

The Glance

NVHC's Quarterly Magazine

June | 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Revelation
- Summer Series with NVHC Clergy
- Women of NVHC Upcoming Events!
- Exploring Sacred Creation
- Life-Cycle Events
- New Members
- Annual Giving at NVHC
- People of the Book
- NVHC Change - A Green Team Tip
- *Tzedakah*
- Social Action Committee - Refugee Family Update

CONTENTS



3
Revelation

4
Summer Series with
NVHC Clergy

5
Women of NVHC -
Welcome Spring and
Summer! Welcome
to our Women of NVHC
Upcoming Events!

6
Exploring Sacred
Creation

7
New Members

7
Life-Cycle Events

8
Annual Giving at NVHC -
"Sustaining Contribution
Amount:" What It Is and
Why It Matters

10
People of the Book

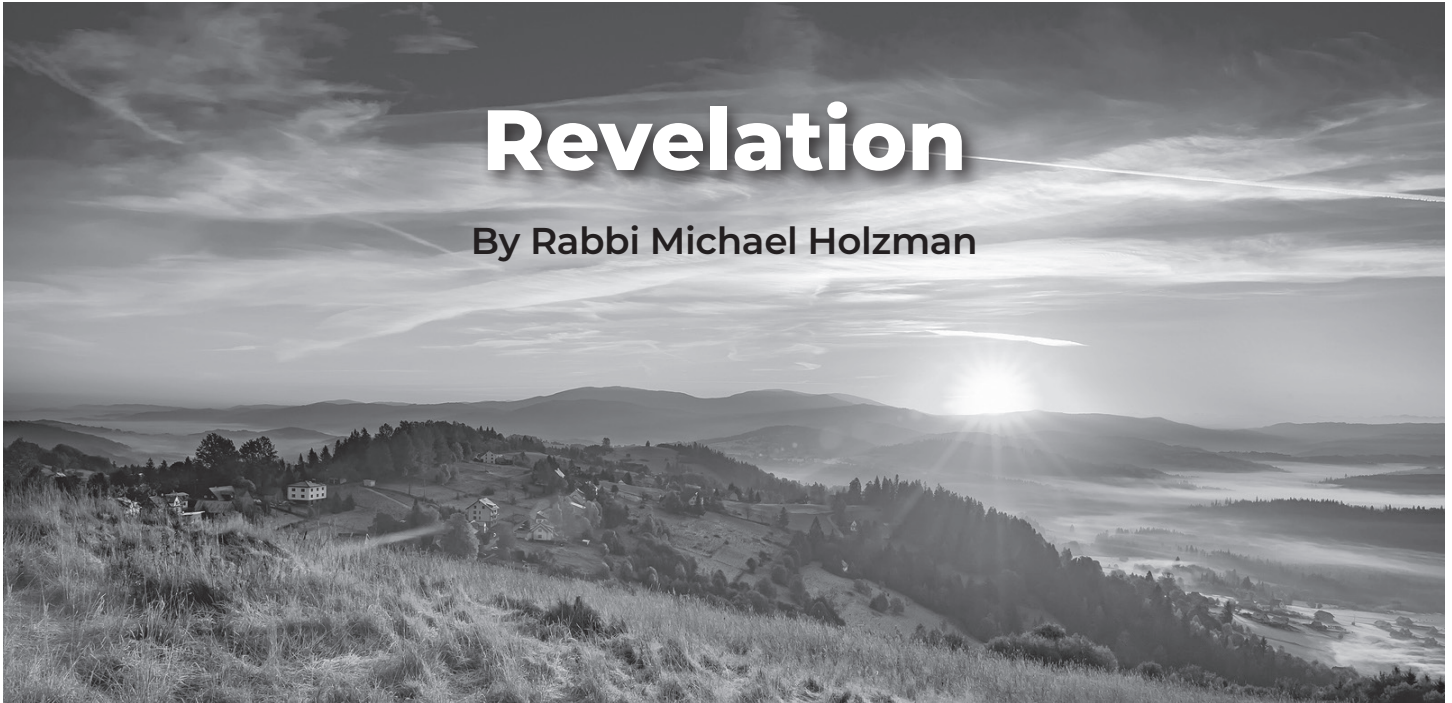
11
NVHC Change -
A Green Team Tip

12
Tzedakah

15
Social Action Committee
- Refugee Family Updates

Revelation

By Rabbi Michael Holzman



As summer approaches and we wind down our school and work years, we enter perhaps the most unintuitively important times on the Jewish calendar, the season of Revelation.

At NVHC, we know learning is a high priority for every age group. We probably have one of the highest concentrations of advanced degrees of any congregation in America. We strive to send our kids to the best colleges. But Revelation is about a different kind of learning: a collective search for moral truth. That is why the central Jewish ritual of Revelation, the *tikkun leil Shavuot* (this year @NVHC on May 25th at 6:00 pm), is a nighttime study of Torah; moral truth comes not from clear, rational, logical, human knowledge, but rather from the mysteries of relationship, peoplehood, community, and love. And we all know, that among friends we find our most uninhibited, honest, and courageous comments, and our most open, patient and compassionate listening in the middle of the night.

