

THE CHRONICLE

A PUBLICATION OF CONGREGATION NEVEH SHALOM



MORE THAN MEMBERSHIP

Why Belonging Matters

By Rabbi Eve Posen

In a world where it is increasingly possible to live our lives without ever really encountering other people—groceries delivered, meetings on screens, news consumed alone—there is something quietly radical about belonging to a synagogue.

A synagogue, at its best, is a place where you are not alone.

Our tradition has long understood this. In *Pirkei Avot* we are taught: **“Al tifrosh min ha-tzibur” — Do not separate yourself from the community** (Avot 2:5). It is a simple instruction but a profound one. Judaism was never meant to be lived in isolation. We are meant to show up for one another, to gather, to learn each other’s names and stories, to celebrate, and to mourn together.

And yes, we pray together. But *kehillah*, community, is about so much more than prayer.

It’s the meal train that quietly appears when someone has surgery or welcomes a new baby. It’s the grief group where people sit together and say the hard things out loud. It’s the laughter in a classroom during a text study when someone suddenly sees a verse in a new way. It’s the art class, the volunteer project, the Shabbat dinner where strangers slowly become friends.

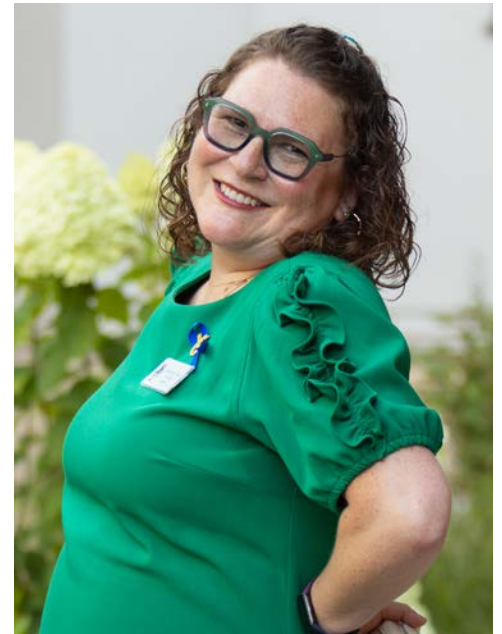
It’s the moment when you walk through the doors and someone says, “I’m glad you’re here.”

A synagogue is one of the few places left in our society where people of different ages, professions, and perspectives gather not because they have to, but because they share something deeper, a language of values, including words like *chesed* (kindness), *tzedek* (justice), *shalom* (peace), and *kehilla* (community). These are not just abstract ideals. They are commitments we practice together.

Now, I’ll be honest: community is also a little messy. It means coordinating schedules, navigating differences of opinion, and occasionally discovering that the kugel ran out before you got to the buffet table. But that’s part of the magic. Real community isn’t perfect: it’s human.

And in those imperfect moments, something meaningful happens. We learn patience. We practice generosity. We discover that belonging isn’t about finding a group that is exactly like us. It’s about finding people who are willing to walk alongside us.

My hope, my aspiration, is that our synagogue continues to be exactly this kind of place. A place where people feel seen and known. A place where the rabbi tries her best to learn your name (and where you kindly forgive



her when she occasionally forgets). A place where, if life becomes difficult, you know there are people who will notice if you are missing.

Because belonging means knowing that someone cares about you, and cares for you.

When we choose to be part of a synagogue community, we are doing more than joining an institution. We are weaving ourselves into a network of care. We are saying that our lives are stronger when they are connected.

And perhaps most importantly, we are living out the wisdom of our tradition: that none of us is meant to walk this journey alone.

In Joy, In Sorrow, and In Between

By Rabbi Cantor Eyal Bitton

In Jewish life, a synagogue is often described in terms of membership—names on a list, seats in a sanctuary, dues paid at the start of the year. But a true *kehillah*, a sacred community, is something far deeper. It is measured not in numbers but in relationships—moments of presence, care, and shared journey. Over the past year, I have been reminded of this in powerful ways.

