

SELICHOT HAVDALAH AND A MOVIE

Saturday, September 16th, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Film: *The Transparent Kippa*, clergy-led discussion, Selichot worship, changing of the Torah covers

HIGH HOLY DAYS 5778/2017

Erev Rosh Hashanah – September 20th

Rosh Hashanah – September 21st

Kol Nidre – September 29th

Yom Kippur – September 30th

Watch for your High Holy Days Packet in the mail!

TASHLICH (“CASTING OFF”) SERVICE

Thursday, September 21st, 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Lake Fairfax Park, Reston

CONSECRATION AND SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday, October 6th

6:00 p.m. Bring your own dinner for an indoor picnic

7:00 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service

TIKKUN LEIL SIMCHAT TORAH

& WINE TASTING

Wednesday, October 11th, 7:00 p.m.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA HEBREW CONGREGATION

1441 Wiehle Avenue

Reston, Virginia 20190

www.nvhcreston.org • 703-437-7733

 Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation

 @nvhcreston

NVHC Voices

NEW IN TOWN — A MEMORY

BY ELLEN RUGEL

It was 1975 and we had just moved to Reston with our two young sons. I was outside our townhouse watching the boys on their Big Wheels when Jim Kaplan got off the commuter bus, introduced himself, and offered to help us get oriented. Somehow he knew we would be interested (was it written on my forehead??) and invited us to join them at a pot-luck supper for NVHC families. There was no building then, and the group met in the Glade Room next to the pool. We were introduced to people that night who have turned out to be lifelong friends.

NVHC’S TEEN LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

BY TAYLOR HANNAM-ZATZ

Elie Wiesel once said “We are all teachers, or should be. Anyone who relays experience to another person is a teacher. Not to transmit your experience is to betray it.” The new Teen Leadership Council (TLC) gives kids at NVHC the opportunity to do exactly this. It gives us the chance to take on leadership roles and teach our skills to others. My experience being on the youth group board last year and now being on the TLC has been nothing short of educational, fun, and memorable. At the beginning of June, we had our first meeting to plan for the upcoming year. Anyone who was interested had the option to participate. We talked about the types of activities we would like to plan, and everyone chose a specific program they would like to work on for the upcoming year. We’re planning a trip to NYC and the beach, as well as volunteering our time in our community.

The best part about the TLC isn’t hosting these activities though, it’s the process we go through to get to that point. Don’t get me wrong, it’s extremely fun to actually put on the program, but learning so many leadership skills while we’re planning them can

be just as satisfying — like learning how to take charge! Of course, the most rewarding feeling is seeing it all successfully come together.

What I love about the TLC is that everyone has the option to learn and be a part of the youth group. Like Elie Wiesel said, we all need to teach others, and the TLC lets us do just that by letting us have a voice. We can plan an activity if we have a certain talent or strength that we would like to teach, and that is something that I value in our synagogue. The TLC is a great addition to NVHC’s youth group and it will give many kids the opportunity to be heard and learn valuable leadership skills.



RENEWAL & REPENTANCE

BY RABBI MICHAEL G. HOLZMAN

We often translate *Rosh Hashanah* as the New Year, and *Yom Kippur* as the Day of Atonement, but these translations mislead us into seeing them as isolated moments that flow by on the annual calendar. We take a day off from school or work or sports or other secular commitments, and we do what the tradition tells us to do, and then we check the day off on our list of obligations. Hear the *shofar*: Check. Eat some apples and honey: Check. Fast: Check—at least until about 3:00 p.m., or until we get hungry. Start the Jewish New Year: Check. Atone for mistakes: Check.

And this last item on the list presents a problem. When we see *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur* as temporary obligations that correct past errors, we buy into a binary misunderstanding of the soul. We are either sinners in need of atonement, or we are repented, clean and ideal. This is the American (and Christian) misconception of error/sin as failure. American culture relentlessly measures each of us in our jobs, teams, classrooms, and even homes. Mistakes, gaffes, miscalculations, blunders all result in loss—of profit, position, grade or opportunity. That is how the American culture defines and determines success and failure. So when we admit error, we take the risk that someone will question our abilities, status, position, or even integrity.

