

NVHC *links*

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Perspective *By Rabbi Michael G. Holzman*



LIVING THE JEWISH STORY, AND WHY WE MUST BE ENGAGED WITH ISRAEL

I will be attending the AIPAC Policy Conference March 26-28, 2017, and I would like to invite you to join me there.

A few years ago I could not imagine writing that sentence because I felt that AIPAC gave blanket support to the policies, including the abhorrent ones, of the Netanyahu government. But my feelings have evolved to the point where I understand AIPAC differently, and I understand our current Jewish moment differently. I discussed this at the early morning service on Rosh Hashanah, and I will summarize here.

For the past three generations, Non-Orthodox, North American Judaism (NONAJ) has been about two major principles: Liberalism and survival. From the 1950-'80s, survival was ascendant in the community, with our efforts focused on Israeli security and rescuing Jewish communities in Ethiopia and the Soviet Union. An institutional Judaism sprung up led by the UJA, ADL, JNF, AJC (both of them) and of course, AIPAC, and these groups flourished with community support.

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Perspective *By Cantor Susan Caro*

“WHEN YOU SING, PEOPLE UNDERSTAND”

It seems sort of obvious to say that I am passionate about music. Specifically, in the way that music elevates the soul; that it transforms.



So many of my meaningful life experiences are connected to some piece of music, some song, or some melody. Or, the melodies are connected to my life experiences. It is a very emotional affective connection, transcending words, even as the music also serves the words conveyed. Knowing this about myself, I feel incredibly fortunate to be immersed in my life's calling, where music and song are such an integral part of my work.

As a cantor, one of many principles that inspires me is the value of the communal voice. Songs have the power to move people, often more than words alone. We can trace the routes of communal singing all the way back to the shores of the Red Sea. Moses calls forth the Israelites to sing with him – ‘*Ashira Ladonai*,’ he says – the singular construct of the Hebrew indicates that we each sing in our unique voices. But that isn't enough: Miriam

(Continued on page 20)

Camp Shabbat,
Jan 6th,
6:30 p.m.
Wear Shabbat
White!

Pursuit of
Harmony
Jan 13th - 15th
See page 9.

Erev Shabbat
Worship Service
with Board
Installation &
Kol Shirah,
Jan 20th, 6:30 p.m.



BALANCING TRADITION AND CHANGE

By Rabbi Jessica Wainer

Hands down, the highlight of my week is Sunday mornings — watching as families of all ages stream into the building, ready to engage in meaningful study of Judaism, engaging with students as they work to develop their own Jewish identities as Reform Jews in Northern Virginia, and singing with our students in *Tefillah* (services) throughout the morning. Through our various education programs, we have the opportunity to provide space to learn and explore, teach and grow. These programs are all steeped in the traditions of our text, of our people and of our history here at NVHC.

Tevye, in *Fiddler on the Roof*, reminds us that keeping tradition in the wake of changes in society is not always an easy task. “A fiddler on the roof. Sounds crazy, no? But here, in our little village of Anatevka, you might say every one of us is a fiddler on the roof trying to scratch out a pleasant, simple tune without breaking his neck. It isn’t easy. You may ask ‘Why do we stay up here if it’s so dangerous? Well, we stay because Anatevka is our home. And how do we keep our balance? That I can tell you in one word: Tradition!”

In some ways, we are all fiddlers on the roof, trying to maintain balance in our lives. We can find this within the traditions of our families and our religion, within our home communities and global communities. Finding that balance can be invigorating and also intimidating. Tradition pulls at us, and yet it is upon each of us to figure out how we weave tradition into our modern lives. We rely on tradition for the values and ideas that it brings. However, we must then take those ideas and values and bring them into the 21st century with us.

NVHC has a long tradition of making education, for all of our students, a priority. This education, in order for it to continue to be meaningful and relevant, must be constantly reevaluated; thus, providing us with

the opportunity to continually provide engaging ways for our students to interact with the many facets of Judaism. The field of Jewish education is constantly evolving and with it, so must our educational programs here at NVHC. Together, as a *kehillah kedosha* (a holy community), we can work together to design the future of Jewish education.

Over the course of this year, we will be engaging in a design process to better meet and exceed the needs of our families engaged in learning here at NVHC. These voices will help to guide us in making decisions that will shape *Kehillat Limmud* and *Tamid*. Having already engaged in the first set of these meetings, the voices helped us to understand where we are, and where we need to be going. Together as a design team, we will be working to craft a vision and action plan for both *Kehillat Limmud* and *Tamid*.

We hope to use the traditions of NVHC to help propel us into this next stage of exploration for our learning communities. While we might not have fiddles to play on the roof, we can work together to find a balance between tradition and change, bringing both along equally and embrace what new engaging Jewish experiences might come our way. ♦

Inclement Weather Closings

Sundays: If you signed up for Remind, you will get a text letting you know of the closing. You can also check: <http://wtop.com/closings-and-delays/>.

Tuesdays and Wednesdays: We are not strictly following the Fairfax County Public Schools this year. For information on whether we have closed, please check <http://wtop.com/closings-and-delays/>. If you signed up for Remind, you will also receive a text via Remind, letting you know of any school closing. ♦

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I'M LISTENING

By Kay Menchel

It is a truth universally acknowledged that every incoming president is caught by surprise when they receive the email that asks for their submission for the newsletter. I was mentally prepared to think “presidentially” in January, but not by the December deadline for submissions... However, by the time you read this, barring recounts or a revolt at the Congregational meeting, I will have been installed as your President.

So, what do I want to share with you? I think the most important thing is to let you know that while it may, at times, be a challenge to be in this position, it is an honour (and, yes, I'm going to continue to spell that with a “u”). I'm taking over this position in the middle of our Jubilee Year, and I am conscious of all the wonderful things we have to celebrate, both from our past, and for our future.

I also want to let you know that I am ready to listen. One of the very first things I want to do as president is to make listening and engagement a central part of our mission. We have a phenomenal team of clergy and an

amazing staff, but we can do nothing effectively without our members as volunteers, and as leaders. At the time of this writing, I can tell you that we are beginning work on the details of an engagement campaign that will reach out to everyone. In order to feel connected to our fellow congregants and our synagogue, we need to share our views, our hopes, and our vision for our future. It also means that we need to get involved. If we wish for change, we must be prepared to act, and we have dozens of opportunities for every member to engage in a meaningful way. One of the great joys of my membership at NVHC has been the friends that I have made through becoming a part of this community, so I urge you all to think about what is important to you, and how you can become part of something that will make you feel a sense of pride and belonging at NVHC.

