THE

CHRONICLE

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Blue Highways: Reflections on Home, Family, and Nation

By Rabbi David Kosak

n 1982, William Least Heat-Moon was in a time of transition. Decades before "van life" and "overlanding" would become cultural catchphrases for those seeking a different way of organizing their lives, he set off in a small panel van called "Ghost Dancing." His goal was to clear his head and to encounter America; to accomplish this, he committed himself to traveling only upon blue highways those small, backwater roads far removed from our network of busy highways. He captured these experiences in a book, Blue Highways, which became a New York Times best-seller for nearly a year; it earned its place in the pantheon of great travel books. At the time, the notion that someone would pick up in a van and travel the country for three months seemed both alien and picaresque, yet the people he met along the way and the stories he shared about them made an impact on my young heart. Wherever he went, he built a traveling family for himself. Those encounters endure on the page.

It's been forty years since the book came out. It's come to mind because by the time you read this article, I will be on the road renewing connections to the American family I still believe in. While my intention is to connect with our nation's wilderness places, I hope also to have conversations with a diverse swath of Americans. Who are my national neighbors? What animates them? What do we share in common?

A key feature of the Coronavirus is its function as an accelerant on the dissolution of American bonds and solidarity. These splintering forces were already active in the Body America; these last two years, sadly, have seen our sense

of isolation heightened. Where is the social glue that can help us to realize our mutual bonds? What happened to the notion of nation as tribe, as home? Did it ever exist?

Our chaotic present moment raises such questions about the nature of family, community, and connection, as well as personal and national destiny. In our synagogue's new mission, vision, and values statement, an aspiration is listed for our *kehillah*: "becoming an enduring family within our congregation." This principled statement generates questions. What is an enduring family? Which role

does any given family member don? What is the purpose of family in 2022? Is there a difference between our families of origin and our family of faith, and if so, what are the salient features of each? Do we have a duty to form anew different types of families when our nation looks more like a popcorn kettle in which individual kernels explode every which way? Can faith communities provide answers as experimental models and alternatives to these larger cultural currents?

There's another way to think about family—home as place. For most of us, the two overlap. We grew up in a home with one or two parents, often with siblings. This physical home was practically identical with the spiritual and emotional support that family is meant to provide. Although my mother recently sold the old family digs, memories of that home are indelibly inscribed within. Those memories are themselves an enduring family, for they shaped and accompany



us. In a similar vein, the Biblical stories of our ancestral forebears are part of our inheritance, an enduring family of meaning and connection stretching backwards and forwards in time.

For a long time, synagogue family was inseparable from the synagogue building. In recent decades, pundits have questioned the need for buildings, wondering whether future Jewish communities would need buildings. On the one hand, this pandemic has permitted virtual minyans and classes to blossom, as people engage with Jewish communities and teachers from around the world. On the other hand, never has the importance of location and in-person connection seemed more essential. The physicality of a religious home opens the door to the intangibles of spirit. At our best, when we gather as a group, the possibilities of the individual are raised up. That is most clear during our

Continued on page 4

What Have You Inherited?

By Rabbi Eve Posen

've been thinking a lot about inheritance recently. Not just because we've updated our will or because there's been so much tragic loss. It's not a physical inheritance of objects or money I'm referring to. It's the way in which the Judaism we practice today is similar, and yet so different, from that of our ancestors. On the one hand, many of our prayers and rituals are said and fulfilled the exact same way they were centuries ago. On the other hand, I can't imagine the rabbis of the Talmud looking at the neon cotton candy I can buy for Passover with any sort of recognition. Our connection to history remains intact, even if the how and the what have changed over time.

I'm moved by the idea of inheriting tradition, and as members of our CNS mishpachah (family), we all have the opportunity to inherit and transmit our rich traditions and values. There are a number of Torah stories that express this sentiment. The first comes from Moses, right as he's trying to do God's work of bringing the Israelites out of Egypt. He goes to Pharoah, and in an unusual action, lists the ancestry of where he's from. Why? Perhaps because this list of people reminds the Israelites that when we live in community, we're not just some anonymous individuals, but rather the newest representatives of an illustrious ancestry.

While you cannot rely solely on those in your past to propel you into your future, there are plenty of times when it's helpful, if not necessary, to remember where you've come from. This moment in the Torah is a reminder that even now, you've got an entire nation of Israel with you.

A second story that comes to mind is that of the daughters of Zelophechad from the Book of Numbers. These sisters represent an interesting turn in the Bible. Traditionally, women were not guaranteed inheritance from their father's estate. If a man died, his inheritance was for the sons. In this case, there were no surviving sons, and the daughters felt it was their right to receive their father's estate. The daughters petition Moshe for this, but Moshe doesn't know how to proceed in this unprecedented situation. The daughters argue that by not receiving an inheritance, their fa-

ther's name will be wiped out. The ownership of land was more than monetary security; it was the security of their legacy and their place in the world.

Here, the story of inheritance is about money, but the enduring legacy is one of egalitarianism, securing one another, and the strength of the human family. So much of what we do in the world is tied to where we've come from. Whether land or legacy, we have an identity that shapes us and tells our story, and the Torah reminds us that that story is worth fighting for.

You may know the 38-year-old song written by Larry Milder (which is still a frequent hit at Neveh Shalom's Kiddush Club, I might add) in which we sing,

"Wherever you go, there's always someone Jewish. You're never alone when you say you're a Jew." Even within the Jewish community, it's easy to divide

Whether as part of our CNS mishpachah or global Jewry, our faith binds us together as the inheritors of a great legacy.

ourselves politically and take sides on just about any issue, but whether as part of our CNS *mishpachah* or global Jewry, our faith binds us together as the inheritors of a great legacy.





