

THE CHRONICLE

A PUBLICATION OF CONGREGATION NEVEH SHALOM



MANY KINDS OF LEADERSHIP

Leading, Learning, Loving

Rabbi's Corner

By Rabbi Eve Posen

Eleven years ago, in 2014, I walked through the doors of Congregation Neveh Shalom as a young rabbi, feeling the hum of a vibrant community, eager to learn your stories and find my place among you. It was in this first year that I committed to a rabbinate of presence: leadership grounded in listening, building trust, and walking alongside you in sacred moments.

Today, as I begin my tenure as your Senior Rabbi, I return to that same doorway, filled with deep gratitude and renewed purpose. This is not the beginning of our journey, but a new chapter in the path we've been walking together. At the heart of this new chapter is a truth I've come to cherish: there are many kinds of leadership.

We often imagine leaders as people who hold titles or stand at podiums, but Jewish tradition teaches a broader, richer vision. In Pirkei Avot, Rabbi Hillel says, "In a place where there are no people, strive to be a person": *b'makom she'ein anashim, hishtadel l'hiyot ish*. The text doesn't tell us to be "the best," or "in charge," but simply to *show up*, to be a *mensh*, and to lead with integrity when it matters most. Leadership, in this view, is not reserved for the few—it's a calling for all of us.

Over the years, I've seen so many expressions of leadership within our congregation. Parents modeling Jewish values for their children around the Shabbat table. B'nei mitzvah students stepping up to chant Torah for the first time. Volunteers quietly organizing meals for someone in recovery. Teens raising their voices for justice. Board members wrestling with



Rabbi Posen at her first High Holidays with CNS (left) and as she transitions to her new role as Senior Rabbi (right)

challenging decisions, always guided by love of community. These are all acts of leadership.

My leadership may now carry a different title, but it will continue to be shaped by the same commitments that have guided me since I arrived: to be present, to listen deeply, to teach Torah that meets us in this moment, and to lead from within, not above.

At the same time, I am aware of the significance of this moment. As I step into the role of the first woman to serve as Senior Rabbi of Congregation Neveh Shalom, I carry with me the stories of those who paved the way—women who were told "you can't," and responded with, "watch me." I carry the strength of the generation before me while holding open the door for the next. This, too, is leadership: not simply occupying space, but transforming it so others can enter more freely.

As we begin this new chapter together, I invite each of you to consider: What

kind of leader are you? Where do your passions and your presence make an impact? Whether you lead from the *bimah*, the classroom, the kitchen, or a quiet moment of kindness, know that your leadership matters.

Our tradition is filled with models of diverse leadership: Moses who doubted his voice, Miriam who danced us forward, Aaron who sought peace, Deborah who judged wisely beneath the palm tree. None of them led in the same way, but all led from their authentic selves, in service of something greater than themselves.

May we do the same. May we lead—each in our own way—with heart, courage, and compassion. And may we continue to build a community where leadership is not about one person, but about all of us, together.

With gratitude and hope,
Rabbi Eve Posen

Welcoming Rabbi April Villarreal to Our Clergy Team

Rabbi's Corner

By Marlene Edenzon

We are delighted to introduce Rabbi April Villarreal as our Interim Clergy Support for the 2025–2026 year. Her presence will ensure that our community continues to receive the highest level of spiritual care and leadership during this important time in our rabbinic transition.

As reported a few weeks ago in the update from our Rabbinic Transition Committee, the members have been actively engaged in a search for an assistant or associate rabbi. To date no candidate has been identified. In the interim, we are incredibly fortunate to welcome such a learned, compassionate, and accomplished rabbi to join our clergy team.

Rabbi Villarreal will take part in all aspects of synagogue life. You will see her on the *bimah*, in the classroom, and supporting Rabbi Eve Posen and Rabbi Cantor Eyal Bitton in life cycle events and pastoral care.

Rabbi Villarreal brings with her over 15 years of experience in Jewish education. She has served as a classroom teacher, department chair, and educational leader across the country. A recipient of the *Covenant Foundation's Pomegranate Prize* for emerging Jewish educators, she most recently served as Jewish Studies Department Chair at de Toledo High School. She currently works as a



senior coach and program associate for *Pedagogy of Partnership* at the Hadar Institute, teaches as adjunct faculty at HUC's DeLeT program, and consults nationally with Jewish organizations.

Her rabbinic training is as rich and diverse as her teaching experience. Rabbi Villarreal completed her rabbinic studies under Rabbi Nathan Cardozo, founder of the David Cardozo Academy in Jerusalem and has studied in multiple *batei midrash* (places of learning) including the Sephardic Educational Center and Yeshivat Chovevei Torah. During her studies for the rabbinate she was a Wexner graduate Fellow. She holds a B.A. in the Study of Religion from UCLA

and an M.A. in Education from the American Jewish University.

In addition to her educational leadership, Rabbi Villarreal has served in pulpit roles in Los Angeles, Nashville, New York, and now — Portland! She brings with her a deep love of Judaism, community, and spiritual growth.

Outside of her professional life, Rabbi Villarreal enjoys reading poetry, spending time in nature (often both at once!), and sharing laughter and love with her family — always with a cup of coffee in hand.

From Rabbi Eve Posen:

"I am thrilled to welcome Rabbi Villarreal to our clergy team and leadership for the coming year. She possesses a deep love of our sacred texts and community that is highlighted in her vast knowledge of text and ability to teach. She is a gentle presence and true partner in creating community."

