

THE
CHRONICLE

A PUBLICATION OF CONGREGATION NEVEH SHALOM

AMEN

... BE A BLESSING ...

BLESS OTHERS AND YOU SHALL BE BLESSED.

The Contours of Summer

By Rabbi David Kosak

נְפֶשׁ-בְרַכָּה תִדְשֵׁן וְיִמְרוֹה גַם-הוּא יִרְא

**A generous person enjoys prosperity;
He who satisfies others shall himself be sated.**



One of the most important elements of *berakha* is its reciprocal nature, in particular how reciting blessings can transform us. This is worth exploring. In Proverbs 11:25, we read *nefesh-b'rakha t'dushan, u'marveh gam hu yoreh*. The 1985 JPS translation renders this, "a generous person enjoys prosperity; He who satisfies others shall himself be sated."

Amy Einhorn was my shul president in Cleveland. She consistently liked to say, "you get what you give," which basically could have been cribbed from Proverbs. This quote from Proverbs is worth a closer look because of the choices the translators made. The Hebrew for a generous person here is *nefesh-b'rakha*, which is idiomatic. Taken literally, we can render this as a "soul of blessing." In other words, offering blessings makes us feel abundant, and out of our sense of abundance, we feel generous to ourselves. This sounds correct.

But what exactly are we offering when we bless? What is happening? Basic Judaism states that a blessing is how we gain permission to benefit from something. From the early rabbinic perspective, everything ultimately belongs to God. The Talmud teaches in Berakhot 35a: "One who enjoys any benefit from this world without a blessing, it is as if they stole from God."

While there is something profoundly humbling and revolutionary in this layer of Jewish understanding, which is the very opposite of our contemporary notions of entitlements, it does require translation. I think the easiest way to

grasp this significance to this concept of reciprocity. The Japanese understand this; supposedly receiving a gift leaves the recipient with a debt that is only repaid by giving a gift in return. In Africa, cowrie beads were exchanged with a similar expectation that this sign of wealth had to be passed along. Thank you notes represent this exchange; we respond to a blessing of a present by an offering of our own, expressed through words. Blessings, as we understand, call forth our own sense of gratitude, which is why there are even blessings for intangible gifts, like the aroma of a flowering tree or the beauty of a rainbow.

In addition to reciprocity and exchange, Judaism also approaches blessings as a model for how to live. The Kabbalah imagines that divinity flows down to us in ten different channels, such as kindness, mercy, and splendor. For our part, we are meant to strive to become kind and compassionate. While this is also a sense of exchange, here the emphasis is on the transformational power of blessings. We become and emulate the blessing we receive, which is what we mean in our annual theme when we state, "Be a Blessing." Become a blessing to ourselves and others.

While there is much more to be said about giving and receiving blessings, I want to conclude with another aspect, which is that of *tikkun*. In the writings of the Hasidic master, Rabb Rabbi Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev, blessings are often linked to the concept of repair or

Continued on next page

This issue of the Chronicle explores our annual theme, which is "Amen: Be a Blessing." What does it mean to be a blessing? To receive blessings? How can Jewish teachings about *bracha* inform our synagogue's programming year while enriching our lives?

In Jewish tradition, blessings hold such deep significance that they are one of the first religious acts that children are taught. In Foundation School, even the youngest have heard the blessings recited over *challah* or grape juice. Our prayerbook is a repository of blessings, and the most important prayer, the *Amidah*, consists of nineteen blessings.

Sometimes we can get blinded to that which is common, and blessings certainly fall into that category. For a blessing is much more than the standard formula we are taught, *barukh ata...*

You ARE a Blessing

Rabbi's Corner

By Rabbi Eve Posen

How do you let someone know they are a blessing? And who can give blessings? The answer to the first question, I think is individual as we each have our own love language. The second question, however, is one of my favorites because each and every person has the power to give and be a blessing in our world. This is why, on Friday nights, I don't just have parents bless children; instead, I often ask children to bless parents as well since sometimes we just need to hug ourselves to remind ourselves of our blessing. That's because a core tenet of Judaism is the notion that each person *is* a blessing.

The Torah begins with the creation of humanity, stating that each person is created "in the image of God" (*B'tzelem Elohim*). This idea, found in Genesis 1:27, emphasizes the inherent dignity and worth of every individual. Being created in the image of God means that each and every person possesses an intrinsic holiness and unique potential, which

makes them blessings to the world. The Talmud expands on this by saying that saving one life is akin to saving an entire world (Sanhedrin 4:5), underscoring the infinite value of each person.

Jewish tradition also teaches that every person has a unique role or mission, often referred to as a *Tikkun* (rectification) that they are meant to fulfill in the world. The Baal Shem Tov, the founder of Hasidism, taught that every soul descends into this world to fulfill a specific purpose that no other soul can accomplish. This idea reinforces the notion that each person is a blessing, not just in their inherent worth, but in the unique contributions they bring to the world.

The Hebrew word for blessing, *bracha*, shares a root with the word *berech*, meaning knee, suggesting that blessings come when we bend in humility. Recognizing each person as a blessing requires humility, seeing beyond our differences, and acknowledging the Divine spark in everyone.



Each person is a blessing because they reflect the image of God, carry a unique purpose, and add to the harmony of the community. Their diverse presence enriches our world in countless ways. By recognizing this truth, we not only honor those around us but also draw closer to the Divine.

Rabbi Kosak *Continued from previous page*

restoration. Each blessing offers us an opportunity to restore divine harmony in the world, participating in a spiritual repair that extends beyond our immediate circumstances.

This returns us to the idea of entitlements. On the one hand, the world doesn't owe us anything, and expecting a free hand out can narrow our spirits, while reducing our own sense of agency. On the other hand, properly understood, social entitlements are a mechanism by which we try to ensure that there are no barriers to God's divine flow of blessings. In the political realm, that normally has a financial element, and giving tze-

dakah is definitely an act of bestowing blessings on those in need. *Gemilut hasidim*, random acts of kindness, is a type of spiritual currency. In today's hectic world, we could all use more kindness and compassion; being a blessing allows us to become a spiritual entitlement to others. By lending a helping hand, we indeed are fixing the world.

Life can be difficult; being a blessing and allowing ourselves to feel gratitude for the blessings we receive are powerful responses to the challenges we all face. Rabbi Dorothy Richman introduced me this year to Etty Hillesum's letters. Etty was a Dutch Jew who perished in the

Holocaust. Although she faced very dire circumstances, she was able to write from the camps, "Despite everything, life is full of beauty and meaning. Every day brings something for which I am thankful" (*Letters and Diaries of Etty Hillesum, 1941-1943*).

The more we bless others—whether through kindness, prayer, or conscious action—the more we open ourselves to receiving divine blessing. Yet, to receive a blessing, we must also be prepared, both spiritually and ethically, to create the vessels for those blessings to manifest. May this indeed be a year of blessing for us all.

Amen for My Children

By Cantor Eyal Bitton

Cantor's Corner

Israeli singer Hanan Ben Ari has a beautiful song called “Amen Al Hayeladim Sheli,” which translates to “Amen for My Children.” It’s a heartfelt reflection on the love, fears, and hopes of a father for his children.

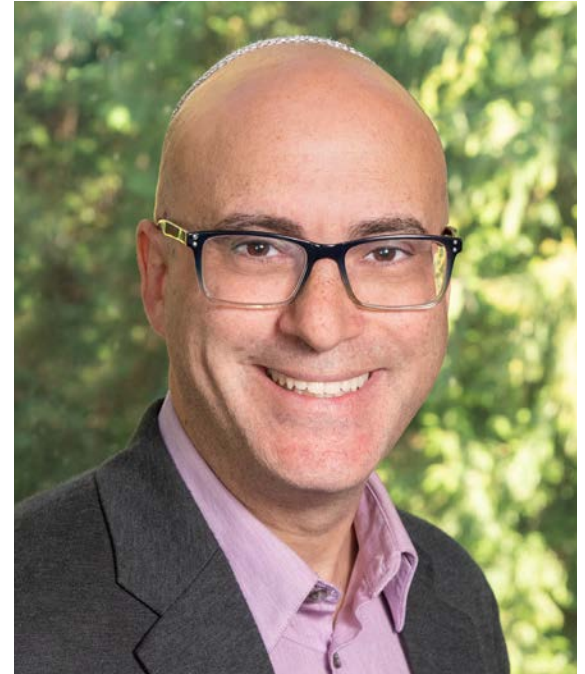
Ben Ari sings, “I pray for my children, that they won’t inherit my scars, that they’ll embrace each other; Amen, may they always be healthy.” These words encapsulate the universal wish of parents: that their children grow up free from the burdens of the past, with love and strength to face the future. For me, this prayer goes beyond health and happiness. It’s a prayer for their character, their identity, and their place in a world that often seems increasingly hostile to who they are.