Samuel Lipke | March 19

Samuel Chester Lipke is the son of Anna and Michael Lipke, brother to Alexis, grandson to Edward and Iris Lipke (NYC), Ella Stern and David Stern, and great-grandson to Raisa Perlina. Samuel is a 7th grader at PJA and is fluent in French. He enjoys playing basketball, rooting for the Trailblazers, skiing deep powder at Mt. Hood, breaking boards at Taekwondo, and playing piano. He's excited to attend Camp Solomon Schecter this summer.



Max Holzman | April 7

Max Holzman is the son of Becky and Lee Holzman, younger brother to Ian and Rachel, grandson to Renee Holzman and the late Irwin Holzman, Ann Bell, and Herb Goldberg. Max is an 8th grader at Oregon Episcopal School. He loves all things basketball and enjoys playing on multiple teams. He loves spending time with his friends, family, his dog, Bella, and his horse, Chief.



Emma Robinson | April 9

Emma Robinson is the daughter of Jeff and Julia Robinson and sister to Bella. She is the granddaughter of Bev and Ian Getreu (Portland), and Jerilyn Robinson and Selwyn Robinson (California). Emma is a 7th grader at Portland Jewish Academy. She enjoys attending Jewish summer camp, cooking, baking, art, and playing soccer.



Alaska Rosenfeld | April 16

Alaska Aliza Rosenfeld is the daughter of Merav and Yoni Rosenfeld, sister of Blaze and Amit, grand-daughter of Jenny and Yafim Rosenfeld (Haifa, Israel), and Shulamit and Ilan Sendowski (LA). She is in 7th grade at ISB. She enjoys reading, baking, karate, camping, playing games, playing the violin, playing with her friends, and her cat, Abigail. Her favorite color is blue.

Rabbi Kosak Continued from Page 2

b'nei mitzvah ceremonies, or in classroom settings when we cherish the insights of each student, but it also occurs whenever two or three individuals engage in a conversation.

Most people leave home, as Abraham

and Sarah did long ago. Today we hit the road for college, work, romance, or vacation. With so much change, what possibly could be an enduring family? I would like to think that it is more than love, which often is conditional; it is that group of people whom we remain com-

mitted to, and they to us, as we grow and transform. It is those who support one another as we each go through our changes. They are those who travel with us.

I'll see you around the bend...

Cantor's Corner

A Tribe: Shevet Achim V'Achayot

By Cantor Eyal Bitton

ma tov uma na'im shevet achim gam yachad.

Many of you are familiar with this classic verse from Psalm 133: "How good and how pleasant it is for brothers to sit together." One of the best-known lines from the Book of Psalms, it's a lovely message about togetherness, community, friendship, and family.

Our precious Neveh Shalom community is, in many ways, an extended family. We are there for each other in times of joy and in times of sadness. We have seen each other's children grow and blossom. Whether we have been near or far, whether the connection has been casual or deep, we are a community. Keep in mind that the verse from the Book of Psalms exclaims that it's a good thing to sit together - simply to be with each other.

There's a fantastic modern Israeli song called *Shevet Achim V'Achayot*, by Idan Raichel and Doron Medalie, which cleverly references this verse. By changing the spelling of "shevet" from a *taf* to

a *tet*, the new phrase becomes "a *tribe* of brothers and sisters." Simply by using the word "tribe," the lyricist states that we are family and evokes our ancient and ancestral roots as the people of Israel, the Twelve Tribes of Israel. We are connected to our ancient, tribal past, and to each other, right now.

Idan Raichel speaks of Genesis, of our forefathers, of Jacob, and of prayer not in conjunction with religious practice or values but in terms of our people's heritage, journey, and attachment to the land of Is-

rael. In this way, the modern song is remarkably close to the original text. In this three-verse psalm, the Psalmist begins with togetherness and family, then evokes our ancient heritage, and then concludes with our attachment to the land of Israel.

We long for togetherness in our congregation, and we acknowledge a bond between us and the Jewish people around the world. Over the past year, we have been outraged, shaken, and angered by antisemitic displays around this coun-

try. Whether a hostage-taking in a Texas synagogue, Jews being assaulted in New York, a rabbi being stabbed in Boston, or so many others, we have felt pain and injury because we are interconnected; we are an extended family.

Whatever challenges we face here as a congregation, as a community, or as a people, we are strengthened by the knowledge that, "we will never be apart; our parents are the roots; we are the flowers, we are the music, we are a tribe of brothers and sisters."

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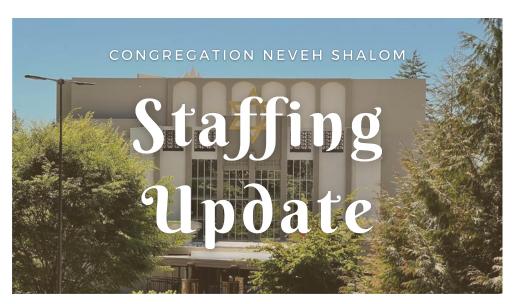
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Staff Changes Reflect our Mission, Vision, and Values



n the last year-plus, thanks to our tremendous Long-Range Planning Team, we've created a new mission statement for our *kehillah*, community, and with it came a vision and values to use as we move forward.

Mission Statement: To foster and preserve an inclusive, authentic, and engaging experience of Conservative Judaism in the Pacific Northwest. Through meaningful lifecycle events, spiritual, educational, and social experiences, we become our best selves, strengthen connections to each other, and forge positive change in the world.

To keep you, our beloved kehillah, up to date on this journey, we are excited to announce staffing changes we've made to support this work.