But this logic misunderstands the entire High Holy Days. This is not the logic of Judaism. We are not merely sinners in need of a good spiritual cleaning; broken before the High Holy Days, and fixed after. Judaism sees the soul in need of constant maintenance. Repentance is an ongoing process of soul improvement. Mistakes are not evidence of failure or character flaws, but opportunities for growth. Our sins define a spiritual curriculum that each of us must accept for ongoing soul education.

With this logic, the High Holy Days are not fleeting. Instead, they linger as long as possible, reverberating in our minds. We do not just begin a new year on *Rosh Hashanah*, we begin anew. We do not just



INTRODUCTION TO OUR NEW MACHZOR

BY CANTOR SUSAN CARO

I am so excited to use our new *machzor* (High Holy Day prayer book) *Mishkah HaNefesh*, as the volumes present us with amazing opportunities for great worship and transformed prayer. The title – ‘The Sanctuary of the Soul’ – articulates the purpose of these books to seek personal spiritual space for exploring and expressing a wide variety of beliefs and experiences, which is quite significant in today’s religious landscape.

The majority of the book features the now familiar “two-page” spread design (like in our Shabbat prayerbook, *Mishkan Tefilah*, wherein the right side reflects a more faithful rendering of the standard prayers, and the left side a more creative theological approach. Some sections of the service are linear and have no two-page spreads. The left side translations are “faithful”; reflecting both a sense of the Hebrew and the nuance of English. Since liturgical language is poetic language based heavily on metaphor, this kind of approach is far more effective than a straight, literal translation would be.

The readings on the left side pages are often marked by a grey screen, or “wash;” there are also study or meditation pages, which are marked by a blue “wash” with a black border. These pages are

atone for past mistakes on *Yom Kippur*, we accept a curriculum for future growth. *T’shuvah* is not just repentance, as the word is often translated, but instead is an ongoing process of self-evaluation and improvement. In this way, our acknowledgement of error is not a sign of failure, but rather a demonstration of responsibility. The upcoming Holy Days reject the American logic of measurement and achievement in favor of a Jewish logic of soul-change and integrity.

This process is true for us as individuals and as a community. We just completed our Jubilee year, which included amazing high points, and difficult conversations about our finances. Both were equally important, and both are signs of Jewish success. Our 50 Shabbat Dinners, *M’sibat NVHC*, The Pursuit of Harmony Concert, Weekend of Nourishment, Purim Comedy Night, Spring *Kol Shirah* Concert, NVHC Gala, and so many more programs all demonstrated our vitality and vibrancy as a community. And the series of Town Hall meetings in the spring displayed our transparency and courage to confront challenges. From all of that, we learned that our curriculum this year is about engagement, relationships and developing leadership in the community. Our admission of challenge is less a sign of failure than proof of responsibility and capacity for growth. We renew NVHC during these High Holy Days, and accept the curriculum to transform an already strong synagogue into a thriving, creative, active, engaging and self-renewing community of tomorrow.

The month of *Elul* begins on August 21, 2017, and provides a period of preparation for the soul-work to come. This year, we will have an *Elul/S’lichot* prayer book to help us prepare, and we will use excerpts from our new *machzor* (High Holy Day Prayer Book) for our annual *Elul* self-study. Then we will gather again at NVHC to enjoy the High Holy Days (with improved folding chairs), with *Rosh Hashanah* on September 20 and 21, and *Yom Kippur* on September 29 and 30. We hope this year offers all of us as individuals and as a community a chance to go from strength to strength, to improve upon the past and to embrace a richer and more meaningful future.

L’shalom,
Michael G. Holzman

alternative readings to provide additional choices of inspiration. *Mishkan HaNefesh* contains several significant innovations, including:

- Additional Torah readings for *Rosh HaShanah* and *Yom Kippur*, explained in the books.
- The shofar service for *Rosh HaShanah* morning is divided into three sections, each one located in different parts of the service, giving us more time and energy for each theme of the shofar service.
- The *Yom Kippur* volume offers a *minchah* (afternoon) service focused on Jewish ethical/spiritual values (*midot*).
- The *Yizkor* (Memorial) service reflects a focus around seven lights of mourning and remembrance.

