

THE
CHRONICLE

A PUBLICATION OF CONGREGATION NEVEH SHALOM



NA'ASEH V'NISHMA

A Reminder for the Year Ahead: Na'aseh v'Nishma — Do and Listen

By Rabbi Eve Posen

Based on Rabbi Posen's Kol Nidre Sermon

There's an old story about a rabbi who asked congregation members why they came to synagogue. "To pray," said one. "To listen to the cantor," said another. "To learn Torah," said a third.

The rabbi shook his head. "No. You come to synagogue to learn how to listen — to the sound of your own soul, to the pain of your neighbor, to the still, small voice of God."

When the people protested that action surely mattered more than listening, the rabbi replied, "True. But if you do not first learn to listen, how will you know what action is required?"

That's the essence of our theme this year: **Na'aseh v'Nishma — We will do and we will listen.** It comes from the moment at Sinai when the Israelites, hearing God's covenant, answered not "We will listen and then do," but the opposite: *first* we will act, *then* we will understand. They trusted that doing would open the door to deeper listening.

The medieval text *Sefer HaChinuch* teaches, "A person is influenced by their actions, and the heart follows the deed." In other words, what we *do* shapes what we come to *believe*. We may not always feel ready to forgive, to reach out, or to serve—but when we act, our hearts often follow.

That's our charge for 5786: to practice the rhythm of doing and listening in every dimension of life.

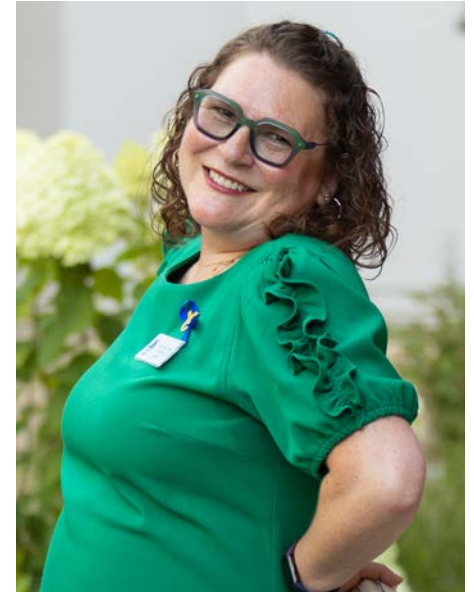
When we volunteer, it's easy to focus on the task—packing meals, visiting a home, attending a meeting. But *Na'aseh v'Nishma* reminds us to listen while we act—to the stories behind the need, to the quiet gratitude in someone's eyes, to the ways service changes us as much as it helps others.

In our relationships, doing might mean showing up with a meal, making the phone call, or simply saying "I'm here." Listening means being present without rushing to fix. It's hearing the words beneath the words, letting another person's truth matter.

In our spiritual lives, doing can look like lighting candles, coming to Shabbat Services, or taking a quiet walk. Listening means noticing what stirs within us in those moments—the memory, the question, the spark of gratitude.

We live in a world tilted toward extremes: a culture drowning in noise, where everyone speaks but few truly hear, and a culture of constant action, where we rush to do without reflection. Judaism asks for something different. It invites balance. Words and deeds, listening and doing, each in service of the other.

So as we move through this new year, I offer this reminder:



- **Act even before you feel ready.** Do the mitzvah, reach out, begin the change. Your heart will catch up.
- **Listen as you act.** Pause long enough to notice what your deeds are teaching you.
- **Then, act again,** informed by what you've heard.

That's what *Na'aseh v'Nishma* really means: a living cycle of engagement and awareness, action and understanding.

May this year draw us toward both courage and compassion—toward deeds that open our hearts, and listening in a way that leads us back to one another.

Shanah tovah u'metukah: May 5786 be a year of doing, listening, and engaging in renewal for us all.

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>



Yes, We Can!

Cantor's Corner

By Rabbi Cantor Eyal Bitton

Yes, we can," my five-year-old son said from the back of the car. I was so surprised and happy to hear those words uttered by my young son, Raphaël.

I wanted to make sure I heard correctly, so I asked, "What was that?" He repeated a little more loudly, "Yes, we can." I responded, "That's the right attitude, Raphaël. You can do almost anything you set your mind to."

He answered, "No, Papa! Yes, we can!"

"Yes, Raphaël, I understand. Sometimes we think we can't do something, or we're afraid to try new things. But you're right, we should put it in our heads that we shouldn't think that way. We should put it in our heads that yes, we can!"

Raphaël got louder, "No, Papa!" He was so frustrated for some reason, but I couldn't understand why. Then he said, "No, it's three ways: YES. OUI. KEN!"

Haha! He was saying "yes" in three languages: English, French, and Hebrew! Finally, I understood. No great message. No deeper meaning. No pearls of wisdom from this young child. Nope. Just a

little boy saying a word in three different languages for whatever reason.