All of the Jewish legends about our national moment of Revelation, when all generations of Jews for all time stood together at Mt. Sinai, emphasize this non-rational element to the learning. One midrash teaches that God spoke in a different language specifically for each person to understand, yet we all received the same truth. Another midrash proposes that the only part of Revelation that all the people could hear clearly was the first letter of the Ten Commandments, an *alef* (which is a silent letter). Fundamentally, Torah explains, “Never again did there arise in Israel a

prophet like Moses, who spoke to God face to face” (Deut 34:10). When it comes to moral truth, the rest of us are groping together in the dark, literally, on Shavuot.

We do this through the particular Jewish technology of Torah study, when a group of people agrees to sit down with a shared text and attempts to decipher spiritual meaning. Whether we start with the Torah scroll itself, or we delve into some other stratum of Jewish civilization, the search opens a conversation and invites participants to voice diverse views. The validity of a thought depends not on its scientific verification, but instead solely on the willingness to remain in a covenantal community. Revelation—again, the collective search for moral truth—happens through our relationships.

And never has the issue of moral truth been more important in our lives. Because while Revelation is about a certain kind of flow of information to humanity, humanity is living through an information deluge hurricane that has uprooted the possibility of shared facts, ideas, thoughts, and truth. Virality supersedes veracity, leaving behind what Jonathan Haidt has called a modern Tower of Babel. Simultaneously, we face an algorithmically supercharged bombardment of messages telling us how to live, when to work, what to buy, who to follow, and where we should keep our eyeballs glued. This leaves discourse brittle, individuals confused, communities fragmented, and people lonely.

So a holiday that restores Revelation might be kind of important. Given the controversies and struggles plaguing our society and our personal lives right now, Shavuot

might be the most important holiday on our calendar. Which is also why we decided to apply our *tikkun leil* technology to the American holiday of Juneteenth. Because, as the controversy over the New York Times' 1619 Project, the mischaracterization of Critical Race Theory, the assertion of "parental rights," and the recent wave of book bannings demonstrate, the moral truth of racism has always divided our country. And just like previous key moments in American history, the 2020 George Floyd murder was a moment of American Revelation. We were all there, we all heard racism in a language each could understand, and the moral truth of the moment was simultaneously infinite and ineffable. That year, we at NVHC decided that if America was to have some way to understand our history of this important subject, we would need a ritual of truth to make it happen. (We also wanted to emulate the German traditions of overnight learning about the Holocaust that happen each year in Berlin on Kristallnacht.)

We often frame our moral questions as issues of redemption, the quest to overcome some sort of injustice. Western Civilization and especially American history have relied upon the Exodus narrative from Egypt as the paradigm for the journey to a better world. Jefferson and Franklin even proposed that the seal of the United States depict Moses parting the sea or the pillar of fire guiding the people. While the issue of racism may indeed be a story of libera-

tion, post-Obama America may need the narrative to continue to Mt. Sinai, to an encounter with truth so powerful and mysterious, that we must come together to decipher its meaning. So join us for an early Juneteenth (June 16th, following Erev Shabbat services) as we seek collectively to find America's moral truth about racism.

“
**Join us for an early
Juneteenth on June 16th,
following Erev
Shabbat services.**
”

We all know that June is when the world slows down, when work becomes more casual, school wraps up, kids head to camp, and vacation starts. Rather than see this time as an end to our learning, perhaps we need to reframe things, and remember what every good educator knows, that the most important curriculum is the unwritten and unintended curriculum, that the best learning happens outside the classroom, that we grow as humans in our off-time, our free-time, and with our community. 🍷

Summer Series with NVHC Clergy

Small Screen, Big Themes - Judaism on TV in 2023 | Cantor Caro

How do you feel when you see Jewish themes and practices portrayed on TV? Proud? Uncomfortable? Indifferent? Let's explore the variety and growing body of Jewish characters and themes that are key elements in several TV shows just in the past year.

- How do we think about the portrayal of Jews on TV?
- How do we hope to be portrayed?
- What are the messages that are being conveyed, and how do they affect us?

Drinkin' and Drashin' | Rabbi Barrett

Join Rabbi Barrett for good conversation and a little bit of learning over drinks at NOVA hotspots this summer. Together we'll dive into some of Judaism's most fun and weird stories about drinking. You won't want to miss these light-hearted evenings of learning, relationship building, and libations.

Book Club | Rabbi Holzman

Join Rabbi Holzman this summer to read and discuss Clint Smith's *How the Word is Passed*. This New York Times best-seller investigates the legacy of slavery and explores how we remember in present day America.

Stay Tuned for Dates and Times

Welcome Spring and Summer! Welcome to Our Women of NVHC Upcoming Events!

By Peggy Nelson

Women of NVHC are busy at work with their Spring and Summer Events! We hope to see you there!

We had our Spring Book Discussion on May 7 about of the book *The Latecomer*. Our Book Discussions are always well attended and offer many interesting points to the book. You are welcome to attend even if you have not had time to read the book! This popular event will be back in the fall, as well, so if you missed this one, plan to join us for the next one after school starts.

