

NVHC *links*

Issue 5777
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Perspective *By Rabbi Michael G. Holzman*



WE ARE IN THE WILDERNESS

Deep in this season of discontent, as the election approaches (and may have passed by the time you receive this) I can only draw one lesson.

Pain and dysfunction in our society has reached a critical, and perhaps scary level. While I hope and pray that the current election does not plunge the U.S. (and thus the world) into the land of anti-institutional anarchy and facism, we can see that land from where we stand. If this election has uncovered anything, it is that the level of suffering in America has skyrocketed.

This is not a political treatise, but we have all seen the polarization and breakdown of our political system coming for a long time. Blame the cynicism, elitism, and identity politics of the left or blame the fear-mongering, extremism, puritanism and xenophobia of the right. The source is not my concern here. What we need to see right now is our present moment. After this election.

People without a voice act out. The frustration at the perception of not being heard builds until action takes extreme, irrational and destructive form. Think of the rioting after the Rodney King trial. Right now huge swaths of our country perceive that they have no voice. The Tea party, the Occupy movement, Trump's candidacy, and Black Lives Matter are all

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Perspective *By Cantor Susan Caro*

“A WALL OF MITZVOT”



I have spent a good deal of time talking with upcoming B'nai Mitzvah students about doing mitzvot - commandments.

The kids usually come in understanding the importance and value of doing good in the community; we all know how good it feels to do good for others, in so many ways. Our conversations then usually head toward making a connection between all these good deeds and the underlying Jewish values and Jewish mandate for how we act. It is true that we are kind of uncomfortable with the idea of being “commanded” to do something, because it seems to deprive us of the right to choose how we behave. Still, we do get to choose how we act in the world.

The Talmudic tract of *Pirkei Avot* teaches us that the reward of doing a *mitzvah* is the *mitzvah* itself. When we do a good deed consciously and knowing the Jewish root to what we do - when

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Jubilee Events,
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Pursuit of Harmony,
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Nov 12th & 14th
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(Rabbi's Perspective)



REACHING TOWARD THE SKY

By Rabbi Jessica Wainer

*“If I could reach, higher
 Just for one moment touch the sky
 From that one moment in my life
 I’m gonna be stronger
 Know that I’ve tried my very best
 I’d put my spirit to the test
 If I could reach”*
 — Gloria Estefan

We connect with all different types of words. Words that can be found in our liturgy. Words that can be found in books and poems. And words that can be found in music. These words inspire us and motivate us to reach higher and push farther than we thought might be possible. We use these words to help us find meaning in our actions and to help contextualize our place in the world. It is only through education that we can learn to understand these words and their meaning in our lives.

Jews have been using words to connect to the world. From the songs of the Torah to the Psalms of King David, from the poetry of Rabbi Shlomo Alkebetz (who wrote *L’cha Dodi*) to Rabbi Moses Maimonides’ *Guide to the Perplexed*,

and from the short stories of Etgar Keret to the songs of Bob Dylan, we, as a people, have taken to the pages to inspire generations of learners. When we share these words with our current learners, it helps them to articulate goals, dreams and hopes for the future.

The words of Gloria Estefan, and many others, help us to remember that we must always be reaching higher, pushing ourselves to reach for those new ideas that we thought were once unattainable, and enthusiastically exploring new avenues.

This is particularly true in the realm of education. Education is not a stagnant entity. Education, in all of its various forms, is constantly evolving and looking to provide the very best for learners of all ages. This is what we set out to do here at NVHC as well. We are always striving to provide the very best in education, from our newest learners to our professional learners. As we learn how to provide the best for our community, we can make strides together, as a team, to continue to reach for the sky and achieve the highest of highs in our educational settings.

Throughout this year, I hope that we can work together as a community to begin thinking about what are our “the sky’s the limit” goals. What are those things that we dream about achieving and how can we achieve them together? What are the steps that we need to take in order to begin reaching our goals? How do we use our building and our community to our advantage?

This begins with listening and talking. This starts by coming together as a community for sacred conversations to address the needs and wants of our community. By taking these first steps of joining together in conversation, together we can begin to reach for the sky, to know that we will be stronger and ultimately create the best programs possible for our community here at NVHC. ♦

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manifestations of this emotion. What is driving it? What forces propel feelings of disenfranchisement?

So many people feel like the system is rigged against them, whether it is the economy, the political parties, the tax code, social change, the electoral system itself, or the education system from preschool to college admissions and financing, people feel like the underlying covenants holding us together are crumbling. America is not built on ethnic cohesion. We are not citizens of France because we are French. We are not citizens of America because we are Americans. Our citizenship has always been based on ideas and assumptions enshrined not only in laws and documents, but also in our culture.

These assumptions depend upon voluntary acceptance. And my voluntary acceptance depends upon your voluntary acceptance. And since you and I can never agree on everything, that means the American ideas and assumptions assume we agree to disagree. One might say the essence of America is disagreement.

I believe the fundamental problem right now is that we have lost the art of disagreement. Carl von Clausewitz famously said, "War is politics by other means." Well, the opposite is also true: politics is war by other means. We

need politics, vigorous, messy, imperfect, and at times, loud politics. Politics is the art of disagreement. Politics is when two parties admit that they have self-interest in advocating a certain position and recognize that their self-interests clash, and then agree to find some compromise between their self-interests. When does that happen anymore?