I wish you all a happy new year, and I look forward to hearing from you, meeting with you, praying with you, and sharing the joys of this incredibly special congregation. ♦

Perspective *By Rabbi Michael G. Holzman (continued from page 1)*

Simultaneously, we dedicated ourselves to progressive politics, especially its core ideas about the protection of historically oppressed communities. We took to heart all of those biblical commands to remember the stranger, the widow and the orphan because we were once strangers in the lands of Egypt, Poland, and WASP America. Jews threw themselves into the Civil Rights movement, while also glowing with pride at both the survival of Israel and its core Labor-Zionist ideology symbolized by kibbutznik egalitarianism. For many decades, these values aligned.

But in the 1980s, and certainly in the last 25 years, the values of liberalism and Jewish survivalism seemed to diverge. First, Israel's survival moved beyond doubt. Economically and militarily, it became one of the strongest countries in the world. Second, we ran out of communities around the world to rescue, and Judaism became concentrated in two locations as never before: Israel and North America. Third, when the two intifadas (uprisings) failed, Palestinian nationalism began a very sophisticated media strategy to delegitimize Israel on the international stage. Arab kids became David to Israel's Goliath. Fourth, right wing governments have dominated Israeli politics

and have thus expanded the settlement regime--with all of its oppressive security apparatus--in the West Bank, even while withdrawing from Southern Lebanon and Gaza. And fifth, in recent years, liberalism became more strident and puritanical, applying the theory of intersectionality to the situation in Israel/Palestine.

This last point deserves elaboration. Intersectionality is the idea that an oppression anywhere requires resistance everywhere. This came to fruition this summer in the platform of the Movement for Black Lives. Representing resistance to discrimination against people of color here, as Black Lives Matter morphed into an organized movement, it added people for whom intersectionality meant liberalism here means protecting Palestinians in Israel. The platform describes the situation in the West Bank as “genocide” and “Apartheid,” which are factually untrue and ignore the larger context of the long Arab-Jewish conflict in the Middle East.

So, by this year, liberalism and Jewish survivalism have come into full-blown conflict. This is a crisis for NONAJ, which is why I'm going to the AIPAC Policy Conference.

(Continued on page 18)

MITZVAH MADNESS IN THE PRESCHOOL

By Cindi Drake • Director of Early Childhood Education



Learning to think outside one's own needs, desires and preferences is a process and a challenge, even for adults. In the Preschool, we begin by decorating personal *tzedakah* boxes the children bring home, fill with coins and return to school. We discuss *Tikkun Olam*, and that we can help repair the world by donating those coins to different organizations. In the classrooms, there is discussion about "repairing" waterways and oceans by giving our coins to people who will help make them or keep them clean. In faraway places, there are villages without a Giant grocery store, and the people get milk from goats or cows. Using our coins to buy a goat "repairs" a village in need of one.

In addition to collecting money to donate, toward the middle of the school year, we ask children to bring in a small food item for the Forest Edge Backpack Program. We ask that they bring these on Friday when we celebrate Shabbat. The hope is that as they put their donations into the bin on the way to Shabbat, they will start to make a

connection between *Shabbat* and *Mitzvot*.

Every year, in advance of Thanksgiving, each class puts together a basket filled with all the fixings for a wonderful Thanksgiving Feast: Everything from cooking oil, flour, to vegetables, stuffing and dessert. In addition, a gift card from a local grocery store is included to buy the turkey. We then deliver the baskets to Cornerstones to distribute to families. This year, instead of the three baskets we normally donate, we had fourteen! As a school, families decided to collect for two baskets per classroom, and then individual families assembled their own baskets, and included gift cards, as well. Mostly they were anonymous, and just left alongside the classroom baskets. What a powerful message this sent to all of our children.



Laurie Kobick

And finally, this year we have partnered with Sisterhood to sponsor a new Head Start program in Sterling. This preschool serves children from 0 – 3 years of age. The school is in need of used books, diapers and gently used clothes. In the first week, we collected two full bins, and more are coming in.

As educators, we discuss modeling for children as a teaching tool. Modeling how to share, modeling how to negotiate, modeling how to play nicely, and modeling how to speak respectfully, even when you are angry. But modeling the idea that *being good* also means *doing good deeds*, is the most important lesson we teach. Having the children involved in all of these *mitzvot*, we believe sets them on the path for both. ♦



Latisha Parker Head Start Director



Thanksgiving for Cornerstones

Todah Rabah

The Preschool Wishes to Thank...

Ellice Stern, for donating lots and lots of glue!

Kay Menchel, for donating Giant Gift cards for our Thanksgiving baskets.

Rachael Fineberg, for donating to the Head Start program.

Jen Monago, for donating to the Head Start Program.

Brooke Ruytenbeek, for donating to the Head Start Program.

Shy Family, for donating a dustbuster to the 2-year-old class.

Ruth Ann Whelan, for donating reams and reams of paper for classroom use!

Tot Shabbat

COME GET THAT SHABBAT FEELING!

January 7th and February 4th, 9:00 a.m.

Meet us in the sanctuary 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:

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

JANUARY-FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

By Adam Zemel • Youth Activities Coordinator

****Please email Adam@nvhcreston to RSVP or ask any follow-up questions****

Attention all Camp Harlam and other Jewish Camping families: Join us for **Camp Shabbat on January 6th**, dressed in your best Shabbat whites for a camp-style service, dinner, and dancing with Camp Harlam celebrity DJ Rak Dan! Keep an eye out for registration details which will be announced soon. Registration is available on the NVHC Events Page under Camp Shabbat.

3rd-6th Grade Families: On **January 8th**, following our first day of KL in 2017, NVHC is going Ice Skating at Reston Town Center! Let's gather together after the Winter Break (siblings and parents included), and celebrate our community—email Adam@nvhcreston.org for help facilitating carpools and other logistics. Rentals and admission will be \$12.00/person at the rink. We look forward to seeing you there.

In-House Tamid Retreat, January 13-14, 2017. Open to all 8th-12th grade 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!