Please join us in offering a warm welcome to Rabbi April Villarreal. We look forward to learning, growing, and celebrating together in the year ahead.

With gratitude and excitement,

-Mark Kalenscher, President
-Steven Kahn and Liza Milliner, Rabbinic Transition Committee Co-Chairs
-Rabbi Eve Posen, Senior Rabbi
-Rabbi Cantor Eyal Bitton, Cantor
-Marlene Edenzon, Executive Director

Flawed and Deserving

By Rabbi Cantor Eyal Bitton

Cantor's Corner

Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time" (*Genesis* 6:9).

Noah is called righteous—but only in his generation. Was Noah truly righteous, or just relatively righteous when compared to others around him? The text seems to acknowledge both his virtue and his limitations. He does not challenge God's decree to destroy the world as Abraham would later do. He obeys—but he does not argue, plead, or protest. Still, he is saved. Still, he is chosen. Still, he is remembered.

This is a pattern throughout the *Tanakh*, the Hebrew Bible. The heroes of our sacred texts are not flawless. They are not without sin, error, or moral failure—yet they lead. They teach. They inspire. The Torah does not demand perfection; rather, it demands courage, faith, and growth.

Moses, our greatest prophet, lost his temper and struck the rock. He was denied entry into the Promised Land, yet he is revered as the liberator and law-giver. David committed adultery and orchestrated a man's death, yet he is remembered as the sweet singer of Israel and the ideal king, the line from which the Messiah is to come. Jacob deceived

his father, yet he became Israel, the father of a nation.

These are not sanitized stories. They are honest, complicated, and profoundly human. They show us that merit and failure can coexist.

This stands in contrast to recent trends to cancel, erase, or disqualify based on imperfection. In 2020, statues of historical leaders—Lincoln, Roosevelt, and others—were toppled here in Portland, not because they lacked any virtue, but because they possessed some fault. The biblical approach is more generous—and more honest. It demands accountability, not erasure. It honors achievement without denying imperfection.

The *Tanakh* teaches that individuals are chosen not for being perfect but for being *worthy*. Not flawless, but faithful. It insists that merit matters, even when the meritorious stumble. The flawed are still deserving, not because their flaws are excused, but because their contributions endure.

This is the moral wisdom of our tradition: to elevate those who rise, despite their failures. To remember that greatness does not require purity. To affirm that the righteous walk with a limp—but walk forward nonetheless.



It wasn't that Noah was someone who would be perceived to be great in every generation, particularly in his generation and in his time. The *Tanakh* recognizes that we are all flawed, including our leaders. The great figures in our sacred texts are imperfect, yet they are considered great, and they are considered leaders.

May we strive for righteousness, but, ultimately, judge ourselves and others not by the absence of flaws, but by the presence of merit, growth, and the will to do good.

Interested in volunteering to support your Neveh Shalom Kehillah?

Please reach out to the office at 503.246.8831 or fill out the Member Interest Survey at: <https://members.nevehshalom.org/form/member-interest>



The Power of Collaborative Leadership: Building Our Home Together

President's Corner

By Mark Kalenscher, CNS President

We often view leadership as an individual endeavor, but authentic leadership flourishes through collaboration and teamwork. Leveraging individual team members' unique talents and skills unlocks the potential for superior results and collective achievement. This past year at Neveh Shalom, we've witnessed the powerful impact of this principle in action as we entrusted officers with the responsibility of supporting our excellent staff, clergy, and volunteers in critical areas such as *Membership and Engagement; Ritual and Religion; Education; Building and Grounds; Governance, and Financial Management*.

By working together, CNS officers, board members, and committee chairs have made significant strides in their respective areas. They have identified opportunities for cross-collaboration, fostering a synergy that drives us toward fulfilling Neveh Shalom's mission. This approach enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of each area while also creating a strong, interconnected community.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks's teachings offer profound insights into the importance of collaborative endeavors. He emphasizes how the Tabernacle was the first great project the Israelites undertook together, utilizing their collective generosity and skill. This shared effort symbolized what would be necessary to build a society in the land of Israel. It demonstrated how a community could create something greater than the sum of its parts through unified purpose and effort.

This lesson resonates deeply with our work at Neveh Shalom. Just as the Israelites came together to build the Tabernacle, we are coming together to build our community. As Rabbi Sacks describes, we are not merely managing tasks but creating "the home we build together." We construct this home with teamwork, mutual respect, and recognition of each individual's unique contributions. When we challenge our VPs and board members to engage in this project fully, we are fostering a culture of shared responsibility and collective ownership.



The superior results attainable through our collaborative efforts are clear. By harnessing our team's diverse talents and perspectives, we uncover innovative solutions to our congregation's many challenges. This approach is not solely about efficiency: it's about fostering a stronger, more vibrant community. Each member contributes something valuable, and when we leverage those strengths, we attain excellence in every aspect of our mission.

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Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah



Pfeifer Marais-Morse Wolff | July 4

Pfeifer Marais-Morse Wolff is the daughter of Fortis Joy d'Ays-Morse and Katherine Wolff, aunt of newborn baby Mila, and sibling of Torin, Paxton, Xander, Kale, and Maize. Pfeifer is a 7th grader at Mt Tabor Middle School who plays many sports, including tennis, ultimate disc, and soccer. At home Pfeifer loves family game night and spending time with her little dog, Luna Adar.