At the conclusion of the *Amidah*, there is a moment where one can insert a personal prayer. Every single time I pray for my children, for my family, for the people of Israel, and for the State of Israel. But I begin with my children. I pray that they grow up to be proud Jews who engage with their community, who love being a part of the people of Israel, and who value the miracle that is the State of Israel.

I worry about my children growing up as Jews in North America today. The atmosphere is far more hostile towards Jews than at any point in my lifetime. We’re supposed to progress as a society, but what we’ve seen is not progress. We’re supposed to be living in a world that celebrates people’s identities and differences. Yet, when it comes to Jews, a troubling litmus test for acceptance is being applied more and more: renounce the Jewish state. If you don’t, if you see Israel as part of your Jewish identity, you risk being shunned, excluded, or worse.

This environment is not just a political challenge; it’s a challenge to our very identity. For generations, Jews have faced persecution, yet we’ve remained resilient, rooted in our heritage and traditions. Today, however, the hostility is often cloaked in the guise of social justice, making it even more insidious. I fear that my children might grow up in a world where being proudly Jewish comes with a heavy price.

But I also have hope. I believe in my children. I believe in the next generation of



Jews who will grow up with a deep love for their heritage, an unwavering commitment to their community, and a profound appreciation for the State of Israel. They will understand that Israel is not just a political entity but a miracle—a redemption, an ancient promise realized, a symbol of historical and spiritual rootedness, a beacon of hope, and a symbol of Jewish survival and continuity.

Continued on page 6

The Chronicle No. 1 ~ Oct-Dec 2024

Supported by the Sala Kryszek
Memorial Publication Fund

To contact us with ideas, comments, or
to become a contributor:
brohr@nevehshalom.org

Subscriptions and member news:
news@nevehshalom.org

Membership inquiries:
mcaplan@nevehshalom.org

For a full staff list go to:
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CHRONICLE COMMITTEE

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Mel Berwin, Director of
Congregational Learning
Cantor Eyal Bitton
Michelle Caplan, Assistant Executive Director
Marlene Edenzon, Executive Director
Mark Kalenscher, CNS President
Rabbi David Kosak, Senior Rabbi
Rabbi Eve Posen, Associate Rabbi
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Ronit Scheyer, Director of Early
Childhood Education

Congregation Neveh Shalom | 2900 SW Peaceful Lane | Portland, OR 97239 | (503) 246-8831 | nevehshalom.org



Ray "Riley" Levin | October 19

Ray Zane Levin is the child of proud parents Erin and Jason Levin, grandchild of Paula and Steve (z"l) Levin, grandchild of Sondra (z"l) and Ronald Zane of Los Angeles, California. They have an older brother, Sam and attend ACMA as an 8th grader. They're a talented artist who enjoys drawing, acting in musical theater, anything Percy Jackson and spending time with friends.



Jovie Rose Calvanese | November 2

Jovie Rose Calvanese is the daughter of parents Jason and Emily Calvanese, and younger sister to her brother Nico Calvanese. Jovie is an 8th grader at Cedarwood. She loves to sing, dance, play guitar, cook, listen to music, hang out with her friends and family, and cuddle with her dog, Stitch.



Madeleine Sheff | December 7

Madeleine Rae Sheff is set to have her Bat Mitzvah on the morning of December 7. Her parents are Jacob and Corri Sheff. Her grandparents are Jerome and Kathleen Sheff on her father's side, and Keith and Terri Kisselburg on her mother's. She is currently in 7th grade. Maddie enjoys reading, making bracelets and drinking Starbucks with her friends, studying history and languages, listening to Taylor Swift, and spending time with her bulldog, Daisy. She's also very dedicated to taekwondo, and is working towards her Second Degree Black Belt.



Julia Spielman | December 14

Julia Flax Spielman is the daughter of Michelle Flax and Loren Spielman, grand-daughter of Phyllis Spielman (z"l) and Gerald Spielman (z"l), Sam Flax (z"l) and Estelle Flax, and sister to Micah Spielman. Julia is a 7th grader at DaVinci Middle School and enjoys dancing, crafting, listening to music and spending time with friends and family.

Amari Johnson's Bar Mitzvah is on November 16

AMEN...

Be A Blessing

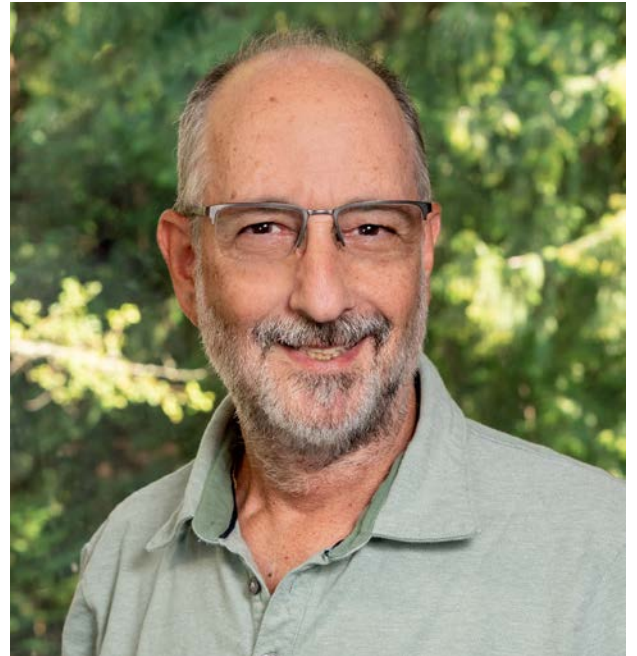
By Mark Kalenscher, CNS President

As I sit down to write this article, I am looking out my window and notice the signs that we are in the waning weeks of summer. The clouds are thickening, and the plants in our yard are clearly past their peak, so it won't be long before we start seeing the fall colors. I have to admit I am a little sad to see these changes. After all, summer is filled with lazy days in the sun and time spent enjoying being outdoors with family and friends. The Shabbat on the Plaza gatherings are beautiful examples of how this season is conducive to mixing spirituality and community.

While it sometimes seems difficult to imagine how we can sustain these good feelings as the weather turns cooler and days get shorter, it presents us with an opportunity for personal growth. Like seasonal changes, we all experience difficult transitions, both individually and as a community. If we learned anything from the past year's challenges, good times invariably follow difficult times. And dark periods eventually give way to brighter days. At CNS, we have shown

remarkable resilience in overcoming these challenges because we have each other. We experience innumerable blessings daily by being part of a community that strives to live up to our values.

Your Board is deeply committed to fostering an environment that promotes our values of learning, inclusivity, and community. These three pillars form the foundation of our *kehillah*, providing a space for spiritual growth, intellectual engagement, and meaningful connections. We work very closely with the clergy and the staff to assess what our *kehillah* needs and find innovative ways to fulfill those needs. I want to express my gratitude for all the support and contributions you have made in the past. As we begin this new year with hope and optimism about what the future will bring, please continue to reach out to your



board members and help us succeed together at finding new and exciting ways to be a blessing.

I wish you a healthy and Happy New Year.

L' shanah tovah!

Mark R. Kalenscher, President

Cantor Bitton *Continued from page 4*

In the face of rising antisemitism and increasing pressure to distance oneself from Israel, I pray that my children will stand firm in their beliefs. I pray that they will have the strength to hold onto their identity, to embrace their fellow Jews,

and to love Israel with all their hearts.