I had the honor of guiding a congregant through the loss of his beloved wife. Our connection stretched back years—to early days when, as fellow Montrealers, he and his wife warmly welcomed my family to the community, getting together with us for a meal or a concert, helping us feel at home. To stand with him at such a painful



Sasha Lipets

moment, to offer words at her funeral, was not simply a professional role—it was a sacred responsibility born of relationship. Even in grief, the bonds of community revealed their strength. And in a beautiful full-circle moment, he later expressed his gratitude by taking me to a memorable concert—reminding me that even in life's heaviest chapters, connection endures.

Another story comes to mind as well. I first met Sasha Lipets in 2018 at her great-grandmother's funeral. Hers was a family shaped by the legacy of Soviet oppression, where Jewish life had been stifled for generations. And yet, here was a new generation, proud and eager to reclaim what had been denied.

In 2019, I had the privilege of overseeing Sasha's Bat Mitzvah here at Neveh Shalom. From the beginning, her enthusiasm was unmistakable. She embraced every opportunity to participate by leading prayers, singing with sincerity, and stepping forward with both confidence and humility. Over time, even at a young age, her involvement grew into leadership. She became a voice for the Jewish people, an advocate for Israel, and a role model for others. She even chose to come to services on her own, drawn not by obligation, but by connection.

These are the stories that define a *kehillah*.



As we move through this season—from the Passover story of peoplehood, on to Yom HaShoah, Yom Hazikaron, and Yom Ha'atzmaut—where memory, loss, and national identity intertwine; through Lag Ba'Omer's celebration of resilience and toward Shavuot's moment of receiving the Torah, we are reminded that Judaism has always been sustained by community.

Not membership. Connection.

A *kehillah* is built when we show up for one another: in joy, in sorrow, and in the quiet, everyday moments in between. That is who we are. That is what makes this community so special.

When Programs Become Ours

By Lisa Richmond, Program Director

When our Purim hamentaschen baking first began as a congregational effort, it was relatively small. A handful of dedicated volunteers gathered in the kitchen, rolled dough, filled trays, and made it happen.

Over time, the project expanded. Today, those same hamentaschen reach more than 100 of our seniors through home deliveries. They are included in care packages for college students, anchor a baking program with JFCS Holocaust survivors, and are shared at our Purim dinner.

The recipe hasn't changed much. The heart behind it hasn't changed either. What has changed is the number of members who now see this as part of their Purim.

Each year, volunteers return. Some bring friends; some shift roles: baking one year, packing boxes the next, delivering the year after that. Our Tichon students roll up their sleeves and contribute. What began as a program has gradually taken on the feel of a communal ritual. People expect it, they plan for it, and they look for familiar faces in the kitchen. It is no longer something we "offer"; rather, it is something we do together.

That shift says something important about membership and programming at Neveh Shalom. Many of our programs are open to the broader community. That is intentional because Jewish life should be accessible.

None of this is about exclusivity. Guests are welcome and community access is important. But membership means that programming is not just available to you - it is shaped with you in mind.

When members return consistently, programming can deepen. We can plan with continuity rather than starting from scratch each time. We can build layers across the year. Slichot sets the tone for the High Holidays. Sukkot reconnects people who stood beside each other weeks earlier. Winter gatherings sustain relationships. Spring holidays draw those same relationships forward. The repetition creates familiarity, familiarity creates trust, and trust changes how people participate.

Members move from attending to contributing. They offer feedback, suggest ideas, volunteer, and notice when something works or when something needs adjusting. That steady presence allows programming to evolve in response to real people, not abstract audiences.

It also allows us to think beyond single events. With a reliable base of members, we can design initiatives that have ripple effects. A Purim baking project can connect seniors, college students, Holocaust survivors, and families at a congregational dinner. A holiday program can lead into an affiliate gathering. A cultural event can spark a Hesed initiative. These connections are possible because there is a core group moving through the calendar together.

