THE

# CHRONICLE

A PUBLICATION OF CONGREGATION NEVEH SHALOM



This issue of *The Chronicle* is about "Looking Forward," and on many of our minds is the upcoming 2020 elections. You will find in these pages several perspectives on looking forward, and on voting, written by adults and youth in our congregation.

Below is a poem by Olivia Morrow, an 11-year-old CNS member who attends Whitford Middle School. She wrote this piece for her 6th grade Humanities class. She gave us permission to include her voice and unique perspective in this issue of *The Chronicle*.

# Where I Am From | By Olivia Morrow (Age 11)

I am from pointe shoes

And pain.

From pulled muscles.

I am from jazz shoes, tap shoes, and ballet shoes.

The rolled ankles and hard work.

From the thing that brings me joy during these times.

I'm from quarantine,

TikTok and Instagram.

From Clorox wipes and masks.

The social distancing and online school.

I am from seeing no friends.

From bedrooms, FaceTime calls, and Zoom.

Hearing the terrible Covid-19 stories, giving me anxiety.

I am from Generation Z.

From 2020.

I am from the protests.

From black lives matter and the evil, racist people saying black lives don't matter.

From the federal agents attacking peaceful protesters.

I'm from watching the rioters on TV.

The burning buildings and bashed cars.

The sadness and tragedy.

I'm from the forest fires.

From the orange skies.

The deadly air quality.

The no going outside for two weeks.

I am from the evacuation and air filters.

I am from the time of mourning Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death.

She stood up for rights and equality.

She broke boundaries.

I will break boundaries just like her

And fight through these hard times.

I'm from now.

I am from the worst year ever.

From this disastrous time called 2020.



# Ancient Telescopes, Modern Elections, and New Perspectives

# By Rabbi David Kosak

here's a section of the Talmud called *Eruvin* where we learn about Jewish telescopes. A famous sage, Rabban Gamliel, apparently had a tube that he used when on a ship to determine if the boat was within about a half mile of the shore. According to Jewish law, if the boat was further away than that, Gamliel would have needed to remain on the boat all of Shabbat.

Ok, but how did Gamliel know? How did his primitive rangefinder with no lenses and no markings work?

The Talmud doesn't provide an explanation, and the problem lacked a good solution until the 1970s. That's when a scientist, Dr. Fabian Abraham, determined that by using "overlapping monocular fields" one could determine distance using such a simple tube. The article had an illustration that made this easier to understand.

But let's not focus on the particulars of that problem. The important lesson it provides is that sometimes we can't find an answer if we stick to what we already know. Sometimes we need to seek knowledge from different fields to solve a difficult problem. Doing so can help us see a bit farther, much like Rabban Gamliel's early telescope.

I suspect that this is true not only for technical problems, but also for gaining wisdom and perspective.

For example, six months ago, when we began planning for our upcoming Scholar-in-Residence weekend, it was clear that the presidential election would be weighing on many people's minds.

Could a single scholar provide sufficient insight to help us understand how we should respond to the election and cope with its outcome?

Out of this concern, our Scholar-in-Residence committee decided to bring two scholars this year, over two weekends, immediately before and immediately after election day. One is a renowned rabbi, the other an award-winning journalist. I encourage you to read the article on the back page for more information. By looking at the election using the disciplines of history, spirituality, politics, and news, we should all gain some re-

ally helpful Jewish perspectives at a consequential time for the nation.

"Overlapping monocular fields." The phrase sounds more high falutin' than what it describes. Basically, Rabbi Gamliel would hold the tube up to both eyes, and then proceed to close first one eye, and then the other. As a child, I remember doing this exact thing with empty toilet paper and paper towel rolls. Granted, I was pretending to be a pirate looking through a spyglass. Nonetheless, if you've ever tried this, it's clear that what you see changes. The length of the cardboard tube also makes a difference. Normally, that change is subtle—just a slight shift. Sometimes that's all we need to see what's ahead of us or to find the best path forward.

Despite how easy it can be to look for new perspectives, we are creatures of habit. Supposedly that allows us to conserve energy, which was an important evolutionary trait. What was useful in



the past, when food was scarce, is less useful today.

So if you are feeling adventurous, here's an experiment. Jot down one or two problems that you are struggling with. Underneath, write down what you have already attempted to address the challenge. Tape that sheet to the wall, and look at the list first with one eye, then with the other. Ask yourself, "what things haven't I tried yet? Where have I avoided getting help? Which assumptions about the world or my struggle have caused me to be stuck in old ways of thinking and prevented me from finding a novel solution? What new information might be useful to solve this?"

Looking toward the future and wondering what might be can be driven by our hopes or fears. Quite often, our imaginations are limited by what we already believe and know.

