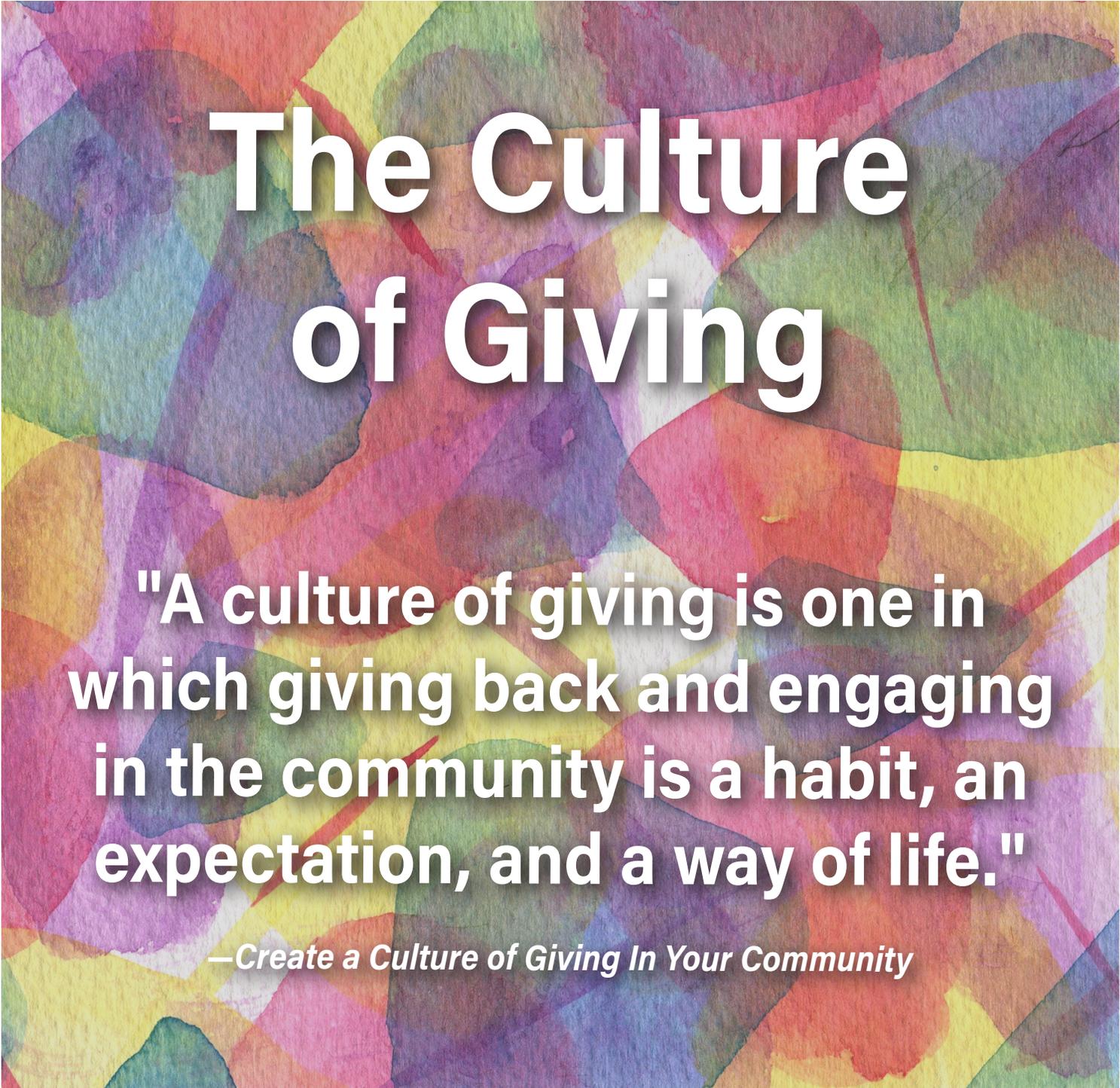


THE
CHRONICLE

A PUBLICATION OF CONGREGATION NEVEH SHALOM



The Culture of Giving

"A culture of giving is one in which giving back and engaging in the community is a habit, an expectation, and a way of life."

—Create a Culture of Giving In Your Community

Top Rung Philanthropy

By Rabbi David Kosak



required to advance our understanding of *tzedakah*.

For example, Maimonides' ladder doesn't directly address with what frequency we ought to give, or why this matters. The saintly Hofetz Hayim once said that we ought to set aside part of each day to perform acts of kindness, and that those who don't do this demonstrate a lack of intelligence. What does he mean?

An example can be found in a story told

One of the most enduring images about *tzedakah* is Maimonides' famous ladder of *tzedakah*. With eight rungs, Maimonides illustrates that our attitude toward *tzedakah* can be just as important as how much we contribute. We should give willingly and with a smile. Simultaneously, he highlights how anonymous giving preserves the dignity of both donor and recipient. At the highest level of his hierarchical model, we encounter the noble idea that the best form of charity is that which helps someone become independent of communal support.

This model is sufficiently robust that it is sometimes used in non-Jewish circles. As powerful as it is, we ought to consider Maimonides' ladder as we would a 101-level college course in giving. It is foundational, but continued study is

about Rabbi Meir of Tiktin, a Polish rabbi who lived in the 17th and 18th centuries. In the book, *Shemen Ha-Tov*, we learn that Reb Meir would not eat a meal until he had done some act of kindness; as a consequence, God regularly provided such opportunities to Rabbi Meir. On one day, however, no chance came, and the rabbi fasted the entire day. At night, rather than going to sleep, he went out to the street and saw a wagon full of lumber. He ran to the town carpenter and knocked on the door until the carpenter awoke. Together, they went to the traveling lumber salesman and learned that the boards were priced attractively below the market rate; unfortunately, the carpenter didn't have sufficient capital to buy the wagonload, so Rabbi Meir loaned the carpenter the money, then happily went into his house where he joyously ate his first meal of the day.

