

THE
CHRONICLE

A PUBLICATION OF CONGREGATION NEVEH SHALOM



Legacy &
Change

Legacy & Freedom

By Rabbi David Kosak

Rabbi's Corner



I was strangely intrigued when, in 2020, Prince Harry and Megan Markle (The Duke and Duchess of Sussex) decided to leave behind their official duties and exit from their role as Senior Royals. While deeply uninterested in the pomp of the British crown, this story nonetheless grabbed me because ultimately it was an all-too-familiar story about legacy and freedom.

Growing up, the stories of my ancestors were repeatedly told, so I was made to understand the significance of our six-hundred-year-old family tree. My grandfather was a leading rabbi of his generation; my middle name was bequeathed to me from a notable rabbi who lived several centuries back. It's rabbis all the way back. This sort of inheritance is both a burden and a blessing. It is a blessing because I never had to worry about who I was, or where I came from. Those roots were lovingly preserved for me, a spiritual bloodline that holds tremendous personal meaning for me. I am the recipient of an unbroken transmission of love and faith.

My inheritance is also a burden, because, well, most of the time, an enor-

mous responsibility accompanies this sort of inheritance. That which was preserved for me must in turn be preserved for those who follow. Additionally, in this bloodline of rabbis, who would take on this generation's mantle?

For years I avoided this burden, content with a normal career. It didn't hurt that my cousin, Sue Shankman, had already chosen the rabbinate, ensuring that our family chain would remain unbroken. I didn't need to be the one. Like Harry and Megan, I could turn away from duty and toward unfettered freedom. God had other plans: it's now a quarter

century since I was called into service, leaving behind the tea business and life in the kitchen.

Not everyone knows their family history in this manner. Oftentimes, the links of history and memory were severed after just two or three generations—sometimes by outside forces, other times by immigrant Jews who wanted to pursue new opportunities in America, unencumbered by the past. Yet the dynamics of legacy and freedom are universal even when our genealogy has been lost. The Hebrew language is our guide in understanding this, for there are two words for legacy, *yerushah* and *nachalah*.

Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch (1808-1888) lived in the intersection between the old and the new. After the battles between the Reform Movement and its reactionary Haredi counterpart, he gave birth to a revitalized modern Orthodoxy. Perhaps because of that experience, he identified these two types of legacy as describing two different sorts of relationship that a younger generation could have with the older generation.

Yerushah, he argued, defines what occurs when the younger generation views itself as central and primary; therefore, it feels free to abandon much of its connection to the past, even as it takes all that the older generations built up for it. This is an approach that offers maximum freedom to innovate or live differently that is only possible through an act of historical amnesia and spiritual blindness. Rather than excavating its inheritance for value, it imagines that the mine is already spent and that no gold remains.

Nachalah, meanwhile, shares the same root as “river,” and in this model, the younger generation views itself as flowing continuously out of the older generations. This more duty-bound motif ensures that one is tethered to the support of a spiritual bloodline. It doesn't doubt the integrity of what it has received and preserves our ancient faith. Sometimes it does so by losing its own vitality. It forgets to pay attention to what present needs are while clutching to old and exhausted forms.

This twin model of *yerushah* and *nachalah* is pretty powerful. It can be used to describe tensions in America's war of identity politics as well as the struggle synagogues have in navigating a path between tradition and change. Unsurprisingly, as was the case with me, there is an internal psychological element to this that is also true for most of us. Like a child on a seesaw, we all need to negotiate the meeting spot between legacy and freedom, between gratitude and impatience. When we get it right, we get to live a dynamic and productive life in a healthy society. When we don't, well, we face stagnation on the one hand, and wholesale destruction of our institutions and heritage on the other.

What does your legacy demand of you? Where does your freedom point you?

Tradition & Change

By Rabbi Eve Posen

I'm a fourth-generation Detroit. More than that, I'm a fourth-generation family member to be a part of the synagogue I where grew up, Adat Shalom, in Farmington Hills, Michigan. Regardless of how long I've been away from Michigan, Adat Shalom will always be the synagogue I refer to as "my shul." This is no slight against Neveh Shalom: it's simply an honorific for the place and the people who raised me into the rabbi I am today. It connects me to my parents, my grandparents, and all who helped lift me to where I am in my life today. Likewise, I'm sure there are countless people who have long since moved away from Portland, but who will always consider Neveh "their shul."

This designation, however heartfelt, comes with a catch. Adat Shalom, the one in my memory, no longer exists exactly as it was. While many things have remained the same, it's now a different place than it was when I was growing up. Why? For one thing, the executive director who had been in that position throughout the time I was growing up there, just recently retired. Many of my teachers and mentors have passed on or retired as well. Nevertheless, I can still say with confidence it is my shul because of the memories that will endure, even as change is inevitable.

Our shul, CNS, is at a moment of immense change. Our dedicated and intrepid Executive Director, **Fred Rothstein**, is on the verge of retirement, and many of our longtime staff have retired over the past couple of years as well. Plus, I needn't mention that Covid has altered the way in which we look at community. It just feels different. Just as walking into the building of the shul of my youth feels like both coming home

and totally bizarre, we can hold many emotions about this moment of change for Neveh Shalom.

A few years ago, the tagline of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism was changed to "Seeking Meaning Together." For the longest time up until then, the tagline was "Tradition and Change." The phrase was built on the notion that our Jewish practice is grounded in tradition, but in a tradition that allows for social changes and expects that many of those changes can and will be reflected in our religion. In other words, our Judaism changes with us.

This is because our leaders recognized that while change is inevitable, the tradition will still be there. Our practice is one that asks – demands, really – that we challenge and adapt meanings in action and in belief.

Just as walking into the building of the shul of my youth feels like both coming home and totally bizarre, we can hold many emotions about this moment of change for Neveh Shalom.

When we seek new meanings together, we transform our holy work into something much bigger than ourselves, with much more potential to effect positive change in the world beyond our own community.



Speaking of tradition, my family has a long-held tradition we were able to preserve again this year, which is the Passover reading of a poem by the French writer, Edmond Fleg, titled "I Am a Jew." This poem lists all the ways in which we might identify with Judaism. It doesn't, however, list why I maintain my faith. If I could insert my own stanza, it would read: "I am a Jew because, born of Israel, I understand that tradition exists to guide me from past to present, and I hold the power to change the future. I am a Jew because our religion asks of me that I acknowledge the process of creation and use that as a springboard to view the current world. I am a Jew because my faith grows and changes with me and my community, and that is how we embrace one another in holiness." Change is a constant; examining it, questioning it, adapting it to our lives – those are traditions.

A Very Special Key: For children beginning their B'nai Mitzvah studies

By Cantor Eyal Bitton

Cantor's Corner

Look at your room, Sarah. It's way too cluttered. Go through your stuff, and anything you no longer need, throw out." Sarah knew that her mother was right, but she also knew it was so hard to let go of things. She tried her best, though she wasn't very successful. After some time had passed, Sarah's father checked in on her, noticed that she hadn't thrown anything out, and then offered to help.