This year's theme is "*Na'aseh v'Nishma: Embrace Action, Learn Through Listening.*"

Listening is not always easy. We often hear words, but we don't always listen to what's being said. Sometimes, we jump too quickly to conclusions or interpret something based on what we expect—or fear—to hear. Other times, we impose layers of meaning that were never intended. My exchange with Raphaël reminded me how easy it is to miss what's right in front of us, especially when we're listening for something deeper instead of simply hearing what is actually said.

We all want to be heard. One of the greatest sources of conflict and frustration, whether in families, friendships, and communities, is the feeling that we're not being heard or understood. Listening well is an act of kindness and respect. It builds trust. It strengthens community.

Judaism calls on us to listen: *Shema Yisrael*—"Hear, O Israel." Our spiritual life begins with listening. Torah study itself



depends on it. When we study, we listen not only to the text but also to one another. We hear differing perspectives and learn to understand before we respond. In Jewish life, as in all life, true listening creates connection.

Listening, really listening, is how we grow, how we learn, and how we honor one another. Can we listen? Yes, *oui, ken!* Can we find that, through hearing each other, we can learn that community building, greater understanding of Judaism, and unity with the Jewish people are possible after all? Yes, we can!

The Chronicle

No. 5 ~ October - December 2025

Supported by the Sala Kryszek Memorial Publication Fund

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Community Gatherings Bookend Hostage Release

By Rockne Roll

Because of the different organizational formulas between the Hebrew and Gregorian calendars, in 2025 more than a week separates Oct. 7 and 22 Tishrei, days that were the same two years ago when Hamas attacked Israel from Gaza.

What a difference a week makes.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, joined by congregations and organizations across Portland marked the second year since the attacks with a memorial service at Congregation Neveh Shalom on Sunday, October 5.

“We cry with one singular voice, ‘Bring them home now,’” Neveh Shalom Senior Rabbi Eve Posen said that evening. “Bring them home to embrace their loved ones, to restore their lives, to remind the world that each and every soul is precious.”

Five days later, a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, orchestrated by the United States and other nations, came into effect and all twenty living hostages held by Hamas were released.

Nine days after that, on Sunday, October 19, the Federation once again held a community gathering at Neveh Shalom. Once again, Rabbi Posen spoke.

“In that solemn moment,” she said, referring to her remarks of two weeks prior, “I stood here with the faintest spark of hope that I would soon be here again, this time with blessings of return on my lips, and tonight, hineni, we are here.”

The latest gathering wasn’t of celebration alone. As Rabbi Posen explained, as Ilene Safyan sang, and as the event was titled,



Above: Efrat Avsker speaks about her brother, Oct. 7 attack victim Ohad Yahalomi, z”l, at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland’s memorial gathering at Congregation Neveh Shalom Sunday, Oct. 5. Below: From left, Kim Schneiderman, Rabbi Cantor Eyal Bitton, and Ilene Safyan lead the singing of “Am Yisrael Chai” at the Federation’s Oct. 19 celebration of the release of hostages at Neveh Shalom. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

this was a moment *al ha’dvash ve’al ha’oketz*: for the honey and the sting.

“We hold in this moment two truths, the miracle of life restored and the heartbreak that through it all, it is still not finished. There are still those who need to be returned,” Rabbi Posen said....

As the gears of foreign policy and international relations turned slowly a continent away, a world away, there was a sense that two years of waiting, hoping, and praying might be reaching a conclusion at the Oct. 5 gathering, which was held just as the details of the ceasefire and hostage release were coming together.

“It’s hard to believe that we can even talk about hope, but perhaps, perhaps, perhaps we won’t have to say, ‘bring them home now,’” Congregation Beth Israel Senior Rabbi Michael Cahana said that evening. “Perhaps they will be home this

Sukkot, perhaps even in a few days.”

“Even in these painful days, there is still a small light in the air, a sense of hope,” Efrat Avsker, sister of Ohad Yahalomi, z”l, who was murdered by Hamas on Oct. 7, said. For the return of all the hostages. For the end of this war. For the soldiers to come home safely to their families. Maybe, then maybe finally, we’ll begin to heal as families, as a nation and as human beings...”

Those hopes, of course, have begun to be fulfilled.

“There is a time to tear and a time to heal, and we need to do both right now,” Rabbi Posen said on Oct. 19, quoting Rachel Goldberg-Polin. “Tonight, we make room for the tearing, but more so for the healing.”

Continued on next page

The Power of Collaborative Leadership: Building Our Home Together

By Mark Kalenscher, CNS President

President's Corner

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 skills. 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.

Hostage Release *Continued from previous page*

There was appreciation for the moment, to give communal voice in the recitation of the *Shehecheyanu*, the blessing for that which "has granted us life, sustained us and enabled us to reach this moment." Simultaneously, there was acknowledgement that the moment was not an uncomplicated one.

