

Issue 5774
 Volume 142
 December 2013/January 2014

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Adult Education Classes

Resume in January

Erev Shabbat Worship Service with Kol Shirah and Board Installation,

*Jan 10th,
8:00 p.m.*

SAVE THE DATE:

**Fri, Feb. 21st,
6:45 p.m.,
Honoring Andy
Sandberg**

**Sat, Mar 15th,
6:45 p.m.,
Megillah Reading
& Purim Schpiel**

Perspective *By Rabbi Michael G. Holzman*

WHAT IS SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP?

With Cantor Altsbul departing this summer, I think back to the day we both became clergy. This was at Temple Emanuel in New York City.



To call that sanctuary grandiose is to call the Grand Canyon impressive. Both statements are true, but omit the awe of the experience. Everything about the Emanuel sanctuary emphasizes its massiveness. The entrance is like a coastline from which one peers across an ocean of wooden pews extending off to a *bima* (pulpit) on a distant shoreline. The walls go straight up with little or no horizontal angle, to create the impression of a vast space. It feels not so much like the building reaches to heaven as if the architect just forgot that it needed a roof.

It was into this room that we processed marching from the rear, a column of rabbinical and cantorial students, soon-to-be ordained and invested. On the horizon, shimmering like a mirage, a crowd of onlooking family and friends filled the first twenty or so rows. We had so much distance between us. Even as we approached, the ornate pews and the wide aisle felt like a wall between us, the ordainees, and the people whose love had brought many of us to that day. We sat in the front two rows, and after an interminable service, each of us was called in turn, to be ordained or invested. One at a time, we ascended about 20 steps to the highest part of the *bima*, right in front of the 9 Torahs, where Rabbi David Ellenson, the President of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, would say a few private words, lay his hands on our shoulders and give a blessing.

Before that day I knew intellectually how clergy life would differ from the secular professions. But there was no way to really understand just how wide the chasm would span between me and the Jews around me. Standing up high on that *bima*, practically unable to see my family and the rest of the congregation, that distance should have instructed me in the greatest risk and flaw in the professional life of clergy. Over time that distance distorts and confuses clergy, so that we often fail to understand the lives of the people we minister.

We are parents and children, brothers and sisters, taxpayers and voters, weight watchers and lapsed exercisers, friends and neighbors, customers and patients. In all ways we are human, just like everybody else. But American professionalism expects us to keep our distance, and Western (Catholic) religious assumptions elevate "clergy" away from the pew.

This distance may in fact be the main obstacle to effective spiritual leadership. By being so different and distant, we can forget how hard Judaism can be for a lay person. We forget that close to 15 years of study has changed the way we understand the texts and rituals. We forget how Judaism looks from the pew, how irrelevant our words can sound to everyone else, how

(Continued on page 18)



EMBRACING CHANGE

By Nancy Kruger • President, Board of Trustees

November 29, 2013

Dear Fellow Congregants,

It is with a heavy heart that I share with you the news that our beloved Cantor Irena Altshul will be leaving NVHC this summer. Cantor Altshul joined NVHC in 2007 – as our congregation's first cantor – when her husband, renowned scientist Dmitri (Mitya) Chklovskii, accepted a position at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Janalia Farm Research Campus in Ashburn. Now, Mitya's career requires the Altshul/Chklovskii family to relocate outside the DC area.

For the past six and a half years, our community has been truly blessed to have Cantor Altshul as part of our family. The Cantor's enchanting voice and passion for music have infused our congregation with an incredible *ruach* (spirit). Her sparkling personality, infectious happiness, love of life, and incredible kindness and compassion have captured our hearts and touched our souls in an indelible way.

It's hard to imagine NVHC without Cantor Altshul. She and Rabbi Holzman are the "dream team" of clergy. Their partnership and synergy on and off the *bima* are a delight for and tremendous benefit to us and have taken NVHC to new heights. But change is an inevitable part of synagogue life. Though, in this case, we are reluctant to face it, we must and will move forward. We have faced change before and have grown in positive ways each time. And, let's not forget, our wonderful Rabbi Holzman is not going anywhere!

We will begin a search for a new cantor imminently. Details about that will be shared at the Sunday, December 8, 2013, semi-annual congregational meeting. Please also watch the weekly emails for information on how you can provide input into that process (including by participating in one of two congregational discussion forums we will convene – the first on Thursday, December 19, 2013, at 7:00 p.m., the second in mid-January).

In the meantime, let's come together to celebrate and enjoy the next seven months with Cantor Altshul. And take a moment right now to mark your calendar for what is always an NVHC social and musical highlight – and what will be all the more special this year – the dazzling biennial Cantors Concert on Saturday, April 26, 2014, featuring Cantor Altshul and an amazing group of her colleagues.

Please join me in wishing Cantor Altshul, Mitya, and their children – Samantha and Markie, who were a toddler and newborn when they came to NVHC – nothing but the best and in embracing the changes ahead of us as we go from strength to strength.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at president@nvhcreston.org or (703) 598-1442.

L'Shalom,

Nancy Kruger

President, NVHC Board of Trustees

It's been several weeks since I sent this letter to the congregation sharing the news that Cantor Altshul will be leaving NVHC this summer. Even though we've had some time to process the news, when things are so good, so "just right," change is difficult to accept. But the best way to ensure that all will be well is to embrace the inevitable and move forward with optimism. And we have every reason to do so.

In my 15 years at NVHC, we have said goodbye to two rabbis. When Rabbi Rosalind Gold announced her retirement, I thought NVHC would never be able to replace her. And I was right. She was irreplaceable. But that didn't mean

we couldn't find a terrific new rabbi. In fact we did – Rabbi Rob Nosanchuk. It wasn't the same, but it was still fantastic. When Rabbi Nosanchuk announced he would be moving to Cleveland, I thought NVHC would never be able to replace him. Again I was right. We couldn't replace him, but we could get an awesome new rabbi. And did we ever. Enter Rabbi Holzman. Not the same, but still excellent. Meanwhile, in 2007, NVHC engaged its first invested cantor, Irena Altshul, and we couldn't have found a better cantor or a better match for us.

(Continued on page 3)

For over 30 years, we have been blessed with truly remarkable clergy – each very different and each just right. This isn't by accident. It's because we know how to pick 'em. Our record of success speaks for itself. Each time, the selection was the result of an extremely thoughtful and well-structured process carefully implemented by a group of dedicated individuals invited to serve as a Search Committee. None of these Search Committees tried to fill a pre-cast mold. Instead, each considered every applicant with fresh eyes and open minds knowing that there is more than one way to achieve a perfect fit.

Now it's time for us to conduct another search. We know how to do this. The Board of Trustees has authorized me to appoint a Cantor Search Committee. By the time you receive this newsletter, I will have fulfilled that responsibility. I can report right now that we are fortunate that Hana Newcomb, a Past President of NVHC, and Kay Menchel,

the current Vice President for Programming and Committees, have already agreed to co-chair the Committee. They will be joined by a diverse group of equally smart and talented individuals who love NVHC and are committed to finding us another amazing cantor. In a future newsletter, the Committee will explain the process by which it will conduct its search. As a congregation, we need to trust that process and give our full support to the Committee.

The idea of change can be unsettling, but it has been change that got us to the wonderful place we are today, and that will take us to new, wonderful places. Cantor Altshul is a gem who has enriched our community in ways far too many to count. It's not time to start missing her though. Rather, we should rejoice in her continued presence at NVHC over the coming months and take every opportunity to worship with her, learn from her, seek counsel from her, and be uplifted and moved by her glorious voice. ♦

Congregational Discussion Forums – December 19th & January 15th

The Cantor Search Committee, chaired by Kay Menchel and Hana Newcomb, will host two Congregational Discussion forums as we begin the search process. We need your help! Please take this opportunity to share your thoughts with the committee during one of two forums. In the past, these forums have been very helpful to other search committees, and we look forward to your input.

Please RSVP to kaymenchel@gmail.com.

NVHC 2014 Membership Directory Updates

The 2014 edition of the NVHC Membership Directory is being compiled. If there are changes to the directory, or if you do not wish to include your member information in the 2014 Membership Directory, please contact Fay Gubin no later than December 16, 2013, at 703-471-6046 ext. 105, or email her at: fay@nvhcreston.org. Please include any changes to your name, address, telephone number, email address, and children. ♦

NVHC Brotherhood

Brotherhood Family Breakfast **Sunday, December 15th & January 26th**

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

in the social hall

Come and enjoy good food and fine friends, as the NVHC Brotherhood chefs cook up a delicious breakfast in the kitchen!

2013 Board of Trustees

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REFORM OR REFORMED? THAT IS THE QUESTION!

By Moshe Ben-Lev • Director of Education

I recently attended a meeting where a prominent URJ (The Union for Reform Judaism) educator addressed a group of synagogue educators. He spoke of the fact that although the recent Pew research titled, *Religion and Public Life Project*, spoke of the Reform movement as the largest movement in American Jewry, many Reform Jews, especially youth, perceive Reform Judaism as the lowest rung on the ladder of Judaism. Reform is viewed by many Jews as the least observant, least committed, least rule-oriented movement in Judaism. While this perception may have its advantages in attracting new congregants and retaining membership, it often means that college students who enter a world of Jewish choices are under the impression that Reform is a movement that one should aspire to use only as a starting-off point toward a “more serious” form of Jewish practice, such as Conservative or Orthodox.

This is problematic on many levels. If the above is indeed true, perhaps we should be spending a great deal of time teaching comparative Judaism. Perhaps we should talk about what the other movements believe and do, with all that we teach in order to prepare our students for a more “serious” Jewish life.

I do not, of course, believe that this is true. If it were the case, we would be apologizing every ten seconds about what we are teaching and telling our students that when they practice “real” Judaism, they will understand better.

Last month, I briefly touched upon the issue that Reform does have policies regarding keeping Kosher. It does have views on the afterlife, Gay marriage, interfaith relationships, celebrating the festivals, and all other aspects of life. Reform does also mean commitment to ideals, a belief system, and a way of life.

The URJ created college and high-school programs that attempt to dispel the myths that Reform is “flim-flam,” or diluted Judaism. At NVHC, we spend a conscious amount of time talking about relevant Judaism, and how we can balance that which is Jewish, and that which is not.

