

THE
CHRONICLE

A PUBLICATION OF CONGREGATION NEVEH SHALOM

Chesed



**The Imperative of Caring for
Ourselves and Others**

Seven Feathers

By Rabbi David Kosak

While on sabbatical, I have been working on a book that explores what home means to my fellow Americans and to me. I have learned much during this period. This slightly adapted piece touches on this Chronicle's theme of kindness. I hope it stands alone despite occasional references to other stories within the book.

I'd like to say six weeks on the road changes a fellow—and it does. My ear has become attuned to the endless stream of stories that make up our world. Each story etches itself upon me, slowly rewriting my assumptions about what America is and who I am within my country. But what is six weeks compared to decades of patterns and habits? Only a beginning. This truth startled me awake a few moments after I groggily made my way to the rest stop “campground” by Seven Feathers Casino.

Late the previous night, I returned to Oregon after battling high winds in the Yreka pass on I5. Like a bad joke, as I crossed the state line, it began to rain, softly at first. Through Ashland, it was more a nuisance mist than anything else. But twenty miles up the road, trucks, darkness, and sheeting rain made the Interstate curves harrowing. It had already been a long day driving, which breached my code of “people, not highways; stories, not miles.” Time to bed down.

A blue camping sign caught my attention as it pointed to an exit by the Seven Feathers Casino. Basically, this was a rest stop with lots of parking spots where truckers could sit their rigs overnight, and where some gamblers could return from the casino to sleep off their losses in a car or RV. It turned out that the restrooms were particularly clean, and the area felt safe. I slept well.

In the morning, though, I grabbed my toothbrush and headed to the solo bathroom. Opening the door, I was greeted with a miasma of fresh tobacco smoke and no toilet paper. This made me grumpy. I don't care if people smoke or not—I never would have heard Mike the Jeweler's story had he not been taking a cigarette break. Still, don't smoke in a public bathroom as it's obnoxious to the rest of us. There's a type of kindness when we adjust our actions in consideration of the unseen other, something the smoker wasn't schooled in.

In disgust, I exited and headed to the multi-stall men's room. On the way, a disheveled man tried to catch my attention, asking how I was. In an act of instantaneous calculus, I replied, “grumpy,” and continued to the restroom. My urban-trained radar had decided in that split second that this man wanted something from me, maybe a few bucks or the chance to share a tale of woe, but I wasn't having it. I knew that my quick, sharp response would head this off and it did. This was an act of self-care, a small moment of kindness in which I protected my personal boundaries. If we can't provide that for ourselves, the incessant needs of the world will swallow us up, preventing us from expressing our own agenda or purpose.

After brushing my teeth, I saw the man again, this time with an equally bedraggled woman. He cheerfully called out to me, “I hope your day gets better.” What a small act of kindness! Like a semaphore, those six words were a recognition of where my mood had been and a prayer for my improvement. I softened slightly as he commented that he liked my car. Still not wanting to engage, I let slide, “Yes, that's where I live.” “Oh, I hear you, someone stole our rig a few days ago.” “That's terrible,” I replied. “Well, it happens,” he shrugged with equanimity. “Good luck to you,” I offered, turning on

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the ignition and heading to the closest gas station. As I finished fueling, I could see the two of them walking on the roadside maybe a hundred yards away and realized that if I wasn't heading back to my own home today, our entire set of interactions would have been different. I would have engaged with him as I had with countless people on my sabbatical.

This brought up a question my mother-in-law asked me two nights earlier as I shared some of my road adventures with her.

“Did you encounter anyone whose story wasn't interesting?” she wondered. It was a penetrating question. “What I think I have learned is that what makes a person's story interesting is my availability. When I can muster a certain sort of presence, every story is fascinating. My attention allows the tellers to inhabit their stories with deep humanity, and it is this feature which makes it interesting.” Attention is one of the sweetest forms of kindness we can offer to another person, animal, or maybe even life itself.

How can we navigate the boundaries of our own needs and self-concern with the kindness of life-affirming attention? In today's world where people are increasingly cut-off from one another, we hear constant talk about the importance

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Faith, Gifts, Love

By Rabbi Eve Posen

One of my favorite Jewish teachings comes from *Pirkei Avot*, Ethics of Our Ancestors. I realize that comes as no surprise to those who know me well. The teaching (which has also been turned into a catchy song) is, “The world stands on three things. On Torah, *avodah* and *gemilut chasadim*.” In other words, the world is supported by deep faith and teaching, by service or work of the heart, and by acts of loving-kindness. While I loved this passage prior to 2020, to me it’s even more relevant now as we’ve navigated this journey through a pandemic. For the past two years, acts of loving kindness, from wearing masks to dropping off groceries, and from Zoom playdates to check-in texts, these acts have sustained us, lifted us, and supported us. This is community, this is the fabric of a *kehillah kedoshah*, our holy community.

On a smaller scale, this quote also represents the foundation of our congregation. Let’s begin with Torah. We are a *kehillah* that grows and thrives on our adherence to tradition. Moreover, we are a people who thrive on and thirst for

learning. Torah represents the basis of our faith, our desire to understand it, and the sacred connection from past to present. We are learners, and life-long ones at that.

Avodah is the sacred act of “worship” as it is traditionally translated. It’s the act of coming together in prayer and ritual, which allows our community to feel connected, especially to each other. The act of communal prayer is about us as much as it is about God. The world is stronger when we’re able to gather to make a *minyan* for someone saying *kaddish* after a loved one has passed. The restorative, healing power of singing together and focusing our time together is what draws people day after day, week after week.

Finally, *gemilut chasadim*, the acts of genuine loving kindness. Our *kehillah* is blessed in the many different ways we show this love, from our meal trains for new babies or congregants who need assistance, to the work of the Shroud Crowd making garments for Jewish burial. We see it from our *Hesed* Committee, who work tirelessly to check in on fellow congregants, deliver meals, and arrange

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rides, as well as from our *Tikkun Olam* Committee, working to make our world a better place.

The world stands on three things, but there are many worlds: there’s all of humankind, the Jewish people, our synagogue community, even our families are our own little worlds. In each expanding circle, the kindness we show has a direct influence on the health of that world and will continue to do so long after this pandemic is over.

