

THE  
**CHRONICLE**

A PUBLICATION OF CONGREGATION NEVEH SHALOM



**VISION:**

**A more humane world  
cultivated through  
Jewish living, learning,  
and celebration.**

# A Night Vision

Rabbi's Corner

**By Rabbi David Kosak**

**T**he credit for whatever interest I have in astronomy goes to my Poppa Jake. Standing on his front stoop around the age of eight, he first pointed out constellations and asterisms to me. Orion's Belt. The Big and Little Dipper. Ursa Major, which was far too conceptual for my young mind to grasp. With his index finger, he directed my eyes to Polaris. "And that," he said, "is the North Star."

The astronomer Ptolemy first discovered the North Star in the year 169 CE. It took another few centuries before people understood they could use it to navigate. By Shakespeare's time, the character Julius Caesar states that "I am as constant as the North Star." Ironically, Polaris itself is not particularly constant. It moves each day, its level of brightness changes, and because everything is in motion, even stars, Polaris won't always be the north star.

Poppa was also my guide to a very different star field. He was the one who taught me about the *Magen David*, the Star of David. Being the grandson of a rabbi and carrying the name of David meant I was primed for a special kinship with our *Magen David*. When Nanna and Poppa took us all to Israel, I purchased a Jewish star. I wore this symbol of my Jewish identity proudly until one day I lost it.

Everything is in motion, the straight path is not always the best or even the fastest route, and life meanders. There are important ways that our values also change over time. Even when they don't, the meaning and the placement of those values shift. This is especially true of symbols. While a six-pointed star can be tracked back to antiquity,

its association with things Jewish really only took hold in the medieval period; it wasn't until the 17th century that it became an official stand-in for all things Jewish. Today, it remains a north star for countless Jews.

Given its centrality to Jewish identity, I have been imagining the way it maps out the values embedded in our new Long-Range Plan. If that's still news to you, the Long-Range Planning Group interviewed numerous congregants, lay leaders, and professional staff to develop new vision and mission statements for our community. A central part of that document is entitled "Our Defining Values." Five values are mapped out: *kehilla*, or community; *chidush* or innovation; *l'dor v'dor*, or the continuity of Jewish life; *k'lal* or inclusivity; and *Talmud Torah* or transformative learning.

The beautiful statements that accompany each value provide a meaningful snapshot of who we are today even as they encourage us to do the work necessary so that we can best embody these values as a *kehillah kedoshah*, as a holy and striving community. I like to think of each of these values as a point on the *Magen David*, directing us as Polaris directed sailors.

Simultaneously, there are only five values listed while a Jewish star has six points. If I can be forgiven the pun, that is exactly the point. A number of years ago, a minister from the Bay Area spoke in the main sanctuary when my friend, Reverend Tara Wilkins, was stepping down from her leadership role at the Community of Welcoming Congregations. The now-dissolved organization was formed to bring about greater in-



clusivity of LGBTQ+ individuals in congregational life and CNS was one of the founding congregations.

Generally, the plus sign refers to specific groups of people not otherwise covered in the LGBTQ umbrella, such as a native American identity, Two-Spirit. Yet in her remarks, this pastor suggested something beyond the plus sign to also include "and whatever new identity the good Lord chooses to manifest." That comment really struck me, as I found it very helpful to think about God's creative power bringing into existence the yet unknown.

As CNS embraces the efforts of the LRP and explicitly strengthens our community on these values we already affirm, I think we all would be well-served to hold in mind the sixth point of a Jewish star. Leaving a space for what we can't yet imagine has several benefits. First, it is a stance of humility. We don't know what we don't know. Second, it provides us a posture of flexibility which feels different than our category of *chi-*

*Continued on next page*

# Imagine

By Rabbi Eve Posen

Rabbi's Corner

When I was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, my synagogue held a graduation (called an “Elevation Ceremony”) to move us from Hebrew school to Nosh n Drash, our Hebrew high school program. I remember vividly the green dress with little flowers I wore to the ceremony and how grown up I felt. I also remember my good friend, Casey, singing a song, John Lennon’s “Imagine.” Casey had a phenomenal voice, and she belted out to our class her hope that “...someday you’ll join me, and the world will live as one.” That was our class vision for the future. We came together under that hope and that was the work we did as we made our way through Monday night school, working for Habitat for Humanity, lobbying in Washington, D.C., and other volunteer projects.

Since that time in Spring 1996, I’ve been a part of many different groups and organizations. One commonality they share is that each and every one is working toward something. CNS is no different with our beautiful new Vision Statement: “To create a more humane world cultivated through Jewish living, learning, and celebration.”

Not surprisingly, this vision has ties to Jewish teachings. It finds compatibility with our Torah and traditions surround-

ing Tisha B’Av. A quick recap: Tisha B’Av is the 9<sup>th</sup> day of the Jewish month of Av, which occurs this year on July 18<sup>th</sup>. This is the date on the Hebrew calendar when both of our ancient Temples were destroyed and other Jewish massacres took place. Tradition teaches us that the tragedies of this day were most often brought on by *sinat chinam*, baseless hatred towards one another. This is clearly a call for us to act for a more humane world.

The *Shabbatot* surrounding Tisha B’Av each have a unique name, and together, they are meant to guide us on this journey of creating a more just, equitable, and humane world. The first one is called *Shabbat Hazon*, the Shabbat of Vision. On this Shabbat, we read from the Prophet Isaiah of the vision of a world in which we will “cease to do evil and learn to do good.” Leading into a day filled with the memory of tragedy, our tradition asks us to see the horror and the brokenness, but not get stuck in it.

The Shabbat after Tisha B’Av is called *Shabbat Nachamu*, the Shabbat of Comfort. On this Shabbat we also read from the Prophet Isaiah and find comfort in the notion that God will comfort us as a people as we strive to fulfill the vision of a world that is filled not with baseless hatred, but with unending love.



