

NVHC *links*

Issue 5776
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Perspective *By Rabbi Michael G. Holzman*



UP CLOSE WITH OUR TORAH - SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR SOFER VISIT: APRIL 1-3, 2016

The first time I read from the Torah as an adult, I felt like I was stepping into a responsibility and community stretching back thousands of years.

Something about how the *yad* felt in my hand, the words felt in my mouth, and the scroll felt before me, impressed upon me the power of our tradition: a commitment to learning for its own sake, a relentless effort to uphold the dignity of every human being, and an unending hope for a better world. Those words, from that document, had inspired the single greatest intellectual adventure of human history. At the time of my bar *mitzvah*, I could not understand the magnitude of Judaism, but when I read it as an adult, it finally clicked.

As most texts disappear from our lives with just a swipe, our Torah text endures millennia. Why? Surely it is the sublime wisdom of the words and their meanings, but part of its allure must be the mystery of its writing. How often do we get to learn from and pray with a document, written by hand, on animal parchment, using the same methods as the last 50 generations? Every time I stand with our scrolls, open them, watch the *yad* move gently across the surface of the letters, and hear the chanting of sacred words, I feel chills. Who doesn't? This text spans from children to parents to grandparents, going back to our earliest ancestors.

But we rarely consider the health of the scrolls themselves. This year we are. Our *Sofer*, Rabbi Kevin Hale, will be visiting and teaching us during the first weekend in April in a variety of settings, so mark your calendar. (See sidebar for details of the visit.)

(Continued on page 13)

Sofer Visit

Friday April 1st
Rabbi Hale will share the secrets of his trade with Grandparents and Preschoolers during the morning. He will deliver our D'var Torah Friday night about the Holocaust Torah program we participate in, as well as explain the details of Sofer training and the "Scribal State of the World."

Saturday April 2nd
Rabbi Hale leads an extra Torah Talk on "Lessons from the Letters: What the calligraphy can teach us about the Parasha. Shabbat Kiddush Lunch and Learn on "Looking at our Scrolls through a Scribe's eyes."

Sunday morning April 3rd
Rabbi Hale will participate with students and parents in a special day of Kehillat Limmud.

Perspective *By Cantor Susan Caro*

MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU



A long time ago, in a city far, far away. . . It was a dark time for the Jews of Shushan. Princess Lei-A-hasuerus had banished the impostor Queen Vashti from the Galactic Core, while Haman-Ren had ascended to be chief adviser to the King. He compelled everyone to bow to him and to the Power of the Dark Side. But there was a New Hope, as Morde-Han's niece, Esther-Rey, has become queen. . .

(Continued on page 13)



President's Pen

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO.....?

By David Selden • President, Board of Trustees

Whatever Happened To.....? You may sometimes wonder whatever happened to a much ballyhooed Temple initiative or plan. As President, I have similar concerns, even when I am supposed to know the answers! So let's stop wondering.

Jubilee Year Plans: This fall, we will officially kick off the commemoration and celebration of our 50th anniversary. We will mark this significant milestone with numerous events, programs, and activities from *Rosh Hashanah* in October through *Shavuot* in May. We will be honoring those who built our foundation and led us through the decades, celebrating our achievements, and looking ahead to the future. There will be many ways for everyone to get involved and participate. Co-chairs Susan Cohen (sfcohen@gmail.com) and Miriam Wolman (miriamwolman@gmail.com) are currently working with congregants across all demographics to develop programs, and would love to have more volunteers, so please contact them if you'd like to be a part of organizing our Jubilee year!

Congregational Survey: We had an amazing response to the congregation survey sent last fall. We asked for your feedback and you responded! There were 387 surveys returned from 313 unique households (60%). And in addition to the quantitative results, there were 63 pages of additional comments. At the December Congregational meeting, we provided a high level overview of the preliminary results. Now the survey team, led by Elizabeth

Lacher, is in the process of distilling the results with the appropriate constituent groups (including Worship Committee, Strategic Planning Task Force, Executive Director and VP for Administration, Membership VP, Pulpit Committee), and is working with the University of New Hampshire Survey Center to obtain additional data analysis. We plan to distribute a final report and a list of action items later this spring, and will present the findings at the Congregational meeting in June. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Lacher at lacher.elizabeth@gmail.com.

Strategic Planning: The Strategic Planning Task Force (SPTF), co-chaired by Stu Gavurin and Kay Menchel, has concluded its preliminary work on the first four areas of its charter (Pastoral Care, B'nai Mitzvah, Adults and Young Families). There was an extra-long Board meeting in February where the Board was briefed on the work done and the initial findings. After that, the SPTF will have two different tracks - one being the refinement of the original work, adding in comments and input from the Board and the Membership Survey. The other track will be for members of the SPTF to start working on the other areas (Membership, Tzdedek/Justice, Young Adults/Teens). More information will be forthcoming as work proceeds.

Curious about other Temple or Board doings? Drop me a line at president@nvhcreston.org. ♦

**Fri., Apr 22nd, 1st Night of Passover—NO Worship service at NVHC!
Casual & Worship Study Service, 9:00 a.m., April 23rd.**

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IS KINDERGARTEN THE NEW FIRST GRADE? APPARENTLY SO.

By Cindi Drake • Director of Early Childhood Education

Comparing kindergarten and first-grade classrooms between 1998 and 2010, a new study by researchers at the University of Virginia found 2010 kindergarten classes more closely resembled first-grade classrooms than in 1998. For a decade now, study after study and report after report have offered evidence that kindergarteners are being expected to meet milestones once reserved for first graders. And how does that trickle down and affect preschool? In profound ways.

There has been a widespread belief that learning to read “earlier is better.” Lilian Katz, Professor Emeritus of early childhood education at the University of Illinois, and a past president of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, reports in her book *Lively Minds: Distinctions Between Academic Versus Intellectual Goals for Young Children*, that there is no neurological research to support this theory. If kindergarteners are expected to perform at first-grade level – reading, writing, sitting for long periods – then our preschoolers must spend time sitting and *learning* to read with enough proficiency as possible to be successful in kindergarten. The idea of a child not being *successful in kindergarten* is almost unfathomable!

And yet, as early childhood educators, we struggle with what we know is best practices for educating young children and preparing them for what is to come.

This is not to say there is no place for “academics” in kindergarten or preschool. However, studies show that while a portion of the day can be devoted to academics, the emphasis should be on introducing children to a vast array of experiences - experiences that support a child’s natural intellectual curiosity and

their interest in the world around them; experiences that can bridge the academic demands of passively acquiring bits of information while encouraging intellectual, emotional and social growth. This is what we call play-based education. That is music, yoga, Zumba, Robotics and art.

