to a livestream Shabbat service shortly after it went online, “and I found the [experience] incredibly moving,” she said.

“I was weeping with gratitude with all of us behind our screens being counted [for a minyan]. The feeling that I was not alone, even in this really attenuated way—and we still could do the mitzvah—was emotional,” Wohl said.

And she’s intellectually torn as she anticipates greeting 5781.



Wendy, Rebecca, Michael, and Steven Kahn at Disney World in 2019.

“I find myself angry at how close it is to what I want and can’t have it,” she says about being behind a screen and missing the in-person experience of all that services encompass, including *leyning* Torah, praying in community, and being among friends.

“It’s like visiting a relative in jail and you can only touch or kiss your loved one through a plexiglass wall,” Wohl explains.

She struggles less with using technology to log on for the High Holy Days and more with feeling lonesome with-

out her *kehillah* about her, the ritual objects, and the people adorning or donning them. “The things I love about Judaism,” she said, “I hadn’t before realized how rooted they are in physicality.”

“I was weeping with gratitude with all of us behind our screens being counted [for a minyan]. The feeling, that I was not alone, even in this really attenuated way—and we still could do the mitzvah—was emotional.”



Handmade challot by Gail and Mark Sherman as they prepare for Shabbat.

Back to Gail Sherman, she considers how to balance using tech and maintaining the sacred: “I probably will do a good bit of my davening offline, maybe in my garden” for this year’s High Holy Days, and she plans to send out Happy New Year cards with a family photo enclosed in time for recipients to respond in kind.

“I hope that even surrounding myself with photos of my *kehillah* will help me feel connected to the deep love I experience in shul on the High Holy Days,” she said.

Chazak, Chazak

ALIYAH Office

By Mel Berwin, Director of Congregational Learning

When we read the last words of any of the five books of Torah, in Ashkenazi tradition the congregation rises and chants, “*Chazak, chazak, v’nitchazek*”—“Be strong, be strong, and let us strengthen each other.” In Sephardi tradition, the congregation says, “*Chazak u’varuch*”—Let us be strong and blessed.

Every ritual in Judaism offers us a chance to pause, to take a breath, to recognize the moment, and to check in about the last time we were here. When did we last hear “*Chazak, chazak*”? When did we last light candles? When did we last eat apples and honey? Who were we with, and what was the special meaning at that moment? How has the ritual changed for us since then, and *how have we changed*?

One of my teachers says, “Time goes by; it’s up to us to make it holy.” One of the challenges for us during this time is finding the strength to make time holy—somehow it feels as though it takes a lot more intention and energy right now to do that, doesn’t it? I’ve been thinking about this as we plan for the High Holy Days and the new school year. How do we help empower each other to create holy space and holy time when we can’t gather in the usual ways?

Consider the sensory experiences that matter to you during the holidays. Are there foods, music, prayers, Jewish ritual objects, clothing, table decorations, or natural spots that you like to visit that make your holiday feel special? Can you start your Shabbat or holiday meal by listening to music, offering a blessing, or asking a question that sets the mood and allows your family a chance to reflect on this holiday, maybe how it’s different this



“No one ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and we're not the same person.”

— Adapted from Heraclitus

year, or what you remember from years past? Are there people you miss that you can connect with by a phone call or card or lighting candles together on Zoom before the holiday begins?

As we turn our attention to the new school year, my focus is on using our strengths to create the best possible learning environments for our children at this time. We have opportunities at this time that we don’t normally have. We can offer smaller group learning; we can group children by learning affinity groups; we can offer more individual, in-person tutoring for children who are not up for more learning on Zoom; we have the space to spread out with our teens and hold small group programming when other conditions are safe; we are beginning a new adult education program (co-taught by Rabbi Posen, Deb Freedberg, and myself) called “Roots and Branches--Digging into Jewish Ideas & Practice” that is somehow much easier to organize on Zoom than in-person programs have been.