Michelle Caplan

Director of Congregational Advancement

Michelle is a connector in our kehillah. She's known for her creative approaches to building community and her desire to ensure that CNS is here, I'dor v'dor, for every generation. We are excited for her expanded role at CNS to include building community and the added role of devel-

opment. **Responsibilities:** Membership, community building, and development/fundraising.

Lisa Richmond Program Director

Many of you have gotten to know Lisa as our Clergy Assistant and Building Coordinator. We are so thrilled to welcome her to her new role as a connector of kehillah to our entire community. Lisa is a creative thinker who strives for *kl'al*, inclusivity, in all CNS does. **Responsibilities:** Congregational programming, volunteer support, and committee support.

JoAnn Bezodis Clergy Assistant and Building Administrator

JoAnn is a builder. She has spent years working with Mel Berwin, making sure that all who want to learn at CNS are able to do so in our inclusive kehillah. We are thrilled that she'll be taking her expertise in attention to detail and training to our clergy team, making sure that we're all able to connect to our *klei kodesh*, our team of holy leaders, and one another. **Responsibilities:** Clergy Assistant (including B'nai Mitzvah support) and building-use coordination.

Cory Willson

Foundation School Director

Cory Willson brings with her a background in both elementary education and family counseling. Cory is passionate about serving children, families, and teachers with a focus on connection and resiliency. It is through this lens that Cory empowers the children to lead the way at Foundation School. **Responsibilities:** Guiding the direction of Foundation School, Neveh Shalom's preschool.

Candace Rothstein Foundation School Administrative Director

Candace believes in the capabilities of young children and the importance of community. She brings a background in teaching, administration, and Jewish education to her role at Foundation School. We are thrilled that she'll be joining our team to create transformative learning and opportunities for greater connectivity. **Responsibilities:** Administrative responsibilities of Foundation School, Neveh Shalom's preschool.

Rabbi Posen Associate Rabbi

Rabbi Posen has expanded her role to include a focus on CNS's commitment to the engagement of all generations of our kehillah. She is thrilled for this opportunity to innovate and explore Judaism in this expanded role. **Responsibilities:** Associate Rabbi and community engagement.

Leora Troper Librarian of the Feldstein Library

Leora is an experienced librarian who has worked in school, academic, and public libraries. She has lived with her family in Portland since 2002 and earned her Master's in Library Science

Continued on next page

Family

By Glen Coblens, CNS President

s with many words, family can be defined in many ways: the children of a person or couple or descendants of a common ancestor. Personally, I like what Wikipedia writes: In human society, family (from Latin: familia) is a group of people related either by consanguinity (by recognized birth) or affinity (by marriage or other relationship). The purpose of families is to maintain the well-being of its members and of society. Our clergy, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers talk about our CNS family. In my life, I refer to many groups as family.

Let's start with my traditional family. As I have shared in previous articles, Mia and I are blessed with large, loving, blended, and extended families. Three wonderful children, 15 siblings, seven parents, and dozens of uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, and cousins. We don't bother with qualifying terms like "step" because family is family.

Next up is our strong, supportive, warm, open, loving, and inclusive CNS family. Especially over the past two years, we've been incredibly committed to keeping our community connected and together. Please lean on us for whatever reason.

Moving on to my other brothers, there are my BB Men's Camp cabinmates. For thirty-plus years, we've bantered, argued, laughed, celebrated family simchas, and provided support during tough times. In fact, I consider all the 150+ guys at Men's Camp family for all the ways they've looked out for me when I needed a helping hand.

Since 1999, I have been actively involved with Maccabi USA and the JCC Maccabi Games. Traveling around the world with like-minded Jews, I now have "family" around the country as well as in Canada, Mexico, South America, Europe, and Australia. As the current Master's Basketball 45+ Coach for Team USA, the camaraderie and brotherhood, both on and off the court, is priceless.

Finally, as most of you probably know by now, my passion—obsession—with basketball has led me to coach mostly youth for over thirty years. Before I had actual kids of my own, I referred to the kids I coached as "my kids" (I still do). It can get confusing to an outsider, but the boys and girls as well as their parents are my family too. My mission is to help youth develop as people through basketball. This goes beyond the court; each one will always be more important to me as a person than as a player.



How many "families" do you belong to, and what positive effect do they have on your life?

While we each may define family differently, love is a balloon that expands indefinitely and never pops. It's the same with our capacity to care for each other. As we celebrate Pesach and honor Yom Hashoah, let's be TOGETHER as one. We have so much to be thankful for. Please take a moment and let *all* your family members know what they mean to you.

Let's continue the conversation at *cns-president@gmail.com*.

from Emporia State University in 2007. She feels strongly that a library should be a welcoming space for all. When not reading, Leora can be found writing, hiking, singing, working in visual arts, dancing, and davening at various shuls in town. **Responsibilities:** Maintain all aspects of the Feldstein Library.

Lani Raider

Congregational Education Assistant Director

We are thrilled to welcome Lani to our education team in a new role! Lani has been teaching in our ALIYAH Tichon Program this year with our 7th-grade Mensches & Mayens program. She has an

extensive background in Jewish education as well as in culinary arts and education; she is excited to be working full time in the Jewish community again. **Responsibilities:** Working with Mel to plan and administer all aspects of our K-6, Tichon, and Adult Education.

Telling Family Stories

By Mel Berwin, Director of Congregational Learning

y great-grandpa was in an orphanage in Chicago with his sisters."

"My story was about a great-grandmother who worked hard to make a better life for her family."

"My grandfather had to move from Morocco to Canada because Morocco stopped being safe for Jewish people."