Let us not forget that without the Reform movement, we would not have the kind of tolerance, acceptance, and compassion-

Calendar for December & January

Dec. 3rd	TAMID Chanukah family dinner and program
Dec. 4th	TAMID Chanukah family dinner and program
Dec. 8th	4th grade field trip to “Mitzvah Mania”
Dec. 15th	Special program with Israel Shaliach (educator) Ido Rakovsky
Dec. 17th	JSSA program for 7-12th grade parents, “Parenting Teens – The Dos and Don’ts”
Dec. 22nd - Jan 1st	NO Kiblat Limmud/TAMID
Jan. 5th	Kiblat Limmud/TAMID resumes
Jan. 12th	Tu Bishvat family program for K-2nd grade
Jan. 14th	TAMID program with Ido Rakovsky
Jan. 19th	NO Kiblat Limmud
Jan. 28th/29th	NO Kiblat Limmud/TAMID – Parent/Teachers Conferences for 3-6th grade students

ate understanding of Jews who have chosen a path that helps them to remain connected and to grow spiritually. We would not have the groundbreaking Tikkun Olam values and ethics that other movements have followed. We would not have a new generation of committed Jews from Interfaith families who would have been rejected by other movements. We would not have wonderfully passionate and involved converts who have enhanced and built our synagogues because of their love for Judaism.

These are important and powerful messages that need to be taught to our youth. We have often avoided them instead of being proud of these, and many other accomplishments. It’s time for our youth not only to be taught about what Reform is and what it is has to offer, but also it is time for them to be proud of being part of a movement that has enriched the Jewish world.

To that end, we will continue, along with you, to strengthen our youth groups, to encourage teens to join adults in Lifelong Jewish Learning, and to help those families that wish to make a stronger commitment to Judaism. ♦

Tot Shabbat

COME GET THAT SHABBAT FEELING!

January 4th

Meet us in the multi-purpose room for this lively Shabbat morning service designed just for young children (up to age 5) and their families (including older and younger siblings). Miss Nell (Hirsch), NVHC’s children’s music specialist, leads the service. We sing, we dance, we pray, and we learn a little Torah with the Rabbi or Cantor.

After our service, Cindi Drake, our Early Childhood Education Director, engages the children in a fun activity or craft. Our Oneg is a time for all to enjoy each other’s company – our old friends and our new ones.

We hope you and your children will be there to share it. ♦



THE DECEMBER DILEMMA HITS CRITICAL MASS

By Cindi Drake • Director of Early Childhood Education

In my November article, I expressed concern over not having to deal with the December Dilemma as Chanukah would be long past when Christmas rolled around. What will we do when the majority of the country is celebrating Christmas? While festivities surround us – music, gifts, decorations, food – what will we tell our children? Last month I told you I had a month to think about it and that I would get back to you. Well, here I am, but no closer to a satisfying answer. I have, however, read many articles in the past month on this topic. The only definite conclusion I have come to is that it is better when Chanukah and Christmas coincide, so as to more easily divert our children's attention!

But perhaps there is a teachable moment in this as well. One article made a point that rang true – at least for me – and that is, it is at Christmas that our children learn they are Jewish. It certainly was true for me. I grew up in New York at a time when you were a Jewish person or a “not.” As in, you're Jewish, but Jane is not. Diane is Jewish, Mary is not. As a young child, I thought there were Jews and Nots. I very clearly remember playing at my friend Judy's house when her father brought home a beautiful tree to decorate. It was to be their Christmas tree. When I got home, I asked when we would get our tree. And that was when I was told I was Jewish. Perhaps my mother told me what Christmas was about and about Messiahs. I don't remember that. But I do remember my mother telling me that we were Jewish and we don't celebrate Christmas, and we would not have a tree. We would have lights on a menorah rather than a tree. We would receive gifts straight from people who loved us, not left under a tree by someone named Santa. All this to mollify a very disappointed child.

Today we are more blended, and there is less delineation

between the Jews and the Nots. One article suggested carefully selecting the movies, TV shows, and events Jewish children are permitted to engage in. Apparently *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* is in, but Rudolph is out. And as we all know, when we deny young children something, that is the thing that becomes most desirable.

This year, when we cannot divert the attention of our children with Chanukah during the Christmas season, perhaps we can go in a different direction. Like the birthday parties when they are guests, but not the honoree, we can teach our children to enjoy someone else's event. The first step is to give them an identity and a story to feel special about. The Christmas story is rich in texture – a special baby, wandering to find a home, miracles. We have Moses, a golden calf, wandering in the desert to find a home, and miracles (a burning bush fits that bill!). The stories don't have to tell the same story with a different ending; they just have to be good stories.

Let the children enjoy Christmas parties with their non-Jewish friends as they enjoy birthday parties that are not their own. We don't hesitate to remind our children it isn't their birthday, so likewise we can do the same about Christmas parties. When my children were little, my husband and I took them to FAO Schwartz where they could spend their Chanukah gelt. In this way, they experienced all the allure of a toy shop during the Christmas season – but through a Jewish lens.

I began this article by admitting that I had no satisfying answer to the December Dilemma, just some thoughts and suggestions only. But whether you light a menorah or light up a Christmas tree – or both, it is the season for friends and family to rejoice in each other and who they are. ♦

Todah Rabah

The Preschool Wishes to Thank. . .

The Burger Family, for the blocks they donated for classroom use.

The Dunlap Family, for a great puzzle holder.

Ann Rosenbloom, for donating her time in our two-year-old class.

Heather & Darryl Schaffer, for generously donating the children's artwork they purchased at the auction back to the Rabbi and the Preschool.

Mera Diaz, for donating Chanukah stickers to the Preschool.

The Finkelman Family, for donating Lincoln Logs, blocks and puzzles to the Preschool.

NVHC PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Sunday January 19, 2014, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon (Snow date – Monday, January 20, 2014, 10:00 a.m.)

The Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation invites you and your children to visit us and see and hear why we are so special.

- Tour our beautiful, modern school wing, classrooms and playground.
- Meet our warm, loving, dynamic *and* award-winning teachers.
- Learn about our noteworthy and varied curriculum, which includes yoga, zumba, Judaic and secular music weekly.
- Learn about our Handwriting Without Tears program and the use of sign language in our two-year-old classes.
- Hear about our optional extended-day program, which includes Tae Kwon Do, Art, and JumpBunch (a sports program for little ones!).
- Hear about our Toddler & Me class and summer camp.

We offer a play-based curriculum with small class sizes in a warm, loving Jewish setting. We have two-year-old classes (which are diaper friendly), three-year-old classes (also diaper friendly), and Pre-K classes.

For more information, contact Cindi Drake, Director, Early Childhood Education, at 703-435-8829 or Cindi@nvhcreston.org.

Mazel Tov to our B'nai Mitzvah



Sara Vavonese • December 7th

Sara wanted to share her passion for gymnastics by sending a little girl in the foster care system to gymnastics for her Mitzvah Project. Sara was matched with a 7-year-old girl in the D.C. foster system, and by emailing friends and family, and selling lemonade and baked goods, Sara raised funds to send this girl to gymnastics for one year. ♦

Noah Grausz • December 21st



For his Mitzvah Project, Noah has decided to act “glocally” by choosing a two-part project. Noah is collecting used musical instruments to be redistributed through a program at George Mason University. If you have any that you are willing to donate, please contact him at lgrausz@icloud.com. Noah has also developed an interest in the Playing for Change Foundation. This program builds music schools and provides music education around the world. Noah had the opportunity to meet the type of children serviced by this program while in South Africa, and was touched by their need. He asks that you learn about their program, enjoy their videos and performances, and support their cause. Their website is <http://playingforchange.org>. ♦



Sawyer Kellman Blazar • January 11th

Sawyer’s Mitzvah Projects are holding a food drive for Cornerstones, and helping with Eagle Scout public service projects. ♦

Hannah Bandel • January 25th

Hannah will collect used shoes to allow children to go to school, and for adults to go to work, for *Art of Humanity*, so those in need can transition to sustainable self-sufficiency. ♦



Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah?

To submit a picture and bio of your child, choose one of the following: email to mozelle@nvhcreston.org or mail to NVHC, 1441 Wiehle Ave., Reston, VA 20190. Questions? Call the temple office at 703-437-7733. Deadline is the first day of the month PRIOR to your child’s Bar/Bat Mitzvah date. For example, the deadline for February is January 1st.



WHAT DO XY&Z STAND FOR ANYWAYS?

By Beryl Trauth-Jurman • Youth Activities Coordinator

This month my newsletter article is based on some advice I got from a parent. She told me that all of the abbreviations we have are very confusing, that it is tough to remember what everything stands for, and more generally, what kinds of opportunities are available for our kids and teens. I am sure that she is not the only parent who is a little confused when I advertise events for groups with names they can't make sense of, so I thought that I'd tell you about some opportunities that are available and who they're for by recapping what happened last month.

In November, two of our youth groups celebrated Chanukah at the home of one of our members. *Club 56*, which is for **kids in grades 5 and 6**, had a Chanukah game night on November 22nd, and got out in time for services! *Team Rishon*, which is for **kids in grades K-2**, partied the following afternoon on November 23rd. Holiday parties are one of the activities we love to have for our students in both of these groups, and for *Kosher Pickles*, our group for **kids in grades 3 and 4**. We also get out and do activities, too, as in December, Kosher Pickles and Team Rishon will be going bowling, and Club 56 will be doing indoor rock climbing.

November was also a good month for our older kids. *NoVTY* and *Jr. NoVTY* had a movie and game night here at the synagogue on November 9th during the silent auction. NoVTY is an acronym for Northern Virginia Temple Youth, which is our group for **teens in grades 9-12**. Jr. NoVTY stands for the same thing, but is for kids who are a bit younger, in **grades 7 and 8**. Both of these groups offer leadership opportunities, as well as chances to have fun. Teens in our community also have the chance to partici-

pate in *NFTY*, the North American Federation of Temple Youth. NFTY is the regional youth group affiliated with the Reform Movement, and every month or two, they hold events that teens from our area travel to attend. In November, a group of teens and I traveled with NFTY to Durham, NC, for the NFTY Fall Kallah.

All of our youth groups and programs are here to serve your families, and membership in all of our temple youth groups is free (although some monthly events do have a cost associated with them). You can drop in for any events that you want. I hope that this clears up some of the confusion, but if not, or if you have any other questions or ideas, I'm just a click or phone call away. Please feel free to email me at beryl@nvhcreston.org, or call the synagogue at 703-437-7733. You could even stop in and say hello! My desk is in the front office.

I feel like I've given you a lot of information already, but here's a little more. Over the past few months, we've been introducing the members of our NoVTY board to you here in this column. So without further ado, I'd like to introduce our last two board members to you:

Hi, I'm Jack Lipsky. I am NoVTY's Membership Vice President, and I am looking forward to a great year of events with increased turn-out—so come and hang out with us!

Hi, I'm Casey Grage! I love swimming, reading, and hanging out with my friends. I am super excited to be NoVTY CVP (communications vice president) this year and work with all the old and new NoVTY members. This is going to be a great year, and I can't wait! ♦

Youth Group Events for December/January:

December 14th: Jr. NoVTY (grades 7-8) will be going to Rebounders from 5:15-7:30 p.m. NoVTY, Judaism Program, 5:00 p.m.