Ariela Mae Gammon Rubin | July 5

Ariela is the daughter of Nicholas Gammon and Michal Rubin, sister to Noa, granddaughter of Daniel Gammon and Sharon Rogers, and Giora and Glenda Rubin. Ariela is part of a large extended family who she is close with including her aunts, uncles, and cousins. Ariela attends da Vinci Arts Middle School. She loves to read, write, debate, and do gymnastics as much as she can.



Hadley Gottheiner | July 12

Hadley Gottheiner is the daughter of Janine and Simon Gottheiner, sister to Ava and Liam, and granddaughter to Michael (z"l) and Shirley Kurnoff of Calabasas, CA, and Toby and Jenny Gottheiner of Palo Alto, CA. A rising 8th grader at Northwest Academy, Hadley divides her time between competitive swimming for the Multnomah Athletic Club, playing guitar, dancing, and enjoying time with friends and family.



Amelia Sage Osherow Chapman | July 19

Amelia Sage is the child of Mia Osherow and Dave Chapman, grandchild of Linda and Michael Osherow of Portland and Deb and Jim Chapman of Conover, NC. Amelia is an 8th grade student at Jackson Middle School; they are active in Ensemble Advanced Choir and sang at Carnegie Hall in New York this past spring. When they're not singing, Amelia can be found reading, drawing, or hanging with friends, brother Cy, or Sue Bee, the beloved family cat. For their Mitzvah Project, Amelia is raising money for Outside In!



Shoshana Eva Zellinger | August 2

Shoshana Eva Zellinger daughter of Mara and Justin Zellinger, and granddaughter of Ellen and Ben Zellinger, and Carolyn and Stuart Neiman. Shosh is a 7th grader at Jackson Middle School who spends her time doing drama and choir. What she loves most is being with family including her brother Matan and dog, Hannah and friends.



Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah



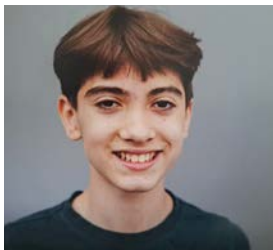
Eitan Malachi Hale | August 9

Eitan is the child of Nava Sherwood and Cameran Hale, grandchild of Harry and Marta Sherwood and Vikki Klass and the late Leonard Hale, and sibling of Ephraim, Liam, and Alia. Eitan is a rising 8th grader who enjoys playing, including: violin and marimba, video games, and with friends. He loves learning, exploring, creating and dissecting, and he dreams of becoming a general contractor in the future.



Max Chaim Epstein | August 16

Max Chaim Epstein is the son of Mark Epstein and Sharon Fendrich, grandson of Bob (z"l) and Mimi Epstein, and Nathan (z"l) and Beatrice Fendrich. Max is a rising 8th grader at Village Home. He's an avid thespian, having completed over 1400 hours of classes, camps, and plays. He even recently did his first commercial! When not on stage, he's either playing baseball or Pokemon. He thanks his sister, Talia, and dog, Orla, for always being supportive.



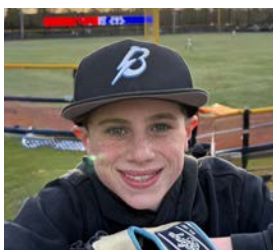
Eli Samuel Mallov | August 30

Eli Samuel Mallov is the son of David and Liz Mallov, grandson of Joseph and Karen Mallov and Bill and Adele Carr, and brother of Ember Mallov. Eli is a 7th grader at Astor K-8 who loves playing basketball and online video games with his friends. He also likes cooking and baking and is always looking for good recipes.



Rina Wnuk | September 6

Rina Wnuk is the daughter of Joshua and Danica Wnuk, and big sister to Isaac and Levi Wnuk. Rina is a 6th grader at the Odyssey Program whose favorite subjects are art and literature. Outside of school, Rina enjoys swim team, ice skating, baking and being with her friends. Rina is passionate about dog rescue and is actively engaged in fostering dogs with Street Savvy Dog Rescue.



Gabriel Adam DeCosta | September 13

Gabriel is son to Zac and Audelia DeCosta, brother to Oren, grandson to Haim Ben-Hamou, Danielle Liscia, MaryAnn Custer, John Custer, and Dana Miller. He is in the 7th grade at Tumwater Middle School. Gabe loves all things baseball. When not playing catch, he enjoys being outside, watching Blazer games, playing piano, and video games!

Exciting New Opportunities for CNS Youth, Teens, and Adults

By Mel Berwin, Director of Congregational Learning

It is summer, and we are busy with all of our hiring, calendaring, and planning for the new year! I am especially excited to highlight some new opportunities for every age range in our educational offerings.



Introducing our NEW Tefilah and Youth Specialist!

A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, **Megan Bernstein** comes to us from Ann Arbor, MI. She has served in several positions in Jewish Education and holds a degree in Religious and Jewish Studies. In her spare time, if she has any, Meg enjoys horror films, thrift shopping, photography, and zine-making. We are excited to welcome her to CNS. Meg will be leading our Youth Activities programs—watch for our new calendar with fun activities for kindergarten through high school. In addition to her role with Youth Activities, Meg will also be teaching in ALIYAH, Tichon, and Adult Education, as well as tutoring for Bnai Mitzvah.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES!

NEW Roles for Our Teen Madrichim:

This year we had 25 teens learning leadership skills in action in our popular Madrichim Program on Sunday mornings. These teens in 8th-12th grades support teachers and students alike. This year, we are expanding the program. We'll have a corps of teens working with Meg Bernstein to lead Youth Activities for our younger children.