Recently, our second grade ALIYAH class gathered for a special intergenerational family storytelling program. These quotes are the one-line versions of the stories that the students told with more detail to each other in break-out rooms on Zoom, as their peers, parents, and grandparents listened attentively. The children got to share their stories, as well as any photos or other artifacts that might add to the interest.

Sarit, a second grader whose family moved to Portland from Minneapolis two years ago, told how one of her moms fled Liberia in 1980 for a "better, safer life." She showed us a few small sculptures that her mother brought with her. I asked Sarit whether she had heard this story before. "I've heard it a thousand times," she said, laughing. She enjoyed the storytelling program, though, because she found out that she and Celeste, another second grader, both had interesting stories, and both love ice cream.

Learning about our family stories helps our children connect to Jewish history, including the many places our ancestors have lived and the persistent theme of overcoming

challenges. In second grade in ALIYAH, our children learn the Torah stories of *Breshit* (Genesis), from Abraham and Sarah leaving their country for the land they are destined to live in, changing their names, and having a late-life



Sarit's mother, Siatta, in Liberia as a young girl

child, to sibling rivalry and parental favoritism. When we learn the stories of Jacob and his family fleeing Canaan for Egypt, becoming enslaved, and then later following Moses out of Egypt in the story of Exodus, we connect to the



Sarit's mother, Siatta, with her grandmother after arriving in the United States



Sarit's family (I-r): Avital, Risa, Sarit, and Siatta



Mimi's "Bubba" George, bottom left, and family, Casablanca 1951

essential story that frames our ethical obligations to each other in every generation and every place we live. Moreover, we learn that the survival of our people through all these challenges is in part because we hold on to our identity--and to our traditions--even as we evolve and reshape them. The fact

Mimi's "Bubba" George, center, on his Bar Mitzvah, 1956

that these children, and these families, are prioritizing Jewish learning and Jewish community today links us to every generation before us who have done the same.

Mimi, another second grader, shared a slideshow and stories about her "Bubba," her grandfather who left Morocco in 1957. The family stopped in Israel before arriving

in Canada, and Bubba later settled in Irvine, CA. "The hard part was they had to leave the continent they had lived their whole life on. Leaving was different and new and really scary," Mimi shared. I asked her how it felt to share her story with a friend and her family. "It felt cool," she said. "I liked

sharing my family story and hearing about other family stories. I liked how Celeste's grandmother tried to help her family by working really hard as a nurse."

Along with continuing to learn the stories and the family tree of our ancestors from Abraham and Sarah on, our second graders will be creating their own family tree and collecting their family stories. Morah Etti Segal,



Mimi, with parents Katy and Lev, and brother Simon

our second grade Judaics teacher, says "It was amazing to hear all of the stories the children told. And now that I know more about where they came from, I can connect their stories to the topics we're learning in ALIYAH."

Our family stories *are* the story of the Jewish people. Whether the story takes place in Wyoming, or Morocco, or Liberia, or Chicago, and whether the parent or grandparent of focus is Jewish or not, these stories add to our collective understanding of the diversity and the commonalities of our stories. As we identify with our ancestors, from ancient times or near and dear to us, we take strength from their struggles and their survival and understand more about ourselves as well.

An Enduring Family

From the Neveh Shalom Mission, Vision, and Values statement: "Jewish Life: L'Dor V'Dor - Embracing tradition and change, we engage in Jewish ritual, celebration and prayer, becoming an enduring family within our synagogue, keeping a vibrant relationship with Israel and the greater Jewish world, now and for generations to come."

To read the full statement, which guides our congregation now and into the future, please visit: nevenshalom.org/visionmission-values



The Seeds We Sow: Reconnecting Through the Holidays By Victoria Spitz

early the entirety of the pandemic has felt to me like a series of unwelcome and tedious events occurring repeatedly, day-in and day-out, in nearly the exact same way: in other words, it's like Groundhog Day. But spring is always just a little out of reach since it seems the groundhog's shadow always portends six more weeks of winter.

After the close of 2020 (what I've begun to call "The Great Disconnect") and around the time we were embarking on year two of the pandemic - while many of us were relieved to be receiving shots in our arms – it was clear to most people that we wouldn't be returning to normal anytime soon, so I reflected on how I might repair and restore myself to society, nature, and even myself. I remember thinking of my wedding day: circling my beshert under the chuppah, him circling me, us circling one another. I'd never felt more connected, protected, and secure than I did under that makeshift shelter, open on all sides to the friends, family, and working farm that surrounded us as we formed those invisible walls around each other representing our symbolic new home.

My daughter, Penelope, had just begun walking and talking to me in circles, and I felt not a small amount of guilt to give her meaningful experiences upon which to build the foundation for her childhood memories. And not a small amount of that guilt was *Jewish* guilt to give her meaningful Jewish experiences upon which to build the foundation for her identity as a Jew.

As a Jew by choice (I converted when I was 27 years old), married to a Jewish man born to an observant family abroad in that most Catholic of countries, Colombia, we'd not considered at any great

length how we might celebrate the Jewish holidays apart from my books and his family. For us, the holidays had always been about coming together with our loved ones, but we couldn't figure out what they might mean without that vital component.

That week I received an intricately braided homemade round challah from a friend who never quite fell out of love with making bread during the pandemic. I decided then that Shabbat was as good a place as any other to start since it's the holiday that happens every single week yet feels no less special for it. It comes around and around again, like the bride circling her groom: Shabbat ha-Kallah.