“

Our Rummage Sale will be Sunday, June 4. We will be collecting donations the week of May 30 through June 3. This event has always been a community favorite, so please bring your gently used donations for this overdue sale!

”

Our Rummage Sale will be Sunday, June 4. We will be collecting donations the week of May 30 through June 3. This event has always been a community favorite, so please bring your gently used donations for this overdue sale!

On June 11, we will have our End of Year Brunch. During this event, our Board for 2023-2024 will be presented and offered for approval. We have planned delicious made-to-order omelets and cinnamon rolls for this feast! Egg white omelets, or plain sautéed vegetables will be offered for vegetarians and vegans, as well. Don't miss this fun event capping off our year!

In addition, we still need helpers for many of our events and activities. If you have a hand to lend on just one activity, we can use your help! Please reach out to me, and let me know where your interests lead you. Thank you for your support with our many programs.

We are planning events for next year, and welcome your input. Our favorites, like Chocolate and Champagne, Book Club Discussions, Global Lunches, member socials and social action activities will be back! Stay tuned for our summer mailing which will detail dates for these events and more!

As I have said to you all before, whoever you are, and whatever you enjoy, we want you to come and enjoy activities with us. The above information is only a small assortment of events. There are other events throughout the year. Some events are for our Women of NVHC only, some are family activities, and some are couple activities. Whoever you are, you are welcome! Whoever you are, you are encouraged to join us! With all of us, we will make NVHC a thriving, giving, warm and friendly place. Please join us if you have not already. We want YOU, and YOU can help us further our mission of promoting camaraderie, *esprit de corps*, spirituality, and participation in *tikkun olam*.

If you have questions or new ideas, please reach out. You can email me at PeggyNelson8@verizon.net. We hope to see you soon! 🌱



Exploring Sacred Creation

By Rabbi Ashley Barrett



Have you ever felt small? I mean, really small. Small not only in stature but in the grand arc of eternity.

At the end of March, I had the opportunity to feel really small – and it was breathtaking. Sam Blum and I had the privilege of staffing our Tamid teen trip to San Francisco. One of our many stops on the adventure was a visit to Muir Woods National Monument. Located north of the city in the beautiful, lush rolling hills, we encountered the 500+ year-old redwood trees. Before we went on to explore all of the beauty within the park, we stood huddled at the entrance and together we took a deep breath. And then another. Then – something interrupted the third breath; it was a giggle. It was one of those giggles that starts with one sound and then snowballed around the group until everyone was laughing. The laugh communicated gratitude for the beautiful nature, the crisp fresh air, and also a bit of relief for finally being able to stretch our legs after a long bus ride. After this beautiful spontaneous wordless prayer was uttered, I helped the teens offer another *bracha* (blessing).

This time we used words of our tradition for the joy and beauty of encountering nature. This moment wouldn't have been

“Our Tamid trip to San Francisco was a great experience. Not only did we have a fun time exploring famous landmarks, but we also enjoyed Shabbat services and got to experience their Jewish community. We went to one synagogue and heard the organ and saw their stained glass windows. I loved hanging out with my friends, and I am very glad to have experienced this during my last year as a youth at NVHC.”

Jason Trager (12th grade)

as meaningful as it was without *both* the words of our Jewish tradition mingled with the sounds of nature, human presence, and friendship. In Muir Woods our teens didn't just take a walk in the park – they explored sacred creation.

It's moments like these that make learning and community transformational for an individual. Our youth have the opportunity to encounter the world while surrounded by their peers. They get to learn from the experience and from each other. We learned what it was like to stand next to trees three times older than our country and feel the smallness of the moment. We got to learn about San Francisco from people who call the city home, and we even learned a thing or two

about the joys of public transportation. Such learning and friendship-building cannot happen exclusively in the classroom.

This summer, I have the wonderful opportunity to join some of our kids and young people in another kind of Jewish immersive experience – summer camp. I'll be serving for two weeks on the faculty of URJ-Camp Harlam. Personally, I'm looking forward to all of our NVHC students teaching *me* the Harlam traditions, culture, and silly songs!

"Visiting the San Francisco City Hall was the biggest surprise of the trip for me as I had no idea what to expect upon arrival. The dome was massive, and the building's architecture rivaled the Capitol. Exploring the rooms with my friends was so much fun as we learned about the expansive history of the city. We also got to view a few weddings which was very neat to be a part of!"

Caleb Snowwhite (12th grade)

"A small thing I loved about the trip was riding the cable cars! It was great to experience such a special cultural piece of San Francisco. We got to learn about the history of cable cars in San Francisco and see firsthand how they work. By far the best part was hanging off the side of the cable cars and high-fiving people as we explored the city!"

Zach Topscher (10th grade)

I'm sure all of you have heard the adage "it takes a village to raise a child." What that really means is that it takes a community of people who live their shared values daily. It takes a community of people who recognize that "place" can serve as a powerful teacher, and shared experience can build bonds. It takes a community, not a village, to recognize the importance of the outside world. A village might want to keep kids close by to be able to work right away for that village. While a community is sacred and understands that those experiences take our kids and teens out of our midst and give their gifts to the world is better for us all. 🌱

NEW MEMBERS

A Warm Welcome to New Members

We extend a warm welcome to these NVHC newcomers who have recently become part of our family. Please be sure to make them feel at home when you meet them!