So, in fact, preschools are now preparing children not for kindergarten, but for first grade. We don’t have to like or approve of it, but it is our job to prepare all the children the best we can. We no longer have the luxury of letting children develop according to their own inner clock or learn in ways best suited to them. And so there is more individual instruction (not a bad thing!) to assure each child leaving preschool will be successful (again that awful word) in kindergarten.

How do we accomplish this at NVHC Preschool? We have what the teachers and I refer to as our tool box. In it are all sorts of manipulatives: Wooden pieces reminiscent of puzzle pieces for learning how to write letters, sorting games for visual assessments, the zipper club for learning how to zipper coats, blocks for learning how the world fits together, magnetic letters for putting letters together to make words. Using drums, we beat out syllables of words. And so very much more. Most importantly, each child is given individual instruction based on their gifts and challenges. Always using games and play. Always led by the most current findings in education. And always led by our hearts.

The NVHC Preschool is here to cultivate inquiring minds, nurture compassionate hearts and develop joyful communities. We believe that will prepare all of our children for kindergarten. ♦



Downward dog



Block building



Robots

Todah Rabah

The Preschool Wishes to Thank. . .

Emily Nossal, for a filled Tzedakah can.

Natalie Nossal, for a filled Tzedakah can.

Sebastian Blanchette, for a filled Tzedakah can.

Abby Nossaman, for a filled Tzedakah can.

All the children who bring in food for the Forest Edge Backpack program every Friday at Shabbat.
Please don't stop! And many thanks because no child should be hungry.

Tot Shabbat

COME GET THAT SHABBAT FEELING!

March 5th and April 2nd, 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!

Beginning in March, 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 Youth Lounge (bottom floor of the education wing)

from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on scheduled Sundays:

March 13

April 10 and 24

May 15

Cost? \$200.00 for all classes.*

You do not have to be a member of Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation to attend. Minimum registration is required for the program to be a "go!" So, please register early! Return this form, with payment, to Cindi Drake, Director of Early Childhood Education, NVHC, 1441 Wiehle Avenue, Reston VA 20190.

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

Child's Name _____

Parent's Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ (Mobile) _____

E-mail _____ Child's Birthdate _____

*Once registered, fees are not refundable or transferable.

Mazel Tov to our B'nai Mitzvah



Zach Skalaban • March 5th

Zach's Mitzvah project is volunteering with **Lucky Dog Rescue**. ♦

Gabe Goldstein • March 5th

Gabe is working with an organization called **Lucky Dog Animal Rescue**, which is a volunteer-run animal rescue that saves homeless and abandoned dogs and cats from euthanasia. He asks that you see <https://luckydoganimalrescue.org/> if you can help! In addition, Gabe and his brother, Jayson, work in the spring with the Vienna Little League Challenger Program for helping children with special needs enjoy playing baseball – a sport Gabe and Jayson played for years in the Little League program. Gabe also volunteers regularly with Jayson at sports card shows to support breast cancer awareness. ♦



Carly Chiat • March 12th

Carly's Bat Mitzvah project will be volunteering at a local animal rescue shelter, where she adopted her two dogs and cat. ♦



Sarah McCue • March 12th

My Bat Mitzvah project is focused on increasing literacy for children. I want kids of all ages to be passionate about reading and have interesting books available to them. To help meet this goal, I organized a book drive this fall and collected over 700 books, which I donated to *Books for America*. I also volunteered at a book fair, and I plan to volunteer at Books for America's used bookstore, helping to sort and prepare books for distribution. I am collecting more books the weekend of my Bat Mitzvah, and will donate them along with a financial contribution to Books for America. ♦



Zachary Lederer • March 19th

Zachary's Bar Mitzvah project is for the **Loudoun Literacy Council**. For more information, and to donate, please go to <http://www.loudounliteracy.org>, or mail your donation directly to Loudoun Literacy Council, 17 Royal St., S.W., Leesburg, VA 20175. ♦



Jolie Viener • April 2nd

For her Mitzvah project, Jolie will be volunteering and gathering supplies for the **Lift Me Up** organization in Great Falls. Lift Me Up is a therapeutic riding program that is dedicated to providing safe and effective instruction for children and adults who have varying disabilities. ♦



Leah

Leah and Rebecca Schulman • April 9th

Leah and Rebecca's Mitzvah projects support the tradition of *Tikkun Olam*, "Repairing the World." In addition to their on-going support of the **March of Dimes** and **Preemies Today**, two nonprofit organizations that address the serious problems of premature birth, Leah and Rebecca are creating gift bags for families of premature babies. If you would like to participate, please consider donating any of the following:

- infant clothing (especially for preemies)
- preemie diapers
- sleep sacks
- new toys
- toys for older siblings of NICU patients
- board books



Rebecca

Leah and Rebecca will be taking donations at NVHC on the morning of their B'not Mitzvah, April 9th, 2016. They have chosen to support preemies because it's something that they care about deeply. Fortunate to have been born full-term and healthy, Leah and Rebecca have both been touched by the experiences of family and close friends, as well as several teachers, who have either had premature babies or have suffered great loss due to the premature birth of their children. Please help Leah and Rebecca work to prevent premature birth and support families with preemies! ♦

Mazel Tov to our B'nai Mitzvah



Bridget Crotty • April 16th

Bridget's Mitzvah project supports the tradition of *Tikkum Olam* (Repairing the World), *Gemilut Chasadim* (Acts of Loving Kindness). Bridget is earning money and collecting donations for the *Youth Futures* organization that helps "at risk" children in Israel. For more information about Youth Futures, please visit www.jewishagency.org/jewish-social-action. To make a donation visit www.jewishagency.org/content/donate and enter youth futures in the "select one program" field. ♦



Jonah H. Kossoy • April 16th

For his Mitzvah project, Jonah plans to collect art supplies and prepare boxes of craft supplies to be used by children and their families at the **Children's Hospital**. ♦



Jacob Morris Leaf • April 30th

Jacob's Bar Mitzvah project is raising money and volunteering for the **Forest Edge Special Ed Preschool**. ♦

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 May/June is April 1st.

Torah Talk

Our Shabbat Torah study class will be held on **Saturday, March 12th, 19th & 26th; and April 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th** 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. ♦

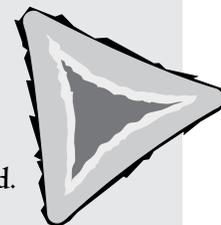
REMINDER!!

APRIL 22, 2016 – 1st night of Passover – NO WORSHIP SERVICE!

On **Friday, April 22nd**, there will be no Friday evening service at NVHC. *This is the 1st Seder night for Passover!*
If you need to say Kaddish, there will be a **Casual and Worship Study Service**
on **Saturday, April 23rd at 9:00 a.m.** Please join us!

Chanting the Megillah? Not me.....yes, you!