Continued on page 18

# Rabbi's Corner

# We Believe...

# By Rabbi Eve Posen

# "What do you believe?"

t's a broad and open-ended question, which might lead you to ask, "In what context?" What do you believe about people? What do you believe about community? What do you believe about religion? About science? These are all questions which, for me as a rabbi, pop up almost every day in life. As a rabbi I often find myself in conversations with people who are questioning their own faith, and that usually turns into a conversation about where their beliefs meld with the core of Judaism. But here's the beauty of Judaism: while it's a religion built on the belief in one God, we can certainly find many interpretations of who or what that God is. Just look through the siddur and you'll find a multitude of prayers exploring God as a parent, judge, healer, creator, lover, and so much more.

On Rosh Hashanah one of the central *piyyutim* (poetic prayers) is called *V'chol Ma'aminim* ("We Believe"). The list includes many different beliefs about God being fair and faithful, just and kind. It also includes many beliefs that honestly didn't resonate fully in this year with Ilene Safyan and me as we prepared for services. The theological stance that God is good to those who are good was at odds with so much of what we saw in the world around us. So, instead of using the words in the *machzor*, we invited congregants to share their own statements of belief, which we then used in prayer.



The following are some of these powerful belief statements you shared. In this season of decision making, it is crucial to check in with yourself and find your own "I Believe" statement. And then, do the work the world needs to live up to that belief.

- We believe in the resilience of the human spirit.
- We believe in the power of community whether online or in person.
- We believe in the strength of standing for and with one another.
- We believe in the power of love.
- We believe in modern medicine and human creativity as a means of God working in and through us.
- We believe in the power and ability to heal both ourselves and our earth.
- I believe the goodness within each of us has the power to bring healing to the world.
- We believe that justice must eventually prevail.
- We believe in the importance of family.
- I believe that age doesn't matter, and anyone and everyone can make a positive difference in our world.
- We believe in the sanctity and preciousness of ALL life.
- I believe in the power of singing to unify people.

- We believe that even though we are not together in one room, we are together as a Kehilah and that is SO POWERFUL.
- We believe that love is more powerful than hate.
- We believe that bringing God and justice to the world is a long project but will be successful in the end.
- I believe that love can win out over hate; that community can beat out division.
- I believe there is always a way to be together, even when apart.
- I believe that music and sharing meals can heal.
- We believe that each of us can find positive in every situation, every day.
- We believe in a brighter TOMORROW!
- We believe that God will heal.
- We believe that even while apart, we can be spiritually, emotionally, supportively together, and are ONE.
- We believe that we will find how to heal our earth.
- We believe in one human family.

# A Trip Down Memory

# Cantor's Corner

# Lane By Cantor Eyal Bitton

es, I had hair," I tell my oldest grandchild, as she looks through my Bar Mitzvah album from the 1980s. Her name is Judith, named after her great-grandmother. "Who's next to you in this picture, Saba?" she asks. "That's my father, Albert, and my mother, Janet. That's who you're named after; her Hebrew name was Yehudit. That also means 'Jewish'." She rolls her eyes at me and says, "I know what my own name means, Saba. I mean, how old do you think I am?" I smile at her and say, "I know how old you are, Judith. You're having your Bat Mitzvah this year. That's why I'm showing you my Bar Mitzvah pictures, ma chèrie."

She examines one of the pictures carefully and remarks, "Hey, this isn't your house!" I reply, "No, it's a synagogue." She looks at me, confused, and says, "A what?" I repeat myself, "A synagogue."

I know that it's not the '80s anymore so maybe I shouldn't be surprised — but I am. I explain, "People used to get together to pray, to read Torah, and just be with each other. Some did so every day and others on Shabbat. I had my Bar

Mitzvah on a Saturday morning at a synagogue." She shakes her head and says, "In a building? Saba, the olden days were a little weird."

I know I'm being nostalgic, I suppose, but I have such fond memories. My daughter, Miya, used to come with me almost every Friday evening and tug at my leg or sit near me singing along and drumming along as I led services as a cantor. But Miya's daughter was born after the institution had disappeared so she has no clue. And her mom barely remembers so who can blame her?

It wasn't malice. It wasn't "the virus" or even that old hatred. No, people just stayed away. Bit by bit, these empty buildings shut down everywhere.

Sad? I don't know. I mean, look: my granddaughter, Judith, is going to have her Bat Mitzvah in a few months. She's proud to be Jewish. The torch has been passed along. I'm proud of that. *How* she celebrates it sure looks different from how I did it – but mine looked different from how my grandfather did



it in a village outside Marrakech in the 1920s. It's 2060 now. Things change. I'm okay with that. We have congregations now but no buildings. These congregations are different from what I remember but they're all over the globe now like candles in the dark, illuminating the world. Judaism is flexible, resilient, and eternal. Time to close my photo album. I'm going to stop looking back now. I'm looking ahead.