Rabbi Kosak *Continued*

of community. Heading back home to my family, this momentary interaction with a rest-stop stranger allowed me to stumble on another truth. Community is a construct, not something that exists per se; rather, community marks the boundaries within which we bestow our greatest largesse of kindness. It is an artificial creation by which we determine with whom we will share the largest bounty of our positive attention.

I have wondered about how I put myself

back into the box of my life, my family, my work? Like Matt, the

homeless teen, how do I sacrifice the gift of feral freedom to live within the carefully constructed cages of society? There’s an answer of sorts here.

On the road, my kindness has been boundless, like a rain of feathers, and that generosity has repaid itself with a treasury of impossibly beautiful stories. Heading back to a more bounded existence, I think of Seven Feathers. Constrained by our duties and obligations and the more proximate horizon of our

lives, we are required to choose a few feathers, beautiful acts of kindness. In a world of infinite need and finite attention, we are forced to constrain—even sacrifice—some of this infinite outflow of love so that we can share the lion’s share of our kindness within our communities of choice. Seven feathers or so. Is it enough? On its own, no, that’s not enough to encounter life as this break has allowed me to do. But if I hold on to the awareness that each feather is like a day of the week, or a day of creation? If each feather is a placeholder for the mighty flow of life itself, then, perhaps then...

The Giving Tree of Life

Cantor's Corner

By Cantor Eyal Bitton

Once there was a tree...” are the opening words of Shel Silverstein’s classic poem, “The Giving Tree.” The tree loves a little boy and gives him its shade, its apples, its branches, its trunk, until it is merely a stump. Even then, its giving nature remains: “An old stump is good for sitting and resting. Come, Boy, sit down and rest.”

Our Torah is referred to as a tree of life. It is giving, by nature. It gives us history, heritage, religion, laws, identity, knowledge, and among other things, a moral compass. It gives, and it gives, and it gives.

Consider the Jewish calendar from the winter through the spring. Chanukah, Purim, Pesach, Yom HaShoah, and Yom Ha’atzmaut all recount a tale of survival in the face of destruction. Each is ultimately a story of redemption, a testament to the indomitable spirit of our people. The season ends with Shavuot, which celebrates the giving of the Covenant at Sinai. It is a reminder of who we are and what lies at the heart of our identity: we are the People of the Cov-

enant, the People of the Book, the Torah.

We, the people of Israel, have learned from our *Etz Chayim*, our Tree of Life, to be a giving people. We have also learned to give with true loving-kindness, or *chesed*. This is indeed a noble value. Nevertheless, as Eve Barlow, a Scottish music journalist and Jewish activist, wrote on Twitter: “American Jewry fights for others before fighting for itself.” She wrote this the day after hundreds of pro-Palestinians marched in New York demanding the removal of “Zionist” professors and students, the killing of Jews in America, and calling for the genocide of the Jews in the Jewish State - and the march took place after a spate of terrorist attacks in Israel.

In giving to others, in seeking a just society, let us not forget our own community. Let us teach our children to stand up against antisemitism, to identify and reject direct and indirect calls of genocide, and to love our religion, our people, and our homeland - and let us lead by example.



May we continue to live under the shade of our Tree of Life and be inspired to do good and act with loving-kindness. Let us remember that, while we must be giving, we mustn’t become like the Giving Tree, which gave until there was nothing left of it. The opening of Silverstein’s poem reveals a bleak end: “ONCE there was a tree.” Let our beloved tree not be spoken of in the past but be spoken of today and always - for ours is not merely a *giving* tree but also a *living* tree.

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Chesed = Positivity + Togetherness

President's Corner

By Glen Coblens, CNS President



As I wrap up my time as President, I am honored to share a few reflections and a little (maybe a lot of) bragging.

I grew up, had my Bar Mitzvah, and was married at CNS. I have celebrated, mourned, loved, and volunteered at CNS. I served on the Board for a decade before becoming President. Yet no one could have possibly prepared me to be President during COVID-19. Behind the scenes, your CNS Board of Directors, staff, clergy, and countless volunteers have thoughtfully discussed and debated, listened, and heard, researched and considered, tried things, learned, and moved forward, *together*, in a spirit of *positivity*. We have become stronger during these last two years. I am so proud of all we have accomplished.

We successfully gathered an amazing group of congregants who created our new vision, mission and values (nevehshalom.org/vision-mission-values) and a comprehensive Long-Range Plan (LRP) (nevehshalom.org/board-of-directors) to help guide us for the next five years.

Besides the thorough report, one of the benefits of the LRP is identifying young congregants for leadership roles. Our Board, Membership Committee, and Engagement Committee are prime examples of this vital work. Thanks to these and many more people stepping into leadership roles, our Kehillah is in good hands going forward.

Last summer, we invested in our beautiful home. Utilizing funds raised from our successful CNS 150 Funding Our Future campaign, we stabilized and repaved our parking lot, painted the outside of the building, replaced the roof and several HVAC units, and added much needed safety and security measures. We have more to do, like renovating the kitchen, making the Stern Family Courtyard more useful, and turning the Nepom Gates into a truly welcoming, inviting, and secure entrance. To help, we created a prioritized capital expenditures list, including timeline and budget.

Thanks in large part to the Payroll Protection (PPP) grants, the work of our staff and board, and your generosity, we did not lay off staff or raise dues, so we are in good financial shape. However, I offer a word of caution: as we reopen and slowly return to more “normal” times, we face financial challenges. Over the past year, a financial stability task force has taken a deeper look at our budget and recommended proactive strategic measures we can take now to help us in the years ahead.

Over the past two years, we’ve seen many staff transitions in Foundation School leadership, development, programs, education, building use, clergy support and, just recently, finance. As you all know, we have one more transition to

go as our esteemed executive director, **Fred Rothstein**, is retiring at the end of October. We thank him for all he has accomplished in his twenty-plus years at CNS and look forward to celebrating his retirement in style later this year.