From the words of the Prophet Isaiah urging us to work together to mend our world, to the words of John Lennon, to the words of our own CNS Vision Statement, what we learn is when we act together, when we learn together, celebrate together, support one another, and grow together, we not only have a vision for a more complete world, but also the strength and power to change the world. May these next years at CNS, guided by this vision, help us imagine and build a world with less hatred and more love.

## Rabbi Kosak continued from previous page

dush, or innovation. Sometimes, what we can’t imagine has already shown up so we need to rediscover it, just as Isaac re-dug his father’s wells. Other times, even words like vision or innovation can limit us to pre-existing categories.

Finally, the sixth point, like the pastor’s comment, is a reminder to “leave a little for God.” We don’t yet know what Jewish life will need in the future. Often-times, we base today’s plans on trend-lines that may not continue.

The best of vision, whether personal or communal, always leaves a bit of space for mystery. Between the constellations Poppa Jake showed me, there were black expanses of space. In the years since, we have come to discern the light hiding in darkness. The sixth point.



# Am Yisrael, the People of Israel

Cantor's Corner

By Cantor Eyal Bitton



cal – of appearing to weigh in on the Israeli-Hamas conflict. If the beatings of Jews doesn't warrant unequivocal condemnation, what does? Rutgers University released a condemnation of the wave of antisemitism but subsequently issued an apology for having done so. The Students for Justice in Palestine were offended that Rutgers didn't denounce Israel instead. Think about that. Sympathy is shown to Jews for being attacked

by some people and organizations we had thought would support us for being targeted as Jews.

Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch, of NY's Stephen Wise Free Synagogue (Reform), wrote about the current crisis in Jewish identity: "...the future of Judaism is Jewish peoplehood, and all those who abandon Jewish peoplehood will be as the leaves falling from the tree."

We are Am Yisrael, the people of Israel. Our historic homeland is the land of Israel. It's a matter of history and archaeology. Our ties to that land are more than 3000 years old. We are an indigenous people and the rebirth of Israel is, with the departure of the British colonial power, a remarkable story of decolonization.

We are a people who were oppressed for 2000 years; we went from being ethnically cleansed from Europe and the Arab world within the last eighty years to re-establishing our homeland.

Neveh Shalom's Vision Statement seeks to cultivate a more humane world. We will have a limited ability to contribute if Jews are demonized and targeted. We will have failed if the only Jewish state is destroyed.

If we are to cultivate a more humane world through Jewish living, learning, and celebration, we must do so knowing that we are connected to Jews around the world, not just through faith but through national identity. We are a people. We are Am Yisrael.

**T**he reaction to the Israel-Hamas military conflict in May should be a watershed moment for Jews here in the US. A US-designated terrorist organization explicitly committed to the destruction of the Jewish homeland launched random rocket attacks at Israeli civilians and garnered the support of the masses.

Acts of antisemitism exploded across the States and elsewhere around the world. We saw vandalism, harassment, threats, and beatings. We heard open calls for the destruction of the Jewish state - a call becoming more and more acceptable and even seen as moral.

Institutions were reluctant to condemn antisemitism for fear of being politi-

here in America and SJP sees that as an affront to Palestinians.

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***"Neveh Shalom's Vision Statement seeks to cultivate a more humane world. We will have a limited ability to contribute if Jews are demonized and targeted."***

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From all this, we learned that "Jew" and "Israeli" mean the same thing to many of those who hate us. We have seen that some people who hate Israel are willing to act out on their hate towards Jews and Jewish institutions anywhere in the world. We saw that we were abandoned

# What I Think About...

President's Corner

**By Glen Coblens, CNS President**

In the early years of our marriage, my Wife, **Mia**, would ask me, "What are you thinking about?" I would reluctantly admit, "BASKETBALL." Duh. Finally, after many similar responses, I politely said, "You can assume I am *always* thinking about basketball."

No longer. During the past year, my head has been filled with something else: Congregation Neveh Shalom.

As I said at our annual meeting, when I close my eyes now, I see not only the numerous obstacles we had to overcome and our many accomplishments of the past year, but I also envision the year to come. The Holzman Plaza, sanctuary, meeting spaces, halls, and walls filled with the sounds of pattering feet, chatter, and joyous laughter. People gathering once again, in alignment with our new Mission, Vision, and Values (easily found on our website), which for me starts with providing an inviting, welcoming, and safe place to pray, learn, dance, socialize, smile, and laugh.

However, I recognize an important chal-

lenge: welcoming you back *and* meeting you where you are at emotionally. Some of us are ready to unmask, jump back in, and return to a sense of "normalcy," whatever that is. Others either are not ready or able to return, at least not as it used to be. My mother is a great example. She is fully vaccinated and comfortable meeting outside but is not ready to be mask-free or allow people in her house. My entire family respects, understands, and supports her. Do I want a hug? Absolutely! In the meantime, I am just grateful we can be together.

At CNS, in other words, we embrace all of you! We will continue to offer opportunities to meaningfully engage both in-person and virtually.

Imagine the possibilities when our clergy, staff, board, lay leaders and **you** use our collective creativity and empathy to discuss — and at times debate — thoughts and ideas. Many of you have already reached out with fantastic suggestions and a willingness to be a part of the solution. Thank you so much for



your passion and commitment to CNS.

Being an optimist, I also see smiling faces greeting me at an upcoming event with a handshake or warm embrace. I see my mother hugging me. And yes, I also see basketball.

Close your eyes and take a few deep breaths. What do you see? Please share it with me at [cnsresident@gmail.com](mailto:cnsresident@gmail.com).

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## Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah



### **Maxmillion (Max) Borden | August 7**

Max is the son of Gary and Marcy Borden and grandson of Dr. Abraham Herman Borden and Mildred Borden (both of beloved memory) of Santa Monica, California, as well as Joe and Linda Gibbs of Sandpoint, Idaho. Max is also the younger brother of Isaac Borden (17). Max is in 7th Grade at Athey Creek Middle School and enjoys playing with friends (currently via on-line games), swimming, watching movies, and playing Airsoft. Max is a lover of all animals, including his beloved pet chinchilla, Dusty, and trusty cat, Miraleste



### **Maylia Kaholo | August 7**

Maylia and Jacob Kaholo are sharing their B'nai Mitzvah. Maylia is the daughter of proud parents Kimberly Kaholo and Collins Kaholo, and grandchild of Larry and Evie Oxman. She will be a freshman at Sherwood High School in the fall. Maylia is an exceptional student who loves to sing and has been in the school choir for many years. Opting to wait until things opened up a bit, Maylia is eager to share her Bat Mitzvah with as many in attendance as possible, inviting many friends and family to join via Zoom or live stream.