Habits change us, and positive habits such as Rabbi Meir's can change our outlook in profound ways. Rabbi Yaakov Yosef of Polnoye was the author of the first book of Hasidic literature, *Toldot Yaakov Yosef*. In that work, he instructs that when people give *tzedakah*, they should be aware that they are really receiving, for the poor person provides an opportunity for those who are giving to raise up their own souls. In other words, giving regularly is a process of refinement by which we become not just better people, but noble, even exalted souls. That's not language we normally use in our age, but the lesson is real.

Nor does this benefit flow in only one direction. Rabbi Zusya of Hanipol said that giving *tzedakah* out of a sense of responsibility and connection to God is not extraordinary. "What is extraordinary is when the poor people receiving *tzedakah* think not of their personal benefit, but also of serving God...When they accept *tzedakah*, they should think about providing an opportunity for the giver to engage in an act of goodness."

Putting that in a modern idiom, how we give and receive can change a transactional exchange into an act of tremendous beauty in which both parties are empowered and in which reciprocity is maintained. Such an approach undermines our normative notions of privilege and politics as usual. When we commonly state "haves and have nots," there is an assumption of a power imbalance, precisely because one party—the one with money to give—is the person of means. While it is definitely true that *tzedakah* depends on people having the capacity to share their resources, Ju-

Continued on next page

Giving and Receiving

Rabbi's Corner

By Rabbi Eve Posen

When Shiri was born, Duncan and I knew that our family members would shower her with gifts for future birthdays and Chanukah. Since there would be no shortage of presents, and since we hoped to push back against the “I want, I want” nature we knew would take over, we decided to create some balance between giving and receiving and make the “gifts” from us donations in her honor instead. We’ve continued this tradition with Matan; for the last nine years at Chanukah, we’ve made eight donations of \$18 each to organizations that our family values. As the children have aged, they’ve also helped us choose which organizations we donate to. All this is kept in a spreadsheet so we can so look back and see where these gifts have gone over the years.

This new tradition was important to us for reasons beyond the abundance of toys. Mostly, we wanted to foster a culture of giving in our own family. Duncan’s parents believe strongly in giving back, and I come from a family that modeled volunteerism. We wanted to demonstrate this for our children.

Last year our children hosted a hot cocoa stand to raise money for Blanchet

House. They did this not because we directly suggested it, but because we do our best to instill in them the Torah commandment of giving as well as the idea that you’re never too old or too young to start.

Many of you are familiar with the author and consultant, Laurie Herrick, an expert at helping leaders build a culture of philanthropy. One of her philosophies is that of tapping into your personal abundance. Human beings all have a gift to give (their abundance) and by nature want to share it. In doing so, we create a mindset of generosity. There are so many ways to create this culture and to teach this lesson. Between Duncan and me, we sit on five different boards of organizations we’re passionate about. Because we can’t always give as much monetarily as we’d like, we do have time and skills that can support our community.

In *Parshat Ki Tissa*, when the Israelites are completing a census for military-aged men, the Torah shares “and they gave half a shekel.” That word in Hebrew for giving is *v’natnu*. It is spelled *vav-nun-tav-nun-vav*. This is a Hebrew palindrome, spelled the same backwards and



forwards, like my name, Eve. The commentators note that this is because giving is cyclical; sometimes we’re on the giving end, whereas other times we’re on the receiving end. That is to say that we must create a culture where we are as comfortable receiving support as we are giving it.

I encourage you not only to tap into your own abundance, but to be just as open to receiving it. Everyone’s gift is different, just as everyone’s need is different: we’re at our best as a community when we simply open ourselves up to that idea.

Rabbi Kosak *Continued from previous page*

daism is not rooted in scarcity but out of an economy of spiritual abundance. In practical terms, it means that even though people receive communal support, they are expected to give back in turn. In spiritual terms, it is a reminder

that everyone has something to give, and everyone is better off when we share what we have to give in an ongoing and regular manner. Seen from this unusual vantage point, *tzedakah* and acts of kindness, *gemilut Hasidim*, are

two profound tools by which we suffuse our societal relations with a reciprocal spirit of love in which all can participate and through which everyone’s lives and souls are raised up.

To Volunteer or To Be Volun-told

Cantor's Corner

By Cantor Eyal Bitton

When I was eighteen, I volunteered (*hitnadvti*) on a kibbutz for about six weeks, Kibbutz Alumim. I'd wake up at 5:00 AM and be driven to the orchard in the hot Negev summer sun. By the time I was driven back to the cafeteria for breakfast three hours later, I'd worked up a sweat and was already exhausted. Never in my life had I had this kind of discipline or worked this hard. I received a fabulous experience by the act of giving.

In Hebrew, the word for the verb to volunteer is *lehitnadev*. It comes from the word *nadav* which means generous. The English word underlines the willful intention of the act. I am not obligated to do something: I choose to do it voluntarily. The Hebrew word underlines the value of the act. It is an act of giving in a manner that reveals the generosity of one's character. In Sephardic synagogues, when a person donates money following an *aliyah* to the Torah, the same verb is used. For example, "...*shemitnadev pa'amayim chai*" (who volunteers through generosity two times the value of *chai*).

Back to the kibbutz story. One day, a representative of the kibbutz came to me and the other handful of volunteers and instructed us to clean out the clubhouse that was assigned to the volunteers. We were incensed because we had never stepped foot in this clubhouse. Not once. We had not made the mess. Apparently, a group of teenagers had visited the kibbutz prior to our arrival and made a mess of the clubhouse.

A seventeen-year-old girl from the kibbutz named Yael heard us talking very heatedly and asked us why we were so



upset. We relayed the story to her and, instead of responding sympathetically, she said, "What's the big deal? There are five of you. Each one of you just grab a mop and get to work. You'll be done in no time, and you'll have a good time."

...not to focus on who caused the problem but rather that it needed to be fixed. Here was a lesson in giving.

We were speechless. Here we were: from Canada, the US, England, and Scotland: and our mentality was entirely different. We thought, "We didn't cause

the problem so it's not our problem to fix." But here was an Israeli kibbutznik, about a year younger than I was, whose approach was not to focus on who caused the problem but rather that it needed to be fixed. Here was a lesson in giving.

I had felt pretty good about being a *mitnadev*, a generous volunteer, yet I had a great deal more to learn about giving. Here was an example of the opposite of volunteering. We were being volun-told! Nothing voluntary about this, yet the cleaning of that clubhouse was necessary. The community in which we lived needed people to give of themselves so that the collective could benefit.