While playing in the 2013 World Maccabiah Games, some Israeli kids watching started calling me Coco. This became my favorite nickname, as evidenced by my vanity license plate. Cocoisms are maxims I live by, especially these past two years, including:

- Always be a student of the game... You don’t know what you don’t know. Keep learning, always.
- Although you are the only person going through whatever you are going through, you are never alone. Especially not in this community/family.
- Focus on controlling what can be controlled, but let go of what cannot be controlled.
- Keep your eye on the prize, aka, the “Main Thing,” rather than the never-ending potholes and speed bumps that distract and deter progress.
- We are all human and to be human is to err. Evaluate, adjust, and learn from mistakes.
- Good things come from not-so-good things if we stay positive and apply what we learn.
- Smile, even when wearing a mask. People can see and feel it.

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Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah



Hailey Janoff | May 7

Hailey Molly Janoff is the daughter of Shannon and Daniel Janoff, sister to Celia, granddaughter to Scott and Christine Fulmer and Marianne Janoff, and great-granddaughter to Clara Kraus and Maebeth Fulmer. Hailey is a 7th grader at Riverdale Grade School where she enjoys playing soccer and basketball and performing in the school play. Hailey enjoys going to Blazer games, skiing, and traveling with her family. She is looking forward to another summer at BB Camp this year.



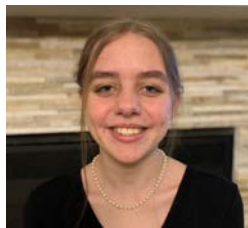
Keira Wiley | May 14

Keira is the daughter of Beth Buck and Shawn Wiley, sister to Scott, and the granddaughter of Brenda and Jacob Buck, and Nancy and the late Evans Wiley. She is a 7th grader at Conestoga Middle School. Keira enjoys music, soccer, gymnastics, and spending time with her friends.



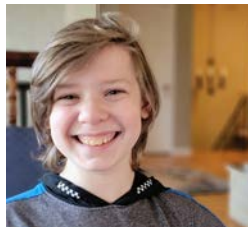
Gabrielle Kaplan | May 21

Gabrielle "Gabi" Kaplan is the daughter of Amy and Alex Kaplan, sister to Mila and Dana Kaplan, and granddaughter of Sandra Shery and Mara Sklar. Gabi is a 7th grader at Lakeridge Middle School. Her many interests include drawing, theater, tennis, and skiing. Gabi is a Thespian Club officer and has a prominent role in her school's current musical production of *Matilda*. Gabi is excited to attend Camp Solomon Schechter this summer.



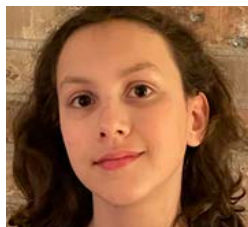
Raya Brown | May 28

Raya Brown is the daughter of Deborah Brown and Hugh Brown; the sister of Gabe Brown, Kalin Emerson, and Neil Emerson; and the granddaughter of Carole and Fred Gorin (Sarasota, FL), Greg Smith (Pear Blossom, CA), Elaine Brown (z"l), and Delbert (Bus) Brown (z"l). She is a 7th grader at Liberty Middle School. Raya is a creative soul who enjoys drawing, painting, baking, and sewing. Raya loves her dog and cats.



Walter Hodes | June 11

Walter Gabriel Hodes is the son of Spencer and Marisa Hodes, younger brother to Edward, grandson to Greg and Chris Hodes and Richard and Annette Benedetti, and great-grandson to Stanley and Shirley Hodes. Walter is a 7th grader at Whitford Summa. He enjoys trivia, playing his saxophone, board games, baking, being creative, and living a life full of zest. You might find him dancing down the street at any given time.



Aryeh Jacobowitz | June 18

Aryeh Ames Jacobowitz is the son of Edward Jacobowitz and D. Kempe Ames, brother of Clarence and Isaac, and grandson of Deborah Jacobowitz (Irvine, CA), the late Benjamin Jacobowitz (NYC), and the late Frances Kay Blackman. Aryeh is a 7th grader at Jackson Middle School. He enjoys video games, live action roleplaying (LARP) games, and is part of a D&D group at school. He also sings with the JMS Ensemble Choir. His favorite games are Minecraft and Pokémon.



Olivia Morrow | June 25

Olivia is the daughter of Tanya and Jason Morrow, sister to Jordyn, and granddaughter to Addy Cohen (Henderson, NV), Dr. Alan and Agneta Cohen (Cypress, CA), and Lowell and Judy Morrow (Long Beach, CA). Olivia is a 7th grader at Whitford Middle School. Her greatest passion is dancing with MVP Dance Elite. Olivia also loves being active outdoors, traveling, and spending time with her family and friends, and is looking forward to competing and performing at Velocity Nationals this summer in Las Vegas.

Chesed: The Complex Imperative of Caring for Ourselves and Others

Mel's Corner

By Mel Berwin, Director of Congregational Learning

One of the reasons people avoid community is because other people are disappointing. You know? And yet, by being in community, we take turns being the ones who are disappointing. And then, forgive each other and move on. And you know, maybe it's that guy's turn to be disappointing, but next week it'll be me. So it's that culture of turn-taking, when it comes to being the ones who need grace, or who are giving grace, or who remind each other that grace is a thing. That's why I think communities that are set up like, "here are the designated helpers and the healthy people, and here are the designated problem people"—that's BS. Everybody's both. —Nadia Bolz-Weber (Lutheran pastor, House for All Sinners and Saints), in conversation with Kate Bowler

In Women's Torah Study this year, we've been holding up our theme text from *Pirkei Avot* and using it as a lens to consider our roles and responsibilities as individuals and within communities. "*Im ein ani li mi li*: If I am not for myself who will be for me? If I'm only for myself, what am I?"

Self-care and community-care come up often in these conversations. What does it mean to take care of ourselves? How do we communicate when we need support from others? How do we feel about asking for that help? How does that differ from how we feel when we are supporting others?

It was in the context of these conversations that I brought the text, above, from a podcast I'd heard featuring the Pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber. Her gritty, irreverent, radically honest style is reflected here, and while she speaks in idiom that is more familiar to Christianity, her message resonated with many of us: we are all sometimes in need of support and sometimes the ones who can offer support. We all provide and need the care and kindness of chesed.

We asked each other: Which of our communities reflects Bolz-Weber's assertion that "everybody's both" the giver and receiver of chesed? How easily do we accept those shifting roles when we're on each side of the equation? How do gender, class, race, and other parts of our identity factor in to how we relate to being the one supporting or receiving support? And do our Jewish sources and traditions speak to both sides as well or do they primarily speak to/about the ones who are giving?

