CHRONICLE

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The Four Teachings

By Rabbi David Kosak

n the beginning, there was darkness, and the void. But the spirit of God hovered over the face of the waters, and thus there was light.

So our Torah begins. And so each of us begins, a small bundle of impulses and desires, swaddled in an unknown future. What shapes each life comes largely down to the love and education we receive. A loving education gives us freedom and order, creativity and structure. Education is our light, and it always has been. This edition of *The Chronicle* has a focus on education, and so I'd like to reflect on some different goals of education.

V'Shinantam Levanekha

Within the central Jewish prayer of the Shema, we come across the phrase "and you shall teach them [the commandments] to your children." The Shema seems to discuss a basic, yet necessary part of education, in which a body of belief or practice is transmitted to the student. This sort of learning has to be accepted as is. For example, much of our b'nai mitzvah training falls into this. We want our youth to know how to chant the Torah and Haftarah. We want them to have familiarity with our ancient prayers. We even want them to know what the rules are. Other parts of education will deal with the how or why. The root of v'shinantam implies repetition, such as in rote learning. While rote learning has taken a bad rap in recent decades, it is an essential part of all learning. A jeweler must know gems, a chiropractor must know the muscularskeletal systems. There is no expertise without a body of knowledge.

Diyyuk

In Talmud study, a diyyuk refers to the

ability to make a sharp distinction between otherwise similar cases. Divvuk is the basis of critical thinking. Rigorous thinking demands diyyuk. In a certain sense, the diyyuk is the source of the Jewish love for questions. It asks why of a given assumption. Sustained, deep thinking depends on this. Diyyuk also is a source for creativity. By looking closely enough at a problem, we can see the system in which it is embedded, and often step outside of those limitations.

Much of the focus of Western education has been limited to these two categories. But it was not always the case. Indeed, for a long time, values-based education was considered one of the chief goals of schooling. In certain ways, American education is again exploring how to incorporate values into education in a multi-cultural society. That, of course, has always been one of the chief aims of Jewish moral education.

Musar

The root of the word *musar* means to transmit or pass down. In this sense, one might expect it to refer to rote learning of a body of knowledge. Yet musar refers to the ethical dimensions of education, and in particular, how to apply ethics in the messiness of our lived experience. The Vilna Gaon (18th century, Lithuania) once commented in one of his letters that "Reading musar alone does not necessarily move one to act differently. Going out into the world without a good understanding of it defeats the whole purpose." The Vilna Gaon is highlighting that moral education must do more than teach us what



and why something is the proper ethical behavior. It must teach us how to apply those teachings in the real world for our ethics to be effective. It must prepare us to make good choices, often when there isn't much time to reflect on our decision-making process. In some ways, musar depends on both critical thinking skills as well as a body of knowledge. What distinguishes it is the purpose to which those tools are used. Musar is the relational aspect of education.

Yirah

Awe and wonder do not hold center stage in most contemporary educational settings. Look at the gutting of budgets in most school's art and music programs for proof of this. Check how little time is dedicated to inculcating a sense of awe, wonder, and aesthetic appreciation, especially as we age up. Yes, these are hard to test and measure. They also don't seem goal-oriented in the same way as the previous forms of education, nor are they geared to maximizing profit or extracting value. For Jews, Shabbat

Continued on next page

Rabbi's Corner

Learning, Teaching, Guarding, Doing

By Rabbi Eve Posen

e love displaying art in our home, but I only buy pieces that really speak to me. A lot of the works of art up on our walls are meaningful because they were passed down from relatives, and when I'm selecting new additions, I'm pretty picky. There is one piece that I own which represents my own philosophy of education. It's a print by artist Mordechai Rosenstein that's taken from the prayer Ahavah Rabbah, which comes before the Shema. It states:

לְלָמֹד וּלְלַמֵד, לְשָׁמֹר וְלַעֲשׁוֹת

which means "to learn and to teach, to keep and to do." I picked this piece of art – and more importantly this phrase – because I think it naturally and accurately teaches the fundamentals of Jewish education.

In Hebrew, the word for "teach" and the word for "learn" come from the same root. That is to say at our core, we are all learners and teachers. We teach by modeling, and we learn by listening and watching. While it's the job of teachers, rabbis, and administrators to formally teach students, every day we have the opportunity to be both teachers and students when we share our ideas with one another.

The second half of the quotation teaches that we are "to keep and to do." It is our sacred obligation to guard, preserve, and protect what is important to us, and at the same time to take an active role in living our lives according to these customs and laws. In keeping or guarding, we spread our beautiful tradition from one generation to the next so that it will never die. And the "doing" part allows this to happen, which through practice, cements in us memories that carry us forward.

Judaism is a living religion. Yes, it is text based, but it is maintained, taught, and glorified through daily practice. Here at Congregation Neveh Shalom, we not only teach Judaism, we promote living the inspired practice of our heritage. The

education we provide goes well beyond formal classroom moments in Foundation School, ALIYAH, and adult education. Our goal is for every shul moment to fan the flames of a passion for learning that can then be practiced in every aspect of life. Learning and teaching, keeping and doing are meant to kindle the spark within your soul.

The Torah moves us, both emotionally and even physically. It tells of generations and how their actions have



brought us to this moment today. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel said it best when he called on Jews to take a "leap of action," to do more than we understand so that we come to understand more than we do. I invite you to join our community of practice, a community that does more than we might understand in order to further our understanding of Judaism. The Jewish value of learning is a lifelong journey. Walk with Congregation Neveh Shalom on your journey, and let me know how I can help you.

Rabbi Kosak continued from previous page

is the master class for wonder, a day set aside from shaping. A life without wonder is a colorless thing; it is heavy and crass. Wonder is what adds poetry, joy, and color to existence. It is an anti-

dote to greed and consumption. It is the source of curiosity.