There is no single way to give. Volunteering or being volun-told are both beautiful acts of giving.

What We Give

By Liza Milliner, CNS President

President's Corner

“Happiness doesn’t result from what we get, but from what we give” - Ben Carson

In 2012 I received a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis, or MS. The neurologist told me so much that I don’t remember because I was in such a state of shock. However, I do recall him telling me I’d get a call in a few days from a nurse at MS LifeLines. I thought, “Great, just what I need: someone calling me to give me a pep talk and ask for donations.” The next day, a kind nurse from MS LifeLines called and we spoke for what seemed like hours. She shared that MS LifeLines offers financial resources, support groups, and educational classes for me, my family, and much more. She also told me about the annual Walk MS event that raises awareness about MS and – equally important – funds to treat and fight the degenerative disease.

Over time, I realized the positive impact MS LifeLines could have on me as well as the greater community of MS sufferers. The better its funding, the more it could offer to people like me and, therefore, my friends and loved ones, too.

There are many parallels to shul. Neveh Shalom clergy call to check in after a medical procedure and help guide us

through life cycle events as well as everyday concerns. Programming, both educational and social, helps each of us build stronger connections to ourselves and our community. Our *kehillah* itself provides comfort and support in times of joy and need.

At first, I did not participate in the MS Walk; I was not ready to ask friends, family, and others to donate in support of the cause. Fast forward a few years; after receiving so much, I wanted to give back. I’m now captain of Walk MS Team Goofy, one of its top fundraising teams.

Likewise at Neveh, I didn’t immediately dive into fundraising, but now I’m deeply involved and encourage you, too, to support where you can. During the pandemic, Beth and I co-chaired our spring fundraiser, and this year as president, I ensured that 100% of the Board of Directors participated in our Annual Giving Program. Do I enjoy directly asking for donations? I admit it can be uncomfortable. But what brings me happiness – and that I believe is incredibly important – is knowing that I’m requesting – and making – donations so that every-



one at Neveh Shalom get the care they need, the programming they desire, the services they love, the education they count on, the comfort they request, and so much more, for years to come.

As MS LifeLines was and has been there for me, Congregation Neveh Shalom also has been and will be there for each of you and me. Our culture of giving keeps the shul we love and *kehillah* we lean on strong. Like I once was, you may be timid to get your philanthropic feet wet; I hope that, also like me, you dive in to enjoy the process and outcome.

The Chronicle

No. 3 ~ Jan/Feb 2023

Supported by the Sala Kryszek Memorial Publication Fund

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Reuben Harper | January 7

Reuben Harper is the son of Jacob and Jaimie Harper, big brother to Esther, and grandson to Mort Simon and Terri Simon of Portland, and Stephen and Muncie Harper of Santa Rosa, CA. Reuben is in 7th grade at Portland Jewish Academy and spends much of his time playing basketball for the PJA Dragons and the Beaverton High School Youth teams. Since 1st grade he has been making memories at BB Camp each summer.



Charles Rothenberg | January 14

Charles Rothenberg is the son of Daniel Rothenberg and Colleen Crabtree and grandson to Diane Kershenbaum, Kenneth Rothenberg, and Jack and Connie Crabtree. Charlie is a 7th grader at Portland Jewish Academy. Charlie loves Legos, Cosplay and traveling/eating from many different regions and cultures. He also enjoys fitness activities and runs on the PJA cross country team.



Hudson Davis, Noah Martin, & Emmett Asher Greenberg February 11

Hudson Davis, Noah Martin, and Emmett Asher Greenberg are the triplet sons of Julie Newman and Barry Greenberg, and the grandchildren of Edward and Elaine Newman. They are 7th graders at Robert Grey Middle School. Hudson loves Dungeons and Dragons and LARP'ing, which stands for "live action role playing." Noah is into LEGO robotics and enjoys baking. Emmett is fascinated by all things engineering, including computer coding and video games.



Hanna Novick | February 18

Hanna Novick is the daughter of Brian and Eva Novick, older sister to Marisa, Lightning, and Storm, and granddaughter of Marvin and Diane Novick, Sheila Tayrose and Joel Slutsky, and Les Taylor. Hanna is a 7th grader at Tumwater Middle School. Hanna enjoys playing soccer, texting with her friends, watching the Marvel Cinematic Universe, and playing video games with friends and family.

Cans & Bottles for ALIYAH—an Easy and Significant Way to Contribute

By Mel Berwin, Director of Congregational Learning

Many of you know Carolyn Weinstein as a long-time professional realtor for The Hasson Company (now called Cascade Hasson Sotheby's International Realty), or from her many years of service as a lay leader at Congregation Neveh Shalom (to name just a few, she has recently served on our Board of Directors, continues to volunteer on our Building and Grounds Committee, and makes sure our silver is polished for the High Holy Days).

But how many of you know that she moonlights as a dumpster diver?

Carolyn leaned over to me a few months ago at a community event to tell me that she is so committed to bringing cans and bottles to CNS to contribute to our ALIYAH fundraising efforts that

she has been climbing into the recycling bins in her condo and retrieving bottles and cans for donation! Just recently the condo changed the depth of the bins, so she no longer climbs in, but she still sorts through the bottles each week and brings us her treasures.

ALIYAH began our can and bottle drive at the end of 2018 as a way of raising funds for the school. Each can or bottle that we return in blue bags designated with our non-profit organization status retrieves 10 cents; we generally bring 10-15 bags filled with the recyclables each week to one of the Bottle Drop collection sites. A grateful shout out to Lani Raider, and JoAnn Bezodis before her, who have done the bulk of the bagging and driving! And to JoAnn's husband, Chris Bezodis, as well, who created the bag holders for us in the courtyard.

We began the fundraiser to support buying new furniture for our classrooms to serve the needs of our diverse learners. We wanted mobile tables that were designed for collaboration, standing tables and floor seats for those who preferred different positions than conventional chairs, and soft mats and bean bags for our sensory space where students can unwind if their classrooms are feeling over-stimulating. Within a year we had raised nearly \$2,000 towards that project, so we decided to keep going.