This story can be heard as an audio story at: youtu.be/41DVYFWZjI4.

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# Reflection & Looking Forward

# By Glen Coblens, CNS President

hile I am one to look forward, I have to reflect on the High Holy Day experience. There is so much to be proud of. We celebrated our High Holy Days with meaning, strength and togetherness. I had tears in my eyes several times during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Maybe it was the confluence of the passing of Ruth Bader Ginsburg and the political strife and social injustice currently impacting our country. Maybe it was looking out our living room window at the beautiful blue sky following the fires. Maybe it was just pride in our congregation and what WE can do together. Whatever it was, it was powerful and meaningful.

Who did not tear up during the *Misheberach*?

I hope you all enjoyed Sukkot, either at home or in the beautiful CNS Sukkah (thank you Men's Club). Seeing so many of you virtually celebrating Simchat Torah warmed my heart. I cannot wait to again parade the Torah and boisterously sing and dance together.

From solemn introspection to giddy joy, the High Holy Day season is a spiritual

roller coaster so reflective of our lives these days, propelling us to greater growth, learning, and love. My deep appreciation to all of you and everyone who made our High Holy Day experience so powerful and moving.

With much positivity, let's look toward the future. The strength of our CNS family shines bright, and two things are abundantly clear. First, we yearn for personal connection. The ability to see each other and spend time in each other's presence has been lacking for over eight months and we do not take for granted the bonds that have been created over the years. Seeing is believing, hearing is validating, and feeling is confirming. I am confident that those who have attended the few in-person gatherings will agree. We saw tears and smiles even under masks. We shared words and laughter. We felt emotion all around. What a joy!

Second, we know how to execute safe events. Whether it is a service, class, or program, our protocols will keep everyone safe. We have innovative and creative clergy, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers. We all are working together to think of new ways for us to be together. Be on the lookout for more small and



safe in-person gatherings in the future. We can and will do more, and I look forward to connecting in person with many of you soon. For those not ready, we will continue to provide the quality virtual opportunities you have come to expect.

In my Yom Kippur address, I spoke of creating our own positive headline. My headline today comes from Timbuk3's one-hit wonder, "The Future's So Bright, I Gotta Wear Shades." What is yours?

I welcome your thoughts and ideas. Please share them with me: CNSpresident@gmail.com.



# **Upcoming Bat Mitzvah**



# Ziva McAllister | November 14

Ziva McAllister is the daughter of Jeff and Arzélie McAllister, and younger sister to Maeve. She is a 7th grader at Hope Chinese Charter School in Beaverton, and enjoys talking with her friends, photography, and reading.

# Looking Forward — ALIYAH & Social Change

# By Mel Berwin, Director of Congregational Learning

am writing this as our Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur come to a close and we embark on our first full week of this year's ALI-YAH program. Creating a new education program for this year has been a major creative challenge, especially as

the concerns and obstacles in the world around us continue to evolve. I have no idea what the rest of this year will bring. There are so many uncertainties, and I know I was not alone throughout our holidays in praying for greater peace, security, and relief for our community and our country from the many challenges facing us right now, and for the strength and wisdom to be part of the solution.

Often these days, I wonder what else I can personally be doing to help resolve the biggest challenges our society faces. I believe education can play an important role, and I start by considering what my own strengths are, and what is in my control. I love the "Social Change Ecosystem" model introduced to us by Amanda

Coven from OJMCHE, who is co-leading our Social Justice curriculum for Tichon this year.

This chart offers ten roles that we might take to create change in the world around us, and recognizes that we may combine many of these roles—or add to them.

**Weavers** see the through-lines of connectivity between people, places, organizations, ideas and movements.

**Experimenters** innovate, pioneer, invent, take risks and course-correct as needed.

**Frontline** responders address community crises by marshaling and organizing resources, networks, and messages.

**Disruptors** take uncomfortable and risky actions to shake up the status quo, raise awareness, and build power.

**Healers** recognize and tend to the generational and current traumas caused by oppressive systems, institutions, policies, and practices.

Storytellers craft and share our community stories, cultures, experiences, histories,

and possibilities through art,

music, media, and movement.

**Guides** teach, counsel, and advise, using skills of well-earned discernment and wisdom.

On this "Social Change Ecosystem" chart, I identify as a weaver, builder, caregiver, and guide. These are certainly some of the roles I play in my work at Neveh Shalom as well as among my family and friends.

What roles do you identify with? Who are the people

you admire, and which of the roles do you recognize in their leadership? Are there any roles you feel you are working toward becoming more skilled in?

