



NORTHERN VIRGINIA HEBREW CONGREGATION

NVHC *Glance*

May-June 2018 • Iyar-Tammuz 5778



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A Spiritual Home

Shavuot: A Night of Study



Judaism that Matters

Shabbat Bachutz (Shabbat Outdoors)

1441 Wiehle Avenue, Reston, Virginia 20190

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A Plea for Shavuot

By Rabbi Michael Holzman

Last month, we celebrated one of the most popular holidays on the Jewish calendar, Pesach (Passover), and this month we observe one of the least, Shavuot (what Christians call “Pentecost”). In addition, Torah instructs us to verbally count the 49 days from Passover to Shavuot, a command that appears for no other pair of days on the calendar, not even the ten days from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur. These days are linked, and that link speaks volumes about both our personal spirituality and the state of American Judaism today.

Originally, these were the most important harvest holidays of the year. After a long winter, Pesach brought barley, and Shavuot delivered wheat. These days were filled with anxiety. They underscored the fragility of life and dependence upon God. This was both personal and national as each head of household felt the overwhelming burden to feed children, while sharing the outcome of the harvest with neighbors, clans and tribes.

Later in Jewish history, the harvest holidays were transformed into milestones in our national story, as Pesach became the story of deliverance from Egypt, and Shavuot was linked to the giving of the Torah at Sinai. These are somewhat opposite ends of a narrative arc, the tension between freedom and responsibility, liberation and law. And for us, these holidays took on almost completely opposite forms of observance. Whereas once upon a time, the people observed both in the Temple in Jerusalem; today, Pesach is a home holiday celebrated around the table; and Shavuot requires a minyan, with the Torah scroll itself (usually in the synagogue).

This linkage tells the story of our spirituality. We enjoy more personal freedom than perhaps at any point in our history. We are sovereign individuals empowered to decide how to allocate our time, money, and attention. And with all that

liberty, we seek guidance on how to find meaning, strengthen our relationships, act ethically, engage in civil discourse, and create a better world. The personal yearns for the communal, and the free for the fulfilled. We each have limited time on this planet, and while Pesach gives us the ability to make choices, Shavuot gives us the guidance to elevate those choices.

It also tells the story of American Judaism. Pesach’s popularity comes from personalized practice. While some people still use the Maxwell House Haggadah (maybe the only part of Maxwell House that survives), modern publishing and online options allow every family to personalize and customize their experiences. This is true for our community institutions as well. Today, a Jew (or a non-Jew for that matter) can find literally hundreds of niche Jewish experiences that cater to particular interests and pursuits. One can build a Jewish identity and community based on film, sports, politics, food, wine, learning, social justice, the Holocaust, Israel or dozens of other options. This is the ascendance of Pesach, as seen in the proliferation of an amazing range of Jewish organizations and projects.

But the synagogue is a Shavuot kind of institution. The synagogue includes the breadth and depth of the full Jewish experience, the Jacob-of-all-trades, rather than the specialized start-up organization. This generalizing pushes us out of our comfort-zones, giving us less choice, and exposing us to forms of Judaism that may be unfamiliar. Synagogues welcome everyone, not only the like-minded, popping our social bubbles and echo-chambers, so that we hear diverse voices and dissenting opinions. And just as the law given on Shavuot makes demands upon us, so too, does the synagogue make demands, in the form of the compromises and even discomfort that come when we engage in the covenant of community.

And this is the crux of things. Pesach leans in the direction of individual control, and Shavuot asks us to give up that control for the sake of access to something higher. While I love the personalized forms of Judaism out there (online one

can customized everything from a Ketubah to a Haggadah), I fear the excesses of personalization: not only does freedom dilute a common understanding of Judaism, but it also strips away the challenges and demands intended by covenant. All that personalizing and choice gets exhausting and eventually meaningless, while giving up a little personal sovereignty to something like Torah or community forces us to exercise the muscles of human interaction. That is how we learn the values of respect, courage, patience, and honor, and enjoy the benefits of shared joy, support, security, and identity.

