

NVHC *links*

Issue 5775
 Volume 151
 January/February 2015

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Perspective *By Rabbi Michael G. Holzman*

ISRAEL TRAVEL



On January 21, 2015, at 6:30 p.m., Cantor Caro and I invite you to help plan our future Israel trips.

At that meeting we will discuss options for **Israel travel in the winter and/or spring of 2015-16**. There are so many things to see, do, learn, eat and enjoy while traveling in Israel, that each visit can capture only one small, delicious, fried garbanzo bean ball of the whole falafel that is our homeland.

So allow me to try to explain why Israel travel is so amazing, multifaceted, soul-affecting and inspiring. We begin with the beauty of the land itself.

At the crossroads of three continents, sandwiched between the Syro-African Rift valley and the plains along the Mediterranean, stretching from the lush mountains and streams of the North to the canyons and *wadis* of the desert South, the land of Israel astounds with its diversity. The land seems to breathe with secrets. It feels like every hilltop, every stone, every drop of water has a story to tell and reflects the human story of civilization.

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Perspective *By Cantor Susan Caro*

WHEN YOU SING, PEOPLE UNDERSTAND



'A song lifts us from the place we are to the place we want to be.'

These words were written over 200 years ago, by none other than Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liadi, the founder of Chabad. The *Chasidim*, at their core, believed deeply in the essential nature of music to inspire prayer. In truth, significant moments in our communal lives have a soundtrack; they have a musical framework built by our families, our people, and our society.

Our prophets teach us over and over again about the power of stepping forward and stepping up to act ethically; to quote the prophet Micah, we are to *"Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly before your God."* We communicate our framework of values and actions to the next generation through this music. I know that for me, growing up in NFTY in the 1970s, it was the music and its message that touched my soul at its core that spoke to me, and gave voice to my deepest hopes and beliefs.

We have music in our Jewish musical heritage that led and inspired our ancestors. From ancient chants, to the songs of the *chalutzim*, the pioneers of Israel, and modern Jewish rock and roll, we have been called to action through generations. We celebrate our ancient march from

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Adult Education Classes

Resume in January

Erev Shabbat Worship Service with Board Installation,
Jan 9th, 8:00 p.m.

Shabbat Shirah
Jan 30th, 8:00 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE:
Wed., Mar 4th,
5:00 p.m.,
Carnival;
6:45 – 9:00 p.m.,
Megillah Reading & Purim Schpiel

The sunsets, whether they are from the beach in Tel Aviv, over the Negev, or along the shores of the *Kineret* (Sea of Galilee), light up the sky with mystery. One cannot help but wonder who stood beneath this sky, on this land, facing the particular challenges of that generation. The ancient terraces along the hills of Judea tower above the relics of armored vehicles destroyed in the battle for Jerusalem in 1948, the two sets of ruins encapsulating the breadth of Jewish history. So any trip to Israel happens in the context of this vibrant land.

The effect of this land on the traveler is nothing short of awe. Whenever I open my suitcase after a trip, I find bits of dust trapped in the corners of the bag and I feel as if those specks of sand are the breadcrumbs leading me back to my roots. As a Jew I feel a connection, part ownership and part servitude, to the mystery and beauty of that land.

And the history has so much to offer. Anyone, at any level of Jewish learning, comes away enlightened about our roots and the various manifestations of Judaism through the centuries. The country is a playground of archeology with well-excavated sites like Masada and still functioning digs like *Beit Guvrin* and *Tel Dan* all around. The museums contain artifacts that record many of the most important moments of Western history. In Israel, we can see firsthand the record of time, from the conquests of Mesopotamian empires to the culture of Greece and Rome, to the religious battles of the Crusades, to the modern episodes of British, French, German and Arab wars. The country is one big time capsule.

So a trip to Israel places me deeper in that history and helps me find myself in our communal story. The same way that I feel a connection to the land, I feel like I am rooted in the historical timeline of Israel, even as a Diaspora Jew. The themes and issues that have expressed themselves in our history are the same themes and issues that we address today. To see in the historical record the way that our ancestors and relatives, close and distant, faced those challenges helps me understand how to live my life. The history quickly becomes a lesson in ethics, art, justice and life.

And that brings me to the issues. No trip to Israel is complete without serious attention to the issues of Jewish life. Being Jewish is a constantly evolving, rotating, gyrating, and vibrating experience, and in Israel that adventure is played out in the streets, the newspapers, on the buses, in the markets, even in the parks and playgrounds. Sometimes the issues are about big national struggles, like the stories about the Holocaust at *Yad Vashem*, or the tragic necessity we see as we stand next to the separation barrier between Israel and the West Bank. Sometimes the issues are about social ethics, like when we witness the poverty in Arab-Israeli neighborhoods, or the signs in Orthodox neighborhoods demanding that women wear modest clothing. Sometimes the issues are just about the politics and morality of daily life, as we see when we do social justice work in Fat Meir's kitchen (feeding the poor) or visiting *Yad LeKashish* (which provides jobs for disabled adults). In Israel, nobody is apathetic and everybody has an opinion.

We do not live there, but these issues are also our issues. On a visit to Israel, we include discussion, lecture, and opportunities to learn and engage with those topics. We do not presume to see things like security or relations with the Palestinians in the same way that Israelis see the issues, but we certainly see them as members of the Jewish people. So the morals and ethics applied in that state are our morals and ethics put into action. This is the Jewish state, it is our state, and we care.

And that is perhaps the most important (and most fun) piece of traveling to Israel: the people. Israelis are unlike any people on Earth. They are strong and sensitive, brusque and gentle, serious and witty, the greatest of friends and the deepest of mysteries. Israelis face a reality few of us can entirely imagine, with the combination of unstable security and total Jewish autonomy. The way they see the world, living in a Jewish environment, walking streets named for Jews, living according to a Jewish calendar, speaking

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WHAT'S GOING ON?

By David Selden • President, Board of Trustees

Jan/Feb 2015 FIRM/DROP DEAD Deadline-Dec 1!!! Why is Nancy Kruger forwarding this email to me? It must be a mistake. Oh, I see, it's **my turn** to write the President's article. I shouldn't be surprised but I am, much as I am surprised when the alarm clock clangs me awake every morning. It's a funny thing, I know it's programmed for 6:00 a.m., but I still find myself irrationally hoping it will ring when I'm ready. No matter, there is no turning the clock back now, and honestly, I am honored and excited to take on this new role. I just want to do as good a job as Nancy Kruger, Andy Lacher, Stu Williger, Hana Newcomb, and so many other dedicated congregants, indeed friends, have before me.

Why take the job in the first place? A good friend and mentor reminds me that everyone at NVHC has to take their turn, which I suppose is more than enough reason. I have also learned an important secret here at NVHC: Giving back and doing for others is one of the healthiest and spiritually fulfilling thing I can do in my life. This is yet another opportunity to continue living this wisdom. As president, I want to do my part to create more opportunities at NVHC for you to find happiness, community, and a meaningful Jewish life.

I have been a member for 28 years, and for many of them, with some important exceptions, felt apart. I found it difficult to get a foothold, a place in the community where I felt connected, valued, and at peace with who I am as a Jew and a human being. It did not happen quickly or easily, but when I finally decided to get engaged, my life started to change for the better. Only after I started saying yes to invitations to coffee and inviting people I didn't know well home for dinner, and yes to joining the Rabbi search committee, and then the Board of Trustees, and yes to Torah talk and

services and living the spirit of Shabbat, and yes to life itself after losing my dear son and wife, and yes to the blind date in wintry Chicago my cousin Sara fixed me up on with the love of my life, Julie, did I begin to realize and cherish that I had been walking unknowingly down the path to a life filled with joy and hope, a greater sense of purpose, the presence of G-d and people who have my back, as I have theirs.

If, as your president, working side by side with our clergy and office staff, Board of Trustees, committees, and volunteers, I can help you find your way at NVHC, it will have been a job well done. But we can't do it alone. So come, tell us your stories, and let us get to know you better. Tell us when you're hurting and in need of a helping hand. If you have an idea of how we can do better, we want to hear about it, and then talk about how you can help. So say yes when that alarm clock next rings for you. It's ok if you hit snooze once, even twice, but then take a chance, and together we will walk down that path to a place you, too, will come to call home.

Onward! David ♦

Perspective *By Rabbi Michael G. Holzman (continued from page 2)*

Hebrew and in so many other ways, that is a perspective from which we can learn so much.

When I meet Israelis, no matter where I am, I immediately feel at home. I was traveling overseas and heard a family speaking Hebrew. I had on a baseball cap, so they could not see my *kippah*. I stopped them, and in Hebrew, asked if they wanted me to take a picture. They hugged me, I took the picture, and we talked for 15 minutes. I was at home for those minutes because I was with Israelis. When we travel in Israel, we try to make those connections happen, whether it is with our friends at one of our Congregational partners in the Israeli Movement for Progressive Judaism, or it is in some other kind of encounter. The people make an Israel trip truly amazing.

So we have options about what the congregation will

do on a 10-12 day trip to Israel. We have the land, the history, the issues and the people. I did not even mention arts, culture, food, shopping, or religious experiences. We can approach all of these things on multiple levels, seeing Israel as a first-time visitor, or designing trips for return visitors. On **January 21st**, we will present the options and solicit your input for our planning for the near future as well as the distant future (we will also spend 5 minutes discussing travel to other parts of the globe).

This meeting is open to any and all members of the community. We may plan trips for young families as well as adults without kids. These decisions affect dates, duration, itinerary and cost. So the meeting on the 21st is a way for you to help us begin the planning and continue NVHC's important relationship with Israel. See you there. ♦



THE PARTY'S OVER...SO NOW WHAT??

By Moshe Ben-Lev, Director of Education, and Beryl Trauth-Jurman, Youth Activities Coordinator

"It was the best! Wow, we rock!" These words were uttered on Sunday, November, 23rd following a monumental event in NVHC history, and one that has made our congregation an instant legend for more than 250 teens from the Carolinas to Baltimore. In case you missed it, we are referring to the NFTY Kallah. This event was a year in the planning, but never really took root until September, when Beryl began the process of working with the regional office of NFTY (National Federation of Temple Youth). As the event gained momentum, it became apparent that we were going to host over 200 teens, and that we had to find housing, food, and space in the building for them during our programming. Our teens played a big part in planning and presenting some of the programming. The programs, written by our teens, were exceptional. They came up with the ideas, planned them, and ran them all, despite the space and lunch difficulties. The theme they came up with was "Hineini" because they were interested in exploring the idea of how "present" and "engaged" we are in an electronic and connected world. They wanted to explore if we are just physically here and nominally participating when we have technology and social media, or if these media can improve and augment our experiences and "presence." The word *Hineini* implies a spiritual presence, a level of attention and engagement that you cannot have simply by being physically in a space. Their programming explored how we engage in social action, and with social justice issues in a connected world, do we nominally support causes by sharing information and showing solidarity online or is there something more? They also explored people's attention while using electronics and our ability to engage with others and have healthy relationships while living with or perhaps in spite of the stereotypes that we see online.

Feedback from families has been really positive, particularly from families with children who are not old enough to participate. The Mehlenbeck family was hesitant to host at first, but they told me how much they loved the experience in the end. Katelyn wrote letters to all the girls who stayed at their house because she wants to keep in contact. Erin DiManno was really impressed with the participants' maturity, and now Arden is excited for participating in MAJYK—the junior event.