Over time, programs stop feeling isolated. They accumulate meaning and become markers in a shared story. Membership does not simply provide access to programming; instead, it gives programming a foundation. It turns good ideas into sustained practices, transforming events into rituals that carry forward from year to year.

The hamentaschen may be seasonal; the smell of them baking may only waft out of the kitchen for a few weeks every spring. But what makes the project stronger each year is not the logistics. It is the steady presence of members who return, invest, and shape what it becomes.

When you are a member of Congregation Neveh Shalom, you are not simply signed up to attend programs: you are helping determine what those programs can become.

A personal appeal from Lisa:

We have many different programs and volunteer opportunities at Neveh Shalom. Whether you are a new member or have been here for decades, please fill out our Member Interest form so we can help you connect in a meaningful way!

Visit: nevehshalom.org/MemInterest



Caring for Each Other in Challenging Times

By Mark Kalenscher, CNS President

In these profoundly challenging times, the concept of *kehillah*—sacred community—is not just a warm ideal but a critical necessity. The world reminds us daily of the fragility of peace and the persistence of hate. We see this in the global instability, including the war in Iran, and closer to home, the alarming news of an attack on a synagogue in Michigan. These events, as well as many others, serve as painful reminders of the threats our people face.

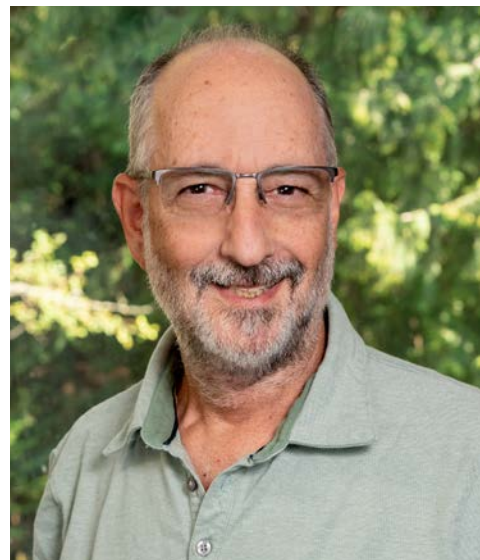
Yet, we must be resolute: we will not allow hate and antisemitism to diminish our commitment to practicing our religion or our enduring commitment to one another. Now, more than ever, we need to show up for each other and invest in the vital role synagogues play in holding the Jewish community together in times of threat and need.

This necessity comes at a great financial and emotional cost. Reports suggest that synagogues nationwide

spend around 14% of their budgets on security, including hardening facilities and employing security personnel. While I cannot attest to the accuracy of that national number, I can affirm that Neveh Shalom continues to invest in the growing need to ensure the safety and security of our *kehillah*. This is particularly distressing as we would much rather spend those funds on programming and creating more opportunities to connect spiritually and socially.

Our true strength lies in our relationships. Therefore, we must invest ourselves spiritually, emotionally, and financially to create the deep connections that are the ultimate defense against isolation and fear.

As we welcome the spring and celebrate the holidays of Passover and Shavuot, we are reminded of the centrality of Torah in our lives as well as how the struggle for freedom and our collective responsibility for each other are vital to our continuity as a



people. This is the moment to renew that covenant of care.

Let us acknowledge and reaffirm our shared responsibility to look out for each other; by doing so, we ensure that Neveh Shalom is a warm, welcoming, and safe space for all.

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Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh Ba'Zeh

By Ronit Scheyer, Director of Early Childhood Education

Think about community in terms of orbits. On a scale as large as planets and galaxies, or as small as the cells in our body, every being is connected to every other one. Some connections are stronger and exert more influence, based on proximity and the mass of the being/object. This is Newton's Law of Universal Gravitation. Our bodies are a community of cells, tissues, and organs, all working together. The *bracha* (blessing) that we say after we use the restroom, the *Asher Yatzar*, acknowledges that the body contains parts that open and close: if even one of them were to do so inappropriately, we could not survive. If part of the community is out of balance, the whole suffers.