They found a few toys, drawings, and trinkets here and there that Sarah no longer needed, and, with some hesitation, she agreed to throw them out. Then, when she was looking deep in her closet, she found a rusty key that looked a little old and didn't actually open anything in the house. Sarah couldn't even remember how it ended up in her closet. So she put it in the garbage pile. Sarah's father jumped and said, "Sarah! Do you know who gave you this key?" She looked at him blankly and shrugged her shoulders. "I did! The day you were born."

"Really?" Sarah said. Upon some reflec-

tion, she added, "But you give me presents all the time. Do you want me to keep every gift you've ever given me?"

Her dad said, "Sarah, that key in your hand, I gave you that when you were born. Do you know who gave it to me? Grandpa." Sarah's eyes opened wide. "And you know what?" Her father continued, "That key that Grandpa gave me, do you know where he got it from? From his dad."

"Wow. That's old," Sarah remarked.

"But wait. Do you know where he got it from? He got it from his father. And he got it from his father. And he got it from his father. And he got it from his father."

"Seriously? That's got to be, like, hundreds of years!" Sarah said, with a touch of both disbelief and excitement.

"Hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of years," he said.

Sarah was fascinated. "And we've kept it



in the family all these years?" she asked.

Her father replied, "Yes. All these years. And now that it's yours, are you sure that you want to throw it out?"

Sarah answered, "How could I? I'm going to keep it - forever."

Her father smiled and said, "This key is a very special and precious key. Never lose it. And use it to open as many doors as you can - doors behind you and doors in front of you."

The Chronicle No. 6 ~ July/August 2022

Supported by the Sala Kryszek
Memorial Publication Fund

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From Our New President

President's Corner

By Liza Milliner, CNS President

“What people have the capacity to choose, they have the ability to change”
—Madeline Albright

As your new president, I believe we all have the ability to influence and make change. One of the reasons I agreed to become president is because of our wonderful community, which is the best way I can think to give back. Over the past 32 years, the Neveh Shalom community has been central throughout all life events, both joyous and difficult. I know many of you feel the same way. It is that comfort of community and support that I want to ensure remains at the forefront during my time as president.

Many people have asked me, “Are you looking forward to being President?” My answer encompasses pride, strength, perseverance, grit, and drive. It is a great honor to be trusted with being the congregation’s president. A primary deciding factor was my desire to show more women in leadership, in hopes of encouraging more of the same in the years ahead. As part of my vision, I will strive to challenge norms, push to expand volunteer leadership with extended engagement from new participants, continue to grow the community as we physically re-engage, and grow our endowment fund for the financial security of our future generations.

Over the past two years, we never expected to be faced with the changes thrust upon us; however, we were able to quickly adapt while maintaining a community connection. We added Zoom meetings, drive-thru events, online concerts, and bidding services instead of a live auction. This perseverance in adapting to the pandemic while



physically apart provides me a sense of comfort in knowing we will be able to pivot back as we bring our community back together in person. As we all continue to re-engage in public spaces and come back to services and events at CNS, understanding everyone is at their own pace in that journey, I want to ensure we deliver a space that is safe, inviting, and comforting for all.

The next two years will present us with unique changes as we bid farewell and happy retirement to **Fred Rothstein** as our Executive Director and bring our community back together from the pandemic. Change got us to where we are

today, and change will continue to define a path for us ahead.

Thank you to all the past presidents for leading us to this point. I am especially thankful to **Elaine Cogan** and **Sandy Axel** for originally blazing the trail for female presidency in our congregation (pg 12).

I welcome your engagement as we continue this journey together and make the next two years a success like no others in our recent memories. I look forward to meeting and learning from each of you. Please reach out to me either via email president@nevehshalom.org, or via text/phone (503-319-1848).



Yael Horowitz | July 9

Yael Horowitz is the daughter of proud parents Sonya and Zachary Horowitz, the sister of Avital, and granddaughter of Fanny and Barry Horowitz, Joanne and Arnold Logan, and Jeffrey Mitchell. She is a seventh grader at Jackson Middle School in Portland, where she enjoys studying math, science, and acting. Yael loves dancing at Classical Ballet Academy, baking, crafting, spending time with her friends and sister, and her dog, Posey.



Dori Sirkin | July 16

Dorian Emma Sirkin is the daughter of Emily and Adam Sirkin, granddaughter to Diana and Stephen Sirkin, Debby and Lew Bailen, and great-granddaughter to Enid Watsky. Dori is a 7th grader at Rowe Middle School. She is an avid and talented artist who also loves swimming, camping, reading, crafting Dungeons & Dragons campaigns with her friends, playing marimba/xylophone, and animals of all kinds, including her dog, Rowan.



Liam Hale | July 30

Liam Adin Hale is the son of Nava Sherwood and Cameran Hale, brother to Ephraim, Eitan, and Alia, grandson of Harry and Marta, Vikki and Leonard, and great-grandson of Teresa. He is a 7th grader with an amazing sense of humor and a gift for art, music, and strategy. He loves his friends and enjoys parties, video games, reading, science and math, parkour, and wants to study medicine. He is looking forward to starting at Ren School this fall and continuing his growth into Jewish adulthood at Neveh Shalom.



Claire Morris | August 13

Claire Morris is the daughter of Elissa Morris and Justin Morris, sister of Abigail Morris, and granddaughter of Diane Jubelier-Light and Les Light (Los Angeles, CA), Bill Morris and Cheryl Morris (Pasco, WA), and Carole Birney (Astoria, OR). She is a rising eighth grader at Jackson Middle School. Claire enjoys art, especially drawing and painting, observing nature, rescuing bugs, and teaching the family's Norwegian Buhund dog, Freya, new tricks. She also enjoys watching crime and medical dramas such as *Criminal Minds* and *Grey's Anatomy*.



Sol Kodesch | August 20

Sol Kodesch is the son of Anna and Eric Kodesch, brother to Dorian and Molly, grandson to Peter Singer, Sharon Stern and Steve Rallison, Bonnie and Ray Kodesch (Atlanta), and great-grandson to Helen Stern. He is a rising 8th grader at Robert Gray Middle School. His passion is gymnastics, in which he's competed competitively since he was six. He has won awards both regionally and at Western States Championships in the last year.

The Legacy of Growing up at CNS

Mel's Corner

By Mel Berwin, Director of Congregational Learning

Friends, we did it. We completed this wonderful, challenging, unpredictable year!

One of the highlights of each year is our Tichon graduation, when each of our graduates speaks about what it has meant to them to grow up at Congregation Neveh Shalom. These three graduates have grown up and participated in our congregation since they were babies. Their remarks collectively speak to the ways they identify with our congregation, and what made them feel most at home in our community. I've also included a few of my remarks from the graduation, reflecting on the legacy of celebrating milestone moments and all the regular days as well.