This *machzor* is not intended to be used only “as is.” We have worked on creating a meaningful narrative and path through the services specifically for our community. Any prayer book is just a sacred implement in the facilitation of a worship experience. I hope you will be excited and inspired to explore *Mishkan HaNefesh* on your own, before, during and after services, finding yourselves interested in a particular commentary, intrigued by a particular study text, or drawn to a particular meditation, and even at times make your own way through the *machzor*. Welcoming your feedback, I hope that you will find our choices meaningful, and I look forward to sharing sweet and evocative High Holy Days together with our community.

LIFE CYCLE EVENTS

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

Birth

Mazel Tov to proud grandparents, Neil and Deb Meland, on the birth of their grandson, Jordan Edwin Pollack, born July 19th to parents Cheryl and Kevin Pollack.

B'nai Mitzvah SEPTEMBER

BAT MITZVAH

Ava Beaudin **September 2nd**

Ava is collecting gently-used dance costumes, dancewear and dance shoes for a non-profit organization called Traveling Tutus, which distributes dance-gear to children all over the world who cannot afford it.

BAT MITZVAH

Anna Kwartin **September 2nd**

Anna is working with a cat rescue organization, Fancy Cats, helping with maintenance, feeding, and entertaining cats that have recently been rescued and are up for adoption.

BAR MITZVAH

Colin Anderson **September 16th**

BAT MITZVAH

Jordan Brown **September 23rd**

Jordan's Mitzvah project is collecting new and gently used soccer related equipment and donating it to the local community so that other children, who are unable to purchase these items, can have the opportunity to participate in the game she has gotten so many opportunities from and loves so much.

OCTOBER

BAR MITZVAH

Joshua Schoenbrun **October 7th**

For his mitzvah project he launched a volunteer organization, What a Relief!, which provides help for senior citizens experiencing a difficult challenge in their life with dog walking and dog play dates.

B'NAI MITZVAH

Max and Hunter Rosenberg **October 14th**

Max and Hunter are collecting new or gently used books for kids in Africa as their B'nai Project.

BAR MITZVAH

Alexander de Beer **October 21st**

Alex has served as a bluebird monitor for over a year, and monitors several bluebird boxes on a regular basis from May-October. Alex has also participated in four annual butterfly and dragonfly counts to monitor populations in Reston.

BAR MITZVAH

Tony Marshak **October 28th**

Tony will be collecting much needed items for the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, as well as monetary donations to offset the cost of adopting a shelter animal.

Condolences

To Francine Beifeld, on the death of her mother, Yetta Sheingold

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.

Marilyn Downing & Scott Wollek

1533 Northgate Square, Unit 2
Reston, VA 20190
703-283-6067
marilynsdowning@gmail.com

Andrew & Claudia Ortiz

20091 Northville Hills Terrace
Ashburn, VA 20147
336-337-5869
aortiz@gmail.com
caukal@gmail.com

Robert Hitlin & Barbara Gems

2413 Black Cap Lane
Reston, VA 20191
703-391-9634
bubbelah@hotmail.com
beegem@comcast.net

Noel & Sandi Rosengart

2215 Wakerobin Lane
Reston, VA 20191
703-391-7462
sandi1228@hotmail.com

Michael & Lisa Kosoff

10111 Mill Wheel Lane
Vienna, VA 22182
703-517-3365
mlkososff@hotmail.com

Membership Directory Corrections

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

Stacy Bell

1931 N Edison Street
Arlington, VA 22207

Robert & Shirley Finkelstein

11776 Stratford House Place
Unit 1107
Reston, VA 20190

Casey & Michelle Louder

43157 Binkley Circle
Leesburg, VA 20176
703-777-5265

Marshak Family

14777 Truitt Farm Drive
Centreville, VA 20120
(703) 815-1349

Marsha Sheinman

11993 Coverstone Hill Circle, Apt. 1411
Manassas, VA 20109

Sheri Ross

sf.ross@icloud.com

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Shalom,

For a people who comprise a mere 1.5% of the country's population, we Jews sure are good at finding each other and making connections. Make plans to play the ultimate game of "Jewish geography" at the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) 2017 Biennial convention in December in Boston—you'll meet Reform Jews from all over the world!