Ben Ari so beautifully expresses, "Amen, may they always be healthy." But beyond physical health, I pray for their spiritual health, for their Jewish souls to

remain strong and vibrant in the face of adversity. Amen for my children, amen for all our children, that they may grow up to be proud, strong, and resilient Jews who carry the torch of our people forward into the future.

Dear Kehillah...

By Marlene Edenzon, Executive Director

As we come together to welcome the new year 5785 and reflect on the past year, we are reminded of the profound impact that each of us can have on our community. It is in this spirit that I invite you to join us in our Annual Giving Campaign, a vital initiative that ensures our synagogue remains a vibrant, welcoming, and spiritually enriching place for all who choose to participate.

The tagline of this year's theme, "*Bless others and you shall be blessed*," resonates deeply with the values we hold dear. It speaks to the interconnectedness of our community and the belief that by giving, we not only support others but also enrich our own lives in ways that are immeasurable.

Your participation in the Annual Giving Campaign directly supports the many programs and services that make Congregation Neveh Shalom a home for all. From educational initiatives for our children, to pastoral care for those in need, to the upkeep of our sacred space, your contributions help sustain the heart and



soul of our community. **It is through your generosity** that we can continue to offer meaningful worship services, engaging educational opportunities, and lifecycle events that bring us together in celebration and support.

Moreover, your gift helps us extend our

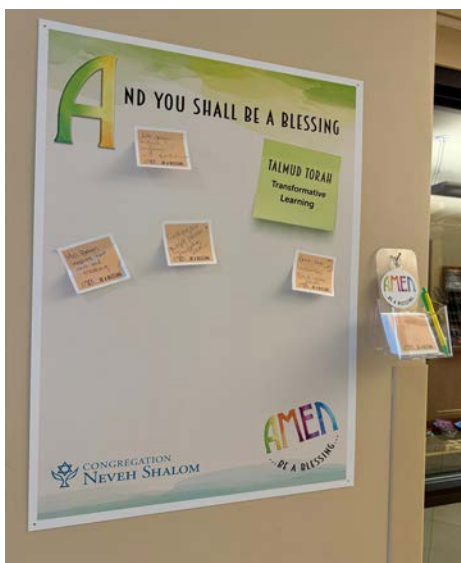
reach beyond the walls of the synagogue, allowing us to engage in *tikkun olam*, the repair of the world. Whether it's through social action projects, interfaith dialogues, or community outreach, your support enables us to live out our values in tangible ways, making a difference in the lives of others.

As we embark on this new year and this campaign, I encourage you to reflect on the blessings in your life and consider how you might share those blessings with others. By contributing to the Annual Giving Campaign, you are not only helping to sustain our community but also ensuring that it continues to thrive for future generations.

Thank you for your generosity, your commitment, and your belief in the power of community. **Together, let us bless others, knowing that in doing so, we too shall be blessed.**

Shanah Tovah U'metukah,

Marlene Edenzon, Executive Director



A Stellar Team of Teachers and Madrichim

By Mel Berwin, Director of Congregational Learning

This year marks my twentieth year in Portland and at Congregation Neveh Shalom. It is absolutely impossible to imagine my time in this city and the years raising my children without the presence of this congregation, the many friends we have made here, the loving acquaintances of all ages that my children grew up with, the teachers who have educated and nurtured them, and the ways this congregation has held me and helped my family through the many ups and downs of our lives.

What an incredible blessing!

There is nothing I want more than to help every child and family who walks in our doors to feel that same blessing: the warmth, the connection over years and across generations, and the sense of being held in the good times and the challenging ones. That is what community is all about!

Fortunately, we have a stellar team of teachers and *madrichim* (teen interns) who have been preparing for our year together and share that same vision. At our recent teacher training days, we be-

gan with some Torah study (after all—many of us love teaching because we love learning!). In *hevruta* (paired partners), we focused on several texts related to blessing and the word “amen.”

As teachers and *madrichim* shared how our congregational theme of “Amen... Be a blessing!” translates to our classroom culture, and our many areas of curricular focus, this is what I heard:

“Amen and blessing are both about trust. We trust each other to bless, and our Amen at the end conveys that same trust from the other side.”

“The Amen is just as important as the blessing. There is no hierarchy in who says the blessing and who supports and validates.”

“I’m thinking about how Hebrew is a blessing. It has been many years since I have been in Israel. The Hebrew language is like my personal *mishkan*—my mobile sacred space that I carry around with me.”

“Blessings and Amen are about perspective. We can pay attention to see the



whole picture and the details and to understand our students.”

“Being a blessing unlocks and expands the blessing from one person to another and another. We are also passing that blessing from one generation to another.”

“We learned that we bless on the bad as we do on the good. Just like a fire can be destructive, it can also bring warmth and cook our food and help forests regenerate. With blessings we can acknowledge all of the good and the bad in our lives.”

“We can be there for our students during the hard moments and for the good ones. We welcome every child—they belong no matter if they are ‘in sync’ or ‘out of sync’ with the group.”

We wish everyone a sweet new year, full of the blessings of good health, meaningful connections, the capacity to hold and be held, and much sweetness. (Amen!) *Shanah tovah!*



The Truth of Amen

By Ronit Scheyer, Director of Early Childhood Education

When I want to explore the meaning of something Jewish, my first impulse is always to go to the Hebrew. Hebrew – our *lashon kodesh*, holy tongue – is both the hook for me into meaningful Jewish practice as well as the lens through which I see my Jewish world. Instead of “What’s the Rashi on that?” in order to ask what the *pshat*, or plain meaning, of a text is, I tend to start with, “What’s the Hebrew?” not just for the sake of translation but also to explore the magic of the Hebrew itself. What do these words actually mean? What is the root? What other words come from this same root that could give me some insight into *this* word or phrase? How is this word used in different texts and what insights can be drawn from comparing them?

Over the summer, just for fun, I created a source sheet exploring the root of AMEN: *aleph-mem-nun*. The design was inspired by how a page of Talmud is laid out, with the main text in the center and commentary, or in this case different permutations of the root, surrounding the main text, with references in the margins. What I discovered on my quest surprised me. I have been teaching He-

brew for twenty years, but I didn’t know until recently that the words *amen*, what we say after blessings, and *emet*, truth, come from the same root. The terms for nursemaid and foster-parent, *omen/omenet*, also come from this root. One of the few times *omen* appears in the masculine describes the role Mordechai had in raising Esther, the source for the midrash that Mordechai literally grew breasts and nursed the infant Esther after her parents died. Other words from this root include *emunah*, faith or steadfastness, *oman*, artist, and the verb *l’ha’amin*, whose meaning changes based on which preposition follows it, either to believe someone or something or to believe *in* them. The richness and magic of Hebrew never cease to impress me.

Amen is what we say in Jewish to voice our agreement with a blessing made by another. *Emet* is a bit trickier. Our tendency is to think of truth as an absolute, but the Hebrew idea of truth is not absolute; rather, it’s something that supports us, something we can lean on and trust in, nourishing us when we are most vulnerable. Although there may be things that appear to be universally supportive for most of us, because each of us has different experiences and needs, what supports or nourishes me may be very different from what supports or nourishes you. Each of us then has our own *emet*, not because truth is relative (or is it?), but because each of us contains multitudes—and Judaism is very clear that multiple truths can co-exist at once.