December 15th: Club 56 (grades 5-6) will be going Rock Climbing at Sport Rock gym in Sterling at 1:30 p.m.

December 27th-30th: NFTY Winter Kallah for kids in grades 9-12. Sign up online at www.nfty.org/mar.

January 11th: NoVTY (grades 9-12) will be going ice skating from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

January 12th: Jr. NoVTY (grades 7-8) will be going ice skating from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

January 17th: NoVTY and Jr. NoVTY (grades 7-12) will be having an Oneg Shabbat after services at 7:30 p.m.

January 24th-26th: NFTY MAJYK for kids in grades 7-8 are invited to find out what NFTY is like. Sign up online at www.nfty.org/mar.

CHEVRUTA: STUDY AS WORSHIP

By Betty Donskoy

In his collection of essays titled *The Insecurity of Freedom*, Abraham Joshua Heschel, the renowned rabbi from Poland who immigrated to the U.S. and is perhaps best known for marching with Martin Luther King, Jr., makes the statement that “*study is a form of worship.*” In participating in the chevru-ta program at NVHC, I have sensed that study or learning is indeed a form of worship for me. Specifically, when I read Heschel’s essays and discuss them with my chevru-ta partner, Suzi Stone, I feel uplifted in some way, and inspired. Though Heschel can be wordy and sometimes hard to understand, I love the way he writes about mystery, the soul, the “preciousness” of every person. Heschel’s vocabulary for a non-native speaker of English is amazing, and his speeches (most of the essays seem to be speeches that he presented to different groups) are galvanizing. Like the prophets (who were the subject of another Heschel book), Heschel exhorts us to do a little more (e.g., “*What we need is restlessness, a constant awareness of the monstrosity of injustice.*”)

Heschel’s words can also be reassuring; one of my favorite passages is as follows: “. . . *the chief task of man is to sanctify time. All it takes to sanctify time is God, a soul, and a moment. AND THE THREE ARE ALWAYS HERE.*” (The emphasis is mine.)

It’s taken Suzi and me more than six months to read Heschel’s essays and to discuss them together (we are almost finished with the book). Yet, I realized recently that I will be a little sad when the book is finished. Heschel has influenced my thinking; he has been my intellectual companion. Suzi and I joke that when we encounter certain situations, we wonder: “What would Heschel say?” We’ve almost come to feel that we knew Heschel personally. I am consoled by the fact that Suzi and I will be starting another wonderful book soon!

If you would like to learn more about Chevru-ta study at NVHC, please contact Lifelong Learning Chair, Elizabeth Lacher (lifelearn@nhvcreston.org, or 703-689-0811). She will help you to find a partner, as well as an appropriate study text. ♦

Shabbat Shirah

**January 10th
at 8:00 p.m.**

Come and hear the beautiful chant of Shirat Hayam and experience a wonderful Erev Shabbat service, filled with music and song on Friday, January 10th at 8:00 p.m. Music will be joyfully sung by our Kol Shirah, and enthusiastically accompanied by NVHC musician Jessica Balick, and guest musician Rob Singer.

Torah Talk

Our Shabbat Torah study class will be held on **Saturday, December 14th & 21st, and January 11th, 18th & 25th at 9:00 a.m.** in the sanctuary.

The Torah is a vast collection of stories, commandments, ritual practices, and ethical standards. It is meant to be studied and understood not only to connect us to our ancestors and traditions, but also to guide us toward an ethical and spiritual life. Torah means learning. For many of us, understanding Torah is not easy. We may find the language confusing and the meaning difficult to grasp. Yet when we learn together, we are thrilled by the insights we glean and share. Whether you have studied Torah before or are new to Torah study, you will find wisdom and inspiration each time you study a portion of our sacred literature. ♦

Social Action

WARM FOOD FOR COLD NIGHTS

Back again for the eighth year, NVHC will be preparing and serving meals for Cornerstone’s (formerly known as Reston Interfaith) Hypothermia Shelter. This year, Sandee and Ed Byrne will again be coordinating the effort for NVHC’s Social Action Committee. Consider assisting for one or more of these upcoming dates: **December 16th, January 6th and 20th, February 3rd and 17th, and March 3rd, 17th and 31st** (all Mondays). If you can help by providing materials or serving the meals, or even by making a small donation, please contact Sandee via email at GI4iraffe@aol.com or phone at 703-255-3454 or 703-973-3454.



THE GATES ARE CLOSING... AGAIN

By Isabel Einzig-Wein • Sisterhood President

Just a few months ago we were reminded that on Yom Kippur, the gates were closing. We were reminded that all our misdeeds during the year were due for atonement, and here was our final chance before beginning fresh and holy cleansed. As the sun was setting and the services were coming to an end, I really had to make sure I actually did go through my mental files to get all my sins out on the table.

In the Gregorian calendar, we are about to close one year and begin a new one. Do we think about what sins we have committed? I think that we usually lament on what goals we said we would achieve, and how far we got with achieving them. So we make our list of resolutions or goals where we want to be in our lives, and many of us put them in a place where they may never be looked at again.

Unless you share your goals, there is no one but you to hold yourself accountable. *Just a thought:* Maybe this is the year to share those goals with someone who will hold you accountable. Make them *SMART* Goals: *sensible, manageable, attainable, realistic, and timely.* If your goal is to go to Mars this year, sorry, that's not going to happen. That is definitely *not* a SMART Goal, at least not for the coming year, unless you are hiding something from us.

Being accountable as President of the NVHC Sisterhood is a very important factor in having taken this position. When I recommend that Sisterhood accomplish something, I want to see it through to fruition. I pride myself on doing what I say I will do personally, and as the leader of an

organization. I also hold all who interact with the Sisterhood accountable, so that our team effort can be realized. "*The Buck Stops Here,*" a well-known quote, is what I believe in and follow through on. And, I could not do any of the things you see me do as an individual without the team effort of the other individuals who lend a hand.

As we step into the New Year of 2014, we look forward to lots of interesting happenings (just stay tuned): Rosh Chodesh events, invited speakers, events for all ages, celebrations, prayer, as we *communicate, educate and celebrate* being part of an accountable group of women here at NVHC.

I welcome all of our women NVHC members and their families to join us in fulfilling our goal of being *the* Sisterhood who are always learning and available to offer our expertise to all Sisterhoods in our WRJ community. We are already known and respected for being open to accepting new knowledge and implementing what we learn. Help make this year an even better one. Yes, and YOU can hold us accountable!

Happy New Year! ♦

Sisterhood – JCADA

On **January 22nd, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**, Sisterhood will have a special meeting to introduce you to a partner of **JCADA** (Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Violence), *The Office for Women and Domestic and Sexual Violence Services*. This is an organization in Fairfax County that has opportunities for volunteers to work in conjunction with the group to assist women who are experiencing domestic violence. Please plan to come so that you may become aware of what some of your neighbors may be facing. Bring your friends. Refreshments will be served. More information will be made available soon.

Sisterhood Mah Jongg Tournament

Calling all Mah Jongg players - The Third Annual Mah Jongg Tournament, sponsored by the Sisterhood, is coming, and you won't want to miss it! There will be fabulous cash prizes for the winners, as well as great door prizes. The date is **Sunday, January 19th**, with registration starting at 12:30 p.m., and play beginning at 1:00 p.m. Three 55-minute rounds of four games each will be played, with prizes awarded by 4:15 p.m. Cost for NVHC congregants, Sisterhood and Brotherhood members is \$25.00, and \$30.00 for non-members. Please complete the registration form by January 5th so you won't be left out in the cold! It will be a fun day of playing and fellowship. Ask your friends, and bring your entire group to this fun activity. For more information, contact mahjongg@nvhcreston.org.

NVHC Sisterhood's Annual Mah Jongg Tournament



Where:

NVHC Multi-Purpose Room

When:

Sunday, January 19th

12:30 p.m.—Registration

1:00 p.m.—Play (3 rounds of 4
games, 55 minutes per round)

4:15 p.m.—Prizes Awarded

Fabulous cash prizes for the winners!

Cost:

\$25.00— NVHC Congregants; Sisterhood/Brotherhood

\$30.00—Non-Members

Contact: mahjongg@nvhcreston.org

REGISTER BY JANUARY 5th

— Registration Form —

Name:

Phone:

E-Mail:

Amount Enclosed:

*Please send form to NVHC address listed below, attention: Mah Jongg Chair.

Checks should be made out to NVHC Sisterhood. I will bring my own mah jongg set _____.

NVHC Sisterhood. Isabel Einzig Wein, President

Northern Virginia Hebrew
Congregation (NVHC)
1441 Wiehle Avenue
Reston, VA 20190
703-437-7733



HEBREW FOR ADULTS - WINTER 2014

At NVHC, we have a robust Hebrew program for Adults featuring a variety of classes to satisfy a wide range of interests and needs. Whether you have no previous exposure to Hebrew, want to feel more comfortable with Hebrew during services, become adept at Biblical translation, or learn to speak conversational Hebrew: we have a class for you!!

Important Information

- Classes begin the week of January 5, 2014
- All classes will meet for 75 minutes for 10 weeks.
- Our classes are open to anyone interested in learning Hebrew or continuing their Hebrew education: members and non-members, Jews and non-Jews.
- If you need help selecting the right class, please contact the Lifelong Learning Chair.
- If you can't find a class that fits your needs, please let us know -- we will form new classes if we have a minimum of 5 students.

COURSE FEE: \$100 MEMBERS, \$130 NON-MEMBERS TAMID STUDENTS: FREE

Register by December 20th and receive a \$10 discount!

Schedule of Classes

Sunday (1/5 – 3/30; no class 1/19, 2/16, 3/16)

9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Prayer Hebrew I (Opening and Closing Prayers)
 10:50 a.m. - 12:05 p.m. Prayer Hebrew I (Shema & its blessings)
 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. Intermediate Modern Hebrew (Level Dalet+)

Monday (1/6- 3/24; no class 1/20, 2/17)

9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m. Biblical Hebrew
 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Beginning Hebrew
 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. Prayer Hebrew I (Shema & its blessings)
 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. Adv. Prayer Hebrew

Tuesday (1/7 - 3/25; no class 1/21, 2/18)

7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. Intermediate Modern Hebrew (Level Dalet+)

Thursday (1/9- 3/20; no class 2/20)

7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. Prayer Hebrew I (Amidah)

Class Descriptions

Beginning Hebrew. This class introduces the student to Hebrew letters and vowels, and broadens the student's understanding of the use of Hebrew in Jewish life, ritual, study, and tradition. The student will learn to read Hebrew phonetically, to recognize common Hebrew roots used in prayer, and to write block letters. This course provides a foundation for the rest of our Hebrew classes.

Pre-requisite: None.