As the largest Jewish gathering in North America, URJ Biennials are a great way to meet others who share your interest in synagogue life. It's also an opportunity to immerse yourself in Reform Judaism and return to NVHC with new resources, ideas, and the know-how to put it all to use strengthening our spiritual home.

URJ Biennials are the largest Jewish gatherings in North America, offering a perfect opportunity to join with others to study, worship, network, sing, dance, share, grow, and celebrate. Join nearly 5,000 Reform Jews for meaningful worship, terrific learning sessions, joyous music, great people, beautiful Judaica, and more. You'll return home spiritually refreshed, more Jewishly literate, deeply connected to the Reform Movement, and with creative ideas for us try here at NVHC. Register now at urj.org/biennial.

You can also link to this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rNCofkkI8IU>

Looking forward to seeing you in Boston!
Andy Cohen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Correction

The article posted in the July 2017 NVHC Glance titled "Elul Study 2017/5777" was written by Cantor Susan Caro.



KEHILLAT LIMMUD AND TAMID BY RABBI JESSICA WAINER, DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING

The summer is almost over and school is just around the corner! It seems like just yesterday that we were beginning to talk about all of the potential that surrounds us in Kehillat Limmud (Kindergarten-7th Grade) and Tamid (8th-12th Grade). Now, the time is almost here to begin another year of learning together, using our excitement and energy from the summer to propel us into what is sure to be a great year of study and action.

Here is a reminder of some of the exciting things we will be doing this year:

- Looped Learning (3rd & 4th grade will be learning together, 5th & 6th grade will be learning together) – The curriculum will span two years and will allow students to build relationships with students in the grades above and below them.
- Project Based Electives – Students will have the opportunity to choose the way in which they want to learn. Is your student a lover of the arts? Do they love building new creations? Do they love to play games? These are just some of the ways in which students will be able to explore Jewish learning through various different modes.

- Social Action and Youth Group Time – Students will have built in time to participate in various social action programs throughout the year as well as youth group activities. We will be working in conjunction with our Social Action Committee for the social action programs. Our Tamid students will be helping to plan much of our youth group programs.
- Online Hebrew Tutoring – All of our 3rd – 6th grade students will be engaging in 1:1 online tutoring once a week. Our 5th & 6th grade students will also have a mid-week Hebrew. Additionally, twenty 5th & 6th grade students will be participating in pilot program in which they will have 1:1 online tutoring twice a week.

Registration is still open, and we are excited for all of our students to be returning this year. You can register either online or by filling out a paper copy. The website for registration is <http://www.nvhcreston.org/welcome-to-registration>. Please note that you must be logged into the website in order for this link to work. Please contact Rabbi Wainer (rabbiwainer@nvhcreston.org) with any questions about Kehillat Limmud or Tamid.

Social Action

Back to School means helping Forest Edge Elementary School students

Well, it's back to school time again! Students at Forest Edge ES and others around the County are sitting down in cafeterias and opening their new superhero and princess lunchboxes excited to show them, as well as what they brought for lunch, to their tablemates. However, some kids don't have lunchboxes at all, because their parents cannot afford to fill them. Luckily, these students get their lunches via the Fairfax County Free and Reduced Lunch program which fills the food void during the school week. The obvious question is how do these students get food on the weekends? The answer; donations from the community.

Alison Behar and Nicole Holzman lead a food packaging program which provides weekend food for 225 of Forest Edge's free and reduced meal eligible students. These packages are assembled twice a month during the school year; once by Tamid students, and once by a group of adults and children one Sunday per month after Kehilat Limmud. Forest Edge families sign up to receive these packages of food for their children, which contain items such as milk, juice, canned tuna, mac 'n' cheese, dried fruit, granola bars, peanut butter or cheese filled snack crackers, popcorn and oatmeal.

We would love for you to join us in support of this program. It's easy and a great way to give back to the community in which we live/ worship. Donate money, food and/or time.

Think you don't have the time? Packing takes no more than an hour, and it's conveniently timed to begin right after KL on Sunday. We're a friendly group and love to see new participants! Everyone can help. It's a great family activity. We've had kids as young as three help pack food. The September/October Sunday packing are TBD, so please read the weekly emails for future dates.

Please make a commitment this year to help this worthwhile "families helping families" initiative. Have questions? Please email Alison.Behar@gmail.com.