The body is the community of the individual. Moving outward to a wider orbit, the family unit is also a community, and even further out, school, religious organizations, and groups formed around shared interests are all communities that we become part of throughout our lives. At Foundation School, we have multiple communities that overlap and interact in different ways. Each classroom is a community, with its own rituals, its own

culture, a shared language among group members, and shared histories of conflict and resolution. Although it's the kids and teachers who are together most of the time in the classroom, their family members also belong to this community.

I firmly believe that what a person gives to the community determines what they get out of it. I also believe that we are in communities with each other whether we realize it, or intended for it to happen, or not. It is possible to join a community and have a more transactional experience. As a parent, I pay tuition, so I receive a service that I need in exchange. I drop my child off at the beginning of the day, say a quick hello to the teachers, pick up my child at the end of the day, and go on my way. This is a perfectly legitimate way to interact with a community, which happens for any number of reasons. I want to be clear that I'm not judging anyone's choices.

I would argue strongly, however, for the power of community, for interactions that show our care and concern for one another, that exemplify our belief in the Jewish value of *b'tzelem elokim*, that every single person was created in the image of God and is worthy of being treated with dignity and respect. I would argue for the power of community that checks in on one another when scary or hard things happen, and that makes sure no one slips through the



Foundation School Purim Carnival

cracks. It may feel foreign to those of us who were raised on the "holy" American value of rugged individualism, that we look out for ourselves and pull ourselves up by our bootstraps. Jewish values run radically counter to this toxic individualism, especially the value of *kol yisrael arevim zeh ba'zeh* – we are all responsible for each other.

As parents and educators of young children, we know in our bones that we have to model the behavior and the choices that we want our children to adopt. Children are very adept observers: they are much more likely to mimic our actions than to internalize even our most eloquent and well-reasoned arguments. They can always tell when our actions don't match our words. There's no magic formula or community *bubbe* to bring us in; we shape our community with the way we treat each other, how we care for one another, and how we show up to celebrate together. If we want our children to show up for each other and their community when they're older, it is up to us to model that way of being from the time they're very young—and it's never too late to start.



Foundation School Butterflies - Forest snack time

More than Membership

By Mel Berwin, Director of Congregational Learning

What brought you to Neveh Shalom?

When I first moved to Portland over twenty years ago, knowing no one at all, with two small kids in tow, Neveh Shalom was the only Conservative congregation here. I just assumed we'd join the synagogue since I was most comfortable in Conservative synagogues. Moving from Boston, we came for a visit over Thanksgiving weekend, attended the Downstairs Minyan (in the old, L-shaped Zidell Chapel), and toured Foundation School, where I registered our older child to start mid-year. To this day, some of my closest friends are those who were fellow parents from my (three) kids' Foundation School and Tot Shabbat years.

For many families, the choice isn't so obvious or necessarily about movement affiliation. Families join for so many reasons: for friends, for community connection, for the High Holidays, for other family members, or because they've heard good things about our education programs, our clergy, our community, or our services.

And while joining a congregation can be a big decision, there are

a million smaller decisions we make once we're here, such as what to attend and how to connect with the community. Granted, it might feel overwhelming at first: how do you find your people in a large congregation? The truth is, there are so many small communities within the whole, and if you're looking to connect, your newest best friend is waiting to meet you too!

When families join the congregation and enroll in ALIYAH, there are multiple ways to engage and connect. Start with attending ALIYAH family programs, young family holiday programs, or adult education opportunities while your child is in class. You can even just hang out in the library and say hello to the other

parents or volunteers who are here. Get involved as a volunteer or come to help with one of our Hessed activities, like stocking food pantry shelves or cooking for Outside In.