6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Families: Your 6th-8th grade student is eligible to attend NFTY MAR's Mid Atlantic Junior Youth *Kallah* (MAJYK) taking place over the **weekend of January 27th-29th** at Temple Emanuel in Kensington, MD. This is a great opportunity for our

middle schoolers: NFTY, the North American Federation of Temple Youth, is the URJ's youth movement. Each year the Mid Atlantic Region (encompassing Maryland, D.C., Virginia and North Carolina) offers this *kallah* as an entry point for younger students into the world of NFTY. NFTY fosters strong relationships between students whom they know from their own synagogues, while also forging connections with Jewish kids from synagogues across the region. Through a combination of experiential Jewish engagement and social programming, NFTY deepens young people's Jewish experience and fosters a true sense of belonging and meaningful community. Register at midatlantic.nfty.org. We hope to see you there!

7th-12th Graders: Join us on **February 5th after KL** for NoVTY's trip to the Udvar-Hazy Center of the National Air and Space Museum! Browse the museum at your own pace, or participate in a photo scavenger hunt with prizes. Email Adam@nvhcreston.org to RSVP.

10th-12th Graders: There are still spots available for our trip to the Religious Action Center's *L'Taken Seminar for Social Justice*, on **February 24th-27th**. This is an engaging and meaningful Reform Jewish experience that educates our kids about Social Justice issues from a policy perspective, culminating in an advocacy day when the teens go to Capitol Hill and meet with staffers from the offices of their Congress members to advocate for issues ranging from Criminal Justice Reform to Combatting Climate Change. It is among the best programs that the URJ offers to teenagers across any of its organizations. Email Adam@nvhcreston with any follow-up questions! ♦

JCCNV-NVHC Active Adults

NORTHERN VIRGINIA JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL PREVIEW EVENT AND LUNCH

Tuesday, March 14th, 10:30 a.m.

The title and description of the film to be previewed will be announced in the Voice, Adults-on-the-Go, and on the website, once we know the details. This joint event with NVHC Silver Line will be followed by lunch at a location TBA.

Fee: \$9/\$7 J or synagogue member (includes film and meeting fee; lunch-separate charge)

RSVP: Carla.Rosenfeld@jccnv.org, 703-537-3060 ♦

Mazel Tov to our B'nai Mitzvah



Stephen Salen
January 14th

Stephen's Bar Mitzvah Project is volunteering and fund raising for *Bridges: Harmony Through Music*, an intensive after-school program that seeks to develop the intellectual, social, leadership, and personal identities of children through the pursuit of musical excellence.



Zachary Aden Turk
January 28th

Zach's Bar Mitzvah Project is to donate food and necessities to local support organizations.

Leah Fenster
February 25th

Leah's Bat Mitzvah Project is creating an organic garden, where all the produce would go to the food pantry or homeless shelter.



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.

Torah Talk

Our Shabbat Torah study class will be held on **Saturday, January 14th, 21st, 28th, and February 11th, 18th, 25th**, 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. ♦

Brotherhood Bachman Award

NOMINATIONS NEEDED FOR THE MARC BACHMAN AWARD

By Bruce Johnson • Brotherhood President

The NVHC Brotherhood requests your nominations for the 2016 Marc Bachman Award. The Marc Bachman Award is an annual award presented by the NVHC Brotherhood in honor and memory of the late Marc Bachman. The award is presented to an NVHC member, who, through his or her commitment to NVHC and his/her personal attributes, reflects the qualities and high moral standards of Judaism. The honorees listed on the plaque in the NVHC lobby contains a small sample of the people who give of themselves to help make NVHC the special community it is, and we would like to recognize more of them.

The nominations committee will be accepting nominations through January 31, 2017. In addition to being members of the congregation, nominees should have performed consistent service to NVHC in two or more areas over an extended period of time, or performed a specific act or acts of particular importance to the NVHC community. Please send an email or call any of the committee members, and they will share your nomination with the others. If you call, please be sure to provide a way for the committee to get in touch with you. The more information provided, the better. Often a person has been nominated because of one or two things, but a little digging reveals many more contributions. ♦

The Marc Bachman Award nominating committee consists of:

Michael Brody	michael_brody@yahoo.com	703-758-0937
Eric Forman	ericforman@comcast.net	703-860-9006
Samuel Schwall	sschwall1@yahoo.com	703-620-0910
Robert Wein	rwein12@verizon.net	571-344-0019

CELEBRATING NVHC'S PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE—BUILDING TOGETHER!

By Miriam Wolman & Susan Cohen • Co-Chairs

We are now deep into the year-long activities that mark NVHC's golden anniversary. We hope you've participated, and are enjoying the many ways we're marking this milestone occasion.

In December, at *M'Sibat NVHC*, we recognized generations of Temple leadership at a special reception



and said a special *Shebecheyanu* for the many leaders who have brought us to this day. Then we got out our dancing shoes to enjoy a fun-filled night of music and delicious food with friends old & new.



Special kudos to Sandra Blumberg for her tireless efforts to make the homecoming dance a night to remember!

At *M'Sibat NVHC* we also introduced **memory boards** – one for each decade – on which members are encouraged post their favorite moments: When you joined, what lifecycle events defined or transformed your NVHC experience, what gives our community meaning to you. Look for these on display and think about what you want to add to our collective story.

And now in the depths of winter, you have an opportunity to nourish and warm your mind, soul and body with the **Weekend of Nourishment, February 3rd – 5th**. This *Shabbaton* will explore the many ways we nurture ourselves, our families and our community. There will be activities for adults as well as children, with a special emphasis on supporting our Forest Edge and Hypothermia meals programs, two important ways NVHC contributes to sustaining those in need. Save the date and plan to join us for this heartening weekend!

For a complete list of the programs and events still to come as we celebrate 50 years of NVHC, pick up the Jubilee Calendar of Events in the office, or go to <http://www.nvhcreston.org/jubilee>. We welcome suggestions and volunteers!!

Stay tuned! jubilee@nvhcreston.org ♦



NVHC Brotherhood Family Breakfast

Sunday, January 8th and February 12th, 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 PURSUIT OF HARMONY” Artists-in-Residence Weekend

NVHC, in partnership with the All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS), and the Reston Community Center, will host the musical group The Pursuit of Harmony. Combining the talents of Jewish American songwriter Michael Hunter Ochs and award-winning Muslim Palestinian peace activist/songwriter Alaa Alshaham, the group brings a message of peace and hope through music and dialogue.



Friday, January 13, 6:30 p.m. Join us with these amazing artists and *Shireinu* – our youth choir – for our Erev Shabbat service that will weave their extraordinary story and music into our worship.