I am reminded of Supreme Court Justices Ruth Bader Ginsberg and Antonin Scalia who could not be more ideologically and temperamentally opposite, yet who enjoyed a long friendship and mutual respect. We need minority opinions. We need to honor disagreement, and even at times promote the ability of our enemy to voice his or her opinion. I am definitely to the left of center, but I long for smart, fair, interesting conservative opinions.

Unfortunately, for whatever reason, an arms race of ideological purity has decimated the Republican Party and left the field open for a charismatic leader like Trump. And lest Democrats chuckle with joy, the same forces can easily rise from the left. When purity is the norm, no institution can stand for long. Opposition to compromise first strangles government, then it strangles political parties.

Judaism stands against all of this. I noticed in the

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we go beyond auto-pilot - we transform our deeds to sacred acts, to *mitzvot*.

Doing *mitzvot* - offering our time and heart requires forethought, effort and maturity. Here at NVHC, we try to embed the practice of the *mitzvot* into the preparation and consciousness of our students. From there, we nurture it through the social justice work of our community, from feeding the students at Forest Edge to joining our time, energy and resources to VOICE (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Communal Engagement) to advocate for social and economic rights for all in our Northern Virginia communities. The cultivation of these habits is an important and inherent part of becoming Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

In our Jubilee year, we have challenged ourselves here to do 5000 *mitzvot* - to be a blessing 5000 times to our families, our friends, our communities, and the Jewish people. There are so many opportunities for *mitzvot* that occur in our community - perhaps you are involved in doing an act of kindness or righteousness in our community, and you need some extra hands on deck. Maybe you have some time on your hands and want to put that time toward *mitzvah* work. Perhaps there is a Jewish

ritual or practice you want to take on in your life.

If you are not sure where to start....

Watch for the creation of our NVHC *Mitzvah* Wall in the weeks ahead. Its content will be curated by the NVHC clergy and staff - a publicized, aesthetically-displayed clearing house, for all members of our community to come and find *mitzvot* to do that need our time or attention. It is not about keeping track of who has done what; rather, the *Mitzvah* Wall will be a place to come and learn what is needed to be done in our community.

We don't do *mitzvot* for public recognition. True, there are benefits all around - for the ones who 'receive' as well as for the ones who 'do.' It is our hope that using our *Mitzvah* Wall will help to create more connections among our members and facilitate a deeper engagement in our community - because doing *mitzvot* is part of our Jewish DNA and because *mitzvah* work is our heritage. This will be a beautiful way to get involved in the variety of *mitzvah* opportunities going on around us, actively sharing our resources, our passions, our time, our talents, our gifts and our blessings, choosing to raise sparks of holiness in this world. ♦



NEW EXPERIENTIAL PROGRAMS THIS YEAR — THANK YOU, SISTERHOOD!

By Cindi Drake • Director of Early Childhood Education

Every year we are blessed to have a sisterhood that values our preschool and helps to fund our special programs. Some programs we have every year, and The One Man Band never gets old. How would you explain one person playing 3 or 4 different instruments all at the same time? You have to see it to believe it. Mother Goose and her stories come to life when you are part of the show. There is no substitute for experiential learning. Being part of the process seeps the information into the brain like no other — particularly for very young, evolving brains.

So you can imagine our excitement at having two new and very graphic programs this year. Our Reptiles Alive program will be later this year, and we are all looking forward to seeing and learning about reptiles. Our Shofar-Making program, happily, was here before the High Holy

Days, and before this article had to be turned in! Here are the three most important pieces of information the children took away from the presentation:

- Even if a plastic horn can make the sound of a shofar, it isn't one unless it comes from an animal
- That animal has to be kosher — cloven hoofs and chews it cud. Doesn't matter if they know what all that means now; they will eventually. It's a kosher animal and that's good enough for now
- Curved horns are preferable to straight horns

After the presentation, the children, with the help of their parents and clergy, sanded and shellacked their very own shofars.

And I'm sure on Rosh Hashanah, the sound of shofars blasting was heard far and wide! ♦



Mother Goose



Peter, The One Man Band



Rabbi and Friend



Shofar Making



Shofar Making

Tot Shabbat

COME GET THAT SHABBAT FEELING!

November 5th and December 3rd, 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 5) 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 Room 201 from 9:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. on scheduled Sundays:

November 13	December 11
January 15	February 12
March 12	April 9
April 23	May 21

Cost? Check with Cindi for pro-rated amount.*

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.

Youth Engagement

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR FOR EARLY WINTER

By Adam Zemel • Youth Activities Coordinator

NoVTY Shul-in for 8th-12th Graders! November 12th at 6:30 p.m. - **November 13th** at 9:00 a.m. Come for the Havdalah, stay for the delicious dinner, delightful activities, and a chance to chill with friends. RSVP to Adam@nvhcreston.org to save a spot.

3rd and 4th Graders and Parents: On November 13th we will gather after KL for a pre-Thanksgiving Autumn Jam! Food and fun to be provided, and parents are invited to join new Youth Engagement Coordinator Adam Zemel for a conversation on how he can best engage your children. Please email Adam@nvhcreston.org to RSVP. Siblings welcome!