Now, four years into this drive, we have raised over \$8,000 for the school from our can and bottle drive. Even during the pandemic, our collections did not stop. We decide each year how we will prioritize the funds, which have supported projects from professional development, to financial aid for families during the pandemic, to environmental education projects in our school.

"It's such an easy thing to do," says Carolyn emphatically. "Once you spend the money [on can/bottle deposits], you don't miss it."

I agree. The amount we could get back from our own cans and bottles is negligible, but the combined efforts of the bottles and cans we collect at CNS is truly significant, going to a good cause as well.

You can drop off your cans and bottles in the CNS courtyard or pick up a blue bag to fill at your home. You can collect from your own home, from neighbors, or from your whole apartment building, but dumpster diving is strictly optional!

Our children and teachers thank you!!



Carolyn Weinstein retrieving bottles from the recycling bins in her condo

Cultivating the Culture of Giving

By Arlene Cogen

On May 5, 2010, my mother called. “Arlene, I have something important to tell you.” Then she choked back a tear. I’ll never forget that moment. “I just came from the doctor’s office. My tests came back positive for pancreatic cancer.”

At best, she’d have six to eight months, which was devastating for the whole family. On my first visit, as soon my mom saw me, she handed me a stack of papers and said, “Okay, my financial expert daughter, look over my estate plan and tell me what you think.”

She asked me to do this as it is my job as a Philanthropic Planner. Before I relate how our family conversations around giving progressed, I’d like to share a bit about why the cultivation of the culture of giving is so important.

Why to Cultivate the Culture of Giving

The word *giving* is derived from the Greek word, philanthropy, meaning “love for humanity.” It is exhibited by those who want to make a difference

in the world community or causes they care about, resulting in a net positive result in the world.

Giving is also an important part of Jewish culture, which was modeled by my parents. They showed me different ways to participate in the culture of giving that made me feel good about myself and those I was helping. Helping took many different forms over the years. Initially, they brought me along to help deliver Meals on Wheels and spend time with the elderly. The recipients of the meals loved to see young people as it gave them hope and made me proud for helping. Interacting with them might have been their only connection for the week. I was pleased that something so minor to me made a remarkable difference in someone’s life. The more I volunteered, the better I felt about myself. People noticed how positive my energy was when I helped others. People wanted to be part of the giving because it was contagious.

In my childhood, each act of giving made me closer to my parents since I saw how they were generous and loving with their time and money. My parents were revered in their community. It made me want to give so I might be looked upon one day in that light. These are just a few of the ways giving changed the course of my life.

Back to My Mother

When my mother handed me her stack of paper on that fateful day, I saw that five percent of her estate was going to charity:

that surprised me. Mom thought 5% was a lot of money to give away. Together, with my siblings, we encouraged Mom to give 10%.

Her eyes lit up at the idea of giving even more. “Oh, I’ll give a little more to B’nai Torah (her synagogue), and a little more to the Jewish Federation. They do so much.” She was like a kid in a candy store.

Among the more meaningful gifts my mother made was the gift to her synagogue. It was the largest gift B’nai Torah ever received. She created an education fund, something she would never have imagined she would be able to do. The goal of the fund is to keep the congregation, especially the kids, engaged in Judaism.

She then asked me a question about my plans with the inheritance. “So what are you going to do with the money?” she asked.

“It’s simple, Mom. I am going to do three things: one, create a donor-advised fund; two, bring the family to Israel; and three, invest the rest to go towards the girls’ education.”

Each represented a value she passed on to me: giving, Israel matters, and providing an education for your children.

Creating Our Donor-Advised Fund

After my mother died, we created a donor-advised fund with part of the inheritance. Several of my friends questioned why we would create a fund like this when we had two teenagers about to go off to college. They told us to wait, that the money could be a year’s tuition. I understood their concerns, but we had planned for our girls’ education, so the \$25,000 donation to



Cogen Family with Grandma Ada at Jack’s Restaurant, PDX



Siegel Family with Mitch in the mid-'90s, Florida

create that fund was not going to prevent our girls from going to college. More importantly, in collaboration with my husband, Mitch, and the girls, creating that fund was one of the most satisfying things we ever did together.

The four of us sat down in the Oregon Community Foundation conference room with one of my colleagues, our donor relations officer. This was new for the family, so I just sat there and let them engage. She asked us the same questions I'd asked so many families over the years. When she asked, "How would you like your fund invested—in the main pool or the socially responsible investment pool?" Abby, my youngest, stated with absolute certainty, "Social, of course. Why would we choose differently?"

Mitch and I looked at each other, shrugged our shoulders, and agreed with Abby.

In considering our first grant, we chose to focus on education. Both of our girls attended Lincoln High School, so we thought this would be a great way to give back. As Mitch and I were poised to fill out the paperwork to finalize our gift, Alana asked, "Why would

we give to Lincoln? It's a wealthy school; they have a lot of money. Why wouldn't we give to a school in greater need?" Mitch and I looked at each other and said at the same time, "Why don't we do both?"

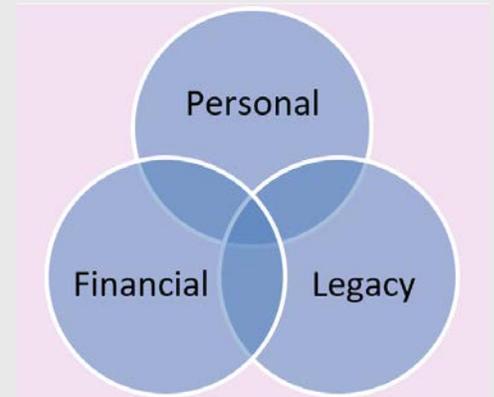
That day, Mitch and I developed a whole new appreciation for our daughters and the caring and compassionate women they had become. We'd always been proud of them, but we discovered that giving together opened a new world for all of us. We got to look into each other's hearts in a new and powerful way.

My experiences have demonstrated, time and time again, that successful families tend to pass down values, and that philanthropy is a great way to help sustain those values. For more than a decade, I have been privileged to help hundreds of individuals, couples, and families integrate philanthropy into their plans in ways they never imagined. Many of them find philanthropy can solve personal problems and tax problems at the same time. It was a wonderful thing to see it in action with my own family!