Josh Berkman

"In my life I have spent many hours in the offices of speech-language pathologists; it often felt isolating, as I would get a call to leave class and go to the office almost like I was getting in trouble. That was until I met Noam Firestone at Aliyah, my first--and so far the only--teacher who had a stutter. As I heard him speak, I felt like I finally belonged; I felt like I was seen and heard by a teacher, something historically I had not felt. In public school, many of my teachers brushed my stutter aside and marked me down for 'disfluency,' some of them even getting frustrated and calling my parents to 'rectify the situation.' But this was different. I felt normal for a change. I felt as if I were part of a community. I felt like I was being heard, and not only that, but that I was being understood.... This is what Neveh has always been and will continue to be for me, a place to be heard and understood."



Rabbi Kosak, Josh Berkman, Sophia Gilbert, Nava Weingrad, and Mel Berwin

Sophia Gilbert

"I volunteered with younger kids on the High Holidays and was excited for the chance to apply for a position as a *Madricha* (teacher's assistant) at Neveh, where I chose to work in the art room. I was excited when I was accepted for the position each of the four years that I worked there, both in-person and on Zoom. Some of my favorite memories are from the art room. Some of them were fun, like games with the kids who finished early, but a lot of them weird, which included a mannequin named Barbra and a haunted clock that actually went backwards; however, my most favorite were the times I connected with the students. What I recognize is that with each opportunity I was learning and became a part of something special, part of others' stories."

Nava Weingrad

"I knew how we lived our Judaism at home--how we did Passover seders, Sukkot, Shabbat, and Kashrut--but not really *why* we did those things. ALIYAH

filled out my understanding. I saw different ways of being Jewish, like how Israeli dreidels say *Nes Gadol Haya Po* instead of *Sham*, and how the kids in my class celebrate Shabbat in different ways. I also learned about how my Jewish wedding might look, and why we do Jewish funerals and shiva minyans... In middle school, I was closer with my Hebrew school friends than with my school friends. When people from my school showed up at B'nai Mitzvah parties, they would see me and say that I seemed different--more myself--in this environment. That is what Neveh will always be for me: the place where I feel truly comfortable and truly myself. It's a safe community where I can be Jewish without any judgment.... Thank you for being my community."

Mel Berwin

"In our work, leading this *kehilah kedosha*, this sacred community, we facilitate many milestone moments throughout the year for our families and commu-

Continued on page 15

One Hundred Years' Legacy

By Michelle Iimori-Goldenberg; w/ support by Jennifer Kalenscher



Women of the Neveh Shalom Sisterhood, 1966.

I am honored to be writing this article. Without the determination of our foremothers, many of the women leaders we see around us would still be standing or sitting in the background, in the shadows. There was a time when female authors took on a male pen name in order to be published.

In 1922, a group of women came together to establish an organization to support Jewish women and to learn and laugh together because in 1922 there were no female clergy, nor were women allowed on the *bima*. We may not know the names of those women and we may not know their original goals or mission, but the core has carried on. We currently state that “The Congregation Neveh Shalom Sisterhood mission is to bring women of diverse ages, backgrounds, and interests together to serve our Congregation and community, as well as to enrich our lives through personal growth and friendship” (Bylaws of Neveh Shalom Sisterhood 1922, Amended June 2017).

This mission has become a legacy; we recently updated our bylaws to make sure that we stay relevant to today’s issues. What has changed is our interpretation of diverse backgrounds to include women who are going through a conversion, women who may be a part of Neveh Shalom as a couple from an interfaith

marriage, and all who identify as women. Our events are welcoming to all gender identities and diverse backgrounds.

I spoke with Alisha Babbstein of the Oregon Jewish Museum, who admitted that women’s voices from the past often remained hidden. Women used to be identified and addressed by

their husband’s first and last name with Missus preceding it. Thus, when we look at lists of attendees from events of 75-100 years ago, we don’t know the birth name of the females; as an example, I would have been identified as Mrs. Randall Goldenberg.

When the Neveh Shalom Sisterhood was first founded, it was rare to find a woman who worked outside of the home and the *rebbetzins* were actively involved in the running of the synagogue, with the Sisterhood, and the International Women’s League of Conservative Judaism. Involvement in the Sisterhood enabled women to leave the house. Planning took place in the homes of the members, which were often preceded or followed by a kosher potluck. Members of the Sisterhood were actively involved in preparing food for the synagogue’s *kid-dushim*, shiva-minyan, and festive occasions. They also actively visited the sick, even bringing food for the family. The members of the Sisterhood were a close, cohesive group.

Today, most of our members have worked or are currently working outside of the

home. We have taken the women out of the Neveh Shalom kitchen (now called Marla’s Kitchen), and most events are catered. Women have taken on leadership roles in many aspects of life, both inside and outside of the synagogue. A century ago, no one could have imagined that we would have women senators and congressional representatives, CEOs, or doctors. Women would never have aspired to become a rabbi or cantor but, one hundred years later, all of these positions and more are possible. The Sisterhood provides funds for Yom Kippur break fasts, educational scholarships for Aliyah, contributes funds to five rabbinical colleges (through our fund raising efforts, called Torah Fund), collects clothing for the homeless, and so much more.

One thing rings as true today as it did years ago. The Sisterhood is a place where individuals can grow, develop leadership skills, and truly make a difference. When I asked **Judy Weingard** and **Marla Weiner** what legacy they would like to see left to future generations, they responded,

“I would like future generations to say that we were there for each other. Even when we could not be together in person” Judy Weingard stated. Marla Weiner replied that “Sisterhood is women working together and giving back: women empowering women.”



Sisterhood table, Back to Shul 2021: Linda Shivers, Dana Sirkin, Michelle Iimori-Goldenberg, Diane Kahn and Jennifer Kalenscher

Todah Rabah Fred Rothstein!

By Riley and Marci Atkins

Executive Director Fred Rothstein will be retiring on October 31, 2022 after almost 22 years at Congregation Neveh Shalom. We will miss you Fred and wish you well!

I'd planned to take the LSAT and prepare for law school after college at UCLA, but realized my true passions lay elsewhere, in Jewish communal work." Because CNS has had the benefit of this good man's professionalism, organizational skills, kindness, and humor the past 21 years, we are grateful our retiring Executive Director **Fred Rothstein** listened to his heart in the late 1970s.

Fred's heart caused him to enroll in a joint double master's degree Program at the Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles and Washington University in St. Louis, obtaining an MA in Jewish Communal Services at the former and an MA

in Social Work at the latter, completing both in 1980. Although as late as his early 20s, Fred was contemplating immersing himself in three years of the Socratic method, otherwise known as law school, Fred's formative years were shaped by his presence in an active Jewish household in LA where his dad was president of their congregation; Fred served as the part-time youth director at a local synagogue. Fred had earlier taken a gap year in Israel before enrolling at UCLA. As most know, Fred is a man of his word. Fred's father allowed the 18-year-old to undertake the adventure only if he promised to 1) not get married 2) not join the army and 3) return at the end of the year. Fred obliged.