Feedback from the teens has been really positive as well. Despite the small space and a hiccup with lunch on Saturday, kids we've never met before, and veterans of many events alike, came up to us and our teens to say how great the event was, and what a good time they had.

So what now? How do we make this event resonate throughout our teen program, and how do we build on this experience? Dr. Jeff Kress, a well-known educator at JTS (Jewish Theological Seminary) has written recently on the field of experiential education. There are those who believe that this field is a separate one from formal and informal education and that its impact can be substantial and influ-

ential in contributing to building an agenda of engagement. He spoke also about how the event itself often continues following its initial impact through social media, and that if we can harness that ripple effect, we can perhaps truly profit from its positive vibe and build upon it.

Over the next six months, we will be working with some experts in developing a method of teen building that is aimed at creating a new form of teen engagement. Through a process of modeling a "Design Thinking" model, some teens from across the spectrum of our synagogue membership will take part in designing a new level of involvement that we hope will include a more relevant, exciting, and engaging model of connection and commitment to Jewish learning and community.

These are exciting times at NVHC, and as we continue to be on the cutting edge of Jewish education and connection, we believe that a new dawn of exciting possibilities will enliven our future program.

We want thank all of you for making the Kallah a great success. As our teens so aptly expressed it, "NVHC Rocks!" ♦

Camp Shabbat, January 23, 2015

Please join us Friday at 6:45 p.m. for a celebration of Jewish Camping

We will be joined by representatives from local area camps, and this is a great chance to come support your camp, or to find out more about the summer camp options that are available for your family.

Wear your camp shirt and show your camp pride, or come experience something new. Either way, there is nothing like celebrating Shabbat at camp. We hope you'll join us for a different kind of Shabbat. ♦

NVHC PRESCHOOL AT THE HALF YEAR MARK

By Cindi Drake • Director of Early Childhood Education



Every day is eventful in the preschool. And yet, when I look back at the first half of our year and all that went on, I am still amazed. Here are just a few of the highlights:

- Being an experiential- and play-based school, our children experience the High Holy Days firsthand. They talk about the New Year, Israel, and being able to say “I’m sorry.” The New Year is an opportunity for everyone to be better than they were in the past year. We learn about apples, honey and pomegranates, and then cook and eat them. Best of all, the children not only hear about shofars, but they also get to hear the Rabbi and the Cantor blow them right here in school. And even better than that, they have the chance to blow a shofar themselves!
- During the week of Simchat Torah, the Preschool organizes a book exchange in honor of being “The People of the Book.” Children bring in gently-used books they are no longer interested in. The PTO sets them up in one of our rooms, and each class has time to go in and take books that are new to them. There are literally hundreds of books, and those that are left, we donate. Last year we donated them to an elementary school in need of books, and this year we donated them to the Lions Club. The Lions Club offers us free vision screening each year, and gives each child a book that they purchase. We were delighted to be able to give them books to defray some of their costs.
- Some of our Chanukah celebrations included entertaining the Active Retirees with Chanukah songs and costumes. Our Chanukah Songfest and classroom parties were, as always, fabulous!
- Most of the children had never seen or heard of a magician, so we brought one in! First he did his magic, and then showed the children how it was done. For all of them it was still magical. Things appeared and disappeared and then reappeared again. A grand time was had by all.

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Magician



Shofar



Climbing the wall



Torah Talk

Todah Rabah

The Preschool Wishes to Thank. . .

The Rodill Family, for sponsoring our November Tot Shabbat oneg, in honor of Celia’s naming.

The Kitces Family, for sponsoring our December Tot Shabbat oneg.

The Patz Family, for sponsoring our January Tot Shabbat oneg, in honor of Kenley’s naming.

David Luehrs and the Lions Club, for the vision screening for the preschool.

Ethan Hahm, for a filled Tzedakah can.

The NVHC Sisterhood, whose donation toward programming allowed us to enjoy a magician!

Preschool *(continued from page 5)*

- Firefighters came in full gear and with their trucks, which the children had a chance to go into. They talked to us not only about fire safety but also in the case of a fire, not to hide from someone outfitted in this protective clothing. We also had the One Man Band come and entertain us with all his musical instruments. We always enjoy this program.
- The children continue to enjoy music with Morah Nell, as well as Yoga and Zumba every week.
- The Pre-K class is learning to write their letters using the *Handwriting without Tears* program. And every Friday, they enjoy Torah Talk with Morah Judy. Using a felt board to depict the stories, Judy leads them through the Torah beginning with Abraham and Sarah.
- Our after-school Creative Arts Program is still a hit. This year we have Tae Kwon Do, Art, and JumpBunch again, and added to the lineup is a dance class.
- The children play outside, weather permitting, every day. On those days that they must stay indoors, we have our playroom with a climbing wall, bicycles, climbing and sliding structure and more!

The pictures speak for themselves. In the second half of our year, we will have our school-wide family Seder, Grandparents' Shabbat morning, puppet shows and more – so stay tuned! ♦



Dance



Yoga Childpose



Miss Nell



Writing



Thanksgiving



Simchat Torah Book Exchange

Tot Shabbat

COME GET THAT SHABBAT FEELING!

January 3rd and February 7th, 9:00 a.m.

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 Director of Early Childhood Education, 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 PUNIMS ARE HERE!

What's a "punim?" In Yiddish, a face...a particularly sweet face!

We'd like to invite all of our punims (ages 0 to 4) to join us on select Sundays!

Led by Michelle Allo, this group of our sweetest faces (along with Mom and/or Dad) will gather together for a little recreation, a light nosh, some music...and a lot of "get-to-know-you" time!

The group will meet in the Youth Lounge (bottom floor of the education wing) from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on the following Sundays: Jan. 25th, Feb. 22nd, March 1st & 15th, April 26th, May 17th

Cost? \$150 for all classes.*

You do not have to be a member of Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation to attend.

Minimum registration is required for the program to be a "go!" So, please register early! Return this form, with payment, to Cindi Drake, Director of Early Childhood Education, NVHC, 1441 Wiehle Avenue, Reston VA 20190.

Questions? Call Cindi at 703-435-8829 or email to cindi@nvhcreston.org.

Child's Name _____ Parent's Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ (Mobile) _____

E-mail _____ Child's Birthdate _____

*Once registered, fees are not refundable or transferable.

Perspective *By Cantor Susan Caro (continued from page 1)*

the slavery of Egypt to the possibilities of freedom with the poetry and music of the Torah – *Shirat Hayam*, The Song of the Sea – our 'song' of survival, from which our treasured words of the *Mi Chamocha* prayer with its many inspiring melodies is taken. On **Shabbat eve, January 30th, at our 8:00 p.m. worship service**, we will explore together various musical expressions of this text and how it remains a call to freedom and redemption.

During the civil rights movement in 20th Century America, African American spirituals such as *Oh Freedom* and *We Shall Overcome* led and inspired the charge to pursue justice and equality for all of our citizens. Especially in times of crisis or despair, music provides emotional uplift; it brings healing and comfort, inspiring and instilling hopes and dreams which transform individuals, communities, and whole societies. These 20th Century musical moments, embedded in many of our own lifetimes, ring with the rich power of communal song. Their message is our call to justice.

In January, as a nation we acknowledge and honor the pursuit of spiritual social justice as we honor the life of the

Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King; his actions on behalf of civil rights were shared by many exemplary Jewish leaders of his time, walking side by side with him in support of these inalienable rights for all citizens of our nation. For Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, the march on Selma in 1965 for voting rights had great spiritual significance. As he joined Dr. King, he wrote, "*For many of us the march from Selma to Montgomery was about protest and prayer. Legs are not lips and walking is not kneeling. And yet our legs uttered songs. Even without words, our march was worship. I felt my legs were praying.*"

The passion of that time extends beyond those years, inspiring generations to continue the work of *Tikun Olam*, our Jewish mandate to repair our world. On Shabbat eve, January 16th, at our 6:45 p.m. worship service, we will recall the greatness of this message as part of our own prayers, along with our nation remembering and honoring this powerful voice against racism and for civil rights. The soundtrack of our people brings light to still-darkened places, when inspired to feel that same commitment, we heed the call to action through song. ♦

Mazel Tov to our B'nai Mitzvah



Jack Lesser

Jack Lesser • January 10th

Jack's Mitzvah Project is a Baseball Equipment Exchange where older, experienced players donate their used or new equipment they have outgrown to new baseball kids. This enables the new players the opportunity to experience baseball without the expense of the glove, bat, helmet, etc., that prevents the less fortunate children from being able to play. ♦

Daphne May • January 24th

Inspired by her experience making weekend food packages for Forest Edge Elementary students, Daphne organized a food drive in her neighborhood. She requested the specific items needed, and her neighbors responded generously. She delivered these donations to NVHC, and helped pack them for Forest Edge students. ♦



Daphne May

Matthew Elias Turk • January 31st

Matthew's Bar Mitzvah Project is helping and feeding the homeless by volunteering with local organizations. ♦



Matthew Elias Turk

Jacob Fajer • February 21st

Jacob's project is a book drive to share his love of books and his belief in learning through reading. He is conducting a book drive for Books for America, a local nonprofit organization that promotes literacy. Working through his school, scout troop, and synagogue, he plans on collecting books for children who don't have the access they need. This effort is very important for Jacob. As he expressed - *"It is unimaginable today that there are children who can't just pick up a book whenever they want to read."* ♦



Jacob Fajer

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 March/April is February 1st.

Worship

New Time: 9:00 a.m. Shabbat morning services on Holiday weekends

Worship will be inclusive of Torah study on these upcoming Saturday mornings. We will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue to about 10:30 a.m. The service and study was successful over the summer, and the clergy and Worship Committee are continuing this new approach for upcoming holiday weekends throughout the year. All friends of Torah talk and all Saturday morning worshippers are encouraged to participate.

Saturday, January 3, 2015

Saturday, February 14, 2015

Saturday, April 4, 2015

How will you remember these dates? It's easy! When you know there's a **secular holiday**, you'll also know there are 9:00 a.m. Shabbat services at NVHC. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Trivers, susan@susantrivers.com. ♦

Torah Talk

Our Shabbat Torah study class will be held on **Saturday, January 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st, and February 21st & 28th at 9:00 a.m.** in the sanctuary. *There will be a combined Torah Talk & Shabbat morning service at 9:00 a.m. on January 3rd and February 14th.*

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 WEEKEND

Jan. 16 – 18, 2015

Friday, January 16th, 6:45 p.m., Social Justice Erev Shabbat with all choirs.

Saturday, January 17th, 9:00 a.m., Torah Talk.

Sunday, January 18th, Martin Luther King Social Action weekend, will be a very special day of learning and social action at Kehilat Limmud from 9:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Families are asked to join us in activities that honor the memory and legacy of Dr. King. *The National Coalition for the Homeless* will talk with us, we will pack lunches for *Cornerstones* (formerly Reston Interfaith), hear from our Forest Edge packing crew, and honor our friends in Israel, as well as take part in a write-in to our local congressmen. Upon arrival, we will hold a short orientation/service in the Sanctuary. This special day of action for parents and students will be our Kehilat Limmud program.

Sunday, January 18th, 4:00 p.m. - *Voices of Inspiration*, songs honoring Martin Luther King, with MLK Church.