Attention 7th-12th Graders: We are going to **Rebounderz Trampoline Park on December 11th**, directly after KL! The cost of the event will depend on the attendance, so

email Adam now at Adam@nvhcreston.org to let him know you are interested in attending!

Save the Date **In-House Tamid Retreat, January 13th-14th, 2017.** Open to all Tamid Students. Attendance strongly encouraged. Highlights include:

- Friday Night Services with Pursuit of Harmony, an interfaith musical dialogue about Israel
- Overnight festivities
- Saturday programming honoring MLK Weekend
- Saturday Night: Dinner and Havdalah out on the town!

Save the Date **3rd-6th Grade Families (Students, siblings and parents):** Join NVHC at the Reston Town Center **Ice Skating Rink on January 8th**, directly following our first day back at KL. Keep an eye out for details to follow! ♦

SAVE THE DATE

January 6, 2017, 6:30 p.m.

CAMP SHABBAT - Followed by Israeli Dance Party with RAK-DAN



Social Action

HELP SUPPORT THE FOREST EDGE FOOD DONATION PROGRAM

By Carly Chiat

Once a month in Tamid, all the classes get together for a social action project. We stuff food in bags for students at Forest Edge Elementary. These students don't have enough food to eat on the weekends, so these bags of food provide meals for them. I really like being involved in this project because I enjoy helping others. I am lucky enough to have enough food to eat whenever I want, and I like being able to help other students like me get enough food.

You can get involved and help too! Bring donations of non-perishable

food to NVHC. There are bins out during Sunday School, and each grade is assigned a food item. Just pick up something extra when you are at the store. Every bit helps! It's cool to see everyone working together to help.

In addition to the Tamid program, there is a Forest Edge donation and food packing event that takes place one Sunday each month after Kehilat Limmud. Donations can be left in the bins in the coat closet. Keep your eyes on the NVHC calendar to find out date and time information for the packing on Sunday.



Every NVHC family is encouraged to participate in one or both of these opportunities to help our neighbors in need. ♦

Mazel Tov to our B'nai Mitzvah



Ari Bobesh **November 5th**

Ari is building a website for Torah study. This is a long-term project and his work will continue after his Bar Mitzvah.



Emerald Felice Diaz • November 5th

Emmi's Bat Mitzvah project is for the Douglas J. Green Memorial Foundation. For more information, please go online to <http://www.douglasjgreenmemorialfoundation.org/>.



Josh Kranzberg • November 19th

Josh is raising money for the NVHC Inclusion Committee. He is organizing 3 Dining for Dollars events at Glory Days Grill in Reston. More information to come in the NVHC Weekly News.



Abigail Margaret Schwall **November 12th**

For her Mitzvah project, Abby volunteers her time (6-9 hours/week) to an organization called Spirit Open Equestrian, which provides therapeutic riding/interaction with horses to people with physical or mental disabilities.



Jessica Newberg • December 10th

Mitzvah Project: Jessica is focused on the Jewish value of Kedushat Halashon, Sh'mirat Halashon, Lashon Hara - The Sanctity of Speech, Watching Your Words, and Avoiding Bad Words.



Zachary Cash • December 3rd

For Zack's Bar Mitzvah project, he will be collecting used sports equipment to donate to Leveling the Playing Field Organization.



Marc Bekenstein • December 17th

Mitzvah Project: Working with children who have special needs to incorporate everyday skills/tasks and socialization in the classroom and outside of school.



Caroline Finch • December 17th

Caroline's Mitzvah project is volunteering for Little Buddies, a cat rescue organization.

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 January/February is December 1st.

Torah Talk

Our Shabbat Torah study class will be held on **Saturday, November 12th, 19th & 26th, and December 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st** in the sanctuary.

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

THE SISTERHOOD'S JUDAICA SHOP

By Iris Zimmerman Garza

Have you visited the Sisterhood Judaica Boutique lately? Is there a Bar or Bat Mitzvah in your future? Are you in need of a gift for a wedding, new baby, housewarming, family visit, birthday, new year, Chanukah, any type of occasion? Well...then it's time for you to come visit The Boutique for a shopping trip, and see all the new items, artists and designers, that we have for sale!

The Boutique at NVHC has a wonderful selection of tallit from Israel for that special b'nai mitzvot in your life. We have many gift items, which include *tzedakah* boxes, picture frames, Shabbat candle holders, *mezuzot*, jewelry, kiddush cups, honey dishes, metal dreidel spinners, and so much more! We have lovely Judaic gift items and cards for every occasion!

The Boutique at NVHC is here for all of your Judaic needs, including special orders. Please consider shopping at The Boutique at NVHC first. Our prices are lower than local competitors, and all profits help to support Sisterhood programs and gifts to NVHC (the Preschool and religious school, camp scholarships, music and more).

Artists/Designers we carry:

- Yair Emanuel (*Israel*)
- Gary Rosenthal Collection (*US*)
- Michelle Judaica (*Israel and US*)
- Dorit Judaica (*Israel*)
- Peggy Karr Glass (*US*)
- Alef Bet by Paula (*US*)
- Lily Art (*Israel*)
- Tamara Baskin (*Israel and US*)
- Rite Lite (*US*)
- Michael Aram Judaica (*coming Fall 2016*)
- Blackthorn Forge (*coming Fall 2016*)
- Hallmark (*coming Fall 2016*)
- and many more

The Boutique is open during Sunday School & Hebrew School, and by appointment. We're located across from the main NVHC and school offices. The Boutique hours are:

Sundays ~ 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Tuesdays ~ 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Wednesdays ~ 3:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

If the hours above do not work for you, just email Iris at Boutique@nvhcreston.org to schedule a personal shopping appointment.