Another verse in *Pirkei Avot* proclaims that the world stands on three things. Torah, *avodah* (ritual or prayer), and acts of chesed. While chesed — acts of loving kindness or deep care—seems like a simple and agreeable idea, a word we use and practice from our youngest years—the truth is it is deep, complex, and a lifelong practice for us. We need to take good care of ourselves and others, as well as to build communities fo-



Sharon Switzer, Margaret Petersen, and Jennifer Kalenscher from Women's Torah Study cook for Chesed

cusing on the recognition that each of us has gifts and challenges, and that each of us provides support and needs support in our days and years together on this planet.

Women's Torah Study meets twice a month. We delve into biblical, midrashic, and contemporary text to find meaning from our traditions that relate to our lives. For more information, contact mberwin@nevehshalom.org

Chesed and Hesed at CNS: the work of caring for community

By Mel Berwin

When Lisa Richmond shifted from her role as Clergy Liaison and Building Administrator to Program Director last month, she was especially excited to work with the committees whose purpose is to take care of congregants in our community and to do *Tikkun Olam*—acts of repairing the world—more broadly. To Lisa, who grew up in California with parents who helped found a thriving Reconstructionist congregation, Tikkun Olam is a way of “making sure that the world is in balance, and that we’re moving forward toward equity and health in our local community and in the world.”

One of these committees is the Hesed Committee (yes, same word as “chesed,” just with an alternate spelling). First created in 1987 under Sheri Cordova’s leadership in the role of Program Di-

rector, the goal of this committee was “to work together to meet the needs of congregants in times of emergency, primarily,” explained Sheri. “We created geographic zones and had a team leader for each zone. That leader recruited five to six people to be on that team.... Whenever staff knew of a member who needed something, the leader would reach out to their committee and help the people that needed it. At that time there was no Meal Train—we created our own meal support system.” The program went so well that when Sheri presented the CNS model at a national Conference of Jewish Educators, she won an award for the program. “It was an indication of how needed this service was for our congregations and how eager people were to participate.”

Several years ago, Sheri and her dear friend and study partner, Barb Schwartz, picked up the reins of Neveh Shalom’s Hesed Committee again. Barb, who served for many years as Education Director of the congregation, says that the committee has evolved with the help of new technology to track the services they provide and the needs of congregants. These services include meal delivery, grocery shopping, and some transportation. Meals are now made by our ALIYAH youth and teens and other groups that gather to cook together for this purpose.

Another service that has started recently under the auspices of Hesed is Avraham’s Closet, a durable medical equipment loan program. Cantor Linda



Barb Schwartz

Shivers and Patty Magid-Volk, an ALIYAH teacher and professional Physical Therapist, oversee that program, coordinating the collection, inspection, and distribution of medical equipment such as wheelchairs and walkers. “We have people dropping off and picking up equipment every week,” says Barb. “There are no parameters; just use the equipment as long as you need it and return it if it’s still in good condition when you’re done.” Sheri adds that she would love to make this resource known and available to the wider community. “It’s the *heimish* (humane) thing to do.”

While Hesed is one official way that our staff and congregants provide care and support to those who have a need, many other individuals and groups within Neveh Shalom are in the position to connect with congregants and offer support. Clergy, of course, provide much support during congregant times



Sheri Cordova



Lisa Richmond

is in need,” reports **Rabbi Eve Posen**. “We certainly understand that it can be hard to reach out and ask for support. As clergy and staff, we want to connect, bring people together, have as many meaningful touchpoints as possible. In order to do that, we need congregants to let us know if they are in a challenging time, for any reason.”

Lisa Richmond reiterates the need for a strong system of

And from Barb and Sheri’s perspective, there can always be more communication. “We can always use more publicity, to reach new volunteers and to let people know we’re available to help. We

“As clergy and staff, we want to connect, bring people together, have as many meaningful touchpoints as possible. In order to do that, we need congregants to let us know if they are in a challenging time.”

of need, as do many of our staff who have close and connected relationships with congregants. The Membership and Engagement Committees both regularly call congregants to check in, Foundation School and *Shoreshim* young family programs offer meal trains for families when new babies are born, or the family is experiencing medical or other challenges. During Covid, bags were prepared to bring to young families when someone was ill to make sure kids had entertainment during long days or weeks of quarantine.

One such family is **Rachel and Jason Nelson** and their two preschool aged children, **Noa** and **Asher**. “When our entire family came down with COVID in February, we received a phone call from a member of the Hesed Committee checking in on us and then offering to bring us an assortment of meals so that we didn’t have to worry about food preparation while recovering. The food brought over by a member of the committee was delicious and easy to warm, making it the perfect gift to receive. We are so grateful to be part of the Neveh Shalom *kehillah* (community).”

But there are challenges to this work as well. As a large congregation, “We don’t always know when a congregant

communication between congregants, staff, and Hesed volunteers. “Clergy and staff hear about areas of need for congregants and, when we have permission, pass that on to the Hesed Committee for additional support. It feels like a safety blanket,” she adds, “to clergy and staff to know that there are congregants who are sharing the load of supporting our congregation.”

sometimes feel under-utilized.” On the other hand, in a recent Hesed email to request support for an ailing congregant who unexpectedly lost a spouse and had significant care needs himself, “we got emails back within five minutes” to help in many ways, from Hesed members as well as congregants who had

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Rachel, Noa, Jason, and Asher Nelson at Silver Falls State Park

Shabbat Greeters: Showing Caring Through Welcoming

By Lisa Marie Lynch

My first visit to CNS was also my first Shabbat service. It was early in my conversion process, and I understood that having that experience was a crucial step in my learning. So one Friday evening, I drove in and parked under the awe-inspiring Ten Commandments thinking that might be the front of the building. After rattling a locked door or two, I eventually found my way up to Holzman Plaza.

I encountered a few people who nodded my way saying, “Shabbat Shalom.” I understood the word Shabbat meant Sabbath and Shalom meant peace, but I’d never heard the words put together. I returned their nods, but was uncomfortable repeating the phrase, as it didn’t seem like mine to say. Walking into the bustling Stampfer Chapel lobby, I suddenly felt very insecure and alone. However, I soon noticed Shabbat greeters who were busy handing out *siddurs* and chatting with people who seemed glad to be there as well as glad to see each other. When I told a greeter I was visiting, he handed me a *siddur* and kindly pointed me toward the chapel. I was so

grateful to know that I was welcome to come in and sit down.