For more information on this event, please go to: <http://www.restoncommunitycenter.org/2015-mlk-celebration/sunday-january-18>. ♦



SAVE THE DATE:

M'SIBAT PURIM!!

Megillah Reading and Purim Schpiel

Wednesday, March 4th at 4:30 – 9:00 p.m.

NVHC is planning a great evening to celebrate Purim. We'll come together as a community to share some shenanigans, boo at Haman, laugh at the schpiel, enjoy some hamantashen...

M'Sibat Purim – 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Megillah Reading & Schpiel – 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Save the Date: March 21, 2015 at 9:00am - 3:00pm

“Prayer
is in
my Life and I
i Did
not Know”

Please join us for a Shabbaton of prayer, worship, lunch, study, music

For more information: cantorcaro@nvhcreston.org

FALL FUN REVISITED AND BELONGING AMONG MILLENNIALS

By Stacy Miller

We started off our fall NOVA Tribe/NVHC Young Adult programming with *Find the Tribe Pop-Up Week*, a series of events that introduced potential new members to NOVA Tribe's signature programs, and welcomed newcomers to the Greater Washington area. As a part of our Chai Achiever Speakers program, author Naomi Schaefer Riley spoke about engaging young adults and what she learned in her book *Got Religion? How Churches, Mosques, and Synagogues Can Bring Young People Back*. During our breakout discussion session, many attendees shared that they appreciated this type of program, as they had never had a chance to discuss how they felt regarding connecting to the young adult community and their needs as Jewish young adults.

We also hosted trivia night and a BBQ Bonfire Havdalah as part of our *HOT Spots of NOVA* program. *HOT Spots of NOVA* introduces our members to the venues in Northern Virginia they may not have discovered on their own. We carpooled over to Krop's Krops in McLean and enjoyed s'mores, roasting hot dogs on sticks, and singing around the bonfire.

This year Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation generously donated 70 High Holy Day tickets to young adults in the community. We came together for a Rosh Hashanah Day lunch, and braved the rain to participate in a meditation and Tashlich at Lake Fairfax with rabbinic intern Rachel Silverstein.

Our first innovative visual, musical, and interactive Shabbat service was held this past October, and we had 62 participants join us for an Indian Summer-themed evening, where we also learned about the Jews of India and had the chance to decorate our hands with henna.

Later in the month, we came together to sample festive

beers on tap at World of Beer, and to raise money and collect snack bag items for the Forest Edge Backpack Program. NOVA Tribe has raised funds or donated items for the program totaling \$1,000 this past year.

We met before Thanksgiving for our last Second Saturday Havdalah of the year and celebrated "Friendsgiving" with a text-study discussion centered on friendship led by Rachel Silverstein, plenty of Thanksgiving-esque foods to nosh on, a gift exchange, and photo booth with silly props.

Our last event before our Newsletter went to print was a trip to Studio Theatre to see the play *Bad Jews*. After the play, we met with actors **Alex Mandell** and **Maggie Erwin** to discuss their roles. All of our attendees were in agreement that they connected to the play in some way, as the main characters were in their 20s, and struggling with issues related to their Jewish identities.

A consistent theme I noticed regarding attendee discussions this past fall was the topic of belonging. Whether we were discussing how welcoming and inclusive smaller NOVA Tribe events can be for a newcomer during our Bringing Young Adults Back break-out session, or reflecting on the play *Bad Jews*, it made some of us realize we may be the only family members who will pass on Jewish traditions and values to our future children.

I explored the subject of belonging in my December blog post *Meeting Millennials Where They Are: Belonging & Young Adult Engagement* and posed such questions as: How can NVHC members help young adults strengthen their Jewish identities, and how can young adults find ways to give back to their local community and NVHC? Should NOVA Tribe

(Continued on page 11)



BBQ & Bonfire Havdalah



Shawn Tiernan, Stacy Wolfe, Jaime Bernstein & Dan Bernstein at Second Saturday Havdalah Friendsgiving



Second Saturday Havdalah Friendsgiving discussion with Rachel Silverstein

help compile a list of all volunteer opportunities young adults can participate in at NVHC, or would NVHC members and young adults alike benefit from a mentorship program?

I invite you to join me in the discussion of how we can increase Jewish belonging for this age group and build bridges between generations, NVHC, and the Northern Virginia community at large.

Please feel free to get in touch with me at stacy@nvhcreston.org, and as always, if you know young adults (22-39) who would be interested in our programs, they can contact me at the email above, or find out more on the NVHC young adult section of the website: www.novatribeseries.com. ♦

Upcoming Events

Dates Subject to Change

JAN 9TH: Second Saturday Havdalah

JAN 15TH: Third Thursday: NOVA Tribe YJP Network

JAN 18TH: HOT Spots of NOVA Ice Skating at Reston
Town Center

JAN 24TH: NOVA Couples

FEB 4TH: Lox Meets Bagel 3: Let Your Love Bloom for
Tu b'Shevat

FEB 19TH: Third Thursday: NOVA Tribe YJP Network

FEB 20TH: TGIF! Shabbat: Have a Heart

MAR 7TH: DC Purim Bash

Social Action – Forest Edge

FOOD FOR CHARITY – A FAMILY AFFAIR

By Lauren Fisher Newberg

As many of you know, a group of us participates in an initiative to collect food and pack bags for underprivileged students at Forest Edge Elementary School who receive subsidized meals during the school day and would not otherwise have enough food to eat over the weekends. As a community, NVHC families and the TAMID students pack more than 500 weekend food bags each month. This project is special because it directly benefits students our kids' ages in our own community...and because of that, the acute need itself - which otherwise might seem remote and unlikely - hits close to home. When we explained the project to our girls at the beginning of last year, they were at first incredulous that children right here in Reston might be faced with hungry weekends. Our then 1st and 4th graders had many questions about how that could be and why more wasn't being done to help those less fortunate, and they wanted to help. So, we started to help - as a family.

While my husband and I are the ones who shop for food

items to donate each month, we have made the monthly food packing a family activity. We have learned how to haul the food into our packing room, organize the food into an assembly line, pack the Ziploc bags so that they zip easily, load the plastic tubs for transport, fold and recycle the cardboard boxes, and record the leftover items for later use. By contributing an hour of our time each month, we make a difference.

So, we have made it our family thing. When it's time to do the food packing, we go. We go because it helps people in need, because it helps kids in our community, because our tummies aren't hungry on the weekends, and theirs shouldn't be either...and because it's the Jewish thing to do.

Please consider contributing food, helping with the delivery of the food or the pickup of the empty bins, joining us for the packing of the bags. The next bag packing days are Sunday, January 25th and February 22nd, right after Kehilat Limmud. Come join us - it will make you feel good, and it will feed some hungry kids just around the corner. ♦

Social Action

WARM FOOD FOR COLD NIGHTS

Back again for the ninth 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: **January 5th and 19th, February 2nd and 16th, and March 2nd, 16th and 30th (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. ♦

SISTERHOOD NEWS

By Gail Dezube • Board Administrator

In January, we, as Jews, get to celebrate the New Year, 2015, along with everyone else in the world. That's in addition to the celebration of 5775 - the Jewish New Year that began just a few months ago. On February 4th, we have the opportunity to celebrate Tu B'Shvat, also known as the New Year for Trees. That's a lot of "new!"

For Sisterhood, since the beginning of the (Jewish) year, we've had programs to enrich us women and the entire congregation. Socially, we enjoyed a gorgeous day at a local winery, saw the *Capital Steps* in a joint collaboration with the Brotherhood, and shared a meal at the Annual Membership Dinner. We've worked at Women Giving Back, donated cell phones for JCADA, collected toiletries for the local shelter, and supported our veterans with vases for flowers.

The new secular year promises to be an exciting one as well. There are two programs in January to start us off. On Thursday evening, January 15th, we'll discuss the book *Little Failure: A Memoir*, and share in each other's company at a potluck dinner preceding the discussion. Come for the dinner, the discussion, or both! On Sunday afternoon, January

25th, we'll have a seminar and tasting of *Teas From Around the Globe*. Savor some tea and sweets, and connect with old or new friends.

Our Sisterhood is blessed with a vibrant and eager Board. In November, at the Mid-Atlantic Women of Reform Judaism Board Installation, three of our Board members were honored with awards. **Ellen Ranard**, current Social Action Chair, was named as an Emerging Leader for her valuable contribution. Both **Deede Snowwhite**, our Corresponding Secretary, and **Isabel Einzig-Wein**, our past president and present Leadership Council Facilitator, had the wonderful distinction of being awarded the Women of Valor for contributing their expertise to the NVHC Sisterhood.

If you are *not* a member of Sisterhood, do something "new" for yourself and see what we have to offer - and what you have to offer to us. If you *are* a current member, please join us this year in any or all of the activities and mitzvot that the Sisterhood participates in. Make this New Year a special one! ♦

Sisterhood Mah Jongg Tournament

Calling all Mah Jongg players

The Fourth 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, February 15th**, 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 **February 1st** 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. ♦

Sisterhood Members - We're your cup of tea!



Tea Tastings and Seminar: Teas From Around the Globe

Sunday, January 25

2:00 to 4:00 PM

Private Home in Reston

RSVP: Sisterhoodprograms@NVHC.org
by January 15

Cost \$20.00

NVHC Sisterhood's Annual Mah Jongg Tournament



Where:

NVHC Multi-Purpose Room

When:

Sunday, February 15th

12:30pm—Registration

**1:00pm—Play (3 rounds of 4
games, 55 minutes per round)**

4:15pm—Prizes Awarded

Fabulous cash prizes for the winners!

Cost:

\$25.00— NVHC Congregants; Sisterhood/Brotherhood

\$30.00—Non-Members

Contact: mahjongg@nvhereston.org

REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 1



--- Registration Form ---

Name:

Phone:

E-Mail:

Amount Enclosed:

*Please send form to NVHC address listed below, attention Joanne Schamest.

Checks should be made out to NVHC Sisterhood. I will bring a mah jongg set ____.

NVHC Sisterhood. Isabel Einzig-Wein, Facilitator

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


NORTHERN VIRGINIA
HEBREW CONGREGATION

JEWISH COOKING MADE EASY: COMFORT FOODS FROM SCRATCH

Back by popular demand ... our Jewish Cooking series. This year we will focus on familiar comfort foods made from scratch! The classes will be led by NVHC's top chefs who will show you how it's done and how to make it easy!

You may register for individual sessions or register for the entire series and save 10%.

Limited space is available; please register early!

FEE: \$18 MEMBERS, \$24 NON-MEMBERS (per class)

When: Thursdays 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Check <input type="checkbox"/> Selection(s)	Session Date	Description	Lead Cook	Enter Fee
<input type="checkbox"/>	January 22nd	Gefilte Fish	Nina Kwartin	\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	February 19th	Chicken Soup with Matzah Balls	Madeleine Abel	\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	March 19th	Passover Cookies	Mariel Barnes	\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	April 30th	Challah	Nina Kwartin	\$
TOTAL \$				_____

These are hands-on classes – come prepared to get messy!

JEWISH COOKING MADE EASY

Name: _____ Member: _____ Non-member: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

JEWISH FILM SERIES 2014-2015

The NVHC Film Series presents films on Jewish themes, followed by a group discussion. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month in the NVHC multi-purpose room. The films are shown on a 6-foot-wide screen. The film series is open to anyone interested: members and non-members, Jews and non-Jews.