"It's a joy laced both with memory and a joy laced with mourning," Beth Israel Senior Rabbi Designate Rabbi Rachel Joseph

said. "Let us feel the immense gratitude and let us feel the immense grief. We feel the exhaustion, and we feel the amazement, and we hold it all together, only as our people can."

There was also hope – the hope of 2,000 years, in the words of *HaTikvah*, the hope of two years and a week and a new hope embodied in Allison Fowler's poem, *Prayer That This Be True*.

"Let us exhale in relief and inhale in renewal," the poem, recited by Federation President and CEO Marc Blattner, reads in part. "Let Oct. 8 begin for those in Israel, when they can begin to heal. Let us reclaim Simchat Torah back into a night of rejoicing with our precious Torah and with each other. May the coming days bring healing to the wounded, comfort to the bereaved, and peace, true and lasting peace to Israel and to all who dwell upon this earth."

An extended edition of this article originally appeared in the Oct. 22, 2025 edition of *The Jewish Review*, Portland's Jewish community newspaper. Available online at jewishportland.org/jewishreview



Anna Frances Comella | October 11

Anna is the daughter of Crista and Jason Comella, sister to Anthony, granddaughter to Rita and Martin Cohen, and Joseph Comella and Sandra Shaw. She is a 7th grader at Laurelhurst School. Outside of school, Anna spends her time in competitive swimming or at dance. She is an avid reader and loves spending time with family, friends, and her two cats.



Jeanne Emlyn Lauer | October 18

Jeanne Emlyn Lauer became a Brit Mitzvah on October 18, 2025. Jeanne is the spectacular second child of Dan and Hannah Lauer, beloved younger sibling of Nathan, and adored grandchild of Don Simon and Susan Roth. Jeanne is currently an eighth grader at ACCESS Academy and enjoys playing Dungeons and Dragons and other role-playing games.



Dana Kaplan | October 25

Dana Kaplan is the daughter of Alex and Amy Kaplan, sister of Mila and Gabi Kaplan, and granddaughter of Sandra Shery and Mara Sklar. Her hobbies include sideline and competitive cheer, playing the piano, traveling with her family, and spending time with friends. Dana is in 7th grade at Lakeridge Middle School and a devoted summer camper at Camp Solomon Schechter.



Amelia Conley | November 8

Amelia Conley is the daughter of Leah and Josh Conley, and sister to Elliot Conley. An 8th grader at Rowe Middle School, Amelia dances at Studio One Dance, runs cross country, and is part of the *Shamrock News* at school. She loves hanging out with friends, having adventures with family, and bringing her joy and creativity into everything she does.

Mazel tov to our



Levi Lipets | November 22

Levi is the son of Victoria Genovker, younger brother to Sasha Lipets, and grandson of Inna and Vitaliy Genovker. Levi is a 7th grader in the SUMMA program at Whitford Middle School. In his free time, Levi loves playing soccer with FC Portland Club, dancing Hip Hop and Tap at MVP Dance Elite, and traveling all over the world with his family and friends.



Sean Ambers-Hite | November 29

Sean is the son of Lanette Ambers and Don Hite, and brother to Ethan, Isaac, and Quincy. Sean is a 7th grader at Ockley Green Middle School, where he loves playing the clarinet and hanging out with his friends, all while being an honor roll student. Sean enjoys skateboarding, reading, and spending time with family and friends.



Quincy Ambers-Hite | November 29

Quincy is the son of Lanette Ambers and Don Hite, and brother to Ethan, Isaac, and Sean. Quincy is a 7th grader at Ockley Green Middle School, where he loves playing his pocket trumpet and hanging out with his friends, all while being an honor roll student. Quincy enjoys skateboarding, baseball, reading, taekwondo, and spending time with his family and friends.



Caleb Gruenberg | December 20

Caleb Zvi Gruenberg is the son of Orlee Tatarka and Yehuda Gruenberg, brother to Ashie, and grandson of Zvi Tatarka and Susie Chalom of Minnetonka, Minnesota, and Sandy and Jack Gruenberg of New Rochelle, NY. Caleb is an 8th grader at Portland Jewish Academy. Caleb loves playing basketball, baseball, and soccer, watching his beloved Eagles on Sundays, and spending time with friends and family.

B'nai Mitzvah families!

“Na’aseh v’Nishma” in Our Education Programs

By Mel Berwin, Director of Congregational Learning

By now you’ve had multiple opportunities to consider the phrase *Na’aseh v’Nishma*, to see it in context of the Torah, envisioning all the people of Israel standing at the foot of Mt. Sinai and speaking as one to Moshe as he gives us the written tablets of the covenant. You grasp that while *Na’aseh* clearly means “We will do,” *Nishma* has multiple translations: “We will hear/listen/reflect/understand.”