Nora and Fred at Rabbi Isaak's retirement party, 2015

As we have all learned, the months go slowly, but the years pass quickly. Fred was recruited to work at the MJCC in Portland in 1983, after working at a JCC branch in LA. In 1987, the MJCC asked Fred to take the chief executive reins of the Center, where he served successfully until 1995. Fred was then ready for new challenges, and because both Fred and his wife, **Nora**, considered themselves Zionists, the mutual decision was made to make *aliyah* three weeks after their oldest

WELCOME!
FRED ROTHSTEIN



**OUR NEW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
See page 2 for details

Announcement from the February 28, 2001 Chronicle issue.

daughter, **Rachel's**, bat mitzvah at CNS in September 1995.

The Rothstein family of five left for Israel without Fred knowing precisely what his

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Rabbi Isaak, Nora, Steve Blake, and Fred, 2012

Nora insisted they return to Portland, even though Fred was concerned he didn't have any PDX position awaiting his return. "You didn't have anything lined up when you went to Israel either; use your resources!" Fred wisely listened to his wife (as we all should), brought his family back to Portland, and worked in the financial services

next job would be, but he was excited to begin the adventure. The timing was less than auspicious. Within a few weeks of the family's arrival, Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated, and the mood in the country darkened. Two years later, Rachel was injured by shrapnel in a triple-suicide bombing on Ben Yehuda Street in Jerusalem. Fred was near the main Jerusalem market in another terrorist attack a few weeks earlier but thankfully was uninjured. The family ultimately decided to return to the US in the summer of 1999 based on educational opportunities for the kids as well as career options for Fred. There were job opportunities in several places, but thankfully

/ insurance industry for a couple of years.

Early in the new millennium, CNS was engaged in long-term planning that ultimately resulted in three major recommendations for our future. First, the synagogue would benefit from the creation of a single management model. Fred was approached about the new position; following a national search and interview process, he was offered and accepted the Executive Director position in March 2001. Once Fred was hired as the new Executive Director, the second recommendation by the Committee that an assistant Rabbi be hired was accomplished five months later. The Committee's third recommendation to undertake a modernization and expansion of our CNS campus was an enormous undertaking. The project, including a new administrative wing and a beautiful new Chapel, ultimately named for Rabbi Stampfer (z"l), was initially budgeted at \$8-\$9 million, but wound up costing between \$10-\$11 million. Fundraising, always a challenge, was made even more difficult due to the 2008 Great Recession. A Capitol Campaign to cover the additional costs of construction was completed and celebrated at CNS's 150th



Purim, 2007

Anniversary in 2019. Fred is justifiably proud of the fact that CNS is now mortgage free; also, all expenses relating to the expansion have been paid.

How has CNS changed during Fred's two-decade tenure as Executive Director? Fred would point to the growth of our staff to meet the growing needs of our congregants. Many synagogues our size have seen splinter congregations emerge because the congregation was not meeting the multiple needs of its members, but not CNS. Fred points with satisfaction to this fact. He also proudly points to our Jewish educational program – Foundation School and ALIYAH – as being one of the best programs available in Oregon,



Sandy Axel and Fred breaking ground for the CNS campus expansion, 2007



Fred and Rich Meyers at the 2011 CNS Auction

one appreciated by the entire Portland Jewish community. CNS is well respected within the national Jewish Conservative Movement, in no small part to Fred's advocacy through his active membership and ultimate leadership while serving as president of the North American Association of Synagogue Executives.

The past two years have been unpredictable and challenging due to the pandemic. Although many of us have grown weary of the term "pivot," there's no question it became Fred's mantra as he navigated through this extraordinarily difficult period. "There was no way to plan or prepare for such an event," but Fred was able to plan and implement an intelligent response to an event beyond his or anyone's control. Fred credits the amazing CNS staff and resourceful volunteers who "pivoted" from an in-person environment to one that became largely virtual. A creative and passionate staff and lay leadership allowed our CNS of-

fice, programming, and outstanding preschool to continue to function through most of the period. Fred is also grateful for our ability to harness new technology, effectively use the government's Payroll Protection Program funds, and interface with the larger community to control the spread of Covid through testing at CNS.

How will Fred spend his days after his retirement? "I'm not really a hobby guy, but I love to travel." Fred and Nora recently returned from a trip to Italy visiting her mom's family and father's birthplace and completed a cruise to the Greek islands. Rumor has it Fred occasionally enjoys a bit of gambling on-board as well as at friendly poker games with CNS buddies. Of course, he also is a lifetime Dodger fan, bleeding Dodger blue. Fred and Nora will take all the kids and grandkids on a cruise in November and have a trip to Australia and New Zealand planned for March 2023. Aside from travel, Fred hopes to organize his



Fred with his grandson Eitan Lev, June 2022

many thousands of digital photos on his phone. Good luck with that Fred! However, anyone who could successfully steer CNS through a multimillion-dollar modernization and expansion, oversee a balanced budget nearly every year of his tenure, and finally navigate a pandemic, can surely meet any new challenges retirement may throw at him.



The Rothstein/Nelson Family: Danit, Candace and Havi Rothstein, Jeremy Rothstein, Fred and Nora Rothstein, Rachel, Jason, Noa and Asher Nelson

Elaine, Sandy, and Liza: The Legacy of Women Presidents at Neveh Shalom

By Victoria Spitz

As some members of our congregation will remember personally, women began taking on greater and more formally recognized positions of both spiritual and lay leadership at Neveh Shalom in the 1960s and 70s. **Min Zidell, z"l** became the first woman to serve on the Board in 1967, and **Carolyn Weinstein** became the first female executive director in 1976. It was that year that Neveh Shalom officially affirmed the equality of females within the congregation, allowing women to wear tallit and tefillin, read from the Torah, and participate in other religious rituals previously limited to male congregants. The congregation elected **Elaine Cogan** to be its first female president in 1978, followed by **Sandy Axel** in 2006, and now **Liza Milliner** in 2022.

In some ways, it's a revelation to share these proud instances of female leadership from our synagogue's history. "Judaism is a religion of continuity that prioritizes tradition," writes Rachel Bear in "Women's Leadership in Judaism." "At the

same time, Judaism's desperate need for survival, particularly because it is not a missionary religion, has led to a focus on adaptation and change within a religion based on tradition." Conservative Judaism itself came about in the late 19th century as an influx of Eastern European Ashkenazi Jews arrived in the United States with a seemingly irreconcilable 2,000 years of tradition *and* the need for survival and assimilation. "Against all odds, Judaism is a religion that has endured thousands of years and does so by constantly evolving while maintaining its traditions." As it turns out, it is through the preservation of Judaism's core values *and* adaptability that Judaism not only survives but thrives. It is in this light that perhaps many of us find it incredibly disappointing that we can look to *only* three female presidents in Neveh Shalom's more than 150-year history.