As we work with our students this year to help them recognize their strengths and the strengths of their friends and community around them (*Chazak, chazak, v'nitchazek!*), this model will be one to which we return.



**Visionaries** imagine and generate our boldest possibilities, hopes, and dreams, and remind us of our direction.

**Builders** develop, organize, and implement ideas, practices, people, and resources in service of a collective vision.

Caregivers nurture and nourish the people around us by creating and sustaining a community of care, joy, and connection.

# **Voting Matters**

# By Jenn Director Knudsen

welve votes made the difference." State Sen. Dr. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward explains that in 1991, when now-Oregon Gov. Kate Brown ran for her first elected position, she became a state representative by exactly a dozen votes. Out of 15,000.

Steiner Hayward offers another anecdote, a little farther from home but no less impactful. "In 2017, the entire balance of control of the Virginia legislature was decided by a coin flip."

Her point? Voting matters.

Exercising our constitutionally given right is of paramount importance and all eligible to vote must do so, say Steiner Hayward and other members of our *kehilah* who are steeped in politics. They also weigh in on related issues like what may be at stake in the 2020 election.

**Bob Horenstein**, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Director of Community Relations, emphasizes that voter

turnout is key, especially in communities of color and among the low income who too often feel disenfranchised. Their choices can relieve individual and small business' economic suffering, impact local and national leadership, and the raising or lowering of taxes.

Riley Atkins makes no bones about the import of voting. The former deputy district attorney, assistant United States attorney, and federal administrative law judge who retired in 2015 says, "Voting is an act of citizenship and a manifestation of one's connection to our republic."

Sure, it's also a constitutional right to sit out an election and complain about its outcome, but one does so at his peril. "The complainer will likely generate little sympathy for their views under these circumstances, and deservedly so," Atkins says.



State Sen. Dr. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward

since 2015 of the Beaverton School District's board.



**Bob Horenstein** 

He adds, "The actions we take, or fail to, in our personal lives and as citizens count," noting that many American Jews are in this country because our ancestors left native lands that afforded persecution rather than freedom, including the vote.

Voting also is important because it's much more than checking a box (or 20). Issues and people on the ballot will determine decisions that affect you and your family.

"As a school board member I get to see first-hand the academic-achievement gap," says **Eric Simpson**, a father of two school-age kids and member

"Exercising our constitutionally given right is of paramount importance and all eligible to vote must do so." -State Sen. Dr. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward

"This is a gap not of academic potential of students within our district, but of opportunity and resources that is or is not afforded to these students," he says,

Continued on the next page

referring to local ballot initiatives that ask voters to increase – or maintain – taxes that help support building upgrades and educational initiatives.

"Even city council elections make a difference, regarding who is best qualified to address problems and hopefully resolve them. We have some very, very serious issues in our country and in our own backyard."

-Bob Horenstein

"Voting," Simpson says, "is a good opportunity...for you to fund or not fund (items) that impact your local community, as well as leaders who may share or not share your beliefs or values."

not share your beliefs or values."

Eric Simpson, Iris, Ronen, and Dana Kostiner Simpson

Horenstein says, "Even city council elections make a difference, regarding who is best qualified to address problems and hopefully resolve them."

He continues, "We have some very, very serious issues in our country and in our own backyard," whose outcomes voters in local, state, and federal elections will help determine.

Issues like Covid-19, racial strife and systemic racism, police conduct and department funding, stark economic disparities, Boycott, Divest and Sanction movements on college campuses, U.S.

foreign policy toward Israel, environmental and climate policies, LGBTQ+ rights and so many more are at stake.



Riley and Marci Atkins with grandchildren Levi (22 months) and Stella (1 month)

The presidential election likely is first and foremost on the minds of American voters. That's the case for Steiner Hayward. "I don't think we've seen another one quite like this," she says.

Horenstein agrees. "This is a very important election. We say that all the time. In my lifetime, this is without a doubt the most important election I've ever seen."

Atkins recalls his early passion for the political process. A teen in the late-1960s, he stuffed envelopes and carried signs at rallies for the anti-Vietnam War campaign of presidential candidate and Sen. Eugene McCarthy, who was running against then-incumbent Lyndon Johnson.

"Although I soon learned my youthful actions would not change the world, I was smitten by politics," and in his 20s worked on Capitol Hill.

He continues, "However, now with the benefit of hindsight, current political issues and events that would have appeared unprecedented in my youth appear to bear more resemblance to those in history than I could have ever imagined."

Atkins may have felt decades ago his actions didn't change the world, but he always has recognized the power of the collective. Just as one's vote helps move the needle on issues and individuals ascending to – or descending from – elected office.