Saturday, January 14, 8:00 p.m., Reston Community Center
Concert and Conversation with Michael and Alaa.
Tickets: \$5, available through www.RestonCommunityCenter.com

Sunday, January 15
Our religious school youth will engage in song and storytelling with Michael and Alaa.



For more details, visit www.nvhcreston.org/calendar.

703.437.7733



Fight winter's chill with warm programs to feed your mind, body and soul!

Friday Night:

Movement & Mindfulness Shabbat with special guest, followed by dinner!

Saturday:

Nourishing *Shabbaton* featuring prayer, social action, tallit making & challah baking. Optional Kiddush lunch!

Sunday:

Doing mitzvot and an exciting book swap for Kehilat Limmud

Nurture yourself and the community as we support Forest Edge and the Hypothermia Meals programs.

Find more information at www.nvhcreston.org/nourish.

Jubilee News

OFF TO A GREAT START, BUT WE NEED MORE MITZVOT! ENTER YOURS TODAY!

By Mary Ann Ressin

Members have submitted several hundred mitzvot, but we will need *everyone's participation* to reach our **goal of 5,000**. We know you're doing good deeds every day – now you just need to add them to the tally! There are 2 easy ways to record your acts of kindness:

- Paper forms are displayed beside decorated Mitzvah boxes in the sanctuary lobby and by the school office – fill one out & pop it in the box!

OR

- Enter yours electronically on the NVHC website <http://www.nvhcreston.org/live/5000-mitzvotacts-of-kindness>.

Looking for more ideas? We've got helpful suggestions for each category: Giving, Honoring, Building Our Community, Peace, and Environment. **Remember to count each mitzvah!** If you donate food to Forest Edge or volunteer on a consistent basis, remember, each act counts as a separate mitzvah! Feel free to include any ongoing mitzvot in the "I did it my way" section to save some time, e.g., Donated 12x to Forest Edge program.

If you have any questions or ideas, please contact Mary Ann Ressin at 5000mitzvot@nvhcreston.org. Thank you! ♦

HELPING WOMEN & CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITY

By Ellen S. Ranard • Sisterhood Co-President

Sisterhood's mission is to support the highest ideals of Judaism and the goals of NVHC by promoting camaraderie, *esprit de corps*, spirituality and participation in *tikkun olam* – repairing the world – within our congregation and the greater community. We take our responsibility to participate in *tikkun olam* seriously – but we have so much fun doing it!

Sisterhood's social action focuses on women and children in the local community. In the past year, we organized volunteer days to sort donated clothing and help disadvantaged women “shop” (Women Giving Back), we made blankets for traumatized and hospitalized children (Project Linus), and we participated in several collection drives (Cornerstones & Women Giving Back).

We are very excited about our newest endeavor. We have “adopted” an early Head Start center in Sterling, run by Northern Virginia Family Services. This center provides daycare to 32 economically-disadvantaged children from infant to age 3. In partnership with Cindi Drake and the NVHC Preschool, we have donated baby clothes, books, and diapers to the center. Many of these children have no books to read in their homes – but with our support, books are being sent home with the children. Courtesy of Hana Newcomb and Potomac Vegetable Farm, we donated pumpkins to the center's fall event. Sisterhood volunteers helped the children select and decorate pumpkins at this special event – a “pumpkin patch” for the 32 children and their families. We even painted faces – have you ever

tried painting a pumpkin on the face of a squirming 6-month-old? We plan to continue to volunteer at this center throughout the year. What can be more fun than to play with toddlers, or to read them a story? Or, to rock an infant? Please join us the next time we volunteer. If you are interested, contact the Sisterhood presidents at: sisterhoodpresident@nvhcreston.org or our social action chair, Laurie Kobick, at socialactionsh@nvhcreston.org.

We welcome your support in any of our collection drives – find our boxes, or contact us:

1. Gently used **women's and children's clothing and accessories** for Women Giving Back, to provide free clothing to homeless women and their children (collection box in the closet in the sanctuary lobby).
2. New **toiletries (sample sizes welcome)** to Cornerstones Embry Rucker Community Shelter in Reston (collections at Sisterhood Member Events, or contact us).
3. Gently used **winter coats, hats, gloves and scarves** to support Cornerstones Winter Coat Closet (collection box in the closet in the sanctuary lobby from November through February).
4. Gently used **books & clothing** for ages 0 to 3, and **diapers** to support NVFS Early Head Start (collection box in the Preschool).

Thank you for supporting our social action activities and those in need in our community. ♦

\$360 X 360 — SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM — CELEBRATING OUR JUBILEE

Each year at NVHC, fundraising events and sponsorships contribute a significant portion of our budget. This year, we would like our main events to be accessible to everyone, so we are trying a different fundraising approach. We are asking as many congregants as possible to contribute to one sponsorship program called \$360 x 360 — Celebrating our Jubilee. As you may tell from the title, our goal is for 360 families to make a \$360 contribution. This would be a phenomenal participation achievement, akin to the kind of success we have already had this year with our High Holidays at Home and 50 Shabbat Dinners.



LIFELONG LEARNING - WINTER 2017

At NVHC, we have a robust Hebrew program 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!!

If you need help selecting the right class, please contact **Elizabeth Lacher**, our **Lifelong Learning Chair**, at Lifelearn@nvhcreston.org. 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.

No prerequisites.

Fee: \$110 for members; \$154 for non-members; free for TAMID students

Text: *Aleph Isn't Tough: An Introduction to Hebrew for Adults*, \$18.95

Instructor: Yehudit Shem-Tov

Wednesdays: 7:00-8:10 p.m., beginning 1/25/17 – 11 weeks.

Prayer Hebrew I

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

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

Fee: \$140 for members; \$196 for non-members; free for TAMID students

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

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

Instructor: Yehudit Shem-Tov

Sundays: 9:15-10:10 a.m., beginning 1/8/17 – 14 weeks. No class (2/19, 3/12, 4/9, 4/16)

Shema & Its Blessings: *Shema, V'avavta, Barchu, Ma'ariv Aravim, Yotzer Or, Mi Chamocha, Hashkiveinu*

Biblical Hebrew 2

For students who want to be able to read, understand, and translate selections from Torah. We will learn to recognize a variety of verb forms and expand knowledge of Biblical vocabulary. This is a continuation from the fall session; we will begin in chapter 5.

Prerequisites: Biblical Hebrew I or equivalent. Some familiarity with Hebrew grammar and vocabulary.