Also, please **Save-The-Date** for the Annual Sisterhood Chanukah Boutique!

Date: Sunday, November 20th

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: NVHC Sanctuary & Social Hall ♦

NVHC Brotherhood



Brotherhood Family Breakfast

Sunday, November 20th

and December 11th,

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!*

**THE DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES
NOVEMBER 15, 2016, 7:30 P.M.**

***“The Four Tribes of Modern Israel –
Findings from the Pew Center”***

Alan Cooperman

Alan Cooperman is director of religion research at Pew Research Center. An expert on religion’s role in U.S. politics, he was a national reporter and editor at The Washington Post and reported on religion in Russia, the Middle East and Europe.



The NVHC Distinguished Speaker Series is free and open to the public. 1441 Wiehle Ave., Reston, VA 20190

**THE DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES
DECEMBER 6, 2016 AT 7:30 P.M.**

“Fifty Years of The American Presidency”

Allan Lichtman

Author of *The Great Courses: Great Presidents; and Predicting the Next President: The Keys to the White House*. Dr. Lichtman is Distinguished Professor of History at American University.

The NVHC Distinguished Speaker Series is free and open to the public. 1441 Wiehle Ave., Reston, VA 20190



Lifelong Learning - 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

November 5th *The Hilltop*, by Assaf Gavron, translated by Steven Cohen. Fiction. This novel, which won the 2013 Bernstein Prize (one of the most prestigious for an Israeli novel), tells the story of an Israeli hilltop settlement, Ma’aleh Hermesh C., on the West Bank. The tale is told through the relationship of two brothers: Gabi, the ascetic follower of Nachman of Breslov, and Roni, the outgoing, worldly older brother, who thinks religion is “an interesting social attempt to deal with the fact that all men are addicted to sex and violence.”

December 3rd. *The Family: Three Journeys into the Heart of the Twentieth Century*, by David Laskin. Memoir. In tracing the roots of his family, Laskin captures the epic sweep of the twentieth century. A century-and-a-half ago, a Torah scribe and his wife raised six children in a yeshiva town at the western fringe of the Russian empire. But history took the family down three very different roads. One branch emigrated to America and founded the fabulously successful Maidenform Bra Company; another went to Palestine as pioneers and participated in the contentious birth of the state of Israel; the third branch remained in Europe and suffered the onslaught of the Nazi occupation.

social attempt to deal with the fact that all men are addicted to sex and violence.”

January 7th. *The Angel: the Egyptian Spy Who Saved Israel*, by Uri Bar Joseph. History/Biography. 384 pp. Ashraf Marwan was the son-in-law of Gamal Abdel Nasser. Yet he stunned Israeli intelligence when, in 1970, he offered to provide secret documents and insights from deep within the top leadership in Cairo. He handed over copies of high-level reports and seemed happy to explain, at length, how new President Sadat planned to retaliate after its crushing defeat in the Six-Day War of 1967. Because several of Marwan’s warnings proved to be false alarms—he explained this by saying that Sadat frequently changed his mind—some Israeli intelligence officials stopped taking his reports seriously. Israel’s military intelligence chief rejected Marwan’s warnings and Israeli troops were not nearly as ready as they could have been when Egypt attacked—as promised—on *Yom Kippur Day*.

THE JUBILEE CELEBRATION—A STRONG START WITH LOTS MORE ON THE WAY!

By Susan Cohen & Miriam Wolman • Co-Chairs

As you read this, we hope you are still smiling about September 23rd when more than 500 people came together to simultaneously celebrate Shabbat in 50 members' homes. The feedback has been phenomenal! Meeting, greeting, eating (!), sharing and connecting – our Jubilee kick-off had it all. Kudos again to our organizers, Ellen Ranard and Julie Wallick, and to all who participated. Be sure to check out just some of the photos from that amazing evening in this issue of the newsletter. And if you enjoyed that evening, wait 'til you see what's coming up next!



5,000 Mitzvot

Most people think of a mitzvah as a good deed that makes the world a better place. In this spirit, the whole NVHC community is invited to honor our Jubilee by engaging in 5,000 mitzvot – acts of loving kindness and repairing the world. Look for this logo on the NVHC website home page – when you click it, you can record the ways you've supported charities, pursued peace, honored and took care of others in need.

And, if you're not on the website, we also have handy paper forms to report your mitzvot. You'll earn a sticker when you turn one in!

5,000 sounds like a lot, but it'll be easy when we break it down: With 500 families in the congregation, that's only one per month from now through next May. So start thinking about how you can help us meet our goal. There is so much good for us to do! Email Mary Ann Ressin at 5000mitzvot@nvhcreston.org for ideas and questions.

M'sibat NVHC—Coming Home

On Friday, December 2nd, 6:30 p.m. we will honor our founders and leaders from the past 50 years at a special Friday evening Shabbat service and reception. This will be followed by a "homecoming dance" on Saturday evening featuring music from the '60s. Come on, let us see you shake your tail feathers!