I pray that Pesach continues to be a strong part of American Judaism, filling homes with creative *S'darim* and personalized *Haggadot* (plurals for Seder and Haggadah) for centuries to come. But I also know that we need to return to Shavuot, to hear the challenge of Torah, to feel the elevation of community and to find meaning in prayer and study. So join us for our Shavuot night of study on May 19th at 7:30 p.m. We begin with a service, break for an oneg, with Yizkor observed in parallel, followed by a few hours of study together until midnight.

Twenty-five Years Ago

By Cantor Susan Caro

1993. Twenty-five years ago.

Twenty-five years ago, Bill Clinton was inaugurated for his first term as President. We had no idea how that would play out.

Twenty-five years ago, the World Trade Center was bombed (for the first time). We had no idea what was to come.

Twenty-five years ago Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat signed an historic peace accord and shook hands, for all the world to see. We had no idea how that would play out.

Twenty-five years ago this May, I became a Cantor, receiving my Ordination from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. I had no idea how that would play out, over these last 25 years.

Being a cantor was not a life-long dream of mine; yet, arriving at the decision to apply to the seminary turned out to be both a surprise and predictable. Making music itself has been an integral part of my life, from the time I was a toddler. That was never in question. Music is a basic need of human survival. Music is one of the ways we make sense of our lives, one of the ways in which we express feelings when we have no words, a way for us to understand things with our hearts when we cannot with our minds. Music allows us to move around those big invisible pieces of ourselves and rearrange our insides so that we can express what we feel even when we can't talk about it. Until 1988, there was no way I thought I could join my passion with my work.

When I entered cantorial school in 1989, the synagogue world and Jewish leadership was a very different place. I was a young woman – (read: not older man) and I grew up in the Reform Movement summer camps as a song leader (read: not frustrated opera singer); I was as out-of-place then as I would not be in today's seminary. Once I realized that this was my calling, I felt undeterred, and even inspired to bring change and growth to the communities I would serve. I continue to be privileged to not only lead communities in prayer, but also to walk with our people along their life's journey, at moments of sadness or joy, and all the mundane and holy times in between. I am a tremendously proud Reform Jew, and very gratified with how Reform Judaism has influenced the Jewish world at large over these years, in areas of creativity, social justice, civil rights, and so much more. There is always still more work to do – as Pirkei Avot teaches, “*Lo alecha ham'lachah ligmor, v'lo atah ben chorin l'hibateil mimenah* – You are not required to finish the task, but neither are you free to desist from beginning.”

I am reflecting on this passage of time because on May 3rd, I will receive an Honorary Doctorate from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute for Religion Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music for 25 years of service as a Cantor to the Jewish people. My cantorial ordination feels both like it was yesterday and a lifetime ago, all at the same time. I continue to feel so incredibly blessed and fortunate to be able to do the work that I do, and will speak further about my reflections of this journey at our Shabbat evening services on May 18th. From these twenty-five years, I do know this: Each voice I have encountered has touched my soul, and I continue to be joyfully inspired to enrich each unique soul I encounter as a part of the collective voice of our people.



NVHC Memory: The Schlepping Years

By Shirley Finkelstein

It was the Spring of 1970 when we moved to Reston. One of the first things we did after moving was to make contact with the Jewish Congregation. A Reform Congregation was different from congregations we had experienced. Having a Jewish community where we lived was important to us, so we joined this small group of fellow Jews. We were told that services were held at the Methodist Church on North Shore Drive. We were told that the congregation moved to the church when the room over one of the congregant's store became too small. We did not even have a rabbi every week.

Robert and I soon got involved with congregational activities. I volunteered to assist with the Temple Newsletter. It was at that time that we met Barbara and Ted Smith. Barbara was the editor of the Newsletter. At that time, editor meant gathering information, typing the information (no computers then) on mimeograph paper, running the mimeograph machine, collating the papers, stapling, stamping, and bringing the finished product to the post office for mailing. We did the collating at congregant homes. This was a fun process because it gave us time to be together and share thoughts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Social Action

Helping Kids in Need

By Tyler J. Winans, Third Grade

My favorite time to go to KL are the days when we pack the lunches for kids in the area. It is hard to believe that there are so many kids who are hungry on the weekend when they do not get lunch at school. I like to be involved in the Forest Edge Food Program because I enjoy helping other people so that they cannot be hungry. It doesn't take a lot of time. Once a month I tell my mom to buy the food item we have assigned to our class (popcorn). She buys it for me and I put it in the box. When we pack as a group, it is so great to see so many people come together. We have a fast assembly line and excellent packers. The one hour it takes to do this makes me feel like I have made a small difference in local people's lives. I think that everyone at NVHC should help.