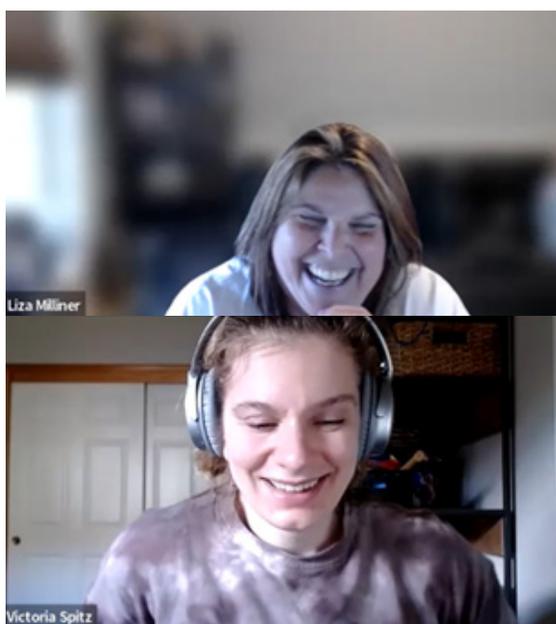
I recently had the pleasure of speaking with all three of our past and present women presidents and was struck by a number of really poignant similarities. When asked what inspired her to become president in 1978, Elaine Cogan said she wasn't inspired, but asked to be. There was a need and leadership at the time felt she was best suited to fill it, so she confidently and competently assumed the responsibility set before her. Not everyone was happy about it; she recalled a not particularly active, but noisy congregant proclaiming, "If Elaine becomes president, I'm going to quit the synagogue." She proceeded to lead anyway; she was otherwise received very well, and the noisy congregant went on his merry way.



Victoria Spitz interviewing Sandy Axel on May 27

Sandy Axel reflected that she was also surprised to be asked to step into the role in 2006. "Me? I don't have a special skillset. I'm not a finance person, I'm not a lawyer, I'm just a community volunteer," she said disparagingly. "Maybe," she remembers being told, "but you're the one who needs to be sitting there because you know how to talk to people, and you know how to build consensus." So, like Elaine before her, Sandy said yes. "My motivation wasn't really a motivation; it was an ask."

Liza Milliner, our president-elect, remembers Fred Rothstein asking her to serve on the Board more than a decade ago, and thinking, "Females are allowed to be on the Board? Part of me was scanning all the wonderful pictures we have of past presidents up on the wall in my mind, but you don't really see many females there. I just never even considered the fact that we could serve on the Board or be president." When she was tapped by the nominating committee to



Victoria Spitz interviewing Liza Milliner on May 31

become our next president, she gladly accepted the charge.

Neither Elaine, Sandy, or Liza wanted to make broad generalizations, but all three maintained that there is a discernible difference between male and female leadership. Widely-respected Georgetown Linguistics Professor Deborah Tannen has written extensively about such differences in leadership and communication skills. She and others help us to understand that women are more likely to possess certain key skills like valuing multiple perspectives, collaboration, and consensus. Women tend to have a more cooperative, participatory leadership style, and are generally more democratic.

How each of our female presidents have dealt with some of the greatest challenges they were handed during their terms illustrate some of these differences remarkably well. "Every president has to ask for money for something, and we all hate it," Elaine related. "But there are different ways of raising money. My method was to tell stories about our congregants, who they were, and how we helped them rather than just harp on the amount of money we needed. It's an attitude." She shared a funny anecdote about one of the recurring literal and figurative money pits of the period: the parking lot built over a stream that regularly caved in. She remembers taking a photo with her and a half dozen others standing in the hole, and later using the image on a poster that said, "Get us out of the hole!" The campaign was met with great success; thankfully, the parking lot was repaired. "It's a big job, but you can't be afraid to get in the trenches. That poster was a symbol of the way I was looking at things. On the one hand, with a sense of humor, and on the other, with humaneness."

Sandy was faced with a similar, albeit larger building-related challenge: we'd outgrown our space. We needed administrative offices and an intermediate-sized chapel all in the middle of a recession. "I stood there and watched them pour the foundation for the Stampfer

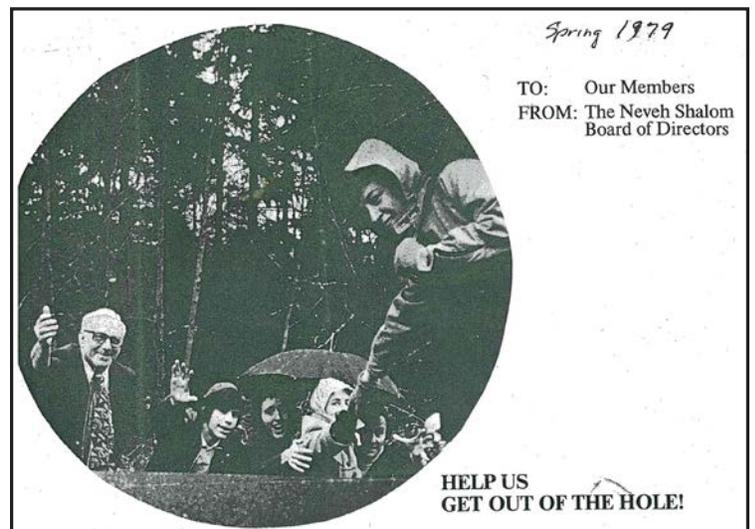
Chapel, and thought, how the heck are we going to pay for this? It was pretty awesome, but it's the kind of thing that keeps you up at night," she said. "I made sure that every single donation, no matter if it was \$50,000 or \$5, was recognized with a handwritten note from me to acknowledge their gifts and to reassure people that we were going to be good stewards of that gift." Sandy remembers spending night after night hunched over thank you cards, arguing with her husband (also a former president) about why she couldn't just send a form letter. "As a mother of four, I knew what it meant to stretch a dollar. I knew the kind of sacrifice our congregants were making by contributing to this project. And that's part of the difference, you know?"

Liza, too, has her own challenges ahead. When asked what she hopes to accomplish as president she said, "One is definitely finding a way to encourage more volunteerism. Getting more people involved and seeing more women in leadership roles is an important area for me. In some ways it's not even so much women as much as more diversity in leadership roles. We're a growing egalitarian congregation, we're diverse, so I want to see more of that reflected in our leadership." Perhaps bigger than a hole in the parking lot or even breaking new ground for a new chapel, Liza has the onerous task of figuring out how we reintroduce everyone physically back together now that it is safer to do. "Neveh Shalom has done a fabulous job of keeping us connected virtually over the last two years, but how do we bring people back together in a safe and comfortable way and still take care of the needs of those who aren't

ready for that?" she said. "There have been some things that people have really embraced and liked about Zoom that has brought them closer. We have congregants attending Morning Minyan now that don't even live in Portland; they wouldn't have that opportunity without Zoom. So how do we kind of blend all of that as we physically reopen?" Like Elaine and Sandy before her, Liza is thinking long and hard about how to make space: how to make space for deeper engagement through volunteerism, more diversity in leadership, and a combination of face-to-face and virtual gatherings that make sense to ensure equal access to Neveh Shalom's programming. It's no small task, but as a supply chain manager working in Covid-times, I have full confidence she's up to the challenge.