Fee: \$110 for members; \$154 for non-members; free for TAMID students

Text: *Tav Is for Torah*, \$18.95

Instructor: Elizabeth Lacher

Thursdays: 7:15-8:25 p.m., beginning 1/5/17 – 11 weeks.

Modern Hebrew I

Learn conversational Hebrew, basic Hebrew grammar, and to read and write in script. Introduces simple verb forms.

Prerequisite: Beginning Hebrew or equivalent. Ability to read Hebrew phonetically, familiarity with basic Hebrew vocabulary, and ability to write in block.

Fee: \$140 for members; \$196 for non-members; free for TAMID students

Text: *Ivrit Alfon: A Hebrew Primer for Adults*, \$15.95

Instructor: Yehudit Shem-Tov

Tuesdays: 7:15-8:25 p.m., beginning 1/3/17 – 14 weeks

(continued on page 13)

LIFELONG LEARNING - WINTER 2017 (CONTINUED)

Modern Hebrew 2

Improve conversational Hebrew skills, knowledge of Hebrew grammar, and ability to read and write Modern Hebrew. Students will practice conversational skills, translate texts from a range of Hebrew literature, and compose short paragraphs.

Prerequisites: Modern Hebrew 2 or equivalent. At least 2 years previous instruction with conversational Hebrew; ability to write in script, familiarity with participle form.

Fee: \$140 for members; \$196 for non-members; free for TAMID students

Text: *Brandeis Modern Hebrew*, \$72.00

Instructor: Yehudit Shem-Tov

Sundays: 10:15-11:10 p.m., beginning 1/8/17 – 14 weeks. No class (2/19, 3/12, 4/9, 4/16)

Modern Hebrew 3

Improve conversational Hebrew skills, knowledge of Hebrew grammar, and ability to read and write Modern Hebrew.

Students will practice conversational skills, translate texts from a range of Hebrew literature, and compose short paragraphs.

Prerequisites: Modern Hebrew 2 or equivalent. At least 2 years previous instruction with conversational Hebrew; ability to write in script, familiarity with participle form.

Fee: \$110 for members; \$154 for non-members; free for TAMID students

Text: *Brandeis Modern Hebrew*, \$72.00

Instructor: Yehudit Shem-Tov

Sundays: 11:15a.m. – 12:25 p.m., beginning 1/8/17 – 14 weeks. No class (2/19, 3/12, 4/9, 4/16)

Advanced Modern Hebrew

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: At least four years previous instruction with conversational Hebrew. Familiarity with conversational Hebrew, grammar, and conjugation of present and past tense.

Fee: \$140 for members; \$196 for non-members; free for TAMID students

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

Instructor: Yehudit Shem-Tov

Tuesdays: 6:00-7:10 p.m., beginning 1/3/17 – 14 weeks

HEBREW FOR ADULTS – WINTER 2017

Name: _____ Member: _____ Non-Member: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Check <input type="checkbox"/> to enroll	Course Title	Start Date	Session Day/Time	Enter Course Fee	Enter Text Fee (if applicable)
	Beginning Hebrew	1/25	Wed 7:00 p.m.		
	Prayer Hebrew I: Shema & Its Blessings	1/8	Sun 9:15 a.m.		
	Biblical Hebrew 2	1/5	Thu 7:15 p.m.		
	Modern Hebrew 1	1/3	Tue 7:15 p.m.		
	Modern Hebrew 2	1/8	Sun 10:15 a.m.		
	Modern Hebrew 3	1/8	Sun 11:15 a.m.		
	Adv Modern Hebrew	1/3	Tue 6:00 p.m.		

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

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

LIFELONG LEARNING

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. - 9:15 a.m. Jan. 13th, Feb. 10th, Mar. 10th, Apr. 14th, June 9th

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. - 9:15 a.m., Jan. 20th, Feb. 17th, Mar. 17th, Apr. 21st, May 19th

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. - 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.

Instructor: Rabbi Michael Holzman

Tuesdays: 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Jan. 24th, Feb. 28th, Mar. 28th, Apr. 25th, May 23rd

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 Hartmann Institute followed by discussion.

Sundays: Jan. 22nd, Feb. 12th, Mar. 19th, Apr. 2nd

(continued on page 15)

LIFELONG LEARNING (CONTINUED)

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 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. - 1:30 p.m., Jan. 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st

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. - 11:30 a.m., Jan. 20th, Feb. 17th, Mar. 17th, Apr. 28th, May 19th

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. - 7:00 p.m., Jan. 10th, Feb. 21st, Mar. 14th, Apr. 18th

Biblical Archaeology Society of Northern Virginia (BASONOVA)

Unearth the secrets of the past! BASONOVA is a nonsectarian 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
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 (preregistration required)

For more information, go to Lifelong Learning on our website or contact Elizabeth Lacher: lifeflearn@nvhcrestons.org.

LIFELONG LEARNING PRESENTS

INTRODUCTION TO B'NAI MITZVAH FOR PARENTS



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 using *Mishkan Tefilah*, the Reform siddur (prayerbook), 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 Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation process a deeply meaningful experience for the whole family and to perpetuate the spirit of Jewish community and tradition.

Parents generally take the class from 6 to 18 months before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah event. Parents with children in the same Torah Corps group are encouraged to take the class together.

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.

There Is No Fee for This Course – Early Registration Strongly Encouraged

Spring: 9:25 a.m. - 10:25 a.m., 2/12, 2/26, 3/5, 3/19, 3/26 Instructor: Judy Naiman

INTRODUCTION TO B'NAI MITZVAH FOR PARENTS

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Child's Name _____ B'nai Mitzvah Date: _____

Send registration form to temple office:

Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Avenue, 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

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*.

February 4th. *Doomed to Succeed: The U.S.-Israeli Relationship From Truman to Obama*, by Dennis Ross. History/Politics. 474 pp. This is not a history of Arab-Israeli peace efforts per se, but rather of the evolution of Israeli-American diplomatic relations. Because of American fears of repercussions from Arab nations should they appear too cozy with Israel, those relations have not always been as close as one might assume. While Ross enumerates a number of factors leading to the steady strengthening of ties between the two nations, certainly a crucial one was the deepening of the Cold War and the Balkanization of the region into rival Soviet and American camps. ♦

NVHC'S SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

By Ellen Ranard

Who are we and what do we do? This is our mission:

NVHC Change supports NVHC's commitment to make our community and the world a better place (*Tikkun Olam*) by enabling and enhancing NVHC participation in social justice, service, giving, advocacy and learning. The committee creates opportunities for the congregation to work on social justice by:

- building relationships among congregants to create a community of people interested in social justice;
- maintaining a comprehensive and updated list of all social action activities at NVHC;
- identifying congregational social action priorities and resources; and
- partnering with social justice organizations.