We began by walking (Penelope was obsessed with her newfound mobility, after all). Every Saturday, rain or shine, we took Penelope for a long, slow, meandering walk around our neighborhood. We wove our way in a great big circuit through the streets that sprung out from our little center of the universe. We watched in awe as Penelope communed with each leaf, stick, and puddle that captured her attention, for surely it couldn't be described as anything else. And through her, slowly, I began to reconnect with the world.

In honor of Penelope's innate love for nature, we celebrated Tu B'Shevat, the New Year for trees, for the first time. We visited Hoyt Arboretum to learn about the trees there. When we got tired of walking, we spread out a blanket on the forest floor amidst a great big tangle of roots and introduced several new foods to Penelope, explaining their importance to Israel and the holiday: pomegranate seeds, figs, olives, dates.

Fast-forward to fall. It's Sukkot and we're in our backyard assembling perhaps the most temporary and insubstantial suk-



The Spitzes at Chanukah 2021

kah that's ever been erected. But each branch was carefully selected by Penelope from the woods behind our house: the look of pride plastered across her face was practically enough to convince me to sleep there, almost entirely exposed to the elements. We would lie under our temporary shelter, watching the clouds float by through the spaces between branches and leaves, and I could feel it: connected, protected, secure.

This year, just a few days before Tu B'Shevat, I had a miscarriage. While devastated, I was also grateful for the seeds we sowed the year prior because I couldn't think of anything I wanted to do more to honor our would-be child than to walk among the trees at Hoyt Arboretum with my husband and daughter, sharing pomegranate seeds.

As I prepare to welcome spring in the shadow of what feels like an increasingly surmountable loss and to celebrate our own distinct family brand of Pesach, I realize that the Jewish holidays aren't a revolution, but an evolution. They are not an echo, but a living, breathing, growing, morphing, always changing thing: as different from year to year as we are.

A Story of Family and Friendship

By Leah Conley

e've all heard the saying, "Friends are the family you choose."
But what does it mean to be a family, and can you choose to make one? Yes, yes you can. I know because we did.

I grew up in Los Angeles; my mother, father, brother, aunts, uncles, and cousins all still live there. Before my husband and I had kids, we often went back to LA for Passover and big family celebrations. I also came into my young adulthood with shows like *Felicity, Friends*, and *Sex and the City*. From these iconic cultural stories I began to understand that there are many ways to do family, especially when you live far away from yours.

My husband loves the traditions of the Jewish holidays. He did not grow up with them but appreciates how the rituals and routines of their celebration invite meaning and connection. When we began to create our own rituals for our Jewish life and holidays, we both knew we wanted many people around us who felt like we did and wanted to connect, celebrate, and belong in the same way.

Jewish preschool was our natural doorway into this. We met other young Jewish families who were also trying to figure out what their young Jewish family lives would be like, many of them also living in different cities than their families and where they had grown up.

That's when our son Elliot met Erez. Elliot was about to turn three and Erez had just turned two; they also were in the same preschool class together. Elliot was a very shy young child, and there was something about Erez-- her energy, smile, and joy-- that brought Elliot completely out of his shell and fully into the silly world of being a preschooler. They had a playdate,



Elliot, Erez, and Amelia as preschool besties in 2014

hit it off, and, as luck would have it, so did all the parents. My daughter Amelia, who was only one at the time, would watch Erez and follow her around, amazed by everything she did. The more time all of us spent together, the more time we all loved each other.

Erez and her family, the Lufranos, were from Chicago and had left their big Jewish family there when they moved to Portland. We began planning Jewish holidays together, spending a night of Hanukkah together. The first time we fried latkes together at the Lufranos', we ended up with a small fire and a brand-new holiday memory. We added in a Passover seder, then Shabbat din-

ners, Purim, Rosh Hashanah, breaking the fast after Yom Kippur, family camp weekends, and life. Seeing our kids say blessings together and share their own special connection as if they were siblings or cousins feels amazing. We know we did something right.

Both my mom and Josh's parents have since moved to Portland; his brother and family live here, too. Now our holiday celebrations include both blood family and friends' family. Erez calls my mom Bubbe and Erez feels as much a part of our family fabric as my own kids.

This is family. This is love. This is Jewish community. This is wonderful.

Jack Wolinsky: Family Man, Working Man By Jenn Director Knudsen



Jack with great-grandson Max

pre-pandemic member of Congregation Neveh Shalom's morning minyan family, Jack Wolinsky went for the friends, stayed for the Kiddush lunch on Shabbat and kept going "because I got well-paid," he quipped. Typical Jack humor was on display during a late-January interview at the Harold Schnitzer Center for Living.

Jack, who will be 98 in May, shared much about his full life, from childhood on the heavily Jewish east side of Cleveland during the Depression, to the father, grandfather, and great-grandfather he is today (his seventh great-grandchild is due this month).

Jack reflected on his life in between those bookends, including his WWII service in the South Pacific in the U.S. Air Force 90th Bombardment Group; brief stint in college; marriage in 1948 (years later it ended in divorce); three children; heart attacks in 1973 and 1986, the latter of which required a

quadruple bypass; and his move to Portland in the 1990s.

Some of Jack's memories are a bit peach-fuzzy around the edges. But his recollection of facts and figures is razor sharp (see sidebar). This gift likely underpins his business acumen and success in industries like clothing, office supplies, used cars, fuel sales, dry cleaning, and building management. Once the owner of a car-rental franchise in the 1970s, Jack was named "Licensee of the Year" in 1973. He accepted the award over the phone while recovering from his first heart attack.

"I loved working," Jack said. "I think I wanted to see the results."

Jack worked from pre-bar mitz-vah age – selling "papes" like kids in the Broadway hit, *Newsies*, shelving books in a library thanks to a government program, and hawking bags of roasted peanuts at Cleveland Stadium – to early adulthood. In 1945, he contracted work fever.