And let me tell you, these women are funny. Humor is their shared superpower.

When it comes down to it, not having women in leadership positions does a great disservice to our congregation. If we want to move forward, if we want to continue to exist, we need access to the full array of talent available in our community. If we don't encourage and promote women and other more diverse candidates to positions of power, then we're cheating our congregation--and ultimately ourselves--out of the many benefits female or other, more diverse leadership, would yield.



Parking lot campaign from when Elaine Cogan was president

A Journey Through History: A Civil Rights Mission with the Federation

By Rachel Nelson

Joanne Bland was eleven years old when she marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge on Bloody Sunday, March 7, 1965. Her fourteen-year-old sister was beaten on that bridge; she then went on to become one of the youngest people to march to Montgomery several days later, 54 miles from Selma. This is just one of the ordinary Civil Rights heroes we met on our Civil Rights mission.

At the end of April, 41 primarily Portland-area community members, including six members of Congregation Neveh Shalom (Doug Blauer, Jenn Director Knudsen, Bob Horenstein, Priscilla Kostiner, Rachel Nelson, and Jeff Reingold) flew to Atlanta to begin a trip through history with Etgar36. The group, half members of the Jewish community and half members of the Black community, primarily from Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, came together to learn the history we were not taught in school.

The trip was a mere two-and-one-half days, but so much was covered. We started our journey in Atlanta, attending church services at Ebenezer Baptist Church, spending some time at the



Equal Justice Initiative's National Memorial for Peace and Justice.

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, which was filled with vast pools of water and an eternal flame. We then collectively climbed aboard a bus to Alabama, Montgomery specifically. In Montgomery we walked slowly through the Equal Justice Initiative's National Memorial for Peace and Justice.

Slabs and slabs of metal can be seen walking through this memorial. At the beginning, the slabs start at ground level; when walking through, they get higher and higher until at the end they are ascendent. Each slab represents a county in the United States. Each county has a list of the names and dates of victims lynched for no other reason than the color of their skin.

Oregon sadly is represented in these slabs. There is one known lynching in the state of Oregon: the lynching of Alonzo Tucker in Coos Bay, Oregon in 1902. Taylor Stewart, a participant on our trip, came to Montgomery in 2018 and saw the slab with Tucker's name on it. He returned home and was forever changed. He began the Oregon Remembrance Project and worked to bring recognition of this hate crime to Coos Bay. On June 19, 2021, over 600 people, virtually and in person, came together in Coos Bay to honor the life and history of Alonzo Tucker.

Following our time in Montgomery, we drove the 54-mile reverse route of the Selma-Montgomery journey. On the way there we passed a small memorial dedicated to Viola Liuzzo, who was a mother of five from Detroit. She had seen the footage of Bloody Sunday on her television and knew she had to do something, so she drove from Detroit and ferried marchers to and from Montgomery and Selma during the march. She was murdered when members of the Ku Klux Klan fired into her car on the side of the highway.



"Ordinary" civil rights hero Joanne Bland

In Selma, we spent two hours with Joanne Bland, the woman I mentioned at the beginning, who marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge at the age of 11. She has dedicated her life to sharing her story and the story of Selma, Alabama. Joanne became an activist in the Civil Rights Movement before serving in the US Army; she then returned to Selma and became a co-founder of the National Voting Rights Museum in Selma.

"Change comes down to the ordinary people, those who are willing to take the risks without knowing the reward."

While many of us grew up hearing about the greats of the Civil Rights Movement, who so mattered and were vital to the changes that happened, what was reinforced on this trip was that change comes down to ordinary people, those who are willing to take risks without knowing what the reward might be. These ordinary people just know that things need to change, and they will stand up to be part of that change.

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, July 6 & Aug 3, 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: smallfry-eterp@icloud.com.

Wondering Jews: Jewish TV Theme Songs

Wednesday, July 13, 2:00pm

Cantor Bitton examines TV melodies and the talented people who wrote them. RSVP: tinyurl.com/tvtheme2022

Sisterhood Book Club

4th Monday of the month, 7:00pm

July 25: *The Last Kings of Shanghai: The Rival Jewish Dynasties That Helped Create Modern China*, by Jonathan Kaufman

August 22: *Hamnet*, by Maggie O'Farrell
RSVP: dianeandjosh@hotmail.com.

Sisterhood Board Meetings

Thursdays, July 28, Aug 25, 7:00pm

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

Shroud Crowd

Sunday, July 31, 2:00-4:00pm

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

Time to Celebrate: Sisterhood 100th Anniversary & Torah Fund 80th Anniversary

Sunday, August 28, 11:00am-3:00pm

Everyone is invited to a special brunch; the presentation will be by Kate and Henry Haas. Henry escaped Germany during WWII and will talk about his experiences in Shanghai during that time. \$18/person, money goes to the Torah Fund. RSVP by Aug 10: nevehshalom.org/CNSSis100.

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 on the Plaza

Fridays, 6:15pm

Saturday Morning Shabbat Service

Saturdays, 9:30am

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 Shabbat w/ 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.

Growing up at CNS *Continued from Page 7*

nities at Neveh Shalom. They are poignant, meaningful, and mark significant changes in our lives. Tonight, we hope is one of them. But as the Director of Education, and as a parent of a graduating 12th grader, I'm also reflecting on the cumulative effect of all the non-milestone moments for you, our young people growing up here at Neveh Shalom. The collection of days, weeks, months, and years that you have spent in regular activities with friends, teachers, and other congregants in this building. Coming to ALIYAH or Tichon, learning, creating, discussing, exploring, eating snacks, and hanging out. Attending Shabbat and holiday services, helping with volunteer



projects, running down hallways with friends while your parents are talking for 'just five more minutes,' or coming

to work on Sunday mornings to work as *Madrachim*. Tonight is a celebration of both this milestone moment and of that less tangible, but not less significant, cumulative meaning of day-to-day activities at Neveh Shalom. The thing is that milestone moments would not be anywhere as meaningful if we didn't have all those regular daily activities and connections binding us together in the first place."

Here's to another wonderful year of day-to-day activities AND milestone moments! Wishing everyone a wonderful summer, and Mazal Tov to all our graduates!

Member News

Mazel tov to Deb Freedberg on participating in and completing the Boston Marathon this past April!