### **Jacob Kaholo | August 7**

Jacob and Mayila Kaholo are sharing their B'nai Mitzvah. Jacob is the son of proud parents Kimberly Kaholo and Collins Kaholo, and grandchild of Larry and Evie Oxman. He will be a freshman at Sherwood High School in the fall. Jacob has been enjoying his special needs education and loves exploring programs on the computer. Opting to wait until things opened up a bit, Jacob is eager to share his Bar Mitzvah with as many in attendance as possible, inviting many friends and family to join via Zoom or live stream.



### **Elliot Raiton | August 14**

Elliot is a Raiton Family All-Star! He's the beloved firstborn of Jake and Cory, phenomenal big brother to Katherine (and the family fur-baby, Chanco). Grandparents on his team include Jack and Joanne Raiton, Jim Shrybman (z"l) and Rochelle Testa, and Stephen Schultz (z"l) and Eileen Schultz. His Jewish education began at Foundation School, and he's a rising 8th grader at Beverly Cleary. Don't let his sweet and gentle nature fool you—he's a fierce competitor on and off the field, who plays with heart and integrity.





## Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah



### Steven River Rogosin | August 21

Steven is the son of proud parents Dr. Shane Rogosin and Dr. Elizabeth Super, the grandson of Dr. Steven Roy Rogosin (in beloved memory), Sandra Resis of Salem Oregon, and Marlene & Jack Super of Corpus Christi, Texas. Steven is a rising 7th grader at the Marylhurst School. With any spare time, he enjoys skiing, baseball, golf, soccer, basketball, annoying his younger sister Anna, and the great outdoors with his Scout troop.



### Nina Schwartz | August 21

Nina is the daughter of proud parents Talia and Greg Schwartz and the granddaughter of Bracha and Leonard Loren (of beloved memory) and Ann and Steven Schwartz. Nina has a sister, Maya, and brother, Leo. Nina is the perfect companion for an adventure! She is a talented guitarist and saxophonist and enjoys playing in her band, playing tennis, and spending time with her friends and family.



### Juliette Heitner | August 28

Juliette Heitner is the daughter of proud parents, Dr. Emma Scott and Dr. Stephen Heitner, and grandparents in South Africa, Adrienne Scott and Yvonne Heitner (and in beloved memory René Heitner and Alex Scott). Juliette is entering 7th grade at OES and has one older sister, Isabella Heitner. Juliette is a near-fluent Spanish speaker, who loves dancing enjoys baking, reading, and socializing with friends. She is passionate about preserving the earth and her Bat Mitzvah project, "Saving Our Soil," can be found at: <https://regenerativefarmingjbat.edublogs.org>.

## You are able and welcome to join us in person for services

As the community begins to open up, and more people are coming together in person again, we at Neveh Shalom are delighted to invite Neveh Shalom members and guests of the family, to attend all services. At the time of printing, the rules are that all attendees who are **eligible to be vaccinated must be vaccinated** and bring proof to attend our indoor services. *Children under the age of 12 (who are currently not eligible for vaccination) are welcome to attend.* Face masks are required indoors and highly encouraged outdoors. We will still be video live streaming the service if you are not able to or comfortable in joining us. Thank you.



**By Mel Berwin, Director of Congregational Learning**

**W**hile the Long-Range Plan committee was working hard, talking to congregants, and creating new vision and values statements for our congregation, I was on a parallel path, working with my teachers and Educational Advisory Committee to create our own set of “pillars” or principles on which our education programs stand. Inspired by my learning in the Mandel Teacher Educator Institute over the past two years, these pillars articulate what we believe and value as teachers and educational leaders at Congregation Neveh Shalom. Many of them overlap with the congregational values and vision statements; that’s a good thing! Some of them speak to the specific environment of our learning community. In the big picture, our job as educators is to foster learning and exploration so that each learner can feel at home in Judaism and recognize the ways that Judaism is a lens for our life stories, our vocabulary, and the structure of meaning-making in our lives.



## Educational Pillars for ALIYAH, Tichon, and Adult Learning programs:

### 1. Learning = creating meaning

Jewish learning is the process of creating relationships with Jewish language, text, ritual, history, values, traditions, and people. Each of us comes to Judaism in our own way. Every student (and teacher) is invited to encounter, explore, interpret, and create meaningful connections between the many different aspects and expressions of our tradition.

### 2. Learning Torah is equal to them all (*Talmud Torah k'neged kulam*)

Torah (Jewish teaching) is a lens for understanding our world and a blueprint for creating the most ethical civilization we can. The goal of our encounter with Jewish teachings is to become more human and more humane. When we view our own actions in this sacred context, we are challenged to become better versions of ourselves.

### 3. Every learner is created in the Image of God (*b'tzelem Elohim*)

Each of us learns in our own way. Each of us has strengths and challenges. Our community is beautifully diverse. We bring our whole selves to this

community, and we support each other's academic, social-emotional, and spiritual growth.

### 4. We are part of a sacred community (*kehila kedosha*)

How we treat each other and speak to each other matters. We are all responsible to each other. We intentionally connect as learners and families with the people, programming, mitzvot, ritual leadership, and values of our larger congregational community and of Am Yisrael, the people and nation of Israel.

### 5. We are part of a sacred conversation.

Each of our stories is part of the story of the Jewish people. The Jewish community takes seriously our responsibility to pass Jewish traditions *l'dor vador*—from one generation to the next. And as a Conservative congregation, we are deeply engaged in an evolving and contextual understanding of Jewish life. We have inherited sacred texts that document the diversity of our communities over the generations, and we proudly and humbly add our own voices to this sacred conversation.