This understanding is essential to what we do in Foundation School. We recognize that cookie-cutter



education—including whichever kids happen to fit the mold but leaves the rest behind—doesn’t work. We cannot say that we have the absolute truth and that everyone who doesn’t see it or

<p>FIRMNESS, STEADINESS אָמוּנָה Ex. 17:12 וַיְדִי מֹשֶׁה כְּבִידִים וַיִּקְחוּ אֶבֶן וַיִּשְׁמְרוּ תַחְתָּיו וַיֵּשֶׁב עָלֶיהָ וְאָהֳרֹן וְחוּר תָּמְכוּ בְּיָדָיו מִזֶּה אַחַד וּמִזֶּה אֲחֵד וַיְהִי יָדָיו אָמוּנָה עַד־בָּא הַשָּׁמֶשׁ:</p> <p>But Moses' hands grew heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it, Aaron and Hur, one on each side, supported his hands; thus his hands remained steady until the sun set.</p> <p>TRUSTWORTHY HUMAN CONDUCT 2K. 12:16 וְלֹא יִתְשֹׁבוּ אֶת־הָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר יִתְּנוּ אֶת־הַכֶּסֶף עַל־יָדָם לַתַּת־לְעָשִׂי הַמְּלָאכָה כִּי בְּאֵמֻנָה הֵם עֹשִׂים:</p> <p>No check was kept on those to whom the money was delivered to pay the workers; for they dealt honestly.</p> <p>TRUTH De. 8:12 וַיִּצְבֹּא נַתְנוּ עַל־הַתְּמִיד בְּקִשְׁעוֹ וַתְּשַׁלַּח אֲמֹת אֶרֶץ עֲשֻׂתָּה וַתְּחַלְּלֶינָה:</p> <p>An army was arrayed iniquitously against the regular offering; it heaped truth to the ground and prospered in what it did.</p>	<p>PROVIDING SUPPORT OR NOURISHMENT אָמֵן Ex. 2:7 וַיְהִי אִמּוֹ אֶת־הַדָּסָה הִיא אֲסִמְרָת בַּת־דָּוִד כִּי אִיוּ לָהּ אֵב אָב וְאֵם וְהַנְּעִדָה יִפְתָּ תֹאמָר וְטוֹבוֹת מֵרָאָה וְכֹמוֹת אֵבִיהָ וְאֵמָה לַקְּחָה מִדְּבָרֶיךָ לֹא לְבַת:</p> <p>He was former father to Hadassah—that is, Esther—his uncle's daughter, for she had neither father nor mother. The maiden was shapely and beautiful; and when her father and mother died, Mordecai adopted her as his own daughter.</p> <p>FIRM RELIABLE BELIEVING הָאֲמֵן Ex. 43:28 וַיִּגְדּוּ לוֹ לְאֹמֶר עוֹד יוֹסֵף חַי וְכִי־הָיָה מִשָּׁל בְּקֵל־אֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם וַיִּקַּם לְבֹן כִּי לֹא־הָאֲמֵן לֵהֱמוֹ:</p> <p>And they told him, "Joseph is still alive, yes, he is ruler over the whole land of Egypt." His heart went numb, for he did not believe them.</p> <p>TRUSTING אָמֵן Ex. 18:9 וַיֹּאמְרוּ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי מֹשֶׁה הֵנָּה אֲנֹכִי בָּא אֵלַיךָ בְּעַבְדְּךָ בַּעֲבוּרִי יִשְׁמַע הַעַם דְּבָרַי עִמָּךְ וְגַם כִּי אֲמַיְנוּ לְעוֹלָם:</p> <p>And Hashem said to Moses, "I will come to you in a thick cloud, in order that the people may hear when I speak with you and so trust you ever after."</p>
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AMEN Poster Excerpt



Bomberg Talmud Excerpt

The Heart of Jewish Congregational Life

By Michelle Caplan, Assistant Executive Director

Reflecting on the theme “Amen... Be a Blessing,” I see how deeply blessings are woven into our daily lives. I feel incredibly fortunate that my journey as a Jewish professional brought me back to Neveh Shalom over five years ago. Recently, our staff explored the meaning of “Amen,” realizing it is more than a prayer response. It’s an affirmation, a declaration of faith, and a communal agreement. “Amen” is a commitment to the values and hopes expressed in prayer, binding each of us to our *kehillah* and God. This theme encapsulates the essence of Jewish congregational life, where each “Amen” moves us toward embodying the blessings of Jewish tradition in membership, engagement, B’nai Mitzvah, and even in death.

Membership: A Bond of Blessing

My husband Jon and I joined Neveh Shalom 25 years ago, and I vividly remember immediately feeling a part of a *kehillah* that felt like family. Membership at Neveh Shalom is about entering into a sacred bond grounded in shared faith and mutual responsibility. Whether you joined fifty years ago or just last week, you are saying “Amen” to the values and practices that have sustained the Jewish people for generations. Our *kehillah* commits to being a blessing to others, whether by supporting the synagogue financially, volunteering, participating in services, or simply being in the community.

Engagement: Turning Amen into Action

Engagement in Jewish congregational life goes beyond attending services or events: it’s about turning “Amen” into action. True engagement involves ac-

tively seeking ways to be a blessing within the community. Have you joined a committee? Have you participated in social justice initiatives, or supported others in times of need? Congregational life offers countless opportunities to live out this principle. Each “Amen” is an invitation to make the world a better place, transform faith into action, and bless others within and beyond the synagogue walls.

B’nai Mitzvah: A Rite of Passage and a Blessing

As B’nai Mitzvah Coordinator, I aim to make this milestone a blessing for each family. The word “Amen” takes on new meaning as the B’nai Mitzvah people affirm their commitment to living a life of faith and action. This rite of passage is a blessing for the young teen and the congregation (or adult in the case of an adult B’nai Mitzvah).

The community celebrates and supports young people’s entry into Jewish adulthood. Each “Amen” reminds us that the future of the Jewish people is secure as new generations uphold tradition and become blessings in their own right.

Death: Amen As a Final Blessing

Even in death, the theme “Amen... Be a Blessing” holds profound significance. The recitation of the *Mourner’s Kaddish*, where the congregation responds with “Amen,” affirms life and continuity in the face of loss. This communal “Amen” acts as a blessing, offering comfort to the bereaved and affirming the eternal nature of their loved ones. Jewish burial practices reflect this theme, with the community coming together to perform *chesed shel emet* (the truest act of



kindness), ensuring that the deceased is honored with dignity and respect.

Amen As a Call to Blessing

“Amen... Be a Blessing” is more than just a theme; it is a call to action that resonates throughout Jewish congregational life. From joining a community to the milestones of engagement and B’nai Mitzvah to the final farewell, each “Amen” is an opportunity to be a blessing. It is a reminder that Jewish life is about more than personal faith; it’s about being part of a larger community where everyone contributes to the collective well-being and spiritual growth of all. With every “Amen,” there is potential to transform words into deeds, faith into action, and life into a blessing.

The Week of Goodness

By Lisa Richmond, Program Director

A few weeks ago, Neveh Shalom participated in “The Week of Goodness,” an international effort to “surge goodness into the world” that it might reach the hostages and help their return. Keeping this in mind, at a Wise Women Lunch, we discussed the concept of kindness vs. goodness. These words are often used interchangeably, but are they the same thing? It was a lot to tackle in 1.5 hours! My takeaway was that they are two distinct, though related notions: goodness is inherent, while kindness is a gesture that emerges from it.

This is similar to our theme for the year: “Amen: Be a Blessing!” My interpretation is: you already *are* a blessing! And yet, we can all *be* a blessing by bringing our unique gifts to each other and the world.

Neveh Shalom’s participation in *Tikkun Olam* is a stellar example of how we come together to *be a blessing*. Because of your commitment to repair the world just this last year, we’ve partnered with many organizations in our Jewish and non-Jewish community to provide food and other needed items to migrant workers and those who are transitioning out of homelessness; bake haman-

taschen with Holocaust survivors; provide warm clothes and water bottles to foster youth as well as school supplies to students in low-income households—and the list goes on.

In our immediate *kehillah*, our Hesed Committee works tirelessly to provide support to congregants experiencing a medical situation or other family emergency by participating in meal trains (almost 200 meals provided in the last year!), running errands, or simply making a compassionate phone call. In tandem, Avraham’s Closet routinely lends out medical equipment to those in need of it. We prepare *Tachrichim* (burial shrouds) to lovingly prepare our deceased; deliver Mishloach Manot to senior congregants; host families at our Seder tables, and plant flags in our cemeteries to recognize Jewish veterans. There are countless other examples of how we, as a community, are blessings to one another.