He asks rhetorically: "How can any of us take for granted the enfranchisement citizenship provides?"

# Foundation School: Our Questions/Work for this Year

# By Leah Conley, Director of Early Childhood Education

n our practice as a Reggio inspired school, our team of early childhood experts begin each year with a question that they are whole-heartedly curious about in their own teaching practice, and with thoughtful consideration as to who the learners in their class will be. These questions evolve each year based on genuine and organic connections between our teaching teams and their community of learners. Curriculum unfolds and develops based on the interests of the students and where their imaginations may take them.

This year, our teachers have considered the reality of Covid around us and how it has changed many of our regulations, as well as the civil unrest that we are experiencing as a society. We are paying attention to what opportunities for learning may arise from these and many more changes around us.



Foundation School PreK Class

### Our questions for this year are:

- **1s:** How do we use compassion as a building block for all learning?
- **2s:** How can we invite kindness and courage in our community?
- **3s:** How do we become empathetic problem solvers?
- **PreK:** How can we be courageous in a changing world?
- Office: How does being whole-hearted help us lead?

The PreK question in particular this year focuses on our changing world. And all of us have been through so much change this year! These children had their school close in March, and when they came back months later, their parents could no longer drop them off inside of their school building, they have to wear masks, and many of their friends did not come back to their school. And then the fires.

With fires raging around us last month, the teachers wondered how do the children feel about these fires. Were they scared? Curious? Did they wonder why the fires led to our school's closure for a week? Did they wonder why our air was so bad? This was yet another change in their world.

So the PreK community decided to do some research about the fires. Step one: reach out to an expert. They got in contact with a local firefighter named Roger, and wrote him a letter. In their letter the students asked:

- Why do you need a chainsaw?
- Do the trees burn and fall down?
- Are you guys IN the fire?
- Do you like things that are sparkly?

# Some students just wanted to say thank you:

- Thank you for putting out the fires!
- Thank you!

And to everyone's delight, firefighter Roger wrote back. Check out his letter on the next page.

This opportunity allowed the children to reach out to the world beyond their classroom walls to learn how we are all connected. They learned about correspondence and had additional literacy exposure. They learned about responsibility and how people can be brave and affect positive change in the world around them. They saw what courage looks like in our changing world.

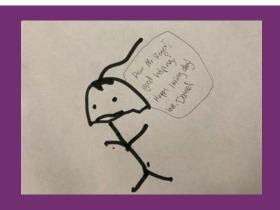
Dear Firefighter Roger, Hello, the ore you and your crew. We wonted to start by saying thank you for your manners. Thank you for putting out the tires.

Questions for you.
Here are some...
Why do you need a
chainsaw?

Are you guys IN! the fire you

Do you ride in a fire truck?
Do you like things that are sparkly?
Do the trees burn and fall down?

A note from the Teddy Bear PreK class to local firefighter Roger.



Dear Bear Class,

Thank you so much for your letter. Me and my crew are doing great. We are getting a few days to relax and then back to work. Q1-we need chainsaws and other tooks to cut out areas of trees and brush to stop the spread of fires to other areas.

Q2-Yes we are sometimes in the file but usually after it cools down a bit. We wear fire resistant clothing/boots that protect us as we work, G3-We do ride in a fre truck but it isn't your normal red fire engine... I fight fires in the mountains so I drive a 4x4 pickup truck full of fools and water,

Q4 - of course I like things that sparkle! Doesn't everybody?

Q5 - Unfortunately yes trees do burn and fall down. We try to save as many as we can. We stay safe by trying to stay away from them when Q6- We have many tools ... chain saws, hazel hoes, they were falling. axes, and shovels because not every task is the same and can't be completed without having all Thanks for the letter! the right tools.

- Firefighter Roger

This is the letter the class received back.

# A New Voter's Perspective

# By Elle Wendrow, Freshman at University of Oregon

y mother once told me that voting was a right and privilege that we, as citizens, had. I learned that the government was created to be a system for the people, by the people. The act of voting happens to be one of, what I believe, the most important roles we are given. I feel like now with the recent passing of Ruth Bader Ginsberg, it's even more pressing. She was a powerful woman who made it possible for so many of us to have protected rights. With her loss, I feel like many of my rights and abilities to do or be anything I wish, are threatened.

That being said, I've always hated voting, politics, and the like. It never appealed to me when I was younger and it still doesn't now. To me, it is as exciting as staring at a blank wall for three hours. This is because politics has become more about scheming, exposing, and

blackmailing. Which was why I was always (and still am) more interested in reading fantasy books while letting the rest of the world deal with the problems. Call it being conflict avoidant and passive. However, my junior year I joined the school paper as a reporter, and one of the many things about being a reporter is having to be aware of everything that's happening for potential stories. That means paying close attention to the news, and the community around you. By my senior year I wanted a bit more action than I was getting.