Mazel tov to 7th grader Sol Kodesch, son of **Anna and Eric Kodesch**, who won 1st place for his age group and 2nd place overall in the

Western Gymnastics championships! Sol trains with Oregon Gymnastics Academy. *Photographs by Nine84 photography.*

Mazel tov to Shoshana Bean, who grew up at Neveh Shalom, has been nominated for a Tony award for best performance by an actress in a featured role in a musical. Her role in *Mr. Saturday Night*, the new Billy Crystal hit, took five nominations, including best musical.

Mazel tov to Neveh Shalom's very own Director of Congregational Advancement, Michelle Caplan, who graduated from the Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership on Sunday, May 15, with a master's degree in Jewish Professional Studies. We are so proud of Michelle for all her hard work!



Mazel tov to Rachel and Jason Nelson whose son **Eitan Lev Nelson** was born on Saturday, May 28, 2022, at 11:14am. Eitan was welcomed home by big sister, **Noa**, and big brother,

Asher. The bris was on June 4 at the home of proud grandparents, **Fred and Nora Rothstein**. Grandparents Daryl and Sandra Nelson live in Beaverton.

Mazel Tov to all of our graduates (High School and College)! We are so very proud of each and every one.

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

We are sad to share the news of the passing of **Lucille K Neusihin, z"l**, who died on April 10. Lucille was the widow of **Irving Neusihin, z"l**; mother to Lisa (Berklee Robins) Neusihin and Gareth Leeds; grandmother to three, and great-grandmother to eight.

We are sad to let you know of the passing of **Craig Abraham** on Saturday, April 23, 2022. Craig is loved and remembered by his wife, Kathy Abraham, daughters, **Melissa (Dan) Rubin**, Holly Abraham (Robbie Long), and grandchildren, **Jack & Leo Rubin**, and Nya & Robbie Jr. Long.

We are sad to let you know of the passing of long-time member and CNS past-president **Norman Wapnick, z"l** on Saturday, April 23. He is loved by his wife **Suzan Wapnick**; his daughters **Janice (Mike) Shainsky**, Karen (Joel) Salzberg, and Cindy (Paul, z"l) Buker; his siblings Kay (Julian) Kien, and Helene (Bob) Sokolsky, z"l; his grandchildren Jen and Beth Salzberg, Steven (Kayla) and Charlie Buker, Sam (Blaire) and Zack Shainsky, and his great-grandchild Syllas Shainsky.

We are sad to let you know of the passing of CNS member and friend, **Leonard Lewitt, z"l**. He is loved by his wife **Miriam Lewitt**, his children Howard Lewitt and **Julie, z"l (Tom) Diamond**, and grandchildren **Rachael and Melissa Diamond**, Alef (Esther) Lewitt, and Liav and Sarina Lewitt.

Our condolences to Jay (Rochelle) Leisner on the loss of his mother, Lynda Leisner, z"l who died in Los Angeles, California at the age of 87 on April 26th. She is preceded in death by her husband Bill Leisner, z"l, who passed on November 4, 2021. Lynda is also remembered by her other children, Debra (Steve) Trelut, and Kim Kramer, her brother Alan (Alayne) Greenwald, and three grandchildren, Joshua Leisner, Hannah Kramer, and Jeremy Kramer.

Our condolences to **Dave (Debra Perrin) Coltoff** on the passing of his stepmom, Edith Coltoff, z"l on May 16 in Belle Harbor, NY.

We are sad to let you know of the unexpected passing of CNS member and friend, **Randy Grossman, z"l**. He is survived by his sons, Jordan (Dana Hori) Grossman, Aaron (Mghi Tran) Grossman, and Nathan (Morgan Brown Grossman) Grossman, and five grandchildren.

Our condolences go out to **Deborah Popper** whose father, Dr. Jordan Popper, z"l, passed away in St. Louis Park, MN, on April 30th, at the age of 92. The funeral was held at Hawaiian Memorial Park in Kaneohe, HI on May 5. Dr. Popper is survived by his wife of 65 years, Ann Tenenbaum Popper; his sister Carole (Jerry, z"l) Stein; his children in addition to Deborah: Ben Meyers of Naples, FL, Rebecca (Kevin) McGrath, and Rachel Popper of Minneapolis, and his grandchildren, Joshua, Alexis, and Addison McGrath.

We are sad to let you know of the passing of long-time member **Stan Eastern, z"l**, on Thursday, May 26. He is loved by his wife **Bev Eastern**; his daughters Michelle Gradow (Steve), Leslie Taub (Howard), and Susan Eastern; his grandchildren Jamie, Shelby, Lily Taub, Mallory Gradow, and his siblings Sam Eastern, Joe Eastern, Shirley Sidis, and Evelyn Blatt.

We are sad to let you know of the passing of CNS member **Leonora Gitlina, z"l** on May 27th. She is loved and remembered by her mother **Inna Gitlin**, her sister Irina (Alex Berkovich) Gitlin, and niece Anna Berenbeym.

Our condolences to **Mark (Sharon Fendrich) Epstein** on the passing of his father Robert (Bob) Epstein, z"l, on May 30th. He is also lovingly remembered by his wife Mimi Epstein; his son Neil (Elizabeth) Ashman-Epstein, and his grandchildren, **Talia Valdez** and **Max Epstein**, and Deena and Sylvia Epstein. Bob Epstein was a dedicated physician for 25 years and a prominent member of the Portland Jewish Community. He was a founding member of Havurah Shalom, helped run the Weekend in Quest program, and was a part of Melton Jewish Learning.

The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

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The liberation of the Dachau
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1945, which Leslie Aigner, z"l had been
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Irma Bernice Keller from Linda Jessell

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Lynda Leisner from Stan & Judy Blauer

Ber Levenshtein from Kira Govshtein

Suretta Miller from Carol Danish &

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Ellyn Sternfield

Norman Wapnick from Jeff & Sandy

Axel

Norman Wapnick from Lora Meyer

Nettie Weiner from Dennis Steinberg

Myron Koppel Weintraub from Jeff &

Sandy Axel

Ruth Wolfstone from Joene Rodinsky

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Menashe

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Marlene Brenner from Thelma Geffen
in memory of
Jim Panos from Thelma Geffen

MENSCHES & MAVENS FUND **in honor of**

Josh Berkman from Raul & Lidia Krivoy

in memory of

Norman Wapnick from Jeffrey Menashe & Wendy Gutmann

MILT HORENSTEIN MORNING MINYAN FUND

get well wishes for
Jo Ellen Miller from Anthony & Priscilla Kostiner

in memory of

Ida Brenner from Marlene Brenner
Lillian Davidson from Howard Shapiro
Jacob Jack Frank from Lawrence & Susan Rein
Myron Koppel Weintraub from Raul & Lidia Krivoy
Lewis B. Lazarus from Jeffrey Lazarus
Marlene Lazarus from Jeffrey Lazarus
Leonard Lewitt from Anthony & Priscilla Kostiner