Chazak, chazak, v’nitchazek. Be strong, be strong, and we will together be strengthened. Judaism brilliantly focuses—always—on both the individual and the community. We are each responsible, at all times, for being the best self we can, for using our unique God-given abilities and nurtured strengths to be ethical human beings with each other—and when we do that, everyone is lifted up, everyone is strengthened. (And to be clear, we consider it a strength to be honest about our challenges too!) With “*Chazak, chazak, v’nitchazek*” as our theme of ALIYAH this year, we will be helping each child think about what they believe are their strengths, how we each contribute to community, and how community in turn makes us stronger. May we all be blessed in this new year, despite whatever challenges may continue or arise, to recognize our own strengths, to use our strengths to help lift up others, and in turn to be lifted up by our community around us.

Spaghetti-Tangles in the Chapel

By JoAnn Bezodis

Stampfer Chapel

As the Covid quarantine stretched from one month into two, I began to feel a certain unease that we might be in this predicament for much longer than we originally anticipated. Naturally, the first month was a flurry of transition into virtual learning. Through online tutorials, Mel Berwin and I quickly familiarized ourselves with Zoom Cloud Meetings to help ALIYAH teachers continue classes for our students in grades K-12 and adult Hebrew. Sure, it was a bit bumpy at first, but we got through the rest of the school year feeling very proud of our Neveh Shalom resilience. As the school year drew to a close, I knew summer would be the best opportunity to sharpen my technology skills as we faced a new school year in the shadow of Covid.

CNS member **Ed Kraus** has volunteered many hours over these past several years to live-stream Neveh Shalom's Shabbat services. In the spring of 2020, this online feature went from an outreach for those unable to attend services to being Neveh Shalom's main lifeline to our members. When I approached him at the end of May, Ed graciously agreed to take me under his wing and teach me. I probably looked like a deer in the headlights as I stared at the table in the center of Stampfer Chapel, piled with spaghetti-tangles of cords and cables, punctuated with switches, splitters, and encoders surrounding a sound board. Ed explained how much he had to scramble to create this live-stream production set, drawing my eyes from the table to four cameras on tri-pods, three extra lighting stands, two TVs as monitors (for clergy and for the sound table), and a DVR recorder (... *chad gadya*). Before I *plotzed*, Ed assured me it would all make sense in time as I came to services to observe everything in action.



Production equipment in the Stampfer Chapel, set up by Ed Kraus

Quarantine taught me that livestream technology would be a huge asset to the education programs at CNS, so I decided to take the plunge. Each week I learn more, growing in knowledge of technology, and also nourishing my spirit (there's a lot to be said for actually attending services). For the uninitiated, here's a quick overview of what's happening behind the scenes:

Microphones, cameras, and lighting have been set up at four separate stations in Stampfer Chapel to serve:

- 1) the rabbi,
- 2) the cantor,
- 3) bar/bat mitzvah youth and family, and
- 4) a place for other participants

Voices are carried through the microphones into the soundboard to be properly mixed and equalized. The cameras feed into a video switch that allows us to transition between cameras, and between wide or close-up angles, much like a TV studio.

A separate laptop is used to insert photos, pre-recorded audio or Zoom participants as directed. In real time, we check that everything looks right by watching the TV monitors and listening through headphones. We use a separate laptop to log into www.nevehshalom.org to monitor the livestream while recording it to the DVR. Together, the sound and video travel through encoders to get translated into signals over the internet, that bring the Shabbat service to your device, whether computer, laptop, phone, or tablet.

Ed says he appreciates having another CNS member learn the process, not only for the extra help, but also to have emergency backup if one of us cannot be there. For me, it's actually become a fun new hobby of sorts. If you happen to tune in to the CNS live-stream at off-hours, you might catch a glimpse of my kitten playing, as I practice my new skills. Many thanks to Ed Kraus for bringing us his expertise, and for being a very patient mentor to me.

Shabbos Mouse Gets Ready for Rosh Hashanah

Zidell Chapel

By Levia Friedman

Hey, Shabbos Mouse, are you ready to come out and tell a story?
"No, I'm feeling shy."

Oh, then good thing the children know what to do.

**"SHABBAT SHALOM,
SHABBOS MOUSE!"**



"Shabbat Sha – wait a minute. Today is not Shabbat."

You're right, Shabbos Mouse, but I know you have an important story to tell us.

"Oh, so I do. OK, here I go. I was just drinking a little apple juice when I spilled my full cup and some of the cards you left on the kitchen table got wet."