Victoria Backle

Sam and Megan Canote

Anna and Warren Fridley

Eli and Kari Lehrer

Ryan and Jacqueline Malkes

LIFE-CYCLE EVENTS

MAZEL TOV

To Ben and Stephanie Donchin, proud parents of George Donchin, born September 26, 2022

CONDOLENCES

To David Lubinsky, on the death of his father, Arkady Lubinsky

To Ellice and Jon Kark, on the death of their nephew, Jordan Graham Labiner

To Fay Gubin, on the death of her granddaughter, Eva Charlotte Weiss

To Marjina Kaplan, on the death of her son-in-law, Mark Russell

Submit your life-cycle events by phone to:

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

“Sustaining Contribution Amount:” What It Is and Why It Matters

In 2017, NVHC made the decision to transition from its traditional “fair share” dues system to a voluntary commitment model, following the trend of many other synagogues in North America. By making this change, NVHC’s leadership sought to better align our financial model with our values as a congregation. This was a move to a connected, inspired, community-centered approach.

The voluntary commitment model empowers congregants to give from the heart in building our Jewish community and creating a culture of *tzedakah* (righteous giving) and belonging. For synagogue leadership, the voluntary model means a greater need to engage members about their Annual Giving and how they value their personal NVHC experience and the impact that NVHC has for the whole community.

NVHC congregants have overwhelmingly embraced and welcomed this change. Feedback has been positive, and our membership numbers and income have seen the same modest but consistent growth as most other synagogues that have transitioned to a voluntary model.

Even though giving is 100% voluntary, we still must cover the costs of operating our synagogue each year. This includes compensating our clergy and staff, and expenses for building, security, worship services, programming, and religious school.

For FY24, the sustaining amount is \$3,300. This is what NVHC needs from each member household, on average.

The “sustaining” contribution amount is the average Annual Pledge, per member household, that NVHC needs to sustain current operations. It’s what we need to “keep the lights on.” It does not reflect what we would need to enhance our operations, such as by adding staff or programming.

Synagogues typically calculate the sustaining level by dividing total projected expenses, less expected income from tuition or endowment and other predictable revenue sources, by the projected number of households. There are variations, but the basic approach is to subtract major predictable revenue streams from total expenses, and then divide the net expense by the total number of member households to get each member’s “share” of the cost.

$$\text{Sustaining Amount} = \frac{\text{Total Expenses} - \text{Predictable Revenue}}{\text{Total Number of Households}}$$

NVHC uses this basic approach, and our predictable revenue includes rental income and grants. For the upcoming fiscal year starting July 1, 2023 (FY24) the sustaining amount is projected to be about \$3,300 per household based on the proposed budget at the time of this writing.

Sustaining Amount Calculation for Proposed FY24 Budget

Total Expenses	\$1,941,647
- Religious School Income	\$237,878
- Rental Income	\$157,500
- Grants	\$0
- Endowment	\$0
= Net Expenses	\$1,545,269
Divided by Total Households	472
= Sustaining Contribution	\$3,276

NVHC manages expenses carefully to keep them as low as possible while fulfilling our synagogue’s mission. However, because NVHC is highly dependent on Annual Giving—62% of our total revenue comes from congregant pledges—it is critical for us to maintain giving levels in line with our expenses each year. This is increasingly a challenge as expenses continue to rise faster than Annual Giving levels.

As in all synagogues, some members give more and some less, depending on their ability and their understanding of NVHC finances. Our core

values tell us that we will never turn someone away from membership for financial reasons, so we are especially grateful for members who give more than the sustaining amount. If the actual average pledge falls below the budgeted sustaining amount, NVHC will run an operating deficit.

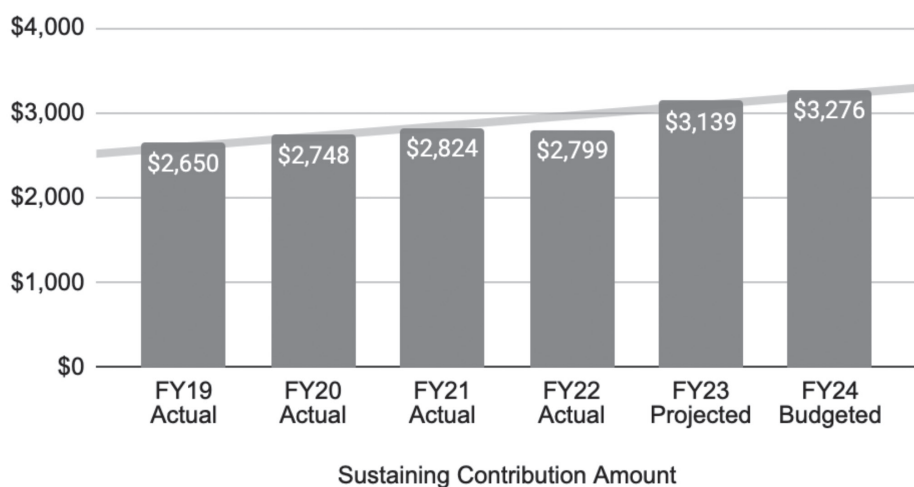
We are fortunate to have some very generous and committed members who give more than the sustaining amount. Some give significantly more. However, many give less. For the current fiscal year FY23, 27% of NVHC congregants pledged at or above the

sustaining level, which is well below the UJA-Federation benchmark average of 38% for synagogues with a voluntary dues model¹. To reach this benchmark, NVHC would need 51 more members giving at or above the sustaining level.