Make sure you pick up a copy of the Jubilee Calendar of Events at NVHC, or go to www.nvhcreston.org to learn all about the wonderful programs that celebrate 50 years of NVHC. We welcome suggestions and volunteers!!

Stay tuned! jubilee@nvhcreston.org ♦



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Friday, December 2nd

A special Erev Shabbat service and reception honoring our founders and leaders from the past 50 years.

Saturday, December 3rd

An evening "homecoming" dance, grooving to music from the 60s!

JUBILEE SHABBAT DINNER

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD



NORTHERN VIRGINIA
HEBREW CONGREGATION
50 YEARS • BUILDING TOGETHER





CAN A JEWISH AMERICAN AND PALESTINIAN MUSLIM FIND A COMMON BOND THROUGH MUSIC?



THE PURSUIT OF HARMONY COMES TO RESTON! JANUARY 13-15, 2017

WORLD RENOWNED JEWISH AMERICAN SONGWRITER MICHAEL HUNTER OCHS AND AWARD-WINNING PALESTINIAN PEACE ACTIVIST ALAA ALSHAHAM COME TOGETHER IN 'THE PURSUIT OF HARMONY' – This duo uses music as a vehicle to create a shift in the dynamic between the Jewish American community and the Palestinian people, helping us to explore building relational bridges to peace.

Join celebrated Jewish American songwriter/producer Michael Hunter Ochs and noted Palestinian songwriter/commentator Alaa Alshaham for a weekend of song and conversation. You will be inspired as these two improbable friends retrace their steps through the security checkpoints between Israel and the West Bank, across the Middle East – eventually finding themselves performing together at the United Nations. The personal stories, stunning photographs and exclusive video accompanying the music will sweep you into this incredible experience.

Hear the story, hear the songs...and feel the hope.

Join us, together with these amazing artists for Shabbat and through the weekend, as they tell their extraordinary story and share their music.

- Erev Shabbat services at NVHC January 13th – co-sponsored with ADAMS
- Saturday evening concert, January 14th – co-sponsored with, and hosted at the Reston Community Center, marking the importance of legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in both the Jewish community and our communities at large.
 - To purchase tickets for this concert, please go to: <http://www.restoncommunitycenter.net/attend-shows-events-exhibits/event-detail/2017/01/15/default-calendar/the-pursuit-of-harmony> (Reston member price for all NVHC members)
- Sunday morning, January 15th – joint program with NVHC and ADAMS students

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: WWW.THEPURSUITOFHARMONY.COM.



LIFELONG LEARNING - FALL 2016

Jewish Wisdom and Values Through Mussar

Mussar is a Jewish system for personal growth, specifically in the realm of character trait refinement, helping individuals to find balance and strength in key inner traits that are essential for leading a fulfilling life. Each monthly session will explore this system through these character traits, studying text sources and considering how to bring that into personal life and experience. No prior experience or knowledge needed; each month will be its own exploration, so feel free to come when you can!

Instructor: Cantor Susan Caro

2nd Friday of the month: 8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. Nov 11, Dec 9, Jan 13, Feb 10, Mar 10, Apr 14, June 9

Talmud Study with Rabbi Holzman

This year, we will do an in-depth study of two sections of Talmud, focusing on how arguments and ideas develop. This discussion is open to all who are interested (no prior knowledge necessary). Contact Rabbi Holzman for additional information or if you feel intimidated or concerned about ability level. No registration required.

3rd Friday of the month: 8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m., Nov. 18, Dec. 16, Jan. 20, Feb. 17, Mar. 17, Apr. 21, May 19

Tanakh Chevruta

Tanakh is *Torah* + *Neviim* (Prophets) + *Ketuvim* (Writings). The Hebrew Bible! *Chevruta* is a study partnership. This study group is focused on reading and discussing the Hebrew Bible weaving in our understanding of ancient, medieval, and modern Jewish History, Tanakh, and *Derech HaShem*. Specific topics covered will be determined by the group as we progress. (Last year we covered Samuel I & II, and Kings I & II.)

There are no prerequisites. Everyone has something to offer and something to learn!

Fee: Members \$18, Non-Members \$36

Text: *Tanakh: The Holy Scriptures* (The New JPS translation according to the traditional Hebrew text). Copies available in the NVHC Library or bring your own.

Coordinator: Susan Cohen

Sundays: 11:05 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., (when Kehillat-Limmud is in session)

The Past and Future of American Judaism

As NVHC reaches its 50th year, it is time to take stock. The American Jewish community as we know it was shaped primarily by waves of Eastern European immigration over a century ago. As each generation gains distance from those waves, the ideas, themes, cultures and practices of American Judaism will be different from those of the past. This 8-part class will cover the origins of American Judaism and the trends shaping our future. The same class will be offered at two different times. Note: Access instructions for online sessions will be provided to registered students.

Instructor: Rabbi Michael Holzman

Tuesdays: 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Nov. 29, Jan. 24, Feb. 28, Mar. 28, Apr. 25, May 23 (At NVHC)

iEngage: The Engaging Israel Project

The goal of the iEngage Project is to respond to growing feelings of disenchantment and disinterest toward Israel among an ever-increasing number of Jews worldwide by creating a new narrative regarding the significance of Israel for Jewish life. This narrative will serve as a foundation for a new covenant between Israel and world Jewry, elevating the existing discourse from one with a crisis-based focus to one rooted in Jewish values and ideas. Each class session will include a video lecture prepared by the Hartman Institute followed by discussion.