Examples of our work are on our webpage: <http://www.nvhcreston.org/live/nvhchange-social-action>.

So that we can involve more of our NVHC community, please complete our short questionnaire. It will take less than two minutes. Please go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y7VCD3N>.

We want you to see how easy it is. You just need to answer these questions:

1. What is your main passion for *Tikkun Olam*? (can select more than one)

- Education
 - Feeding others
 - Immigration Reform
 - Gun Violence Prevention
 - Affordable Housing/Homelessness
 - Other (please specify) _____
- _____
- _____

2. For parents or grandparents of school-age children, actively supporting *Tikkun Olam* models the kindness and generosity that we want to instill in our children. Do you have limited time but want to find an activity that you can do with your children or grandchildren?

- Yes
- No
- N/A

3. Would you be willing to use your professional education, experience, and training as a way to help others? We need everyone from Accountants to Zoologists.

- Yes
 - No
 - If yes, what is your area of subject matter expertise? _____
- _____
- _____

4. To which aspect of social action activism are you most likely to direct your energy (please rank 1 to 5, 1 most likely)?

- Learning
- Doing Service
- Advocating for change
- Giving *Tzedakah*
- Behind the scenes leadership/organizational work

5. Can a member of the social action committee contact you about ways to get involved?

- Yes
 - No
 - If yes, what is the best way to contact you. _____
- _____
- _____

The Conference is the place where Jews meet to discuss the role of Israel in the world. It is a vibrant, enormous, roiling gathering of voices in the community who care about Israel and want to have a say on its future. Other gatherings, like the conference for Jstreet, are worthy, but they are not central to the community at this moment in time. If we are going to redefine the relationship between our deeply held values of *tikkun olam* and the realities of sovereignty in Israel, then we have to be at AIPAC.

Yes, AIPAC's main sessions are going to be supportive of the current government, because AIPAC's purpose is to secure U.S. support for Israel regardless of internal Israeli policies. *Likud* or *Labor*, *Kadima* or *Yisrael Beiteinu*, whichever party holds the government, AIPAC's goal does not change, so the main forum will offer that support. For those of us who oppose Netanyahu and his policies, this will be uncomfortable. **But that does not mean we ought to walk away from the communal discussion table.**

Being a Jew means being in covenant, and covenant demands we have to stay, listen, learn, and add our voices of protest to the table. We have to hear about all the amazing things happening in Israeli technology,

environmentalism, arts, culture, economics, academics and, yes, security. We have to hear about the challenges and threats Israel faces. We have to hear about the complexity of the Israeli relationship with the United States. And, we have to hear about the Israelis who carry our liberalism, and work every day to improve the lives of all people living in Israel and Palestine.

I have talked to my colleagues, and I have talked to members of NVHC who have attended. Yes, AIPAC, at times, will make me uncomfortable, but it will also inspire me and help me rededicate myself to the miracle of the Jewish state and the need to continue its moral development as a young nation.

We need a new self-image in NONAJ. We need to harmonize survival and liberal values. Especially as America struggles to define itself, we need to be defining ourselves and our values as Jews.

If you have any questions or concerns, and especially if you would like to attend with me, please contact me at rabbiholzman@nvhcreston.org, or Mike Baskin (a member who has been to many a policy conference), at mbaskin33@gmail.com. ♦

Social Action

FOREST EDGE

By Samantha Hayes

Our synagogue helps the community school, Forest Edge Elementary, by providing food to students in need of food on weekends. We collect food, pack bags, and then give the students the food. NVHC families donate items such as oatmeal, tuna, mac 'n cheese, granola bars, raisins, applesauce, and crackers. As Jews, the Torah commands us to help others. It is kind to help other people in need because it's a giving thing to do, and it is the right thing to do. Being Jewish, we want to do as many *mitzvot* as we can, and by doing this for other children, we are doing a *mitzvah*. A *mitzvah* is a good deed or act of kindness. Imagine if you didn't have any food on the weekend. Think how you would feel. You wouldn't have anything to eat. By sending food to children on weekends, we make sure those in need of a meal always have one. By packing food, we help our community, which will make a better world. For me, food packing is very enjoyable, and it's fun to pack food with friends. ♦

WARM FOOD FOR COLD NIGHTS

For several years, NVHC Change volunteers have supported Cornerstone's Hypothermia Shelter by shopping for, cooking, and serving meals for the guests of the shelter. During the cold months, NVHC Change provides a warm meal once every two weeks. Other ways NVHC congregants have supported the shelter include knitting and donating homemade scarves, as well as donating monetary funds. If you can help by providing materials or serving the meals, or even by making a small donation, please contact Sandee Byrne.

Please sign up to help on the following dates: **January 2nd and 16th, February 13th, March 6th and 27th.** 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.

NVHC CARES NEEDS YOU

By Robbie Kaplan

NVHC Cares is Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation's caring program. We reach out to our members in times of sorrow as needed to provide support and solace, as well as to congratulate in times of joy. Our goal is to engage our congregants with volunteer opportunities to make NVHC a caring community. We are currently seeking volunteers to:

1. Make, or purchase and deliver meals.
2. Purchase and deliver challah to the bereaved, new parents, and ill members.
3. If you sign up for a meal, you can either make or purchase a meal, and deliver it on the date you choose. The address and any dietary needs will be addressed in the meals request.
4. If you sign up for a challah, you will purchase a challah at a store convenient for you, and our coordinator will either send you a note via email to print and include in the bag, or you can pick one up in the caring mailbox at NVHC. You will then deliver the challah to the member at the time you have arranged. We will automatically reimburse you with a check for \$7.00.

How our programs work:

1. You offer to volunteer, and you are added to our list.
2. When we need meals or challah for a member, you will receive an email request that gives you the member's name and location. If you can make or purchase a meal, or purchase and deliver a challah, you sign up. We use "Take Them a Meal" for meals and "Sign Up Genius" for challah.

If you can make a meal or deliver a challah once a year, you will be doing a mitzvah and helping to support our members and our synagogue's caring initiative. ♦

Inclusion

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: 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. ♦

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

**Wednesdays, January 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th,
February 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd at 7:00 p.m.**

On most Wednesdays, 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. The group will meet in the Conference Room in the office.