I remember that Shabbos Mouse. I had just finished putting the final stamp on our New Year's cards.

"Yeah. And then you used your outside voice and you said, 'Shabbos Mouse! Did you spill juice on my cards?'"

Yes. And we grabbed the kitchen towels and started to dry the cards.

"Then I picked up a card and asked you, 'What are these?' and you opened them to show me what they look like on the inside. There's a really fun picture of our whole family and I'm smiling, and the card says, 'L'Shana Tova from our family to yours!' so I asked you, 'Why are we sending cards to so many people? Are they birthday invitations?'"

Right. I laughed and told you that they were not exactly birthday invitations, but that pretty soon it will be the world's birthday, the holiday we call Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year.

"Oh. My. Gosh. I am getting that excited feeling again!! The entire world has a birthday? And we're invited? But wait, is it going to be a car parade? Or a Zoom party? Will there be cake?"

Oh, Shabbos Mouse, you are so good at celebrating important days from all the practice you've had with car parades and Zoom parties. The great thing about Rosh Hashanah is that we get to celebrate it with our big, Jewish family, with the whole Neveh Shalom community. Wait 'til you see what we'll get to do – from a drive-in service for erev Rosh Hashanah to a Zoom service in pajamas the next morning, there will be lots of opportunities to connect, socially and spiritually.

"That sounds like fun. But when it was my birthday, we made cupcakes and I think the world likes cupcakes too."

Well, Shabbos Mouse, we will have all of the traditional foods, apples and honey and a round challah. Maybe this year I will make my mom's apple cake recipe in the shape of cupcakes. Just for you!

"Yum. That all sounds good. How will I know everyone else is celebrating too?"

Shabbos Mouse, just wait until you hear about The Big Shofar Blow: On the second day of Rosh Hashanah, at 4:00pm, people from all over Oregon and southwest Washington will go outside and blow their shofarot.

"Can I use my toy one?"

Absolutely. And we will listen closely – do you think we'll hear others, too?

"I hope so. Mommy, I'm sorry I spilled my apple juice on the cards."

Shabbos Mouse, I'm sorry I overreacted and used my outside voice. I will be more aware of my reactions and take a deep breath next time before I speak.

"I forgive you."

Thank you, Shabbos Mouse. You're helping me do the work of the High Holy Day season, focusing on becoming my best self by doing *teshuvah*: paying attention to mistakes I have made and working on making better choices.

"Wait, even grown-ups make mistakes?"

Yes, Shabbos Mouse. All humans and mice do! Anyone can do things that hurt or bother other people. Then we get to apologize for what we did, repair the harm, and work on making better choices next time.

"OK. And eat apples and honey, and maybe even cupcakes, and connect with all of the people we love from Neveh Shalom? I'm ready!"

Please check nevehshalom.org/hhd5781 for a complete list of fun and engaging events for Young Families. We can't wait to celebrate the High Holy Days with you and with Shabbos Mouse!

Virtual Happenings

Birnbach Hall

Please enjoy this sampling of what is being offered at Neveh Shalom. The best way to get the latest information is through our weekly eblasts. You can sign up at: news@nevehshalom.org.

Ongoing Events

Please visit the website for links at: nevehshalom.org/virtual-events

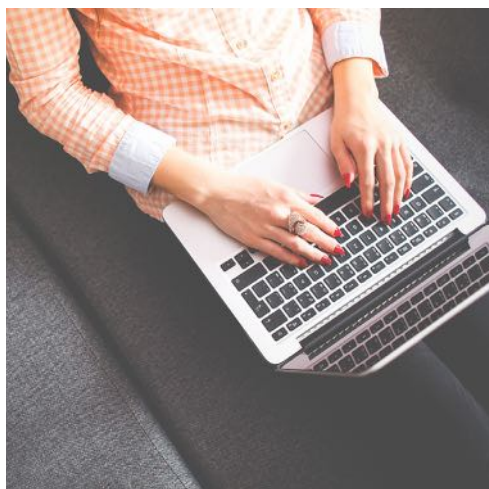
Exercise with Coach Glen Coblens Wednesdays, 10:30am

Coach Glen Coblens is pleased to offer a dynamic and fun 45-minute, online Zoom workout for all. Guaranteed to be a stress reducer and energy builder. No previous athletic ability required. Focus will be on building core strength.