Sundays: Nov. 13, Dec. 11, Jan. 22, Feb. 12, Mar. 19, Apr. 2

Jewish Genealogy

As we look to the roots of our own congregation, we can also search the roots of our own families. This class will introduce participants to personal genealogical research in three sessions: getting started, using online resources and conducting searches, and more advanced topics such as DNA testing, archives, Jewish heritage travel, and software.

Instructor: Eugene Alpert, President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Washington

Fee: \$18 Members, \$36 Non-Members **Wednesdays:** 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 14

Jewish Responsa: Traditional and Modern A Lunch and Learn Program with Rabbi Rosalind Gold

In rabbinic literature, the Responsa are known as *she'elot v'teshuvot*, "questions and answers" and comprise the body of

(continued on page 14)

LIFELONG LEARNING - FALL 2016 (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

written decisions and rulings given by rabbis on practical, everyday interpretations of Rabbinic law. The Responsa literature covers a period of 1,700 years—the mode, style, and subject matter have changed as a function of the travels of the Jewish people and the communities in which they found themselves. Responsa thus contain valuable information about the culture of the Jews and the people among whom they lived. Information may also be gleaned about the moral and social relations of the times, occupations, the household customs, expressions of joy and of sorrow, and recreations and even games. The tradition of Responsa continues into the modern age; they continue to be written and compiled to this day. Please join us for an exploration of the treasures of this tradition and the Jewish ways to answer some of the challenging questions of our time.

Fee: Members \$18; Non-Members \$36

Instructor: Rabbi Emerita Rosalind Gold

Tuesdays: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31

Preschool Parents Discussion Group

We invite all preschool parents to join us in monthly preschool parenting discussions. We will discuss topics ranging from thinking about how to integrate what our children are learning in preschool into the home to addressing how to continue integrating Judaism into your children's daily lives once they transition to kindergarten. We will discuss these topics and many more throughout the year.

Instructors: Cantor Susan Caro and Rabbi Jessica Wainer

Fridays: 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Nov. 18, Dec. 2, Jan. 20, Feb. 17, Mar. 17, Apr. 28, May 19

Parenting Teens Discussion Group

The teenage years can be stressful for teens and their parents alike. This discussion group for parents of teens explores the challenges and joys of this time of transitions. Text (optional): *The Blessing of a B-minus* by Wendy Mogel

Tuesdays: 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 13, Jan. 10, Feb. 21, Mar. 14, Apr. 18

International Weekend of Muslim-Jewish Twinning November 12 & 14, 2016

Join us for our annual participation in this global event. As one of the first congregations to participate, we have a leadership role in continuing ongoing Muslim-Jewish learning, cooperation, and dialog. The first part of the weekend will take place on Saturday morning, **November 12**, when one of the Imams from the ADAMS center will teach at Torah Talk at 9:00 a.m. Then on Monday evening, **November 14 at 7:00 p.m.**, please join us at the ADAMS Center (46903 Sugarland Rd., Sterling, VA) for a joint discussion between Rabbi Holzman and Imam Magid. No registration is necessary.

Biblical Archaeology Society of Northern Virginia (BASONOVA)

Unearth the secrets of the past! BASONOVA is a non-sectarian organization open to anyone who has an interest in biblical-era archaeology or the history, art, religion, and texts of ancient times. They offer Sunday afternoon lectures on Near East, the Bible, and related topics. NVHC is now affiliated with BASONOVA, which will allow our congregants to attend lectures at a reduced fee. In addition, NVHC will host the March event. To register, or to learn more go to www.basonova.org

Fee: \$10 lecture fee; (\$5 for the March lecture which NVHC will co-sponsor). Additional fee for lunch (optional)

Date & Time	Topic	Lecturer
Nov. 20	Egypt and Canaan: A Political and Cultural Encounter	Daphna Ben Tor Israel Museum
Jan. 29	Doctors, Diseases, and Deities: Epidemic Crises and Medicine in Ancient Rome	Sarah Yeomans Biblical Archaeology Society
Feb. 26	How to Build a Greek Temple	Dr. Lindley Vann University of Maryland
Mar. 26	Unity and Diversity in Judaism and Christianity During the First Two Centuries CE	L. Stephanie Cobb University of Richmond
Apr. 30	What the Dead Sea Scrolls Teach Us about the Bible	Dr. Sidnie White Crawford University of Nebraska at Lincoln
May 20 & 21	Curator-Guided Private Tour of Byzantine Collection	Dumbarton Oaks Washington DC (pre-registration required)

INCLUSION INITIATIVE

By *Andrea Vavonese*

Vision: Our Inclusion Initiative strives to ensure that all members of the NVHC Congregation are able to participate meaningfully in all spiritual, educational, celebratory and life event activities at the synagogue.

Respite Care? If you have a special needs child and are in need of respite care, please let us know. We are exploring possible opportunities to provide respite care so that you can attend a Shabbat service or a night out.

Special Needs Resources: Did you know the JCC and the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington offers resources for the special needs community? See <http://www.jccnv.org/specialneeds/special-needs/> and <http://www.shalomdc.org/disabilitiesandinclusion/> to learn more.