NEW Teen Trip:

9th graders, pack your bags! We are partnering with Congregation Beth Israel and Tzedek America to bring a group of teens to Los Angeles to explore social justice issues with a Jewish lens. The trip will take place in December. We are able to subsidize the cost of the trip thanks to a generous donation by an ALIYAH family.

Mensches & Mavens Is back!

We have missed our popular intergenerational program, and we are eager to bring our youth and our elders together again. This time, the program will be on Sunday mornings with our 6th grade students. If you are an elder (by any definition) who would like to connect through monthly activities, from storytelling to text study, cooking, and art, please be in touch!

Adult and Interested in B'nai Mitzvah?

Celebrate a new achievement and milestone! This is for anyone who did not have the opportunity to celebrate a bar/bat mitzvah at age 13, or who would like to “update” that experience by celebrating as an adult. Stay tuned for details in our fall Program Guide!



Growing Kids as Leaders

By Ronit Scheyer, Director of Early Childhood Education

Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, one of at least four new years in the Jewish calendar, recalls for us the creation of the world. The day of Rosh Hashanah itself marks the *sixth* day of creation, when human beings were fashioned out of the fertile soil of the earth, and Hashem breathed their souls into them, bringing them to life. As you may be aware, there are actually several creation stories woven throughout the Torah. One of them teaches us that all human beings are created *b'tzelem elokim*, in the image of the Divine. We all have this divine, heavenly spark within us, yet as we know we are all incredibly unique.

It's natural to think that some people are leaders and some are followers, and that's just the way it is. This may be true to some extent: leadership quality is dependent on people's personalities and upbringing. But I would argue it is both a failure of imagination and the natural result of a society and culture that values only certain kinds of voices and certain ways of effecting change – and we are not better for it. The downstream effects can be seen in every sector of so-



ciety, from hypocrisy in religious groups, to greed in healthcare, and dysfunction in politics, education, and even in our interpersonal relationships. The idea that we are all created *btzelem elokim* is central to how we should understand leadership – that each individual reflects the Divine spark within them and that every single person has the potential to lead in unique ways with unique gifts to contribute.

Already at a young age, certain children may be seen as holding more leadership potential than others. Children who are perhaps a bit louder and better at getting what they want and bringing their peers along with them, planning games, and directing other children in play, are encouraged to be leaders at the expense of other children whose voices and skills may be quieter and less overt. Sometimes as parents and educators who have been conditioned to recognize only a certain kind of leadership, it can be hard to see other kinds of potential developing in our children that could be cultivated with an eye toward leadership. Even telling a child “You are a leader. What you're good at – that's what we need more of in our leaders,” would make a world of difference for subsequent generations.

What we need more of is quiet leadership. Supportive leadership. Collaborative leadership. Leadership that listens. Leadership that really *sees* people – what they're good at, where they need support, where they could be shown the way, and then left to create. Leadership that understands people and cares about them. Creative leadership that finds elegant solutions to hard problems, bringing multiple voices to the table and integrating feedback to find the best path forward. The kind of leadership that comes from a place of “we're all in this together, we have to find a way to work together, and we can't leave anyone behind.”

Many kids are already showing these traits at a young age: friends who make sure that everyone is included, friends who notice what their peers like and are good at, friends who listen to their friends, and who build trust by aligning their words and actions. Those who show these traits less readily can be taught and encouraged in that direction. These are the kinds of leadership traits that we need to cultivate, encourage, and support. It doesn't start in the board room or in high school or college or after a bar mitzvah; it starts as soon as we start telling our kids that we see them, that real leadership is more than telling people what to do. Most importantly, what they bring to the world has value and can affect meaningful, lasting change.



CNS Sisterhood Welcomes Many Kinds of Leaders

By Polina Olsen

Have your kids left the nest, or old friends faded away? Has childcare made you appreciate just-for-me time? Are you new in town and don't know a soul, or simply ready for new friends, new skills, and a way to help your community? For decades, CNS Sisterhood leaders have created a welcoming place for people like you. We spoke to the out-going and incoming presidents about their insights and their thoughts for the future.

Jennifer Kalenschner has been Sisterhood president off-and-on for about ten years. "I'm fortunate to have grown up at a time when women were voicing opinions and coming together to support each other," she says. "I want women to have a voice, and marginalized women to have a place to gather. You may come into a synagogue not knowing a soul. Breaking-in is hard. We need to acknowledge how brave women are to show up at events alone."

Jennifer thinks good leadership is inspirational. "It's someone who listens to an idea and says 'I'll do whatever I can to help you be successful. We're a team.'" The Sisterhood Book Group is an example of teamwork, Jennifer says. "I don't choose books, but I moderate the discussion and stop anyone from taking over."

Outgoing co-president **Dana Sirkin** agrees. Dana joined Sisterhood when her kids were in school while working as an occupational therapist at Kaiser.



Sisterhood President Co-chair Dana Sirkin and Men's Club immediate past president, Mitch Elovitz, help decorate the Sukkah

"There are different styles," she says. "Everyone has the ability to be a leader in her own way. A quiet person might be good at communication or technology. Learning leadership skills is not just learning to speak in front of a group: it's being able to communicate and help people with issues whatever they are." Dana sees Sisterhood as providing a smaller community within the synagogue. "Neveh Shalom is large and people can feel isolated," she says. "Sisterhood is about being receptive to other women's interests including social, educational, or Tikkun Olam projects." Sisterhood's Rosh Chodesh Program is an example. "We met for two years," Dana says. "Sue Stone showed us the

relationship between herbs, tinctures, and months-of-the-year like the joy we feel during Adar or the bitterness of months without holidays."