Not the whole thing – the *gantse megillah* as my grandmother would say– but, just one verse!!
On Purim, it is a mitzvah for us to hear and recall the story of Esther, chanted with a special cantillation.
YOU, TOO, can learn a verse! I will provide materials, help and coach, of course. I will give a homemade (by me) *hamantaschen* to whoever learns a verse to chant at our Purim celebration on **March 23rd**.
Be in touch with me – cantorcaro@nvhcreston.org. ♦



2015 MARC BACHMAN AWARD ANNOUNCED

By Bruce Johnson



Alison Behar has been named as the recipient of the Brotherhood's 2015 Marc Bachman Award. The people who submitted her name cited her work on NVHC's backpack-stuffing project for Forest Edge Elementary School. At regular intervals throughout the school year, our volunteers set up an assembly line and fill dozens of zip-lock bags with food for underprivileged children to take home and consume on the weekend. This project was started about four years ago by Alison and Nicole Holzman, and it has made a big difference to the children at Forest Edge. Alison is also very active at NVHC, serving on the Strategic Planning Committee, the most recent rabbi search committee, a cantor search committee, and on the Preschool board when her children were young. She is a frequent contributor of meals for the Caring Committee, and she is often the last to leave the Erev Shabbat oneg.

Alison is married to Robert Fenster, and they have two children, Noah and Leah. She is an avid runner who racks

up about 20 miles a week. In her day job, she is a clinical therapist for students at George Mason University.

When Alison was contacted about the Marc Bachman Award, she said she was very appreciative of all the donations of money, food, and time for the backpack-stuffing project. Asked which NVHC program should receive the Brotherhood donation in her honor, she designated the backpack-stuffing project.

The Marc Bachman Award was established in 2003 to acknowledge a member of the congregation who, through his or her commitment of time and energy in service to the NVHC community, exemplifies the moral teachings Judaism implores us to learn and practice. Bob Wein, the Brotherhood president in 2003, found a quote from Pirkei Avot, which nicely applies to all of the honorees of this award, fourteen over the last dozen years, and certainly applies as well as this year's highly deserving recipient. Shammai said, "Make your Torah a habit; say little, but do much, and greet every person with a pleasant countenance." ♦

SAVE THE DATE

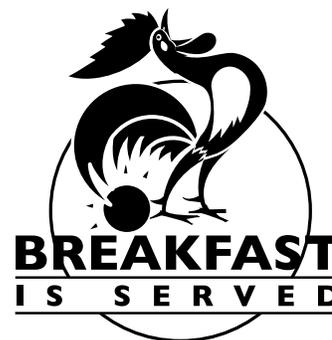
NVHC Sisterhood Seder



What: Sisterhood Women's Seder
Where: NVHC Multipurpose Room
When: 5:00 - 7:00 p.m., Thursday, April 7th
Contact: sisterhoodpresident@nvhcreston.org
sisterhoodpresident@nvhcreston.org

NVHC Brotherhood

Brotherhood Family Breakfast



**Sunday, March 13th & April 10th,
 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!*



WHAT DOES SISTERHOOD DO AND WHY SHOULD I JOIN?

By Suzi Stone • Sisterhood President

We are the silent “go to” part of NVHC. Whenever there is a function going on, I get a call to please supply help with greeting and signing in parents and children for the event, help serve, help here, and help there. Sisterhood always helps and always shows up. Let me give you examples of most of the things this wonderful group of women did this year that were not so visible:

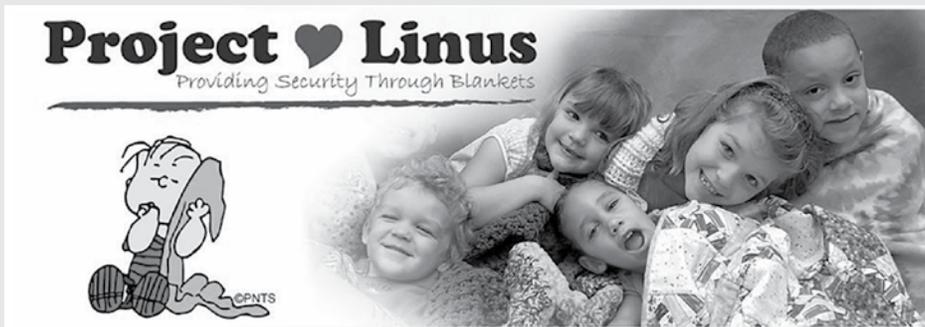
- We gave 22 kiddush cups to the Bat/Bar Mitzvah students to use in their homes;
- We gave a copy of Rabbi Joseph Telushkin's Jewish Literacy to each member of the Confirmation Class;
- We provided funds for three cultural experiences for the entire NVHC preschool;
- We decorated the bima with flowers and provided the Oneg for the High Holidays;
- We paid for a large portion of the funds required for Rachel Schmelkin's student services;
- We donated toward the NVHC accompanist's salary for Shabbat and other services;
- We donated to the Women of Reform Judaism, to use for rabbinical retreats, the Youth Educational Services fund;
- We made a substantial donation to Rabbi Holzman's Camp Harlam scholarship fund;
- Provided Chanukah shopping experiences – Judaica Shop and Chanukah Boutique -- for NVHC members;
- Our Social Action Committee has a yearly coat drive, provides gently used clothing for Women Giving Back, toiletries for women at the Shelter, and makes blankets for hospitalized children.... And this is the short list!

WE DONATE, WE VOLUNTEER, WE HELP, WE ARE INVOLVED..... WE ARE SISTERHOOD.

Join us for a wonderful experience.

In the meantime, stay safe and warm this winter and remember those who need coats... ♦

SISTERHOOD PRESENTS



Sisterhood will be making and donating blankets to Project Linus, an organization that collects blankets for hospitalized children who are seriously ill, traumatized or otherwise in-need.

How can you help?

- Make and donate a blanket on your own (sew, crochet etc.). Please contact us for more details.
- Join our no-sew fleece blanket event:

When: Sunday, March 13, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Where: NVHC Multipurpose Room

Cost: \$10/person donation to NVHC Sisterhood & we will provide materials, or bring your own

Questions & RSVP: By March 5th to Ellen Ranard at socialactions@nhcrestn.org

NVHC SISTERHOOD RUMMAGE SALE

Sunday, May 15, 2016, at 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

New date and time!

The annual Sisterhood Rummage Sale will be a little earlier this year. It's time to clean out the closets, the basement, and the garage. Donate your gently used items, but please -- nothing broken, nor items that can only be recycled. Know that the items you donate will be very much appreciated by the local community that comes to shop at our annual sale.

Kehilat Limmud will be in session, so sign yourself up for a volunteer shift while the kids are in class, and give a friendly welcome to our shoppers. Of course, plan to do a little shopping yourself.