Leonard Lewitt from Rosana Berdichevsky
Jennie Shapiro from Howard Shapiro
Michael Shenker from Alan & Vicki Rotstein
Norman Wapnick from Anthony & Priscilla Kostiner

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Jack Wolinsky from Howard & Petra Shapiro
Jack Wolinsky from Joan Kahn, Alan Wolinsky & Carol Veatch
Jack Wolinsky from Linda & Michael Osherow
Jack Wolinsky from Mike, Barbie, & Gary Enkelis
Jack Wolinsky from Priscilla & Tony Kostiner
Jack Wolinsky from Raul & Lidia Krivoy
Jack Wolinsky from Sam Gottlieb & Carolyn Gorin
Jack Wolinsky from Sheri Katz & Joel Mullin
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RABBI ISAAK DISCRETIONARY FUND **in appreciation of**

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in memory of
Sy Danish from Jordan & Debra Plawner
Norm Wapnick from Bunny Sadis

RABBI KOSAK DISCRETIONARY FUND **in appreciation of**

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Rabbi David Kosak from Bev Eastern & Family

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in memory of
Stan Eastern from Thelma Geffen
Michael Hoffman from Mel Hoffman
Reba Hoffman from Mel Hoffman
Stan Eastern from Thelma Geffen
Harriet Vosen from Diane Kahn

RABBI POSEN DISCRETIONARY FUND **in appreciation of**

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Rabbi Eve Posen from Andy, Rodney, & Ariella Garland-Forshee
Rabbi Eve Posen from Jay & Rochelle Leisner
Rabbi Eve Posen from Jeffrey & Julia Robinson
Rabbi Eve Posen from Rachel Nelson & Family

in honor of

Rabbi Eve Posen from Cookie & Merritt Yoelin Fund of the OJCF
Rabbi Eve Posen from Daniel & Shannon Janoff

in memory of
Leonard Lewitt from Gary & Carolyn Weinstein

ROBBIE BALL MEMORIAL FUND FOR DARFUR

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Robert Ball from Melvyn & Elaine Ball
Stan Eastern from Martin & Sharyn Schneiderman
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Norman Wapnick from Martin & Sharyn Schneiderman

ROSA WIGMORE HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND

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Irving Katz from Randy Katz

SALA KRYSZEK PUBLICATION FUND **in memory of**

Jakob Kryszek from Jerry Kryszek

SAPERSTEIN CHAPEL FUND **get well wishes for**

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Marlene Brenner from Taya Meyer
in honor of
Lee & Berdeen Coven from Taya Meyer
in memory of
Ronald Meyer from Taya Meyer
Bernice Friedman from Taya Meyer
Lynda Leisner from Taya Meyer

SISTERHOOD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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Robert & Marla Weiner from Lisa Marie & Michael Lynch
in memory of
Harry Schneider from Robert & Marla Weiner
Jenny Schneider from Robert & Marla Weiner
Norman Wapnick from Sue & Elliot Axel
Pete Wollstein from Sue & Elliot Axel

SONIA NUDELMAN FLORAL FUND **in memory of**

Albert J. Nudelman from Shirley Nudelman

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get well wishes for
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in honor of
Michelle Caplan from CNS Staff
Michelle Caplan from Gary & Sylvia Pearlman
Jack Schwartz from Rosalie Goodman
in memory of
Randy Grossman from Rosana Berdichevsky
Randy Grossman from Sam Gottlieb & Carolyn Gorin

TIKKUN OLAM FUND

in memory of
Phillip Alberts from Michael Alberts

TOINETTE MENASHE BOOKSHELF FUND **in honor of**

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Victor & Toinette Menashe from Elise Menashe
Victor & Toinette Menashe from Jeffrey Menashe & Wendy Gutmann
Victor & Toinette Menashe from Marlinda Menashe & Bill Lotshaw

in memory of

Mary Capeloto from Rosalyn Menashe
Solomon David Menashe from Rosalyn Menashe
Solomon David Menashe from Victor Menashe
Joseph Rosenberg from Toinette Menashe

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Congregation Neveh Shalom, Portland, OR

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Creating change to save our environment



This year, Foundation School and ALIYAH applied for a grant to lower our carbon footprint and build greater environmental sustainability into the curriculum and practices of our school programs.

Our vision includes three components: purchasing sustainable or compostable replacements for single-use paper and plastic within our schools, adding vermicompost (worm) bins to turn our food scraps from snacks and lunches into

compost and enhancing our garden beds for the purpose of growing produce for our school snacks or cooking for our *chesed* community. Our goal is for this generation of children to be at the forefront of the sustainability movement and lead our community in taking actions

that can help heal our planet. We hope these projects will become models for the rest of the congregation.

Candace Rothstein, Assistant Director of Foundation School, adds: "As educators of the youngest citizens of the world, Foundation School believes that it's our responsibility to help our children foster a healthy relationship with our Earth from a young age. This includes spending plenty of time outdoors each day and highlighting the importance of sustainability in our everyday routines.

We are intentional in how we build routines with our children—choosing washable cloths rather than paper towels to dry our hands; considering carefully the paper used in our artwork; disposing of our food scraps, trash, and recycling; growing some of our own food, and caring for indoor plants to help us breathe healthier air. This grant will help Foundation School be at the forefront of environmentalism and sustainability, but we still need volunteers—parents, grandparents, relatives, and congregants—to help us make positive changes at school and continue these practices at home. Small changes in our routines make a big difference for our environment."

We find out this month about the grant, but whether we receive those funds or not, we are dedicated to building more sustainability and environmental education into our programs. If you'd like to volunteer or contribute to this project, please be in touch with **Mel Berwin** or **Cory Willson!**

KABBALAT SHABBAT

NEVEH SHALOM | PORTLAND, OR



You are invited to another year of Kabbalat Shabbat services on the Plaza. Each week there will be a different theme, food, and beverages. We hope you will join us for this popular series.

JULY

- 7/1- Independence Day
- 7/8- Jewish Ukraine
- 7/15- ORA Arts Shabbat
- 7/22- Expanding the Tent:
Celebrating Conversion
- 7/29- Taste of Oregon

AUGUST

- 8/5- On the Plaza with Ilene Safyan
- 8/12- Wondering Jews
- 8/19- Sephardic Shabbat /
Cantor Bitton Concert
- 8/26- Sisterhood Turns 100



TIME TO *Celebrate*

Please join Neveh Shalom to celebrate the 100th birthday of CNS Sisterhood and the 80th birthday of Torah Fund. Everyone is invited!



A special brunch & presentation by

KATE & HENRY HAAS

Henry escaped Germany during WWII and will talk about his experiences in Shanghai during that time.

28TH AUG **11^{AM} START**

\$18/PERSON

All money is raised for the Torah Fund

RSVP by Aug 10:
nevehshalom.org/CNSSis100



Questions? Diane Kahn 360.713.1340, dianeandjosh@hotmail.com
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