# Reflection on *Tzedakah* and Development Work

By Raul Krivoy, Development Committee Chair

In my new role as Development Committee Chair, I have recently begun asking myself, “What are the roots of my *tzedakah* motivation? What is my *tzedakah* ‘story’?” In exploring this subject, I realized that my *tzedakah* story begins with a family history steeped in commitment to Jewish causes. My *zeide*, Abraham Krivoy z”l who escaped tsarist Russia at the start of the twentieth century and settled in Argentina, led by example in this regard. Among his many deeds, in 1949 to celebrate the first anniversary of the State of Israel, he donated a large and magnificent Torah crown to the shul. This was a major public celebration, with congregants lining the street outside our synagogue and circling the new Torah crown. My father and his siblings continued my *zeide*’s work by supporting local Jewish institutions throughout their lives.

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***“Our kehillah has stood up to the challenges and increased needs that the pandemic threw at us. All giving categories have seen steady growth year over year—our congregants’ generosity is very much appreciated.”***

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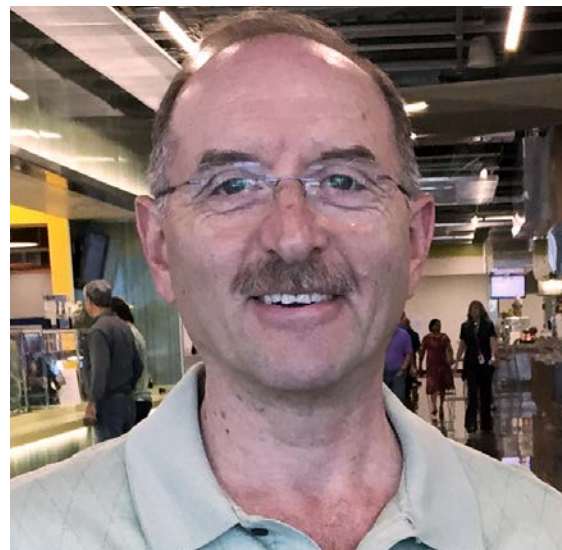
But my *tzedakah* story is not simply rooted in the Jewish experience, with some of my key lessons coming from my high school exchange student experience in a small Swiss-German town in Illinois in the late 1960s. As I shared my perspective and experiences from Argentina with local civic organizations and church groups, I learned about America’s deep culture of volunteerism—something which greatly surpassed anything I had observed in Argentina.

My teen experience in America added to what I learned in my childhood, which, taken together, have impacted my beliefs and behavior when it comes to involvement in organizations to the point of selflessly participating without expecting or wanting anything in return. I feel that the same applies when it comes to our charitable contributions or commitments. Our long family tradition has been to support, as volunteers or financially, CNS and other Jewish or non-profit causes from the day we had an income. Our participation by volunteering and by giving makes us feel whole.

My most recent involvement with CNS started in mid-2019 when Dena Marshall, CNS Development Director, asked me to join two other congregants in what was to be a Development Committee with an immediate mission of helping with the Annual Giving Campaign and, in the longer term, establishing a strategy around philanthropy and giving at our shul. Given the newness of the tasks at hand, we were scrambling trying

to learn what our mission was all about while at the same time making calls to check on congregants and promote the importance of AGP. We also focused on increasing the number of congregants who could get their contributions matched by their employers—a key untapped opportunity.

Fast forward to a few months ago. We now we have new committee members, are better organized, have a clear mis-



Raul Krivoy

sion statement in line with the shul’s vision and mission, and we are working on specific 1-, 3-, and 5-year plan strategies to be presented to the board. Our entire *kehillah* will have an important role to play in the success of these plans. Last February I was asked to chair this committee, but the real muscle is in the people who make up the team, plus Dena and Fred, who provide invaluable professional knowledge and guidance. Our committee has done good work, but it is still in its infancy and there is more to come from us. Our *kehillah* has stood up to the challenges and increased needs that the pandemic threw at us. All giving categories have seen steady growth year over year—our congregants’ generosity is very much appreciated. As we hope and wait for more normal times to come, the needs and challenges continue.

In closing, I invite you to also ask yourself: What is your *tzedakah* story? What has motivated you in the past, and motivates you now, to give? What would giving just a bit more than last year look like and how would that make you feel? L’Shalom, be well, be healthy, and be safe.

# Meet the Two People Who Think Long-Range

By Jenn Director Knudsen

**S**tephanie Arnheim has a few mantras, one of which is, “If there’s something wrong or that you don’t like, do something about it.”

That applies today as it did thirty years ago. Having moved to Portland in 1990, Stephanie grew up in the Reform movement, in West Los Angeles, at a time when educating congregants was not the focus it is today. She was a single mom with her young son, Alex, so she wanted more for herself and for him.

“I didn’t really know anything concerning Judaism and I wanted Alex to have good roots. ... I joined Neveh because of its education program” then under **Barb Schwartz**. She added, she’d still join today because of the education program, now under **Mel Berwin**.

When Alex, now 28, started learning Hebrew in the 3rd grade, Stephanie took Hebrew for adult learners. As her son grew and attended B’nai B’rith Camp, studied for his bar mitzvah, and helped restart

USY, Stephanie, in addition to her full-time work, dedicated herself to volunteering for Congregation Neveh Shalom.

Stephanie wanted to express her gratitude to the shul that had helped her out when finances were tight, and she took issue with some of the by-laws. In 2005 she began volunteering; she joined the Bylaws Committee to make a difference.

“I wanted some changes made,” she said. “And I was impressed with the volunteers,” she said, noting **Jackie Lesch** and **Alan Blank**, with whom she volunteered early on, on the Membership Committee, on which she’s still active.

Today a regular Shabbat Greeter, Stephanie also served on the Tikkun Olam Committee, on the Board of Directors for six years, and is a perennial Back to Shul volunteer.