Bring your donations to the Social Hall Closet at any of these times:

Monday, May 9th – 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 12th – 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 10th – 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 14th – 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

We need lots of volunteers before, during, and after the sale -- men, women, and middle-school and high-school students. Go to SignUp Genius to help make this event a great success.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0d4da8aa2ea75-rummage>

Contact Judy Naiman at rummagesale@nvhcreston.org with any questions.

GET READY FOR THE ANNUAL NVHC SISTERHOOD MAH JONGG TOURNAMENT

When: Sunday, April 10, 2016, 1:30 p.m.

Where: NVHC Multipurpose Room

Contact: MahJonggTournament@nvhcreston.org



Exploring Jewish Texts

TALMUD STUDY GROUP WITH RABBI HOLZMAN

The Talmud is the cornerstone of Judaism as we know it, theologically, ritually, legally and culturally. It is one of the greatest intellectual works in human history of any religion or philosophy. Yet it remains a mystery to most Jews, for good reason. It's hard, complicated, convoluted and at times esoteric. Learn how to navigate the oceans of Talmudic thought with these meetings once a month. Topics will vary widely, but will likely include discussions of Jewish ritual, family relations, and understandings of nature, community authority, and history.

We begin and end promptly Friday mornings, 8:00-9:00 a.m., examining key sections of Talmud. It's a great way to prepare for *Shabbes*. All classes are stand-alone, and will not require prior attendance. To register, email Lifelearn@nvhcreston.org, or call the Temple Office at (703) 437-7733.

March 18th

April 15th

May 20th

Enclosed is my donation to the **Seldon and Ruth Kruger Fund for Adult Learning** in the amount of \$ _____

In Honor of: _____ In Memory of: _____

For a Speedy Recovery to: _____ Send acknowledgement to: _____

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

REEL THEOLOGY WITH RABBINIC INTERN RACHEL SCHMELKIN

A series of in-depth discussions about popular movies and what they can teach us about ourselves, life and living. We will watch excerpts from the movie and reference Jewish texts related to the themes of the movie. **Participants are strongly encouraged to watch the complete movie prior to the discussion.**

FEE FOR THE SERIES: \$18 MEMBERS, \$25 NON-MEMBERS **Tamid Students: Free**

Sunday, April 3rd. 7:00-8:30 p.m. *Crimes and Misdemeanors.*

An ophthalmologist's mistress threatens to reveal their affair to his wife, while a married documentary filmmaker is infatuated by another woman.

Monday, May 2nd. 7:00-8:30 p.m. *The King's Speech.*

The story of King George VI of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, his impromptu ascension to the throne, and the speech therapist who helped the unsure monarch become worthy of it.

REEL THEOLOGY

Name: _____ Member: _____ Non-Member: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

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

For questions, comments, or suggestions for future Lifelong Learning offerings please contact
Elizabeth Lacher, liflearn-committee@nvhcreston.org

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

March 5th. *Ally: My Journey Across the American-Israeli Divide*, by Michael B. Oren. Memoir/International Relations. Illustrated, 412 pp. In an earlier era, the American foreign policy establishment was dominated by Arabists from the Ivy Leagues. Now, as the names of various Washington officials, scholars and journalists whiz by in Oren's memoir, it seems clear that the older WASP establishment has been supplanted by the very ethnic group it once disdained, giving rise to the debate over Israel's destiny. On one side are traditionally liberal Jews who continue to see Israel as an egalitarian version of America. On the other side are more conservative Jews and Christian evangelicals who believe that instead of lecturing Israel, Americans should unflinchingly stand by it – by which they really mean Netanyahu's Likud – and recognize that peace is an illusion. Oren grew up an American in West Orange, NJ, and emigrated to Israel in 1979, abjuring his American citizenship three decades later to become Israeli ambassador to the United States. His book has generated much controversy among American Jews on both sides of the issue.

April 2nd. *In the Courtyard of the Kabbalist*, by Ruchama King Feuerman. Fiction. Isaac Markowitz is a 43-year-old haberdasher from the Lower East Side who feels unfulfilled and moves to Jerusalem. He winds up as the assistant to an elderly rabbi and his wife, who do kindnesses for the array of unfortunate people who loiter in their courtyard seeking help. With gentle nudging from the rabbi and rebbetzin, and through his work helping others, Isaac slowly comes into his own, realizing his self-worth and finding meaning in his life. This book has a slow enjoyable rhythm reminiscent of a traditional folktale. The characters are likable eccentrics and the author describes Jerusalem beautifully. ♦

PURIM WARS

EPISODE 613

IT WAS A DARK TIME IN JEWISH HISTORY, THE FORCES OF PERSIA, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DARTH HAMAN, WERE POISED TO WIPE OUT THE JEWISH PEOPLE. QUEEN ESTHER WAS OUR PEOPLE'S LAST HOPE...

GAMES, DINNER, PURIM THEMED COCKTAILS, A HOMEMADE HAMANTASCHEN CONTEST, AND WACKY PURIM SERVICE AS WE CELEBRATE OUR VICTORY OVER HAMAN AND THE DEATH STAR.

M'SIBAT PURIM MARCH 23, 2016

4:00-6:00 P.M.: GAMES, DINNER, COCKTAILS, CONTEST

6:00-7:30 P.M.: WACKY PURIM SERVICE AND ONEG

RSVP FOR DINNER BY MARCH 18TH. VISIT WWW.NVHCRESTON.ORG/PURIM2016 TO RSVP
HOMEMADE HAMANTASCHEN AND MISHLOACH MANOT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE \$0 COME HUNGRY!

Adult Menu - \$15.00

Barbeque Brisket Sandwiches
French Fries and Sweet Potato Fries
Green Salad
Fruit

Children Menu - \$8.00

Chicken Nuggets
French Fries and Sweet Potato Fries
Green Salad
Fruit

For vegetarian options, please contact Sara Moore at sara@nvhcreston.org

SAVE THE DATE!

SPRING FUNDRAISER

Place your bets on NVHC!

Roulette, Black Jack, and More!

NVHC'S CASINO ROYALE



June 4th, 6:00 p.m.

Sponsorship
opportunities galore!

Join your friends for music,
dancing, and great food!

Questions?

Casino@nvhcreston.org



Online reservations available soon.

SAVE THE DATE! ATID SHABBAT

May 6, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

Honoring Moshe Ben-Lev, for his
years of service and leadership

and presentation of
Sam Selden Award

Festive Oneg to follow service

Membership Directory Corrections

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

Diane Preece

dianevprece@verizon.net, (571) 355-3340

Thomas & Stefanie Winans

11388 Amber Hills Ct., Fairfax, VA 22033-2756

THE DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

MARCH 3, 2016, 8:00 P.M.