We are truly a *Kehillah Kedoshah*: From our collective goodness emerges genuine kindness that emanates out into the world. When we extend ourselves



to be a blessing to others, we not only uplift them in the moment but also restore their ability to be a blessing themselves. This creates a ripple effect where each act of kindness empowers another, weaving a stronger, more compassionate community. In this way, our blessings multiply, moving forward and touching lives beyond our own.

Tikkun Olam - Repairing the World | Hesed - Supporting Our Community

Even with all the goodness we are surging out into the world, we still need your help. Please take a brief moment to complete our survey at nevehshalom.org/tko to indicate your volunteer interests.

To sign up specifically to provide meals and/or deliver for our Hesed Committee, please complete this form: tinyurl.com/NevehShalomHC

Learn more about Tikkun Olam opportunities: nevehshalom.org/tikkun-olam-social-action
Learn more about Hesed: nevehshalom.org/hesed-committee



Blessed

By Sarah E. Rohr, Youth Engagement Specialist

I recently heard a wise friend mention that the English word for “blessing” doesn’t quite capture the full meaning or depth of the Hebrew word *baruch*. This got me thinking: What’s your take? Do you see a difference between the English *blessing* and the Hebrew *baruch*?

Even knowing the limitations of English, I can still say that working at Neveh Shalom these past years has truly been a blessing. I’ve had the distinct honor and privilege of revitalizing Youth Activities for 3rd-12th graders over the past two years. Many people have played a key role in this effort—if you’re smiling right now as you read this, you’re one of them! Thank you for your support.

In the last two years, Youth Activities have engaged in a variety of fun and *haimish* (warm and welcoming) events. From service projects to Jewish teachings presented through play, we’ve ritualized moments together, celebrated the beauty of our Jewish identities, and



embraced the intricate web of connections that bind us.

This year, we’re excited to introduce a new teen leadership track, where our older youth will help guide and facilitate activities for the younger children. With expanded time and budget for programs, we can’t wait to watch new friendships bloom and connections grow. Every program is a celebration of our youth and their Jewish identities.

We’re also weaving our congregation-wide theme, “Amen... Be a Blessing,” into everything we do. We understand that the language of blessing has a beginning, middle, and

end—a journey of recognition, reconciliation, aspiration, and realization. In many ways, the development of Youth Activities has brought us to the aspiration stage.

Here are some of the aspirations I have for Youth Activities this year:

- That the children who attend our events feel seen and welcomed as their full selves.
- That our events spark wonder and inquiry.
- That more youth step into leadership roles.
- That we establish a clear leadership structure.
- That Youth Activities gains further community support through the formation of a parent committee.
- That we continue to serve our youth community socially, using all the tools at our disposal.
- That we build stronger connections with other Jewish youth groups in our area.
- That we thoughtfully consider our affiliations, especially with organizations like United Synagogue Youth (USY). I welcome input from those invested in these discussions.

I look forward to another year of growth and connection!

Shanah tovah!



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.

Shroud Crowd

Sun., Oct. 6, Nov. 10, Dec. 8, 2-4pm, Rm 102
Help create traditional burial clothing for use by the *Chevra Kavod haMet*. Contact: sandyaxel@msn.com

Interfaith Sisters in Unity

Wed., Oct. 9, Nov. 6, Dec. 4, 7-9pm, Zoom
Women of different backgrounds discuss questions of faith and confront social justice issues. Contact: smallfryeterp@gmail.com

Coffee Connections: CNS Sisterhood Edition

Wed., Oct. 15, Nov. 12, Dec. 10, 11:00am
Connect with amazing women in a warm, welcoming atmosphere.

Sukkot Forest Hike (Grades 3-6)

Wed., Oct. 16, 6:45-7:30pm
After a meal with families in the sukkah, our 3-6 grade students will depart into the forest to find hidden treasures!

Young Adult Happy Hour in the Sukkah

Thu., Oct. 17 6pm
FREE, fun, and casual gathering to with young Jewish adults (20s-30s). Cocktails, drinks, and pizza will be served.

Potluck in the Sukkah - Sun., Oct. 20, 5:30pm

The kehillah is invited to join Men's Club and Sisterhood in the sukkah. Bring a parve-dairy dish, shake the lulav, eat, and be merry!

Wise Women & Wondering Jews (65+) in the Sukkah - Wed., Oct. 23, 12pm

A fun, casual opportunity to socialize. Order-in lunch from Garbanzo's, or bring your own.

Teen Sukkot Dinner/Party (Grades 6-12)

Wed., Oct. 23, 6-8:30pm
Join friends in the sukkah for dinner and fun!

Simchat Torah Celebration

Thu., Oct. 24, 6pm (Young Family: 5:30pm)
Celebrate with us the end and new beginning of the Torah cycle. We'll dance and sing as we revel in the blessings of community!

Art, Heart, & Soul: Sip & Script: Hebrew Calligraphy - Thu., Nov. 7, 6-9pm

A hands-on Hebrew calligraphy workshop. Relax with friends and embrace the fun of turning letters into art!

Shabbat in the Vestry w/ Camp Schechter

Friday, Nov. 8, Dinner: 5:30 | Service: 6:15
Embrace the spirit of togetherness, comfort, and fun with dinner, games, and a camp-friendly Friday night service. All are invited!

Cooking for Outside In

Sun, Nov 10, Dec 8, 12-2pm, Marla's Kitchen
Cook a meal to feed homeless teens. Contact: 8888octopus8888@gmail.com

Brunch & Speaker Series

Sunday, November 17, 9am-12pm
Nosh and learn more about today's most relevant issues. Sponsored by CNS Men's Club

Wise Women Social Brown Bag Lunch

Thurs., Nov. 21, Dec. 19, 12-1:30pm
Pack a lunch and join this friendly group of women to schmooze and empower one another. Contact: jenkal@comcast.net

Havdalah & Improv Comedy! (Grades 7-12)

Sat., Nov. 23, 7-9pm
Laugh, listen, learn, and leap into whole new ways of expressing & understanding humor!

Sisterhood Book Group - 7:00pm

11/25: *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese
12/23: *Stranger in the Desert* by Jordan Salama
Contact: dianeandjosh@hotmail.com

Interfaith Discussion on Peace

Sunday, December 15
Rabbi Kosak is joined by interfaith leaders to speak about peace, prayer and unity.

Raising Our Sparks - Chanukah (Grades 7-12)

Wed., Dec. 18, 6:30-8:30pm
Join Tichon and Youth Activities for a celebration of Chanukah that will delight the senses among a friendly group of teens!

6th-8th Grade Winter Overnight at the Shul

Sat/Sun, Dec. 21/22
Join friends for a night of fun and sleep over in the synagogue! srohr@nevehshalom.org.

Latkes & Vodka Celebration

Sunday, December 22, 6pm-9pm
All are invited to join Sisterhood for this lively, adults-only celebration of the festival of lights! Sponsored by CNS Sisterhood.

Young Adults Latke Ball

Saturday, December 28, 7-10pm
Step into an electrifying Chanukah affair designed for the 20s & 30s crowd.

CNS Chanukah Party

Sunday, Dec. 29, 5-9pm
Celebrate with your CNS community! Dinner, songs, and activities – there's something for everyone at this celebration!

Morning Minyan and Shabbat Services

Please visit the website for more info

Morning Minyan

Monday-Friday, 7:15am (7:00am Jewish holidays and Rosh Chodesh; 9:00am US holidays); Sundays, 8:45am

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Fridays, 6:15pm
After the summer, we'll return to our Kabbalat Shabbat service in the Stampfer Chapel

Kol Shabbat

2nd Fridays, 7:15pm
Lay-led, voices-only service.

4th Friday Shabbat w/Rabbi Eve

4th Fridays, 5:15pm
Rabbi Eve Posen leads Shabbat for families (ages 0-10), with singing, a story, and blessings.

Saturday Morning Shabbat Service

Saturdays, 9:30am

Downstairs Minyan Shabbat Service

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

Tot Shabbat (Ages 0-5)

1st and 3rd Saturdays, 10:30am
Join young families as we gather together for some Tot Shabbat fun.