We are designed to learn. It is our mission. It keeps us alive and growing. As

we each continue to shape our lives and destinies, I hope we will all do so by embracing these four sides of education. Together, they make us more complete human beings.

Cantor's Corner

Jewish History As Told by My DNA

By Cantor Eyal Bitton

ot long ago, I took a DNA test to find out a little more about my story, about where I came from. Here's what I found out: I found out that my story is, essentially, Jewish history.

Thousands of years ago, my ancestors lived in Ancient Israel. Following a transformation of tribal territories into a kingdom that stood for over 1000 years, the Romans conquered the Kingdom of Israel in six C.E. and renamed the land the Province of Judea. The Jewish resistance against the Roman colonization of the land resulted in a catastrophic response. The Romans sacked Jerusalem and burned the Temple. Thousands of Jews were crucified and sent into slavery. My DNA story reflects this forced migration from the Levant into the heart of the Roman Empire, into what we now call Italy.

Some Jews moved from the Roman Empire into central Europe, the Ashkenaz. This is my mother's genealogical sto-

ry. My father's ancestors migrated to Spain. While there was a Jewish presence in Spain for centuries, the Muslim conquest of the Iberian Peninsula saw a growth in the Jewish population. By the 11th century, the region had become home to a thriving Jewish culture.

Centuries later, under Catholic rule, the Jews faced another calamity: the Spanish Inquisition. Jews were forced to convert, flee, or be killed. My DNA story shows that my ancestors fled to Morocco. Following the founding of the State of Israel in 1948, Muslim countries became increasingly hostile to their Jewish populations. My grandfather and his family fled in the 1950s with nothing. Both of my mother's parents escaped the Holocaust in the 1940s. Moving to North America marked the end of a two-thousand-year diaspora in Central and Eastern Europe.

Who am I? What are my roots? Where did I come from? How did I end up here? What's the significance of a Jew-



ish state? This is Jewish history and it's my DNA story. It's a story of survival and of perseverance in the face of persecution, subjugation, and genocide. Jewish history is the story of a colonized people dispersed throughout the world for 2000 years and the story of the rebirth of its homeland. The story continues.

Watch a video recording of this story at: https://youtu.be/oIDZIKRrGjE

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Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah





Yahmeet Freundlich | March 6

Yahmeet Zoe Freundlich is the daughter of Erika and Ran Freundlich, granddaughter of Jean and Chris Shirkoff, Eva and Uri Freundlich (Hadera, Israel), and great-granddaughter of Michael Halperin (Qiryat Motzkin, Israel). She's a passionate animal lover who loves her dogs, riding horses, baking, reading, snow and water skiing, camping, nature, music (especially *Hamilton*), her friends, and visiting her cousins in Israel. She's helped her Tata make challah weekly since she was three-days-old. When she was eight, she concocted a plan to visit Israel by herself to see her grandparents and relatives and has continued that tradition yearly since. Yahmeet is in 7th grade at Willamette Connections Academy.



Simone Heller-Stading | March 12

Simone is the daughter of proud parents Eileen and Kimberly Heller-Stading and the granddaughter of Dr. Sidney and Alys Heller (both of beloved memory) of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Ralph and Karen Stading of Woodland, Washington. Simone is the twin sister of Zachary and the little sister of Kaia. Simone is a 7th grader at Twality Middle School. She enjoys soccer, Taekwondo, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, reading, and cello.



Zachary Heller-Stading | March 12

Zachary is the son of proud parents Eileen and Kimberly Heller-Stading and the grandson of Dr. Sidney and Alys Heller (both of beloved memory) of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Ralph and Karen Stading of Woodland, Washington. Zachary is the twin brother of Simone and the little brother of Kaia. Zachary is a 7th grader at Twality Middle School. He enjoys lacrosse, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, and holds a second degree black belt in Taekwondo.



Ari Fink | April 17

Ari Jacob is the son of Naomi and Lawrence Fink, older brother of Lilah and Talia Fink, grandson of Diana and Elliot Lubarsky, Annikki Fink and the late Harvey Fink. Ari enjoys reading, playing video games, spending time with his family and cats, and watching old movies from the 90s with his dad. Ari is also interested in learning about engineering and wants to learn how to snowboard. He is a 7th grader at the Beaverton Academy of Science and Engineering (BASE). In addition to the love and support from his family, Ari is grateful to the Neveh Shalom community for all the wisdom and guidance they have provided while embracing him on his path to being a Bar Mitzvah.

We are also excited to celebrate the Bar Mitzvah of Nathan Sax on April 10

Investing in Education—Our Education Advisory Committee

By Mel Berwin, Director of Congregational Learning

hen I think about investing in education, I think about the dedicated volunteers of our Education Advisory Committee, and my deep gratitude to them.

Our Education Advisory Committee members have gone above and beyond to provide an essential perspective during this uniquely challenging year, gathering with me on Zoom to advocate, fundraise, help guide our priorities, and provide muchneeded feedback about the important decisions to be made at this time.

This group of parents, though small, represents the diversity of our ALIYAH community in many ways. Our committee includes parents of the full age-range of ALIYAH, parents who are steeped in CNS community and those who are newer and less familiar with its "norms." The committee includes members with professional education backgrounds, as well as those with a deep love of Jewish learning, and each person brings their own personal hopes and dedication to their child/ren's Jewish communal expe-

Gina, Erez, and Rich Lufrano

riences. I'd like to introduce you to these members so you can get to know them as well.

Rich Lufrano is the Chair of our committee, and author of the blogsite thebadgambler.com. He and his wife, Gina, who is not Jewish, have one daughter in ALIYAH. "ALIYAH was a lifeblood before the pandemic struck and has only become more important since. For Erez, stuck in the house with a limited number of friends for 12 months, the connection to a larger Jewish community means she feels a part of something bigger than herself. We're hoping that relationship will only grow stronger as the years progress and that her connection to CNS and Judaism will provide her a lifetime of joy and a sense of fulfillment."