Our Community, Our Democracy at a Crossroads

Miles Rapoport is President of Common Cause. He founded or led several citizen organizations working on political reform, consumer protection, racial equality, and economic justice issues.



THE DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

MARCH 31, 2016, 8:00 P.M.

Tevye's Daughters: Jewish Women in America



Pamela Nadell, Chair of the Department of History and Director of the Jewish Studies Program at American University, and the recipient of numerous academic honors, her books include *Women Who Would Be Rabbis: A History of Women's Ordination, 1889-1985*, and *Making Women's Histories: Beyond National Perspectives*.

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

AMERICAN JEWISH EXPERIENCE

A series of 90-minute discussions exploring the broad topic of what it means to live as a Jew in Northern Virginia today and the key events and milestones in our history that got us where we are. Each discussion will be led by a congregant who is passionate about the discussion topic. There are no prerequisites for this series, no prior experience or knowledge required. You may register for individual sessions or register for the entire series at a reduced rate.

When: Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

FEE PER CLASS: \$10 MEMBERS, \$14 NON-MEMBERS, Tamid Students: Free

March 15th. Jewish Influences in American Music, Part 2 (Cantor Susan Caro) See February 2nd.

March 29th. Judaism and Video Games - CANCELLED

April 12th. American Jewish Attitudes Toward Zionism (Rabbi Michael Holzman) How American Jewish sentiment toward Israel and Zionism have evolved over time. Key events and milestones which have shaped our view of and relationship with Israel today.

AMERICAN JEWISH EXPERIENCE

Name: _____ Member: _____ Non-Member: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

FEE PER CLASS: \$10 MEMBERS, \$14 NON-MEMBERS Tamid Students: Free

Check <input type="checkbox"/> to enroll	Session Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	3/15 Jewish Influences in American Music, Part 2
<input type="checkbox"/>	4/12 American Jewish Attitudes Toward Zionism

Total enclosed: _____

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

For questions, comments, or suggestions for future Lifelong Learning offerings please contact
Elizabeth Lacher, lifelearn-committee@nvhcreston.org

JEWISH COOKING MADE EASY: FAVORITES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Our popular Jewish Cooking series is back! Our cooking classes are led by NVHC's top chefs who will introduce you to new recipes and old favorites with a modern twist! Come prepared to get messy, enjoy fine food, meet new friends, learn something new, and just have fun.

You may register for individual sessions or the entire series. **Limited space is available, please register early!**

FEE PER CLASS: \$35 MEMBERS, \$48 NON-MEMBERS, free for TAMID students

When: Thursdays 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Date	Featured Foods	Lead Cook	Enter Fee
March 17th	Awesome Hamantashen	Mariel Barnes	
June 16th	Shavuot Dinner: A Jewish-Italian Dairy Meal	Madeleine Abel	

TOTAL \$ _____

JEWISH COOKING MADE EASY

Name: _____ Member: _____ Non-member: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

COURSE FEE: \$18 MEMBERS, \$24 NON-MEMBERS (PER CLASS)

Send registration form and check payable to NVHC to:

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

Inclusion Initiative

MEETING APRIL 6TH

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.

Special Needs Resources: Did you know the JCC offers resources for the special needs community? See <http://www.jccnv.org/specialneeds/special-needs/> to learn more.

Get involved: Our next Meeting will be held on **April 6th, 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: <http://www.nvhcreston.org/live/inclusion/>.

Spring Speaker: Nathan Weissler, a remarkable young Jewish adult on the Autism Spectrum, will come to talk about his journey this spring. More information coming soon.

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.

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 Moshe Ben-Lev at moshe@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? ♦

THE OTHER KIND OF SOCIAL NETWORKING

By Irene Amster

I'm not on social media. But this past month, I have been social networking like never before, and it has been darn fulfilling.

So I'm not talking about Facebook or Twitter. I'm talking about laying the groundwork for meaningful social action through old-fashioned, in-person, face-to-face conversations.

I first learned about this concept when Julie Wallick, chair of the NVHC Social Action Committee, invited me to a committee meeting. As I was taught there, in a "relational meeting," two people meet one-on-one and talk about each other's interests, values, and visions for change in the world. It does not involve asking each other for anything. The goal is to learn who cares about what, building a network for potential future opportunities for activism.

These past few weeks, I have been awed by how this works.

The committee decided that we should each hold 3-5 relational meetings with another committee member we didn't know. Always one to do my homework, I met Hana Newcomb at the South Lakes Starbucks for a walk around Lake Thoreau. We talked about people in our lives who have impacted us, where we saw needs for repair in the world, and how our Jewish identities have evolved. It was a brief conversation, but by the end of it, we each knew one more person, and something about each other's world views.

Two weeks later, remembering my comments about ending mass incarceration during our walk, Hana forwarded me an email about an interfaith committee on criminal



Social Action Committee

justice reform that was meeting at a church in Reston. Hana and I decided we would go see what they were doing, and now, less than a month after that, I am immersed in the planning of our two upcoming panel events. Working with nine different faith communities on a common cause is a broadening experience for me, and I hope to make interfaith work an ongoing part of my lifestyle.

And that's how it's done. Julie reached out to me, I reached out to Hana, someone at the church reached out to Hana, Hana reached back to me, and so on. I continue to participate in relational meetings, and I invite you to do the same. Let's grow this web of social action networks—internet not required.

P.S. I realize this is somewhat ironic, but for more information about the NVHC Social Action Committee, you can email Julie Wallick at jwallick@wallick.com. ♦

Social Action

By Talia Holzman

Forest Edge food packs are when a community comes together to pack food for the hungry students at Forest Edge. When these students do not have a filling breakfast that morning, they can't concentrate because they have no "fuel" to power themselves. So by packing this food, you can help kids have a better day and even help them get better grades. Food to you is just an everyday thing you can have wherever and whenever, but to these kids, getting as much food as we have in our homes would be a giant feast they may only receive once a year. So please help these children have a better day because they really want and need it. ♦

Future packing dates: March 13th, April 17th

Earlier this year we brought in as scholar-in-residence, Dr. Norman Cohen. Dr. Cohen is a scholar of *midrash*, interpretation of the words of Torah. He was masterful, and one of the stories he told was about his Bible teacher, who before the final, was asked, "What should we study for the exam?" He responded, "The books of *Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers* and *Deuteronomy*." The students gasped and asked, "The entire thing?" The professor responded, "Only the parts in black."

This is the Jewish attitude about the Torah. We learn both from the letters that are written as well as the spaces between the letters (the part in white). While this is a metaphor, watching a *sofer* work can illuminate its literal roots. Each letter has a crown, a special way of calligraphy, and a particular placement on the parchment. Each word fills a specific space, and each paragraph contains visual gaps that map not only its location but sometimes also its meaning. Our *Sofer* will help us understand these meanings.