Despite my early awkwardness, I grew to love the CNS community, where I am now the receptionist and a member. I also recently began volunteering as a Shabbat greeter. I’m especially drawn to new visitors who might feel a little lost and insecure about their place here. And I always say “Shabbat Shalom” with confidence!

I asked a few longtime Shabbat greeters to share their thoughts about volunteering since they are truly voices of experience.

Jenn Director Knudsen said, “It’s simply fun. Making a big show of racing the other greeters to the door to open it; handing folks their *siddur* and *chumash*; catching up with congregants before they enter the chapel or sanctuary, and helping folks who are not Jewish with any questions they may have to make them feel as welcome and comfortable as possible in what to them is a new or unfamiliar prayer space. We tout ‘relational Judaism,’ and this is a very key, public-facing way to engage in that practice. Plus, I believe greeters offer a bit of a transition between walking into the building, putting on a *tallit*, and entering a prayer space.”

Mitch Elovitz noted that “We need new members to keep us going and sometimes someone can visit, feel comfortable with how they were greeted and treated, and perhaps move to the area and join CNS years later! Friendliness and warmth speak volumes, and it’s really easy to do!”

Lidia Krivoy stated “It gives me a sense of belonging and community. It’s an opportunity to connect with members, newcomers, and visitors.”

Diane Kahn thought that “It’s a wonderful way to meet people, to show them



Lisa Marie Lynch

they’re welcome to the synagogue and introduce people to congregants who are already members. We want to be a welcoming congregation.”

Holly Eby reflected that “After a long time of separation due to the pandemic, many people are starting to return for the first time. That can be a very emotional experience. Seeing a warm and welcoming face at the door helps ease that transition back into more normal life.”

I asked for advice for people who are interested in greeting but a little nervous about taking that first step. **Steve Sirkin** summed up everyone’s sentiment: “You’ll find it enjoyable and meaningful. Try it, you’ll like it.”

We’d love to grow our Shabbat greeter pool so that we always have volunteers we can count on. It’s a fun and fulfilling way to be involved with our *Kehilla*, and it’s a mitzvah! If you’d like to help, please contact me at lmlynch@nevehshalom.org, or give me a call at 503-246-8831, and I’ll help you learn what you can do to be a part of our wonderful and friendly team, the CNS Shabbat Greeters!



Mitch Elovitz, a regular Shabbat Greeter

Chesed: Children Are Experts

By Cory Willson, Foundation School Director

For those of you who may not know, Chesed is the Hebrew word for “kindness” ...the attribute of grace or compassion. Caring for ourselves and others is a long-standing value, and one that has, in the Foundation School community, been revitalized over the last two years of pandemic existence. I was lucky enough while in graduate school to meet an amazing mentor (Dr. Roger Mills, leading resiliency researcher in our nation during his time) who taught me about “health of the helper,” as he called it. It’s a simple concept that can feel hard in practice when the focus is on helping others. Its simple wisdom beneath is that you cannot give away what you do not have. Taking care of yourself is selfless, not selfish.

If we listen carefully, we will hear this message more and more wherever we may roam. I was in a PAJE workshop last night and heard two beautiful quotes!



Our two-year-olds work together to care for their environment.

“Let’s be kind to each other and to ourselves.”
~ Rabbi Barry Cohen

“Don’t get depleted... have lots to give! Schedule an appointment with yourself.” ~ Dinah Gilburd

It is not a mistake that many wise people are talking about resilience through this lens because well-being is inside, waiting to be pulled to the surface. Knowing this is empowering. Because while there are things we cannot control, we can enable a mindset needed to meet these challenges. Knowing that this is the first step can help to create an advantageous reset in order to navigate our lives. This is powerful, but it is not the whole story.

Self-care alone cannot heal communities. If anyone had ever heard a person told to practice self-care while that person was drowning, it’s clear this would feel isolating and the opposite of healing. We need each other! The term community care is basically any care provided by an individual to benefit other people in their lives. This can be as simple as interpersonal acts of compassion and as complex as organized protests.

To steal from Bill Withers: *“Lean on me when you’re not strong / And I’ll be your friend / I’ll help you carry on / For it won’t be long / ‘Til I’m gonna need / Somebody to lean on.”*

We do not need to go it alone, and in fact best practices tell us that we should not try to. The children at Foundation School know this well and are often our



One of our two-year-olds offers his goggles to his Morah and then realizes they can share in this activity of peering at each other.

best teachers. We have taught them about how to be part of a loving community; in turn, they have shown us that they know what we mean. We are lucky at Foundation School to be surrounded by a community that steps up to offer support time and time again. Our parent community, our children, our *morot* (teachers)...they all promote this sense of community belonging and care. People who spend time downstairs know this and are lucky!

The goal is twofold: Take loving care of yourself as a first step and do not even think about helping others if you do not have something to give since it is your turn to receive and ask for what you need. Then, when you have chesed to spare, give it willingly to your community so that they may join you at your vantage point. This kind of self/community love creates a flow of healing kindness that can be felt, both as the giver and receiver. This is the secret to life that wise Foundation School children already know about and practice each day. May we learn from them!

Gestating Chesed

By Jenn Director Knudsen

I spent three months on bedrest during my first successful pregnancy. Diagnosed with “irritable uterus,” I worried a lot about my unborn baby while the Braxton-Hicks contractions got increasingly intense during the third trimester.

Much of my worrying time was spent sitting or lying down on a couch while my husband, Dave, then a full-time graduate student wrapping up his degrees, did a lot of his studying and course work from our second-floor apartment so he could bring me what I needed, which was primarily food, and feed the cat, a crotchety old calico about as irritable as my uterus.

At that time in 2000, remote work was not a thing, so I’d had to resign from my *Boston Globe* freelance reporting job. Neither Dave nor I had too many responsibilities save for keeping me and all my body’s large muscles calm.