Socialize and Engage with Your Kehillah Wednesday Nights, 8:00-9:00pm

Watch for new themes and topics to socialize and engage with *your kehillah*. For more info contact: mca-plan@nevehshalom.org.

Weekly Musical Midrash Project: The Book of Genesis - Sun, 8:00am | Mon, 6:00pm - Starting October 18 & 19 Join Mark Sherman for a weekly 30 min. Musical Midrash Project session. Each week, a new song will guide participants in making a strong, musical connection to the weekly Torah reading in the Book of Genesis.



One-Time Events

Please visit the website for links at: nevehshalom.org/virtual-events

Back to Shul 2020

Monday, Sept 7, 11:00am-1:30pm

By appointment only!

Come by CNS to receive a bag full of goodies and enjoy a social distance visit with your clergy, lay-leaders, and staff, as you drive through the parking lot. Hot dog meal (vegetarian option available) by Century Catering available for purchase in advance. Registration required: tinyurl.com/backtoshul2020.

ALIYAH Kickoff Event

Sunday, Sept 13

Our ALIYAH families will begin the year at a parking lot event to meet teachers, sing a song or two, and pick up curriculum and project supplies to begin the year! Stay tuned for time for your child's grade.

Sisterhood Virtual Happy Hour

Sunday, Sept 13 & Oct 18, 4:00pm

Join the Sisterhood for a fun virtual happy hour. To join and receive Zoom link, please email: coprez22@gmail.com.

First Evening of Tichon

Wednesday, September 16

We can't wait to bring our teens together for a year of deepening friendships with each other and our congregation, engaging in meaningful social justice projects, building leadership skills, and discussing important topics of the day.

Sisterhood Book Group

Sunday, Sept 21 & Oct 26, 4:00pm

Join the Sisterhood for a rich book discussion. To join and receive Zoom link, please email: coprez22@gmail.com.

Musical Midrash Project: Devarim!

Tuesday, October 6, 7:00pm The Musical Midrash Project brings you the final 11 songs of the Torah cycle, underscoring powerful themes and foundational inspirations that have guided our people for

thousands of years. With new melodies to interpret ancient texts, the songs have important resonance for our current time.

Morning Minyan and Shabbat

Please visit the website for links at: nevehshalom.org/virtual-services

Morning Minyan

Mon-Fri, 7:15am | Sun, 9:00am

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Fridays, 6:15pm

Saturday Morning Shabbat Service

Saturdays, 9:30am

Downstairs Minyan Shabbat Service

2nd, 4th, 5th Saturdays, 9:30am

Young Families

Please visit the website for links at: nevehshalom.org/virtual-services. For more information, please contact Rabbi Eve at: eposen@nevehshalom.org.

Kiddush Club

1st & 3rd Saturdays, 9:30am

Log into Zoom for a virtual Kiddush Club. Morah Sarah Rohr and Gershon Liberman will alternate leading Kiddush Club until we can gather again in person.

Tot Shabbat

1st & 3rd Saturdays, 10:30am

Log into Zoom for a virtual Tot Shabbat. Amy, Levia, Morah Leah, and Rabbi Eve will alternate leading Tot Shabbat until we can gather again in person.

Young Family Flashlight Havdallah

2nd Saturdays, 6:30pm

Grab a flashlight and join us for a short reflection on our week, a little singing and Havdallah ritual.

4th Fridays Sing-a-Long with Rabbi Eve

4th Fridays, 5:15pm

Join Rabbi Eve as she leads our Shabbat service for families on Zoom. We'll do a bit of singing, a story, and blessings.

Whether we're new to Judaism or have been learning all of our lives, we all need to be inspired and evolve in our beliefs and practices. Neveh Shalom offers opportunities to deepen our connections to each other, to our language, our texts, and our traditions. Below are Neveh Shalom's Lifelong Learning opportunities as we head into the Jewish New Year of 5781. **All classes are online.** *For more info or to register, please visit: nevehshalom.org/adult-education.*

FALL KICK-OFF CLASSES

Conservative Judaism Explained

Tuesday, Sept 8, 7pm with Mel Berwin

Whether you're a new member or simply seeking greater clarity, you're invited to attend this engaging opportunity to learn about our movement's name, values, and distinguishing features. Free and open to all.