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.

Ben & Tracy Kagan

13252 Custom House Court
Fairfax, VA 22033
703-349-5052
blkagan@gmail.com

Gerald & Susan Salzman

11808 Great Owl Circle
Reston, VA 20194
317-340-0032
ssalzman@yahoo.com

Ryan Olson & Robyn Stern

12224 Dorrance Court
Reston, VA 20190
201-675-1085
stern.robyn@gmail.com

Membership Directory Corrections

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

Jan & Tricia Blue

13375 Fieldstone Way
Gainesville, VA 20155

LIFE-CYCLE EVENTS

Mazel Tov

To Allan Dappen & Sara Scherr, on the birth of their granddaughter, Juniper Marie Dappen, born January 25, 2018 to proud parents Nathan & Amanda Dappen

Condolences

To Irene Schiffman, on the death of her mother,

Nora Rosenfeld (correction)

To Lori Saltzman, on the death of her brother,

Alan Saltzman

To Michael Maxwell, on the death of his father,

Myron Maxwell

To Erin DiManno, on the death of her grandmother,

Ruth Emogene Saunders Booth

To Ruth Lipson, on the death of her brother,

Benjamin Rzepka

To Ellice Kark, on the death of her nephew,

Joshua Alex Seiden

2018/5778 B'nai Mitzvah

May

Bat Mitzvah – May 19th

Claudia Ortiz

For her Mitzvah project, Stella is cooking and serving dinner once a month at a homeless shelter for families and will donate 10 inches of her hair to Locks for Love.

June

Bat Mitzvah – June 2nd

Katelyn Mehlenbeck

Katelyn has a strong interest in helping the homeless, and she will be collecting toiletries for the Emily Rucker Homeless Shelter in Reston, VA.

Bat Mitzvah - June 9th

Molly Bercher

In keeping with her passion for all living creatures, Molly has been volunteering with the horses at Nalani Horse Recovery and is organizing a bake sale fundraiser to help with the cost of their rescue and rehabilitation.

B'not Mitzvah – June 16th

Brandy Goldfeder

Brooke Goldfeder will be collecting donations such as blankets, leashes, and food for the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.

Hannah Whalen

For her Mitzvah project, Hannah will be running and helping with art projects at a local summer camp.



TZEDAKAH

WE THANK

OUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS

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

Adam Levine Camp Scholarship Fund

Samuel and Sheila Levine, in memory of Adam Levine
Laura Goodman and Kami Richter, in memory of Adam Levine
Patrick and Nina Zaretsky, in memory of Gerie Zaretsky

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Kruger Family, in memory of Seldon Kruger
Andrew and Barbara Rudin, in thanks for Cantor Caro's help with Passover Seder
Kathy Webb

Choir & Music Fund

Henry Chadwick, in memory of Clarice Karnette
Steve and Florrie Cohen, in memory of Norma Cohen and Nat Singer
Roy and Jean Horowitz, in memory of Nathan Newman
Bob and Kathy Magielnicki, in memory of Clarice Karnette
Rich and Cindy Michelson, in memory of Robert Michelson
David Selden and Julie Wallick, in memory of Clarice Karnette
Marvin and Karen Singer, in memory of Clarice Karnette
Andrew and Ellice Stern, in memory of Merwin Rosenberg

College Outreach

Steve and Linda Gordon, in memory of Margot Lieberman
Ted and Pat Tinkelman, in memory of Seymour Tinkelman

Ellen Reich Early Childhood Teacher Education Fund

Steve and Florrie Cohen, in memory of Norma Cohen, Nat Singer
Norman Reich, in memory of Dorothy Reich
Marvin and Karen Singer, in memory of Jennie Ankeles

Library Fund

Leslie and Marcia Platt, in memory of Harold Platt

Louis Gold Children's Music Fund

Steve and Florrie Cohen, in memory of Norma Cohen, Nat Singer
Rabbi Rosalind Gold, in memory of Rose Romm