"Topics like climate change, women's rights (all women including trans women), racism, LGBT+ rights, and even religious rights (seeing as I'm Jewish), have become some of the most important things to discuss."

I had previously written an article for the paper about changing the age limit for voting to 16. It's not a far-fetched idea, and it is at that age most kids nowadays start developing opinions on how their future will be. It's the 16-year-old students who organized the walkouts during the school year. It's the



Rael (Elle) Wendrow grew up at Neveh Shalom starting at Foundation School and graduated last year from the Tichon program. She is a freshman at the University of Oregon in Eugene.

16-year-old students who make signs and all sorts of noise to be heard. As I paid attention to those students, things started to stick out to me.

Topics like climate change, women's rights (all women including trans women), racism, LGBT+ rights, and even religious rights (seeing as I'm Jewish), have become some of the most important things to discuss. Our planet is dying, the rights of people other than straight white men are now under threat, and it feels like the most we've done is pedal backwards. As a child, you rely on the adults in your life to vote on the things that will benefit your future. You put your faith in them, because you aren't in a position to do it yourself. Most of the time you don't even understand what's going on. And while I do still have faith in some adults to know what's best for the next generation, it's the majority of voters that I do not fully trust.

And so, it falls upon me, an anxious 18-year-old freshman at the University of Oregon, and the rest of my peers, to make a change. Voting is one of many ways to do it. And it's scary, overwhelming, and stressful. The candidates are very persuasive. It comes down to a choice of picking one 'evil' over the other, sometimes there's pressure into doing what others are doing, etc. But as I said before, it's our right, our privilege, and our duty to vote.

# Covid-19 & The CNS Campus: An Update For Our Congregants

# By Fred Rothstein, Executive Director



s you all know and remember, the CNS leadership made the difficult and unprecedented decision on March 16th of this year to close our building to congregants and community. That decision was made in recognition of the value of *Pikuach Nefesh*, the care and protection of life and health. None of us could have imagined that we would be writing an update on the continuing building closure as we approach November and December – but here we are.

During these past months, despite the "closure," we are proud of the continuing programs and services provided to our community. Of course, the pivot to online platforms enabled much to continue, and in some cases, even flourish. Participation in Morning Minyan has more than doubled during this period, with around 25 participants beginning their day with inspiring camaraderie and

prayer. Foundation School, ALIYAH / Tichon and adult education continued to serve our members with creative online offerings. Our clergy and staff looked for safe ways to provide meaningful and creative "in-person" experiences. What a joy to see one another at Shavuot, Back To Shul, and Rosh Hashanah Day 2.

Our leadership established a "Re-opening Task Force" made up of lay leadership, professional staff and clergy, and medical professionals. The task force created workgroups for itself in the areas of education,

facilities, health, HR/finance, member-ship/programming, and ritual. As a result of their work, which, of course, is continuing, a number of recommendations and resulting decisions continue to be made by the Board of Directors. With an understanding that we are clearly in a dynamic and ever-changing situation, the following is our current status:

- Neveh Shalom's "general" building closure is expected to continue until at least December 31, 2020. Extension of that decision will be made prior to the end of the calendar year.
- Foundation School is operating in the building on a modified basis under an emergency license.
- ALIYAH / Tichon have opened the school year using a hybrid model – mostly online with some individual in person / in building components.

- Morning Minyan and religious services (Shabbat / holidays) are using online platforms livestream,
   Zoom, etc.
- B'nai Mitzvah are taking place at CNS with limited attendance and compliance with health protocols.
- CNS staff continue to work on behalf of our community, both in the building and remotely, based on their individual tolerances and job responsibilities.
- All who enter the building, and the building itself, are subject to current health and sanitation standards.
- We continue to look to creative and innovative ways to serve our community, both online and in person when possible.

During the building closure, with significant help from a Homeland Security grant, we have made serious upgrades to improving the security of our campus. As we proceed toward re-opening, we will be offering new access key cards to our congregants – this will replace the previous code system. In the meantime, we continue to employ Cornerstone Security to keep our Foundation School children and staff safe. If you haven't yet paid the security assessment associated with your membership commitment, please do so - we have a continuing obligation and commitment to security at Neveh Shalom.

We hope this helps to bring all "up to speed" on our current status. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to be in touch: frothstein@nevehshalom.org.

# Virtual Happenings

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.

Please visit the website for links at: neventhalom.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.

Weekly Musical Midrash Project: The Book of Genesis/Bereishit - Sun, 8:00am & Mon, 6:00pm 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.