Q&A for Beginning Hebrew & Machon Ivrit

Tuesday, Oct 13, 7:00pm with Teachers

Orientation to our Hebrew classes and levels. Meet the teachers, explore the syllabus, and get help with registration.

JUDAISM IN OUR LIVES

Women's Torah Study

Saturdays, Aug 8 & 22, Sept 12, Oct 3 & 17, Nov 7 & 21, Dec 5 & 19, 12:00pm

Join Mel Berwin for an hour of uplifting study and conversation. All levels of experience welcome

Wise Aging Series

Thu, Sept 1, 8, 15, & 22, 10:15am-11:45am

Wise Aging is a class designed for people aged 55+ who want to learn and discuss new ways to enhance this stage of life. \$70-100 donation. *With thanks to JFCS and The Holzman Foundation for bringing this program to Portland.* RSVP: dfreedberg@nevehshalom.org

New! Roots & Branches: Digging into Jewish Ideas & Practice

Monday, 7:00-8:30pm, starting October 19 | Cost: \$400 / CNS Members \$360 for 24 weeks.

Financial aid available

This weekly class is for anyone who would like to understand the roots of our traditions and explore the many branches of evolving practice of holidays, prayers, and big Jewish ideas. Taught by: Rabbi Eve Posen, Deb Freedberg, and Mel Berwin.

HEBREW & SYNAGOGUE SKILLS

Beginning Hebrew

Ease into Hebrew beginning with Alef-Bet letter recognition, vowels, and decoding skills, and move on to build a basic vocabulary.

Machon Ivrit – Modern Hebrew

Interested in learning Modern Hebrew? Machon Ivrit offers three years of Hebrew study. This once-a-week program brings learners to higher levels of speaking, reading, and understanding.

Hebrew for Prayer

Tuesdays Oct 20-May 26, 6-7pm

Cost: \$125/ \$100 CNS members

Learn the basic vocabulary and grammar that will enhance understanding of our most recited blessings and prayers, as well as devoting time each week to practicing the reading/reciting of the prayers. Students must be able to read Hebrew.

LEARN WITH OUR RABBIS

The 5 Books of Moses and You: Weekly Discussion of Torah Portion w/ Rabbi Eve Posen - Mon 12:00-1pm, starts Oct 12

Learn and discuss central themes of each *parshah* and how they relate to our lives today. Then, take the week and capture the themes in your own creative ways. Open to all ages and stages and creativity levels. No previous text study required.

**LIFELONG
LEARNING**



at Congregation Neveh Shalom

Attitudes in the Talmud w/ Rabbi Isaak Thursdays 4-5pm beginning Oct 15

The Talmud is a compendium of lore as well as law. It contains numerous stories about the Rabbis and exposes their attitudes about everything from cuisine and sex, to what they think of each other. These episodes, often quite humorous, underscore Jewish thought about life to this day. Each class we will discuss another excerpt.

Through a Lens of Fire: Hasidic Insights on Torah with Rav D—starts Nov 4, 12:30-1:30pm The Hasidic approach to Torah utilizes a sophisticated psychological approach that was ahead of its time and that remains quite modern in its outlook. At essence, these authors are asking us how we want to experience our life.

Songs from the Heart: Sacred and Secular Jewish Poetry with Rav D- Sundays Dec 6, 13, 20; Jan 10, 17, 24, 10am-11:15am

From the *Song of the Sea* in the Torah, to the entire *Book of Psalms*; from the Medieval Wine-Song Salons to the poets of Israel today, poetry has always been an important part of Jewish culture. We will examine some well-known and lesser known poets and discuss their hopes and values. *Concluding Poetry-Wine Salon will occur on Jan 31, 7pm.*

Rabbi Kosak Lecture--Torah of Today Sunday, March 7 & May 23 at 4:00pm

This is a time of tremendous change. Rabbi Kosak will reflect on what Judaism has to say about contemporary issues, utilizing a variety of sources. Please stay tuned for more details as the date approaches.