Teachers and Madrichim in ALIYAH training, August 2025

Na’aseh v’Nishma is such a powerful phrase because Judaism is a tradition of action, and repetition, and reflection, and then action again. We try things on; we think about what works and what doesn’t; we innovate, and we come back again the next day/week/month/year to try again. This process is also the essence of Conservative Judaism: the mix of tradition and modernity, the appreciation for all that has come before us and the careful blending with what works today.

Our 31 teachers and 26 teen madrichim wrestled with the texts and ideas of *Na’aseh v’Nishma* at our trainings in August, noting how important it is to balance “acting” and “listening,” as classroom educators. We considered case scenarios, such as how we might have a great idea for a lesson, but the kids are not in the mood for the lesson that day—so then what? How do we listen, pivot, and move forward in a way that works better for our learners?

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks interprets *Na’aseh v’Nishma* by saying: “We can only understand Judaism by doing it, by performing the commands, and living a Jewish life.” In our ALIYAH and Tichon programs, we believe that Jewish literacy is empowering for our children, and combined with reflection, is essential for creating meaning as Jewish humans in the world.

As teachers, we discussed how to teach in an engaging way, but also noted how some of the ideas, prayers, and traditions we teach to our children are not going to be engaging and meaningful the first time they learn them. For many of us, there is that moment when we realize that it is *because* we have said this prayer one hundred times, hosted the seder for years with the same friends, or noted the older generations we once lit candles with and see the new generation now lighting together that our rituals take on added meaning.

I think of the Torah skits we put on over the High Holy Days in our family services, acting out our ancient Torah stories in contemporary language and costumes. Or our Sukkot silent disco with the teens, first learning about and reflecting on the sacred space of our sukkah and what it means to us, but then turning on Israeli pop songs and enjoying a dance party as a different way of “dwelling” in the sukkah.

"Judaism is a tradition of action, and repetition, and reflection, and then action again."

In each of our education programs and grade levels this year, we will be keeping in mind both *Na’aseh* – action, practice, learning about our traditions and rituals—and *Nishma* – listening to what our young people say, hearing their stories, associations, and what is meaningful to them; then, as educators, reflecting on how best to teach, lead, and nurture this generation of Jewish youth.

The "Children" of Israel

By Ronit Scheyer, Director of Early Childhood Education

The Torah is an extraordinary document, although calling it a “document” doesn’t really do it justice. It has been called a blueprint for the organization and construction of the universe, a roadmap for Jewish life, or a mirror for us as a people and as individuals. We look into it and see ourselves, sometimes as we are, sometimes as we wish to be as well as a mythical history of our people (mythical in the big story sense of myth, not as in something made up).

From the perspective of the Jewish people, Torah is our big story. It gives us a sense of how we came to be who we are today and our mission in this world. In clinging to it over the centuries, it has clung to us, shaped us, and changed us. As generations of Jews have developed its ideas, interpreted its stories, and built many-chambered palaces out of its wisdom, Torah has helped us develop, interpret ourselves and the world around us, and built us into a mighty, proud, living people.

In the book of Exodus Chapter 24, the Jewish people are stationed at the foot of Mt Sinai. They have heard the voice of the Divine, which according to one midrash, was so powerful and shocking that upon hearing it, the entire people

dropped dead *en masse*. Hashem had to send angels out to bring them back. In our tradition, the Holy One also learns through doing, and sometimes how not to do things.

Another strand of understanding speaks of a kind of synesthesia that the people experienced in this monumentally transformative moment. In Verses 15 and 16: “Now all of the people were seeing the thunder-sounds, the flashing-torches, the *shofar* sound, and the mountain emitting-smoke; the people saw, and they faltered and stood far off.

“They said to Moshe: ‘You speak with us, and we will hearken, but let not God speak with us, lest we die!’” (Everett Fox’s translation – one of my favorites) On these verses, Rashi says “They saw that which should be *heard* – something which is impossible to see on any other occasion.” Their experience at the foot of the mountain scrambled their senses, and I imagine brought them out of themselves to the fullest extent possible for a human being to experience and still live.

I believe this context can help us appreciate the magnitude of the Israelites’ response to receiving the Torah: *Na’aseh v’Nishma*, everything that we have been instructed in and obligated to, we will do (action) and then, at some point, we will understand. Alternatively: We will do (action), and we will keep our listening hearts open (reception, learning). Both parts of this response to obligation and the relationship that it sustains – action and learning –



Kids are naturally masters at Na’aseh v’Nishma

are critical for the covenant established at Mount Sinai between the Holy One and the People of Israel to continue and thrive.