To be financially sustainable in FY24 and beyond, NVHC needs more congregants to give at the sustaining level or higher. Please consider making your Annual Pledge for this year at the sustaining level of \$3,300 or higher if you are not already. The Union for Reform Judaism suggests all members consider an annual gift of 2% of their gross annual income.

Donations above and beyond the sustaining level can help NVHC welcome households with limited budgets, reach out to Jews in Northern Virginia who are not currently part of our synagogue family, operate more effectively, and do even more to fulfill our mission. In the long term, a robust revenue stream means we can even consider enhancements to our current operation, with aspirational objectives like additional programming and supplemental staffing. 🌟

Sustaining Amount Trends Upward Due to Rising Expenses



Key Points

- NVHC needs more members to pledge at or above the sustaining level of \$3,300 to avoid an operating budget deficit. According to the UJA-Federation, NVHC has 51 fewer sustaining donors than the benchmark average.
- Contributions above the sustaining level help offset for those who cannot and enables enhancements such as programming and staffing.
- For those unable to contribute at the sustaining level, the URJ suggests 2% of their gross annual income. No family will be turned away if they have financial challenges that inhibit giving.

Reference

¹ <https://www.ujafedny.org/news/uja-federation-of-new-yorks-second-report-on-synagogues-adopting-voluntary-dues-finds-trend-now-growing-among-diverse-group-of-congregations>

People of the Book

By Cantor Caro

I love books! Come in my study at temple – a wall full of books amassed over many years and purposes. In my house, there are books in the living room and the bedroom, from novels to coffee table books, books of philosophy and music....and then there are all the kids books saved in the attic waiting for grandchildren. I love perusing the ‘Little Libraries’ in my neighborhood for a wonderful treasure. I accumulate books; it is so hard to part with them. They hold knowledge as well as the memory or story around how each one came to be a part of my life.



“
The ground upon which our synagogue exists is sacred for our community; as we build for the future with our upcoming construction, we will be digging sacred space for the burial of our Jewish holy books, to mindfully consecrate their resting place among the spaces in which our community gathers.
”

Most people try to give books away when they are ready to part with them, rather than throwing them away. It just feels wrong to toss a book, doesn't it? Like, it could have a life somewhere else, with someone else. For the average book, public libraries, schools or shelters are often the recipients. With Jewish books, the options are more limited and there are often no takers for old, out-of-date books. Here at NVHC, we have been the recipient of many old books that became donations to our library, though we find ourselves now in the position of needing to clear out old books and re-prioritize space. There are numerous textbooks for religious school from generations past, lots of older prayerbooks purchased specifically, many with book plates noting who had donated them to our community. Some are ragged and torn. Some are intact but just forlorn, superseded by newer editions, no longer in demand. While they are no longer us-

able, we have continued to house them, keeping them within our walls, as Jewish tradition calls us to do.

Synagogues often have a specific, dedicated storage area called a *genizah* – from the Hebrew word for “hiding place” – a repository for sacred and important books that are no longer usable. This comes from a Talmudic passage¹ which stipulates that all sacred writings (scrolls of Torah, Prophets, and Writings), should be preserved in a place where they cannot be destroyed. Though this idea was originally tied to a prohibition of erasing God's name, Maimonides ruled that any holy books, such as the Talmud and Midrash, should be retired to the *genizah* as well, even if they do not contain God's name. Historically, anything from a worn-out *siddur* to a contract written in Hebrew would be put in the *genizah* when it was no longer useful, and often ritual objects, such as a tallit or a lulav, were added as well.

Whether the old books cannot be disposed of because they contain God's name or because they are valued for the generations they inspired with words that might now be out of date, we know that Judaism places a value on learning and knowledge such that we accord books the same sort of respect as human beings. So, when storage gets full, the books are buried in sanctified ground, often in a cemetery. We Jews have been burying books for centuries, those upon which time and devotion have taken their toll, to make room for new ones.

As we think about all these old books that we have, try to summon in your minds the hands that held these texts, the eyes that read their print, the lips that said these words aloud. When we bury books, we might think about the many people who read and prayed their words aloud. The many children who recited “Four Questions” from *Haggadot*; the numerous people from all over who followed the Torah readings from our *chumashim*, listening to the recitation of the Days of Creation, the 10 Commandments, or the Song of the Sea. So many sang *L'cha Dodi* on Shabbat

from these pages. We express our gratitude to the sacred paper and glue and wish them farewell through burial. Burial allows us to ritualize the love, the grief, the loss and the longevity of these sacred texts, for inside each Jewish book is a Jewish heart.