We have three scrolls here at NVHC. The keeper of our scrolls and librarian, Ted Smith, has written a full history of the scrolls, but I will summarize here briefly. Our youngest scroll, the right-hand scroll (as we face the Ark) with light-colored handles (known affectionately by the clergy as "the heavy Torah") is about 125 years old, and originates in Eastern Poland or the Ukraine, but was

bought from Samarkand, Uzbekistan. The second oldest (on the left as we face the Ark) is between 150-175 years old, and comes from Poland. This is the one we read most often and is the lightest. And the Torah in the center of the Ark, our Czech Holocaust scroll, is likely over 250 years old. That Torah we read only on special occasions (usually the afternoon of Yom Kippur for *Parashat Kedoshim*), because of its delicate condition, but it has beautiful handwriting, intricately carved handles and an amazing story.

Our *Sofer's* visit will be a chance for each of us to learn about our particular scrolls, the craftsmanship that goes into creating and caring for scrolls, and the state of Torah writing today. We will also learn about the particular condition of our scrolls and the repairs that Rabbi Hale will be performing while he is here. He will speak on Friday night, Saturday morning, Saturday lunch, and as a part of Kehillat Limmud.

And in a very special addition, Rabbi Hale will participate in the activities on April 1-2 for our Grandparents *Nachas* Weekend with Preschool and Tot Shabbat.

We are so blessed this community has planned to support the upkeep of our Torah scrolls and to bring in a *Sofer* like Rabbi Hale. Please join us in sharing this blessing during his visit. ♦

Purim is coming, Purim is coming!! There is much excitement ahead! Here is what you can look forward to: CELEBRATION! Don't miss the next installment of the Empire and the Jew-dai knights. Let your wild side out in costume or go a little crazy with our games and rides.

YOU, TOO, CAN CHANT THE MEGILLAH! Yes, it could be you! We will be chanting sections of the Megillah; I invite anyone, of any age, who wants to learn to chant 1 line of the Megillah. Please contact me (cantorcaro@nvhcreston.org), if you have not already done so. Home-made hamantashen from the Cantor for anyone who volunteers!

GIVE TZEDAKAH! To at least two needy people. Noting the importance of communal unity - we were all in danger together, so we celebrate together - we place special emphasis during Purim on caring for the less fortunate. Bring a food item for our Forest Edge Food Pack collection.

FEED YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS! On Purim, we emphasize the importance of friendship and community by giving gifts of food, Mishloach Manot, to friends. Sample a vast variety of home-baked hamantashen in our FIRST EVER Hamantashen Bake-Off.

Purchase those very same Hamantashen and bags of Mishloach Manot, filled with goodies and treats to give to those you love (and support NVHC!)

EAT! Because that is what Jews do! Dinner! Drink a lot (Adults only) – come taste our secret special Purim cocktails, Haman's Revenge and Sassy Vashti. For kids, taste Esther's Kiss.

If you want to know more and if you don't want to miss a single, wonderful, crazy, delicious moment, then **don't miss our amazing Purim celebration on Wednesday, March 23rd beginning at 4:00 p.m.** It will be a great way to spend part of your spring break! ♦

THANK YOU NVHC

Hana Newcomb, Ruth Goldberger, Peggy Nelson, Nell Hirsch

At NVHC, there is a proud and quiet tradition of welcoming new Jews. Back in the day, we were called Jews by Choice, but nowadays it seems more accurate to think of everyone at NVHC as a Jew by choice, really.

Way back in 1995, there were four of us – Nell Hirsch, Peggy Nelson, Ruth Goldberger and Hana Newcomb - who were all somewhere in the process of learning, thinking and fretting about converting. We were all members of NVHC, happily raising Jewish children, involved in various activities at NVHC – choir, nursery school board, Sisterhood, serving on various committees; and very thankful to have a congregational community where we all felt at home.



Mikveh Ladies Lunch - Dec. 21, 2015

After Hana “took the plunge” and went to the mikveh in March of 1995, Ruth asked if she would come and tell the rest of us what it was like to go to the mikveh, as well as talk about her decision to take the leap. Ruth had been struggling with the decision for years; she was raised in a Presbyterian church and was a Unitarian as an adult; it was not a simple decision for her. Nell and Peggy had also been raised as Christians, and while comfortable in the Jewish community, were also wrestling with whether they could feel “authentically” Jewish. Hana was the only one who came with a mostly blank slate. All four of us had attended Intro to Judaism classes and studied with Rabbi Gold, independently. We had become friends through our children, and had at various times spoken with each other about our experiences as non-Jews navigating the Jewish community and our interfaith families. Thankfully, Hana was willing to share her story, process and thoughts with the rest of the group – that was the first time that we all sat together for the explicit purpose of discussing the topic of conversion.

It was amazing and powerful to be able to reflect on our journeys together. We met now and then, naming ourselves the *Mikveh Ladies*. We became close and felt safe in sharing our fears, concerns and questions with each other. Eventually, over the course of about a year, we each completed the ritual of conversion and celebrated happily with each other. We each continued to have active Jewish lives and realized that we **were** authentically Jewish. We all had children about the same age, so we had plenty to do: keeping up with the holidays and taking kids to religious school. But in addition, each of us took on new roles in our Jewish community. Nell became the music teacher and kids choir director; Ruth went to work for the Union for Reform Judaism in the Outreach department; Peggy and Hana both became Hebrew teachers and continued their work as lay leaders, with Hana getting involved in the building addition and moving on through the ranks of the Board of Trustees.

Twenty years passed in the blink of an eye. With our kids grown and out of the house, Ruth thought it would be meaningful if we got together again to observe this 20th anniversary by reflecting on our twenty years as “authentic Jews,” and celebrate by paying another visit to the mikveh. She asked Rabbi Gold if she would like to shepherd us, as she had all those years before - and the rabbi said she would be honored. The first meeting we talked about what our hopes and goals might be for this series of gatherings. We talked about ethical wills, what we remembered about our first trip to the mikveh, and what we remembered about the studying we did way back when.

Thank goodness for Rabbi Gold, really. She had some ideas, she kept us on track, and in the end, she gave the whole thing a form and a shape. She was our rabbi when we started our studies, and in retirement, she has continued to be our mentor. After a sporadic series of meetings, we made plans to go back to the mikveh on December 21st. We packed our robes and towels and cleared our calendars, since we were going all the way to Adas Israel in Washington, DC.