Merav Rosenfeld and her husband have three children. Merav says "I want our children to learn their Jewishness in a seriously joyful way. At Rosh Hashanah about eight years ago, I went to the kids' program in the morning at Neveh. In that crowded room and contrary to my usual modus, I left my six-year-old son with my 1.5-year-old son in their chairs

to take my four-year-old daughter to the bathroom. When I returned, a man wrapped in a long tallit was standing and holding my crying toddler and smiling. I knew this was the synagogue we should join."

Stephanie Portman is a teacher and History Department Chair in the upper school of Oregon Episcopal School. She says: "I am appreciative of the opportunity to work with a team who is tasked with thinking critically about how to make Jewish education



Stephanie Portman, Bridget Fahrland, and their daughter, Orly

relevant and meaningful for the students and their parents. I have been consistently impressed by how Mel and the teachers meet students where they are and by addressing issues as they arise. The ability to pivot so beautifully during Covid to a robust program is a testament to the creative thinking and dedication that the ALIYAH team shows."

Andy Garland-Forshee is Professor of Early Education and Family Studies at Portland Community College. When asked about investing in Jewish education, he says: "I think about [my daughter's] need for compassionate, responsive, and Jewishly literate educators. I also think about the importance of her relationships with others and comfort in Jewish spaces. I want Ariella (7) to know and understand her Jewish community as a place of refuge, life-long learning, deep connections, and exploration. The

Continued on next page

From our President

By Glen Coblens, CNS President

pring is in the air; can you feel it? Not just thanks to the warmer and longer days and heavenly scent of daphne and jasmine but thanks to our emergence from the Covid pandemic. Pesach, Lag BaOmer, and Yom Ha'atzmaut will be even more joyous celebrations as more of us get vaccinated and we move toward reopening.

If there was one thing that was reinforced this past year, it's that learning never stops, neither at home nor at Neveh Shalom. While our excellent Foundation School, ALIYAH/Tichon continue for our youth, our adult education options have expanded to include more offerings in prayer, history, and culture. Check out a class and see yourself at: nevehshalom.org/adulteducation.

Like most parents these days, my home has become a literal school; my son Levi's "classroom door" is clearly marked with a "Room 214" sign. My wife, Mia, has found delight working with him, enjoying books read by floating astronauts, cultural variations on classic fables, and wild sock ball contests (a.k.a. PE). Myself, I've used this time not only for CNS, but to expand my horizons in coaching, training, business, and investing.

Education is of course at the heart of the Jewish identity. My five siblings and I all went to college and graduate school, in business, nursing, law, chiropractic, and in my case Exercise Science and Sports Psychology, while the next generation is focused on computer science, dentistry, medicine, biology, sports business, journalism, fitness management, and sociology. Tracing back the generations, we find a rare exception in my maternal grandfather (Joseph 'Monty' Montrose), a champion boxer and billiard player (playing against Minnesota Fats). Growing up in New York, some of his siblings went into medicine and law and his poolshark reputation caused such familial shame that they pleaded with him to give it up. He did, but only when he met my grandmother Lillian. They moved to Portland in 1948 and as they say, the rest is history. Oh, what we will do for love!

Similarly, my other grandfather (Hy Jackson's father Harry) was less about diplomas and more about survival, having recently immigrated from Russia to Eastern Oregon, where he made a living as a horse trader. Cool story: when heading to the 1915 World's Fair, his horses escaped near Klamath Falls. In a great example of *tikkun olam*, a Native American tribe corralled the horses and returned them, so he con-



tinued his journey to San Francisco, for which my mother offers gratitude to this day. Living life to the fullest, in other words, is another form of education. What is your family's educational journey? How has it impacted you?

This past year has certainly been full of lessons: both painful and joyful, interesting and frightening, and most of all, shared with each other and people all over the world. May we emerge stronger and more connected, generous, and kind as we move forward in 2021, the Year of Positivity!

I look forward to hearing your stories; I invite you to email them to cnspresident@gmail.com.

Mel Berwin continued from previous page

investment isn't simply practical, but immersive and experiential."

Eva Novick has two children in our K-6 program of ALIYAH. She says: "It is important for me for my children to know about and be proud of their Jewish heritage. I want

them to be comfortable walking into any synagogue and feel like they belong."

Beth Buck has one child in our Tichon program and one in 6th grade in ALIYAH. Most important to Beth are the friendships her children have made here over

the years. She wants them to take pride in being Jewish, and to learn how rewarding it is to be part of a Jewish community.

Many thanks also to **Sally Segel**, our Board of Directors Liaison to our Education Committee.

Bazooka Gum Was So Much More Than a Sweet Treat in Gloria Bacharach's Gift Shop

By Jenn Director Knudsen

he gum. That gum and those kids."

Sue Axel was referring to the individually wrapped pieces of Bazooka chewing gum sold for decades in the Gloria Bacharach Judaica Shop and their intended clients.

Axel recently reflected on her long-time friend **Gloria Bacharach**, z"l, and on her own 30-plus years as a volunteer along-side the dedicated and creative woman for whom Neveh Shalom's Sisterhood gift shop was named in 2008, the year **Max Birnbach**, z"l, surprised Gloria with his naming gift.

Axel said, "No one – no one – was more deserving; she really worked so hard for the congregation, and the gift shop was an integral part of the shul." Gloria died at 96, on Dec. 9, 2020.

From roughly the mid-1980s to 2012, Gloria helmed Sisterhood's gift shop, a portion of whose annual profits directly benefits youth education at the synagogue. Her 30-year run marked an era that predated online shopping and our current global pandemic. Coupled with Gloria's know-how, the Judaica store was a stalwart retail success and community hub.

Times and shopping habits have changed. Still, the Gloria Bacharach Judaica Shop remains a keystone project of Sisterhood and source of scholarship funds for the ALIYAH Education Program.