We gather at 11:30 a.m., allowing time to eat (please bring a dairy lunch) before we view the film. We provide coffee, tea, and a sweet. The suggested donation for the film series is \$3 per film.

Date	Film Title	Description
January 13	<i>Tanta Agua</i> (2013, Uruguay)	What can be worse than being 14 and going on vacation with your father? Taking your children on vacation and not being able to go out because of the rain.
February 10	<i>Broken Wings</i> (2002, Israel)	The unexpected death of the family patriarch throws every member of the Ullmann clan off course. Mother struggles to keep family afloat.
March 10 April 14 May 12	<i>Story of the Jews</i> (2014, PBS)	A five-part look at 3000 years of Jewish history, culture and identity, shown in 3 sessions.
June 9	<i>The Year My Parents Went on Vacation</i> (2006, Brazil)	A boy is left alone in a Jewish neighborhood in the year 1970 in Brazil, where both World Cup hysteria and a nasty dictatorship are in progress. Coming of age story.

All titles will be available to borrow from the NVHC library after they are shown at the Film Series.

In case of inclement weather, we follow Fairfax County Public School closings. 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.

1441 Wiehle Ave, Reston VA 20190 703-437-7733, info@nvhcreston.org

JEWISH STUDIES FOR ADULTS - WINTER 2015

Our classes are open to anyone interested in learning Hebrew or continuing their Hebrew education: members and non-members, Jews and non-Jews.

Psalms in the Jewish Tradition. The Book of Psalms is a unique and fascinating book in the Hebrew Bible. Repetitive, cryptic and difficult to understand, it has served as inspiration for much of our prayer service and has been a staple of Jewish prayer in every age. Many basic ideas of the Jewish tradition have their origin in the Book of Psalms. In this class we will look at the basic forms of biblical poetry, how they might have been used in the second Temple period, and how they have been integrated into more modern Jewish traditions, including our prayer service. Studying a few psalms each week, we will delve deeply into their meaning drawing on the scholarship of Robert Alter and others.

Prerequisite: None. **When:** Sundays, 9:30-10:45 a.m., 12 weeks, 1/11-4/19 (No class 2/15, 3/29, 4/5)

Instructor: ADAM COHN **COURSE FEE:** \$120 MEMBERS, \$156 NON-MEMBERS, TAMID STUDENTS: FREE

The Book of Judges The seventh book of the Hebrew Bible contains the history of Biblical judges, divinely inspired leaders whose direct knowledge of God allows them to act as champions for the Israelites from oppression by foreign rulers, and models of wise and faithful behavior required of them by God following the exodus from Egypt and conquest of Canaan. The events of *Judges* are set between the late 14th to the early 11th century BCE. This class will take a detailed look at the book and its relationship to the rest of the Biblical text as well as its relationship to the archeological evidence.

Prerequisites: None. **When:** Sundays, 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m., 12 weeks, 1/11-4/19 (No class 2/15, 3/29, 4/5)

Instructor: ADAM COHN **COURSE FEE:** \$120 MEMBERS, \$156 NON-MEMBERS, TAMID STUDENTS: FREE

JEWISH STUDIES FOR ADULTS - WINTER 2015

Name: _____ Member: _____ Non-Member: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Course Name: _____

Check <input type="checkbox"/> to enroll	Course Title	Session Day/Time
<input type="checkbox"/>	Psalms in the Jewish Tradition	Sun 9:30 a.m.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Book of Judges	Sun 11:00 a.m.

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

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

LIFELONG LEARNING PRESENTS ...

THE POETRY OF YEHUDA AMICHAI

A Lunch and Learn Program

Yehuda Amichai (1924-2000) is recognized as one of Israel's finest poets. His poems – written in Hebrew – have been translated into forty languages. He was one of the first modern poets to write in colloquial Hebrew. His poetry deals with issues of day-to-day life, and with philosophical issues of the meaning of life and death. His work is characterized by gentle irony and original, often surprising imagery.

Instructor: Rabbi Emerita Rosalind Gold **Fee:** Members \$18, Non-members \$25.

When: Thursdays: January 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Name: _____ Member: _____ Non-member: _____

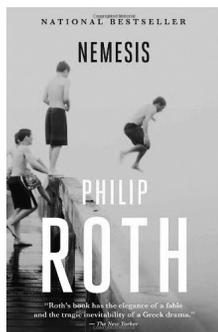
Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

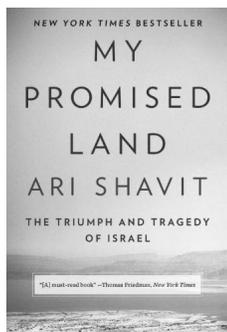
Send registration form and check payable to NVHC to: Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Avenue, Reston, VA 20190

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



January 3rd. *Nemesis*, by Philip Roth. 280 pp. Fiction. In 1944, Newark Bucky Cantor, at 23, is a freshly minted physical education teacher and summertime playground director. Life's dealt him some blows: his mother died in childbirth; his father, a thief, exited the picture long ago. Worse, to his anguish and disgrace, Bucky's poor vision keeps him from going to fight the Germans alongside his best buddies — alongside, for that matter, "all the able-bodied men his age." But life's dealt him blessings, too, prominent among these the grandparents who raised him: the immigrant grandfather who encouraged him "to stand up for himself as a man and to stand up for himself as a Jew," and his grandmother, a "tender-hearted little woman" with whom he is living in their tenement flat when the story begins. He has a girl he loves, prospective in-laws thrilled to welcome him into their family, and solid aspirations of becoming a high school athletic coach. He's blessed, too, with an awareness of his blessings, a sense not only of gratitude for them but also of the obligation they confer, and it emerges that this sense of obligation is what allows him to withstand his disappointments; indeed, to flourish within his circumscribed world.



February 7th. *My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel*, by Ari Shavit. 464 pp. History/Memoir. Shavit is a dreamer with an addiction to reality. He holds out for affirmation without illusion. His book is an extended test of his own capacity to maintain his principles in full view of the brutality that surrounds them. "For as long as I can remember, I remember fear," his book begins. And a few pages later: "For as long as I can remember, I remember occupation." No satisfactory account of the Israeli situation can be given without this double-mindedness, not least because the present-day debate about Israel consists largely of an argument between those who wish to ignore one of the terms and those who wish to ignore the other. ♦

Yom Hashoah

YOM HASHOAH REMEMBRANCE EVENT TO FEATURE CHORAL TRIBUTE UNDER DIRECTION OF CAROL FRAM

By Marjina Kaplan

"From the time of the Holocaust until today, Jews have struggled to find meaning in what they experienced. They explained and described almost every detail, depicting, or even reconstructing, a world that to us is only vaguely familiar. They've written stories, memoirs and plays. They've painted, and they've composed music. It follows then, that when the Jewish community felt the need to annually commemorate the events of the Holocaust and to memorialize the Jews who perished, it was...the survivors themselves who we looked up to for structure and meaning."

These are the thoughts of Jeremy Kay, executive director of the Library of the Holocaust Foundation and a member of the Jewish Community Relations Council's Holocaust Commission.

Each year, the JCRC presents a program during which survivors and their descendants reconfirm the legacy of the Holocaust. On the evening of April 19, 2015, such an event will be co-sponsored by the JCRC and the Northern Virginia Jewish Community Center, and will take place at the NVJCC. This year's theme is *The Psychology of Scapegoating*,

and the program will honor Holocaust survivors by bringing together clergy and congregations from across the Northern Virginia area.

Carol Fram, longtime Choir Director of NVHC's Kol Shirah adult choir, has been selected to conduct a musical portion of the program. Under her direction, singers from Jewish choirs throughout the region will offer a choral remembrance of the Shoah. Singers will begin rehearsals in early 2015, and complete details of the program will be included in the March/April issue of NVHC Links. ♦

NVHC CARES SHARES OUR FAVORITE RECIPES

By Robbie Kaplan • NVHC Cares Chair

NVHC Cares provides members with meals when they're facing difficult times. The NVHC Cares leadership team has created a pack of five recipe cards with recipes that we make when we prepare meals for our families and our NVHC community. You'll find a variety of soups, stew, salad, and main dishes that are easy to prepare, require few ingredients, and best of all, they're delicious! Please make them for your own family, and we hope you can find the time to volunteer to make a meal for our meals program, whether it is a favorite recipe of yours or ours. Stop by the NVHC main office and ask for a pack. ♦

LIFELONG LEARNING PRESENTS ...

THE B'NAI MITZVAH PARENTS CLASS - WINTER 2015



This class is for parents of students who will become B'nai Mitzvah in the near future. In five sessions, the class discusses the meaning of this life cycle event and the mitzvah of celebrating Shabbat, provides information about your responsibilities and the sequence of your child's preparation, explains the structure of the worship service and the Reform siddur, and provides an opportunity to prepare a d'var torah. The class blends structured teaching, practical advice, and shared experiences. The goal is to make the B'nai Mitzvah a deeply meaningful experience for the whole family and to perpetuate the spirit of Jewish community and tradition.

Past participants in the class, both Jewish and non-Jewish parents, report that the sessions helped them to feel better prepared, gave them an opportunity to talk with other pre-B'nai Mitzvah parents, and taught them numerous aspects of the tradition and liturgy involved in this life cycle event.

COURSE FEE: \$40 PER FAMILY

INSTRUCTOR: JUDY NAIMAN judith.naiman@gmail.com.

WHEN: Sundays 11:05 a.m.-12:05 p.m., January 11th, 18th, February 1st, 8th, 22nd

B'NAI MITZVAH PARENTS CLASS REGISTRATION FORM COURSE FEE: \$40 PER FAMILY

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Child's Name _____ Bar Mitzvah Date: _____

Send registration form and payment to temple office:
Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation,
1441 Wiehle Avenue, Reston, VA 20190

SAVE THE DATE!

YOM HASHOAH - April 19, 2015

Come hear *Kol Shirah* and other area choirs – Carol Fram, Director.

See page 16 for more information!

HEBREW FOR ADULTS WINTER 2015

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

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.

Beginning Hebrew. Learn to read Hebrew – No previous experience required. 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.

Prerequisites: None.

Fee: \$120 Members \$156 Non-Members

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

MORNING SECTION

When: Mondays, 9:30-10:45 a.m., 12 weeks, 1/26 - 4/27 (no class 2/16, 3/30)

Instructor: Yehudit Shem-Tov

EVENING SECTION

When: Mondays, 7:00 - 8:15 p.m., 12 weeks, 1/26 - 4/27 (no class 2/16, 3/30)

Instructor: Susan Trivers

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.

This session will focus on **The Shema and Its Blessings:** *Shema, V'avavta, Barchu, Ma'ariv Aravim, Yotzer Or, Mi Chamocha, Hashkiveinu*. The class may also include additional prayers as desired by the students.

Prerequisites: Ability to read Hebrew phonetically (Beginning Hebrew or equivalent)

Fee: \$120 Members \$156 Non-Members

When: Sundays, 9:30-10:45 a.m., 12 weeks, 1/11-4/26 (No class 1/18, 2/15, 3/29, 4/5)

Instructor: Miriam Wolman

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

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

Advanced Prayer Hebrew. 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.

Prerequisites: Prayer Hebrew or equivalent. Ability to read Hebrew and familiarity with basic prayer vocabulary.