The ground upon which our synagogue exists is sacred for our community; as we build for the future with our upcoming construction, we will be digging sacred space for the burial of our Jewish holy books, to mindfully consecrate their resting place among the spaces in which our community gathers.

As our construction and renewal plans get underway, we will be letting you know when you, our community, will be welcome to bring an old holy book you might have at home – an old prayerbook, perhaps a *chumash*, that is no longer usable, and is ready for burial. Because we have so much to lay to rest, we will be asking that for this moment, you choose and bring only one book. And don't worry if you don't have anything at home; you will be able to help us lay to rest one of

the many sacred books here at the synagogue. The date we will be doing this is dependent on our construction progress, which is dependent on weather and on the Reston Design Review Board – both of which are rather out of our control!

The Jewish value of books and of learning spans centuries, rooted in our very core. In the 12th C., a Jewish philosopher named Shmuel Ibn Tibbon wrote: “Make books your companions; let your bookshelves be your gardens: bask in their beauty, gather their fruit, pluck their roses, take their spices and myrrh. If your soul is filled and weary, change from garden to garden, from furrow to furrow, from prospect to prospect. Then will your desire renew itself and your soul be filled with delight.” And I would add, when the books are well-used and weary, let us lay them gently to rest, making room in our hearts (and on our shelves) for more inspiration and growth. 🌱

Reference
¹ Shabbat 115a

NVHC Change A Green Team Tip

You can make a real difference for our planet when you choose the right paper products for household use. Here's how.

The Natural Resources Defense Council ranked brands of toilet paper, tissues and paper towels, measuring how much 100% virgin forest fiber is used vs recycled paper. Maintaining the planet's virgin forests is “essential to avoiding catastrophic climate change.” You can check out the NRDC scorecard to find out how your current products rate, and to look for alternatives. Even better, an NVHC Change member has done the research, shopped and evaluated for us.

She compared her Bounty paper towels, Kleenex tissues and Scott toilet paper (all with an F rating) to A-rated products from Trader's Joe's. On a cost per sheet basis, Trader Joe's brand cost fractionally less. She reports that

“Trader Joe's products may not be as “fluffy,” but they get the job done,” and she is not using more paper to compensate. (The price will vary, of course, based on the quantity purchased, as Trader Joe's sells only one size.)

Our Jewish texts are replete with reminders to care for the Earth. From Midrash: “See to it that you do not spoil and destroy My world, for you if you do, there will be no one else to repair it.” We even turn to nature to describe Torah, calling it *eitz chaim hi*, our tree of life. As Jews, we try to live our values, rooted in Torah and the wisdom of our sages. Please join us in the *mitzvah* of making thoughtful choices for the sustainability of Earth.

If you have questions about our Green Team or to join the email list for more information and tips, please contact Green Team Chair, Ken Gubin, at cagey156@aol.com. 🌱

Some High and Low Toilet Paper Scores

Green Forest	A+
Natural Value	A+
Trader Joe's	A+
365 Everyday Value	A+
Simple Truth	A
Everspring	A
GreenWise	A
Nature's Promise	A
Charmin	F
Cottonelle Ultra	F
Trader Joe's Super Soft	F
Kirkland	F
Kroger Soft & Strong	F
Angel Soft	F
Amazon Basics	F
Wegman's	F

WE THANK OUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS

**Adam Levine Camp
Scholarship Fund**

Laura Goodman and Kami Richter...
in memory of Adam Levine

Don and Nell Hirsch...in honor of the
birth of Daisy Marina Cincinnati

Mitch and Abbe Pascal...in memory
of Sharon Schwartz

Brotherhood Fund

Rabbi Rosalind Gold...in appreciation
of Don Copley, Bob Fenster, Kevin
Luman, Joseph Scholnick, Stuart Wil-
liger, for their help and kindness

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Ellice and Jon Kark...in memory of
Jordan Graham Labiner

Robert and Shirley Finkelstein...
in memory of Mildred Silbovitz

Rachel and Andy Wills...in thanks
for support and a very special B'nai
Mitvah for Sarah and Stephen

Chesed (NVHC Cares) Fund

Jeff and Tracy Dlott...in memory of
Pam Furman

Stu Dornfeld and Emily Booth-
Dornfeld...in honor of Josh's birthday

Rosalind Gold...in memory of
Pam Furman

Jon and Nicki Halterman-Mitchell...
in memory of Joel Micah
Halterman-Mitchell

Nancy and Helen Kruger...in memory
of Pam Furman, Eva Charlotte Weiss

Andy and Elizabeth Lacher...
in memory of Pam Furman

Ronni Levine and Marco Sainati...
in memory of Pamela Gibbs Furman

Peter and Libby Robbins...in memory
of Pam Furman

Joanne Schamest and Ron Wallos...
in memory of Marion Schamest

Oliver and Joyce Schueftan...
in memory of Sylvia Gasperow

Marvin and Karen Singer...
in memory of Pam Furman

**Feldman Rubinoff
Engagement Fund**

Paula Rubinoff...in memory of Charles
Rubinoff and Rebecca Rubinoff

Hidur Mitzvah (Beauty) Fund

Rachel and Andy Wills...in thanks to
Emily and Joe for support and a very spe-
cial B'nai Mitvah for Sarah and Stephen