Rebecca King will become the new Sisterhood president July 1. "I said yes because of what's happening in the world and the Jewish community," she says. "If there's going to be a place for Jewish children in the future, we need to do our part strengthening our community."

Rebecca believes a good leader is someone who shows up and listens. "I was an attorney for thirty years, and we were trained to get to the win-win rather than win-at-all-costs," she says. "It's important to bring disparate elements to a compromise."

Leaders Rebecca admires include the greats like Golda Meier and Henrietta Szold, but, most of all, her grandmother, Gertrude Davidson, who helped integrate her large immigrant family into America. Rebecca admires Rabbi Posen for her accessibility, compassion, and for not taking no for an answer when she wanted to become a rabbi. "I would have loved to have been a rabbi," Rebecca says. "Maybe if I had more Hebrew and more courage."

Rebecca hopes her experience and ideas will help guide Sisterhood. "I'd like to work with college campuses," she says. "Maybe our Interfaith Group could have a Freedom Seder, or have a Fun Run, intergenerational event, or fashion show. It's all about being open to new ideas."

A Few Words on Leadership

By Jake Sheff

The Men's Club, which itself is part of a larger institution, the International Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs (FJMC), is designed to build leaders. Leading by example is not only a fine way to lead, but it's also a fine way to teach leadership, if it can be taught. Both the shul's Men's Club and FJMC have given me abundant examples of good leadership, and they both continue giving me opportunities to meet, observe, and follow many effective leaders. A composite of them all forms my mental image of the good leader.

As children, the stories we're told often describe well the good leader. Moses does not feel worthy to lead, and to boot, he has a speech impediment. It took me years to realize that humility is a necessary quality for a good leader, as well as that smooth talkers are not necessarily the right people for the job. Kings David and Solomon have good qualities, but they both, as all leaders do, have flaws. I suppose that, in retrospect, part of being a good follower is first selecting the right leader to follow. The people that followed Korah when he rebelled

against Moses surely regretted that decision as soon as the ground began to open beneath their feet.

I must have been a good follower up to this point because I learned so much from the leaders I admired along the way; both trusting and following their example has worked so far. Our Men's Club's list of past presidents is a who's who of good, effective leaders. All of them who came before me demonstrated qualities that I know I need to have to do the job well: communication skills, perseverance, know-how. They honored tradition and embraced change. I will provide a couple of examples but will preface it by saying that this list is far from exhaustive; if I had more space and time, I could give many more.

The president who brought me into the club, **Zachary Horowitz**, always takes the lead on building the *sukkah*. The reason he does such an effective job at it is the way that he takes ownership of it. He has a vision for how the build should go and how it should look when it's complete. He makes sure it's brought to fruition – no matter the weather – like the perfect *etrog*.



Men's Club President, Jake Sheff, and Men's Club immediate past president, Mitch Elovitz, at the Men's Club International Convention

The president before him, **Mitch Elovitz**, is a man of bottomless energy and enthusiasm. Like Zachary, he takes ownership of the Yom HaShoah Program that provides a yellow candle to as many families in the shul as possible so that they may light it in remembrance of those we lost in the Holocaust. Each year, he finds new ways around the shul's schedule to make the program as successful as it can possibly be. Like Zachary, he has a vision, he's a problem-solver, and he sees it through.

Having spent years now in the Men's Club, I know one of our collective sources of pride is our ability to get things done, that is, our competence. But what those things are, how to do them, who should do them, and how they should look in the end: to answer that takes vision, like that demonstrated by Mitch and Zachary. I attempted this year to emulate them by creating a Krav Maga (an Israeli Martial Art) program, though I had big shoes to fill. They and many like them in the Men's Club and FJMC give me something to aspire to: being someone who's worth following and groundbreaking in the right way.



Men's Club at Beer & Bible Program

New Board Members

We are thrilled to welcome our newly elected CNS Board Members!



Elizabeth F. Collura

I am excited to join the CNS Board, to participate in the community that so warmly welcomed my family when we moved to Portland just a year ago. Congregational involvement plays a huge role in our family's life, so I am honored to have the opportunity to give back by serving the Neveh Shalom family.



Steven Kahn

I feel reflective as I return to the CNS Board for the first time in a decade. I served as CNS Board President from 2011 through 2013. We accomplished a lot, and it was a very fulfilling experience, culminating a decade of service to CNS on its Board. Since I last served as Past-President in 2014, I have remained active in CNS as a volunteer. I have co-chaired our last two Rabbinic Transition Committees and continued to serve on the Finance Committee as well as other various task forces. In one shape or another, my service to CNS has lasted about a quarter century. During those many years, my wife, Wendy, and I have seen our children, Rebecca and Michael, use their CNS education and experiences in their respective careers as Jewish professionals. I am excited and challenged to help my fellow volunteers tackle the important financial, security, and governing issues for which the Board is responsible.



Molly O'Glasser

I am looking forward to joining the Board and helping serve our community. I am a Portland native and Foundation School Alum. My husband and I have two kids, Chase, 5, and Maya, 2, who both love Foundation School and the home we all have at Neveh Shalom.



Josh Wnuk

I am honored to accept a position on the Congregation Neveh Shalom Board. My involvement through committee work has been deeply meaningful, and it is a privilege to now serve in this larger role for a community that has given so much to my family and me.