But there's also no reason to limit your friendships to your own demographic group. It's always a goal of ours to connect our ALIYAH families with our larger congregation, and vice versa. Our annual Shabbat programs, guest speakers, and intergenerational programs are good examples of these connections.

Among these is the beautiful intergenerational *Mensches & Mavens* program that we re-started this year after a few years' hiatus. The first "M&M" program started over ten years ago, with a grant from the Legacy Heritage Foundation, which brought congregational "elders" together with 7th graders on Wednesday evenings. Now we meet on Sunday mornings with our 6th graders: the connections are sweeter than ever.

If you're wondering how to find your people, or the right "next" activity to feel more engaged, please let us know! We are here to help you connect.



Some of our Mensches & Mavens in the 2025-2026 Cohort



Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah



Ani Mast | April 11, 2026

Ani Mast is the daughter of Rebecca Babener and Walter Mast, sister to Sam, granddaughter to Rosalind and Jeffrey Babener (z"l), and Sonja and Chet Mast of Colorado. A 7th grader at Park Academy, Ani plays Ultimate Frisbee and rides free skates. Ani enjoys cooking, sewing, and shopping for tchotchkes. Please help Ani support the CNS food pantry.



Allison Paige Solondz | April 18, 2026

Allison was born on her mother's birthday, and named after her maternal-great-grandmother Alice and paternal-great-grandmother Pauline. Allie is the daughter of Kimberly and David Solondz, loving younger sister to Benjamin Solondz, granddaughter to Jacqueline and Daniel Solondz (z"l), and Richard and Susan Thomashow. She is a 7th grade student at PJA and summertime BB-camper. Allie likes playing soccer with Portland City United, ski racing with Mt. Hood Race Team Academy, swimming, and doing crafts in all forms of media. She is frenemies with the family dog, Loki, and is always ready with an unsuspecting witty joke.



Esther Harper | April 25, 2026

Esther is the beloved daughter of parents Jacob and Jaimie Harper and super-sister to Reuben. As a 5th generation Portlander, she is granddaughter to Mort and Terri Simon of Portland and Muncie, and Stephen Harper of Santa Rosa. She is a 7th grader at Portland Jewish Academy; she loves cheerleading with her Beaverton Youth squad. Esther is often found engaging in artistic and creative endeavors; she loves her summers at BB Camp and frequent trips to the mall with her friends.



Benjamin Rogson | May 2, 2026

Benjamin is the son of Jennifer and Ariel Rogson; brother to Charles Rogson, and grandson to Miriam Rogson of Los Angeles, CA, and Portland, OR, and Gail and Joel Semler of Portland, OR. Benjamin is a 6th grader at Portland Jewish Academy. His interests include *Magic: The Gathering*, *Dungeons & Dragons*, *Warhammer*, as well as video games, flag football, and cooking. He loves spending summers at Camp Solomon Schechter.



Yael Olds | May 16, 2026

Yael Nava Gartner Olds is the daughter of Nadine Gartner and Ben Olds, sister to Eitan, and granddaughter of Haya and Rick Gartner, and Gloria and Michael Olds. A 7th grader at PJA, she especially enjoys math and writing. Yael swims competitively with the Stingrays, and spends her summers at Camp Solomon Schechter. She loves to read, hang out with friends, and cuddle with her dog, Mitzvah.



Daniel Hayato Gershon | May 30, 2026

Daniel is the son of David and Ai Gershon, brother to Mia, grandson to Sam and Beth (z"l) Gershon of Riverside, California, and Yasu and Yoko Okada of Nagoya, Japan. As a 7th grader at Cedar Park MS, he loves learning about STEM. Daniel holds a blackbelt in MMA, enjoys playing soccer, flyfishing, and visiting Ninja Castles in Japan.



Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah



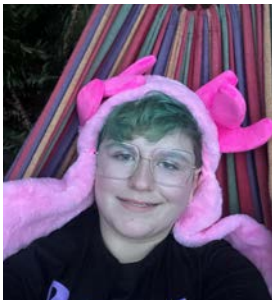
Julia Stein | June 6, 2026

Julia is an accomplished and competitive soccer and basketball player for her club and school teams respectively. She is a gifted 7th grader at Robert Gray Middle School while completing 9th grade math. Curling up with a good book is a favorite activity. Julia is the daughter of Rachel and David Stein and older sister to Daniel. She is the eldest granddaughter of Jill and Michael Kornfeld and Carol and Michael Stein.



Moses Goranson | June 13, 2026

Moses Goranson is the son of Arielle and Leif Goranson, and older brother to Solomon and Yates. He is the grandson of Lee and Ric Ball, Vijai Shukla, and Susan and Eric Goranson. Moses is a 7th grader at Portland Jewish Academy. He enjoys playing basketball and soccer with his friends, traveling, and cooking.



Esther Dorn-Medeiros | June 20, 2026

Esther is the child of Becca and Cort Dorn-Medeiros, grandchild to Tobie and Alan Dorn of Albany, New York, and Cheryl and Paul Medeiros of Poughkeepsie, New York. A 7th grader at Mt. Tabor Middle School, Esther is an active member of their GSA, Climate Club, and Debate Club. They love crafting, rowing crew, musicals, *D&D*, animals, hanging out with friends, and traveling with family.



Orly Portman | June 25, 2026 (in Israel)

Orly is the daughter of Stephanie Portman and Bridget Fahrland, granddaughter of Candace Watson, and Barney and Joanne Portman (z"l). A 7th grader at Oregon Episcopal School, she competes on the volleyball and basketball teams. She loves baking, her summers at Schechter, and spending time with her friends and family. Orly is excited for her Bat Mitzvah at the Kotel.



Micah Cuda | June 27, 2026

Micah is the child of Deirdre Murfee and Maddie Cuda, sibling to Emerson and Pippin Cuda, grandchild of Carole and Robert Murfee of San Francisco, and Laurie and Peter Cuda of Phoenix, AZ. Micah is in the 7th grade at Rowe Middle School, a voracious reader, and avid *D&D* player. They love choir, board games, and anything to do with snakes.

More Than Membership — A Kehillah of Connection

By David and Darcy Rubin



The Rubin Family

When a Jewish family moves to Portland, one of the first things on the to-do list is to search for a new synagogue. Usually, a friend or some other person points the family in the right direction.

When Darcy and I moved back to Portland in 1998, we had that and a lot more!

My family has been longtime members of Neveh Shalom, since 1970. I attended Sunday religious school, had my Bar Mitzvah, was President of USY, part of the young leadership group with Rabbi Stampfer at his house, and more. Both my brothers did the same. My Dad, Mark, had been on many committees and the board. Darcy and I were married at Neveh; Darcy had her adult Bat Mitzvah at Neveh.

So when our three-year-old daughter, Sydney, was ready to start pre-school, we enrolled her at Neveh, partly because we knew the Foundation School Director, my mom, Leah, who had been the director for 32 years.

Our daughter Sophie was born here. We had her baby naming at Neveh, and she also attended Foundation School. Both daughters learned for and had their Bat Mitzvahs at Neveh.

As in all life cycles, we also leaned on Neveh more than ever during Covid when my mom passed away. Rabbi Isaak officiated at her funeral, with only family members and Shiva on Zoom.

Having grown up at Neveh and returning with our family all these years later instilled our commitment to ensure that Neveh continues to thrive and grow for future generations. I was honored to serve on the search committee a few years ago

that hired Marlene as our fantastic Executive Director.

Darcy currently helps with the Food Pantry and is a member of the *Chevra Nichum*: the Comforting Friends Committee. I currently serve on the board of directors, proud to be part of confirming Rabbi Posen as our new Senior Rabbi and most recently confirming Rabbi April as the new Associate Rabbi.