MAZON

Stephen and Pamela Pick - Tikkun Olam

Memorial Plaque

Stephen and Louise Hershkowitz, in memory of Ruth Hershkowitz

NVHC Fund

Madeleine Abel, in honor of Miriam Wolman
Dan and Marcy Opstal, in memory of Selma Goldstone

Preschool

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 David and Ellen Brewer, in memory of Ben Rzepka
 Alan and Harriette Cohen
 Tom and Cindi Drake, in memory of Benjamin Rzepka
 Jill Gottfried
 William Harloff
 Bruce and Marcia Markoff
 NVHC Preschool, in memory of Benjamin Rzepka
 Leslie and Marcia Platt, in memory of Ann Platt
 Howard and Patricia Pollicoff
 Carl and Sherrie Polsky
 Miles Rapoport

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund – Rabbi Gold

Steve and Florrie Cohen, in memory of Norma Cohen, Nat Singer
 Kruger Family, in memory of Seldon Kruger
 Andrew and Ellice Stern, in memory of David Gluck

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund – Rabbi Holzman

Stu Dornfeld and Emily Booth-Dornfeld, in honor of Josh's birthday
 Stephen and Louise Hershkowitz, in memory of Ruth Hershkowitz
 Ed and Michelle Kogan, in memory of Michael Kogan
 Kruger Family, in memory of Seldon Kruger
 Robin Miller, in memory of Roy I. Joffe
 Alice Nerenstone, in memory of Marc A. Nerenstone, Josephine Rupprath-Knoedler, Louis P. Knoedler
 Rivoltina Popova, in memory of Vladimir Popov
 Paul Pribbish and Fredda Weinberg-Pribbish, in memory of Solly Sussman
 Katherine Rosenshein, in memory of George Rosenshein
 Oliver and Joyce Schueftan, in memory of Henry Schueftan
 Kathy Webb

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund – Rabbi Wainer

Diane Preece, in memory of Nigel A. Preece
 Sher Family, in honor of Dr. Brad Wainer

Religious School Fund

Don Copley, in memory of Earl Copley
 Ted and Patricia Tinkelman, in memory of Lenore Tinkelman

Second Night Seder

Kathy Webb, in honor of Mozelle Stanton

Seldon Dixon Endowment Fund for Jewish Youth

Isabel Einzig, in memory of Frieda Einzig

Seldon and Ruth Kruger Fund for Adult Learning

Andy and Susan Cohen
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 Nancy Green, in memory of Daniel Gerrig
 Don and Nell Hirsch, in memory of Shirley Hirsch
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 Andy and Elizabeth Lacher

Ruth Ruttenberg, in memory of Charles Wechsler, Bessie Spitz
 Howard and Carolyn Wesoky, in memory of Marian Unger
 Wise, Lena Cohen
 Sam and Evelyn Wilson, in memory of Milly Boehm