Sisterhood is a member of Women's

League for Conservative Judaism, an international organization whose local groups support Jewish women in their religious, family, and synagogue life. Many local Sisterhoods have followed WLCJ guidelines to operate Judaica shops that sell items at just over cost that are integral to a Jewish home, for example, Shabbat and yahrzeit candles and mezuzot scrolls.

Other Judaica items sold at retail prices help Sisterhood run the business in the black so it can support itself

and donate every year at least \$2000 to the Women's League Religious School Scholarship Fund to benefit ALIYAH, explained **Dana Sirkin**, Sisterhood pastpresident and shop manager and **Jennifer Kalenscher**, co-president.

Mel Berwin, director of congregational learning, said, "I deeply appreciate that Sisterhood has always prioritized, among its funding, an annual gift to our education programs for all ages, including a contribution to our budget as well as gifts to our ALIYAH students [like candles and dreidels] each Chanukah."

Children had a special place in Gloria's heart.



Gloria Bacharach, z"l, with Amayah and Amari

Gloria instigated Neveh Shalom's Bazooka kosher gum revolution. She knew the kids attending religious school on Sundays, and, later, on Wednesday nights, would want a sweet treat...to entice them into the shop. "Those kids were her future customers," Axel recalled.

In the store, kids might find just the noisy grogger they'd need (in addition to the pink gum with the indecipherable comic featuring Bazooka Joe inside the wrapper), and their parents often opened their wallets to purchase it for them and possibly something a little more spendy for the family.

Gloria had four children, and her second

eldest, **Corinne Spiegel**, recalled that so powerful was the gum, parents often used it as a reward for attending class. "I think it was a ritual that the kids expected," said Spiegel, also a mother of four.

A greater ritual was Gloria's dedication to the shop.

"We thought she worked there," said Aimee Coughlin Johnson, Gloria's eldest granddaughter, one of 11 living grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. (Gloria was predeceased by her husband, Albrecht, z"l, who died in 1984 in a tragic car accident, and by granddaughter Jasmine RR Spiegel, z"l, youngest child of Corinne and husband, Larry Spiegel.)

"Turns out, she only volunteered there," Johnson said of the woman she called *Oma*, Dutch for grandmother, and also her best friend.

Jackie Lesch, the third of Gloria's children, said, "You'd have thought the Judaica gift shop was her own personal business."

She certainly ran it that way, said Axel, who became a gift shop volunteer after Gloria not-so-subtly asked her to at the end of a Hadassah meeting in the mid-90s.

Gloria's friends and family recount that

Gloria had chalked up decades of retail experience, first as a young girl in the department store her folks owned and ran in rural Michigan, and then by singlehandedly taking over her and her husband's business, Al Bacharach Inc., after Albrecht's death.

"She was like the unofficial greeter, often the first face people saw. It was more than being a retail presence, she helped connect people."

-Corinne Spiegel

Axel said that Gloria's honed skills translated perfectly to the shop, where her meticulous record-keeping with pen and paper — congregants always recognized Gloria's handwritten receipts — was overshadowed only by her great patience with all customers and her purchasing expertise.

Axel said of Gloria, "She was really very good at obtaining merchandise [from catalogues] at the best price," a technique that served the shop very well in its heyday, when Judaica shops were few

in the Portland area.

Lesch, also an active Sisterhood volunteer, said the shop used to routinely yield up to \$10,000 in annual profits.

"It was a different world, totally," she continued. "We had a huge clientele."

Prior to the shul's 2008 remodel that coincided with the naming of the Gloria Bacharach Ju-

daica Shop, it was located at the main entrance.

"It was a great way to interface with everybody. People often stopped by to say hi." Axel said.

Spiegel added, "She was like the unof-

ficial greeter, often the first face people saw. It was more than being a retail presence, she helped connect people."

Due to Covid, the physical shop is currently closed to volunteers and customers, so Kalenscher and Sirkin take emails and calls from congregants and community members and fill their orders via the Internet. They also recently set-up an online shop. Sisterhood's more than 70 members also run the

popular annual Mah Jongg tournament, convenes book talks, and much more, all to ensure it fulfills its mission and earns enough profit to support ALIYAH and provide gifts to every b'nai mitzvah.

Ultimately, Kalenscher said, "Sisterhood runs programs and does activities to bring people together."

With or without the Bazooka kosher gum, creating community is entirely in keeping with the namesake of the Gloria Bacharach Gift Shop.

To support your Sisterhood gift shop, visit nevehshalom.org/the-gloria-bacharach-judaica-shop to view and purchase merchandise. The Sisterhood also recently moved its store online, there is a link to that on the webpage. For more information about the shop, please contact manager Dana Sirkin at otrbanana@frontier.com or (503) 680-5877. Annual Sisterhood dues are \$36. Questions about Sisterhood? Please contact Jennifer Kalenscher at jenkal@comcast.net or (503) 893-0822.



Rabbi Isaak, Max Birnbach, z"l, and Gloria Bacharach, z"l

Shoshana Bean and the Moskowitz Family: From CNS to Broadway and Back!

By Riley Atkins

hoshana Bean at age nine was precocious, determined and passionate. No one in her family could have imagined this little girl born in Olympia, WA, but transplanted to her mother's hometown in Portland in the late 1980s, would one day grace the stages of Broadway. But there were hints. Shoshana would occasionally disappear into the bathroom, carrying a large hairbrush that served as her "microphone," and perform in front of the mirror, singing at the top of her nascent lungs. As her uncle and aunt, Marci and I wondered if she shouldn't play outside more!

As parents of three children then under age four, we were busy. But when Marci's sister **Felice** decided to return to Portland with Sho, we invited them to join us in a Garden Home rental house while we built a new home. Our three little ones were in awe of their "big" cousin Sho, and the bonds formed that year created a devoted, sibling-like rela-

tionship that continues to this day.