Kvell With Us

Mazel tov to CNS and Rabbi Eve Posen as she assumes her new title as Associate Rabbi. Rabbi Posen is beginning her 7th year at CNS and we are looking forward to her continued involvement in all aspects of our congregation: from pastoral care and leading services, to young family programming and adult "lunch and learns," to creative women's programming, and so much more.

We are excited to share the news that Victoria and Ruben Spitz welcomed new baby girl, **Penelope Lyla Spitz**, on June 16, 2020, weighing 7 pounds, 15 ounces, and 20 inches long. Mom, dad, and baby are all doing well and enjoying getting to know each other.

Mazel tov to Ari Zeitzer, son of **Mark and Mindy Zeitzer**, on earning his black belt this summer.

Mazel tov to Susannah Dickerson, daughter of **JoAnn and Chris Bezodis**, who just accepted a new job as the Director of Jewish Student Life (through Hillel) at Oregon State University in Corvallis. She started August 1.

Mazel tov to Dana Sirkin who was installed as Vice President for Women's League this past Sunday at their virtual convention. In addition, our Sisterhood received the Jewels in the Crown award.



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

We are sorry to inform you of the passing of **Elsa Scheib, z"l**, beloved mother of **Patty (Ryan) Arvizu** and **Joni Scheib**. She was preceded in death by husband **Berel (z"l)**. Elsa died Sunday morning, June 21, 2020 after a brave battle against cancer.

We are sorry to inform you of the passing of **Bill Hoffman, z"l**, brother of **Barbara (Marvin) Wolf**. Bill passed away in Portland, and is also remembered by his sons, **Brett and Bradley**, nephews **Eric and Howard Wolf**, many cousins in the community, and partner of many years, **Charlene Miller**.

We are sorry to inform you of the passing of **Oscar Berdichevsky, z"l**, dear father of **Ricardo (Rosana) Berdichevsky** and **Mario (Rosie) Berdichevsky**; as well as the wonderful grandfather of four and great grandfather of three.

We are sorry to inform you of the passing of our longtime congregant and friend, **Leah Nepom, z"l**, mother of **Hannah Zaiv, Gerald (Barbara) Nepom and David (Lynn) Nepom**, as well as the loved grandmother of four and great-grandmother of one.

We are sorry to inform you of the passing of **Sandra Silvon, z"l**, sister of **Brenda (Larry) Schwartz**, aunt of **Cameron Schwartz** and **Rochelle (Ryan) Abitz** and cousin of **Judy and Al Weingard**.

We are sorry to inform you of the death of **Joe Mussabini, z"l**, on July 26, 2020. Joe was a regular staple at Neveh Shalom for years, in the kitchen with Century Catering. He is survived by **Amy Liv Laing**, three step children **Madeleine, Duncan, and Katherine Bradford**; ex-wife **Wendy Delaharpe** and her children; nephews **Nagy and Ramy Elguindy**; dear friend **Allen Levin** and his family. We will all miss him dearly.

The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

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Sanford & Wendi Menashe:
In memory of Solomon Ezra Menashe
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In memory of Samuel Schaffer

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In honor of Brian & Priscilla's marriage

Cemetery Fund

Rosanne & Albert Levi:
In memory of Oscar Berdichevsky

Cemetery Fund

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In memory of Leah Nepom
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In memory of Mark Raphael
Anonymous:
In memory of Leigh Cohn
Elliot & Suzanne Axel:
In memory of Oscar Berdichevsky
Jeff & Sandy Axel:
In honor of Brian & Priscilla's marriage
In memory of Elsa Scheib
In memory of Oscar Berdichevsky
Gloria Bacharach:
In memory of Albrecht Bacharach
In memory of Julius Stern
Jeff Baldel:
In memory of Sadie Baldel
Mario Berdichevsky:
In memory of Judith Berdichevsky
Oscar Berdichevsky:
In memory of Judith Berdichevsky
Margarete Collier:
In memory of Ellen Bursztyn
Alan Blank & Ellyn Sternfield:
In memory of Oscar Berdichevsky
In memory of Leah Nepom
Mark Braverman:
In memory of Albert Rosen
In memory of Lillian Rose
Bill Brenner:
In memory of Marvin Brenner
Michele Brenner:
In memory of Marvin Brenner
Lee Cordova:
In memory of Joseph Cordova
Maria Esformes:
In memory of Bertha Esformas
Stephen Fass:
In memory of Miriam Fass
Chris Feves:
In memory of Cecilia Gregory
Stanley Geffen:
In memory of Arnold Geffen
Thelma Geffen:
In memory of Bill Hoffman
Bernice Gevurtz:
In memory of Bernice Gevurtz
In memory of Anna Rosenfield