"My bones were saying, 'Jack, you gotta do some business,'" he recalls thinking after returning to Cleveland at the end of WWII as a veteran, ostensibly to finish college. He soon bowed out to become a businessman.

During the interview, he spun several great yarns, including the one about the curmudgeonly boss who'd fired him from a job in a ladies' wear department. Jack admitted to having trouble keeping orders straight. His boss told him, "You'll never be a businessman."

"Those were his parting words," Jack said, a wry smile on his otherwise deadpan face.

There also was the time he ran what he calls a "real-life schmatta" (old-clothing) mart" for 13 years in Sarasota, FL. Its real name was Jack's Discount Store, whose tagline was, "The little store that gives you a lot for a little."

His overall success was the opposite of little; over the years he sold business after business, rarely revealing their selling prices but hinting he made off quite well. (Cue that wry smile again.)

Jack worked into his 80s; his second (or was it his third?) retirement was from National Mental Health Alliance (NAMI) Oregon, where he served as executive director.

"I could do anything," he said of business challenges he took on. Jack believes he



Jack in 1948



Econo Car Licensee of Year, 1973

held more than twenty jobs. "Oh yeah," he added toward the interview's end, "I forgot I was in the dry-cleaning business."

Family in its many forms has also played a big role in Jack's life.

About thirty years ago, Jack moved from Florida to Portland to be closer to his youngest child, **Joan Kahn**. Shortly after Jack's move to the Cedar Sinai Park campus following a health scare, **Rabbi**

Emeritus Daniel Isaak paid his "minyonnaire" friend a visit.

"He even still exhibited his old humor," Rabbi Isaak said. "When I asked what I should tell the Minyan, he said to tell them we danced the horah!"

Howard Shapiro, now a coastal resident who is also a minyonnaire, misses attending services with his dear friend and fellow Morning Minyan "family" member. He too spins a (metaphorical) yarn.

"Two guys on a park bench reminiscing...sharing stories

of the past, present, and questioning the future, and throwing in a *bissel* Yiddish to flavor the conversation, that was Jack and [me]," Howard said. "He had a sarcastic sense of humor not unlike my own. Jack was a very giving person...caring for his son, **Alan**, picking up [shul] members for Morning Minyan...myself for Shabbat service. Jack is a true *mensch*!"

A real family man.



The family at Jack's 95th birthday celebration in May 2019

A partial timeline of Jack Wolinsky's storied business career, in numbers:



The number of customers a very young Jack had on his "Cleveland Plain Dealer" paper-boy route (37). The Sunday paper's cost (10 cents) versus daily papers' (5 cents).

The cost in 1938 of Baby Ruth chocolate bars he sold in addition to roasted peanuts to sports fans inside Cleveland Stadium (5 cents). The bars' size (4 oz.).

The price that same year of makeshift ice cream bars – fashioned from sweet rectangles cut from ice cream slabs, with sticks placed in them and kept intact with dry ice – that he and a couple of Jewish friends sold on the street (2 and ½ cents apiece).

The weight of hamburger meat, stored in the rare refrigerator while stationed in 1943 on Papua New Guinea as an Air Force medic, used as barter for whiskey (90 lbs.).

The amount of a shot of Bond & Lillard whiskey he looked forward to receiving upon returning to Ohio as a staff sergeant from the Pacific War Theater at the conclusion of WWII (1 ½ oz).

Yom HaShoah: In Honor of My Grandparents and Survivors of the Holocaust

By Amy Leona Havin

Il four of my grandparents survived the Holocaust: one in Auschwitz, one in Bergen-Belsen, and two somewhere in the North. 77 years ago, my grandfather, Ephraim, was liberated from Auschwitz-Birkenau, while during a similar time period, my grandmother, Polina, was freed. Polina Golub was around only 19 years old. This, for the most part, is what I know of my family's history during that time. Some may ask why this information is not completely clear to me, or why I know so little: the simple answer is that while detailed accounts of this information exist, written in Russian and Hebrew in many formats, it must have been too difficult for my grandparents to speak to me about out loud.

I did not have the privilege of knowing my father's parents, as they passed just months before my birth, though they were said to be soft, kind, and joyful individuals. Ephraim and Polina, on the other hand, experienced some of the more difficult psychological conditions that came with their stories of survival, in addition to the numbers on their arms. That trauma, which we now have begun to call generational trauma, has trickled down to the treatment of, and relationships with, their children. These relationships, witnessed first-hand by the grandchildren of the survivors, is distinctly part of what formed me, and many of my peers, as the adults we are today. Despite a deep love for my grandparents, their past suffering was always evident; as a young girl I could not understand their severe personalities, preferences, or choices. I longed to make them smile more often than I could and regretted each moment that any childish acts of frustration set them



A photograph of Amy's grandmother, Polina Golub, z"l

into unhappy moods. Though they have both passed, Ephraim over ten years ago and Polina in 2017, I still long for the ability to feel their proud faces glowing down at me from the living room sofa in their Rehovot apartment and ask for their forgiveness each time I leave my home in Israel to resume my current life in the States. This, in a way, is a portion of what I can accurately define now as a guilt, or rather, a responsibility felt by the only grandchild of four Jewish Holocaust survivors— to carry on their legacy as a writer of my own story, all while proudly carrying theirs.