It's my hope that this story will inspire you to do the same.

Three Areas of Giving

To get started on the road to a culture of giving, consider these three areas:



PERSONAL

Giving makes us happy. The hard science is abundant. Personal giving includes your time, talent, and treasure. Most of us start out giving our time and talent. However you choose to contribute, you make the world, community, and causes you care about better.

FINANCIAL

Financial giving is cash, stocks, bonds, property, artwork, and anything which is part of your net worth. There are many considerations: amount, time of the gift, tax benefits, and wealth preservation. It's important to work with your advisor.

LEGACY

The third piece is your legacy. This is the spiritual part, just like the Rockefellers, Buffets, and my mother, you, too, can leave a legacy through philanthropy. Start by thinking about what you love in the world and want to see continue.

When you can give in all three areas, it's a sure way to self-actualization and furthering the culture of giving.

Teaching an Attitude of Gratitude

By Sandy Axel

In the swirl of activity that is the life of a family, it is often hard to find the time to talk about big issues—sometimes it feels as if there aren't enough hours in the day to feed the family, do the laundry, and make sure the homework gets done, much less go out and do service projects. But sometimes it is those family activities that make the most memorable interactions and help our little people grow to be the *mensch*s we hope they will be. But how to do this? These are some ideas that worked for us as a family and might help you bring *tzedakah* into your everyday life.

Begin with an “attitude of gratitude.” When it's cold and rainy outside, say “Aren't we lucky to live in a warm house, with a roof over our heads to keep us dry? Some people do not have these things.” When you buy new shoes for your child, say “Aren't we fortunate that you can have a new pair of shoes? Not every child is so lucky.” When it's time to brush teeth, say “Wow—we have fresh water that comes out of a tap whenever we want it. Some kids have to haul muddy water a mile to their house for

cooking and drinking, so they don't have enough water left over for toothbrushing.” In our developed-world view, we have so many things that we take for granted; it's our job as adults to point this out to our kids so that they understand how fortunate they are to live in the time and the place they do—with access to shelter, clean water, food, medical care, clothing, education, transportation—the list goes on and on. Point it out to them! And then work to make these things accessible for everyone on the planet. But how?

In the Portland area we have a clearinghouse for volunteer efforts called HandsOn Greater Portland (www.handsonportland.org) where you can find all sorts of volunteer activities to make the world a better place. You can also find other organizations that are doing charitable work in the *Willamette Week Give Guide* (<https://giveguide.org>), which lists non-profits in the area and the work that they do to improve our community. Many of these organizations have family-specific volunteer opportunities that are great for getting started on building volunteerism into your family structure.

And there are always volunteer opportunities coordinated by the Neveh Shalom—participate!

If all that seems too big for you, then think about how to tweak the things that you normally do with your kids. Birthday parties are a good example; choose a theme—with your child's input of course—that lends itself to charitable giving. The same can be done for gift-giving at Chanukah time and for Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrations. For example, for a child who loves animals, you can request that guests bring dog or cat food instead of gifts and then create pet toys or cage beds as an activity during the birthday party. Books, art supplies, winter gloves, and hats—all these can be requested instead of yet another toy; all will be gratefully accepted by area non-profits. It's even better when you can get grandparents on board with this, as they want to give gifts but often don't have a good idea about what the child already has.

Another fun activity is a “gratitude” calendar (see facing page for an example). Choose a month, perhaps the child's birthday month, and for each day, count up the things in your house that they are fortunate to have that others may not, assign a value to it, and then put that money in a *tzedakah* box (you DO have a *tzedakah* box, right?). At the end of the month, have a family meeting and decide where that money should go to help a family not as fortunate as yours.



Tzedakah boxes can take many forms—even a piggy bank will do. Or you can make one from a box or can: my kids had one made from a Pringles container. Use your imagination, and turn it into a family project.

Need more ideas? Email me: sandyaxel@msn.com

A gratitude calendar by Sandy Axel

Put \$\$ in your tzedakah box as indicated for each day

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1 For each book (including the ones on your e-reader) in your house, 5¢.	2 Count all the cans and packages of food in your kitchen and pantry. For each one, 10¢.	3 For every box of Kleenex (disposable tissues) in your house, 50¢. (Don't use disposables? Then count the handkerchiefs!)	4 Count all the light switches and electrical outlets at your house—don't forget the ones that might be outside. For each one, 10¢.	5 Count the water faucets in your house; for each one (don't forget the outside hose bibs!) 25¢.	6 How many shoes do you have? For each pair of shoes, a dime.	7 Take a walk in your neighborhood and be thankful for all the trees and growing things you see.	
8 Count up all your socks. How many do you have? For each pair, 10¢.	9 For each pen and pencil in your house (check all the drawers), 1¢.	10 For each plate in your kitchen or dining room, a penny.	11 For each vehicle your family has—car, bike, motorcycle, scooter, RV—a dollar.	12 How many windows does your house have? For each one, 50¢.	13 Does everyone in your family have a warm winter coat? For each one, \$1.	14 Turn off your electronic devices for 24 hours and visit with your friends in person instead.	
15 How many TVs are in your house? For each one, a dollar.	16 For each magazine in your house, a nickel.	17 For each sink in your house, a quarter.	18 For every laptop, tablet, and cell phone, \$1.	19 For every toilet in your house, \$1.	20 For every towel in your house, a nickel.	21 Are there relatives you haven't seen in a while? Make a phone call and brighten their day!	
22 For each wastebasket, garbage can, recycling bin or compost can (including the ones outside), fifty cents.	23 For each fork, spoon and knife (including the sharp ones) in the kitchen, a penny.	24 For every bed and sofa in your house, one dollar.	25 For every BandAid (adhesive bandage) in your medicine cabinet or first aid kit, 50¢.	26 How many doors does your house have? Be sure to count inside and outside—50¢ for each.	27 For every coffee/tea cup or glass in your house, a dime.	28 Take another walk in your neighborhood. This time, listen for all the sounds you can hear. Then imagine how different it would be if you couldn't hear.	
29 For every chair in your house, twenty-five cents.	30 Isn't it nice to have a light to see by when it's dark outside? Count up all the lamps and light fixtures in your house, and for each one, 25¢.	31 For every roll of toilet paper (don't forget the ones in the cupboard) \$1.	<p>Now it's time to add up all the money that went into the tzedakah box. See if you can find organizations that help people meet their basic needs of shelter, food (including clean water), hygiene, clothing, healthcare and education.</p>				Can you think of other things that you are grateful for? You can make your own gratitude calendar and find more ways to give to others!