When: Thursdays, 7:00-8:15 p.m., 12 weeks, 1/8-3/26

Instructor: Elizabeth Lacher

Fee: \$120 Members \$156 Non-Members

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

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

(Continued on page 19)

**HEBREW FOR ADULTS
WINTER 2015 (CONTINUED)**

MODERN HEBREW

Introduction to Modern Hebrew, Part 2. Learn conversational Hebrew, basic Hebrew grammar, and read and write in script.

Prerequisite: Ability to read Hebrew phonetically, familiarity with basic Hebrew vocabulary, and ability to write in script.

When: Sundays, 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m., 12 weeks, 1/11-4/19 (No class 2/15, 3/29, 4/5)

Instructor: Yehudit Shem-Tov

Fee: \$120 Members \$156 Non-Members

Text: Hebrew: *A Language Course Primer*, \$13.95

Advanced Modern Hebrew. This class will expand the student's ability to read, write, speak, and comprehend Modern Hebrew. This course will introduce students to the future tense. Students will practice conversational skills, 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.

Prerequisites: Intermediate Modern Hebrew or equivalent. Familiarity with conversational Hebrew, grammar, and conjugation of present and past tense.

When: Tuesdays, 7:45 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., 12 weeks, 1/13 - 4/14 (No class 3/3, 3/31)

Instructor: Yehudit Shem-Tov

Fee: \$120 Members \$156 Non-Members

Text: *Hebrew from Scratch: Part 2*, \$40.00

HEBREW FOR ADULTS - WINTER 2015

Name: _____ Member: _____ Non-Member: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Check <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> to enroll	Course Title	Start date	Session Day/Time	Enter Course Fee	Enter Text Fee (if applicable)
	Beginning Hebrew	1/26	Mon 9:30 a.m.		
	Beginning Hebrew	1/26	Mon 7:00 p.m.		
	Prayer Hebrew I: Shema and Its Blessings	1/11	Sun 9:30 a.m.		
	Advanced Prayer Hebrew	1/8	Thu 7:00 p.m.		
	Modern Hebrew I	1/11	Sun 11:00 a.m.		
	Advanced Modern Hebrew	1/13	Tue 7:45 p.m.		

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

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

NVHC Brotherhood



Brotherhood Family Breakfast
Sunday, January 25th & February 22nd, 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!*

NVHC CELEBRATES AND SUPPORTS ISRAEL WITH THIRD ISRAELI ART FESTIVAL

By Nancy Kruger • Chair, Israeli Art Festival

On Saturday evening, and Sunday, November 15th and 16th, NVHC's Social Hall became a colorful and lively marketplace, filled with the beautiful paintings, weavings, jewelry, Judaica, photographs, candles, stained glass and other crafts of more than 20 Israeli artists from Safed and beyond as well as wines from seven Israeli vineyards. NVHC's third Israeli Art Festival also included a Saturday evening full of Israeli and Jewish culture including food, folk dancing, arts and crafts, a pita-making demonstration and a standing-room-only Havdalah, as well as a Sunday afternoon of films and discussions about contemporary issues in Israel. The Festival kicked off at Erev Shabbat services on November 14th, with guest speaker Nir Nitzan – a self-described “ordinary Israeli” and tour company owner who has guided two NVHC congregational trips, and numerous personal trips by NVHC congregants – who spoke about the Gaza war.

The Israeli Art Festival provided NVHC with an opportunity to support not only Israeli artists, who have suffered serious economic consequences due to the dropoff in tourism because of the war, but also the Forest Edge Elementary School weekend meals program that provides food for Reston children from low-income families. In addition, it provided an excellent shopping opportunity and was a wonderful way for members of our community to have fun together, socialize and meet some Israeli artists including Yair and Elai Moore, weavers from the Canaan Gallery in Safed, and Sivan Yishai from Neta Wolpe Fine Art Jewelry in Tel Aviv. In all respects, the Festival was a huge success!

From a financial perspective, the art sale earned over \$38,000, most of which went to the Israeli artists, who are immensely grateful. As for *tikkun olam* in Reston, we raised a spectacular total of nearly \$7,000 for the Forest Edge weekend meal program – from the remaining art sale proceeds, additional donations made at the Festival and food sales on Saturday evening. These funds will go a long way in helping NVHC continue to provide meals for 225 Reston children two weekends a month.

Many, many thanks to so many people who helped make the Israeli Art Festival such a great event: Cookie Mandell, who was the staff lead for the event, and poured her heart, soul and many

amazing talents – not to mention muscle power, literally and figuratively – into making sure the Festival would be a hit on every level; Miriam Wolman, Judy Naiman and Cindi Drake, who served on the planning committee and who are thinkers and “doers” of the very best kind; Jon Groisser, who set up and managed the art sale payment system so that every single penny was properly accounted for; the dozens and dozens of volunteers who were so giving of their time in setting up, greeting, running activities, selling, cashiering and cleaning up; the NVHC clergy and other staff, who enthusiastically supported the Festival; and the incredible NVHC community, who shopped, ate and participated with such gusto and generosity and welcomed our Israeli guests so warmly. Special thanks also to ArtSpace Herndon, which generously lent NVHC professional art display panels. (If you're not familiar with ArtSpace Herndon, it's a community gallery that serves as a gathering place for celebrating the arts and provides opportunities for local artists and performers to showcase their work. Check it out at <http://www.artspaceherndon.com>).

Finally, be on the lookout for new Israeli artwork on the walls of NVHC. The NVHC Art Committee purchased several beautiful pieces – by Morris Dahan, Ludmila Feigin and Yaakov Kaszemacher – with funds donated to the NVHC Art Fund. ♦

Eric Forman Awarded the 2015 Marc Bachman Award



The Marc Bachman Award is presented annually by the Brotherhood to an NVHC member, who, through his or her commitment to the synagogue and personal attributes, reflects the qualities of service to community, and high moral standards, of Judaism.

Brotherhood presented this prestigious award at the annual meeting this December to Eric Forman. Eric has been a member of NVHC for over 40 years, and served in numerous leadership positions. He served on the Board of Trustees for many, many years, including as vice-president and president. He was president when we hired Rabbi Gold, and during the construction of the synagogue building. In addition, Eric has served on the Finance Committee for over 20 years, and was its Co-Chair. He served on the transition committee when Rabbi Nosanchuk was hired. This past year, he was the Chair of the Constitution Task Force. Eric continues to be active in the temple on the Finance Committee and the Distinguished Speaker Committee. Our congratulations and thanks to Eric.

Previous recipients of the Bachman award have been: Nancy Kruger, Andy Lacher, Judy Naiman, Ken Gubin, Jonathan Groisser, Ruth & Seldon Kruger, Nell Hirsch, Hana Newcomb, Stuart Williger, Carol Fram, Ted Smith, Elizabeth Lacher and Ed & Sandee Byrne. ♦

STARTING OFF A GREAT YEAR

By Sheila Budoff

Happy New Year! I hope that 2015 is a wonderful year for everyone, filled with peace, good health, happiness, and all the people and things that make your life meaningful and filled with purpose and joy!

The JCCNV/NVHC Active Adults are getting off to a great start with some fabulous programs in January and February. I hope one of your new year's resolutions will be to join us on the fourth Tuesday of every month to see old friends, meet new ones, hear interesting and engaging speakers on a wide variety of relevant, important and fun topics, go on trips to shows and museums, view films, and lots, lots more! If you have ideas and suggestions of programs you'd like to see in 2015 and beyond, please let me know!

Here's what's coming up in January and February:

Tuesday, January 27th, 10:30 a.m.-noon

Personal Health Care Records

Presented by Marie Woodard, R.N., Thrive at Home

Empower yourself! The Fairfax County Long Term Care Coordinating Council (LTCCC) is encouraging everyone to be proactive about their health by learning how to maintain a personal health care record (PHR). A PHR collects all your important medical information, such as medical history, current medications, surgeries, procedures and tests, in one place. It can be a paper record, online, or whatever method works best for you. Marie Woodard, a nurse with Thrive at Home and a member of the LTCCC, will teach us how to create and update a PHR. Please attend this very important session! Having a PHR could help save your life in the event of an emergency, prevent problems with medications, allergies and certain procedures, and save you money and time by preventing duplicate tests.

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

Tuesday, February 24th, 10:30 a.m.-noon

Turning the Tide: The D-Day Landings of June 6, 1944

Presented by Jim Lewis, local historian

The D-Day landings of June 6, 1944, were one of the most significant moments of the Second World War, and marked the point when the combined military force of the Western allies were finally brought to bear fully against Germany. The landings were the largest single-day amphibious assault in history; by the end of the day, 156,000 men had landed in Normandy. Support for the operation was also massive, including 11,590 aircraft making 14,674 sorties in a single day and 195,700 men manning nearly 6,000 ships of all sizes. Facing them was a supposedly impregnable sea wall of fortifications and the formidable German army. Mr. Lewis will discuss the incredible obstacles faced by "our boys" at this critical turning point of the war.

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

SAVE THE DATE!

ISRAEL TRAVEL - TRIP PLANNING FOR 2015-2016

Wednesday, January 21, 2015, 6:30 p.m.



SOFER VISITS NVHC, ASSESSES TORAHS' CONDITION

By Ted Smith • NVHC Librarian

In early September, Rabbi Kevin Hale, a Sofer STaM (certified Torah scribe), visited NVHC and assessed the condition of our three Torahs. Rabbi Hale is on the short list of scribes approved by the Memorial Scrolls Trust in London, the owner of our Czech scroll.

Our previous sofer, Rabbi Menachem Youlus, was also on the approved list until he was tried and convicted in 2012 of wire and mail fraud. He sold more than 50 antique East European Torahs available on the U.S. market as survivors of the Holocaust (one of which landed in NVHC), and he diverted funds to his personal use from a foundation he established to rescue Holocaust Torahs. He is currently serving a 51-month sentence in a federal prison in Otisville, NY, and will be released in August 2016.

Rabbi Hale began with the Czech Torah, which NVHC obtained on loan from London in 1970. He said the scroll was largely written in the mid-18th century in a kabbalistic style in a script similar to that used in medieval Germany, with some panels inserted written in other manuscript traditions. Three styles of *taggin* (decorative crowns) are found on letters that normally take *taggin* as well as on others. There are many embellished letters, stretched letters, and enlarged letters. The scroll has other characteristics that are found in kabbalistic Torahs, including right-hand indentations, single line breaks, and large and small letters that are not rabbinically required. The parchment is fine and thin, which accounts for the scroll's

relatively light weight, despite its size. The *atzei chaim* (rollers) are old and ornately carved, but probably are not original to the scroll.

For the most part, the lettering is in good condition. In *Bereshit* (Genesis) there is moderate flaking of letters. Since the flaking is ongoing, the scroll is at risk of becoming *pasul* (ritually unfit) if the lettering is not restored. The thinness of the parchment together with improper rolling of the scroll over the past 40 years have led to severe wrinkling and creasing, particularly at the end of *Bamidbar* (Numbers), and beginning of *Devarim* (Deuteronomy). At this point in the scroll, there are also dark stains of a splattered substance—possibly animal urine or mold—which probably is an artifact of the 20 years of inadequate storage by the Czechoslovak authorities before the Torah was redeemed in 1964.