“Part of my DNA is organizing,” says Stephanie, referring to her professional work that included a long stint, as she put it, as an “overqualified executive administrator,” as well as a business-networking strategist, entrepreneur, and managing director of a women’s networking organization.

In 2013, the same year Stephanie became an adult b’nai mitzvah, she founded Stephanie Connects. She helps educate her clients on how to reach the next level in their businesses using simple daily practices and does have retirement on her mind.



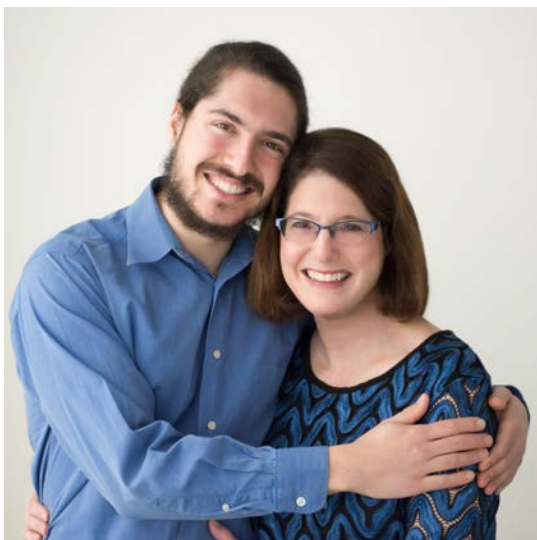
Stephanie Arnheim and her husband, John Sheldon

But not from volunteering.

Her organizing DNA, excellent memory for people, belief in inclusivity, and desire to actively help right wrongs likely are what led President **Glen Coblens** and Executive Director **Fred Rothstein** to ask her to co-chair the Long-Range Planning Committee and Stephanie to say “yes.” (Get to know her co-chair, **Nathan von Colditz**, in the following profile.)

Uncertain at first that co-chairing the LRP Committee was a fit, Stephanie quickly realized it’s a great fit. “We’re looking at helping to strengthen our members’ connections, their sense of belonging and framing all that into the relational side of Judaism, for our congregants and for our guests,” she said. She continued, “One way that we hope to do this is by educating our members about how to reach out and be more welcoming to all.”

Stephanie enjoys working with staff liaison and Foundation School Executive Director, **Leah Conley**, and with Nathan on the LRP Committee.



Stephanie Arnheim with her son, Alex Milbert

During the current LRP process that began roughly when the pandemic took hold – so far, the committee’s myriad meetings have been held exclusively online – she’s learned so much about her fellow committee members and her place in helping strengthen our shul even more.

“We don’t want to be a statistic from the Pew Research Center or USCJ,” Stephanie said of the decline in the number of Jews generally, and those who adhere to the Conservative movement specifically. “I want us to be a thriving and connected congregation, which requires embracing our vision and working together to help us move forward.”

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As a child, **Nathan von Colditz’s** Judaism was part of his very identity. But, he said, it was not the “grounding force and central part of his family and social life” that it’s become.

His personal journey to reconnect with Judaism happened when his family



*Nathan von Colditz with his son Zev*

moved from Seattle to the Portland area in 1995 and he joined the Lake Oswego High School wrestling team (along with being on the football team, a member of the school choir, and active in its theater department). Not only was about half of his wrestling team Jewish, but their families were members of Congregation Neveh Shalom.

“My teammates reconnected me to Judaism,” says Nathan, **Lindsay von Colditz’s** husband and father of **Zev**, 4, a Foundation School student. “It was my reattachment into this thing I remember from when I was younger.”

He said, “There’s a lot of talk about folks being part of shul until their bar or bat mitzvah, and then they leave. I’m the opposite. I reattached myself to the shul, and now I do things for it.”

That includes his demanding role as LRP Committee co-chair, his first leadership position since the family joined Neveh Shalom in 2016. “I like to give back and to think,” he said.

In real life, he does a lot of both.

Nathan is senior expert and associate partner at consulting firm McKinsey and Company. He devises strategic plans for IT and healthcare clients to help them sort through opportunities and challenges via asking questions that get to the root of issues.

He is using the same skill set as co-chair of the LRP Committee, often leaning on guiding questions like, “What are we trying to solve?” and “How are we going to solve it?”

He’s navigating the LRP’s “extraordinary large amount of work” within the context of what he



*Nathan von Colditz*

terms “an explosion of events” – the confluence of events since March 2020 that includes the pandemic, the murder of George Floyd and ensuing protests and riots, the presidential election, and subsequent events.

He said that he sees his LRP role as asking the right questions, pushing buttons, engaging in different conversations, and providing the committee and the shul proper feedback, all to arrive at answers and push the envelope while growing – not weakening – relationships.

In the process, Nathan has met a number of shul members he might not have; he recognizes there are so many opportunities for them to get involved – and hopes they’ll do so.

“The key to success is moving more people into the know; you have to pull people in who are willing to be invested and committed to getting involved to move the shul forward,” he said.

Nathan said he’s come to recognize our members are striving for connection – perhaps particularly as pandemic restrictions ease. Rather than shying away from the challenges growth reveals, they should embrace them; they’ll effect change and make the connections they want in the process.

“It’s time to get others involved,” he said.



# A Future That Creates a *Kehilla*

By Danit Rothstein

When Nathan Von Colditz and Stephanie Arnheim approached me about joining the Long Range Planning committee, my first thought, like most overworked young Jewish professionals, was-- *another* committee? But, if you know them, you know that they're pretty convincing. It didn't take more than a few hours (and a conversation with my wife) to agree to join. I knew that this was more than just "another committee." This was our family's future.

Several years ago, I wrote my grad school thesis on the trajectory of synagogue membership. The data is clear. Synagogue membership is drastically declining. It's an alarming statistic and one that can seem insurmountable. How can we retain members and grow our own congregation when this is a nationwide trend?