Kiddush Club (K-3rd Grade)

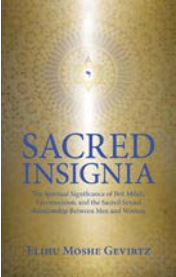
1st and 3rd Saturdays, 10:30am
Morah Sarah Rohr and Moreh Gershon Liberman alternate leading Kiddush Club.

Member News



Cantor Eyal Bitton had the honor of singing the National Anthem at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Naturalization Ceremony, hosted by the OJMCHC, on Thursday, June 20.

Photo courtesy of Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, photography by Mario Gallucci.



Mazel tov to CNS member Rabbi Elihu Gevirtz on the publication of his recent book *SACRED INSIGNIA: The Spiritual Significance of Brit Milah*. This book reveals ancient wisdom regarding the spiritual significance of Brit Milah (Jewish circumcision) in gentle, accessible language.



Hannah Freedman, daughter of **Nigel and Paula Freedman** married Brad Malach, son of Steve and Suzi Malach of West Bloomfield, MI. The wedding was held in Portland on Sunday, July 28, 2024, at the Oregon Golf Club. The couple live in Chicago, IL.



Mazel Tov to Avery and Elsie Hancock-Samuels. They were married on July 28th, at the Rose City Yacht Club in Portland, Oregon. Avery is the child of CNS members **Richard and Elizabeth Samuels**.



Kol haKavod and Mazel Tov to Michelle Caplan, who was interviewed on *KOIN 6 AM Extra* as a breast cancer survivor and dedicated volunteer with the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Michelle also shared her

powerful story at the Susan G. Komen "More Than Pink" walk at the Oregon Zoo, where over \$60,000 was raised for breast cancer research. Michelle was the second highest individual fundraiser and expressed deep gratitude to her *kehillah* for their unwavering support during one of the most challenging times of her life. We're so proud of you, Michelle!

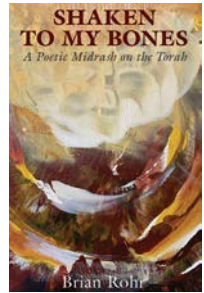
Mazel Tov to **Liliya Zaltsman** on the marriage of her daughter, Janet Zaltsman, to William McBride in Portland on June 22.



Mazel tov to **Sylvia Frankel** on the birth of her grandson, Aviv Yitzhak! Sylvia and daughter Bat-Ami were present in Pittsburgh, PA with new parents Boaz Frankel and Brooke Barker, for the bris.



Mazel tov to Brian Rohr on the release and successful launch of his debut poetry book, *Shaken to My Bones: A Poetic Midrash on the Torah*, published by Ben Yehuda Press as part of their Jewish Poetry Project series. View the launch at: <https://www.youtube.com/@nevehshalom>



Mazel tov to **Daria and Eduard Levit** on the birth of their first child, daughter Emma, who arrived at 12:58am on August 16. **Alex Kushnarov and Tamila Kushnarova** are the proud grandparents. Daria has been teaching in the Foundation School, and both parents and grandparents arrived only a year-and-a-half ago from Ukraine thanks to the help and generous support of the CNS *kehillah*.



Mazel tov to Sheri Katz and Joel Mullin whose daughter Rachel Runya Katz recently published her book, *Whenever You're Ready* and read at Annie Bloom Bookstore.



Mazel tov to Carol Stampfer and Steve Lebwohl on the birth of their granddaughter, Nomi Jules Stampfer-Luley, on July 28. Her parents Aviva and Blake, and big sister Zahava, are overjoyed. Nomi is healthy and happily named for her Saba Noam Stampfer, z"l and great-grandfather Julius Rainwater. She's the great-grandchild of Rabbi Joshua, z"l and Goldie, z"l, Stampfer.

Yihi Zichram Baruch

Our condolences to CNS members who have recently lost loved ones.



We are sorry to inform you of the passing of **Sharyn Miller Spitzer, z"l** on July 6, 2024 in Jerusalem, Israel. She will be greatly missed by her husband, Dennis Spitzer; children **Joshua and Elisa Stevens**, and Aaron and Jennifer Stevens; grandchildren **Chloe, Jonah**, Caleb, Ellie, and Jacob Stevens; her brother Elliott Miller, and her step-children/grandchildren in Israel. The funeral took place on Sunday, July 7, 2024, at Har Hamenuchot in Jerusalem.

We are sorry to inform you of the passing of **Larry Rosen, z"l** on July 9, 2024 in Maryland, one week shy of his 101st birthday. He is lovingly remembered by his daughter **Sherry Scheinman**; his grandchildren Michael Scheinman and Dan (Blakelee) Scheinman, and his great-grandchildren Levi and Dassi.

We are sorry to inform you of the passing of **Larry Harwin, z"l**, who died on July 25, 2024 at the age of 82 in Michigan. He was predeceased by his wife, Maxine Harwin, z"l and is lovingly remembered by his children, Marc Harwin, **Sam (Naomi) Harwin**, and Julie (Aaron) Fidler; his grandchildren, Lillian Harwin, Ruby Harwin, Eytan Fidler, Micah Fidler, **Renana Harwin**, and **Layla Harwin**, and his sister, Cheryl Adler. The funeral was held on Sunday, July 28, in West Bloomfield, MI.

We are sorry to inform you of the passing of CNS member **Arlene Braunstein, z"l**, who died on August 11, 2024, at the age of 80. She is lovingly remembered by her children Andrew Braunstein and Amy Dancoes, and two grandchildren.

We are sorry to inform you of the passing of Gilbert Schulman, z"l, on August 18, 2024, at the age of 77. He is lovingly remembered by his wife Marsha Schulman; his sisters Ronnie Schwimmer and Carole Goldberg; his children Kevin Schulman, **Debra and David Anchel**, Lauri Schulman, Diana Schulman and Jenny Schulman, and his grandchildren **Evan Crow, Lily Crow**, and Keryn Anchel and Andrew Howard.

We are sorry to inform you of the passing of Ed Brenner, z"l, on August 20, 2024, at the age of 74. He is lovingly remembered by his wife Debbie Brenner; his brother Michael (Luke Shwart) Brenner; his sons Andrew (Leah Fisher) Brenner and **Stephen (Ariella) Brenner**, and his granddaughters Sarah Brenner and **Abby and Shira Brenner**.

We are sorry to inform you of the passing of Sharon Straus, z"l, on August 21, 2024, at the age of 75. She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Stewart Straus, and her four sons, Brian, David (Irina), Eric (Hiliary), and Robert (Jennifer), and grandchildren Maiya, Maksim, Markus, Oliver, and Cecily. She is also remembered by her cousins, **Felicia (Todd) Rosenthal, Jaimie (Jacob) Harper, and Neil (Jodi) Simon**. She was preceded in death by parents Milton and Ilene Rosenthal. Sharon was one of the three honorees at the Rabbi Stampfer Community Enrichment Award in 2017, honored as the founder of the Sunshine Pantry, which provided food and other necessities to thousands of families for many years. She was also recognized by the 2008 Service to Beaverton Award and the 2009 Oregon Governor's Volunteer Award. Sharon was a past director of the Neveh Shalom religious school.

We are sorry to inform you of the passing of CNS member **Jay Abramovitz, z"l** on August 25, 2024. He is lovingly remembered by his wife **Jan Abramovitz**; his children Eli (Mikayla) Abramovitz and Kira Abramovitz; his precocious grandson, Kai, and his siblings Mark (Beth) Abramovitz, Rob (Carolyn) Abramovitz, and Sue (Larry) Schroeder.

We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Benjamin Vulpes z"l, also known to the Neveh Shalom community as Benjamin Survant Kaplin, at the young age of 37 on August 27, 2024. Ben tragically lost his life in a mountain biking accident. Not long after, he made the incredible gift of life by donating his organs, saving the lives of at least six people. He is lovingly remembered by his wife Kara Fern Vulpes, his beautiful children Cedar and Tallulah, his sister Gwendolyn (Benjamin) Leibold, his brother Jonathan Survant Kaplin, and his parents **Cerinda Survant and David Kaplin**.