Text: *Aleph Isn't Tough: An Introduction to Hebrew for Adults*, \$16.95

Start Date	Day	Time	Instructor
1/6/14	Monday	11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Sara Branscome

Prayer Hebrew I. The emphasis of Prayer Hebrew I is on improving prayer fluency, the acquisition of basic prayer vocabulary, and understanding the structure of the prayer service. The course will begin with a review of basic reading rules and include a mix of "simple" and more complex prayers. Each class will focus on one section of the prayer service and may also include additional prayers as desired by the students. Students may repeat as often as needed to gain confidence in the prayers.

This session the following focus areas will be offered:

- **Shema and its blessings:** *Shema, Barchu, Ma'ariv Aravim, Yotzer or, V'abavta, Mi Chamocha, Hasbkiveinu*
- **Amidah:** *Birchat Shalom, Avot v'imabot, Gevurot, Kedusha, Hoda'ah*
- **Openings and Closings:** *Welcoming Shabbat, Kiddush, Havdalah, Nisim B'thol Yom, Lecha Dodi, Aleinu, Kaddish, Ein Kelobeinu, Adon Olam*

Pre-requisite: Beginning Hebrew or equivalent

Text: *Hineni: Prayerbook Hebrew for Adults*, \$22.50

Optional Text: *Misbkan Tefilah: Shabbat* (no transliteration) \$34.00

Start Date	Day	Time	Focus	Instructor
1/5/14	Sunday	9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m.	Openings and Closings	Sara Branscome
1/5/14	Sunday	10:50 a.m.-12:05 a.m.	Shema and its Blessings	Sara Branscome
1/6/14	Monday	7:00 p.m.-8:15 p.m.	Shema and its Blessings	Judy Naiman
1/9/14	Thursday	7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.	Amidah	Elizabeth Lacher

Advanced Prayer Hebrew (Level 2). For those students who are ready to bring their understanding of prayer Hebrew to the next level or who are interested in learning Biblical Hebrew. This course focuses on the elements of Hebrew grammar, expanding vocabulary, and translating prayers and Biblical texts. As students solidify their reading ability, they will also enhance their vocabulary, increase their familiarity with roots, and develop their translation skills. This is a 2-part course.

(Continued on page 12)

HEBREW FOR ADULTS - WINTER 2014 (CONTINUED)

Pre-requisite: Prayer Hebrew or equivalent. Ability to read Hebrew and familiarity with basic prayer vocabulary.

Text: *Aleph Isn't Enough*, \$18.95

Optional Text: *Mishkan Tefilah Shabbat (no transliteration)* \$34.00

Start Date	Day	Time	Instructor
1/6/14	Monday	7:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.	Sara Branscome

Biblical Hebrew (Level 3). The focus of this class is translating excerpts of Torah. Through translation exercises, students will expand their vocabulary and strengthen their grammar skills.

Pre-requisite: Advanced Prayer Hebrew (Level 2) or equivalent

Text: *Bet is for Beresbit*, \$16.95

Start Date	Day	Time	Instructor
1/6/14	Monday	9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Sara Branscome

Modern Hebrew. Our Modern Hebrew classes emphasize conversation and interactive exercises. Our textbook is *Hebrew from Scratch*, one of the most widely used curricula for English-speaking adults who want to study Hebrew. It uses the Hebrew-in-Hebrew approach, which means that exercises are presented primarily with Hebrew-only instruction. This approach has been demonstrated as the most successful for adult learners and has been used in Israel for teaching Hebrew to *Olim Chadashim* (new immigrants). It is a comprehensive textbook, grammar and exercise book for the beginner adult student. Textbook materials will be supplemented by other resources.

Starting points listed below are approximate. Students who are new to our program should consult with the instructor to select the appropriate level.

Intermediate Modern Hebrew. This class will expand the student's ability to read, write, speak, and comprehend Modern Hebrew. Students will continue to study the fundamentals of Hebrew grammar and syntax. Students will practice conversational skills, learn to read without vowels, translate texts from a range of Hebrew literature, and compose short paragraphs. Exercises will focus on conversational skills, and will reinforce vocabulary and use of proper Hebrew grammar.

Pre-requisites: Introduction to Modern Hebrew or equivalent. Familiarity with basic Hebrew grammar and conjugation of present tense.

Text: *Hebrew from Scratch: Part 1*, \$55.00

Start Date	Day	Time	Starting point	Instructor
1/5/14	Sunday	7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.	Dalet	Sara Branscome
1/7/14	Tuesday	7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.	Dalet	Sara Branscome

HEBREW FOR ADULTS - WINTER 2014

Name: _____ Member: _____ Non-Member: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

COURSE FEE: \$100 MEMBERS, \$130 NON-MEMBERS TAMID STUDENTS: FREE

Register by December 20th and receive a \$10 discount!

Check <input type="checkbox"/> to enroll	Course Title	Start date	Session Day/Time	Enter Course Fee	Enter Text Fee (if applicable)
	Beginning Hebrew	1/6	Mon 11:00 a.m.		
	Prayer Hebrew I (Shema and its Blessings)	1/5	Sun 10:50 a.m.		
	Prayer Hebrew I (Openings and Closings)	1/5	Sun 9:30 a.m.		
	Prayer Hebrew I (Shema and its Blessings)	1/6	Mon 7:00 p.m.		
	Prayer Hebrew I (Amidah)	1/9	Thu 7:00 p.m.		
	Adv Prayer Hebrew (Level 2)	1/6	Mon 7:00 p.m.		
	Biblical Hebrew (Level 3)	1/6	Mon 9:30 a.m.		
	Intermediate Modern Hebrew+ (Unit Dalet)	1/5	Sun 7:00 p.m.		
	Intermediate Modern Hebrew+ (Unit Dalet)	1/7	Tues 7:00 p.m.		

Minimum enrollment of 5 students per class.

Early registration discount \$ _____

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

Send registration form and check payable to NVHC to:

Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation,
1441 Wiehle Avenue, Reston, VA 20190

SPEAKER SERIES

Thursday, March 20, 2014, 8:00 p.m.

Maureen Fiedler

Speaking on God, Governments, and Interfaith Relations,
Maureen Fiedler will examine how governments around the world address religious diversity.



Maureen Fiedler is the host of *Interfaith Voices*, an hour-long radio magazine show, heard on 67 public and community radio stations.

An active participant in interfaith activities for more than three decades, she has been a guest on the Diane Rehm Show, the CBS Saturday Morning Show, and the Melissa Harris Perry Show on MSNBC. She is also the editor of two books: *Breaking Through the Stained Glass Ceiling: Women Religious Leaders in Their Own Words*, and co-editor of *Rome Has Spoken: A Guide to Forgotten Papal Statements, and How They Have Changed Through the Centuries*.

She is a Sister of Loretto, and holds a Ph.D. in Government from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

The NVHC Speaker Series is free and open to the public.

WINTER 2014

JEWISH STUDIES FOR ADULTS

Important Information

- Our classes are open to anyone interested in learning Hebrew or continuing their Hebrew education: members and non-members, Jews and non-Jews.
- Classes begin Sunday, January 5, 2014. **No Class January 19th, February 16th, March 16th**
- All classes will meet for 75 minutes for 10 weeks.

Register by December 20th and receive a \$10 discount!

Class Descriptions

Derech HaShem: The Way of God. An exploration of Jewish theology, philosophy, and practice in modern Reform Judaism. Our reference text will be *Derech HaShem*, by Moshe Chiam Lazzatto (Ramchal). Its clarity and approachability have made it the basis for dealing with the difficult questions of God's existence, free will, our purpose on earth, spirituality, and mysticism. This class will be thought-provoking and very interactive.

Pre-requisite: None. **Instructor:** ADAM COHN **When:** Sundays, 9:30 – 10:45 a.m.

Modern Jewish History. This class is a high-level survey of modern Jewish history: from the beginning of reform to present day. The objective of the class is for students to gain a basic understanding of the major events, people, and the period.

Pre-requisite: None. **Instructor:** ADAM COHN **When:** Sundays, 10:50 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.

COURSE FEE: \$100 MEMBERS, \$130 NON-MEMBERS, TAMID STUDENTS: FREE

JEWISH STUDIES FOR ADULTS

Name: _____ Member: _____ Non-member: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

COURSE FEE: \$100 MEMBERS, \$130 NON-MEMBERS (PER COURSE)

Register by December 20th and receive a \$10 discount!

Check to Enroll	Course Title	Session Day/Time
<input type="checkbox"/>	Derech HaShem	Sun 9:30 a.m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Modern Jewish History	Sun 10:50 a.m.

Send registration form and check payable to NVHC to:
Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Avenue, Reston, VA 20190

Book Club Selections

**We meet on the first Saturday of each month, except where noted, 9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
For more information, contact Marjina Kaplan at: marjina2@yahoo.com**

December 7th. *The Prague Cemetery*, by Umberto Eco, translated by Richard Dixon. Fiction. The plot is built as a mystery of sorts, the quest to discover the true author of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*. The protagonist's anti-Semitic rampage, running through hundreds of pages, appears to be a parody. He's like a Forrest Gump of evil, always present where the action is. The book dramatizes the creation and dissemination of *The Protocols* using the fictional narrator as a thread sewing together actual persons and events.

January 4th. *The Lawgiver*, by Herman Wouk. 234 pp. Fiction. The book begins when a writer named Herman Wouk receives an insanely lucrative offer to pass judgment on a screenplay about Moses, commissioned by an eccentric Australian billionaire. Tim Warshaw, a Hollywood honcho desperate for a hit to save his failing production company, takes on the project and brings along screenwriter Margolit Solovei, the "preoccupied pagan" daughter of an Orthodox rabbi. Wouk chronicles the battle to get this film on track, while Warshaw wants his team to "think twenty-first century, think special effects – think maybe three-D."

February 1st. *The Worlds of Sholem Aleichem: The Remarkable Life and Afterlife of the Man Who Created Tevye*, by Jeremy Dauber. 464 pp. Biography. A must for every Jewish bookshelf, this is the definitive biography of the Yiddish writer best known for the Tevye stories that inspired *Fiddler on the Roof*. Sholem Aleichem was born in Ukraine. He married into inherited wealth and decided to write in Yiddish to shore up the tradition – even as he explored challenges to it. Dauber, a professor of Yiddish literature at Columbia University, knows the territory and situates the writer in a time of upheaval and transition.

JEWISH FILM SERIES 2013-2014

All films have a Jewish theme: they may be about modern Jewish life, examine Jewish history or religion; they may be musicals or drama, funny or sad. We hope that each of them will be thought-provoking. We have allowed time for discussion after the film is shown.

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month (unless otherwise noted below). The film will begin screening at noon, but you are welcome to arrive at 11:30 and bring a dairy lunch (no meat, chicken, or seafood); we will provide coffee, tea, and a sweet. Films are shown in the multipurpose room on a six-foot-wide screen.