Following his inspection, Rabbi Hale re-sewed numerous seams that were either coming apart or had been improperly sewn (including one seam using cotton thread that had been done in the early years of NVHC's custodianship—only thread made from dried kosher animal gut can be used for this purpose). He also flattened the most severe creases and patched some of the older creases where the parchment had been weakened.

The Memorial Scrolls Trust places a ceiling value of \$25,000 on its Torahs. Given the provenance of NVHC's scroll, its ancient Ashkenazi script, and ornate rollers, it is irreplaceable, but a replacement value for insurance purposes would be \$75,000.

A Note in Passing

NVHC launched its initiative to obtain a Czech Torah from the Memorial Scrolls Trust in the late 1960s, thanks to an initiative by the members of Sisterhood. Among them was Judy Gardner, later an officer and president of Sisterhood, an NVHC officer and Board member in her own right, and the wife of Bob Gardner, NVHC president and Board member in the 1970s. Judy died in November. We mourn her passing and extend our sympathy to her family.

Rabbi Hale then assessed the *Samarkand* (or heavy) Torah purchased by NVHC from a reputable New York dealer in 1988 with the assistance of Rabbi Bernard Honan, a Reform sofer. The scroll is written in Polish *Beit Yosef* script dating from the mid- to late-19th century. In some places there are panels written by two other hands, one heavy but fine, the other of poor quality, presumably replacing damaged panels. Overall, the scroll is in good condition, as befits a Torah that is seldom used because of its weight. Some lettering repair is needed, especially in *Shemot* (Exodus), *Vayikra* (Leviticus), and *Bamidbar* (portion *Naso*). Several dozen straps in all the books, except *Vayikra*, need to be replaced, and there needs to be some sewing of broken or loose seams. The first three books would also benefit from a cleaning.

The current market value of the scroll is \$14,000, but once restored, it would be \$18,000.

Rabbi Hale finished his assessment with the light (or *Youlus*) Torah, which NVHC purchased in 2001, and which, because of its light weight, is our most heavily used scroll. He said most of the scroll was written between 1825 and 1850 in a classic Polish *Beit Yosef* script. There are at least three different hands, as sections have been replaced by panels from one or more other scrolls and scripts. Overall the scroll is quite dirty and unrestored. There is some oxidation/reddening of letters, and many letters are thin and hollow. Most of the lettering repair would be in *Shemot* (*Shirat ha-Yam*, and one poorly written replacement panel), *Bamidbar* (sections before portion *Beha'alotcha*), and *Devarim* (especially replacement panels). Cleaning would focus on *Bereshit*, *Shemot*, and *Vayikra*, while particular attention would need to be paid to portion *Pinchas* in *Bamidbar*. Some re-sewing of seams is called for in *Shemot*, *Bamidbar*, and *Devarim*.

The current market value of the scroll is \$12,000, but once restored, it would be \$18,000.

To put these valuations in perspective, new scrolls may range in cost from about \$35,000, up to \$100,000. There has been some decline in these valuations in recent years, reflecting fluctuations in the supply of and demand for Torahs, as well as the ups and downs in the general economy. ♦

Growing the Fruits of Community

9TH ANNUAL SILENT & LIVE AUCTION

May 16, 2015

SAVE
THE
DATE

עת לנטוע

(eit lintoa)

A Time to Plant



NORTHERN VIRGINIA HEBREW CONGREGATION

High Holiday Appeal



Richard & Susan Ammerman
Robert & Debbie Becker
David & Francine Beifeld
Harvey & Janice Berger

Jeffrey & Tracy Dlott
Stuart Dornfeld
& Emily Booth-Dornfeld
Eric & Elizabeth Eisenstadt
Craig & Nina Falci
Roderic & Dena Fleisher
Stuart & Andrea Gavurin
Bruce & Brandy Goldfeder
Steve & Linda Gordon
Ken & Fay Gubin
James & Ronni Hargrove
Don & Nell Hirsch
Roy & Jean Horowitz
Al & Gwen Kaltman
Ron & Sandy Kanfer
Jim & Robbie Kaplan
Vivian Kramish
Nancy Kruger
Seldon & Ruth Kruger

Michael Lipsky & Mariette Newcomb
Paul & Cookie Mandell
David McCue & Lori Lefcourt
Marc & Kay Menchel
Richard & Cynthia Michelson
Charles & Sandy Mitchell
Howard & Heidi Mitnick
Peggy Nelson
Arthur & Nancy Novick
Martin & Carol Piccus
Leslie & Marcia Platt
John Pracher & Amy Reich
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Allan & Barbara Ratner
Norman Reich
Ivette Retrey-Golinsky
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Robert & Eileen Stein
Andrew & Ellice Stern
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Susan Trivers
Herb VanHook
& Madeleine Abel
JP & Judith Villedrouin
Doris Weisman
Howard & Carolyn Wesoky
Jonathan & Hilary Wilkenfeld
Samuel & Evelyn Wilson

Donate to NVHC Online

Itching to donate to one of NVHC's many funds, or to remember or thank someone? Now it's easier. The NVHC website has been enabled to accept donations. Donations are processed through PayPal, using your own credit card or by establishing a PayPal account, at no cost to the donor, and are encrypted for security. Go to www.nvhcreston.org and click on the Donations link listed on the left-hand column of the home page.

Tzedakah: We Thank Our Generous Contributors

Ark Fund

Andy and Susan Cohen
Hannah Grausz
John Grausz
Jon Groisser and Hana Newcomb
Nancy Kruger
Marc and Kay Menchel
Adam and Kelly Schulman
David Selden and Julie Wallick
Elise Stein and Scott Sunshine
Stu Williger

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

John Grausz...in memory of Kate Grausz
Jack and Jennifer Tarr...in memory of Howard Ray Siegel

Caring Committee Fund

Steve and Florrie Cohen...in memory of Ann Blume
Al and Lynne Groff...in memory of Ann Blume
Don and Nell Hirsch...in memory of Ann Blume
Leslie and Marcia Platt...in memory of Ann Blume
Robert and Phyllis Stein...in memory of Ann Blume
Jeffrey and Jolly Wheeler
Bruce and Mary York...in memory of Maggie York

Choir Fund

Rich and Cindy Michelson...in memory of Marcia Lederer
Leslie and Marcia Platt...in memory of Bertha Zalkin
Sy and Roberta Sherman...in memory of Sol Hirsch, Ann Blume,
and Leon Groisser, and in honor of Elise Stein and Scott Sunshine's
engagement

College Outreach

Steve and Linda Gordon...in memory of Leon Groisser and Sol Hirsch
Pracher/Reich Family...in memory of Wally Reich

Ellen Reich Early Childhood Teacher Education Fund

Michael and Judy Baskin...in memory of Rose Baskin

Stephen and Janet Braverman...in memory of Ann Blume
Steve and Florrie Cohen...in memory of Ann Blume
Robert and Shirley Finkelstein...in memory of Ann Blume
Carol Isaacs...in memory of Ann Blume
Michael and Carol Flicker...in memory of Ann Blume
Ken and Fay Gubin...in memory of Ann Blume
Mark and Judi Ornoff...in memory of Ann Blume
Allan and Barbara Ratner...in memory of Ann Blume
Norman Reich...in memory of Ann Blume
Victor Ronin & Olena Bilyk...in memory of Anna Ronina
Robert and Ellen Rugel...in memory of Ann Blume
Stephen and Abbey Siciliano...in memory of Ann Blume
Marvin and Karen Singer...in memory of Ann Blume

Fran Gibbs Preschool Scholarship Fund

Alan & Harriette Cohen...in honor of Kayla and Ethan Hahm

Library Fund

Tony and Alison Martin...in memory of Selig Hersch
Leslie and Marcia Platt...in memory of Leon Groisser
Ted Smith and Rosalind Gold...in memory of Sol Hirsch, Ann Blume,
and Leon Groisser

Lou Gold Children's Music Fund

Moshe Ben-Lev and Vivian Levi...in memory of Sol Hirsch
Joe and Sandra Blumberg...in memory of Sol Hirsch, Ann Blume, and
Seymour Berg
Jeff and Tracy Dlott...in memory of Sol Hirsch
Eric and Karen Forman...in memory of Sol Hirsch
Ken and Fay Gubin...in memory of Sol Hirsch
Rob and Nora Gutcho...in memory of Sol Hirsch
Justin and Andrea Hayes...in memory of Denise Steinberger
Barry Pilson...in memory of Sol Hirsch
Leslie and Marcia Platt...in memory of Sol Hirsch
Alan and Susan Shapiro...in memory of Sol Hirsch
Marvin and Karen Singer...in memory of Sol Hirsch

Continued on page 25

Bereavement Support Group "When You've Lost a Loved One"

Tues., Jan. 20th & Feb. 17th, at 7:00 p.m.

On Tuesdays, January 20th and February 17th, 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.

NEW Breast Cancer Support Group

**2nd Thur., Jan. 8th & Feb. 12th, 7:00 p.m. –
Facilitated by Sharon Davidow**

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 Cookie Mandell, Director of Congregational Engagement, cookie@nvhcreston.org.

Tzedakah: We Thank Our Generous Contributors *(Continued from page 24)*

Bruce and Mary York...in memory of Maggie York

Memorial Plaque

Don and Nell Hirsch...in memory of Sol Hirsch

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

Preschool Fund

Ivette Retrey-Golinsky...in memory of Etta Marin

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

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

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

Chris Hinton and Gloria Ness

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

Robin Miller...in memory of Dennis Goldstein

Leslie and Marcia Platt...in memory of Benjamin Berman

Judy Ratliff...in memory of Louis Fine

Howard Rosen...in memory of Murray Rosen

Robert and Eileen Stein...in memory of Ilene Stein and Edith Blacher

Religious School Fund

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

John, Mimi, Molly and Josh Roberts...in memory of Sylvia Kramer

Isabel Einzig-Wein...in memory of Robert Einzig

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

Blossom Carlton

Scott and Ann Rosenbloom...in honor of Nate and Sammie's B'nai Mitzvah

Bruce and Mary York...in memory of Maggie York

Seldon and Ruth Kruger Fund for Adult Learning

Bob and Deb Becker...in memory of Blanche Brambir

Robert and Gail Dezube...in memory of Anne Katz and Mitchell Dezube

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

Cliff and Anna Haupt...in memory of Elfie G. Haupt

Fred and Phyllis Krochmal...in memory of Ann Blume

Mitch and Abbe Pascal...in memory of Erica Schwartz

Marvin and Karen Singer

Social Action Fund

Jim and Barbara Tombros...in memory of Sid Lehmann

Social Action Fund – Forest Edge Backpack Donation

Harvey and Janice Berger...in memory of Marjorie Lee Rosenberg

Ed and Sandee Byrne

Andy and Susan Cohen

Sheri David

Bob Fenster and Alison Behar

Don and Nell Hirsch

Nancy Kruger

Kim LaFave

Paul and Cookie Mandell

Michael and Debby Maxwell

Leslie and Marcia Platt

David Selden and Julie Wallick...in honor of Hannah VanHook's Bat Mitzvah, Nate & Samantha Rosenbloom's B'nai Mitzvah, and in memory of Ann Blume and Leon Groisser

Alan and Susan Shapiro

Marsha Sheinman

Elise Stein and Scott Sunshine...in honor of Cantor Caro's Installation
Linda Walker

Torah Fund

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

Howard and Linda Perlstein...in appreciation of Jean Gold

Ted Smith and Rosalind Gold...in memory of Judy Gardner

Larry and Deede Snowwhite...in honor of Elizabeth Lacher

Youth Group Fund

Bob and Deb Becker...in memory of George Reilly

Mitch and Abbe Pascal...in memory of Max Stearman

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.