Looking for a Mitzvah Project? If you have an upcoming Bar or Bat Mitzvah and are looking for a mitzvah project, consider getting involved with the NVHC Inclusion Initiative. There are many ways to become involved. Contact NVHCInclusion@gmail.com for more information.

Get Involved: Our next meeting will be on **November 9th at 7:00 p.m.** We welcome all who want to be involved in this important initiative. If you have experience as a person with special needs, a parent or grandparent of a person with special needs, or as a professional in special or general

education or counseling, you will provide great value to this initiative, and we encourage you to become involved. If you want to learn more about this initiative, please contact Andrea Vavonese at NVHCInclusion@gmail.com or visit our webpage at <http://www.nvhcreston.org/live/inclusion/>.

Donate: Your donation supports our ongoing programming and training and will allow us to further the inclusion of individuals with differing abilities in our synagogue. **Please make checks payable to: NVHC Inclusion Initiative.**

Inclusive Education: Want to send your child to religious school, but not sure if NVHC can meet his or her special needs? Please contact Rabbi Jessica Wainer at rabbiwainer@nvhcreston.org. We want to work with you and your children and will do all we can to be flexible and provide support to meet each individual's needs.

Let Us Know: We want to hear from you. What more can we do to ensure everyone can bring their whole authentic selves to our community? Please contact NVHCInclusion@gmail.com. ♦

JCCNV-NVHC Active Adults

MEET THE AUTHOR — CLAUDIA KALB, ANDY WARHOL WAS A HOARDER: INSIDE THE MINDS OF HISTORY'S GREAT PERSONALITIES

By *Carla Rosenfeld* • Adult Programming Director

Tuesday, November 29, 10:30 a.m.

Was Andy Warhol a hoarder? Did Einstein have autism? Was Frank Lloyd Wright a narcissist? In this surprising, inventive, and meticulously researched look at the evolution of mental health, acclaimed health and science journalist Claudia Kalb gives readers a glimpse into the lives of high-profile historic figures through the lens of modern psychology, weaving groundbreaking research into biographical narratives that are deeply embedded in our culture. — Amazon.com

Claudia Kalb is an award-winning journalist specializing in science and medicine. A former senior writer at Newsweek, Claudia has reported on a wide range of topics from emotional memory to the origins of autism. In her talk, Claudia will share her experiences researching and writing *Andy Warhol Was a Hoarder*, tell little-known stories about the 12 famous people she profiles, and raise fascinating questions about how the complexities of their minds might be viewed today: If George Gershwin had been

diagnosed with ADHD and treated with Ritalin, would we still have "Rhapsody in Blue?"

This is a joint event with NVHC Silver Line, and will be followed by lunch at Café Montmartre in Lake Anne Village Center. Please RSVP to [Roberta Sherman at robertasherman@aol.com](mailto:robertasherman@aol.com) if you are attending both the program and the lunch at Montmartre, and to Carla.Rosenfeld@jccnv.org if you are attending only the program.

Fee: \$9/\$7 J or synagogue member (separate charge for lunch) ♦

Talmud the other day; a minority opinion of a certain rabbi, who then later changed his opinion and joined the majority. But the text insisted on recording and canonizing that minority opinion when even its owner abandoned it. This is common in Talmud. Jews love disagreement and dissent. We encourage it and revel in it. We grow from hearing the other point of view and learning how to argue a position from the other side. That is what helps us find the best solutions and develop wisdom. This is part of why Jews have done so well in America. Not only do we embrace diversity of opinion, we also embody it.

But given our cultural climate, even Judaism strains against the winds of purity. That is why this month, in four days in a row, we have three very different and very important experiences to help us exercise our Jewish disagreement muscles. First and second, on **November 12th and 14th**, we have our **Weekend of Muslim-Jewish Twinning with the ADAMS center**. On Saturday morning, **November 11th/12th**, Imam Magid will teach Torah Talk, and on **Monday, November 14th**, I will join him on at the **ADAMS Center in Sterling** to discuss *“The Ethics of Dissent in Judaism and Islam.”* The best way to expand our openness to diverse opinion is through interfaith relations.

Third and fourth, we all know that the most divisive issues in the Jewish world concern Israel. So we will again practice our ability to disagree through two programs about Israel. On **Sunday morning, November 13th (11:00 a.m. -12:15 p.m.)**, we will begin our iEngage learning series. This is a program of high-level video lectures from the

Hartman Institute that discuss some of the hardest issues in Israel today from a variety of perspectives. We will watch excerpts of the video together, and then I will facilitate a discussion about it. Then on **Tuesday, November 15**, as part of our Distinguished Speaker Series (*at 7:30, note the different start time*), Alan Cooperman, from the Pew Foundation, will be presenting the largest study ever of Israeli attitudes. He will help us understand the social and political forces guiding Israel today. The study is amazing, and Cooperman is a fascinating speaker.

So Four Days, four opportunities for experiencing dissent, disagreement, opposing points of view and fascinating issues.

Saturday 11/12: Imam Magid teaching at NVHC, Torah Talk 9-10:15 a.m.

Sunday 11/13: iEngage lecture/discussion, 11:00 -12:15 a.m.