This year there will be a two-tier pricing system. The registration fee for NVHC members for the entire series of 10 films is \$18. The registration fee for non-NVHC members is \$25. The price for a single date, regardless of NVHC membership, is \$3.

In case of inclement weather, we follow Fairfax County Public School guidelines. If schools are closed, there will be no showing on that day. If the schools have a delayed opening, or the morning weather is uncertain, check the NVHC website at www.nvhcreston.org.

Date	Film	Country
December 10th	Walking the Bible, Part 1	Companion to Bruce Feiler book
January 14th	Walking the Bible, Part 2	
February 11th	Broken Wings	Israel

Jewish Film Series 2013-2014 Registration Form

Name: _____ Member: _____ Non-member: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

REGISTRATION FEE: \$18 MEMBERS, \$25 NON-MEMBERS, DROP-IN FEE: \$3/PER DATE

Send registration form and check payable to NVHC to:

Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Avenue, Reston, VA 20190

The Akeda: The Binding of Isaac

A Lunch and Learn Program

We read the story of the Akeda, the binding of Isaac, every year at Rosh Hashanah. And yet the story troubles us. How could Abraham sacrifice his son? Was God testing Abraham? Is Abraham testing God? Did either of them pass the test? What are we meant to learn from this story? Join us for an in-depth look at this familiar yet challenging text.

Instructor: Rabbi Emerita Rosalind Gold

When: Tuesdays: January 21st, 28th and February 4th, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Fee:** Members \$18, Non-members \$25.

The Akeda: The Binding of Isaac

Name: _____ Member: _____ Non-member: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

COURSE FEE: \$18 MEMBERS, \$25 NON-MEMBERS

Send registration form and check payable to NVHC to:

Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Avenue, Reston, VA 20190

For questions or comments about this class, or suggestions for future Lifelong Learning offerings, please contact Elizabeth Lacher, lifeflearn-committee@nvbcreston.org

From Vaudeville to Broadway: Jews & the American Theater

The class will cover the birth of the Yiddish theater with its roots in German Vaudeville through Jewish immigration to the United States in the early 20th century.

Instructor: Cantor Irena Altshul

When: Wednesdays: February 5th & 19th, 2014, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Fee: Members & Tamid Students Free, Non-members \$25.

From Vaudeville to Broadway: Jews & the American Theater

Name: _____ Member: _____ Non-member: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

COURSE FEE: FREE MEMBERS, \$25 NON-MEMBERS

Send registration form and check payable to NVHC to:

Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Avenue, Reston, VA 20190

For questions or comments about this class, or suggestions for future Lifelong Learning offerings, please contact Elizabeth Lacher, lifeflearn-committee@nvbcreston.org

Jewish Creativity Through the Ages

In this 3-part class, we will explore various forms of Jewish creativity, how Jews responded to the challenges of their times, and how it shaped the Judaism we know today.

• February 4th : Creativity in Hasidic Storytelling

• May 6th: The Creative Process

• April 1st: Creativity Through a Modern Lens: Feminism, Zionism and Reform Judaism

Instructor: Rabbi Michael Holzman

When: Tuesdays: February 4th, April 1st, May 6th, 8:00-9:30 p.m.

Fee: Members & Tamid Students Free, Non-members \$25.

Jewish Creativity Through the Ages

Name: _____ Member: _____ Non-member: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

COURSE FEE: FREE MEMBERS, \$25 NON-MEMBERS

Send registration form and check payable to NVHC to:

Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Avenue, Reston, VA 20190

For questions or comments about this class, or suggestions for future Lifelong Learning offerings, please contact Elizabeth Lacher, lifeflearn-committee@nvbcreston.org

NVHC Cares

By *Robbie Kaplan* • NVHC Cares Chair

NVHC Cares, our synagogue's caring program, provides solace and support through difficult times and reaches out during joyful beginnings. NVHC Cares fosters a caring community by connecting with cards, calls, visits, and meals, ensuring that no member is alone whether sick, dying, bereaved, or adjusting to a birth or adoption.

We would like to engage all our congregants with volunteer opportunities to make NVHC a caring congregation. If you would like to get involved, we are currently seeking volunteers to make and deliver meals, deliver challah on Shabbat, and provide transportation.

If you are interested in volunteering and would like to participate in NVHC Cares, or if you have questions, please contact Robbie Kaplan at robbiemillerkaplan@gmail.com. ♦

Outreach

JSSA AND NVHC - SYNAGOGUE LIAISON PROGRAM CONTINUES

Thanks to the continuing partnership between Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation and the Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA), we are pleased to offer the services of our synagogue liaison. JSSA supports individuals, couples, and families through mental health counseling, services for children and adolescents, adult aging services, career programs and adoption assistance.

Do you ever need some additional parenting strategies, or referrals for other family issues? Free consultation with a trained and experienced social worker is available for

NVHC parents. Ivy Weitzner, LCSW, our JSSA Synagogue Liaison is available for individual consultations. To schedule a free appointment either at NVHC or at the JSSA office, contact her at 703-896-7903, or email: iweitzner@jssa.org.

Ivy can provide support and referrals about a variety of concerns including raising children of all ages, marital issues, stress management, family transitions, new babies, and aging parents. While this time is not meant for ongoing therapy, she can offer strategies, guidance, and resources as appropriate. ♦

Breast Cancer Support Group

If you, your daughter, mother, sister, partner or friend is living with breast cancer, we hope you'll tell them about this group. Whether a person is newly diagnosed, living several years as a survivor, battling progressive disease or a special partner of a breast cancer patient, our new support group is intended to help people to:

- Speak confidentially in a group
- Be a resource for educating other families
- Provide support and be mentors for one another
- Celebrate survivorship together

If you are interested in joining NVHC's Breast Cancer Support Group or getting further information for another person, please contact Beryl Brodsky at beryllb@gmail.com.

Bereavement Support Group "When You've Lost a Loved One" Tuesday, December 17th, and January 7th & 21st at 7:00 p.m.

On Tuesdays, December 17th and January 7th and 21st, at 7:00 p.m., NVHC will hold a meeting of "When You've Lost a Loved One," a Bereavement Support Group and extension of our caring community at NVHC.

Linda Rubinstein Perlstein, experienced counselor in grief therapy in both secular and Jewish settings, will facilitate. It is our hope that NVHC members and friends from the wider community find comfort and care as they mourn losses among their family and immediate circle of community.

We hope that attendees will meet on an ongoing basis to draw support and insights in a group setting. Please contact Rabbi Holzman for more information at 703-471-6046, ext. 102.

TRIP TO HOLLYWOOD COSTUME EXHIBIT

By Sheila Budoff

If you haven't already signed up for this fabulous trip to the Hollywood Costume Exhibit at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, please don't wait any longer! You don't want to miss it! Please join us on Monday, December 9th!

Ring in the (secular) New Year in January will be a very special musical program with Cantor Altshul on Tuesday, January 28th, followed by a lunch. This will be a wonderful opportunity to hear Cantor Altshul's beautiful music! I hope to see you there! You can start signing up any time!

If you're looking for a good book to read or would like to learn more about e-readers, our Tuesday, February 25th program is for you! Please read below to learn more about these excellent programs!

Trip to *Hollywood Costume and Made in Hollywood Exhibits* at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond Monday, December 9th, depart NVHC 8:45 a.m.; return approx. 5:00 p.m. [Please note date change]

The *Hollywood Costume* exhibit at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) in Richmond is the must-see exhibit of the season! This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see more than one hundred of the most iconic movie costumes spanning over a century of film, including those worn in *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Birds*, *My Fair Lady*, *Superman*, *Titanic*, *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince*, and *The Dark Knight Rises*. The exhibit studies the pivotal role of costume design in creating and defining the characters in our favorite movies. Most of the costumes have never before been shown publicly. Put together by the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, the VMFA is the exhibit's first stop in the United States and its only one on the East Coast. We will also be viewing the companion exhibit, *Made in Hollywood*, which features vintage photographs of glamorous Hollywood stars, such as Greta Garbo, Joan Crawford, Audrey Hepburn, and Grace Kelly, and demonstrates the importance of photography in creating the myth and magic of Hollywood.

Fee: \$48/\$38 JCCNV or synagogue members (Please send check, payable to JCCNV, to Sheila Budoff, JCCNV, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, VA 22031)

RSVP: Sheila Budoff, Sheila.Budoff@jccnv.org or (703) 537-3068

**Tuesday, January 28th, 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Special Musical Program with Cantor Irena Altshul and Lunch**

We are honored and delighted to welcome NVHC's own Cantor Irena Altshul for a very special musical program followed by lunch. Cantor Altshul is NVHC's first invested cantor. She received her Master of Sacred Music degree and

investiture as a cantor from the Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, the Reform movement's cantorial school. She also holds a master's degree in music from Brooklyn College and a bachelor's degree in music from Tel Aviv University. Cantor Altshul has appeared with the Russian Chamber Choir, the Brooklyn College Opera Theater, the Haifa Symphony Orchestra, and Tel Aviv Philharmonic Choir, to name a few.

Bring your lunch (dairy or parve), or pay \$8 for a catered lunch from Wegman's.

Fee: \$4/\$2 JCCNV or synagogue member; additional \$8 charge for catered lunch.

RSVP: Sheila Budoff, Sheila.Budoff@jccnv.org or (703) 537-3068

**Tuesday, February 25th, 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Great Reads and E-Reader Devices on Which to Read Them**

Presented by James Cahill, Assistant Branch Manager of the Reston Regional Library

Looking for a good book to read? Want to read it on an e-Reader, but need some technical support? Come to the source! James Cahill, Assistant Branch Manager of the Reston Regional Library, will give us some great suggestions of new books to read. He'll also show us how to use the library's online services to find library staff recommendations that match our interests from home. In addition, Mr. Cahill will bring a sample Kindle, Nook, and an i-Pad, and demonstrate how to use them. You are also welcome to bring your own devices, and Mr. Cahill will answer any questions you may have about them.

Fee: \$4/\$2 JCCNV or synagogue member

RSVP: Sheila Budoff, Sheila.Budoff@jccnv.org or (703) 537-3068

difficult the Hebrew can be, how confusing the services are, how intimidating the synagogue feels.

The effective Jewish spiritual leader remembers those things. The effective Cantor or Rabbi can cross the gap, relate to the people, and still lead Jewishly. That is the magic of Irena Altshul. None of us need to be reminded of her heavenly voice. To stand next to her on Yom Kippur during *Avinu Malkeinu* is to stand before the court of our ancestors. To sing with her on Friday night during *L'cha Dodi* is to be transported to the hills of Safed. To hear her *Mi Shebarach* is to feel the antibiotics of God's healing drip into our souls. We all know the power of her music. And I do not mean to belittle that one bit as I continue to write this column.