We found ourselves in the same little room that we had first visited individually 20 years before. It felt different but familiar, and very humid. We listened to a recording of Enosh, in memory and honor of Betsy Giller, our late friend and teacher. We read some prayers that we had

(Continued on page 15)

selected, and then we each read a statement that we had written for the occasion -- we had decided to reflect on our Jewish lives and what we hope for ourselves in the future, Jewishly. We did everything in the order of who went to the mikveh, so Hana was first, Ruth second, then Peggy, and finally Nell. There were lots of similarities between our perspectives, but they each reflected our own personalities too. Even though it was hard for us to make ourselves focus enough to write these pieces, it was an excellent idea (another two points for Rosalind Gold).

We sat in the room just outside the mikveh and ate potato chips and chocolate (the signature snacks of this group), while each of us took a dip in the warm water. Rabbi Gold had created a playlist of Debbie Friedman music on her iPad, and that helped to separate us from the person who was in the *mikveh*. Another example of her understanding what would make the whole experience better -- we didn't really see why we needed a soundtrack, but now we get it.

We remembered how magical it felt, twenty years ago; and reveled in feeling that magic again. Immersing completely in the waters of the *mikveh*, without touching any walls or the floor; you are commanded to be entirely naked with no makeup or jewelry so the water touches you everywhere. You say a blessing before each immersion and you think about it. This time the blessings were about gratitude, including the *shebechyanu*, a favorite prayer forever. The lights low, the water velvety, warm and lovely. The rabbi stands on the edge, holding the plastic coated paper with the blessings. Women for centuries have been immersing themselves for various reasons including marking important occasions, and we celebrated being part of that tradition.

After each of us had taken our turn in the water, we dressed and read another prayer that we all like (the one about joining hands and walking together). Then the rabbi asked us to stand in a circle, close together, holding

hands, and say a blessing for the person on our left. We were impressed by our ability, each of us, to say something articulate and meaningful with no warning at all.

Grateful for each other, our families, our NVHC community -- its welcoming tradition and clergy both past and present, and most especially for the guidance of Rabbi Gold who shepherded us, our hearts are full of the blessing that says it all:

Praise to You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, for giving us life, sustaining us, and enabling us to reach this season.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam shebechyanu v'kiy'manu v'bigianu laz'man hazeh.

Rabbi Gold adds -- *"What a privilege it has been to accompany Hana, Ruth, Peggy and Nell on their journeys. From the initial "Rabbi, I'd like to talk to you about maybe converting" call, through the years to the wonderful and sacred 20th anniversary celebration at the mikvah, working with these bright, intelligent, thoughtful, articulate, and fun-to-be-with women has been a highlight of my rabbinate. What they have done (and will continue to do) with their lives and their Jewish commitments is a deep source of joy for me, and a treasure for our community. I echo their prayer of thanks to the Source of Blessing who gave us life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this glorious day."* ♦

ZEMER CHAI TURNS 40!

Zemer Chai, the Jewish Chorale of the Nation's Capital, is turning 40 this year. How lucky we are to have such a fine musical group in our region. Jewish choral music of this caliber is rare to find and to know that they are our neighbors is very special. Even more special is that our own Rabbi Emerita Rosalind Gold sings with the group. Best wishes, Rabbi Gold -- we look forward to hearing you sing on Sunday, June 5, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. at Adas Israel for Zemer Chai's very exciting 40th anniversary concert. For tickets or more information, please check the website: www.zemerchai.org

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

Tuesdays, March 15th & April 19th, at 7:00 p.m.

On Tuesdays, March 15th & April 19th, at 7:00 p.m., NVHC will hold a meeting of "When You've Lost a Loved One," a Bereavement Support Group and extension of our caring community at NVHC.

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

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

TIPS FOR VISITING SOMEONE WHO IS ILL

By Robbie Miller Kaplan

Many of us have friends and loved ones who are ill, bereaved, recuperating from surgery, or undergoing treatment, and we would like to visit and show our support. This is a kind gesture but visits can overwhelm. Here are some guidelines for a positive interaction:

1. Allow the friend to suggest a day and time so it meets their needs.
2. Plan on visiting fifteen to thirty minutes. If you see them becoming tired or restless, these are probably signs that it is time to leave. If they ask you to remain longer, you can decide whether to stay.
3. Direct your conversation to them; avoid discussing your plans, life, or problems. This visit is not about you.
4. Avoid asking intrusive questions.
5. Do inquire how they are feeling, but take your cues from them on safe topics of discussion.
6. Call ahead to see if they would like you to pick up lunch or a treat.
7. During your phone call, ask if there is an errand you can run, such as picking up a prescription or an item at the grocery store.
8. If you would like to bring a little gift, consider something that requires little maintenance. Avoid fussy flowers and choose a plant instead. Or, bring a CD, DVD, book, or magazine.

Adapted from Legacy.com. Used with permission. If you are interested in making a visit to support some of our members at home, please contact Cantor Susan Caro, cantorcaro@nvhcrestion.org. ♦

Golf League

COME JOIN THE FUN!

By Sy Sherman

We're now less than 90 days from the start of the 2016 NVHC Golf League. That's right, April 1st is just around the corner! We are entering our 6th year with more golfers than we've ever had, so come and join the fun! Both men and women are eligible, and handicapping makes it a lot easier to win. If you have an interest in having more fun than you've had in a long time, or simply want to play a round or two, yes, even during the winter, email or call me today at my contact information: sysherman@aol.com or (571)236-6586. Good golfing to all! ♦

Save the Date for the weekend of April 2-3, 2016

Sofer scribes who know the art of calligraphy and care for sacred writings, like our Torahs. But their expertise is not limited just to the writing itself, and not limited to Torahs alone. Our three Torahs are in need of repair, and while Sofer Kevin Hale visits, he will be offering workshops and classes for all ages on the story and skills behind caring for Jewish sacred objects. Stay tuned for more information as the weekend approaches.

Life-Cycle Events in the NVHC Family

MAZEL TOV

Mazel tov to Alan Dappen and Sara Scherr on the birth of their grandson, Solomon Wayne Hawkins Dappen, born to Ben and Slayde Dappen on January 7th

Mazel tov to Fay and Ken Gubin on the birth of their grandson, Caleb Halter, to parents Jennifer and Loren Halter, on January 13th

Mazel tov to Fay Gubin, on the marriage of her son Michael Weiss to Jeffrey Moses on February 6, 2016, by Rabbi Rosalind Gold

R'FU-AH SH'LEI-MA

Jonathan Becker	Clarice Karnette	Barry Rudolph
Gloria Bloom	Nisa Katz	Howard Selden
Judy Brown	Larry Klinger	Tamara Selden
Mike Dixon	Jackson Komar	Richard Shlakman
Betty Drake	Donald Lockshin	Jenny Stein
Bruce Evry	Alan McGibbon	Robert Stein
Joan Fierer	Irene Menchel	Scott Sunshine
David Fram	Irwin Menchel	Lester Sussman
Eleanor Glickman	Irene Miller	Barbara Swift
Andrew Goldberg	Paulette Peltz	Beth Wood
Al Groff	Joanne Polansky	Janet Woods
Ken Kaplan	Nigel Preece	