During my Judaic Studies undergraduate experience, I had a beloved Bible professor who vociferously forbade us from translating *B’nai Yisrael* as “Children of Israel.” “They’re not children!” she would chide us. “They’re people.” She was right, of course. And we know that we never really leave our child-selves completely behind. While we have certainly experienced more time on earth than our children, we still feel big feelings and get hurt, enjoy playing with our friends, and perhaps, most importantly, learn new things the same way children do: through play, action, and questions, from both trusted elders and peers. In the awesome moment of *Na’aseh v’Nishma*, the Israelites perfectly embodied the trust with which a child approaches learning. Children know intuitively that we don’t have to understand every how or why of a thing to try it and learn how to do it. Sometimes it’s messy. Sometimes we engage in action for years before we understand its import. This is the eternal power of *Na’aseh v’Nishma*: embrace it, and let it transform you.



Today we learn and experience. Tomorrow we understand.

Member News



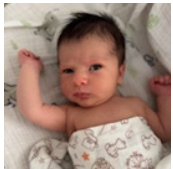
Mazel Tov to **Sam Blauer**, the new Overnight BB Camp Director! Sam will be responsible for guiding BB Camp to the highest standards of excellence, enabling BB Camp to fulfill its mission of building a vibrant and inclusive Jewish community at the camp for campers and staff.



Mazel tov to **Brittany and Jake Barnett** on the birth of their son, **Arlo Dash**, on August 18. Sharing in their joy are the proud grandparents, **Todd and Felicia Rosenthal** and Lawrence and Annella Barnett.



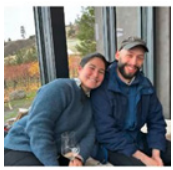
Mazel Tov to **Carol Isaak** on the upcoming release of her book, [Seasons: Lan Su Garden](#). The book, which is available now, is the result of her photographing in the garden during all seasons and all varieties of weather.



Mazel Tov to members **Lilia and Sergey Goldman** on the birth of their second grandchild, Ari Goldman Master (Hebrew name: Ari Dov), born on July 2, 2025, in New York City. Proud parents are Miriam and Sam Master; big brother, Lior, warmly welcomes his new sibling. Ari is named in loving memory of Miriam's grandmother, Anna Rashkovskaya (Lilia's mother), and the name Dov honors Sam's paternal grandmother, Dinah Master. Mazel Tov to the families in Oregon and New Jersey!



Mazel Tov to **Cantor Linda Shivers**! We are proud to share that at the recent American Conference of Cantors (ACC) Convention, **Cantor Linda Shivers** was honored with the prestigious Renana Award, recognizing her forty years of devoted membership in the ACC. This award celebrates not only her remarkable milestone but also her pioneering contributions to the cantorial profession.



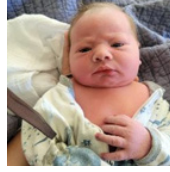
Mazel Tov to **Marianne Zarkin and Brian Scott** on the marriage of their son, Moses Zarkin-Scott to Shana Blinick on July 9 in Chicago. The newlyweds are moving to New York where Moses is beginning rabbinical school at Jewish Theological Seminary.



Mazel Tov to Maude Elovitz and Jennifer Thomas on their marriage. Maude is the daughter of **Mitch and Nicole Elovitz** and Jennifer is the daughter of Tom and Leslie Thomas. The couple lives in Seattle and are building their community within the Green Lake area. As a data scientist, Maude is an Analyst for Regence Health Plans and Jennifer is part of the athletics leadership team at Seattle University.



Mazel Tov to our **Neveh Shalom Men's Club** for bringing home multiple honors at this year's Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs (FJMC) Convention, including a Gold Torch Award for Health & Wellness (*Krav Maga/Martial Arts Program*), special fundraising recognition (*Poker Tournament*), and helping the Western Region win loudest cheer, led by new regional president **Mitch Elovitz**!



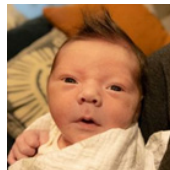
Mazel tov to the Lesch Family on their newest grandson! Spruce Simons Lesch arrived on June 28 in Astoria to proud parents Nina Simons and Zach Lesch and brother Leo. He is also welcomed by his grandparents, Hilga Simons and **Harold and Jackie Lesch**.



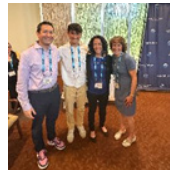
Aaron Siegman and Hallie Unger are elated to announce their engagement. The happy couple met as campers at BB Camp and continued their journey together at Oregon State University. They are now building a life together in Sacramento, CA, where Aaron is a third-year medical student at the University of California, Davis, and Hallie is the Associate Director at Hillel of Sacramento State University. Their overjoyed parents are **Dr. Ingrid Siegman and Ganesh Thanavel**, and Marcy and Steve Unger.



Mazel tov to the Lesch Family! Simcha Yehuda Lesch was born May 28, 2025, to proud parents Reba and Jacob Lesch of Atlanta. He is welcomed by siblings Chaya, Penina, and Yosef, grandparents **Harold and Jackie Lesch**, and Dr. Joel and Elisa Rosen.