I look forward to working alongside fellow board members, our clergy, staff, and congregants to help foster a welcoming, inclusive environment where everyone feels at home. I'm excited for the work ahead and grateful for the opportunity to help shape the future of our congregation.

Meet Your Vice Presidents

By Michelle Alberts

The Executive Committee, a subset of Board members, is composed of the President, past President, Treasurer, Secretary, and four Vice Presidents. This year, we have instituted some important structural changes to improve efficiency and collaboration. Specifically, we have redefined the roles of the Vice Presidents by assigning each of us a specific area of focus: Building and Grounds, Ritual and Religion, Membership and Engagement, and Education. This targeted approach will foster stronger communication and deeper cooperation between the Board and the various committees, staff, and clergy who are integral to maintaining a high-functioning, vibrant synagogue community. By giving each VP a distinct portfolio, we can better serve our congregation's evolving needs and ensure more responsive, dedicated leadership.

Our Building and Grounds VP, **Norman Chusid**, is a lifelong member of Congregation Neveh Shalom. He brings not only dedication but hands-on experience to this role. Norman owns and operates the oldest hardware store in Portland and truly is a "nuts and bolts" guy. His practical skills and love for problem-solving make him an excellent fit for overseeing our physical campus. As VP, Norman works closely with the Building and Grounds as well as the Safety and Security Committee. Together, they oversee maintenance and infrastructure needs, address safety concerns, and ensure that our campus is both welcoming and secure. Norman takes great pride in his work and sees this role as a natural extension of his personal and professional interests.

Holly Eby serves as the VP of Ritual and Religion. A member of CNS for 22 years, Holly understands the deep emotional

and spiritual connections people have to synagogue life. Her sensitivity to life cycle events—both joyous and sorrowful—was inspired by her mother, a therapist specializing in grief counseling. Holly grew up recognizing the importance of supporting families, not only at the time of a loved one's passing, but in the months and years that follow. Holly works closely with the Ritual, Cemetery, and *Chevra Nichum* (Comforting Friends) Committees, emphasizing the sacred work they do in partnership with our clergy and devoted staff. Her goal is to help shape the spiritual direction of our community, ensuring that rituals, services, and traditions are meaningful, inclusive, and accessible to all members.

Mark Zeitzer, our VP of Membership and Engagement, joined Neveh Shalom in 2008 and has since found great personal joy within this community. He is passionate about his new VP role, noting that many of the happiest and most meaningful moments of his life have taken place at CNS. Mark collaborates with the Membership/Engagement, Tikun Olam, and Hesed Committees to foster a sense of warmth and inclusion across all areas of synagogue life. His role involves coordinating with clergy and staff to enhance programming and expand opportunities for members to get involved. He is committed to making CNS feel like home to everyone who walks through our doors.

I have taken on the role of Education VP. I am a lifelong member of CNS and have a love of learning. Having gone through our educational programming from Foundation School through high school, I have a deep appreciation for our strong tradition at Neveh Shalom for creativity and innovative learning while embracing our heritage. In keeping with Jewish values (we *are* the people of the

book after all), I firmly believe that a robust educational program is essential for the success of our congregation. In this role, I work closely with our educational professionals and committees to support and shape learning opportunities for individuals of all ages. I collaborate with clergy, staff, and volunteers to ensure a seamless educational journey from early childhood through adult education. I am excited and honored for this new role.



Norm Chusid



Michelle Alberts



Mark Zeitzer



Holly Eby

Building a Food Pantry for Our Kehillah

By Larry O'Glasser

The Food Pantry initiative launched this year at Neveh Shalom is a practical response to food insecurity as well as an example of diverse forms of leadership.

Visionary Leadership: Planting the Seed of Change

Most of you recall that Neveh Shalom has an annual Yom Kippur food drive. Last fall, the Hesed Committee asked **Jane O'Glasser** to help congregants and staff experiencing food insecurity to select a few bags of groceries from these donations before the bulk of them were sent to Neighborhood House. Jane gladly agreed, but she was surprised at the number of folks within our community who needed assistance. It is sobering to realize that those who struggle to keep food on the table are often embarrassed or feel like it is their own fault for falling short, so they rarely say anything. We don't realize how many people we see every day who could use our assistance. Jane's daughter Molly said, "You know, we really should have a Food Pantry at Neveh Shalom." From there, momentum started to build.

Collaborative Leadership: Building Together

Jane spoke to Neveh Shalom Hesed Committee co-chairs **Barb Schwartz** and **Sheri Cordova** and Executive Director Marlene Edenzon, who asked Jane to research what resources were already available. Jane found that the few food pantries and food banks within a five-mile radius of Neveh Shalom all had hours that were a challenge for day-shift workers. Marlene identified space within our building that would be suitable for storing and distributing non-perishable food items should the Board approve. Jane presented the proposal for the Food Pantry at the November 2024 board meeting. The board's follow up questions



were primarily focused on how the board could provide support for this project. Board approval was unanimous!

Administrative Leadership

No great idea flourishes without the organizational leaders who address practicalities. While Jane committed to the Board, volunteers do the lion's share of the work, but get invaluable assistance from Program Director Lisa Richmond, Financial Director Rikki Kass, Assistant Director Michelle Caplan, Foundation School Administrative Director Candace Rothstein, Assistant Director Danielle DeSilva Evans, Communications Specialist Shaina Zins, Facilities leaders Kurt Rice and Lizzy Garrat, Administrative Assistant Shainah Falk, as well as Marlene Edenzon and every other member of her team. These detail-oriented leaders offered the structure that allowed creativity and community connection to thrive without chaos.