Paying Tribute – The Cycle of Giving

By Dann Horowitz, Co-Chair of the Membership Committee

How can we pay tribute to those who give so much of themselves to others as well as ensure that the spirit of giving continues? Great question! One great answer is by setting up a tribute fund in honor of these individuals.

Indeed, both the Donna Jackson Membership Enrichment Fund and the Sylvia Pearlman Membership Enhancement Fund were created to honor the incredible women they are named for and the decades of service they selflessly provided our community.

The Donna Jackson Fund was established in 2018 by Sol Menashe's children, Rick and Sandy, and their spouses, Abby and Wendi, shortly after Sol passed away, in order to pay tribute to the years of friendship Sol and Donna enjoyed, as well as to honor all of Donna's contributions to the community during her years as Board Secretary at Neveh Shalom and Membership Director at the MJCC.

Just as the Menashes envisioned the fund being used to benefit synagogue membership, when interviewed by Rick for this article, Donna also expressed her hope that the fund is being used by



Donna Jackson

CNS to help create new memberships and enhance the lives and experiences of our current members.

When asked her thoughts on the culture of giving in general, especially within our community, Donna highlighted how very generous and giving our community has been, both in respect to the giving of time and money, but also noted how this giving has been hampered by the Covid pandemic.

As a current co-chair (along with my pal and co-chair, Alex Menashe) of the CNS Membership Committee, or "MemCom," as we affectionately call it, learning from Donna about the origin of the fund and how it was created to honor her contributions to our *kehillah* was moving. It fills me with pride to have been given this platform to continue her great work and service to our members. For all Donna has done and continues to do, it is our great pleasure to both welcome new members and find ways to connect with current members; we've also made an extra-special effort to reach out to those families that joined during the pandemic, for every CNS family should receive a proper welcome!

I also had the great pleasure to interview Sylvia Pearlman about the Sylvia Pearlman Membership Enhancement Fund, created in 1981 by her husband, Gary, in honor of her retirement and decades of service as the Co-Executive Director of CNS. When Sylvia described the Three Pillars of Membership, as she sees it – outreach to new members, welcoming new members, and retention of members – I thought she must be reading my mind! Gary knew that membership was her special passion, and Sylvia expressed her hope that the fund is being used to support these pillars of membership. She encourages CNS members to think about giving to this fund, for membership is "the key to the viability of the congregation."



Sylvia Pearlman

Sylvia highlighted how we can give in so many ways, not least of all by volunteering, i.e., by giving of our time. She remembers a core group of volunteers who would deliver challah and wine to our new members, something we still do to this day. She would call and connect new members to others who might share common interests; these connections often led to lifelong friendships, which, in turn, contribute to member retention (*bonus!*) as it creates a sense of belonging, of being welcomed, and being included.

Looking forward, Sylvia hopes our community continues to give financially, *to the best of our ability*, noting that a gift of \$5 from one family is as valuable as a gift of \$500 from another. The viability of the synagogue is very important to her and Gary as lifelong members, so she hopes people realize that giving to this fund is a way of enhancing the ability of the MemCom to function and provide for members.

But perhaps my favorite thing Sylvia said, and which encapsulates what giving is all about, is that "Giving helps the community, but it also helps the person doing the giving, because you feel the sense of commitment, and giving forward is giving back."

What Do You Contribute to CNS?

Being a part of a kehillah/community offers support and asks each of us to be a support. We reached out to three members with the question "What do you contribute to CNS?"



From Kaiya Goldhammer

CNS is a harbor in my family's life. Even before the birth of my first child, even before I was married, even before I finished my conversion, this was so. My family and I have been greeted with such a strong sense of community that caring for my *kehillah* is central to my personal Judaism.

Of course we make monetary donations every year through annual giving and other opportunities: unless I forget. But the heart of our contributions takes other forms. My giving looks like leading Tot Shabbat because of the legacy left by Amy and Levia, Rabbi Eve, and Morah Leah. These women were instrumental in my own young family's developing Judaism and inspire me to give in this way. Contributing looks like filling many different roles at CNS: learning to lead, making connections with generations of families, and understanding the work of this community intimately. I contribute by volunteering to greet at HHD and leading my children by example to see this is a way we can give back. I love to contribute by connecting my Foundation School community to the larger CNS *kehillah*; my class meets CNS members, leaders, and employees upstairs, downstairs, and in the woods. Currently, my largest contribution is leading Foundation School to continue expanding its view of the child as we incorporate Nurtured Heart practices throughout the school. Thinking about it, I find the most

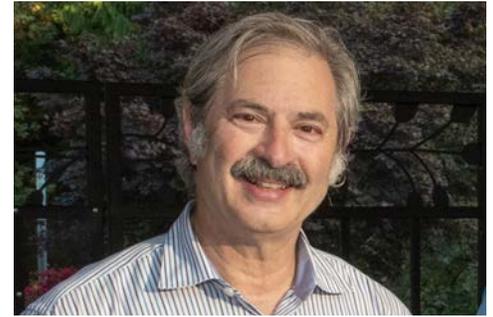


important way I contribute is through teaching that community is paramount. It is safe to be vulnerable, and to give and receive in this community.

From Rick Botney

There are many ways to give. Sometimes a smile, or a pleasant interaction, will brighten someone's day. Pitching in and lending a hand can help lighten someone's load, or perhaps it will be as part of a group effort. Of course, monetary contributions can always help. My contributions to Neveh Shalom fall into both camps. CNS provides a lot for both the Jewish community as well as the community at large, and I consider it a mitzvah to support our efforts.