Mazel Tov to the Meyer family! Baby Finn James Barta was born May 28, 2025. Welcomed into the world by parents Shana Meyer and Michael Barta, grandparents **Marcia and Mark Meyer**, and Sandy and Tom Barta, and great-grandparents **Lora and Jim, z"l, Meyer**, and Eleanor and Sheldon, z"l, Halpern



Mazel Tov to **Mindy Zeitzer** for completing her three terms as chair of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, and Mazel Tov to **Leslie Beard** as the incoming chair. Additionally, keeping it in the family, a big Mazel Tov to **Noah Zeitzer** on receiving the [Sussman-Shenker Scholarship Award](#).



Mazel tov to **Elizabeth Steiner** on the wedding of her daughter Mira Hayward to Thomas Iwasaki. They were married in Portland on May 25.



Yasher Koach to the **CNS Men's Club** on their [FJMC 2024-25 Quality Club Award](#). This distinguished award is a testament to their commitment to excellence in programming, administration, and engagement with the FJMC at a regional and international level.

Member News

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



We are deeply saddened to inform you of the passing of **Elaine Norr Newman, z”l**, on September 23, 2025, at the age of 78. Born in Cleveland, OH, she is survived by her beloved husband of 56 years, **Edward Newman**, her children **Julie Newman**; Joel (Alice) Newman, and Joanna Newman; sister Susan Norr Sunkle, and brother **Paul Norr, z”l (Helaine Gross)**. Loving grandmother to five grandchildren: Emmett, Noah, and Hudson Greenberg, and Doris and Beatrix Newman.

We are deeply saddened to share the passing of Sue Sadis, z”l, on Tuesday, September 16, 2025. Sue was predeceased by husband Sam Sadis, z”l. She is mourned as a beloved aunt to **Randy (Michelle Iimori) Goldenberg**, mother to Steve (Staci) Sadis, Leslie (Russel) Lewis, and Barry Sadis, grandmother to Audrey and Nathan Lewis, and great-aunt to Youki Iimori.

We are deeply saddened to share the passing of **Berdeen Coven, z”l**, beloved wife of Lee Coven, mother of Andrew (Alison) Coven and Cynthia Coven, and cherished grandmother of Abigail and Jonah Coven. She is also lovingly remembered by her sister, **Taya Meyer**, and her niece, **Rochelle (Jay) Leisner**.

We are deeply saddened to share the passing of Dona Rosenblatt, z”l beloved sister of **Sander (Esther Rosha) Stadler** and aunt of **Joshua (Lily) Stadler**. She is also survived by her sister, Miriam (Robert) Rosenbaum; her former husband, Howard Rosenblatt, and her children, Amir Rosenblatt and Tali (Todd) Wimble.

We are deeply saddened to share the passing of Jack Feldman, z”l, at the age of 91 on Sunday, August 17. He is lovingly remembered by his son, **Louis Feldman**, and daughter-in-law, **Risa Colton-Feldman**, his grandsons **Jacob Feldman** and **Noah Feldman**, his nieces Judith Rosenberg (Greg Andreas), Dr. Deborah Rosenberg, his nephew David Rosenberg (Dr. Elizabeth Matthews-Rosenberg), his great-niece Claire Andreas (Robert Yeagle), his great-nephew Dr. Jacob Andreas (Dr. Zuri Sullivan), and many cousins.

We are deeply saddened to share the passing of Leonard Antick, z”l, at the age of 85 on Tuesday, August 19, in San Diego County. He is lovingly remembered by his daughters Pamela Antick and **Jennifer (Rivi) Antick (Eric Antick-Oslund)**, and his grandson **Micah Antick-Oslund**.

We are deeply saddened to share the passing of **Jerome (Jerry) Menashe, z”l**, on Saturday, August 16. He is lovingly remembered by his daughter **Erika Menashe**, brother Joe (Joanne) Menashe, and sister Denise Menashe. Jerry was predeceased by his wife **Janet Menashe, z”l**.

We are deeply saddened to inform you of the passing of long-time congregant **Carole Furie, z”l** on Thursday, August 14, 2025, at age 86. She is lovingly remembered by her daughters, JoAnn Eden (Craig DeHarpport), Linda Furie and Betty (Dennis) Paulsen, and grandsons Anthony Eden and Chris Eden. She was predeceased by her husband **Alfred Furie, z”l**, and sister and brother-in-law **Elaine and Arnold Cogan, z”l**.

We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of our beloved long-time congregant, **Howard Freedman, z”l**, on August 3 at the age of 90. He was predeceased by his wife, Evelyn Freedman, and is lovingly remembered by his children, Jimmy (Renee) Freedman, Jeff (Deborah) Freedman, and Jana Freedman, as well as his five cherished grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

We are deeply saddened to inform you of the passing of **Bernice Notrica Menashe, z”l** on July 9, 2025, at age 94. Born in Los Angeles, beloved wife of Lou Menashe, z”l, daughter of Albert and Amelia Notrica, z”l, and sister to Sarah (Nace) Treves, z”l. She is survived by her children Nace (Holly) Menashe, Renee (Randy) Langley, **Emily (Rob) Ail**, and Leanne Menashe. Loving grandmother to nine grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. A proud Sephardic lady, loved by all. Esta en Gan Eden.