Alyssa was born early but healthy, at 37 weeks to the day. On her day of birth itself, my doctor assured me future pregnancies likely wouldn’t be similar. Until it was. Only this time we had a toddler to care for and that same long-suffering cat.



*Eighteen years later, Alyssa carries Hayley (and it works the other way around, too).
Photo courtesy Jana Foo.*

A little less than two years later, early into the second trimester of my second successful pregnancy, the Braxton-Hicks contractions began. To ensure these “practice” contractions didn’t become the real thing, my doctor at first instructed to just take it easy.

Alone during the workday with a very active toddler (read: *very*), I cared for myself and Alyssa as well as I could. I remember very clearly when a friend called and said, “You will not have to be on bedrest with this pregnancy, I just feel it.” As did I, but about a week later, the contractions intensified.

At the clinic again, my doctor proffered an information sheet about bedrest. It detailed four stages, the fourth of which required a hospital stay.

My OB doctor looked me square in the eye and pointed to stage-three: I could shower once a day; use the bathroom when needed; and that was it. My final three months of pregnancy – should Baby Number Two wait that long -- were to be spent lying on our couch.

I panicked. Who would take care of Alyssa, not yet two years old? Who would prepare meals? Who would shop at the grocery? Who would keep our calico cat alive? The list went on.

Enter *chesed*.

I remained on strict bedrest between June 28 and Sept. 10, 2003, during which our front door became a revolving door.

Every single day, into our home traipsed family members, babysitters, neighbors, my friends, my folks’ friends, my in-laws’ friends, and even acquaintances-I-hadn’t-realized-were-friends. One friend taught me how to knit; another came over just to say hi and chat a bit



Newborn Hayley nurses while Alyssa is all dressed up for a Foundation School morning, September 2003.

before a tennis lesson; yet another introduced me to the crochet hook.

Visitors maintained my chocolate supply. People who lived elsewhere called to check in and try to distract me from the monotony and discomfort. Alyssa received more attention than she wanted. And Dave did not need to prepare one dinner the entire time his increasingly irritable wife remained supine.

My mounting irascibility, however, did not stifle my growing sense of feeling rather overwhelmed by others’ selfless kindness. My little family’s needs were big, and people engaging in *chesed* – whether aware they were doing so or not -- fulfilled every one of them.

As my pregnancy finally reached full term and I began to relax a little, I promised myself I would do as all those who’d seen us through had done. I would – and do – dedicate myself to *chesed*: caring for others as they had cared for us, with meals, rides, tribute donations, errands, calls, cards, extra chocolate bars.

Hayley was born at 39 weeks, healthy. Thank you, *chesed*.

Caring Through Cooking

By Amy Leona Havin

Over the past few months, students from Neveh Shalom and Director of Congregational Learning, **Mel Berwin**, have been caring for the community behind the scenes.

"This past fall, **Barb Schwartz** and **Sheri Cordova** reached out to me to let me know that our store of food to distribute through the Hesed Committee were running low" shared Mel. Hearing about this, a few of the ALIYAH and Tichon classes decided to cook meals that would feed the Neveh Shalom community members in a gesture of unity and gratitude.

"Our 4th graders cooked during Chanukah as a mitzvah program related to their curriculum on Jewish values." Mel continued, "Our 7th grade Mensches and Mavens spent an evening preparing food in January, and I spent the evening with three teens from our Tichon group." With the help of Mel, I was able to ask the participating teens questions about their experiences. Here are their responses.

Ziva McAllister, a 14-year-old who has been attending Neveh Shalom for a decade and now participates in the Tichon and Madricha programming, says that her favorite hobby is biking. "I cook about once a month, mostly because I'm busy



Tichon students Yahmeet Freundlich, Ziva McAllister, and Zachariah Cabelly cook for Hesed with Mel Berwin

and don't have much time. My favorite meal is grilled cheese and tomato soup because it's tasty and easy," says Ziva of her prior cooking experience.

Yahmeet Freundlich, a 14-year-old who enjoys writing and making stir-fry, has been cooking for 14 years. "I cook with my grandma. She's publishing a vegan cookbook," says Yahmeet.

Coding and gaming fan, **Zachariah Cabelly**, is 13 years old. "I hadn't cooked before except for my family and for myself," Zachariah told Mel. "I like to make sim-

ple things. I usually make Kraft mac and cheese and I've taken to adding some actual cheese to it to taste more cheesy."

Despite their varying degrees of experience cooking for others, they all had overwhelmingly positive things to say about giving back with food. From the enjoyment of participating in an act of service to having fun chopping and roasting vegetables as a team, the teens made sure to play to their strengths while working in this shared atmosphere.

When asked about the most important part of helping others, Ziva, Yahmeet, and Zachariah generously shared their thoughts. "It feels good to make sure other people are happy," answered Ziva. "I know that our community has a lot that other communities don't have. It's nice to be nice," said Yahmeet, with Zachariah adding, "Making sure they get what they need— little things like cooking for people who have fallen on hard times can lead to bigger things. My family has also fallen on hard times. Having people there for you when you really need it can really help a lot."



Teachers Gitit Dekel and Sami Oberlander with ALIYAH 4th graders in the CNS kitchen, cooking for Hesed during Chanukah this year

My Experience at AMHSI

By Sara Ellis

For the first semester of my sophomore year in high school, I studied abroad at Alexander Muss High School in Israel for four months; this was by far the best experience I've ever had. Throughout my semester abroad I learned, traveled all over Israel, made so many new friends, and got to take on many amazing new opportunities. I got to experience things I never thought I would experience in my lifetime. My absolute favorite part about studying abroad in Israel were all the *tiyulim* (field trips) we went on. Roughly two to three times a week we would go on a tiyul, where we learned about Jewish history on a site where that event had taken place. Learning about my Jewish roots and ancestry was very interesting and meaningful to me. For example, when we hiked Masada early in the morning, we learned about all the different groups who took over Masada such as the Hasmoneans, Zealots, Romans, and King Herod. It was super cool to use the land as our classroom throughout the semester.

One of my highlights while studying in Israel was going to Tzfat, located in northern Israel. Tzfat is a very peaceful



Hiking in the Negev

and mystical place. While we were in Tzfat, we walked around the beautiful streets and went to different lookout points from which to view Mt. Meron. We even got to watch the sunset over the mountain while my teacher played his guitar and we sang songs as a class. It was an incredible moment being together as a Jewish community. Some other places I enjoyed visiting in Israel were Jerusalem, Eilat, Mount Gilboa, the Sachne springs, and Shuk Machane Yehuda (the Jerusalem market).