The path that ultimately led Shoshana to lead roles on Broadway in *Wicked* and *Waitress*, began with her Olympia, WA paternal grandmother, Marcheta Bean, z"l, an amateur jazz singer and inspiration to Sho. Sho's first professional role came as a nine-year-old in *Sunday in the Park With*

George, performed at the Winningstad Theater in Portland. Felice shuttled Sho to rehearsals and performances while getting a second teaching credential in dance at PSU.

It was a treat to see Sho on stage as a little girl, but nothing prepared us for the cavernous Gershwin Theater on Broad-

way in 2005 when Sho took the stage to a thunderous ovation in *Wicked*, before she had even sung a note. The couple next to us from Alabama looked concerned when they saw tears in our eyes, but understood when we shared, "we are her aunt and uncle."

Shoshana's maternal grandparents, **Ed and Sylvia Moskowitz**, z"l, both left our family far too soon and never saw Shoshana perform, but they doted on her as their first grandchild. Ed and



Sylvia and Ed Moskowitz (with Rachel Shemarya - Sylvia's mother) at Felice's Bat Mitzvah, 1962, Ahavai Shalom

Sylvia brought their then two daughters, Felice and Marci, to Portland in 1955, and joined Congregation Ahavai Shalom on Portland's Southwest 13th Street. **Geri (Luxenberg)** would be born in Portland the following year. Felice had her bat mitzvah there, but Marci and Geri would have their ceremonies after the merger with Congregation Neveh Zedek at our current CNS Dosch Road/Peaceful Lane home.

Ed and Sylvia's union was a "mixed marriage", as they claimed only partially in jest. Ed was an Ashkenazi Jew from The Bronx, recently home from service in the Aleutian Islands during World War II, and Sylvia was a first generation Sephardic girl from Seattle whose parents were both from the Island of Rhodes, Greece, and primarily spoke Ladino.

The young Moskowitz family immersed themselves in shul activities, including Men's Club and Sisterhood. Ed served as President of the Men's Club for many years and later chaired the Cemetery Committee. He also served as CNS Vice President. Middle daughter Marci would



Shoshana Bean's Bat Mitzvah at Neveh Shalom



Shoshana Bean

eventually work at CNS for 19 years in a myriad of capacities. Upon Ed's death in 1985, the family room at Neveh Zedek Cemetery was dedicated to the couple's memory. The Moskowitz Fund was established by the family in their honor to support worthy CNS religious projects without designated funding. The fund has procured the white High Holy Day Torah covers used in the main sanctuary and additional Megillah prayerbooks for Purim, among other worthy causes.

As a Beaverton High School student, Shoshana blossomed on stage in their outstanding performing arts program. The former little girl with the hair-brush microphone developed new skills in musical theater. She became a familiar figure at sporting events as well, singing the national anthem at BHS and Portland Trail Blazer games. Sho also performed with the Bobby Torres Ensemble as a teen, but had to step outside between sets because she was still a minor! But the professional performer she would become was on display even earlier at CNS, as some may recall Shoshana leading the Confessional (Viddui) at Yom Kippur for several years.

Sho received her degree from the University of Cincinnati, College Conservatory of Music, and made her Broadway debut in *Hairspray* in 2002, as a chorus

member, but was often required to perform the lead roll of Tracy and others at a moment's notice. Sho performed with the cast for two years before earning the lead role of Elphaba in Wicked which she played from 2004-06. After her initial years on Broadway, Sho created three independent solo albums that have all topped the iTunes R&B and Blues charts in the US and the UK, with the most recent, SPEC-TRUM, debuting at #1

on the Billboard Jazz Charts. Sho returned to Broadway in 2019 as Jenna, the lead role in *Waitress*.

In recent years, Sho has produced and performed at three fundraisers for the Beaverton High School performing arts department. A key feature of these events has been Sho's efforts to showcase talented youth at Beaverton and the other district high schools. Between 75-90 kids have been given the opportunity to share the stage with Sho and perform for a large audience, a oncein-a-lifetime experience. In addition, Sho continues to teach classes to young people interested in the performing arts in underserved areas of Los Angeles and

wherever she travels. Sho has performed for live audiences around the world and currently makes her home in Los Angeles, with frequent visits to family in Portland and Seattle.

What would grandparents Ed and Sylvia have thought today of Shoshana, their famous first grandchild? The fact Sho continues to take pride in her CNS roots, and tirelessly supports local music education programs, would undoubtedly have made them proud.

Shoshana will perform and join Cantor Bitton and CNS youth at our largest annual fundraiser supporting ongoing CNS programs on April 11. See you there!

CNS Spring Fundraiser 2021: An Evening of Broadway with Shoshana Bean and Friends

Sunday, April 11, 5:00pm



We are so excited to announce our 2021 CNS Fundraiser. This year, we invite you to a wonderful evening

of Broadway melodies and songs with CNS Alumna Shoshana Bean.

Registration and more info at: nevehshalom.org/fundraiser2021

Funds from this year's event will benefit Neveh Shalom's education programs: Foundation School, ALIYAH/Tichon, and Adult Education, which have supported our children, families, and congregants through such an unprecedented year.



Felice Moskowitz, Shoshana Bean, Geri Luxenberg, and Marci Atkins

Passover in a Pandemic (The Sequel)



rom Rabbi Eve Posen: I have a hard time wrapping my head around the idea that we are about to celebrate our second Passover in a pandemic. Last year we were just a month into the stay home, stay safe orders and creativity and energy abounded. While it was a bit tenuous to get supplies and clean the house with people home ALL THE TIME, it also felt fun to join seders with family across the world. And Zoom was a new toy, it felt somewhat freeing to connect in this new way. A year later...my feelings are mixed.

As I look back on what I learned from last Passover that I want to benefit from this year I think of the following.

- You do not have to do it all. Give yourself permission not to become a slave to the holiday. Whether that means editing your menu to the "must haves," or paring down your seder creativity to one or two creative pieces. Passover is the festival of freedom; do not let it enslave you.
- 2. Have a purpose to your gatherings. Yes, the seder itself is the purpose, but also think about who you want to engage. Pick one activity for each

age group you want to engage and call it good. You do NOT have to engage every age and stage at every moment of the seder.