This is a full circle story for our family; there are many other members who have similar stories and experiences with Neveh Shalom. It is a special place for Jewish life. We need to keep building Jewish life! Connections are everywhere.

Neveh Shalom was built on connections, and the future is very bright. Even in these challenging times, please step up! Show up! Neveh Shalom is here for every life cycle. The future depends on it.

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.

CNS Second Night Seder Thursday, April 2, 5:00pm

Join Cantor Bitton at our Second Night Seder and enjoy a Sephardic celebration and an excellent meal.

Community Young Adults' Seder Saturday, April 4, 5:00pm, Cong. Beth Israel

Mimouna Celebration Sunday, April 12, 5:00-7:00pm

Join us for a Moroccan-Israeli post-Pesach celebration.

Interfaith Sisters in Unity Wednesdays, April 15, May 6, June 3 7:00pm, Zoom

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

Tikkun Olam: Shroud Crowd Sundays, April 12, May 17 2:00-4:00pm

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

Sisterhood Just for Fun Mah Jongg Sundays, April 19, May 10 10:00am-12:00pm

Cooking for Outside In Sunday, April 19, May 24, June 14 12:00-2:00pm

Cook a meal to feed homeless teens.

Sisterhood Craft & Schmooze Sundays, April 26, May 31 10:00am-12:00pm

Bring your favorite craft and join us for a relaxed drop-in session to create, connect, and schmooze with fellow crafters.

Sisterhood Virtual Book Group Monday, April 27, May 25 7:00pm, Zoom

Men's Club Torah on Tap Thursdays, April 30, May 28 6:30-8:30pm

Israeli-American Lag b'Omer Celebration Tuesday, May 4, 6:00-8:00pm

Scholar-in-Residence Weekend "Torah & Technology" with Rabbi Danny Nevins May 8-10

Join us for Scholar-in-Residence Weekend with Rabbi Danny Nevins, featuring thought-provoking talks, a Shabbat dinner, a brunch, and a panel discussion exploring current events and global perspectives.

Mah Jongg Madness Brunch/Tournament Sunday, May 17, 11:00am-4:00pm

Shavuot: Standing Together at Sinai, A Night of Learning for Our Whole Community Thursday, May 21, more info to come

Wise Women Thursdays, May 21, June 18, 12-1pm Pack a lunch and join this friendly group of women to schmooze and empower one another.

Memorial Day Flag Planting Sunday, May 24 Ahavai Shalom 10am | Neveh Zedek 2pm

A Strong Foundation: Spring Fundraiser Celebrating CNS and Honoring 70 Years of Foundation School Sunday, May 31, 5:00pm

Join our community in celebrating Congregation Neveh Shalom and honoring 70 years of Foundation School.

CNS Membership Renewal 2026-2027 Opens, Monday, June 1

Annual Texas Hold'em Tournament Sunday, June 7, 4:00pm Register now to hold your spot for this fantastic event. Proceeds benefit youth education and camp scholarships.

Song of Miriam Awards Brunch Honoring Darryl Kuperstock Sunday, June 14

CNS Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition Thursday, June 18, 7:00-9:00pm

CNS at Pride Beaverton Sunday, June 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, April 10, May 1, June 5, 6:15pm Celebrate your birthday or anniversary month with your community!

Kol Shabbat 3rd Fridays, April 17, May 15 7:00pm-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.

Shabbat on the Plaza 2026! - Friday, June 5 – "A Taste of CNS Roses" - Friday, June 12 – "Bollywood Shabbat" - Friday, June 19 – "Strawberry Shabbat" - Friday, June 26 – "Pride Shabbat"

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 Grades) 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 10:30am A fun step up from Tot Shabbat for our K-3 friends.