Her voice and musicality are amazing, but that is not really what makes our Cantor a Spiritual Leader. She can lead us because she can cross the gap. She cares about the people. She is authentic. She is a human being. She looks into the congregation and she smiles when you sing. Her hands begin to conduct when we get a bit off beat (especially the drummer) and the energy gets moving. We can see her eyes widen, her chin lift, and her posture straighten as more voices rise with her.

An individual gifted with a voice like Irena's typically would seek accolades, big audiences, and fawning attention. Seriously, folks, she could sing at the Met. But somehow her ego is strong enough that she seems to need none of that. I have never sensed it. Her Met is a congregation inspired, a group of Jews lifted, by a musical phrase, the well clear note, the poignant silence after a powerful song.

We can follow Irena and open ourselves to the possibility of God because we trust her. We know she cares about every person in the room. She has the spiritual majesty of that high *bima* at Temple Emanuel and the intimacy of the low *bima* at NVHC. She has a piercing intellect and an impatient voice and yet she never stops wanting to hear what others are saying. To hang out with Irena Altshul is to feel

elegant, comical, challenged, silly, stylish, cosmopolitan, and embraced all at once. That's quite a trick.

And for me, the joy of her spiritual leadership is the trust I feel knowing that we have the same goal. Neither one of us is perfect. We mess up the order of things or we pick the wrong element for the service. I recommend a silence here and Irena says it should go there. But at all times, I know we are both working for that elusive, ephemeral goal, of opening a door in the soul and allowing God to enter our lives. That task tolerates no petty squabbling. It is based on trust, vision, and mutual responsibility.

As Cantor Altshul departs NVHC this summer, we are losing a friend and leader. But the mission does not change. She would be terribly disappointed if our spiritual yearning and communal trust is weakened at all because we sit around pining away for the sound of her voice. Instead she would counsel us to invest ourselves in the Torah of our new Cantor (whoever that may be) and to pour ourselves into the songs we will be singing a year from now.

In the next six months, we will all have the opportunity to enjoy praying, laughing, and learning with Cantor Altshul. She will certainly make sure that every B'nai Mitzvah student is prepared and ready for this spring and next fall. She will continue in her full capacity until her departure this summer. And she will help us grow as Jews so that her lucky successor is inheriting a spiritually ready congregation.

When I climbed the stairs of the *bima* at Temple Emanuel, I really did not realize that Irena Altshul was climbing those same stairs with me on that exact same day. Knowing now the trust she has given me and the leadership she has given all of us, I would have known that she would help both of us come down from that *bima*, connect with our Jewish community, and elevate our lives. Let's enjoy the next six months!

And after this summer, if you need a shoe consult, I'm going to be taking lessons. ♦

Warm Welcome to New Members

We extend a warm welcome to these NVHC newcomers who have recently become part of our family. Please add their information to your membership directory, and be sure to make them feel at home when you meet them.

Lee & Rachel Charlton

11402 Gate Hill Place, Suite G, Reston, VA 20194
571-215-3001
leeandrachel@gmail.com

David Nassau & Milagritos Motta-Nassau

1906 Ramstead Lane, Reston, VA 20191
703-895-9174
davidnassau@gmail.com

Life-Cycle Events in the NVHC Family

MAZEL TOV

To Jessica, Zach and Alayna Wadler on the birth of their son and little brother David, who was born November 4, 2013

To Laura Bellis, on the birth of her grandson Leonardo Signor, born November 6, 2013, to her daughter Julia and son-in-law Andrea Signor in Vittoria Veneto, Italy.

To Samantha Kaplan, on her marriage to Frank Wiegand on November 9th, and to her parents Jim and Robbie Kaplan

R'FU-AH SH'LEI-MA

Ruth Bigelson	Mike Dixon	Eleanor Glickman	Peter Laboy	Richard J. Schwartz	David Wadler
Henry Chadwick	Jerry Frieber	Clarice Karnette	Paulette Peltz	Barbara Smith	Bob Wein
Joel Chetrick	Flo Friedman	Barbara Kies	Evan Rodgers	Robert Stein	
Marion Copley	Olivia Gladstone	Bertie Kirson	Sharon Rubenstein	Robert Vaccarino	
Mona Diaz	Richard Gladstone	Larry Klinger	Alec Sather	Shana Sutton	

CONDOLENCES

To Sylvia Choe, on the death of her father Robert Hollo

To the family of Andrea Field

To Jim Kranzberg, on the death of his mother Jackie Lugo

To Andrew Stein, on the death of his father Robert Sydney Stein

To Jennifer Tarr, on the death of her uncle Howard Siegel

To Victor Ronin, on the death of his mother Anna Ronina

To Stacy Schwartz, on the death of her mother Rhoda Malkin

To Judy Naiman, Rafe Carr and Allie Seedorf, on the death of Donald Carr

Submit your life-cycle events by phone to: 703-437-7733, or Email to: mozelle@nvhcreston.org.

Qualified Charitable Distribution ("QCD")

The recently enacted American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 extended to the end of 2013 the provision that permits individuals aged 70 1/2 and older tax-free distributions from an IRA to a qualified charity when they meet certain requirements.

Key provisions of the law are:

- QCDs, which allow individuals who are age 70 1/2 or older to directly gift up to \$100,000 from an IRA to a qualified charity (e.g. NVHC), have been extended through 2013.
- QCDs count toward satisfying an individual's required minimum distribution ("RMD"), but are not limited to the amount of the RMD.

QCDs do not have to be a part of a "special" donation or fundraising effort; they can also be used to fulfill an individual's annual dues commitment.

Individuals who may benefit most from the extension of this provision are:

- Individuals who itemize deductions on their tax returns and whose charitable contribution is reduced by the percentage of adjusted gross income ("AGI") limitation.
- Individuals who won't be itemizing their deductions on their tax returns.
- Individuals whose charitable contributions are reduced by the phase out of itemized deductions.
- Individuals for whom an increased AGI reduces other benefits or increases other taxes (e.g. Medicare premiums).

*To discuss opportunities for any charitable donation, please contact Cookie Mandell,
Director of Congregational Engagement, at cookie@nvhcreston.org. ♦*

Membership Directory Corrections

The following members have a change of address:

Joe & Sandra Blumberg
423 Queen Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Tracy Silberling & Laura Bellis
9202 Fry Street #105
Manassas, VA 20110

Tzedakah: We Thank Our Generous Contributors

Adult Education Lifelong Learning Fund

Ed and Sandee Byrne...in memory of Sam Chernow

Art Fund

Robert Lapidus...in honor of Carl Zelman's birthday

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Dwayne Archer

Nellie Belin...in memory of Felix Belin

David and Ellen Brewer...in memory of Sol Brewer

Bruce and Brandy Goldfeder

Robert and Shirley Finkelstein...in memory of Morris Finkelstein

David McCue and Lori Lefcourt...in honor of Allison's Bat Mitzvah

Pracher/Reich Family...in memory of Wally Reich

Judy Ratliff...in memory of Louis Fine, Rhoda Fine and Sandra Nissman

Suzi Stone...in memory of Leonard Castle

Choir Fund

Bob and Deb Becker...in honor of Carol Fram

Rich and Cindy Michelson...in memory of Marcia Lederer

College Outreach

Steve and Linda Gordon...in memory of Donald Carr

John Roberts and Mimi Kramer-Roberts...in honor of Andy Sandberg
and in memory of Sylvia Kramer

Ellen Reich Early Childhood Teacher Education Fund

Edelman Financial Services...in memory of Ellen Reich

General Fund

Anonymous

Dennis and Sara Branscome...in honor of the birth of Olivia Pearl
Gladstone

Victor Ronin & Olena Bilyk...in honor of Michelle J. Ronin

Library Fund

Tony and Alison Martin...in memory of Selig D. Hersch

Louis Gold Children's Music Fund

Steve and Florrie Cohen...in memory of Edward Meyer

Rabbi Rosalind Gold...in memory of Rose Romm

Bob Wein and Isabel Einzig-Wein...in memory of Robert E. Einzig

Memorial Plaque

Robert and Lorraine Lavet...in memory of Leonard Shore

Preschool Fund

Justin and Andreas Hayes...in memory of Denise Steinberger

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Bob and Deb Becker...in memory of Stanley Becker

Abby Bornstein

Steve and Florrie Cohen...in memory of Edward Meyer

Alan Dappen and Sara Scherr...in memory of Arthur Dappen

Eric and Elizabeth Eisenstadt...for family members' yearzeits

Bruce and Brandy Goldfeder

Charles and Barbara Leven...in memory of Herman K. Lembersky and
Ida L. Leven

David McCue and Lori Lefcourt...in honor of Allison's Bat Mitzvah

Robin Miller...in memory of Dennis Goldstein

Larry and Lisa Schwartz...in honor of Fay and Ken Gubin's wedding

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

Religious School Fund

Adam and Yael Konowe...in memory of Leonard Cohen

Ruth and Seldon Kruger Fund for Adult Study and Dialogue

Ed and Sandee Byrne...in memory of Gladys Byrne

JP and Judith Villedrouin...in memory of Guslé Villedrouin

Stuart Williger...in memory of Robert Williger

Sam Selden and Donna Dixon Memorial Endowment Fund for Jewish Youth and Community Development

Mark and Karen McSteen...in memory of Sonia Coffman

David Selden and Julie Wallick...in memory of Sam Selden

Stuart Williger...in memory of Robert Sydney Stein

Social Action Fund

Gary and Michelle Allo...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

Jane Baniewicz...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

Michael and Judy Baskin...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

Harvey and Janice Berger...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

Joe and Sandra Blumberg...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

Jean Bryer...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

Ed and Sandee Byrne...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

Kenneth and Rachel Coelho...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

Andy and Susan Cohen...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

Neil and Robin Cohen...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

Tim and Kelly DeLong...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

Tom and Cindi Drake...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

Justin and Rachael Fineberg...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

Ric and Dena Fleisher...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

Michael and Carol Flicker...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

Kirk Fybel and Bonnie Marcisz...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

Michael and Cheryl Gedzelman...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

David and Ruth Goldberger...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

Jarrett Goldfeder and Heather Rosen...for the Forest Edge Backpack
program

Hannah Gausz...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

John Gausz...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

David and Kimberly Greenspan...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

Al and Lynne Groff...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

Donna Grossman...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

Ken and Fay Gubin...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

Rob and Nora Gutcho...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

Jimmy and Ronni Hargrove...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

Don and Nell Hirsch...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

John and Audra Hoebler...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

Dan Hulkower...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

Alan and Kit Kobran...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

Nancy Kruger...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

(Continued on page 15)