3. Invite your guests to prepare ahead of time. Since Zoom can sometimes feel a little isolating because we cannot really sing together or interact fluidly, have your seder participants prepare a part or decoration or something ahead of time. That simple act of knowing you've got an important part to play can change the entire atmosphere of a Zoom seder.

Looking forward to joining together in celebration and growth!

From Mel Berwin: Last year Passover was REALLY different from all other nights. This year, we're all thinking, "Really, again with the seder during Covid?!"

But the questions for creating a meaningful seder this year are the same, Covid or not. Here are four big questions/ideas to help you prepare:

- 1. What is most important to you, THIS year, about the seder? What do YOU need for this year's seder to be meaningful? Build your seder from there, starting with the guests and the platform. Do you need a small, immediate family seder and a break from Zoom? Or to gather with your extended family and to hear your uncle/niece/cousins sing the four questions, even if that means the awkwardness of setting a table with a laptop and screen, again?
- 2. Then make it personal. Find a way for each person to contribute. Maybe each guest has a seder part or each show and tell a ritual item on their ta-

ble like their seder plate or their candlesticks and the meaning or memory behind it. Maybe you ask a question that each person can answer at some point during the seder. We like to have each family act out part of the *Maggid*—the actual story of Pesach....

- 3. Haggadah and maggid both mean "telling," referring to the obligation to TELL THE STORY of the Exodus. But ironically, most Haggadot don't actually lay out the story! They tell stories about the story and about the observance of Passover. You might want to act out the story, watch a video version of the story, ask each family to tell one part of the story... but if you want the story told, it takes a little forethought.
- 4. Which brings me to the last idea. Prepare ahead, and prepare your guests. If you want your friends or family to "bring" something to the seder, whether they're answering a question or showing-and-telling or leading a blessing or a skit—make sure to give them plenty of time to prepare!

Helpful resources for the Seder:

PJ Library, includes video of Passover Story in 10 scenes: pjlibrary.org (search passover)

Conservative Movement Passover Resources: jtsa.edu (search passover)

Make a personalized Haggadah: Haggadot.com

The actual text of the Passover story: sefaria.org (search Pesach Haggadah)

Bim Bam videos:

bimbam.com/judaism-101/passover

The Value of Our Values

By Leah Conley, Director of Early Childhood Education



t's 5am on Wednesday morning. I wake up and the first thing I do is look out my window to check for snow. Yesterday it snowed during Foundation School pick up and I want to make sure the roads (and our parking lot!) look safe enough to open school early this morning. I go downstairs and run on my treadmill because it's too early to text Itai Dewar, wonderful caretaker of our CNS building, to check on how the conditions look at Neveh. At 6:30am I text him and he gives me the all-clear.

When I get to work I check my email and respond to messages in my inbox from Mel Berwin, Director of Congregational Learning and Brian Rohr, Communications Director as well as the dedicated chairs of this year's long range plan, Stephanie Arnheim and Nathan von Colditz. I read an email from Rabbi Eve about planning for Purim for Shoreshim and Foundation School.

Why does all this detail matter?

I have the privilege of having a multitude of different and complex relationships with all these people that are both personal and professional and the lines between them often blur together like an exquisite watercolor painting in the best way. And this is the lens through which I see our CNS community, our kehillah.

Let me break it down.

Itai is not only the caretaker of this building but also my son's Hebrew tutor through the ALIYAH program. Every Thursday night they Zoom together and through this relationship, my 10-year-old son **Elliot** is learning the ancient language of our people.

Brian Rohr is our communications specialist at CNS and I work with him to create a wide variety of materials that support my work both in Foundation School and for the Long Range Plan. Brian's son, **Gabriel** who is now six, is also one of my favorite friends who I got to know quite well over the course of his four years at Foundation School. AND Brian's wife **Sarah** was the ALIYAH teacher at CNS for kindergarten for both of my children, Elliot and **Amelia**.

Mel Berwin, Rabbi Eve, and I have been collaborating for years at CNS which has been one of the most intellectually satisfying parts of my professional life at Neveh. AND I know both of Rabbi Eve's kiddos very well through Foundation School and both she and Mel know my children very well through ALIYAH.

Stephanie, Nathan, and I began working together last year as part of the LRP and I love both of them so much they have rapidly become two of my favorite people in this community and hopefully my lifelong friends. Nathan's son **Zev** is also my best friend through Foundation School (I have a ton of best friends who are three and four!).

I hope by now you can see where I am going.

This is my tapestry, and my guess is that each of you reading this has your own that lives inside of what we call our Neveh Shalom kehillah, and all of our tapestries weave together to become this amazing community.

Recently, the LRP committee introduced the synagogue's new Mission, Vision, and Values, which included the thoughts, feedback, and tapestries of so many in our community. We landed upon five core values that express who we are and who we strive to be:

- community (kehillah),
- innovation (chidush),
- Jewish life (l'dor v'dor),
- inclusivity (k'lal),
- transformative learning (talmud Torah).

For me, my story and my life at Neveh Shalom includes a deep and profound sense of each of these. This kehillah is my home. The unique opportunities of my professional and personal life here have allowed me to collaborate and innovate with amazing staff and lay leaders. My interfaith family feels welcomed into this inclusive community in a way I have not found in other Conservative Jewish synagogues. From my relationship with Rabbi Stampfer, z"l, whose office was next to mine for years to the children I work with in Foundation School, I see *l'dor v'dor* in action in our building every day. With my children in ALIYAH and my work in Foundation School, I see talmud Torah live.

Neveh Shalom is not just the people of our congregation right now in this moment, it is the values that breathe life into our choices and guide us. This is the real value of our values.