Another great part about studying in Is-

rael was getting to try all sorts of Mediterranean food. Sometimes after a tiyul, we would have DOTS (dinner on the streets). We would be given fifty shekels to buy dinner near the location of our tiyul. One time, we had DOTS on Ben Yehuda Street in Jerusalem. There were many different places to buy dinner, but I went to a falafel place called Moshiko. I was super excited to try falafel in Israel, and it was some of the best falafel I've ever had!

Getting to immerse myself in Jewish culture on a day-to-day basis allowed me to connect closer with my Jewish identity. My understanding of Judaism expanded tremendously while I was in Israel because I learned about Jewish history every day. I gained so many life skills while I was abroad such as being independent, dealing with conflict, and compromising. I had to rely on myself to make decisions, navigate myself in the world, and do a lot of tasks without help from my parents. I will forever cherish everything I learned, the memories, and friendships I made during my time at AMHSI. I'm very grateful I got the opportunity to study abroad in Israel, which was an unforgettable experience!



Sara (top row and third from left) and her class in Tzfat

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.

Israel360: Impressions of Israel with Photographer Paul Margolis Wednesday, May 4, 7:00pm

Join us in person as renowned documentary and fine art photographer, Paul Margolis, discusses his stunning black-and-white exhibit of Jews, Christians, and Muslims in Israel — Israel Impressions. nevehshalom.org/israel360.

Sisterhood Interfaith/BIPOC Meetings Wednesday, May 11 & June 1, 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, May 7 & 28, 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.



Shroud Crowd

Sunday, May 29, June 12, 2:00-4:00pm

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

Sisterhood Meetings

Thursdays, May 26, June 23, 7:00pm

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

Sisterhood Book Club

4th Monday of the month, 7:00pm

May 23: *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana*, by Gayle Tzemach Lammon

Jun 27: *Where the Story Starts*, by Imogen Clark

RSVP: dianeandjosh@hotmail.com.

Shavuot Happenings

June 4-6

Please keep your eye out for more info.

Women of the Wall (WOW) Event

Sunday, June 12, 10:00am

WOW Executive Director, Yochi Rapoport, will give a presentation about their three decades of activism and their initiative for the WOW Choir. RSVP: Contact: Michelle limori-Goldenberg at smallfryeterp@icloud.com.

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.

Kiddush Club

1st and 3rd Saturdays, 10:00am

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 **Jonathan Singer** on his recent engagement to Rebecca Siegel. Jonathan is the son of **Sharon Stern** and Peter Singer, and sister to **Anna Kodesch**.

Mazel tov to **Mark Zeitzer** who has been hired as ZoomCare's Chief Medical Officer (a role he has held as an interim position since September).

Mazel tov to **Tony and Priscilla Kostiner** on the marriage of their grandson Alex Mansfield to Shani Plunkett on 2.22.22 (at 2:22pm). Alex is a Jewish Educator in the Portland Community and Shani works in the field of healthcare.

Simone Myers & Kevin Oberle, daughter and son-in-law of **Conrad and Abby Myers** are overjoyed to share the news of the birth on February 14th of a beautiful, healthy baby girl Lenna Miriam Oberle. Max (2 1/2 years) is excited to become a big brother and welcomes his new sister.

Thank you to the **Women's Torah Study participants** who joined Mel Berwin in the kitchen to refill our freezer with soup, pasta, and cookies for congregants who could use a homemade meal! Please let us know if you'd like a call or a meal delivered by our Hesed Committee: Irichmond@nevehshalom.org.

Congratulations to Andrew Greenberg, advisor for Portland State Aerospace Society (PSAS), on the successful launch of Oregon's first satellite! This "CubeSat" was launched into space from Kodiak Island Alaska, onboard an Astra 1 mission. This student club, with Andrew's long-term volunteer commitment, has propelled dozens of PSU grads into careers in the space industry.

Mazel tov to **Amanda Mercier**, who was appointed by Governor Kate Brown's Executive Office to the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) in March. Amanda was also accepted into the University of Oregon School Psychology Program and will be working toward her license at the Masters specialist level. Amanda is driven by her own parent experience in disabilities advocacy as well as her professional commitments to supporting tribal communities with disability and mental health services.



Thank you to generosity of the **Foundation School families** that helped with the clothing drive for Ukrainian refugee children. The bags of items filled the main office and wrapped down the hallway.

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 CNS friend and congregant, **Marianne Buchwalter, z"l**, who passed away at the age of 97. **Marianne** is loved and remembered by her children, **Juliet (Doug Strohl) Buchwalter, Andrew (Kate Rowe) Buchwalter, and Charles (Lisa) Buchwalter**; as well as eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Our condolences to CNS Members **Anne Johnston and Sam Silverberg (Benny, Ella, Ava, and Miles)**, on the passing of Anne's mother Mary Kathleen Johnston, z"l, on February 16th. Mary is also loved and remembered by her husband of fifty years, Phil Johnston; and her other daughters and their families: Maura and Phil Bellaria (Mary Catherine, Jaqueline, and John), and Shannon Johnston (Riley).

We are sad to let you know of the passing of our longtime friend, **Eghbal Rostamian (z"l)**, on Monday, February 21st at the age of 94. Mr. Rostamian is loved and remembered by his wife, **Behjat**; children, **CNS member Mojgan (Doug Edwards) Rostamian, Eli Rostamian, Shahan Rostamian, and Fariba (Mark) Mutschler** along with his four grandchildren.

Our condolences to **Mylen (Roz) Shenker** on the passing of his brother, Michael Roy Shenker (Mendel ben Chana Sara v'Eliezer haCohen) (z"l), on Monday evening, February 28th. Michael is also loved and remembered by his sister, Rosalind (Bill) Cooper, and children, Michael, Anthony, Troy, and Samantha.