Spiritual Leadership

Every initiative here is energized by our spiritual leaders. In this case, Rabbi Eve Posen and Director of Congregational Learning Mel Berwin developed a "Confidentiality *Brit*" (agreement) pledging our volunteers to treat those who "shop" at our Food Pantry with confidentiality and respect.

Leadership Through Action

Nearing the end of its first six months of operation (1/15/25 until now), two dozen volunteers have enabled *over 205 bags of groceries* to go to the homes of Neveh Shalom congregants and staff experiencing *CHRONIC food insecurity*. The commitment to confidentiality means that "shopping trips" are counted; however, no names are recorded.

The primary tasks performed by volunteers are:

- Staffing the Food Pantry
- Scheduling volunteers. *Todah rabah* to Carolyn Shain for taking on this additional task.
- Collecting items from the donation bins and checking expiration dates.
- Shopping with the donated funds
- Picking up food donated by companies e.g., Dave's Killer Bread. *Todah rabah* to **Randy Katz**, for picking up the bread Thursday mornings.
- Rotating and restocking the shelves

If you would like to volunteer, please email foodpantry@nevehshalom.org, or call Jane at 503.293.7312. We really need help, especially to staff Food Pantry hours of operation.

A Symphony of Leadership

The symphony of leadership continues to expand! Foundation School is instituting a weekly Tzedakah of bringing a can of fruit every Friday. Shabbat on The Plaza has asked participants to contribute one non-perishable item when they attend. Men's Club President Jake Sheff has organized a 5K Walk/Run on August 10th from 8:00-10:00 am at Graham Oaks Nature Park in Wilsonville as a fundraiser for the Food Pantry. By embracing many kinds of leadership,

Neveh Shalom has not only addressed food insecurity but also strengthened our sense of community and purpose.

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.

Cooking for Outside In

**Sunday, July 13, August 10, September 14
12:00-2:00pm**

Cook a meal to feed homeless teens.

YAFE Berry Picking

Sunday, July 13, 10:00am-12:00pm

Join your friends for berry picking and summer fun.

Wise Women

Thursdays, July 17, August 21, September 18, 12:00-1:00pm

Pack a lunch and join this friendly group of women to schmooze and empower one another.

CNS at Portland Pride

Sunday, July 20, 11:00am-6:00pm

CNS is PROUD to march in this year's PDX Pride Parade alongside other Jewish organizations.

Feldstein Library Adult Story Hour and Cocktails

Wednesday, July 23, 6:30-8:30pm

Enjoy a fun beverage as our librarian brings short fiction to life!

Sisterhood In-Person Book Group

Thursdays, July 24 and August 28, 10:30am, MJCC

Join the Sisterhood for their monthly book club discussion.

Tikkun Olam: Shroud Crowd

Sunday, July 27, 2:00-4:00pm

Help create traditional burial clothing for use by the Chevra Kavod haMet.

Sisterhood Virtual Book Group

Mondays, July 28 and August 25, 7:00pm, Zoom

Join the Sisterhood for their monthly book club discussion.

Interfaith Sisters in Unity

Wednesday, August 6, 7:00pm, Zoom

Bringing women of other faiths to learn and create opportunities to develop friendships.

Thorns Game with CNS Sisterhood

Sunday, August 10, 1:00-3:00pm

Join Sisterhood and the entire CNS community for an exciting afternoon of soccer and community!

YAFE Playdate/Storytime

Sunday, August 10

More details to come!

Men's Club 5k Walk/Run

Sunday, August 10, 8:00-10:00am

Graham Oaks Nature Park

Wondering Jews: Pittock Mansion

Thursday, August 14, 10:00am-1:00pm

Sisterhood Author Visit: Maggie Anton

Sunday, August 24, 11:00-2:00pm

Foundation School Social

Sunday, August 24

More details to come!

Foundation School First Day

Tuesday, August 26

Simcha and "Step-Up" Shabbat

Friday, September 6, 6:15pm

Back to Shul

Sunday, September 7, 12:00-2:00pm

More details to come!

Conservative Judaism Explained

Thursday, September 11, 7:00pm

Selichot

Saturday, September 13

More details to come!

ALIYAH First Day

Sunday, September 14

Hebrew Tutoring First Day

Monday, September 15

Rosh Hashana

Sept 22-24

More details to come!

Kever Avot

Sunday, September 28

More details to come!

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

Simcha Shabbat

Friday, August 1, September 5, 6:15pm

Celebrate your birthday or anniversary month with your community!

Kol Shabbat

2nd Fridays, 7:15pm

Lay-led, voices-only service.

Shabbat on the Plaza 2025!

Friday, July 4 – "Independence Shabbat"

Friday, July 11 – "Rock 'n Roll Shabbat"

Friday, July 18 – "Latin American Shabbat"

Friday, July 25 – "Klezmer Shabbat"

Friday, August 1 – "Broadway Shabbat"

Friday, August 8 – "Tropical Shabbat"

Friday, August 15 – "Camp Shabbat"

Friday, August 22 – "Pickle-Fest IV"

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

Our awesome leadership alternate leading Kiddush Club.

Member News

Mazel Tov to **Celia Janoff**, daughter of **Dan and Shannon Janoff**, on being interviewed for the Jewish Review's Podcast about youth philanthropy and the importance of community support.