# Facing the Election Before and After: Jewish Wisdom in this Time of Upheaval Sun, Nov 1 & 8, 12:00-1:30pm

Please join us for two special sessions with an award winning journalist and a world class Jewish scholar. Rabbi Danny Gordis and Amir Tibon will provide important Jewish context to the 2020 election.

# Women's Torah Study Sat, Nov 7 & 21, Dec 5 & 19, 12:00pm

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



Through a Lens of Fire: Hasidic Insights on Torah with Rav D – starts Wed, Nov 4, 12:30-1:30pm The Hasidic approach to Torah utilizes a sophisticated psychological approach that was ahead of its time.

# Neveh Shalom Sisterhood Happy Hour Sunday, November 15, 4:00pm

Join Sisterhood in a easy discussion about the days or weeks events. All welcome. RSVP to coprez22@gmail.com

Israel360: Abraham Accords – Israel Signs Peace Agreement with the UAE and Declaration of Peace with Bahrain Monday, November 16, 7:00pm

Deputy Consul General Matan Zamir talks about the implications for the Accords, both for Israel and the Middle East as a whole and, specifically, for the Palestinians and Iran. *Co-sponsored by The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland*.

Special Shabbat Guest Speaker: David Biespiel - Saturday, November 21, 9:30am Renowned author David Biespiel will speak during Shabbat and after services conclude.

# Abrahamic Thanksgiving Worship Service Wednesday, November 25, 6:00pm

Join in a special Interfaith Thanksgiving worship service on Zoom w/ Rabbi Eve Posen, Cantor Eyal Bitton, Rev Greg Neel, and Imam Abdulah Polovina.

## **CNS Sisterhood Book Group**

Join Sisterhood Members in this book discussion. RSVP: coprez22@gmail.com Nov 30, 7:00pm: *The World We Knew* Dec 28, 7:00pm: *Behind Enemy Lines* 

Songs from the Heart: Sacred and Secular Jewish Poetry with Rav D – Sundays Dec 6, 13, 20; Jan 10, 17, 24, 10-11:15am From the Song of the Sea to the 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'll examine various

poets and discuss their hopes and values.

Sisterhood Happy Hour / Chanukah Candle Lighting - Sun, Dec 13, 5:00pm Join the Sisterhood as we light candles and share stories in friendship and joy. RSVP to coprez22@gmail.com

**CNS Community Chanukah Gathering Date & Time TBA** Celebrate the festival of lights with your Neveh Shalom Family.

# **Morning Minyan and Shabbat Services**

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

Morah Sarah Rohr and Gershon Liberman alternate leading Kiddush Club.

# Tot Shabbat 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 10:30am

Join Morah Levia as she leads our Tot Shabbat service.

# 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.

# **Member News**

# **Kvell With Us**

Mazel tov to Kristen and Elias Stahl on the birth of their son, Harvey Moses Stahl, on August 3, 2020. The whole family is doing well-

Mazel tov to Rosy and Andrew Levy whose daughter Sabrina Levy married Nir Maoz in California on August 9, 2020.

Mazel tov to Marci and Riley Atkins who are pleased to announce the arrival of their 2nd grandchild, Stella Adi Atkins, born August 12. Proud parents are Ari and Adam Atkins of Seattle. She joins big brother Levi.

Jacob and Reba Lesch of West Hempstead, NY are pleased to welcome Yosef Menachem on August 20, 2020. He joins sisters Chaya and Penina. Proud grandparents are Harold and Jackie Lesch and Dr. Joel and Elisa Rosen and proud greatgrandmother is Gloria Bacharach.

Mazel tov to Arielle and Leif Goranson on the birth of their son Yates Balvir Goranson, born on August 25. He is loved by his brothers Moses and Solomon. He is adored by his grandparents (Ric and Lee Ball), his uncle/aunt/cousin (Phillip, Jordan and Lawrence Loughran) and aunt/cousins (Blyma Wolpin, Tessa and Danielle Wolpin-Kohl).



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

We are sorry to inform you of the passing of Gersham Goldstein, z"I, beloved husband of Pauline, father of Deborah (Magid Latif) Goldstein and Markus, z"I, (Jennifer) Goldstein and dear grandfather of four.

We are sorry to inform you of the passing of **Gerald Gumbert**, **z**"I, who is remembered by his wife **Kay** and step-daughter **Jeanie Adams**.

We are sorry to inform you of the passing of Ella Ostroff, z"I, loved and remembered by Sherry (Steven) Stone, Mick Ostroff, Hilary (Lars) Snitker, Elana (Cam) Anderson, Adam Stone, Leah Stone; sister Lilly Levinson; and nieces Wendy, Cyndi, and Helene.