We are deeply saddened to inform you of the passing of our dear friend and longtime congregant, **Bernice Gevurtz, z”l**, on July 1, 2025, at the age of 92. **Bernice** is mourned by her grandson, Jacob Lynch; daughter-in-law Diana (Rob) Eberlein; brother-in-law, Doug Goodman; and cousins **Alan Montrose**, Eugene Montrose, and **Myra Jackson**. Bernice was predeceased by her husband, Burton Gevurtz, z”l, and her son, Joshua Lynch, z”l.

We are deeply saddened to share the passing of Phillip Bloom, z”l, on June 16. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Rosalyn; sons Aaron (Kristin) Bloom, **David (Trudi) Bloom**, Paul (Karen) Bloom, and eight grandchildren: Jonah, Hannah, Seve, Mira, Sarah, Willa, Natalie, and Emma, and by his older brother, Jerry Bloom. He was predeceased by parents Carl and Rose Bloom, z”l, and brothers Sanford and Gilbert Bloom, z”l.

We are deeply saddened to share the passing of Michael Paul Lietz, z”l, on June 4. Michael was the beloved brother of **Jonathon (Elaine Coughlin) Lietz**, Kathleen Nowak, and Linda Rich, and the devoted father of Abraham Lietz, Aaron Lietz, and Amber Lietz.

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.

Tikkun Olam: Shroud Crowd
Sundays, November 2, December 7
2:00-4:00pm

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

Interfaith Sisters in Unity
Wednesdays, November 5, December 3
7:00pm, Zoom

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

Art, Heart, and Soul: Gelli-Printing
Thursday, November 6, 6:30-8:30pm

BOGRIM (Grades 9-12) Kabbalat and Kibbitz
Friday, November 7, 6:00-7:30pm
Potluck style Shabbat dinners, sing some songs and dive into a curated conversation!

Women's Torah Study
Saturdays, Nov. 8, 22, and Dec. 13, 27
12:30-1:30pm
Join Mel Berwin and delve into biblical texts.

Tikkun Olam: Dignity Grows Pack Event
Sunday, November 9 @ Rose Schnitzer
10:30am-12:30pm
Join us to pack menstrual and hygiene totes for community members who need them.

Too Fat for China: A One Woman Show
Sunday, November 9, 4:00-6:00pm
A hilarious live performance by comic storyteller and professional Jew, Phoebe Potts, about adoption.

Tikkun Olam: Cooking for Outside In
Sundays, November 9, December 14
12:00-2:00pm
Cook a meal to feed homeless teens.

CHAVERIM (K-2) Experiment PDX Field Trip
Sunday, November 9, 1-3pm

Israel360: Eye on the Media
Monday, November 10, 7:00-8:30pm

Sisterhood Coffee and Chat at MJCC
Tuesday, November 11, 11:30-1pm

Sisterhood In-Person Book Club
Thursdays, November 13, December 11
10:30-11:30am
Join the Sisterhood for their monthly book club discussion.

A New Light: Rabbi Eve Posen Installation Weekend
Friday-Sunday, November 14-16
Celebrate as we welcome Rabbi Posen to her new role!

Sisterhood Craft and Schmooze
Sunday, November 16, 10:00-12:00pm

Tikkun Olam: Thanksgiving Card Making with Jewish Family & Child Services (JFCS)
Sunday, November 16, 12:30-2:00pm

NOAR (Grades 3-5) Hopscotch Field Trip
Sunday, November 16, 1-3pm

Wise Women Social Lunch, 12:00-1:00pm
Thursdays, November 20, December 18
Pack a lunch and join this friendly group of women to schmooze and empower one another.

YAFE: PJ Havdallah
Saturday, November 22, 5:00pm

Sisterhood Mah Jongg for Fun
Sundays, November 22, December 7
10:00-12:00pm

Sisterhood Virtual Book Club
Sundays, November 24, December 22
7:00pm
Join the Sisterhood for their monthly book club discussion.

GESHER (Grades 6-8) Movie Night
Sunday, November 30

Men's Club Brunch and Speaker
Sunday, December 7, 9:30-11:30am

YAFE Chanukah Party
Sunday, December 14

Latkes & Vodka with Sisterhood and Men's Club
Tuesday, December 16, 6:00-9:00pm

Tichon and Teen Chanukah Party
Wednesday, December 17, 6:30-8:30pm

GESHER (Grades 6-8) Havdallah
Saturday, December 20
CNS Community Chanukah Party
Sunday, December 21, 3:00-5:00pm

NOAR (Grades 3-5) Movie Night and White Elephant Gift
Saturday, December 27

BOGRIM (Grades 9-12) Mocktail Party
Sunday, December 28

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
Fridays, November 7, December 5, 6:15pm
Celebrate your birthday or anniversary month with your community!