How have you experienced these shared values? How do you hope to see these shared values in action within the kehilla of Neveh Shalom? Please feel free to send me moments you have seen these values come to life at Neveh by emailing me at *lconley@nevehshalom.org*. I hope to share more of our communities' stories over the course of this year.

Neveh Shalom 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: nevehshalom.org/virtual-events.

Women's Torah Study

Sat, March 6, 20 & April 3, 17, 12:00pm Join Mel Berwin for an hour of uplifting study and conversation. All levels of experience welcome.

The Torah of Today: Two Sundays w/ Rav D 3/7, 4pm: What Judaism Can Teach America—Wealth, Equality, Community, and the Individual.

3/23, 4pm: What Judaism Can Teach America: Law and the Human Soul.

Neveh Shalom Sisterhood Happy Hour Sunday, March 14, April 11, 4:00pm

Join Sisterhood in a casual discussion about the day's or week's events. All welcome. RSVP to coprez22@gmail.com.

Musical Midrash Project Join Mark Sherman as he shares his original songs based on the weekly Torah reading. More info at: musicalmidrash.com/events.

- * Concert from the Exodus Cycle -Mon, March 15, 7:00-8:00pm Mark will present the songs inspired by the Book of Exodus
- * Weekly Workshop Songs of Leviticus - Sun, 8:00am & Mon, 6:00pm Each week, a new song is shared to make a strong, musical connection to the weekly parsha.

Men's Club talk w/ Judy Margles of OJMCHE Sunday, March 21, 10:00am

Judy Margles will discuss the work and mission of OJMCHE, Yom HaShoah, and OJMCHE's ongoing efforts to provide Holocaust education in Oregon public schools per the recent state law.

Israel360: Lone Soldier Interview with Naomi Shapiro (Rabbi Isaak's Niece) Sunday, March 21, 11:00am

IDF servicemen and women without immediate family in Israel are honored in Israel as Lone Soldiers. Naomi Shapiro recently completed her service as a Lone Soldier. Hear about her unique

experiences as a young American volunteer in the Israel Defense Forces.

CNS Sisterhood Book Group Mondays, 7:00pm

3/22: *The Color of Love,* by Marra B. Gad **4/26:** *Caste,* by Isabel Wilkerson RSVP: coprez22@gmail.com.

Neveh Shalom Blood Drive Wed, March 24, 10:00am-4:00pm

Men's Club Yom Hashoah Candle Drive Up Distribution

Sunday, April 4, 10:00am-12:00pm

Join Men's Club in remembering Yom Hashoah on April 8 by picking up a Yellow Candle in the synagogue turnaround. One per family at no charge. Reserve a candle at: lesch.harold@gmail.com.

Israel360: Tour of Jerusalem: Divided and Reunited

Thursday, April 29, 8:30-9:30pm

Jerusalem was a divided city for 19 years. While it is now reunited, security remains very complex. In this tour, we review the history of Jerusalem divided and reunited, examine the expansion of the city's borders following the Six Day War, peer over the security barrier into Bethlehem, and delve into the context, challenges, and successes of the barrier's construction. \$10.

Exercise with Coach Glen Coblens Wednesdays, 10:30-11:15am

A dynamic and fun online workout for all. Guaranteed to be a stress reducer and energy builder. No previous athletic ability required. Focus will be on building core strength.

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

Stay tuned for Passover information!

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

Unity Shabbat

Sat, Feb 20 & Mar 20, 9:30am

Join us for these special once-a-month Shabbat programs featuring guest faith leaders from around the city.

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 Moreh 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.

CNS Family Camp at Home April 23-25 - More info to come!

Member News

Kvell With Us

Mazel tov to Stephanie Arnheim and John Sheldon on their marriage this past November 29th. They have been in a loving relationship for the past 25 years and may it continue for many years to come.

Mazel tov to Charlotte and Ofir Fatal (and big brother Ezra) on the birth of a baby boy, Isaac Theodore Fatal, born at 5:52pm on 12/06/2020, weighing 7 lbs 14oz. The family is healthy and doing well.

Mazel tov to Gershon (Gary) and Esther Liberman on the birth of their grandchild. New baby Stephanie Liberman was born Dec. 13th to proud parents Micah and Samara Liberman in Portland, OR.

Mazel tov to Steve Sirkin on becoming the Regional Chairperson for the USCJ's Northern Pacific Region, a position that also has him serving on the USCJ (The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism) Board. The region encompasses Conservative synagogues from Northern California, Oregon, Washington, and the two western provinces of Canada.

Mazel Tov to our ALIYAH Inclusion Specialist Matthew Cuda, his wife Dede, and new big brother Micah on welcoming new baby Emerson Rose to their family!

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

We are sorry to inform you of the passing of Frieda Tobin, z"I on December 9th at the age of 98. Frieda was preceded in death by Louis Tobin, her husband of 58 years. She is loved and remembered by daughters Dale (Earl, z"I) Oller and Wendy (Steven) Shain, son Phil (Patricia) Tobin, grandchildren Sarah (Oller) Scott, Joshua Oller, Rachel (Tobin) Anderson, Marc Tobin, z"I; Nathan Shain, Leah (Shain) Burns and seven greatgrandchildren.

We regret to inform you of the passing of long-time Cantors Assembly member, **Chaim Feifel, z"I** on Shabbat Hanukkah, December 12, 2020. As long time CNS members will remember, Cantor Feifel, served as Hazzan here at Congregation Neveh Shalom. His funeral took place at Zichron Yaakov.

It is with deep sadness that we inform you of the passing of longtime Morning Minyan regular **David Singer**, **z**"I on December 19, 2020 at the age of 99. Beloved father of Michael (Susan Cohen) Singer and Ellen (Richard) Cohen, grandfather of Tali Singer, Shoshi (Gabi Weinberg) Singer and Anissa Cohen. He was preceded in death by his wife Reva, z"l. David buried at the Shaarie Torah Cemetery.