Nina Zaretsky...in memory of
Gerie Zaretsky

**Kehillat Limmud
(Religious School) Fund**

Don Copley...in memory of Earl Copley

Elise de Clerck...in memory of
Ronni Pendel

**Louis Gold Children's
Music Fund**

Don and Nell Hirsch...in memory of
Shirley Hirsch

Carol Roth...in memory of Pam Furman

Memorial Plaque Fund

Ed and Sandee Byrne...in memory of
Daniel Smith

Rosalind Gold...in memory of
Theodore L. Smith

Joseph and Anna Scholnick...
in memory of Andrew Scholnick

Patrick Towbin...in memory of
David Towbin, Judith Towbin

**Na'arim (Youth Engagement
& Scholarships) Fund**

Isabel Einzig...in memory of Freida
Einzig, Jacob Pyles

Nell and Don Hirsch...in honor of
Emily Hummel's promotion

Arthur and Maida Rosengarten...
in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of
granddaughter Olivia Rosengarten

Pat and Ted Tinkelman...
in memory of Lenore Tinkelman,
Seymour Tinkelman

NVHC General Fund

Ruth and David Goldberger

Robin Miller...in memory of
Helen Joffe, Roy Joffe

Connie Nystrom...in memory of
Dianne Schmidley

Meryl Ram...in memory of Evelyn Ram

Ilese and Roger Vorcheimer...in
memory of Melinda Moshell Robins

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund –
Rabbi Barrett**

Rachel and Andy Wills...in thanks
for support and a very special B'nai
Mitvah for Sarah and Stephen

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund –
Rabbi Gold**

Stephen and Norma Baker...
in memory of Matilda Baker

Esther and Allan Berg...in memory of
Minnie Cohen Goldstein

David and Ellen Brewer...
in memory of Raye Cohen

Ken and Fay Gubin...in thanks to
Rabbi Gold for her kindness and
support during a difficult time

Justin and Andrea Hayes...in memory
of Ken Hayes and Annette Steinberger

Andrew and Ellice Stern...in memory
of Merwin Rosenberg, David Gluck

Rachel and Andy Wills...in thanks
for support and a very special B'nai
Mitvah for Sarah and Stephen

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund –
Rabbi Holzman**

Sally Brodsky...in memory of
Robert Brodsky

Mark Calem...in memory of
Hindy Shaman

Elizabeth Merritt...in memory of
Robert Henry Cavenee

Fredda Weinberg Pribish...
in memory of Sally Sussman

John O'Connor and Ingrid Small...
in memory of Marvin Small

Oliver and Joyce Schueftan...
in memory of Henry Schueftan

Phyllis Stein...in memory of
Robert Stein

Bryan and Caren Suarez...in honor
of Addison's Bat Mitzvah

Shirah (Choir & Music) Fund

Don and Nell Hirsch...in honor of
and with gratitude to David and Ruth
Goldberger

Elizabeth and Andy Lacher...
in memory of Mark Russell

Sy and Roberta Sherman...in celebration
of David Selden and Julie Wallick's new
granddaughter, Maisy; and in memory of
Eva Charlotte Weiss