Monday 11/14: Rabbi Holzman and Imam Magid teach together at ADAMS on *“The Ethics of Dissent”* 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday 11/15: Alan Cooperman from the Pew Foundation on attitudes in Israel, 7:30 p.m.

By November 8th, we will all be exhausted and perhaps a bit scared. Hopefully these four opportunities will demonstrate that respect for difference and acceptance of diversity are alive and well. This is what Judaism and America stand for. If you think otherwise, we can agree to disagree. ♦

High Holiday Appeal

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



Francine Beifeld
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Seymour and Linda Samuels...in memory of Essie Samuels

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Arnie and Natalie Small...in memory of Ken Ruttenberg

Deborah Smith-Cohen

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Elise Stein and Scott Sunshine...in memory of Rose Naiman

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Kathy Webb...in memory of Ken Ruttenberg and Sylvia Lieberman

Howard and Carolyn Wesoky...in memory of Edward Schwartz,

Ralph Unger, Anna Schwartz

Ralph and Miriam Wolman...in memory of Rose Naiman

(Continued on page 18)

Tzedakah: We Thank Our Generous Contributors (continued from page 17)

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Life-Cycle Events in the NVHC Family

MAZEL TOV

To proud grandparents Michael and Candy Kleinrock, on the birth of their granddaughter
 Sara Yael Kleinrock, born August 19th, to parents Sam and Valerie Kleinrock
 To Ellen Falci, daughter of Craig and Nina Falci, on her engagement to Joel Loeshelle
 To Reinaldo Sucre and Abby Bornstein Sucre, on the birth of their daughter, Juliana Raziela Sucre, born October 7th

R'FU-AH SH'LEI-MA

Ken Blume	Alan McGibbon
Mike Dixon	Irene Menchel
Betty Drake	Irene Miller
Bruce Evry	Paulette Peltz
Rochelle Fisher	Joanne Polansky
David Fram	Nigel Preece
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Al Groff	Tamara Selden
Clarice Karnette	Richard Shlakman
Nisa Katz	Robert Stein
Larry Klinger	Scott Sunshine
Gioia Komar	Lester Sussman
Donald Lockshin	Janet Wood

CONDOLENCES

To Linda Gordon on the death of her stepmother, Sylvia Lieberman
 To Barbara Sproull, on the death of her father, Edgar Berger
 To Bob Wein, on the death of his aunt, Yvette "Teddy" Stein
 To Lori Lefcourt, on the death of her mother, Elaine Lefcourt
 To Lauryn Watanabe, on the death of her grandmother, Susan Grant
 To Judy Naiman, on the death of her aunt, Rita Naiman
 To Judy Naiman, on the death of her mother, Rose Naiman
 To Sara Viener, on the death of her mother, Elizabeth Smith Wilson
 To George Viener and Adam Viener, on the death of his wife/his mother, Sue Viener
 To Betty Donskoy, on the death of her mother, Helen Corda
 To Carol Piccus, on the death of her sister, Beth Wood
 To Mozelle Karnette Stanton, on the death of her aunt, Gloria Bloom
 To Barbara Ratner, on the death of her mother Beatrice Goldrich

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

WE ALSO WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING
 VOLUNTEERS FOR ALL THEIR GRACIOUS
 HELP IN THE OFFICE TO HELP PREPARE FOR
 THE HIGH HOLY DAYS AT HOME

Gail Dezube	Janice LaRock
Vera Feig	Ruth Lipson
Carol Fram	Ellen Ranard
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Laurie Kobick	Carolyn Wesoky

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.

Membership Directory Corrections

The following members have a change of address, phone, or email:

Jolie Deutschman
jdeutschman@steinsperling.com



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A 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.

Jon & Faye Asner

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& Dawn Dumon

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mark your calendar for these **Upcoming Events**

- Inclusion Meeting ♦ November 9th, 7:00 p.m., see page 15
 Speaker Series ♦ Paul Cooperman, November 15th, 7:30 p.m., see page 9
 Speaker Series ♦ Allan Lichtman, December 6th, 7:30 p.m., see page 9
 Rabbi Wainer's Installation ♦ December 9th, 8:00 p.m.

NVHC Contact Information

NVHC Office (secretary answers)	703-437-7733	Executive Director	Sara Moore ext. I05
NVHC Office (directly to individual)	703-471-6046	sara@nvhcreston.org	
Preschool	703-435-8829	Director of Early Childhood Education	Cindi Drake ext. I10
Fax	703-437-3443	cindi@nvhcreston.org	
Website	www.nvhcreston.org	Administrative Assistant	Mozelle Stanton ext. I01
		mozelle@nvhcreston.org	
Rabbi	Michael G. Holzman ext. I02	Assistant for Educational Engagement	Elaine Bowling ext. I04
rabbiholzman@nvhcreston.org		elaine@nvhcreston.org	
Rabbi Emerita	Rosalind Gold	Bookkeeper	Linda Klinker ext. I08
Cantor	Susan Caro ext. I06	linda@nvhcreston.org	
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Director of Congregational Learning	Jessica Wainer ext. I03	sheri@nvhcreston.org	
rabbiwainer@nvhcreston.org		Youth Engagement Coordinator	Adam Zemel ext. I47
		adam@nvhcreston.org	

DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017 ISSUE: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2016