Thinking of this trend on a national scale



Havi Rothstein & Asher Nelson cousins at Foundation School

is futile, and I'm grateful that the LRP didn't approach it this way. The committee understood that CNS is not just another synagogue. It's a place that has been a pillar of Judaism in Portland for 150 years. It's a place that I grew up in, and a synagogue my daughter is currently growing up in. Furthermore, CNS is not just a trend or a statistic. CNS is *kehilla*. We may not be able to change a nationwide trend. But you know what we can do? We can make friends. We can reach out. We can care, genuinely, about people at our synagogue and beyond. This is what makes CNS a strong congregation and this is what will carry it into the future.

The LRP committee is composed of people who are passionate about this congregation and about making it a place where generations can continue to explore their Jewish identities. They want to make it a place that feels as warm and welcoming as it did to me as a child and now as a parent.

I feel grateful to be a part of the LRP committee, and I also recognize that this committee was just the first step in planning for the future of CNS. The responses of the congregational survey showed that people are



Grandma Donna Jackson, Danit, Candace, and Havi Rothstein

looking for more connection from their experiences at the synagogue, both virtual and in-person. Maybe these connections happen at services on Friday night, at Tot Shabbat, at virtual happy hours, or, maybe, just maybe, meaningful connections can happen while being a member of "another committee." Somehow, in the process of looking toward the future of the synagogue, I found myself feeling connected to the community in a way I hadn't felt since the beginning of the pandemic. From post-meeting chats with Alex Menashe to getting the scoop from Leah Conley while I dropped my daughter off at Foundation School, I got to know members of the community in ways I wouldn't have if I hadn't joined the LRP. And I realized that the way I was feeling—connected and purposeful—was also the way that many congregants wanted to feel.

Looking towards the future, I hope that we truly are laying solid groundwork for the next generation. And maybe someday, (but don't tell Nathan and Stephanie), if my daughter is asked to join a committee about the future of CNS, I hope she says yes, too.

# Having Grown Up Here, I Decided to Give Back

By Alex Menashe

**M**y name is **Alex Menashe**. I live with my wife, **Nadine**, and dog, **Rhodes**, in northeast Hillsboro. I grew up in southwest Portland with my parents, **Sandy and Wendi Menashe**, and my brother, Ben Menashe. After graduating from Beaverton High School, I attended and graduated from Oregon State University. My youth was spent attending Neveh Shalom's Hebrew school and going to Camp Solomon Schechter during the summer with my cousins. As I grew older, I attended Wednesday Night School and became involved with United Synagogue Youth (USY) and BBYO's Sol Stern Aleph Zadik Aleph (AZA). During college I became involved with Hillel at OSU and have stayed involved since.

Neveh Shalom has been the home for most of my Jewish experiences, surrounded by family and friends. It has always been a place I could find support, guidance, education, spirituality, and community. When I reflect on my Jewish experience, it has been shaped by this congregation, its members, and clergy. After I was approached to join the Long-Range Planning Committee, I decided it was time to give back to the community

I have called home and become active in helping to build its future. I am passionate about membership and had the opportunity to join the Membership Committee this past year as well.

Through the Long-Range Planning Committee, I had the opportunity to meet and work with members of the congregation I had not yet connected with. It was a unique experience to meet, plan, and grow with other passionate members of Neveh Shalom. I learned to get uncomfortable and build new relationships across many diverse demographic groups who were represented on the Long-Range Planning Committee. It helped to further develop my own thought processes and allowed me to begin to see the big picture. I realized that my experience was because of volunteers and leaders who have helped to guide Neveh Shalom over its history.

A consistent topic that was discussed during the Long-Range Planning process was how our younger members could grow in their Jewish identity and become involved in the future. As an individual who benefitted from Camp Solomon Schechter, USY, BBYO, Hillel, and most importantly, Neveh Shalom's Hebrew School program, I found myself questioning where more programming, as well as a larger community of similar-aged members, could come from. The Long-Range Planning Committee looked at how we could better work with organizations that support our members when they leave Neveh Shalom for college, or after graduation if they do not move back to the Portland area.



*Alex Menashe, Nadine Menashe, and their dog, Rhodes Menashe*



*Alex and Nadine Menashe at their wedding in 2019*

As the Long-Range Planning Committee completes its goals, I am hopeful for the future of Neveh Shalom. It is a community filled with passion, based in a great tradition of caring for each other. Our history has been one defined by open doors and warm welcomes to those searching for a home. The new mission, vision, and values brought forward by the Long-Range Planning Committee honor that tradition, making concrete our intent to continue to build our congregation for the next generation.

I am grateful for this chance to get involved; I cherish the new mentors and friends I gained through this process. I look forward to continuing my involvement and connecting in-person at the shul.



# 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](mailto:news@nevehshalom.org). Please visit the website for links at: [nevehshalom.org/virtual-events](http://nevehshalom.org/virtual-events).*

## Women's Torah Study

**Saturday, July 3 and August 7, 12:00pm**

Join Mel Berwin for an hour of uplifting study and conversation. All levels of experience welcome. RSVP for link to: [mberwin@nevehshalom.org](mailto:mberwin@nevehshalom.org).

## Musical Midrash Project

Join Mark Sherman as he shares his original songs based on the weekly Torah reading. More info at: [musicalmidrash.com/events](http://musicalmidrash.com/events).

- **Songs from the Book of Numbers - July 6, 7:00-8:00pm** Mark will present his collection of original songs from the book of Numbers.
- **Weekly Workshop - Sunday, 8:00am and Monday, 6:00pm.**

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

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

## Sisterhood Interfaith Meetings

**Wednesday, July 7 and August 4, 7:00pm**

Please join our CNS Sisterhood and Hope Christian Fellowship Sisterhood in our INTERFAITH Discussions. Your experiences and feedback are most welcome! We meet on the first Wednesday of the month on Zoom. RSVP to Michelle limori-Goldenberg ([smallfryeterp@icloud.com](mailto:smallfryeterp@icloud.com)).

## Sisterhood Meetings

**Thursday, July 22 and August 26, 7:00pm**

Please contact Michelle limori-Goldenberg for meeting location or Zoom link.

## Sisterhood Book Club

Join the Sisterhood for their monthly book club discussion. RSVP to Diane Kahn ([dianeandjosh@hotmail.com](mailto:dianeandjosh@hotmail.com)).