We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Wesley James Allen, z"l on September 9, 2024, at the age of 77. He is lovingly remembered by his wife, retired **Neveh Shalom employee Debbi Villani Allen**, his children and stepchildren, Wayne, Annette, Carolyn, Allan, and Charlie, and his 15 grandchildren.

The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

A.E. ROSENBERG LECTURE FUND in memory of

Stan Constantine from Gary Constantine
Hugo Kohn Kern from Alan & Debra Montrose

ADULT EDUCATION FUND in memory of

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Arline Rae Weger from Elisa Weger
Sidney Weger from Elisa Weger

ALIYAH DONATION in memory of

Larry Harwin from The Kass Family

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN 2024-25 in honor of

Ben Memmott's bar mitzvah from Joseph & Diane Gezelter

BECKY MENASHE BOOKSHELF FUND in memory of

Ezra Menashe from Richard & Abby Menashe
Jack Menashe from Joya Menashe & Vaune Kemp
Joya Menashe from Richard & Abby Menashe
Rebecca Menashe from Richard & Abby Menashe
Rebecca Menashe from Sandy & Wendi Menashe
Solomon Menashe from Richard & Abby Menashe
Samuel Schaffer from Bill & Carmela Schaffer

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND in appreciation of

Cantor Eyal Bitton from Randi, Drew, & Jonah

in honor of

B'not Mitzvot of Sarah Bloom, Emma Bloom & Natalie Bloom from David & Trudi Bloom
Bar Mitzvah Redux of Benjamin Memmott from Lisa Gezelter & Kip Memmott

CEMETERY FUND in appreciation of

Craig & Leslie Goodman from Marlene Brenner

in memory of

Inge Hamburger from Jeff Hamburger
Irmgard Hamburger from Jeff Hamburger
Jacob Hamburger from Jeff Hamburger
Kurt Hamburger from Jeff Hamburger

Elizabeth Heckman from Susan & Norman Kaplon

Hanna Henner from Jeff Hamburger
Martin Henner from Jeff Hamburger
Michael Hodes from Stanley Hodes
Shirley Hodes from Mark & Francine Abolofia

Shirley Hodes from Stanley Hodes
Itskhok Khotyanov from Alisa & Bentisian Prosmushkin

Manfred Lindemann from Jeff Hamburger

Louis Neubürger from Jeff Hamburger

Paula Neubürger from Jeff Hamburger

Donald Pearlman from Shirley Pearlman

Helga Rosenberg from Jeff Hamburger

Peter Rosenberg from Jeff Hamburger

Iosif Talal from Gennady, Irina, Annette & Michelle Talal

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Matthew Rudolph from Steve Rudolph & Sheryl Sachter-Rudolph
Nathan & Minnie Sherman from Carolyn Cohen

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Gary Weinstein from Alan & Eve Rosenfeld

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Mel Berwin from Jewish Women's Round Table

Talia Buchsbaum & Rick Moberly from Gershon Buchsbaum

in memory of

Jay Abramovitz from Sandy & Wendi Menashe & Family

Eugene Abrams from Marlene Abrams

Muriel Alford from Seth & Rose Alford

Saul Alford from Seth & Rose Alford

David Allen from Carol Kane

Ruth Allen from Carol Kane

Gaby Barde from Ralph Miller

Judith Berdichevsky from Mario & Rosie Berdichevsky

Golda Berenzon from Simon Moraru

Marvin Brenner from Mark Brenner

Marvin Brenner from Michele Brenner

Marvin Brenner from Bill Brenner

Ellen Bursz from Margarete Collier

Besse Elizabeth Harris from Gregory Harris

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Esformes

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Lichtman

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Sarah Hodes from Stanley Hodes

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Carole Kaufman from Julian Kaufman

Simon Kessler, Fay Kessler, & Morton

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Ellen Koplán from Elizabeth Gold

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Harry Lomsky from Geri Matin

Vladimir Lurie from Marina Kumar

Anatoly Markus from Roza Markus

Aaron Matza from Jess Matza

Ruth Melzer from Alan Melzer
John Miller from Ralph Miller
Roza Milman from Grigoriy Milman & Marina Mekhanik
Ida Miroshnik from Moisey & Faina Talal

Naum Miroshnik from Moisey & Faina Talal

Eva Myers from Julian Kaufman

David Nelson from Marlene Abrams

Avraham Parnus from Simon Moraru

Braina Pereplyotchik from Leonid

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Schwartz

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Premysler

Ernst Schwarz from Gerald &

Margery Schwarz

Anne Seltzer from Joanne Rogovoy

Menasha Shkolnik from Yefim &

Lyudmila Litinetsky

Seymour Singer from Ellen Singer &

Eamon Molloy

Esther Sturman from David Sturman

Iosif Talal from Moisey & Faina Talal

Sveta Tolchinskaya from Peter & Alla Tolchinsky

Robert Weinstein from Leslie

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Marvin Wolf From the Hammel

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Marvin Wolf from Mark Brenner

Audrey Zalutsky from Jane Zalutsky

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in memory of

Joe Fendel from Albert & Bette Lynn

Menashe

Barbara Ritchie Mehrwein from

Brauna Ritchie

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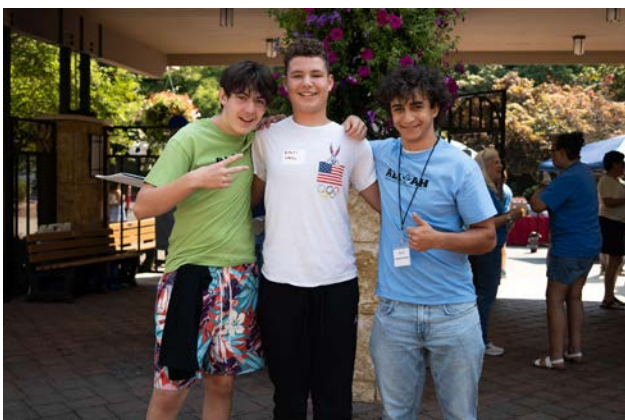
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Estelle Mae Reiser Golden from Lee

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Back to Shul 2024



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A 4C 05-0312

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in honor of

Renee Holzman from Victor & Toinette Menashe

in memory of

Michael Katz from Sue Katz
Abraham Rosenberg from Victor & Toinette Menashe
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in honor of

Avital's 30th Bat Mitzvah anniversary from Benjamin & Avital O'Glasser

Larry Rosen's Bar Mitzvah anniversary from Sherry Scheinman

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Adam Haas & Diane Linn's wedding from Lawrence & Susan Rein
Adam Haas & Diane Linn's wedding from Nan & Allan Lipton
Priscilla Kostiner & Tony Kostiner from Nan & Allan Lipton
James Schenck (Ramsey)'s conversion from Lawrence & Susan Rein

in memory of

Marv Brenner from Marlene Brenner
Fanny Lazarus from Jeffrey Lazarus
Traci Lazarus Sultan from Jeffrey Lazarus
Laurence Meyer from Lora Meyer
Rubin Rein from Lawrence & Susan Rein
Julius Rovech from Jeffrey Lazarus
John Ushman from David & Roxanne Ushman

MONTROSE VIDEO FUND

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Ethel Ehrlich from anonymous

MOSKOWITZ FUND

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Harry Goldhammer's birthday from Riley & Marci Atkins

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in honor of

Rabbi Daniel Isaak's anniversary from Jack & Barbara Schwartz

in memory of

Natalie Leher from Howard & Wendy David

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Marika Aigner from Eva Aigner
Rebecca Schaeffer from Benson Schaeffer
Moritz Spiegel from Eva Aigner

RABBI KOSAK DISCRETIONARY FUND

in appreciation of

Rabbi David Kosak from Randi, Drew, & Jonah

in honor of

Avi's Bar Mitzvah From Grandma & Grandpa
the B'not Mitzvot of Sarah Bloom, Emma Bloom & Natalie Bloom from David & Trudi Bloom
Rabbi David Kosak from Jerrie Roth

in memory of

Arnold Cogan from Elaine Cogan
Larry Rosen from Ronald & Brandon Bockman

RABBI POSEN DISCRETIONARY FUND

in appreciation of

Rabbi Eve Posen's postcards from The Kass Family

in honor of

Rabbi Eve Posen from Jerrie Roth
Bar Mitzvah Redux of Benjamin Memmott from Lisa Gezelter & Kip Memmott
B'not Mitzvot of Sarah Bloom, Emma Bloom, & Natalie Bloom from David & Trudi Bloom

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Brian Suher from Jeffrey Menashe & Wendy Gutmann
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Brian Suher & Barbara Atlas's new granddaughter from Samuel Gottlieb & Carolyn Gorin



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Shanah Tovah from all the staff at Neveh Shalom!