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.

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

then echoes his call, that all the individual voices should be joined to sing together.

Singing is a way that we make sense of our lives, a way in which we express feelings when we have no words, a way for us to understand things with our hearts, beyond the intellect. Ruth Moody, from the Wailin' Jennys, sings in her song, One Voice:

This is the sound of all of us,
Singing with love and the will to trust,
Leave the rest behind it will turn to dust,
This is the sound of all of us.

In Canadian singer/songwriter Leonard Cohen's version of Psalm 51 - "Hallelujah," he writes of a brokenness, an inability to praise; music can also help us express those moments when we may feel unable or unworthy to praise God or to look positively at our lives. At those times, we especially need song and the voices of others singing with us to lift us up and to help us return to the joy of our lives. There are a number of upcoming musical experiences here at NVHC to fill the soul, to sing out for justice, hope and peace.

In January, we will celebrate the power of song to transform relationships and build bridges as we welcome The Pursuit of Harmony, the duo of Michael Hunter Ochs and Alaa Alshaham, on **January 13th**. In a world resonating with discord and distrust, they have come together to 'pursue harmony' through song and story, dedicated to meaningful contact between Jewish Americans and Palestinian Muslims. There is tremendous power in one-on-one relationships to create more harmony in our divided world. Singing together provides a glimpse of our

world as it could be; a world of peace and harmony.

In February, part of our Weekend of Nourishment will, of course, bring our voices together in prayer and song. Words that transcend and melodies that elevate the spirit. NVHC is a community that loves to sing, and singing together is powerful stuff. Then, March will bring us the voices of children, which are perhaps the most inspirational. This year, NVHC is hosting the annual regional Jewish Youth Choir Festival, on **Sunday, March 26th, at 4:00 p.m.**, featuring songs of social justice. It is an amazing opportunity for our children to sing together and with other kids from area synagogues (and it is never too late to join *Shireinu*, our youth choir – just call me!), and for us to be inspired listening to their voices.

In contemporary terms, when I think about the power and importance of communal singing, I think of Pete Seeger. He understood the potential unleashed when people 'rise up singing.' In a 2007 documentary entitled, The Power of Song, he says: "*Once upon a time, wasn't singing a part of everyday life as much as talking, physical exercise, and religion? Our distant ancestors, wherever they were in this world, sang while pounding grain, paddling canoes, or walking long journeys. Finding the right songs and singing them over and over is a way to make our lives whole. And when one person taps out a beat, while another leads into the melody, or when three people discover a harmony they never knew existed, or a crowd joins in on a chorus as though to raise the ceiling a few feet higher, then they also know there is hope for the world.*"

We are excited for you to be a part of these moments here – for singing, for community, for 'raising the ceiling,' for raising joy and hope. ♦

Tzedakah: We Thank Our Generous Contributors

Adam Levine Camp Scholarship Fund - URJ – Camp Harlam Fund

Nicholas Bauer and Elizabeth Vandenburg...in memory of
Adam Levine

Don and Nell Hirsch...in honor of Tracy Dlott's birthday
Mitch and Abbe Pascal...in memory of Bruce Schwartz
Alan and Susan Shapiro...in memory of Florence Milesky

Art Fund

Craig and Nina Falci...in memory of Joan Lansky
Roy and Jean Horowitz...in memory of Evelyn Horowitz

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Jonathan and Nicole Korsen...in honor of Evan's Bar Mitzvah
James and Michelle Kranzberg...in memory of Jackie Lugo
Al and Janice Nagell...in memory of Gertrude Mitchell

Choir Fund

Kol Shirah...in honor of Frank Newman
Alan Dappen and Sara Scherr...in memory of Evelyn Copley
David and Carol Fram...in memory of Betty Weissenberg
Rob and Nora Gutcho
Rick and Barbara Schatz...in memory of Evelyn Copley and
Elizabeth Chadwick Mark
Bob and Phyllis Stein...in memory of Ann Silverman

College Outreach Fund

Steve and Linda Gordon...in memory of Sylvia Lieberman and in
thanks to Rabbi Holzman

NVHC General Fund

Marc and Kay Menchel
Victor Ronin and Olena Bilyk...in honor of Michelle Ronin
JP and Judy Villedrouin...for permanent book shelves in lobby

Inclusion Initiative

Xuejing Feng...in honor of Josh Kranzberg
Joel Kahn...in honor of Josh Kranzberg
Joseph Lenczycki...in honor of Josh Kranzberg
Nancy Lu...in honor of Joshua Kranzberg
Lorraine Tacinelli...in honor of Josh Kranzberg's Bar Mitzvah

Library Fund

Seymour and Linda Samuels...in memory of Leon Berg

Louis Gold Children's Music Fund

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

Memorial Plaque

Steve and Linda Gordon...in memory of Sylvia B. Lieberman
George and Marjina Kaplan...in memory of Henry Kaplan and
Dinah Kaplan
Robert and Lorraine Lavet...in memory of Leonard Shore

Music Fund

Rich and Cindy Michelson...in memory of Marcia Lederer
Howard and Linda Perlstein...in memory of Helen Corda
Elizabeth Sher...in honor of Cantor Caro

NVHC Cares (Caring Committee)

Claire Delsack...in memory of Minnie Spector
Suzi Stone...in memory of Leonard Castle
Jim and Barbara Tombros...in memory of Sidney Lehmann

Prayer Book Fund

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

Preschool Fund

Justin and Andrea Hayes...in memory of Denise Steinberger
Frances Herbst...in memory of Irving Herbst

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund – Rabbi Holzman

Alan Dappen and Sara Scherr...in memory of Arthur Dappen
Jerry and Ellen Ezrol...in memory of Lila Ezrol
Gertrude Finger

Mark and Alyse Goldman...in memory of Roselyn Goldman
Jonathan and Nicole Korsen...in honor of Evan's Bar Mitzvah
Charles and Barbara Leven...in memory of Herman Lembersky
and Ida L. Leven

Robin Miller...in memory of Dennis Goldstein
Al and Janice Nagell...in memory of Anna Goodman
Judy Ratliff...in memory of Louis Fine

Jeff and Mary Ann Ressin...in honor of Louis' Bar Mitzvah
Nate Rosen...in memory of Murray Rosen