We are sorry to inform you of the passing of **Dennis (Denny) Singer, z"I**. Denny died Thursday, August 13, 2020 in Las Vegas, NV. He is survived by wife Carol, sons Reed, Shaun and Alex; grandchildren Logan, Liam and Annabelle, brothers **Steve** and Gary and sister Linda (Mike) Ellis. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews, cousins, and friends.

We are sorry to inform you of the passing of Svetlana (Lana) Astrakhan, z"I, loved and remembered by her husband, Alex Astrakhan, mother and stepfather Sofia Zalmanova & Efim Bresler, and her children Nadine (Alex) Menashe and Natasha Astrakhan.

We are sorry to inform you of the passing of Jack Menashe, z"I, beloved husband of Darlene, father of Ed Menashe, Joya Mensashe, and Rochelle Menashe, stepfather of Deborah Ellis and Michelle Alberts, grandfather of eight, great grandfather of four, and brother of Beulah Schaffer.

# The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

# **Aliyah Donation**

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In appreciation of Mel Berwin Vivian Fliman:

In honor of Deb Freedberg Stewart & Staci Rosman

## **Adult Education Fund Eden Braun:**

In memory of Esmond Braun **Elizabeth Cassin:** 

In appreciation of Deborah Freedberg

**Natan Meir:** 

In memory of Ella Ostroff

# **Annual Giving**

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In appreciation of Ilene Safyan In appreciation of Eddy Shuldman In appreciation of Rabbi Eve Posen In memory of Pearl & Sam Leopold In memory of Morris & Surretta Miller **Helen Duewel:** 

In appreciation of Rabbi Eve Posen The Cuda Family:

In honor of Tzedaka for Rosh Hashanah Stephen & Diana Sirkin:

In memory of Denny Singer

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Mourners

Sarah Coblens:

In memory of Jean Konick

Dale Oller:

In memory of Louis Tobin

# Rabbi Kosak's Article continued from page 3

Rabban Gamliel had a problem. He wanted to follow the laws of Shabbat and obey God's will as he understood it. He also didn't want to put unnecessary limits on his actions. If the Torah would allow him to get off the ship and visit people, he was going to take advantage of the opportunity.

Trigonometry hadn't been devised. The telescope wouldn't be invented for 1500 years. And forget about GPS. Yet somehow, his natural curiosity about the world and how we see it led to him creating an early telemeter with materials at hand. Kind of cool.

What Rabban Gamliel reminds us is that we can also approach what's coming next with an experimental mindset. That might be enough to help us do better.

Rav D



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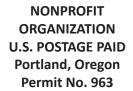
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# Facing the Election: Before and After - Jewish Wisdom in the Time of Upheaval

# **By Brian Suher**

lease join us for the fifth annual Yoni Suher (z"l) Scholar-in-Residence program, presented by Neveh Shalom and the Suher family, on November 1 and 8, 2020.

This program will consist of two special sessions with world class Jewish scholar **Dr. Daniel Gordis** and award winning journalist **Amir Tibon**. Together they will provide us with important Jewish context to the 2020 election.

On Sunday, November 1, we will start



Dr. Daniel Gordis

with *Traumatic Times Through a Jewish Lens: What Has Been the Wellspring of Jewish Resilience?* Keynote speaker will be Dr. Gordis, with a response by journalist Amir Tibon and an interactive question-and-answer session moderated by Rabbi David Kosak.

Our post-election session on Sunday, November 8 will be, *Israel, the US, and the American Jewish Community: A Perspective in Light of the 2020 Elections.* It will feature Amir Tibon with Dr. Gordis responding and questions-and-answers again moderated by Rabbi Kosak. Both webinars will be presented on Zoom, and both presenters will be joining us from Israel.

This is the fifth in a series of scholars brought to Neveh Shalom, and to all of our friends and neighbors here and abroad, in memory of Yoni Suher, z"l, who died in a terrorist attack in Turkey in March, 2016. We are thrilled to feature Dr. Daniel Gordis, renowned rabbi, author, international lecturer, and "one of Israel's most thoughtful observers" (Professor Alan Dershowitz), and Amir Tibon, award-winning journalist and author who just completed a three



Amir Tibon

year tour of duty in Washington DC, as a correspondent with the Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz*. Amir returns to us after his wildly popular visit to Portland and Congregation Neveh Shalom in 2017 as the second speaker in this Scholar-in-Residence series.

These webinars promise to be stimulating and enriching during this important period in US history. Questions are encouraged to be submitted during the registration process. Registration information is available at: *nevehshalom.org/facingtheelection*. Questions? Please contact Michelle Caplan at 503-246-8831, mcaplan@nevehshalom.org.