Ed & Judy Cincinnati

3508 Majestic Pine Lane

Fairfax, VA 22033

703-689-0236

judy.cincinnati@gmail.com

James Conklin & Karen Sussman

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757-745-7237

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karen.h.sussman@gmail.com

Dennis Fox & Nadia Alami

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nadialami74@yahoo.com

Adam Paz & Irene Amster

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510-816-2517

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IreneAmster@gmail.com

Philip & Alisa Rogers

53323 Washwright Road

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540-364-6161

arogers@oads.com

Benjamin & Stephanie Ronen

41736 Bloomfield Path Street

Ashburn, VA 20148

703-542-2237

Brir20148@gmail.com

Ronen.stephanie@gmail.com

Michael & Elizabeth Shapiro

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Burke, VA 22015

908-963-0171

elizabethrshapiro@gmail.com

Marsha Sheinman

12000 Coverstone Hill Circle, Apt #411

Manassas, VA 20109

540-521-1692

mssheinman@yahoo.com

Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

SUMMARY — JULY 2014

D'Var Torah: Samantha Kaplan Wiegand gave the D'var Torah.

Welcome to our new Cantor: The group welcomed Cantor Susan Caro to her first Board of Trustees meeting at NVHC.

Approval of Minutes: Andy Cohen moved to approve the minutes from the June Board meeting; Hannah Grausz seconded the motion, which passed with two abstentions.

Report from Rachel Silverstein: Rachel reported that the Tisch Fellowship program that enabled her to be with us for the past few months is coming to an end. Rachel has been journaling everything she has done, including many "first experiences," and noted that her experience as a Tisch Fellow at NVHC has been wonderful. She now looks forward to serving as NVHC's Rabbinic Intern, which begins upon the conclusion of her fellowship.

Clergy Report (Cantor Caro): Cantor Caro is delighted to be here. While enjoying summertime and a slower pace, the Cantor challenged us all to make room for holiness, wonder, spirituality and God. Rachel's Tisch Fellowship at NVHC has been fabulous and the Cantor is very pleased to be working with her. There has been great attendance at services where Rachel and Cantor Caro will partner over the next few weeks. There is a "Pancake Shabbat" in August to welcome new and prospective members of the congregation. Otherwise, the clergy and staff are getting ready for the High Holidays. The Cantor has been working with the adult choir, Kol Shirah, and also with our music specialist, Nell Hirsch, to make some changes for the youth choirs. Additionally, she has been tutoring quite a bit in preparation for upcoming B'nai Mitzvah and is looking forward to being an integral part of this process.

NVHC's Sifrei Torah: (Ted Smith) Ted Smith, a long-time congregant, Past President and a "keeper" of NVHC's history, joined the meeting and provided an in-depth information session on NVHC's three Torahs. According to Ted, "our Torahs mark the signposts along the way of our congregation." Each of our Torahs has its own story and is treated differently. Torahs should be examined every two to three years to determine if any refurbishment is necessary. A dehumidifier for the Ark has been suggested in the past and may be considered again. Nancy thanked Ted for the wealth of information he provided.

Proposed Schedule of Board of Trustees Meetings: (Nancy) Nancy suggested having no Board meeting in September due to the High Holidays and the hectic time of year. Nancy went over proposed meeting dates for the remaining months of the year. Kay moved to skip the September meeting. David seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Selden-Dixon Memorial Endowment: (Andy) Nancy thanked Andy for his quick work on making suggestions on overall policies regarding endowments and their governance. Andy reviewed several issues regarding our endowment policies and proposed changes to address these. The governance policy clarifies the role of related funds. Andy thanked the Endowment Investment Committee for the work it does. Andy moved to approve proposed policy revisions. Hannah seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

A second motion was circulated to establish a Selden-Dixon Memorial Endowment Fund Committee, to be chaired by Andy, to identify worthy initiatives to be funded from the Endowment Fund. Ken moved to accept the proposed motion. Dan seconded the motion, which passed with two abstentions.

Consideration of Interim Policy on Addressing Membership Dues Arrearages: (Nancy)

Nancy provided background on the need for a review of our current practices and policies related to temple Fair Share dues and, in particular, the creation of a Task Force to evaluate our policies and practices regarding special needs and arrearages. In the meantime, although the temple staff and Treasurer have been addressing dues issues consistent with the revised NVHC Bylaws, a motion was offered to officially establish an interim policy on addressing dues issues while a special Task Force works to propose new policies and procedures as stated in the Bylaws.

David moved to accept the motion regarding the interim policy. Dan seconded the motion, which passed with one abstention.

Motion: Resolved, that the Board establishes the following interim policy, effective retroactively to December 19, 2013: The Treasurer may approve recommendations of the Administrator or the Director of Congregational Engagement to waive, extend, or modify any financial obligation due from a member.

Andy moved to accept a second motion to establish a Task Force to propose policies and procedures regarding financial arrangements with members. Kay seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Motion: Resolved, that the Board authorizes the President to appoint a Task Force to develop a proposed policy, for consideration by the Board, describing priorities and procedures for making and modifying financial arrangements with members.

Consideration of Clergy Parsonage Allowances: A motion was made to approve FY 2015 (July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015) parsonage allowances for the clergy in the amount of \$56,700 for Rabbi Holzman and \$60,000 for Cantor Caro. Andy moved to accept the motion. Hannah seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Nancy asked Cantor Caro to lead us in a prayer for Israel during this time of conflict and the Cantor offered a prayer. ♦



ABBEY SICILIANO

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"Help Every Step of the Way"

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Fax: 703-478-0903
Cell: 703-861-4024
abbey.siciliano@longandfoster.com



Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

SUMMARY — AUGUST 2014

D'Var Torah: Harvey Berger gave the D'var Torah.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the July meeting were tabled until the next meeting.

Clergy Report (Rabbi Holzman and Cantor Caro): Rabbi thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve on the faculty at URJ Camp Harlam and to go on vacation. There were 500 campers and 200 young adults at Camp Harlam during the second session. At NVHC, there have been wonderful Shabbat services this summer, led by the Rabbi, Cantor and Rachel Silverstein. The High Holy Days are coming up and the Board's role is even more important during these services, as it is a wonderful opportunity to set an example and be a part of all services. We are planning great temple-wide programs for Sukkot and Simchat Torah. The Rabbi spoke about the long and difficult summer in Israel, and is looking to get an Israel Committee off the ground.

Report on the Master Planning Initiative: (Andy Lacher) Andy Lacher, Chair of the NVHC Master Planning Steering Committee, provided an in-depth overview of the findings of the Steering Committee, which facilitated the process with the help of an architectural firm and community-wide input. The Steering Committee also met with others including the Reston Design Review Board and representatives of our residential neighbors in the Forest Edge cluster. The product of the Steering Committee's work includes a Phased Development Plan, as well as a Facilities Maintenance Plan to keep our existing building running well, both of which Andy reviewed. He also offered several recommendations offered by the Steering Committee for potential near-term actions. A Q&A period followed the presentation. The Board thanked Andy and the Steering Committee for a job well done.

Treasurer's Report: (Andy C.) Andy walked through the year-end financials for FY2014. We ended up with a small surplus of less than \$6K. Andy talked about best practices and our cash reserves practices, and provided detail on the financial operating statement. Highlights include that the Preschool is now operating at a surplus and the Religious School also did better financially than anticipated. Andy then provided an overview of our reserves, DDFs, etc.

Consideration of Motion to Approve an Unbudgeted Expenditure in FY2015: (Nancy Kruger) Nancy requested a motion to spend an anonymous donation of \$4,000 for the purpose of funding an increase in contracted accompanist services beyond what was budgeted. Hannah moved to expend the funds for the purpose for which they were donated and Tom seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Additional Items: Nancy reminded the Board that we will not be meeting in September. Prior to the next Board meeting there will be an electronic vote for a Nominating Committee.

Ken inquired as to whether the weekly e-mails are as effective as the monthly (soon to be bi-monthly) newsletters.

Other announcements: Fay announced that after more than 20 years at NVHC, she will be retiring as Temple Administrator in 2015.

Executive Session: The Board moved into Executive Session where it approved an adjustment to staff compensation necessary due to correct a calculation error. Hannah moved to accept the motion. Roberta seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. ♦

Life-Cycle Events in the NVHC Family

MAZEL TOV

To David and Carol Fram, on the birth of their granddaughter, Anya Perotti Fram, to parents Jonathan Fram and Liz Perotti on September 2, 2014

To Eric and Karen Forman, on the birth of their grandson, Vaughn Alexander Karesh, born December 10, 2014

R'FU-AH SH'LEI-MA

Mike Dixon	Mina Katz	Marty Koshar	Paulette Peltz	Richard Shlakman	Eliza Sucre
Andrea Schatz Hayes	Mort Kirson	Beatrice Linkov	Joanne Polansky	Barbara Smith	Jenny Tarr
Ken Kaplan	Gioia Komar	Irene Menchel	Sharon Rubenstein	Jenny Stein	Robert Vaccarino
Clarice Karnette	Jackson Komar	Irwin Menchel	Tamara Selden	Robert Stein	

CONDOLENCES

To Jennifer Minushkin, on the death of her father, Chester Hoke, Jr.