We are sorry to inform you of the passing on December 9th of Gloria Jane Bacharach, z"I at the age of 96. Gloria was preceded in death by her husband, Albrecht Bacharach, z"I and granddaughter Jasmine RR Spiegel, z"I. She is loved and remembered by daughters Elaine (Jonathon Lietz) Coughlin, Corinne (Larry) Spiegel, Jackie (Harold) Lesch, son Alan Bacharach, grandchildren Craig (Emiko) Coughlin, Aimee (Aaron) Johnson, Jody (Matt) Greene, Sam Spiegel, Joel Spiegel, Nathan Spiegel, Jacob (Reba) Lesch, Aaron Lesch, Zach (Nina Simons) Lesch, Ari Bacharach, Dana Bacharach, Lindsay Culver (Noah), Jeremy Lietz and 13 great-grandchildren.

We regret to inform you of the passing of **Meyer M. Ruimy**, **z"I** (Michel to family and Michael elsewhere since living and working in the U.S.) in New Jersey on December 23, 2020. He was 73 years of age. Michel is loved and remembered by his brother, longtime CNS member **Daniel (Roberta) Ruimy**, as well as three additional brothers, two sisters, and many nieces and nephews.

We are sorry to inform you of the passing of Will Wilkes, z"I, husband of Linda Wilkes, father of Neveh Shalom's Finance Director Allyson Wilkes (Scott) Quirico, and Lindsey (Ed) LoPresti, and grandfather to Cassandra, Sophia, Clara, and Amelia.

We regret to inform you of the passing in South Africa of Michael Rosenfield, z"I, loved and remembered by his son Barry (Wendy) Rosenfield and their daughters, Allison and Samantha.

We are sorry to inform you of the passing of Samuel Miller, z"I on January 4, 2021 at the age of 92. In addition to being a long time CNS member and daily minyan regular, Sam is loved and remembered by his dear wife Jo Ellen, and daughters Robin (Steve) Rayel, Cheryl (Bud) Peizner and Jody (Rob) Twain as well as seven grandchildren (Stephen Rayel, Lauren Rayel, Elise Alexander, Aaron Peizner, Gabriel Peizner, Madelyn Twain and Eli Twain).

We are sorry to inform you of the passing of Michael Hasson, z"l. Michael is loved and remembered by his daughters Michaele, Lauren, and Jenna Hasson, his brother Barry Hasson, and his dear mother Marilyn Hasson.

We are sorry to inform you of the passing of **Helen Black**, **z"I** on January 12, 2021 at the age of 93. Helen was predeceased by her husband **Morris Black**, **z"I**, and is lovingly remembered by her daughter, **Ella Hess**, four grandchildren, and two greatgrandchildren.

We are sorry to inform you of the passing on January 19th in Northridge, CA of Marilyn Shenker Alkin, z"l. Marilyn was the dear sister of Arden (Lois) Shenker, and is also loved and remembered by her husband, two children and six grandchildren.

The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

Adult Education Fund

Rena Ziegler:

In memory of Dorothy Spiro

ALIYAH Donation

Jerry & Lisa Eckstein: In honor of Mel Berwin Vivian & Henry Fliman:

In honor of Mia Schoenkerman

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stein & Charisse Stein Laity

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Jerry & Lisa Eckstein: To go toward CNS mortgage Carolyn & Gary Weinstein: Get well wishes for Rabbi

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Bruce & Susan Winthrop: In memory of Frieda Tobin

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In honor of the birth of Eli Asher

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In memory of Martin Chess In memory of Gay Chess In memory of Gloria Chess In memory of Samuel Chess

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Howard Freedman: In memory of Sam Miller

Ami Frydman:

In memory of Harry Friedman Carole Furie:

In memory of Alfred Furie Stanley Geffen:

In memory of Anne Geffen

Tina Genesina: In memory of Boris Telengator Bernice Gevurtz:

In memory of Harry Rosenfield In memory of Jack Ehrlich

Harry & Mary Goldhammer: In memory of Frieda Tobin Isaak & Sima Govshiyevich:

In memory of Roman Govshiyevich

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In memory of Charlotte Grant **Kay Gumbert:**

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Lisa Kama: In memory of Gloria Bacharach

Julian Kaufman: In memory of Sharon Kagna

Hannah Lauer: In memory of Ellen Perlman

Simon Burton Leventhal:

In memory of Kenneth Leventhal

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Debbie Levin:

In memory of Frieda Tobin **Boris Litvin**

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In memory of Ben Kregal

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In memory of Solomon Markus **Anatoliy Men:**

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Bert & Laurie Rogoway: In memory of Bert & Laurie's sister Frances

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In memory of Samuel Miller
In memory of Michael Hasson
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In memory of Miriam
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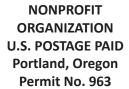
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Foundation School Office Named in Honor of Leah Rubin, z"l

ongregation Neveh Shalom announced the naming of the Foundation School Director's Office in memory and honor of **Leah Rubin**, z"l. The family chose the week of Chanukah, a festival of dedication, to announce their generous gift to the congregation to honor Leah.

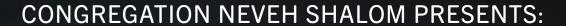
Leah's husband, **Mark Rubin**, a member of Congregation Neveh Shalom for more than 50 years, is generously dedicating the Foundation School Office in the name of his beloved wife. "Morah" Rubin was the school's director for more than 30 years, from 1974 until retiring in 2006. She passed away May 16, 2020.

Together with his three sons, their wives and his six grandchildren, Mark thanks the congregation for its strength and support after Leah's passing in May, and for the central role of Neveh Shalom in the lives of the entire Rubin family.

About this, **Fred Rothstein**, Executive Director, said, "On behalf of the clergy, staff, lay leadership, and all the members of CNS, we thank Mark and the Rubin family for this wonderful gesture and look forward to an installation ceremony this coming summer."

A plaque will be installed during a dedication ceremony in summer 2021.





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