As Yom HaShoah approaches on April 28, I have the unfolding understanding that for the second-generation descendants of the horrors of the Holocaust, it is not just a remembrance day but a realization that my birth is a miracle. It was against all odds that any Jewish man, woman, or child would survive

what they were put through. For many of them, it was also against the odds that they would then return to society and be able to acclimate to a sense of normalcy once more. Yet, as I sit down to write this, here I am, in certainty that remembering is not just about recalling dates, facts, and locations— it is about respecting history and the hearts of those who have shared their stories, either through verbal narrative or by baking a Napoleon cake from scratch each time a grandchild visits. In the days of revisionist theories and alarmingly increasing numbers of Holocaust deniers, there is no alternative option to the truths that our parents and grandparents told us of their suffering. There is no alternative truth. Little by little, we tell our stories wherever and however we can, lighting little flames of power and passing them into the future, keeping the stories of our families, our heritages, and our communities alive.

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/calendar.

Musical Midrash Project

Sundays, 8:00am and Mondays, 6:00pm Join Mark Sherman as he shares his original songs based on the weekly Torah reading. musicalmidrash. com/events.

Sisterhood Interfaith/BIPOC Meetings Wednesday, March 2 & April 6, 7:00pm

Women of different backgrounds come together from a desire to learn and grow while discussing questions of faith and confronting Social Justice issues. RSVP to Michelle limori-Goldenberg: smallfryeterp@icloud.com.

Women's Torah Study

Saturday, Mar 5, 19 & Apr 2, 16, 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.

Hand in Hand: Integrated, Bilingual Schools Across Israel

Sunday, March 13, 10:30am, Zoom

Hand in Hand has created a growing network of integrated bilingual schools across Israel, serving Israeli Arab and Jewish children, families, and the wider community. nevehshalom.org/israel360



Shroud Crowd

Sunday, Mar 20, Apr 24, 2:00-4:00pm

Help create traditional burial clothing to be used by the Chevra Kavod haMet. Contact: sandyaxel@msn.com.

Purim Celebrations March 23 & 24

Please join fellow CNS congregants and friends for our annual Purim celebrations. More details coming soon.

Sisterhood Meetings

Thursdays, March 24 & April 28, 7:00pm

For details, please contact Michelle Iimori-Goldenberg: smallfryeterp@icloud.com.

Sisterhood Book Club

4th Monday of the month, 7:00pm

March 28: A Man Named Doll by Jonathan Ames

April 25: *The Music Shop* by Rachel Joyce RSVP: dianeandjosh@hotmail.com.

Congregant Makeover: CNS Annual Fundraiser 2022

Sunday, April 10, 5:00pm

We invite you to our annual auction and a fun evening of fashion. More info at nevehshalom.org/cns-fundraiser-2022.

Passover Happenings April 15-23

Be sure to be on the lookout for information about our Passover happenings.

Morning Minyan and Shabbat Services

Please visit the website for more info: nevehshalom.org/current-services

Morning Minyan Monday-Friday, 7:15am/Sundays, 9:00am

Kabbalat Shabbat Fridays, 6:15pm

Saturday Morning Shabbat Service Saturdays, 9:30am

In person and online options



Downstairs Minyan Shabbat Service 2nd, 4th, 5th Saturdays, 9:30am

Young Families

For more information, please contact Rabbi Eve at: eposen@nevehshalom.org.

Young Family Purim Tailgate Sunday, March 12, 10:45-11:30am

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 a Shabbat service for families. There'll be singing, a story, and blessings.

Library Hours

The Feldstein Library is open and community members are welcome to explore our collection.

Wednesdays: 2:30-8:30pm Thursdays: 9:00am-12:00pm Sundays: 8:30am-1:30pm

Please note that all visitors must adhere to our Covid policy of being fully masked and vaccinated. Thank you.

Member News

Mazel tov to **Jodi Garber-Simon** on becoming the Director of Global Communications for Tektronix.

We are excited to share the news that Foundation School teacher Moreh Ben and Shoshanna Pro-Richards welcomed a new baby boy, Ezran Natan Pro-Richards, on December 17, 2021, weighing seven pounds even and twenty inches long. Mom, Dad, and baby are all doing well, enjoying getting to know each other.



Mazel tov to Ariella Emlen and Joshua Reid, who were married on Saturday night December 18 by Rabbi Kosak and Rabbi Posen. Ariella is the daughter of Elana Emlen and Matt Emlen (z"I) and Wallace and

Jayne Reid of Mercer Island, WA. She is the granddaughter of **Rabbi Joshua**, **z"l and Goldie**, **z"l Stampfer** and Arthur and Charlene Emlen (of Lake Oswego).

Mazel tov to **Tony and Priscilla Kostiner** on their grandson Alex Mansfield's engagement to Shani Plunkett. Alex is a Jewish Educator in the Portland Community and Shani works in the field of healthcare.

Mazel tov to Sarah Rohr (CNS member and ALIYAH 6th grade teacher) on being appointed to the Beaverton Arts Commission, which began in January 2022.



Mazel tov and *B'hatzlecha* to **Elad Segal** who recently launched a new aviation training business, NW Wings Aviation: http://NWWAfly.com. He is offering flight training as well as an opportunity to flight enthusiasts to "Pilot for a Day." Many of us know Elad through his wife **Etti**, who teaches in our ALIYAH, Foundation School, and Machon Ivrit classes.

Mazel tov to **Cantor Linda Shivers** and the **Hesed Committee** for wonderful the article about the medical equipment loaning program, Avraham's Closet, in the Jewish Review.



Mazel tov to Aliza Zeff, daughter of Laurie and George Fendel. Aliza is the incoming Director of Tichon Ramah Yerushalayim (TRY). TRY is a spring semester study abroad

program for high school students, located in Jerusalem. For more information, contact Aliza at alizaz@ramah.co.il or read about the program here: https://try.ramah.org.il

Kol Hakovd to our CNS members, Mia Birk, Doug Blauer, Steve Sirkin, and Carolyn Weinstein, honored in the most recent *Oregon Jewish Life* magazine as "tikkun olam change-makers." We are proud of you and all you give to our community!