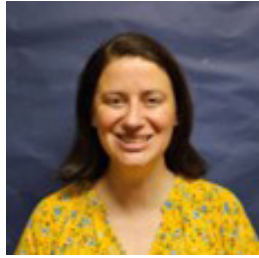
Mini Minyan (3rd-5th Grades) 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 10:30am Join Tefilah and Youth Specialist Meg Bernstein to learn, lead, and enjoy an active mini-Shabbat service!

Member News



Mazel tov to newlyweds Alyssa Knudsen and Allie Beeler. Alyssa is the daughter of **David and Jenn Director Knudsen** and big sister of Hayley Knudsen. They married in November in Boston, and honeymooned in January in snowy Quebec. Both women graduate this spring and await homework-free evenings—more time

for one another and their menacing cat.



Mazel tov to **Naomi Leavitt**, who is delighted to be the community liaison for Cedar Sinai Park. She is excited to make connections between the greater Portland community and the staff and residents at both Rose Schnitzer Manor and Robison Jewish Health Center.



Mazel tov to **Debbi and Alan Montrose**, whom Schechter Spark is proud to honor on May 3rd. Debbi and Alan fell in love with Camp at different times. They have dedicated themselves to supporting Camp Solomon Schechter, including as Board President in a critical year, and as major ambassadors of Camp.



Mazel tov to parents Joshua and Ariella Reid and brother Matan on the birth of their new baby, Asher Emlen Reid, born on February 7 in Seattle! Asher Tzvi is celebrated in Portland by Bubbie **Elana Emlen**; aunts Estee and Tali Emlen; Great-aunt Carol Stampfer, and in Mercer Island by Wallace Reid and Jayne Carlin. We are happy to

celebrate the legacy of Grandfather Matt Emlen (z"l) and great-grandparents Rabbi Joshua (z"l) and Goldie Stampfer (z"l).



Mazel Tov to **Michelle Caplan**, Assistant Executive Director of Congregation Neveh Shalom, on receiving a Peer Recognition Grant and honor through the inaugural Grinspoon Amber Awards, bestowed by Michelle Koplan, CEO of BB360. Michelle is an integral and beloved member of our staff for 13 years.

Affectionately known as our “Chief People Officer”, she has an extraordinary gift for making every person feel seen, valued, and welcome. This well-deserved recognition reflects her professionalism, compassion, and deep dedication to our community. We are incredibly proud of this honor and grateful for the many ways she enriches our congregation.

Yihi Zichram Baruch

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

We are 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 limori) Goldenberg**, mother to Steve (Staci) Sadis, Leslie (Russel), Lewis and Barry Sadis; grandmother to Audrey and Nathan Lewis, and great-aunt to Youki limori.

We are saddened to share the passing of Robert Bloom (z"l), who died on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at the age of 80. He is lovingly remembered by his brothers, **Michael (Jaimee) Bloom** and Stephen (Amy Whinston) Bloom; his nieces and nephews, Scott (Amy) Bloom; **Liza (Beth) Milliner**; Melissa (Oren) Abu; Jeramie (Andrew Thorry) Bloom, and Deborah Bloom, and his great-nieces and great-nephews, Justin and Mara Bloom, and Sylvia and Luigi Thorry-Bloom.

We are saddened to share the passing of longtime member **Shirley Soble Nudelman (z"l)**, who died on Friday, January 23, 2026. Shirley was predeceased by her beloved husband, **Jerome Nudelman z"l**. She is lovingly remembered by her children, **Jeff (Anne) Nudelman**, Sharon (Dean) Morell, and Sheila (Matt) Casimo; her grandchildren, Kaitlyn Casimo, Blake (Lauren) Donnelly-Morell, Josh (John Sluder) Nudelman, and Sol Nudelman; her sister, **Sandey (Del) Fields** and brother-in-law, Phil Nudelman; and her nieces and nephews, Shawn Fields-Meyer, Dan Fields, Mitch Nudelman, and Mark Nudelman.

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