We are sad to let you know of the passing of **Paul Gelber, z"l**, at the age of 83 in Arizona on March 15th. **Paul** is loved and remembered by his dear wife, Sheila, his daughters **Julie (Jeffrey) Zola** and Robbin (Steven) Boadway, his sister Sue Butner, and four grandchildren: Erin and Amy Boadway, and **Matthew and Samuel Zola**.

Our condolences to **Beth (Liza) Milliner** on the passing of her mother, Dreama Herndon, z"l, on Wednesday, March 9 in Virginia. The service was held Monday, March 14, in Roanoke, Virginia.

We are sad to let you know of the passing of **Linda Faye (Potter) Hochman (z"l)**, on March 8th in her hometown of Prescott, Arizona. **Linda** was born in Portland on July 3, 1940. Shortly after Rabbi Stampfer (z"l) arrived, she had the honor of celebrating the first bat mitzvah ever celebrated in Oregon. She was predeceased by her sister **Carol Ginsberg, z"l** and her husband, Stanley Hochman, z"l. She is survived by her brother, CNS Past President, **Irving (Arlene) Potter**, her three children, David (Sarah) Hochman, Joe (Angela) Hochman, and Leah Hochman, her seven grandchildren, and her partner of the past several years, Bill Cadwallender.

Our condolences to **Sabra Weintraub** on the passing of her father, Myron Koppel Weintraub, z"l, on Sunday, March 27th in Modi'in, Israel at the age of 75. Myron is also loved and remembered by his wife, Marilyn Stone Weintraub.

We are sad to let you know of the passing of our longtime friend, **Jack Wolinsky, z"l** at the age of 97. Jack is remembered by his children **Joan (Gary) Kahn, Alan Wolinsky, and Carol (Lamar) Veatch**; his grandchildren David Veatch, Melanie (Daniel) Frank, Emily (Benjamin Ficker) Kahn, and Benjamin Kahn, and his great-grandchildren Shira, Samuel, Shoshana, Shayna, Shimra Frank, and Max and Sasha Ficker, as well as eleven nieces and nephews.

We are sad to let you know of the passing on March 31st of **Terry Howard, z"l**. **Terry** is loved and remembered by her children Jeffrey (Michele) Howard, Robyn Howard, and Kevin (Deborah Walker) Howard; granddaughters Ella Howard and Rita Michaels; and great-grandchildren Kenzie Howard and Oliver Michaels.

The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

ALIYAH DONATION

in memory of

Jeffrey Babener from Rosalind Babener
Morris Miller from Carol Danish

BANASKY CHAPEL BEAUTIFICATION FUND

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Linda Hochman from Jeanette Philan
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Eghbal Rostamian from Stephen & Diana Sirkin
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Ros Kane from Daniel & Leslie Petcher

Ros & Phil Kane from Nancy & Allan

Lipton

Ruth Meyer from Lora Meyer

Lillian Rein from Lawrence & Susan Rein

Gayle Rosenthal from Jack & Barbara

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Eghbal Rostamian from Anthony &

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Eghbal Rostamian from Sue & Larry Rein

Michael Shenker from Anthony &

Priscilla Kostiner

Michael Shenker from Nancy & Allan

Lipton

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Michael Shenker from Sue & Larry Rein

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Brian Suher from Elana Emlen
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Brian Suher & Barbara Atlas from Harold & Jacqueline Lesch

Glen Coblens *Continued from Page 5*

No one gets to choose what happens during their term. As the saying goes, G-d only gives you what you can handle. I will admit to a certain sadness in how limited our in-person contact has been during my term, for I have not been able to connect with our Kehillah as fully as every other president in our 153-year history. But I hope you know how much I appreciate every single one of you for all you do to make this such a special place. We are welcoming, inclusive, con-

nected, loving, caring, and together. The strength of this family is in all of us.

Team CNS is my team, my family. I am the lucky one who has benefited from all of you. THANK YOU!

What have you learned these past two years? In what ways have you embraced *positivity* and *togetherness*? Let's continue the conversation at cnsresident@gmail.com.



Chesed and Hesed at CNS *Continued from Page 9*

never volunteered with Hesed before, to meet the many needs of their fellow congregant. "It was above and beyond."

As Lisa has connected more with Sheri and Barb in their mutual work around Hesed, Lisa asked the two women what drives them to do this work.

"It seems part of my reason for being," says Sheri. "I was brought up as a caregiver and became a medical social work-

er. When I switched to being a Jewish professional, I tried to bring those skills and that awareness into the work I was doing. We have a responsibility to take care of one another."

"I feel really strongly that this is what God expects me to do," shares Barb. "There have been times when doing this work has allowed me to feel God's presence in a very concrete way. It's also a reminder to each of us who do this work

that we're all vulnerable. We're all going to need help at some point in our lives. Doing this work is a means of teaching myself to accept help when I need it, which is never an easy thing."

To find out more about the work of Hesed, please visit: nevehshalom.org/hesed-committee. To volunteer with the Hesed Committee or to request meals or other support, please be in touch with Lisa Richmond: lrichmond@nevehshalom.org.

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Congregant Makeover a Success!



being cooped up for the last two years; the fantastic committee, Tracy Pendergast, and Paula O'Neil of Est Ovest Style helped bring it to light.

During the evening, we listened to beautiful music from **Eyal Bitton & Michèle Tredger**. We celebrated the dedication of our kitchen at CNS, which is now **Marla's (Weiner) Kitchen**, and watched the videos **Efrem Plawner** created of the journeys of our congregant makeovers for **Cantor Linda Shivers** (left) and **Mike Khavul** (right) before the big reveals.



Our Congregant Makeover CNS Fundraiser 2022 was on Sunday, April 10th. For those who attended in person, it was great to be in a familiar room with our *kehilla*/community, enjoying the festivities and an incredible meal from Century Catering Services. For those who watched the event online, we were able to set it up so fun could be had by all.

Tricia Schoenbaum and **Michelle Caplan** had a vision of stepping out after

In addition, **Naomi Fink** (bottom right) shared from her heart all the reasons to support our community. **Rabbi Eve Posen** and **Duncan Gilman** helped lead us through the evening as our emcees. With the help of so many, we raised over \$100,000 for our education programs.

We are so grateful for Melissa Abu of Event in Bloom! We couldn't have done it without her! Thank you to the fabulous event committee! And of course, a very special thank you to the amazing staff. It was a night to remember!