- **July 26, 7pm: *The Vanishing Half***, by Brit Bennett
- **August 30, 7pm: *The Four Winds***, by Kristen Hannah

## Men's Club Kayaking Event

**July Date and Time TBA**

## Men's Club Hillsboro Hops Game

**August Date TBA**

## Selichot Program

**Saturday, August 28**

Please join CNS for this special program.

## Morning Minyan and Shabbat Services

Please visit the website for links at: [nevehshalom.org/virtual-services](http://nevehshalom.org/virtual-services)

## Morning Minyan

**Monday-Friday, 7:15am & Sunday, 9:00am**

## Kabbalat Shabbat on the Plaza

**Fridays, 6:15pm (Weather permitting)**

## Saturday Morning Shabbat Service

**Saturdays, 9:30am**

In person and online options

## Downstairs Minyan Shabbat Service

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

## Unity Shabbat

**Select Fridays and Saturdays**

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](http://nevehshalom.org/virtual-services). For more information, please contact Rabbi Eve at: [eposen@nevehshalom.org](mailto:eposen@nevehshalom.org).

## Kiddush Club

**1st and 3rd Saturdays, 9:30am**

Morah Sarah Rohr and Moreh Gershon Liberman alternate leading Kiddush Club.

## Tot Shabbat

**1st and 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

**Mazel tov** to Dr. Rachel Klevit, daughter of **Jody Klevit and Dr. Harvey Klevit, z”l**, who occupies the Edward Fisher endowed chair in Biochemistry at the University of Washington, for being elected to membership in the National Academy of Science.

**Mazel tov** to **Emiko (Craig) Coughlin** for her upcoming third book being released, *Tokyo Ever After*.

**Mazel tov** to **Susan Greenberg** on being elected to the Beaverton School District 48J, Director, Zone 1.

**Mazel tov** to **Aviva Stampfer** and **Blake Luley**, whose daughter, **Zahava Gloriana Stampfer-Luley**, was born on May 14, 2021. She is the granddaughter of **Carol Stampfer** and the great-niece of **Elana Emlen**. She is named for Aviva’s grandmother **Goldie (Zahava) Stampfer, z”l**.

**Kol hakavod** to our Tichon Graduates **Micah Antick-Oslund, Andrew Caplan, and Joshua Weinrobe!** Thank you for sharing your reflective and inspiring words with our community.

**Mazel Tov** to **Francine and Mark Abolofia** on the birth of their third granddaughter, **Lena Freda**, born May 4th. She is the daughter of Jay and Ruth Abolofia of Waltham, MA, and the little sister to Ayla and Noa. Her great grandparents are **Shirley and Stan Hodes**. Lena is Shirley and Stan’s 8th great-grandchild.

**Mazel tov** to **Nicole Frisch** on being recognized by the *Portland Business Journal* as one of this year’s Forty Under 40. Each year the *Portland Business Journal* receives nearly 300 nominations for its Forty Under 40 program. Each application is thoroughly reviewed and forty of the region’s most influential professionals are selected to represent our region. These are game-changers, move-makers, and forces of the future. To make this list is quite an accomplishment. The celebration for the Forty Under 40 will be held on July 22.

**Mazel Tov** to **Rachel Nelson** on receiving the Laurie Rogoway Outstanding Jewish Professional Award.

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

We are sorry to inform you of the passing on May 19th of our congregant and friend **Ricardo Berdichevsky, z”l** at the age of 67. **Ricardo** is loved and remembered by his wife, **Rosana**, their children, **David (Stephanie) Berdichevsky** and **Michal Berdichevsky**, grandchildren **Jacob** and **Eden Berdichevsky**, and brother **Mario (Rosie) Berdichevsky**.

## Across the Pew *By Laura Fendel*

I always find it exciting to meet new people. In doing so, I’m constantly learning, expanding my view of the world, and listening to others’ opinions and experiences. I engaged in such an experience recently.

I hadn’t known any Evangelical people before, but I met a number of them when I took part in a recent initiative that Rabbi Kosak and a pastor-colleague from a Roseburg-based Evangelical church created, called “Across the Pew.”

Several members from Neveh Shalom and their congregation, Roseburg Alliance Church, met via Zoom only three times in late-February and early March. But even during our first meeting, we found many things in common: values, family experiences, life-cycle events.

I helped facilitate the discussion in my small group; we all agreed it was an insightful meeting. The first and two subsequent sessions were guided pri-

marily by a written summary sheet that Rabbi Kosak created about how to approach potentially thorny discussions in an open and non-judgmental way. This guide was helpful in prompting us to ask questions and listen to others to gain information and broaden perspectives rather than engaging in confrontation. The summary sheet generally is a great tool to help anyone learn and grow; it’s a template to remind us about best practices in conversation.

This was not my first experience meeting people with whom I might not otherwise have come into contact. Years ago, on a plane to Israel, to visit my daughter and her family in Jerusalem, I met an American-Israeli woman who I later found out was haredi (ultra-Orthodox). She told me about her life, and I told her about mine. Over the course of our 14-hour trip, we learned so much about each other. In the ensuing years, we’ve met several times; at one point I took a writing class she led for women

at a center for older adults in Jerusalem. I went to her granddaughter’s class program in an all-girls school in their neighborhood.

At another time in my life, a few years ago, Congregation Neveh Shalom hosted a program for Christians, Muslims, and Jews that included a panel discussion, music, and a lovely salmon dinner. There, I met a young couple from Turkey; subsequently, we became good friends. Our friendship continues today; soon she will finish her Ph.D. at OHSU in cancer biology. We recently had a deep conversation about religion and spirituality and realized, yet again, just how much we all have in common.

There is a beauty in our similarities and differences, and it can be a joy to know people. Listen with an open heart, ask questions, and find common ground. “Across the Pew” was yet another example of such an opportunity, and I’m so glad I took it.