To Eric Eisenstadt, on the death of his cousin, Adler Dobkin

To Karen Forman, on the death of her mother, Ann Blume

To Debi McGhee, on the death of her mother, Susan Roth

To Roy Horowitz, on the death of his sister, Evelyn Horowitz

To Jon Groisser, on the death of his father, Leon Groisser

To Mera Diaz, on the death of her aunt, Bertie Kirson

To Dennis Fox, on the death of his mother, Elizabeth Fox

To Al Nagell, on the death of his sister, Gertrude Mitchell

To Ken Kaplan, on the death of his sister, Janet Kaplan

To Cookie Mandell, on the death of her mother, Sue Hooper

To Jennifer Fabius, on the death of her mother, Marsha Fabius Lozano

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

January 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day NVHC office closed	2 NVHC office closed Sof Shavuah Nosh, 6:15 p.m. Erev Shabbat Worship Service, led by Rachel Silverstein, 6:45 p.m.	3 Book Club, 9:00 a.m. Combined Torah Talk & Shabbat Service, 9:00 a.m. Tot Shabbat, 9:00 a.m.
4 No Confirmation Class No Kehilat Limmud	5 Social Action – Hypothermia Shelter Meals, 6:00 p.m. Introduction to Judaism, 7:00 p.m.	6 KL Hebrew TAMID Dinner, 6:00 p.m. TAMID	7 KL Hebrew TAMID Dinner, 6:00 p.m. TAMID	8 The Poetry of Yehuda Amichai, 12:00 p.m. Advanced Prayer Hebrew, 7:00 p.m. Breast Cancer Support Group Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Mah Jongg, 7:30 p.m.	9 Preschool Family Shabbat, 9:15 a.m. Silver Line – The Kugel Café, 6:00 p.m. Board of Trustees Installation, 8:00 p.m. Erev Shabbat Worship Service, 8:00 p.m.	10 Torah Talk, 9:00 a.m. Shabbat Service, 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah – Jack Lesser
11 Confirmation Class, 8:30 a.m. Kehilat Limmud, 9:15 a.m. Torah Corps, 9:15 a.m. Bagel Bar, 9:30 a.m. Prayer Hebrew 1, 9:30 a.m. Psalms in the Jewish Tradition, 9:30 a.m. Intro to Modern Hebrew, Part 2, 11:00 a.m. The Book of Judges, 11:00 a.m. B'nai Mitzvah Parents Class, 11:05 a.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal, 12:15 p.m. Kol Shirah Rehearsal, 1:00 p.m. 11th & 12th Grade – Life at College Program, Rodef Shalom, 5:30 p.m.	12 Brotherhood Dinner Meeting and NFL Playoff Party, 6:00 p.m. Sisterhood Board Meeting, 7:15 p.m.	13 Jewish Film Series, 11:30 a.m. KL Hebrew TAMID Dinner, 6:00 p.m. TAMID Executive Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Advanced Modern Hebrew, 7:45 p.m.	14 KL Hebrew TAMID Dinner, 6:00 p.m. TAMID Inclusion Initiative Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	15 Silver Line – Bowling & Bocce, 12:00 p.m. The Poetry of Yehuda Amichai, 12:00 p.m. Advanced Prayer Hebrew, 7:00 p.m. Sisterhood Pot Luck Dinner and Book Discussion, 7:00 p.m.	16 Sof Shavuah Nosh, 6:15 p.m. Erev Shabbat Social Justice Worship Service, with all choirs, 6:45 p.m.	17 Torah Talk, 9:00 a.m. Shabbat Service, 10:30 a.m.
18 Confirmation Class, 8:30 a.m. Kehilat Limmud Social Action Day Psalms in the Jewish Tradition, 9:30 a.m. Intro to Modern Hebrew, Part 2, 11:00 a.m. The Book of Judges, 11:00 a.m. B'nai Mitzvah Parents Class, 11:05 a.m. Torah Corps Family Orientation meeting, 12:15 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal, 12:15 p.m. Voices of Inspiration – Martin Luther King Celebration, 4:00 p.m. Silver Line – Sunday Suppers, 6:00 p.m.	19 Martin Luther King Day NVHC office closed Social Action – Hypothermia Shelter Meals, 6:00 p.m.	20 KL Hebrew TAMID Dinner, 6:00 p.m. TAMID Bereavement Support Group Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Advanced Modern Hebrew, 7:45 p.m.	21 KL Hebrew TAMID Dinner, 6:00 p.m. TAMID Congregation Israel Trip Planning Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	22 The Poetry of Yehuda Amichai, 12:00 p.m. Advanced Prayer Hebrew, 7:00 p.m. Jewish Cooking Made Easy: Comfort Foods from Scratch, 7:00 p.m.	23 Camp Shabbat, 6:45 p.m.	24 Torah Talk, 9:00 a.m. Shabbat Service, 10:30 a.m. Bat Mitzvah – Daphne May Silver Line – Stargazing, 6:30 p.m.
25 Confirmation Class, 8:30 a.m. Kehilat Limmud, 9:15 a.m. Kindergarten Family Education, 9:15 a.m. Torah Corps, 9:15 a.m. 3rd – 6th Grade Pre-Adolescent Workshop, 9:30 a.m. Brotherhood Family Breakfast, 9:30 a.m. Prayer Hebrew 1, 9:30 a.m. Psalms in the Jewish Tradition, 9:30 a.m. Sunday Punims, 9:30 a.m. Intro to Modern Hebrew, Part 2, 11:00 a.m. The Book of Judges, 11:00 a.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal, 11:45 a.m. Forest Edge Backpack Pack, 12:15 p.m. Youth Choir Party, 12:15 p.m.	26 Beginning Hebrew, 9:30 a.m. Beginning Hebrew, 7:00 p.m. Mah Jongg, 7:30 p.m.	27 No KL Hebrew or TAMID JCCNV-NVHC Active Adults, 10:30 a.m. KL Hebrew & TAMID Parent Teacher Conferences, 4:30 p.m. Advanced Modern Hebrew, 7:45 p.m.	28 No KL Hebrew or TAMID KL Hebrew & TAMID Parent Teacher Conferences, 4:30 p.m.	29 The Poetry of Yehuda Amichai, 12:00 p.m. Advanced Prayer Hebrew, 7:00 p.m.	30 MAJYK – NFTY Women Who Mean Business Networking Group, 8:45 a.m. Erev Shabbat Worship Service, 8:00 p.m. Shabbat Shirah, 8:00 p.m.	31 Torah Talk, 9:00 a.m. Shabbat Service, 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah – Matthew Turk

January - Calendar

The NVHC calendar is online at our website, nvhcreston.org! We are aware that this paper version is already obsolete, as we are constantly updating all the changes that occur after publication. Therefore, we are considering the removal of these pages. **Please let us know your thoughts, 703-437-7733 or to mozelle@nvhcreston.org.**

February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 MAJYK – NFTY Confirmation Class, 8:30 a.m. Kehilat Limmud, 9:15 a.m. Prayer Hebrew 1, 9:30 a.m. Torah Corps, 9:15 a.m. Psalms in the Jewish Tradition, 9:30 a.m. Intro to Modern Hebrew, Part 2, 11:00 a.m. The Book of Judges, 11:00 a.m. B'nai Mitzvah Parents Class, 11:05 a.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal,	2 Beginning Hebrew, 9:30 a.m. Social Action – Hypothermia Shelter Meals, 6:00 p.m. Beginning Hebrew, 7:00 p.m.	3 KL Hebrew TAMID Dinner, 6:00 p.m. TAMID Tu B'Shevat Program, 6:30 p.m. Advanced Modern Hebrew, 7:45 p.m.	4 Tu B'Shevat KL Hebrew TAMID Dinner, 6:00 p.m. TAMID	5 Advanced Prayer Hebrew, 7:00 p.m.	6 Preschool Family Shabbat, 9:15 a.m. Sof Shavua Nosh, 6:15 p.m. Erev Shabbat Worship Service, 6:45 p.m.	7 Book Club, 9:00 a.m. Tot Shabbat, 9:00 a.m. Shabbat Service, 10:30 a.m.
8 Confirmation Class, 8:30 a.m. 6th Grade Immigrant in Each of Us Field Trip, 9:15 a.m. Torah Corps, 9:15 a.m. Kehilat Limmud Prayer Hebrew 1, 9:30 a.m. Psalms in the Jewish Tradition, 9:30 a.m. Intro to Modern Hebrew, Part 2, 11:00 a.m. The Book of Judges, 11:00 a.m. B'nai Mitzvah Parents Class, 11:05 a.m. Teacher Training, 12:15 p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal, 12:15 p.m.	9 Beginning Hebrew, 9:30 a.m. Beginning Hebrew, 7:00 p.m. Brotherhood Dinner Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Sisterhood Board Meeting, 7:15 p.m.	10 Jewish Film Series, 11:30 a.m. KL Hebrew TAMID Dinner, 6:00 p.m. TAMID Advanced Modern Hebrew, 7:45 p.m.	11 KL Hebrew TAMID Dinner, 6:00 p.m. TAMID Executive Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	12 Advanced Prayer Hebrew, 7:00 p.m. Breast Cancer Sup- port Group Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Mah Jongg, 7:30 p.m.	13 Erev Shabbat Worship Service, 8:00 p.m.	14 Combined Torah Talk and Shabbat Service, 9:00 a.m.
15 Presidents' Day Holiday No Confirmation Class No Kehilat Limmud Mah Jongg Tournam- ent, 12:30 p.m.	16 Presidents' Day Holiday NVHC office closed Social Action – Hypothermia Shelter Meals, 6:00 p.m.	17 Preschool Teacher In- Service – No School KL Hebrew TAMID Dinner, 6:00 p.m. TAMID Bereavement Support Group Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Advanced Modern Hebrew, 7:45 p.m.	18 KL Hebrew TAMID Dinner, 6:00 p.m. TAMID	19 Advanced Prayer Hebrew, 7:00 p.m. Jewish Cooking Made Easy: Comfort Foods from Scratch, 7:00 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 – Jacob Fajer
22 Confirmation Class, 8:30 a.m. Kehilat Limmud Brotherhood Family Breakfast, 9:30 a.m. Prayer Hebrew 1, 9:30 a.m. Psalms in the Jewish Tradition, 9:30 a.m. Sunday Punims, 9:30 a.m. Intro to Modern Hebrew, Part 2, 11:00 a.m. The Book of Judges, 11:00 a.m. B'nai Mitzvah Parents Class, 11:05 a.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal, 11:45 a.m. Forest Edge Backpack Pack, 12:15 p.m.	23 Beginning Hebrew, 9:30 a.m. Preschool Photo Day, 9:30 a.m. Beginning Hebrew, 7:00 p.m. Mah Jongg, 7:30 p.m.	24 Preschool Photo Day, 9:30 a.m. JCCNV-NVHC Active Adults, 10:30 a.m. KL Hebrew TAMID Dinner, 6:00 p.m. TAMID Advanced Modern Hebrew, 7:45 p.m.	25 KL Hebrew TAMID Dinner, 6:00 p.m. TAMID Board of Trustees Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	26 Advanced Prayer Hebrew, 7:00 p.m.	27 Women Who Mean Business Networking Group, 8:45 a.m. Erev Shabbat Wor- ship Service, with Kol Shirah, 8:00 p.m.	28 Torah Talk, 9:00 a.m. 5th Grade Shabba- ton, 10:00 a.m. Shabbat Service, 10:30 a.m. 9th – 12th Grade Purim Program, 7:00 p.m.



NORTHERN VIRGINIA
HEBREW CONGREGATION

1441 Wiehle Avenue · Reston, Virginia 20190

mark your calendar for these **Upcoming Events**

- Camp Shabbat ♦ Friday, January 23, 2015, 6:45 p.m.
- Social Action Weekend ♦ January 16-18, 2015, see page 11
- Adult Shabbaton ♦ March 21, 2015, see page 9
- Save the Date – Spring Auction ♦ May 16, 2015

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	
Preschool	703-435-8829	Director of Congregational Engagement	Cookie Mandell ext. 107
Fax	703-437-3443	cookie@nvhcreston.org	
Web Site	www.nvhcreston.org	Temple Secretary	Mozelle Stanton ext. 101
		mozelle@nvhcreston.org	
Rabbi	Michael G. Holzman ext. 102	Religious Education Secretary	Elaine Bowling ext. 104
rabbiholzman@nvhcreston.org		elaine@nvhcreston.org	
Rabbi Emerita	Rosalind Gold	Bookkeeper	Julie Lifland ext. 108
Cantor	Susan Caro ext. 106	julie@nvhcreston.org	
cantorcaro@nvhcreston.org		Youth Activities Coordinator	Beryl Trauth-Jurman ext. 147
Temple Administrator	Fay Gubin ext. 105	beryl@nvhcreston.org	
fay@nvhcreston.org		Young Adult Engagement Coordinator	Stacy Miller ext. 126
Director of Education	Moshe Ben-Lev ext. 103	stacy@nvhcreston.org	
moshe@nvhcreston.org			

DEADLINE FOR JANUARY/FEBRUARY ISSUE: Sunday, February 1, 2015

Congregation Israel Travel Planning ♦ see page 21