We're excited to share that one of Neveh's most cherished Friday night melodies, **Cantor Eyal Bitton's** beautiful "Hashkivenu" set to "Mad World" by Tears for Fears, is now available as a fabulous studio recording and video!

Mazel Tov to **Samuel Lipke**, the son of **Michael and Anna Lipke**, on being one of only a handful of finalists that have been selected to perform at the Young Artist Debut on Wednesday, May 21, at The Reser! He performed Chopin's Scherzo No. 3 in C-Sharp Minor, Op. 39.

Mazel tov to **Dorice Horenstein** on the publication of her second book, *Choosing To Be Your Own Champion: The Six-Step Playbook to Becoming Your Best Self*, a guide to cultivating resilience, mental fitness, and joy through actionable steps and personal growth strategies.

Mazel tov to **Marlene Edenzon**, our Executive Director, on the birth of her healthy and beautiful grandbaby, Lukas James Lundgren, born at 11:31am 6lbs 7oz. Wishing Lukas and his family health and joy during this time.

Mazel Tov to **Marissa Richardson**, an Executive Board Member, and **Dave Hunt** on their recent engagement. Dave proposed to Marissa on their anniversary while recreating their first date.

Mazel Tov to **Aviva Simon**, **Violet Simon**, and **Julia Stein** on their win at the OYSA State Cup for Girls U12 as part of the United PDX 2013G Pre-Premier team. This win secured back-to-back state titles for everyone on this team.

Mazel Tov to CNS Operations and Facilities Manager, **Lizzy Garrat**, who became "Glamma" to Ryan Isaiah Diaz on Sunday!

Mazel Tov to **Noah Zeitzer** for being a winner of the Harry Glickman Scholar Athlete Award for his dedication to Cross Country, as well as to school. Noah will be graduating this year as valedictorian and is excited to be competing next fall at the D1 level.

Mazel Tov to **Sarah Rohr** on her new role as Youth and Family Educator at Congregation Beth Israel! We're grateful for her nine years teaching in our ALIYAH and Tichon programs and three years leading Youth Activities. This year, Sarah is also receiving the Rogo-way Professional Award from the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland for her dedication to Jewish professional leadership!

Kol Hakavod to **Mitch Elovitz**, who has been elected the Western Region President for the International Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs. We are proud that our CNS Men's Club continues to cultivate leadership and strengthen connections across the broader Jewish community.

Mazel Tov to **Stan Blauer** for receiving the Pillar of Excellence Award, for all he's contributed to our community and the MJCC over the last three decades!

Mazel Tov to **Brian Rohr** on the publication of *The Stafford Challenge 2024–25 Anthology*! We're proud to celebrate Brian, who founded The Stafford Challenge, on the release of a powerful new poetry anthology featuring over 200 poems from an international cohort of poets—including Kim Stafford, Naomi Shihab Nye, Marie Fuhrman, and many others. The book is a moving tribute to daily creativity, commitment, and community. More: wildpoetpress.com/anthology

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

We are deeply saddened to share the passing of Jack Cordova, z"l. He was the beloved brother of **Lee (Sheri) Cordova**; devoted father to Jeffery (Andrea) Cordova, David (Michelle) Cordova, and daughter Lynne Cordova-Coveny; and loving grandfather to Shaina Cordova (Jason Schauer), Jace (Madelaine) Cordova, Adam, Jeremy, and Lucas Cordova. He was also a cherished great-grandfather to Evelyn and Josie Schauer and Jack Cordova.

We are deeply saddened to share the passing of long-time member **Judith Magid** z"l, who died on June 2 at the age of 83. She was the beloved wife of **Robert Magid**, devoted mother of Adam (Dawn) Magid and Jennifer Magid (Zach) Schiller, and cherished grandmother to Maddie, Luke, Brynley, Sarah, and Samuel.

Our condolences to **Alan and Judy Weingard** on the loss of their nephew Gary Rosenthal on May 6, beloved wife of Cindy Rosenthal.

We are saddened to share the news of the passing of Prudence Steiner z"l, mother of **Elizabeth Steiner** and Josh Steiner (Antoinette Delruelle), and grandmother of **Mira Hayward**, **Emerson Steiner Hayward**, Raphael Steiner, Margot Steiner, and Clara Steiner.

With heavy hearts, we share the sad news that following a long battle with Cancer, **Elisa Stevens**, z"l has passed away today April 23, 2025. Elisa is lovingly remembered by her devoted husband, **Joshua**, and their cherished children, **Chloe and Jonah**. She was a beloved sister to Mark Taub, Brian Taub (Debbie), and Shelley (Michael Lack). Elisa also leaves behind a large and loving extended family, including many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

We are deeply saddened to share the passing of Mark Atlas, z"l, cherished brother of **Ida Levenshteyn**. He was a beloved uncle to Kira Govshteyn (Gennady) and Sara Rodkin (Rabbi Dan Rodkin), a devoted great-uncle to ten nieces and nephews, and a proud great-great-uncle to three. Mark was 85 years old and a Holocaust survivor, whose life was a testament to resilience and strength.

We are saddened to inform you of the passing of Larry Meyer, z"l, beloved son of **Taya Meyer and Ron Meyer** z"l, father of Jacob (Chelsea) Meyer, Samuel Meyer, and Max Meyer, grandfather of Olivia and Brady Meyer and brother of **Rochelle (Jay) Leisner**.

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Melody Steinberg from Dennis & Susan

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