CONDOLENCES

To Don Copley, on the death of his brother-in-law, Michael Rubin

To Kate Kalish, on the death of her grandmother, Annette T. Mamat

To Bert Katz, on the death of his mother, Mina Katz

To Jessica Peristere, on the death of her aunt, Judith Skier Brown

To Carol Fram, on the death of her brother, Paul B. Weil

To Leigh Cantor-Henry, on the death of her father, Steven Cantor

To Wayne Rosen, on the death of his father, Saul Rosen

To Joanne Schamest, on the death of her mother, Marion Schamest

To Marcy Opstal, on the death of her grandmother, Selma Goldstone

To Rob Gutcho, on the death of his uncle, Howard Levine

Submit your life-cycle events by phone to:

703-437-7733, or Email to: mozelle@nvhcrestion.org

CHANGING THE WORLD THROUGH INNOVATION AND COURAGE

By Sheila Budoff • JCCNV Adult Group Coordinator

March and April are going to be extra special for the JCCNV/NVHC Reston Active Adults. First, on **Tuesday, March 22nd**, we'll have a sneak preview of a film from the Northern Virginia Jewish Film Festival with lunch at a restaurant afterwards. Then on **April 13th**, we have a trip planned to see Tony Award-winning *All the Way*. Descriptions of these wonderful opportunities appear below. Please mark your calendars and be sure to join us!

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart for the privilege, honor and joy of being the coordinator of this wonderful group and having the opportunity to work with you. You are all very special to me. Hope Aponte, who held this position before me, was a fantastic role model and mentor, and set a very high standard of excellence in all that she did. I have worked very hard toward maintaining those standards.

Unfortunately, I could not keep up with the demands of three outreach groups and the Adult Learning Institute on my part-time schedule. Accordingly, Carla Rosenfeld, the J's Adult Programming Director who is a full-time J employee, will be the new coordinator. Carla's e-mail is Carla.Rosenfeld@jccnv.org, and her phone number is 703-537-3060.

I will continue to be involved with this group, however, as I will still be planning joint trips for the Reston and Leesburg active adult groups, and I will join you on those trips. I look forward to seeing you on our joint trips, and at activities at the J.

PLEASE NOTE: We have several members of our group who would greatly appreciate a ride to our meetings. Please consider picking up one of our members on your way to NVHC. This is such an important way to help keep our members actively engaged in the community and let them know how important they are to us. If any of you would like to volunteer for this mitzvah, please contact Carla at Carla.Rosenfeld@jccnv.org or 703-537-3060. Thanks!

Tuesday, March 22nd, 10:30 a.m. - noon

Sneak Preview of a Film from the Northern Virginia Jewish Film Festival and Lunch.

This is a very special opportunity to preview a feature-length film that will be part of the Northern Virginia Jewish Film Festival, powered by the J. The festival will be screening ten to twelve contemporary Jewish-themed and/or Israeli-made films that explore identity and place in the world. It will run from April 7th – 17th at the Angelika Film Center and Café at Mosaic. We hope you'll be able to view some of the films at Angelika, but just in case you don't find your way there, we'll be bringing one of these superb films to you, right here in Reston. At press time, the films have not yet been selected, but more details will follow in an e-mail. Participants will be going out to lunch following the film. This will be a joint event with the NVHC Silver Liners and Sisterhood, so there will be many wonderful people with whom to enjoy the film and lunch. The restaurant location will be announced shortly.

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

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

Wednesday, April 13th, bus departs Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Ave., Reston, VA at 9:15 a.m.

Trip to *All the Way* at Arena Stage

Please join us to see the 2014 Tony Award-winning (Best Play) drama, *All the Way*, at Arena Stage. Today, we are accustomed to

hearing about congressional gridlock and threats of government shutdowns, but when Lyndon Baines Johnson was president, such ideas were inconceivable. Thrust into the presidency in the aftermath of President John F. Kennedy's assassination, and amid violent conflict over the growing civil rights movement, LBJ held the country together with his unique leadership style as the ultimate deal broker. *All the Way* revisits the first year of LBJ's presidency, including his battle to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the challenges of the civil rights movement's Freedom Summer protests for equal voting rights, and LBJ's campaign for re-election in his own right.

We'll be ordering box lunches in advance from the Catwalk Café, Arena Stage's casual dining option, to eat before the show, which starts at noon. Box lunch options are: turkey breast, lettuce and tomato on a telera roll; tuna salad wrap; and veggie wrap (hummus and mixed vegetables drizzled with olive oil). All lunches come with fruit salad, potato chips and bottled water. The cost is \$15. Please specify your lunch choice when you register. This is a joint trip with the Leesburg active adult outreach group, and space is limited, so please register soon.

**Fee: \$62NM/\$58 J or synagogue member
[includes show and bus transportation;
lunch is a separate charge--\$15 pre-ordered box lunch]**

RSVP: Please send completed registration form and check, payable to JCCNV with "4/13" in the memo line, to Sheila Budoff, JCCNV, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, VA 22031, by March 10th.

Code: #7199 ♦

Tzedakah: We Thank Our Generous Contributors

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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.

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mark your calendar for these **Upcoming Events**

- M'Sibat Purim ♦ March 23rd, 4:00 p.m.
 Inclusion Initiative ♦ Wednesday, April 6th, 7:00 p.m.
 NO Worship service April 22nd ♦ see page 7
 Spring Fundraiser , NVHC Casino Royale ♦ June 4th - see insert

NVHC Contact Information

Temple Office (secretary answers)	703-437-7733	Director of Education	Moshe Ben-Lev ext. I03
Temple Office (directly to individual)	703-471-6046	moshe@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	Temple Secretary	Mozelle Stanton ext. I01
		mozelle@nvhcreston.org	
Rabbi	Michael G. Holzman ext. I02	Religious Education Secretary	Elaine Bowling ext. I04
rabbiholzman@nvhcreston.org		elaine@nvhcreston.org	
Rabbi Emerita	Rosalind Gold	Bookkeeper	Linda Klinker ext. I08
Cantor	Susan Caro ext. I06	Assistant Director of Education	Beryl Trauth-Jurman ext. I47
cantorcaro@nvhcreston.org		beryl@nvhcreston.org	
Executive Director	Sara Moore ext. I05	Young Adult Engagement Coordinator	Stacy Miller ext. I26
sara@nvhcreston.org		stacy@nvhcreston.org	

DEADLINE FOR THE May/June 2016 ISSUE: Friday, April 1, 2016

Speaker Series, Miles Rapoport, March 3rd, & Pamela Nadell, March 31st, 8:00 p.m.