While I have done many small things over the years, in 2011 I began as a volunteer cooking a monthly meal for the teens served by *Outside In*. About five years ago, I was given the opportunity to take over leadership for that effort. One Sunday each month, a group of volunteers meets in the Neveh Shalom kitchen to prepare a meal for at least sixty homeless teens. We often have families joining us; since we begin right after ALIYAH, teens find it a good way to fulfill their community service requirements. Hunger is a huge problem, so this is one way in which we can contribute; it is an honor to help lead that effort. *See the weekly eblasts for Cooking for Outside In opportunities.*



From Brian Suher

Some things start from the smallest of seeds. Sunday mornings growing up were always a bustling time. Four little Suher kids bundled up to go to Sunday School, each with a coin or two to take to the classroom. It was with great pride that I added my coins to the *tzedakah* box as it was passed around.

I soon learned much more about spending great amounts of time at Neveh Shalom. My father showed me how to close my eyes at the beginning of the sermon and open them at the last sentence. I perfected this.

As I grew older, it occurred to me that the Scholar-in-Residence program had disappeared. I asked our Executive Director, Fred Rothstein, about it. He shared that it was one of his dreams to bring the Scholar-in-Residence program back to life. Tragically, in 2016, my oldest nephew Yoni Suher, born in Portland but a nearly life-long Israeli, was murdered in a suicide attack by terrorists in Istanbul. Then I realized that I could honor my nephew and bring back this important program, with the strong help of Rabbi Kosak, of course, and many others.

My inspiration began with a coin dropped into a *tzedakah* box at Neveh Shalom when I was five. It grew into a passion to open doors for others in response to the doors that prior generations had opened for me.

Glossary of Giving at CNS

By Michelle Caplan, Assistant Executive Director

“We make a life by what we give. L’chaim!”

Each time we partake in an act of tzedakah, we help build and strengthen our kehillah and ourselves. There are many ways to contribute to our community, this page focuses on financial contributions, which help our kehillah grow and thrive. Gifts are an investment in the future of CNS life, the next generation of CNS Jewish leaders, and the advocacy for an authentic and dynamic congregation.



Below is a list of definitions connected with giving at Congregation Neveh Shalom. Learn more about giving at Neveh Shalom: nevehshalom.org/give.

Annual Giving Program (AGP): Annual Giving Program (Campaign) is active each year during the summer, through the High Holy Days season, and culminates at the end of the calendar year; it is used to support the operation and programs of the congregation. CNS membership commitments provide less than 50% of our budget; therefore, AGP support is critical and relied upon.

Development Committee: The objective of the Development Committee is to increase fundraising capacity at the synagogue through growing the existing fundraising efforts (Annual Giving Program and Spring Fundraiser) and developing new methods to bring revenue into the organization (through such vehicles as employer matching, grant writing, and retail giving). The current members of this committee are **Raul Krivoy, Chair, Alan Blank, Arlene Cogen, Lisa Greenfield, Gary Peck, and Carolyn Weinstein**. If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact **Michelle Caplan**, mcaplan@nevehshalom.org.

Employer Matching: Many employers offer a donation match program for their employees. With this program, it's easy to double the impact of your donation. Intel, Nike, Cambia, and HP are just a few companies with matching programs.

Life & Legacy Endowment Giving: Through a bequest in your will, including CNS as a beneficiary of an IRA or life insurance policy, a gift of real estate, or any number of other estate

planning strategies, you can help to ensure the continuing financial sustainability of our congregation. Neveh Shalom invites your participation in our Life & Legacy Program. Please contact **Fred Rothstein** for more information on bequests and endowments, frothstein@nevehshalom.org.

Other ways to give: There are many ways to give to support Neveh Shalom. In addition to direct donations, you can support CNS through the Fred Meyers program, donating a vehicle, purchasing memorial plaques and pavers, utilizing Amazon Smile, and bringing in your cans and bottles.

Spring Fundraiser: The Spring Fundraiser is often an auction with some form of entertainment or program, including a mitzvah moment. All proceeds above expenses are designated as a contribution to CNS. The last few years, funds raised went directly to our education programs.

Tribute Funds: These are funds dedicated to supporting specific program areas of the congregation. A list of funds can be found on our website. Contributions can be made in honor of a special occasion or person, or in memory of a loved one. If you are interested in beginning a named fund, please contact **Fred Rothstein**, frothstein@nevehshalom.org.

For more information about any of these programs, or giving at Neveh Shalom, contact Michelle Caplan, Assistant Executive Director, 503-293-7313 | mcaplan@nevehshalom.org.

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.

Sisterhood Interfaith/BIPOC Meetings

Wed, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, 7:00pm

Women of different backgrounds come together to discuss questions of faith and confronting social justice issues. RSVP: smallfryeterp@icloud.com.

Pop Music in Shul: A Musical Lecture

Monday, January 9, 6:30pm

Are prayers set to songs by the Beatles, ABBA, John Denver, Broadway hits, Hollywood hits, and others kosher or not kosher? Find out in this fun and thought-provoking musical lecture by Cantor Eyal Bitton.

Women's Torah Study

Saturday, Jan. 14, 28, Feb 11, 25, 12:30pm

Join Mel Berwin for an hour of uplifting study and conversation. In-person.

Cooking for Outside In

Sunday, January 8, 12:00pm

Cook a meal to feed homeless teens. Contact: 8888octopus8888@gmail.com

Learn the Art of Jewish Storytelling

Thurs: Jan. 12 – Mar. 16, 6:00-8:00pm

You are invited on a three-month journey with Professional Jewish Storyteller Brian Rohr, for beginning and experienced performers! \$200 CNS members; \$250 Non-members. nevehshalom.org/storytellingclass

Wise Women Social Brown Bag Lunch

Thurs, Jan. 19, Feb 16, 12:00pm

Socialize and empower one another in a casual environment.

Shroud Crowd

Sunday, Jan. 22, Feb. 12, 2:00-4:00pm

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

Israel360: Estee's Kitchen:

Mediterranean Vegan Cooking

January 22, 3:30-6:00pm

Join cookbook author Estee Raviv, the author of *Oy Vey Vegan*, for a hands-on, laugh-filled vegan Mediterranean cooking extravaganza! \$18/per person includes cooking class and meal.