Tzedakah: We Thank Our Generous Contributors *(Continued)*

Andy and Elizabeth Lacher...for the Forest Edge Backpack program
 Ken and Kathryn Laskey...for the Forest Edge Backpack program
 Steve and Terri Levine...for the Forest Edge Backpack program
 Ken and Julie Lifland...for the Forest Edge Backpack program
 Michael Lipsky and Mariette Newcomb...for the Forest Edge Backpack program
 Howard and Heidi Mitnick...for the Forest Edge Backpack program
 Peggy Nelson...for the Forest Edge Backpack program
 Vickie Nitschke...for the Forest Edge Backpack program
 Dan and Roberta Quirk...for the Forest Edge Backpack program
 Robinson and Danielle Ramirez...for the Forest Edge Backpack program
 Jeffrey and Francine Rossen...for the Forest Edge Backpack program
 Michael and Andrea Sarner...for the Forest Edge Backpack program
 Darryl and Heather Schaffer...for the Forest Edge Backpack program
 Adam and Kelly Schulman...for the Forest Edge Backpack program
 Alan and Susan Shapiro...for the Forest Edge Backpack program
 Sy and Roberta Sherman...for the Forest Edge Backpack program
 Larry and Deede Snowwhite...for the Forest Edge Backpack program
 Adam and Jennifer Starr...for the Forest Edge Backpack program
 Dan and Andrea Vavonese
 Herb VanHook and Madeleine Abel...for the Forest Edge Backpack

program
 Ron Wallos and Joanne Schamest...for the Forest Edge Backpack program
 Mark and Nancy Weinstein...for the Forest Edge Backpack program
 Jordan and Rhonda Weinstock...for the Forest Edge Backpack program
 Jonathan and Ellen Wesoky...for the Forest Edge Backpack program
 Stuart Williger...for the Forest Edge Backpack program
 Ralph and Miriam Wolman...for the Forest Edge Backpack program

Sof Shavua Nosh Sponsor

Carol Khalsa...in honor of her grandson Michael's 13th birthday

Torah Fund

Adam and Yael Konowe...in memory of Leonard Cohen
 Arnie and Natalie Small...in honor of the marriage of Fay and Ken Gubin

Youth Group Fund

Bob and Deb Becker...in memory of George Reilly
 Mitch and Abbe Pascal...in memory of Max Stearman, Martin Schwartz and Erica Schwartz

HIGH HOLY DAY APPEAL

Our sincere gratitude goes to the following additional contributors, who made donations to our High Holy Day Appeal.

Richard & Susan Ammerman
 Daryl & Marcia Friedman

Stuart & Andrea Gavurin
 Alan & Rita Kayn

David Selden & Julie Wallick
 Robert & Eileen Stein

Irwin Studen
 Ralph & Miriam Wolman

Francine Beifeld, CTC, ACC



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Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

SUMMARY — AUGUST 2013

Regina Krasner gave the D'Var Torah via text.

Announcements: Thank you, Cookie, for a fabulous Ice Cream Social. At the end of this event, a gathering of Preschool families joined the group. Everyone should have received a "Pink Chair" NVHC Resource Guide. Thank you, Cookie!

Fay's brother passed away unexpectedly, and Fay is in Rochester with her family. Our thoughts are with Fay and her family.

Approval of Minutes: Andy Cohen moved to approve July minutes. Hannah Grausz seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Presentation of the Master Plan Proposal: Ken Laskey provided an overview of the Master Plan proposal. Ken reported that the Master Plan Steering Committee was established to facilitate an effort to evaluate our facilities and their functionality and potential options for improvements to better meet our needs, including ways to address making the facility more welcoming, parking issues, entrances, general usability, underutilized space (i.e., courtyard, library), a possible kitchen expansion, and other building issues. The Committee is also looking at what needs to be done to maintain our current systems. The Committee identified an architectural firm to help us facilitate this process.

Andy C. moved to hire a Philadelphia firm for \$50K. Kay seconded the motion that reads,

"The NVHC Board of Trustees recommends that the congregation approve up to \$50,000 in capital expenses from the Long Range Planning/Equity Reserve to be used for fees and expenses associated with developing a Facility Plan and an Improvement/Growth Plan."

There was discussion on the motion. Andy Lacher believes that while their proposal was boiler plate, their actual work will be top-notch (as described by references) with a high level of effort at a very reasonable price. Understanding our capacity and desire of our constituency is on-going. Ken expressed that we need to be realistic and reasonable, and use this process to build excitement and momentum which will help prioritize. The proposed company specializes in non-profits, and is well-known for its consensus building and community engagement. Both partners in the architectural firm are Jewish and on the building planning committees at their own synagogues. The Rabbi is familiar with their work.

David thanked the Committee and talked about how this process gives us the opportunity to dream, and maybe even dream big. David called for everyone to keep an open mind to the possibilities and to get people involved who are not normally involved. Andy C. wanted to know what comes next in the process. Ken explained that after approval, there is a 4-month process of gathering background information and beginning the community consensus-building initiative. Andy L. said the Plan that emerges will tell us what is next.

The motion was called to question and passed unanimously.

Thank you to the Committee!

Clergy Report: (Cantor and Rabbi) The Clergy reported that it's been a wonderful summer, and that staff will be back to 100% by Friday. The Board officially welcomed our new staff members, Stacy and Beryl. The Rabbi thanked the Board for the opportunity to work at Camp Harlam again this summer. This summer, 27 or 28 of our NVHC youth took part in URJ camping, not including all of the other Jewish camps. This is wonderful for our kids. The Rabbi reported that NVHC is a grant recipient of significant scholarship funds for more Jewish "camping." The Board thanked Moshe for a great job securing this highly sought after grant. Beryl will be helping us with this program going forward.

The Cantor reported that Andy Sandberg, our wonderful Bar Mitzvah tutor, is retiring. We are planning something in the winter to honor him.

High Holiday services begin Wednesday evening. Help us reach out with joy and warmth.

The Rabbi went ballooning with congregants as part of an auction item.

Treasurer's Report: (Andy C.) The Treasurer's report was submitted electronically. Andy C. asked for questions and there were none.

Consideration of Nominating Committee for Trustee

Vacancy: Dan Hulkower has been asked to fill a Board position that became available when Sue Salen vacated her spot. The motion passed unanimously. This position ends December 31, 2013. The Board also approved the 2013 Nominating Committee: Andy Lacher (Chair), Terri Levine, Hana Newcomb, Arnie Small, and Hillary Wilkenfeld. Andy C. moved to accept the Committee; Ric seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Update on the Upcoming Year for the Preschool: (Cindi Drake) Cindi reported on a successful summer at camp, including cooking and new specials. The Preschool will be beginning the school year with 44 children, and with four new families. This is up from the start of school last year. Creative arts and Tae Kwon Do are new, as well as Zumba and Yoga. Three teacher trainings are scheduled for this year. Thanksgiving and Chanukah are problematic due to the timing this year. The Preschool will be celebrating Grandparents Day instead of Valentine's Day, as well as a Mother's Day Tea.

Hillary reported that the ECC is working on updating the by-laws, assessing the marketing strategy (i.e., parent blogs) and fundraising (needed for improvements to the Great Room as well as a new playground).

Other Announcements: Arnie Small is making an appeal to the Board to use the script program for purchasing gift cards. NVHC gets between 4 and 14%, and there is no additional cost to the purchaser. The new refrigerator and freezer, along with a donation from Cookie, are examples of where the funds went.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

SUMMARY — OCTOBER 2013

Samantha Kaplan presented the D'Var Torah.

Announcements: Nancy welcomed two new Board members - Dan Hulkower and Neil Meland, the new Brotherhood President.

Congratulations to Neil Meland on his daughter's engagement, and to Harvey Berger on being a grandfather again.

Approval of Minutes: Hannah Grausz moved to approve the August minutes, and Andy Cohen seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously, with minor edits.

Nominating Committee Update: Andy Lacher reported that the 2013 Nominating Committee is hard at work. Andy and Ric will both be leaving the Board. Committee members include Andy Lacher (Chair), Terri Levine, Hana Newcomb, Arnie Small, and Hilary Wilkenfeld.

Report on Website Renovation: Hannah G. reported that the website is looking good and should be ready to launch soon. Website content is being collected by Stacy Miller. Some of the new features include: calendars that are easily downloadable to personal devices, links on every page to calendars and related information, and a blog page. The Rabbi is working hard with the rest of the team. The new website is dynamic and far more user-friendly. Nancy thanked Hannah and the Committee for their efforts. The Rabbi requested Board assistance to write short articles for the "News" component of the website.

Clergy Report (Cantor and Rabbi): The Cantor reported that this past weekend, we had the artist-in-residence here to talk about Judaism in India. NVHC's long-time B'nai Mitzvah tutor, Andy Sandberg, has officially retired. Chaya Silver, the new tutor, has started and is doing great. There have been a few logistical challenges, but otherwise, the transition has been smooth. We will honor Andy at services on February 21st. Please send in a kippah to the office from your child's B'nai Mitzvah, and/or quotes, if your child (or children) was tutored by Andy over the past 25 years.

Additionally, the Cantor reported that the 6th graders had a phenomenal time at their recent retreat. Also, approximately 25 young adults recently gathered at NVHC for a Shabbat evening program and an Indian dinner with the artist-in-residence, an event planned by Stacy Miller, our Young Adult Engagement Coordinator. Lastly, the choirs have been working together, which is fabulous for all. Mark your calendars for the April 26th biennial Cantor's Concert.

The Rabbi reported that Temple Administrator Fay Weiss and Ken Gubin had recently married. Congratulations to Fay and Ken. Additionally, the first speaker's series event of the season went very well, and in general, things are good.

Moshe's Report: Moshe was unable to attend the Board meeting, so his report on Kehilat Limmud and Tamid was postponed.

Report on the Strategic Development Committee (SDC) (Stu and Ric): SDC Co-Chair Stu Gavurin emphasized that the SDC is easy to approach with issues and concerns. The team is great, and Cookie is a valuable leader. Our budget calls for a significant amount of development. The Committee members are working as a team to make the temple's development initiatives successful. Three initiatives identified in the operating budget are to generate about \$126K in revenue, including the Grammy Awards raffle at the upcoming NVHC Annual Auction

and a new sponsorship effort for certain NVHC programs. For the remainder, the SDC is implementing a new approach intended to result in sustained (multi-year) philanthropic giving to NVHC. The approach focuses on two groups: members who are either relatively new to NVHC or who have not been actively involved, and members who hold or have held leadership positions and have a history of philanthropic giving to the temple. An additional component of the initiative focused on the first group is some light volunteerism with the intent of identifying potential new leaders. Kickoff is scheduled for January. Funds raised will support the operating budget.

Nancy emphasized that this is not the only leadership development track. This is just one possibility. Leadership opportunities are, and will continue to be, open to everyone in the temple, irrespective of financial donations, and efforts to identify and groom new leaders will extend beyond this initiative.

Stu acknowledged that there are still many questions the SDC continues to address, and the Committee is working very hard to hone the program before launch, including drawing on the expertise of organizations that have successfully implemented similar approaches.