CNS

IN THE SUKKAH

Celebrate Sukkot with Neveh Shalom!

Explore these opportunities

- OCT 13 SUKKAH BUILD (8AM) AND DECORATION (11AM)
- OCT 16, 6PM ALIYAH K-6 SUKKOT DINNER & FOREST HIKE
- OCT 17, 6PM YOUNG ADULT (20S-30S) HAPPY HOUR IN THE SUKKAH
- OCT 19, 5:30PM NEW MEMBER HAVDALLAH
- OCT 20, 5:30PM POTLUCK IN THE SUKKAH MEN'S CLUB/SISTERHOOD
- OCT 23, 12PM WISE WOMEN/WONDERING JEWS (65+) SUKKOT LUNCH
- OCT 23, 6:30PM TEEN SUKKOT DINNER AND PARTY

SUKKAH OPEN HOURS

OCT. 17, 12-4PM | OCT. 18, 12-5PM | OCT. 19, 12-5PM |

OCT. 20, 12:30-5PM OCT. 21, 12-4PM | OCT. 22, 12-4PM

More info and registration at:
nevehshalom.org/sukkot24



Simchat Torah 5785



Torah for Everyone, a Blessing for All

Celebrate with us the end and new beginning of the Torah cycle. The final portion of the Torah is called "v'zot HaBracha, and THIS is the Blessing." Together we'll dance and sing as we revel in the blessings of community! You are invited to join us for any and all components of this festive evening.



Thursday, October 24

5:30-6:00PM YOUNG FAMILY PROGRAM

6:00-6:45PM FISH & CHIPS DINNER

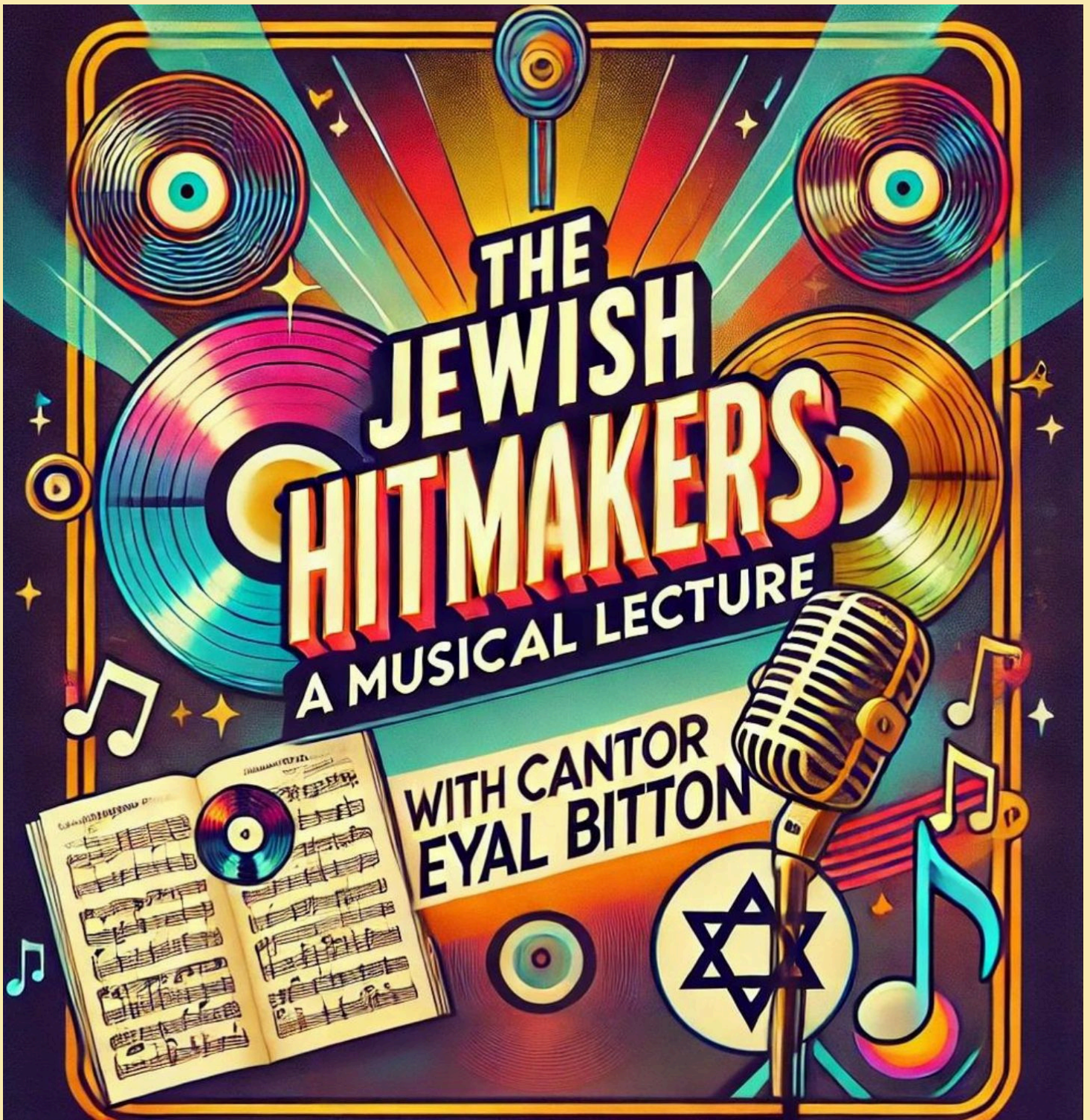
6:45-8:00PM MA'ARIV (SERVICE) | HAKAFOT (DANCING)

Registration for dinner at: nevehshalom.org/ST5785





CONGREGATION NEVEH SHALOM



Thursday, November 14, 7:00pm

Who wrote the songs that make the whole world sing? Cantor Bitton will look at great songs made famous by such artists as Celine Dion, Cher, Barry Manilow, Burt Bacharach, Elvis Presley, Ben E. King, and so many others. Come learn something new and sing along!

RSVP: nevehshalom.org/JHM24

NEW

Did Jew Know?

All your Jewish questions...
answered!

Join your CNS Clergy to explore the basics of Jewish living and learning.

In this series of classes about all things Jewish, you will be exposed to a comprehensive introduction to the fundamentals of Jewish life, culture, and practices. It is designed for individuals of all backgrounds who are interested in understanding Jewish traditions, beliefs, and customs. Through lectures, discussions, hands-on activities, and guest speakers, students will gain a deeper appreciation and understanding of all things Jewish.

Each module of the *Did Jew Know?* series will be taught in 5-unique lessons. Each module is a standalone experience; you can begin the series in any order. No advanced knowledge or learning is necessary.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES (each unit is 5 classes long):

Autumn

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- Jewish Thought and Theology with Rabbi David Kosak - *Starts Sunday, October 27, 9:15-10:30am*
- Core Jewish Texts with Rabbi David Kosak - *Starts Monday, October 28, 7-8:15pm*

Winter

??

- The Jewish Lifecycle with Rabbi Eve Posen - *Starts Sunday, January 12, 9:15-10:30am*
- Liturgy with Cantor Eyal Bitton - *Starts Monday, January 13, 7-8:15pm*

Spring

??

- Minor Jewish Holidays and the Rhythms of the Calendar (teacher TBA) - *Starts Sunday, February 23, 9:15-10:30am*
- A Year of Jewish Ritual and Shabbat with Rabbi Eve Posen - *Starts Monday, February 24, 7-8:15pm*

Register at: nevehshalom.org/DidJewKnow