(New!) Kol Shabbat (Voices Only)
Fridays, November 21, December 19
7:00-8:15pm
In place of 6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service. Voices-only service. This later service allows us to slow down and ease into Shabbat together.

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
A fun step up from Tot Shabbat for our K-3rd friends.

(New!) Mini Minyan (Grades 3-5)
1st and 3rd Saturdays, 10:30am
Join Tefilah and Youth Specialist Meg Bernstein to learn, lead, and enjoy an active mini-Shabbat service!

The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

A DECADE WITH RABBI KOSAK - MITZVAH MOMENT

in memory of

Michael Lietz from Jonathon Lietz & Elaine Coughlin

A.E. ROSENBERG LECTURE FUND

in memory of

Stan Constantine from Gary Constantine

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Jack Cordova from Richard & Susan Garber
August "Guggie" Raskin from Elisa Weger
Arline Weger from Elisa Weger

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Solomon Menashe from Richard & Abby Menashe
Ezra Menashe from Richard & Abby Menashe
Joya Menashe from Richard & Abby Menashe
Rebecca Menashe from Richard & Abby Menashe
Rebecca Menashe from Sanford & Wendi Menashe
Solomon Menashe from Sanford & Wendi Menashe
Samuel Schaffer from Bill & Carmela Schaffer

CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

in memory of

Phillip Bloom from Sanford & Wendi Menashe

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

in appreciation of

Cantor Bitton from Helen Chan
Rabbinic Ordination from Jonathan & Elisa Spano
Rabbinic Ordination from Lee & Jane Mopper
Sage Brit Mitzvah from Mia Osherow & Dave Chapman

in honor of

Cantor Bitton from Anthony & Priscilla Kostiner
Cantor Bitton from Elliot & Suzanne Axel
Cantor Bitton from Marvin Wolfson & Katherine Snook
Cantor Bitton from Samuel Gottlieb & Carolyn Gorin
Cantor Bitton from Allan & Judy Weingard
Cantor Bitton from Stephen & Diana Sirkin
Rabbi-Cantor Bitton from Jeffrey & Laura Burda
Rabbi-Cantor Eyal Bitton from Harriet Saxe
Rabbi-Cantor Eyal Bitton from Harvey & Sandy Platt
Rabbi-Cantor Eyal Bitton from Riley & Marci Atkins
Rabbi-Cantor Eyal Bitton from Steven Shain & Wendy Tobin Shain
Rabbi-Cantor Eyal Bitton from Sue Katz
Rabbinic Ordination from Laurence & Corinne Spiegel
Rabbinic Ordination from Rick & Sharyl Vagy
Rabbinic Ordination from Sander (Sandy) Stadler & Esther Roshia Stadler
in memory of
Jasper the dog from Linda Kolkin Shivers & Albert Kolkin
Norberto Krivoy from Rick & Sharyl Vagy

CEMETERY FUND

in memory of

Donald H. Pearlman from Bradley Pearlman
Donald Pearlman from Shirley Pearlman
Isosif Talal from Gennady, Irina, Annette & Michelle Talal

CHAI FUND

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Vic Menashe from Nira Levine

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Lee & Sheri Cordova from Jack & Barbara Schwartz
David & Debbie Menashe Natan from Nira Levine
Marty & Sharyn Schneiderman from Samuel Gottlieb & Carolyn Gorin
Barbara Schwartz from Andrea Schwartz

in memory of

Jane & Larry O'Glasser's aunt from Carolyn Shain
Michael A Katz from Sue Katz
Jack Cordova from Ron & Marcy Morris
Jacob Joseph (Jack) Cordova from William Treuhaft
Joseph Cordova from Lee & Sheri Cordova
Howard Freedman from Sylvia & Gary Pearlman
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Norberto Krivoy from Samuel Gottlieb & Carolyn Gorin
Michael Lietz from Samuel Gottlieb & Carolyn Gorin
Estelle Mae Reiser Golden from Lee & Sheri Cordova
Anna Reiser from Lee & Sheri Cordova
Elvera (Libby) Smith from Sue Katz
Solomon Smith from Sue Katz

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Howard Freedman from Rhoda Leopold
Irving Leopold, Harry Rodinsky, & Joeen Rodinsky from Rhoda Leopold
Bernice Menashe from Barbara Enkelis
Bernice Menashe from Jerrie Roth

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in memory of
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GENERAL SYNAGOGUE FUND

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Stanley Constantine from Dan & Bonnie English
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Jack Cordova from Victor & Toinette Menashe
Bertha Esformes from Maria Esformes
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Roza Milman from Grigoriy Milman & Marina Mekhanik
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Gerald Gumbert from Beatrice Kay Gumbert

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in memory of

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