Having fun playing giant Connect Four at the Young Adults Latke Ball 2022 (ages 21-35ish)

Wondering Jews: Genealogy 101

Wednesday, January 25, 2:00pm

Presentation by Jewish Genealogical Society of Oregon President, Janice Sellers and Librarian Leora Troper.

Sisterhood Board Meetings

Thursday, Jan. 26, Feb. 23, 7:00pm

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

Sisterhood Book Club

4th Monday of the month, 7:00pm

1/30 *The Giver of Stars*, by Jojo Moyes
2/27 *Gateway to the Moon*, by Mary Morris
RSVP: dianeandjosh@hotmail.com.

Thinking About Israel & Palestine

Sunday, February 5, 2:00pm, EJC

Share your thoughts and feelings about Israel in safely facilitated, small groups.

Scholar-in-Residence with Noam Tibon

February 24-26

Join retired Israeli Major General, Noam Tibon, for an exploration into "Democracy at the Edge: Views of Freedom and Tyranny Through the Eyes of a Major General."

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 Service

Fridays, 6:15pm

Sisterhood Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, January 20, 6:15pm

Kol Shabbat

2nd Fridays, 7:15pm

Lay-led, voices-only service. All are welcome.

Saturday Morning Shabbat Service

Saturdays, 9:30am

- Meditation Shabbat, 1st Saturdays
- Learner's Shabbat, 4th Saturdays

Downstairs Minyan Shabbat Service

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

Youth & Young Families

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

Kiddush Club (K-3rd Grade)

1st and 3rd Saturdays, 10:30am

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

Tot Shabbat (Ages 0-5)

1st and 3rd Saturdays, 10:30am

Join young families as we gather together for some Tot Shabbat fun.

4th Fridays Shabbat w/ Rabbi Eve

4th Fridays, 5:15pm

Rabbi Eve leads Shabbat for families (ages 0-10), with singing, a story, and blessings.

PJ Havdallah (Ages 0-6th Grade)

Saturday, February 25, 5:30pm

Havdallah, dinner, stories, art, and a whole lot of fun for the whole family.

Foundation School Walk-a-Thon

Sunday, February 12, 10:30am

Join Foundation School and support our community with this annual fundraiser. Contact: crothstein@nevehshalom.org.

Member News



Mazel tov to **CNS Program Director Lisa Richmond** on her recent engagement to long-time partner, Martin Winch. Lisa and Martin met ten years ago while co-teaching at New Urban High School in Milwaukie, where Martin still works, running a program that helps at-risk students earn their high school diplomas. We are all so happy for them! If you see her around, please wish her a mazel tov.

Congratulations to Zachary Lesch and Nina Simons on the birth of their son, Leo, on October 7 in Astoria. Proud grandparents are **Harold & Jackie Lesch** in Beaverton and Helga Simons of Denver.



Mazel Tov to member **Mia Osherow** on being hired as Communications Assistant at CAT Adoption Team. With over a decade of experience, first as a volunteer Adoption Counselor, and currently as a staff Shelter Associate, Mia brings a wealth of knowledge to the job as well as excellent customer service skills and unparalleled writing chops. Mia will primarily be responsible for CAT's social media presence and will regularly contribute articles to the blog as well as electronic and print newsletters.

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

We are saddened to inform you of the passing of Melanie Goodman Eckstein (z"l) at the age of 99 1/2 years old. She is loved and remembered by her son **Jerome (Lisa) Eckstein** and her granddaughter **Laura Eckstein**. The funeral took place in Sarasota, Florida.

We are saddened to inform you of the passing of Victoria Rezvanipour, z"l on Friday, December 16. She was the wife of Joseph Khajehzadeh, z"l, and the oldest of six children. She is remembered by her children, Ben Abraham (Libby Jochnowitz) Kahn, Shiva (Dorel) Busuioc, Benjamin (Amy) Kahn, and Behyar (Lia Lam) Khajehzadeh; her grandchildren, **Yoni (Rebecca) Kahn**, Shannel (Elias), Juline, Mathew, Jared, and Sydney; and her great-grandchildren, **Zolly, Yoshi, Amari, and Cairo**.



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Pesya Pantofelman from Charlota Aginsky

William Perkel from Robert & Harriet Perkel

Raisa Perlina from Ella Stern

Nisl Rabovitser from Gregory & Nelly Altotsky

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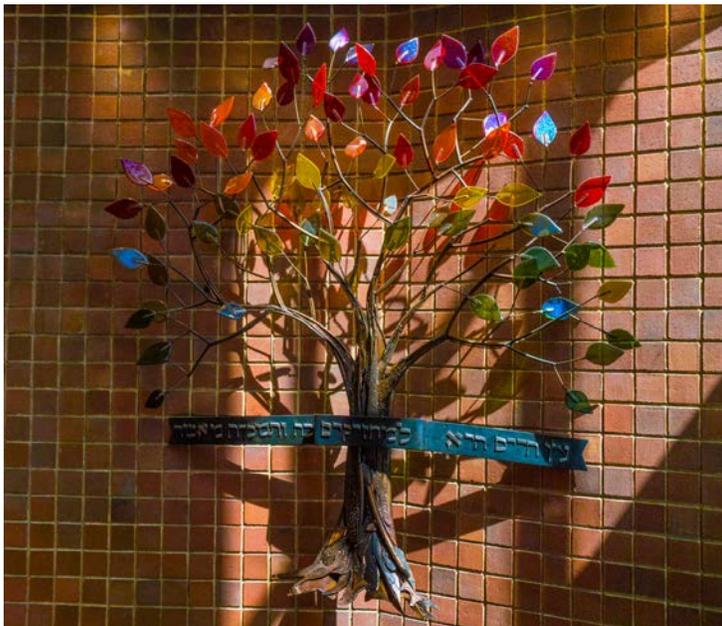
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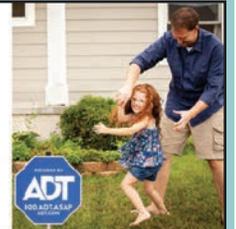
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Young Adult Parties for Sukkot and Chanukah



PJ Havdallah at the EJC



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