Margaret Gotesman:

In memory of Leah Nepom
Ira Gottlieb:
In memory of Jaye Gottlieb
Irene Hecht:
In memory of Eleanor Fischer
Julian Kaufman:
In memory of Carole Kaufman
Boris & Galina Kogan:
In memory of Sofia Kogan
In memory of Manya Morgulis
Patricia Hudson:
In memory of Leah Nepom
Dr. Sivia Kaye:
In memory of Oscar Berdichevsky
Richard Krepel:
In memory of Caren Reese-Krepel
Boris Litvin:
In memory of Eleonora Litvin
Khvoynitzka
Roza Markus:
In memory of Menasha Shkolnik
Jerry & Geri Matin:
In memory of Harry Lomsky
Taya Meyer:
In support of Congregation Neveh Shalom
Ralph Miller:
In memory of John Miller
In memory of Gaby Barde
Simon Moraru:
In memory of Revka Rosenbaum
Jeffrey Mutnick:
In memory of Seymour Mutnick
Michael Olds & Gloria Borg Olds:
In memory of Leah Nepom
Oregon Jewish Community Foundation:
In memory of Leah Rubin
Stephen Ostrow:
In memory of Alan Ostrow
Cary Pollack:
In memory of Robert Pollack
Elliott Rich:
In memory of Noam Stampfer
Jeffrey Reingold:
In memory of Richard Reingold
In memory of Mona Sherman
Benson Schaeffer:
In memory of Rebecca Schaeffer
Ellie Schwartz:
In memory of Hymie Schwartz
Jack & Barbara Schwartz:
In memory of Oscar Berdichevsky
In memory of Leah Nepom
Yakov Smetana:
In memory of Elizaveta Smetana
Sulamif Rozenfeld:
In memory of Israel Rozenfeld
Mimi & Robert Sorkin:
In memory of Alice Potter
Corinne Spiegel:
In memory of Albrecht Bacharach

Larry Spiegel:

In memory of Sidney Spiegel
David Sturman:
In memory of Esther Sturman
Elisa Weger:
In memory of Arline Rae Weger
Allan & Judy Weingard:
In memory of Robert Weingard
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Michael Zaslavsky:
In memory of Peter Zaslavsky

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In honor of Hannah Miriam Axel
Lisa Marie Lynch:
In honor of Ami Weingrad
David Meisels:
In memory of Rabbi Stanley Meisels
Peter Price:
In honor of Ami Weingrad
Jill Rebholz:
In honor of Ami Weingrad
Roberta Ruimy:
In memory of Deana Popowcer
Diana & Stephen Sirkin:
In honor of Ami Weingrad
Sharyl & Rick Vagy:
In memory of Oscar Berdichevsky

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Albert & Bette Lynn Menashe:
In memory of Solomon Menashe

Hy & Myra Jackson Elevator Fund

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In memory of Michael Rothstein

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Victor Levy:

In memory of Milton Isaacs

Feldstein Library Fund

Jack & Melanie Birnbach:

In memory of Oscar Berdichevsky

Martha & Glenn Decherd:

In memory of Dorris Genevieve Decherd

In memory of Douglass Rees Decherd

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In memory of Charlotte Eiseman

In memory of Arthur Eisenhardt

Louis Rosenberg

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In memory of Louis Rosenberg

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Jeanette Philan:

In memory of Marc Tobin

Mark Ail Campership Fund

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In memory of Mark Ail

In memory of SaraBelle Ail

Mona Ail:

In memory of Mark Ail

Daniel & Roberta Ruimy:

In memory of Marc Tobin

Lora & Jim Meyer

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Jill Neuwelt:

In memory of Philip Sarna

Debbi Villani-Allen:

In memory of Philip Sarna

Milt Horenstein Minyan Fund

Marlene Brenner:

In memory of Marvin Brenner

Jeffrey Lazarus:

In memory of Fanny Lazarus

Howard Shapiro:

In memory of Philip Shapiro

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In honor of Nathan & Lindsey's

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Get well wishes for Elaine Ball

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In honor of Dr. Mel Ball

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In appreciation of Rabbi Daniel Isaak

Mark Rubin:

In appreciation of Rabbi Daniel Isaak

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Harvey Checkman:

In memory of Jennye Checkman

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In memory of Heidi Leher Kaplan

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In memory of Leah Nepom

Sharon & Alvin Segal:

In memory of Sharon Segal

Mark & Leah Rubin

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Jerome Barde:

In memory of Leah Rubin

Ricardo & Rosana Berdichevsky:

In memory of Leah Rubin

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Wendy David:

In memory of Natalie Leher

Thelma Geffen:

In memory of Sue Hayden

In memory of Leah Rubin

Bev & Ian Getreu:

In memory of Leah Rubin

Craig & Leslie Goodman:

In memory of Leah Rubin

Herb Hochfeld:

In memory of Grace Gilbert

In memory of Fanny Lazarus

Ginny Jolstad:

In memory of Leah Rubin

Rhoda Leopold:

In memory of Harry Rodinsky

Jim & Lora Meyer:

In memory of Leah Rubin

Richard & Mary Peizner:

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Joeen Rodinsky:

In memory of Harry Rodinsky

Mr. & Mrs. Gene Sanger:

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Ariel Shattan & Philip Jansen:

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Century Catering in Covid Times

By Jenn Director Knudsen

Kitchen

When Neveh Shalom closed, so did the kitchen and its clatter, chatter and aromas. With its shuttering, Century Catering had to remove its proverbial shingle. When the pandemic is over, the Century Catering staff of six people will return to shul, to prepare, serve and clean up from regular Kiddush and special b'nei mitzvah lunches, as well as event meals, from Men's Club brunches to annual auction dinner extravaganzas.

"Usually," said Allen Levin, Century Catering owner and Neveh Shalom fixture, "we catered up to 16 events per week." Since March, he said, business has been slow and a struggle; his staff remains a priority. He's retained them and supplemented incomes for some. "No one should be losing their car, home, or be on the street," Levin said.

Over the summer when "Café @ the J" opened its kitchen to Century Catering, the small company created an Oregon Kosher-certified menu – the chicken schnitzel has been particularly popular – and began offering Thursday afternoon curbside or in-person pickup service outside the MJCC's main entrance. To drum up more business, Levin's company has

expanded food-service plans for fall and beyond: Century Catering shifts its Thursday menu to Tuesdays and inaugurates a Shabbat menu for Thursday or Friday pickup. And the erstwhile Garbanzos food truck gets a second life as a freshly painted falafel cart whose main dish and accoutrements will be vegan, kosher, halal, and mostly gluten-free. (You can spy the bright blue cart in the MJCC's parking lot.)

Levin hopes the café portion of the Café @ the J opens soon. "We'll serve indoors as soon as we're allowed," he said.

In that space, a new feature that's the result of a huge loss will greet diners. Joe E. Mussabini, Levin's long-time business partner and dear friend since 1978, died at 73 in late July from ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease. Joe leaves behind many who loved him, including one Café @ the J regular who, anticipating the gregarious Joe's death, requested the community center create Joe's Corner within the café. The special section overlooks the pool.

Carmen Borg, long-time friend and colleague of Joe's and as much a Neveh Shalom staple as Century Catering's hummus, is among the many mourning his passing. "Work now without Joe is hard; returning



to Neveh without Joe will be even harder," she said. Borg knows the greater community will continue to support Century Catering, in its loss and new business ventures, just as the company has provided community support for 20 years.

Executive Director Fred Rothstein, who brought in Allen nearly two decades ago, said Allen, his team and the shul "have always been 'relational' with one another rather than 'transactional.' Allen's team really cares that our congregant community is well-served and well-fed."

As Levin said: "We're always there to help people when they need us."

For more information, please email: centurycatering@msn.com.