# The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

*Please note that as a result of our migration to the new database, our Contributions List now has a different format, as this is how the new system exports the information. We are grateful for all who offer contributions. We hope you enjoy this new layout.*

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**get will wishes for**  
Rick Barde from Dale Oller



# Foundation School: Covid Traditions Built with Love

**By Cory Willson, Assistant Director of Foundation School**

**with help from Morah Wendy Rosenfield and Morah Carol Biederman**

Once, in a not-so-distant past, all the staff and children of Foundation School ambled the halls of the program freely, often with great abandon. Classrooms mingled comfortably, older kids mentoring younger kids, and siblings needing a hug popped in to see their loved ones. There were giggles and laughter, children practicing their walking feet, and parents wandering through, dropping off and picking their children up from their classrooms. Large red buggies roamed the building, ferrying the smallest children from place to place so all could experience Shabbat and count the Torahs in the building, sometimes stopping at a couch to sing or read, or talk to a Rabbi. It was a joyous, bumbling mass of controlled chaos. But then a pandemic hit, and for a while, the halls were silent. No children or staff dashed through, intent on figuring out how paper airplanes fly; no smaller children dragged pull toys or stuffies down the hall as they practiced animal care. Parents did not pop into the running room to have their children joyously run to them at the end of a day. Bulletin boards bore the last thing posted as we experienced the shift in our building's audience.

However, that is not the end of this tale. With a great deal of thought, care, and guidance, Foundation school re-opened for summer camp in 2020. There were new regulations to follow, but something crucial was missing. We had become a



kind, safe, and responsive team, recognizing that children who needed a hug from their morah should get what they needed, but the overall amount of physical touch was measurably lower by design, and between groups it was non-existent. With no comingling of groups, how could we honor those special relationships while maintaining social distancing?

And so was born the toe tap. It wasn't as close as an elbow bump, but was still a very meaningful connection, more so because it was silly and allowed for "smiling eyes" above a mask to come to life. For those of you unfamiliar with the toe tap, it is like a high five, but with toes instead. It was created organically at our school as the morahs looked for ways to connect safely with those outside of their pod. The littlest kids in the buggies, who love watching and emulating their older friends, saw kids touching toes with staff, so they began sticking their toes out to be tapped, and then began tapping each other's toes. Just like that, a new tradition was born at Foundation School.

This, however, was not the only beautiful tradition or ritual we created as a community this year. We got creative with our Shabbat celebration, which now takes place in the hallway with groups safely distanced. There is room to dance, sing, laugh, and love while Morah Leah strums the guitar and Morah Cory does hand gestures that the kids know and love. The parents also have created the sweet ritual of "mask kisses" at drop off and pick up. Can you see how we thrive together with so much love?

One more ritual got created both out of a need for safety and to build community with our children. During Covid, some morahs began wearing N95 masks. These masks are good for 40 hours or five full workdays. For safety measures, Morah Cory began drawing one picture



a day on her masks so that by the end of five pictures she would know to use a new mask. Pretty quickly, she began to get requests from the children, and she began drawing everything from unicorns, to volcanos, or even eyeballs on a shoe. The children began to love to come up with ideas for Morah Cory to decorate her mask. The children love to give her ideas, which she writes down and keeps on a list. All the kids have a chance to be represented; they love to see "their" picture as well as find out who suggested the others that they see that week. After five pictures, the mask retires and hangs on the "mask tree" in Morah Cory's office. Here the children can see documentation of this living tradition as well as our beautiful community.



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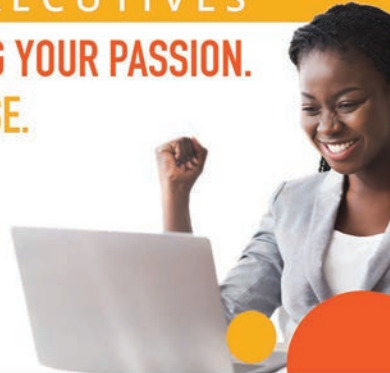
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## Subtle Sanctuaries *By Sarah Rohr*

**T**he home is an essential space beyond the hallowed sanctuary walls where Judaism is practiced, transmitted, and comes alive. For the last year plus, it has also become the sanctuary for members of our congregation who join services from their living rooms, kitchen tables, or offices. This is true of the Morning Minyan folks that I've gotten to know over my daily attendance this past year.

Throughout the pandemic, 18-35 people show up each morning, with participants from Oregon, California, South Dakota, New York, and more, as well as our bell-ringing and flag-waving member Howard Shapiro, who graces us from the Oregon coast. This also includes groups of mourners who have found respite and community to gather with to recite Kaddish. It is a holy happening unto itself.

In addition to the fleet of regular and occasional attendees, under the kind and consistent leadership of Priscilla Kostiner and Mark Sherman, the minyan has gained traction amongst the younger members. When we began *davening* at the beginning

of lockdown, Ravi Weinrobe was our sole youth leader. Since then, others have joined in the prayers. Witnessing these moments is exciting to me as an educator of youth in our community and in my role as a parent.

Over this pandemic period, my son Gabriel, a kindergartener at PJA and Foundation School graduate, has gone from knowing a handful of prayers to having an intimate familiarity with the flow of the service.

Each morning while I *daven*, Gabriel is right there at my feet playing with Legos, eating breakfast, or doing some other morning activity, but always listening. Now Gabriel can lead prayers by himself, delighting all who attend.

He is regularly asked to lead the Shema, V'ahavtah, Oseh Shalom, and Adon Olam. Gabriel even sang the whole Amidah with me when I was leading the prayer, much to my surprise and delight. I must say, osmosis is an awesome teacher as Gabriel has absorbed the liturgy and made it his own.

While my child is the closest to me,



*Sarah Rohr*

Gabriel is not the only one; and we are fortunate that because of the services being online, other children have joined their parents or grandparents as well. We are even seeing Roz Babener's youngest grandchild grow up before our eyes!

There are struggles and gifts that we each have experienced as a result of this pandemic. As things start to open back up, I am continuously finding myself grateful that my child had this sustained opportunity to learn the liturgy of our people and become an active participant in the tradition moving forward.