Andy C. reemphasized that contributions made through this new program will be above and beyond temple dues (although new this year, temple dues are capped at \$5,000).

Response to the SDC's report and the initiative described was very positive. Nancy summarized people's support and questions. The SDC will continue to work on this and will periodically update the Board. Nancy thanked Cookie, Stu, Ric and the SDC for all of their efforts to date.

Treasurer's Report (Andy C.): The Treasurer's report was submitted electronically. Andy C. asked for questions, and there were none.

Update on Strategic Workgroups (Nancy): Nancy indicated that discussions were still ongoing to establish several Board workgroups to focus on developing strategic principles and guidance for the temple. Stu Gavurin and Regina Krasner, of the SDC, are working with other Board leaders to help determine goals for the workgroups.

On a related note, the Rabbi shared with the Board a concept he is developing regarding Jewish connectivity as it relates to strategic thinking, prompted in part by the recently released Pew report. The Rabbi presented a thought-provoking flowchart that generated lots of interesting discussion. The Rabbi hopes that we can use this framework for the next phase of strategic planning, and posed such questions as: How do we make sure a lifecycle event is a mind-opening experience? What are our goals? What are our strategies for the next 5-10 years?

Other Announcements: Nancy reminded the group of our special congregational meeting on October 29th for the purpose of seeking the congregation's approval of extra-budgetary spending for two programs - Building Bridges and the Master Plan.

The next Board meeting is TBD because of the Thanksgiving holiday.

The discussion of a new chair for the Endowment Committee was tabled.

December 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 No Kehilat Limmud/Tamid	2 Adult Hebrew classes 9:30 a.m., 7:00 p.m.	3 Kehilat Limmud TAMID Chanukah Dinner Parents Invited (Social Hall), 6:00 p.m. Chanukah Program, Parents invited, 6:30 p.m. Bereavement Support Group Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	4 Kehilat Limmud TAMID Chanukah Dinner, 6:00 p.m.	5 Photo Club meeting, 7:00 p.m.	6 Sof Shavuah Nosh, 6:15 p.m. Erev Shabbat Worship Service with Kol Tsa'ir and Kol Yeladim, 6:45 p.m. Jr. NoVTY Oneg, 7:30 p.m.	7 Book Club, 9:00 a.m. Tot Shabbat, 9:00 a.m. Shabbat Service, 10:30 a.m. Bat Mitzvah - Sara Vavonese
8 Kehilat Limmud Field Trip 4th Grade Mitzvah Mania (offsite), 9:20 a.m. Adult Hebrew classes, 9:30 a.m. Genesis class, 9:30 a.m. Jewish Medieval History class, 11:00 a.m. B'nai Mitzvah Parents Class, 11:05 a.m. Forest Edge Backpack Pack, 12:15 p.m.	9 JCCNV-NVHC Active Adults, 10:30 a.m. Adult Beginning Hebrew, 7:00 p.m. Brotherhood meeting (off site), 7:00 p.m. Sisterhood Board meeting, 7:15 p.m.	10 Jewish Film Series, 11:30 a.m. Kehilat Limmud Teacher Training for TAMID Teachers, 6:30 p.m. No TAMID Classes Executive Committee Meeting, 7:45 p.m.	11 URJ Biennial Kehilat Limmud No Tamid classes	12 URJ Biennial Mah Jongg, 7:30 p.m.	13 URJ Biennial Erev Shabbat Worship Service, led by Rob Gutcho and Susan Trivers, 8:00 p.m.	14 URJ Biennial Torah Talk, 9:00 a.m. Shabbat Service, led by Bert Katz and Sharron Cristofar, 10:30 a.m. Jr. NoVTY Rebounders Trip, 5:15 p.m. NoVTY - Judaism Program (TBA), 5:00 p.m.
15 URJ Biennial Kehilat Limmud, 9:15 a.m. Brotherhood Family Breakfast, 9:30 a.m. Genesis class, 9:30 a.m. 6th Grade Program with Ido Rakovsky, Community Shaliach, 9:45 a.m. Jewish Medieval History class, 11:00 a.m. Teacher Training for K-6 Grade teachers, "The Whole Child," 12:35 p.m. Club 56, Sport Rock gym, 1:30 p.m.	16 Adult Beginning Hebrew Class, 7:00 p.m.	17 Kehilat Limmud TAMID Dinner, 6 p.m. 7th-12th grade program with parents and students, 6:30 p.m. Bereavement Support Group Meeting, 7 p.m. Board of Trustees meeting, 7:45 p.m.	18 Kehilat Limmud TAMID Dinner, 6:00 p.m.	19 Congregational Meeting with Marc Bachman Award Presentation, 6:30 p.m. Congregational Discussion Forum, 8:00 p.m.	20 Sof Shavua Nosh, 6:15 p.m. Erev Shabbat Worship Service, 6:45 p.m.	21 Torah Talk, 9:00 a.m. Shabbat Service, 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah – Noah Gausz
22 No Kehilat Limmud/Tamid	23	24 No Kehilat Limmud/Tamid	25 No Kehilat Limmud/Tamid NVHC Office Closed	26	27 NFTY Winter Kallah (offsite) Erev Shabbat Worship Service, 8:00 p.m.	28 NFTY Winter Kallah (offsite) Torah Talk, 9:00 a.m. Shabbat Service, 10:30 a.m.
29 NFTY Winter Kallah (offsite) No School Kehilat Limmud/Tamid	30	31 No Kehilat Limmud/Tamid				

January 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day No Kehilat Limmud/Tamid NVHC office closed	2	3 Sof Shavua Nosh, 6:15 p.m. Erev Shabbat Worship Service, 6:45 p.m.	4 Book Club, 9:00 a.m. Tot Shabbat, 9:00 a.m. Shabbat Service, 10:30 a.m. Bat Mitzvah - Jordan Gortowski
5 Kehilat Limmud Adult Hebrew Classes, 9:30 a.m., 7:00 p.m. Derech Hashem class, 9:30 a.m. Brotherhood Meeting, 10:00 a.m. Modern Jewish History, 10:50 a.m.	6 Adult Hebrew Classes, 9:30 a.m., 7:00 p.m.	7 Kehilat Limmud TAMID Dinner, 6:00 p.m. Adult Hebrew Class, 7:00 p.m. Bereavement Support Group Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	8 Kehilat Limmud TAMID Dinner, 6:00 p.m.	9 Adult Hebrew Class, 7:00 p.m. Mah Jongg, 7:30 p.m.	10 Erev Shabbat Worship Service with Kol Shirah and Board Installation, 8:00 p.m.	11 Torah Talk, 9:00 a.m. 4th Grade Shabbaton, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Shabbat Service, 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah - Sawyer Blazar 4th Grade Shabbaton Parents with Rabbi, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. NoVTY Ice Skating, 7:00 p.m.
12 Kehilat Limmud Adult Hebrew Classes, 9:30 a.m., 7:00 p.m. Derech Hashem class, 9:30 a.m. Tu B'Shevat Program, 10:00 a.m. Modern Jewish History, 10:50 a.m. Forest Edge Backpack Pack, 12:15 p.m. Jr. NoVTY Ice Skating, 1:00 p.m. Brotherhood Dinner and Football Playoff Party, 5:00 p.m.	13 Adult Hebrew Classes, 9:30 a.m., 7:00 p.m. Sisterhood Board meeting, 7:15 p.m.	14 Jewish Film Series, 11:30 a.m. Kehilat Limmud TAMID Dinner, 6:00 p.m. TAMID Program with Ido Rakovsky, 6:00 p.m. Adult Hebrew Class, 7:00 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting, 7:45 p.m.	15 Kehilat Limmud TAMID Dinner, 6:00 p.m. Congregational Discussion Forum, 7:00 p.m.	16 Tu B'Shevat Adult Hebrew Class, 7:00 p.m.	17 Sof Shavua Nosh, 6:15 p.m. Erev Shabbat Worship Service with Kol Noar, 6:45 p.m. Jr. NoVTY Oneg, 7:30 p.m.	18 Torah Talk, 9:00 a.m. Shabbat Service, 10:30 a.m. NoVTY Ice Skating, 7:00 p.m.
19 No Kehilat Limmud/Tamid Preschool Open House, 10:00 a.m. Sisterhood Mah Jongg Tournament, 12:30 p.m.	20 NVHC office closed Martin Luther King Holiday	21 Akeda class, 11:30 a.m. Kehilat Limmud TAMID Dinner, 6:00 p.m. 7-12 Grade TAMID Classes, 6:30 p.m. Bereavement Support Group Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	22 Kehilat Limmud TAMID Dinner, 6:00 p.m. Sisterhood Domestic Violence Program, 7:00 p.m.	23 Adult Hebrew Class, 7:00 p.m. Mah Jongg, 7:30 p.m.	24 NFTY MAJYK Erev Shabbat Worship Service, 8:00 p.m.	25 NFTY MAJYK Torah Talk, 9:00 a.m. Shabbat Service, 10:30 a.m. Bat Mitzvah - Hannah Bandel
26 NFTY MAJYK Kehilat Limmud Adult Hebrew Classes, 9:30 a.m., 7:00 p.m. Brotherhood Family Breakfast, 9:30 a.m. Derech Hashem class, 9:30 a.m. Modern Jewish History, 10:50 a.m. 5th Grade Students and Parents Siddur Program, 11:30 a.m.	27 Adult Hebrew Classes, 9:30 a.m., 7:00 p.m.	28 JCCNV-NVHC Active Adults, 10:30 a.m. Akeda class, 11:30 a.m. No Kehilat Limmud/Tamid Parent/Teacher Conferences Kehilat Limmud 3-6 Grade, 4:30 p.m. Adult Hebrew Class, 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting, 7:45 p.m.	29 No Kehilat Limmud/Tamid Parent/Teacher Conferences Kehilat Limmud 3-6 Grade, 4:30 p.m.	30 Adult Hebrew Class, 7:00 p.m.	31 Women Who Mean Business Networking Group, 8:45 a.m. Erev Shabbat Worship Service, with Rachel Silverstein, 8:00 p.m.	



NORTHERN VIRGINIA
HEBREW CONGREGATION

1441 Wiehle Avenue · Reston, Virginia 20190

mark your calendar for these **Upcoming Events**

- Preschool Open House ♦ January 19th
- Domestic Violence Program ♦ January 22nd
- Speaker Series, Maureen Fiedler ♦ March 20th

NVHC Contact Information

Temple Office (secretary answers)	703-437-7733	Director of Early Childhood Education	Cindi Drake ext. 110
Temple Office (directly to individual)	703-471-6046	cindi@nvhcreston.org	
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moshe@nvhcreston.org		B'nai Mitzvah Instructor	Chaya Silver
		chaya@nvhcreston.org	

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: Wednesday, January 1, 2014

Congregational Discussion Forums ♦ December 19th and January 15th