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

Alan Dappen and Sara Scherr...
in memory of Lois B. Scherr

**Seldon and Ruth Kruger
Distinguished Speaker Series
Fund**

Anonymous

Francine Beifeld...in memory of
Lawrence Beifeld

Ed and Sandee Byrne...in memory
of Miriam Chernow

Don Copley...in memory of Isaiah
Copley

Rob and Nora Gutcho

Michael Hendler

Carol Isaacs

Steve and Ruth Lipson...in memory
of Ben Rzepka

Norman Reich

Ruth Ruttenberg...in memory of
Charles Herbert Wechsler

Alan and Susan Shapiro

Mark Tauber

Mark and Nancy Weinstein

Sam and Evelyn Wilson...in memory
of Milly Boehm

Talmud (Adult Learning) Fund

Francine Beifeld...in memory of
Ted Smith

Howard and Carolyn Wesoky...
in memory of Ted Smith

**Tikkun Olam (Social Action)
Fund**

Anonymous

Chad Ackley and Ida Brudnick

Stephan and Norma Baker

Allan and Esther Berg

Harvey and Janice Berger

Steffanie Bergman

Sandra Blumberg

Henry and Cindy Brownstein...
in memory of Shirley Sayare

Ed and Sandee Byrne

Cantor Susan Caro and John Lertzman

Andy and Susan Cohen

Marcelino and Rinna Cortes

Stephen Cristofar...in memory of
Sharron Cristofar, Ellen Moyer

TZEDAKAH

Alan Dappen and Sara Scherr...
in memory of Ursula Henjes

Adele Denny

Gail and Robert Dezube...in memory
of Rose Katz

Jeff and Tracy Dlott...in memory of
Eva Charlotte Weiss

Eric and Bess Eisenstadt

Bob Fenster and Alison Behar

Robert and Shirley Finkelstein

Michael and Carol Flicker

Eric and Karen Forman

Debbie and Elliott Friedman...
in memory of Betty Jaffee

Ellen Goldman and Mitchel Robinson

Mort and Deborah Goldstrom...
in memory of Marcella Kuttin,
Eva Charlotte Weiss

Steve and Linda Gordon

Al and Lynne Groff

Jon Groisser and Hana Newcomb

Ken Gubin

David Hettler and Carola Seiz

Don and Nell Hirsch...in memory
of Ursula Henjes and to benefit
Cornerstones

Rabbi Michael and Nicole Holzman...
in memory of Ursula Henjes

Ellen Krause-Pontell and David Pontell

Nancy Kruger

Andy and Elizabeth Lacher

Ken and Kathryn Laskey

Charles and Barbara Leven

Samuel Leven and Jennifer Clifton

Bruce and Laurie Levine

Michael Lipsky and Mariette Newcomb

Steve and Ruth Lipson...in memory
of Maurice Lipson

Kevin and Vicki Luman

Elizabeth Merritt...in memory of
Robert Henry Cavenee

Joe Miller and Martha Kimes

Jim and Michelle Kranzberg

Brad and Risa May

John and Robyn Mehlenbeck

Rich and Cindy Michelson

Sandy Mitchell

Judy Naiman

Lisa Namerow and Lonnie Lazear...
Uber gift cards for Ukrainian family

Peggy Nelson

Frank and Gretchen Newman

Meryl and Robert Paskow

Steve and Pam Pick

Leslie and Marcia Platt

Michele Probst

Meryl Ram

Ellen and Richard Ranard

Allan and Barbara Ratner

Norm Reich

Jeff and Mary Ann Ressin

Kris Rose and Michael Berkow

Marc Rosenberg and Ruth Imershein

Barry and Cora Rudolph

Robert and Ellen Rugel

Ruth Ruttenberg

Seymour Samuels

Joanne Schamest and Ron Wallos...
in memory of Ursula Henjes

Jerry and Deborah Scheinberg

David Selden and Julie Wallick

Marvin and Karen Singer...in memory
of Ursula Henjes, and in honor of Rab-
bi Barrett's investiture and marriage

Arnie and Natalie Small

Helen Smith

Deb Smith-Cohen...Target gift cards

Larry Snowwhite...in memory of
Steven Zilberman

Danielle and Steven Spitzer

Andrew Stein and Kim Arnstine

Phyllis Stein

Andrew and Ellice Stern

Mark Tauber

Susan Trivers

Doris Weisman

Stu Williger

Evelyn and Sam Wilson

Ralph and Miriam Wolman

Nina Zaretsky

Carl and Laura Zelman

Tzibbur (Community, Inclusion) Fund

Justin and Andrea Hayes...in memory
of Harry Steinberger

Refugee Family Updates

In the past year and a half, NVHC Change, our social action committee, has taken on two refugee family groups, one from Afghanistan and more recently, one from Ukraine. We felt a particular connection to their plights with our own generations-long history as Jewish refugees and emigrants, and we made it our mission to help them through the upheaval and into stability.

After the mass evacuation from Afghanistan in the summer of 2021, NVHC Change welcomed an extended family of 11 who fled from Kabul. NVHC responded with an outpouring of support and a huge commitment of time and effort from dedicated volunteers. The Afghan family has been determined and courageous in building new lives here, learning English, and finding and working their way up in employment.

“

NVHC members have donated three cars to our extended Afghan family!

”

A very generous congregant recently donated a 2016 Ford CMAX for the family. Team members navigated a complicated DMV process to deliver the title and car to the delighted family, who will share it for work and attendance at NOVA classes. (This makes *three* cars donated by NVHC members to our extended Afghan family!) None of the Afghan women had driver’s licenses previously, and the young women are thrilled to achieve the independence of driving. Two have earned their licenses, and the third is studying hard to take the knowledge test – no small feat in a new second language.

R, the father of the family, is enjoying his English classes with other immigrants from different countries. Now that he is more able to communicate in English, he is much happier overall. Son E continues his work at Walmart and is taking English classes at NOVA. Daughter N is ambitious, steadily taking classes at NOVA and working at Walmart. We are still looking for connections to help young moms H and M find employment. Both are experienced HR professionals who would love to get back to that field, or work in administrative positions. (If you have ideas, please contact Jim Rose at jimrose00@verizon.net.) Son-in-law I is very happy in his



job, with supportive colleagues and good corporate culture. Even granddaughter S is excelling – her school just recognized her with an award for positivity!

“

Our Afghan family is an inspiration, moving forward with commitment, determined to establish themselves through hard work all around.

”

Our Afghan family is an inspiration, moving forward with commitment, determined to establish themselves through hard work all around. Meanwhile, we have a terrific volunteer team working with our Ukrainian families (more recently arrived) on English language, employment, transportation and benefits. Thanks to everyone in the NVHC community who has donated and worked to help both families rebuild their lives here. 🌱



NORTHERN VIRGINIA
HEBREW CONGREGATION

1441 Wiehle Ave | Reston, VA 20190

Lag B'Omer at Lake Fairfax Park with Brotherhood Cookout



What a beautiful night we had!