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

We are sad to let you know of the passing of our dear friend, CNS member, and regular attendee of Morning Minyan, Millard Joseph Gulledge (z"l), on December 13th. Millard is remembered by his brother George Gulledge, his daughter Rebecca Gulledge, and his niece Cassie Naron.

We are so sad to let you know of the passing of our friend and CNS congregant, Elliot Lubarsky, z"I at the age of 93. Elliot is loved and remembered by his dear wife, Diana, children, David (Sarah) Lubarsky, Joshua (Rachael) Lubarsky, Rebecca (James) Hardy, and Naomi (Lawrence) Fink, as well as nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Our condolences to **Steve Lansberg** whose aunt, Barbara Zale, z"l, recently passed away.

We are sad to let you know of the passing of Melva Hamer (z"I) on December 13th at the age of 97. Melva is loved and remembered by her children, Steve Hamer, CNS Members Sheryl (Ray) Robert, and Scott Hammer, along with five grandchildren and three greatgrandchildren.

Our condolences to **Ilene Klang**, whose father, Harold Samuel Gurev, z"I, passed away on January 2, 2022. He will be buried in Costa Mesa, California at Harbor Lawn, Mt. Olive Cemetery.

We are sad to let you know of the passing on January 11th of our friend and CNS congregant, Molly Bodner (z'l). Molly was Neveh Shalom's oldest congregant, age 103 at her passing. Molly is loved and remembered by her son, Floyd (Laura) Bodner; daughter-in-law, Robin (son, Jay, z'l) Bodner; grandsons, Robert (Tara) Bodner; granddaughter, Elana Bodner; along with her three greatgrandchildren, Jake, Lucia and Joshua. She was predeceased by her husband, Herbert Bodner.

We are sad to let you know of the passing of our friend and CNS congregant, Nancy Sherman, at the age of 93. Nancy is loved and remembered by her five children, Nathan (Linda), Gregory, Stanley, Pauline, and Susanne Sherman; and grandchildren, David, Joel, Jacob, and Tamara.

We are sad to let you know of the passing of CNS congregant, Yakov Studinovskiy, z"I, at the age of 94. Yakov is loved and remembered by daughters Galina (Yevgeniy) Smotkina and Irina (Petr) Malashenok, and grandson Mikhail Smotkin. He was predeceased by Tsivya Studinvskay, z"I.

We are sad to let you know of the passing of CNS congregant, Victor Gutnik, z"l, at the age of 81. Victor was predeceased by his wife, Zinaida, z"l, and is loved and remembered by his nephew Vitaliy Zamakhover and sister Fenya Zamakhover.

The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

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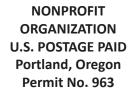


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Fun, Friends and Families, Get Ready for Congregant Makeover!

ongregation Neveh Shalom will hold its annual fundraiser on Sunday, April 10, 2022, with both a virtual and an inperson experience. This year, CNS is focusing on ways to contribute to the wellness of our congregants and community. As always, our fundraising efforts will include sponsorship opportunities, Mitzvah Moment donations, and an unrivaled silent auction, yet this year's entertainment will be our very own reality show!

Many of us have watched TV shows like, What Not to Wear, or Queer Eye for the Straight Guy, where a little expert advice can make a person feel differently on the inside and out. This year, two of our eager congregants will participate in a similar journey with an uplifting styling experience that will offer new perspectives from which we can all benefit.

Filmmaker and congregant, **Efrem Plawner** will document our members
working with local professionals, Paula

O'Neil and Tracy Pendergast at Est Ovest Style, and capture the whole adventure including assessing closets, shopping trips, salon appointments, and more. On the night of the event, we will watch Efrem's video and witness a live reveal where our congregants will show and tell us about the experience with the hopes of elevating our awareness of wellness and self-care.

Funds raised will support Congregation Neveh Shalom's education programs including the Foundation School, ALIYAH/Tichon, and Adult Education. These programs serve our entire congregation and are focused on the wellness of our teachers, children, and families: when our community has a solid foundation, we are more capable of supporting others.

CNS also partners with and supports many local charitable organizations



such as the Oregon Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, The American Red Cross, Neighborhood House, Outside In, the Refugee Care Collective, and many more. We would not be able to support these vital organizations without your support.

For more information about sponsorships or donations, please contact Michelle Caplan, Director of Congregational Advancement at cnsauction@ nevehshalom.org



Congregant Makeover

CNS 2022 ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Come to an evening of fashion and fun! Neveh Shalom is hosting a *Queer Eye*-style makeover featuring two of our very own congregants. There will be a virtual silent auction and unforgettable entertainment including a LIVE reveal!

April 10, 2022 at 5pm

Online and in-person*

Join Us

- \$72/ticket for in-person show & dinner*
- FREE online screening with the option to purchase a meal to-go

RSVP Required

nevehshalom.org/cns2022





*In-person attendance is limited - please respond quickly



Congregation Neveh Shalom

Check Out List of Purim Happenings

March 13

Young Family Tailgate
Drive-In (age 0-6)

10:45-11:30am | RSVP Required

March 16

CNS Purim Program w/ Selections Read from the Megillah

7-8:30pm | Zoom

March 17

Purim Morning Minyan w/ Megillah Reading

7-8:30am | Stampfer Chapel/Zoom

RSVP, Links, and More information at:

nevehshalom.org/purim5782





Questions? Call the office at 503.246.8831 or email lrichmond@nevehshalom.org