Social Action Fund – Tikkun Olam

Anonymous
 Madeleine Abel, in honor of David Selden and Julie Wallick
 Matthew and Miriam Brodie, in honor of the clergy
 Ed and Sandee Byrne
 Henry Chadwick, in memory of Sheila Chadwick
 Ken and Rachel Coelho
 Andy and Susan Cohen, in honor of Talia Holzman's Bat Mitzvah
 Brian Cohen and Deb Smith-Cohen, in honor of Jewish progressives of all eras
 Neil and Robin Cohen
 Stephen and Sharron Cristofar
 Robert and Gail Dezube, in honor of Talia Holzman's Bat Mitzvah
 Steven Droblas
 Eric Eldridge and Lisa Folb, in honor of Talia Holzman's Bat Mitzvah
 Eric and Bess Eisenstadt
 Sue Fajer
 Craig and Nina Falci, in honor of Talia's Bat Mitzvah
 Bob Fenster and Alison Behar
 Robert and Shirley Finkelstein, in honor of Talia's Bat Mitzvah
 Michael and Carol Flicker
 Eric and Karen Forman, in honor of Talia Holzman's Bat Mitzvah
 Gordon and Jane Gerson, in honor of Talia Holzman's Bat Mitzvah
 Al and Lynne Groff, in honor of Talia Holzman's Bat Mitzvah
 Jon Groisser and Hana Newcomb, in memory of Lilah Groisser
 Ken and Fay Gubin, in honor of Talia Holzman's Bat Mitzvah
 Justin and Andrea Hayes, in memory of Harry Steinberger
 Don and Nell Hirsch, in memory of Haywood Furman and Edith Furman, and in honor of Abbe Pascal's winning the Best of Reston Award
 Jerry and Robyn Hyman, in memory of Elliott Press and Fayga Press
 Bill and Jan Kent
 Daniel and Laurie Kobick
 Vivian Kramish
 Jim and Michelle Kranzberg
 Rebecca Krasnegor, in honor of Talia's Bat Mitzvah
 Andy and Elizabeth Lacher, in honor of Ellen Ranard
 Ken and Kathy Laskey, in honor of Talia's Bat Mitzvah
 Charles and Barbara Leven
 Martin Lichtenstein
 Steve and Ruth Lipson, in honor of Talia's Bat Mitzvah
 David McCue and Lori Lefcourt
 Brad and Risa May
 Rich and Cindy Michelson
 Lou and Sara Moore
 Greg and Denise Morency, in honor of Talia Holzman's Bat Mitzvah
 Steve and Romy Nathan

Alice Nerenstone
Arthur and Nancy Novick
Jim Olkin in honor of Talia's Bat Mitzvah
Mark and Judi Ornoff, in honor of Talia's Bat Mitzvah
Stephen and Claudia Ortiz
Robert and Meryl Paskow, in memory of Theodore M. Paskow
Stephen and Pamela Pick, in honor of VOICE and Mazon
Les and Marcia Platt, in honor of Talia's Bat Mitzvah
Michelle Probst, in honor of Talia's Bat Mitzvah
Richard and Ellen Ranard, in honor of Talia Holzman's Bat Mitzvah
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Sam and Lisa Schwall
Joanne Schamest Wallos, in memory of Marion Schamest
David Selden and Julie Wallick, in honor of Talia Holzman's Bat Mitzvah
Nathan and Lexy Sleeper
Ted Smith and Rosalind Gold, in honor of Talia's Bat Mitzvah
Larry and Deede Snowwhite, in memory of Abe Zeitz
Rob and Eileen Stein
Andrew and Ellice Stern
Suzi Stone, in honor of Talia Holzman's Bat Mitzvah
Jim and Barbara Tombros
Susan Trivers
Mark Turk and Marcy Goldberg-Turk
Dan and Andrea Vavonese, in honor of Talia Holzman's Bat Mitzvah
George Viener
Doris Weisman
Howard and Carolyn Wesoky
Frank and Samantha Wiegand
Ralph and Miriam Wolman, in honor of Talia's Bat Mitzvah

Social Action Fund – Forest Edge Backpack Program

NVHC Brotherhood, in honor of Robbie Kaplan
Jerry and Ellen Ezrol, in memory of Bernard Ezrol
Bruce Johnson and Janis Linkov-Johnson
Jim and Robbie Kaplan, in memory of Aaron Kaplan and Amy Kaplan
Brad and Risa May, in memory of Ida Lasher
Alan and Susan Shapiro, in memory of Beverly Milesky
Marsha Sheinman, in memory of Ira Brown, Sondra Brown-Blake, Herbert Sheinman, Jerry Pollock
Luiz Viera and Ana Leirner

Social Action Fund – VOICE

Stephen and Pamela Pick – Tikkun Olam

Speaker Series

David and Ellen Brewer
Robert and Gail Dezube, in honor of NVHC Volunteers
Eric and Bess Eisenstadt
Robert and Shirley Finkelstein, in honor of Eric and Bess Eisenstadt, in honor of Andy and Susan Cohen, in memory of Ken Blume, Nat Singer
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Youth Group Fund

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 Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Visit nvhcreston.org/calendar for details

2018

May

9th Meet the Candidates
12th *HaYesod* (the foundation)
Sponsored Event
18th BYOSHD
19th Shavuot Night of Study

22nd Confirmation Service
26th *Shabbat Bachutz* @ Bull Run
Regional Park, no services at
NVHC

June

8th BYOSHD