Greg and Lysa Van Beuren...in honor of Brooke's Bat Mitzvah

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund – Rabbi Wainer

Stephen and Susan Perlman...to thank Rabbi Wainer for conducting the
marriage ceremony of our daughter

Religious School Fund

Bob and Sally Brodsky...in memory of Mabel Singer Friedman
Arnie and Natalie Small...in memory of Sydney Small
Howard and Carolyn Wesoky...in memory of Gloria Catone

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

Howard and Heidi Mitnick...in memory of Fanny Schenker
Alan and Susan Shapiro...in memory of Lois Milesky

Seldon and Ruth Kruger Fund for Adult Learning

Robert and Shirley Finkelstein...in memory of Morris Finkelstein
Howard and Heidi Mitnick...in memory of Irving Herbst
Alan and Susan Shapiro...in memory of Sam Fish
Stephen and Abbey Siciliano...in memory of Beatrice Goldrich
Bob and Phyllis Stein...in memory of Louis Silverman
Mark and Nancy Weinstein...in memory of Melvin Edinberg

Social Action Fund – Forest Edge Backpack Program

Alan and Susan Shapiro...in memory of Jennie Fish

Speaker Series

Carol Isaacs

Torah Fund

Howard and Linda Perlstein...in memory of Betty Robinson

High Holiday Appeal

Our sincere gratitude goes to the following contributor, who made a donation to our High Holy Day Appeal.

Fay Gubin

Life-Cycle Events in the NVHC Family

R'FU-AH SH'LEI-MA

Jonathan Becker	Gioia Komar
Ken Blume	Donald Lockshin
Mike Dixon	Alan McGibbon
Betty Drake	Irene Menchel
Bruce Evry	Irene Miller
Stanley Feig	Paulette Peltz
Rochelle Fisher	Nigel Preece
David Fram	Barry Rudolph
Andrew Goldberg	Howard Selden
Al Groff	Tamara Selden
Ken Kaplan	Richard Shlakman
Clarice Karnette	Robert Stein
Nisa Katz	Scott Sunshine
Larry Klinger	Lester Sussman

CONDOLENCES

To Kim Cash, on the death of her mother, Gloria Catone
To Don Copley, on the death of his mother, Evelyn Copley
To Diane Preece, on the death of her aunt,
Edith Chipchase Wright
To Norma de Beer, on the death of her aunt, Ann Rowley
To Norma de Beer, on the death of her uncle,
Donald Rowley
To Mitch Robinson, on the death of his mother,
Betty Robinson
To Ina Klinger, on the death of her sister,
Eleanor Glickman
To Lior Cheres, on the death of his grandmother,
Julia-Kamona Mesica
To Hank Chadwick, on the death of his sister,
Elizabeth Chadwick Mark

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

Membership Directory Corrections

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

Michael & Rachel Blumberg

17208 Pickwick Drive
Purcellville, VA 20132
mblum14@gmail.com

Don Copley

20660 Hope Spring Terrace, #307
Ashburn, VA 20147

Alan & Kit Kobran

42241 Bliss Terrace
Ashburn, VA 20148

David Weir & Rachel Muncrief

10931 Harper's Square Court
Reston, VA 20190

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.

Daniel Branscome & Takoria (Kori) Jones

46630 Drysdale Terrace, Unit 301
Sterling, VA 20165
703-615-2536
JediPrime@gmail.com

Luiz & Ana Leirner

2001 N. Adams Street, Apt 426
Arlington, VA 22201
617-599-5474
Ana.Leirner@gmail.com

Michele Probst

4330 Cannon Ridge Court, Unit #S
Fairfax, VA 22033
703-218-4441
Michele_probst@yahoo.com

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.



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To honor or memorialize someone, fill out this form and mail it to NVHC, 1441 Wiehle Avenue, Reston, VA 20190. Please make checks payable to NVHC. NVHC has established the following funds, from which you may choose to make a donation. Your gift is greatly appreciated and will be used to enhance the programs of our temple.

Enclosed is my donation in the amount of \$ _____

Donor's Name & Address: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

For a Speedy Recovery to: _____

Send acknowledgement to: _____

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adam Levine Camp Harlam Scholarship Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Book Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ark Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Ellen Reich Early Childhood Teacher Education Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Preschool Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Edge Backpack (Social Action) | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi's Discretionary Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Inclusion Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious School Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building Bridges Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Library Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Sam Selden and Donna Dixon Memorial Endowment Fund for Jewish Youth and Community Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cantor's Discretionary Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Louis Gold Children's Music Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Seldon and Ruth Kruger Fund for Adult Learning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chevra Kadisha | <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Plaque (minimum donation of \$250) | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Action Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Choir Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Music Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Torah Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> College Outreach Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> NVHC Cares (Caring Committee) | <input type="checkbox"/> Twenty-First Century Endowment Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Oneg Shabbat Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Group Fund |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Worship Fund |

(Please Provide Name and Date of Death for Memorial Plaque) _____

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mark your calendar for these **Upcoming Events**

Camp Shabbat ♦ January 6th, 6:30 p.m. See website for details.

Scholars-in-Residence - Pursuit of Harmony ♦ January 13th-15th

Scholar-in-Residence Weekend, Weekend of Nourishment ♦ February 3rd-5th

NVHC Contact Information

NVHC Office (secretary answers)	703-437-7733	Executive Director	Sara Moore ext. 105
NVHC Office (directly to individual)	703-471-6046	sara@nvhcreston.org	
Preschool	703-435-8829	Director of Early Childhood Education	Cindi Drake ext. 110
Fax	703-437-3443	cindi@nvhcreston.org	
Website	www.nvhcreston.org	Administrative Assistant	Mozelle Stanton ext. 101
		mozelle@nvhcreston.org	
Rabbi	Michael G. Holzman ext. 102	Assistant for Educational Engagement	Elaine Bowling ext. 104
rabbiholzman@nvhcreston.org		elaine@nvhcreston.org	
Rabbi Emerita	Rosalind Gold	Bookkeeper	Linda Klinker ext. 108
Cantor	Susan Caro ext. 106	linda@nvhcreston.org	
cantorcaro@nvhcreston.org		Clergy Administrative Assistant	Sheri Ross ext. 147
Director of Congregational Learning	Jessica Wainer ext. 103	sheri@nvhcreston.org	
rabbiwainer@nvhcreston.org		Youth Engagement Coordinator	Adam Zemel ext. 126
		adam@nvhcreston.org	

DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH/APRIL 2017 ISSUE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2017

JUBILEE Events • see pages 8-11