

The Glance

NVHC's Quarterly Magazine



**THE CAPITAL
CAMPAIGN: WHAT
NITZAVIM MEANS FOR
OUR CONGREGATION**

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CONGREGATIONAL
PASTORAL CARE
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Congregational Celebration and Campaign Showcase

Thursday, December 5, 6:30 pm
Sunday, December 8, 9:30 am

Join us to celebrate NVHC and learn more about our *Nitzavim* (Standing Together) Campaign!

These events will both celebrate the accomplishments of NVHC in our 52 year history and explain the *Nitzavim* Campaign in greater detail. You'll learn more about what the Campaign is all about, how we all can get involved, and what it means for the future of NVHC.

Refreshments will be served and everyone who attends on Sunday will receive a voucher for free Brotherhood Breakfast!

Join us at these gatherings to learn, to connect, and to give thanks for what this institution means in our lives. We'll see you there!

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Photo by Dan Noble

The Capital Campaign: What *Nitzavim* Means for Our Congregation

Rabbi Michael G. Holzman

At the end of the Torah, when the people stand on the border of the Promised Land, Moses delivers his most powerful sermon, inspiring them to go forward and create a new future for the Jewish people. He says, "*Atem Nitzavim Hayom Kulchem*: You stand here today, all of you, before the Eternal your God—your tribal heads, your elders and your officials, all the men of Israel, your children, your wives, even the stranger within your camp, from woodchopper to water drawer—to enter into the covenant of the Eternal your God."

This vision of standing together has motivated the Jewish people for millennia, and it should motivate us as well. It is based on the deep Jewish theological realization that what is most meaningful about life are the relationships we have with each other. While the ancient religions built idolatrous temples to support kleptocratic kings, and the medieval religions focused more on ideological warfare, Judaism became obsessed with life's purpose, with what separates humanity from the rest of the animal world. We realized that is the way we serve each other in community. This is why Moses ends his life with the speech, *Atem Nitzavim*.

NVHC was founded 52 years ago to be a Jewish hub in the "promised land" of Reston. At that time,

Jews were still an embattled minority, shut out from much of American life, and we joined synagogues because we needed to find each other, needed access to Jewish content, and, well, because the rest of the world shut us out. The external forces of the world motivated our interpersonal encounters. Some might say that circumstances helped ensure we would bump into each other eventually.

That is not how things are today. If we want real relationships rooted in a Jewish context, we need to be more strategic. While we still want Jewish friends, content, and welcome, we do not necessarily need a synagogue to get them. If we want to have the powerful connection with each other and with God that Moses described with the word "covenant," then we need to build a place for it to happen intentionally. That is why we need a *Nitzavim* Campaign.

In 2017 we embraced a vision to be a **spiritual home where we connect through community to Judaism that matters**. In 2018, we adopted Strategy 2020, a plan to be intentional about this institution and how we address the critical obstacles standing between us and that vision. This issue of the Glance gives an update on our progress because that is the basis for the upcoming *Nitzavim* Campaign.

Some of you may be familiar with capital campaigns of the past. In most synagogues these are huge efforts to raise funds, usually for building expansion. The *Nitzavim* Campaign, by contrast, intends to raise \$3 million which will simultaneously free up funds now going to a mortgage payment and allow us to invest in strategic initiatives. These two steps will

remove the obstacles standing in the road between us and our aspirations—our lack of support for engagement, pastoral care, and *b'nai mitzvah* innovation, and the unwelcoming aspects of our facility.

The most important aspect of Strategy 2020 is for us to engage with each other, to connect across the community: newcomers and long-time members, people with and without kids at home, the young and the old, those practicing a lifetime of Judaism and those just connecting or reconnecting for the first time. This is the modern version of that theological inspiration Moses described with *Atem Nitzavim*. We find our sense of meaning in the world when we face each other honestly and openly. This practice of engagement will undergird the entire *Nitzavim* campaign, transforming what is traditionally only a fundraising operation into more of a socialization and relationship building experience.

Over the next six months, expect to be invited to sit down with each other and members of the campaign team, to talk about the ideas in our strategy and other plans and programs in the works at this synagogue. When you get that invitation, please say yes! Participation is our primary goal. We hope everyone can enjoy giving something that is meaningful both for your family and the larger synagogue family. More importantly, we need to sit down face to face, to know each other, to listen to our different hopes and frustrations, and to share gratitude in what this place provides for our lives and the world.

In my first ten years here, I have discovered how amazing this community really is. I do not think most members understand how NVHC stands out in the Jewish landscape. We welcome all levels of Jewish learning and knowledge, and we have a rigorous and intellectual learning tradition.

We are passionately committed to social justice and action, and we invite dissent and embrace complex thinking about our society and democracy. We are busy and connected to the world, and we value contemplation, reflection, and peace. We love the beauty of our choir and musical leadership, and we value the sound of every voice joining in (even mine).

These aspects of NVHC reflect that we do not find meaningful relationships only because external circumstances force all the Jews together. Rather they reflect our desire to create a Jewish “promised land” here in Reston. Our Judaism provides values and experiences critical to healthy lives and a healthy world, and we want to preserve, sustain, and grow those things for us and the next generation. That is the purpose of the *Nitzavim* Campaign.

So, on **Thursday, December 5th (at 6:30 pm)* and Sunday, December 8th (at 9:30 am)** we will have two Congregational Celebrations (the same program twice, not two different programs) to describe this campaign in greater detail and unveil ways that all of us can be involved in this effort. Join us at those gatherings to learn, to connect, and to give thanks for what this institution means in our lives. **This is our Spiritual Home where we Connect through Community to Judaism that Matters.**

Atem Nitzavim. Stand together, with us, this day.

*The gathering on 12/5 will also include a short and joyous semi-annual Congregational Meeting.

Growing Our Congregational Pastoral Care Network

Cantor Susan Caro



As I write this, it is the season of apple-picking, of the sweetness of apples and honey renewing our year. A congregant's daughter mentions how much her ailing mother loves applesauce; shortly thereafter, another congregant arrives at her door with warm homemade applesauce. Love, friendship, and community care in action.

When we speak about congregational pastoral care, we are talking about what it means to be in a supportive network with each other, whose hub is Jewish values in Jewish community. That is the spiritual uniqueness a synagogue community provides for one another. NVHC has a team of volunteers that have been working with me to envision pathways for us to further our mission of being a deeply caring community.

NVHC Cares – our caring network – connects us with one another at various moments in our Jewish lifecycle through sending cards of caring, delivering *challot* and meals, and making caring phone calls. Another pathway that we would like to be able to provide is member-to-member transportation to synagogue events for those who are unable to drive themselves here. We have a number of members that either for a short term or for the longer term are unable to drive themselves to the temple but wish to participate in-person in our services and programs. We would love to have a network that will match those people with members who are able and willing to drive, even if only once. For that, we need a volunteer to step up and be the coordinator of that plan. If that is something in which you are interested,

please be in contact with me directly.

Another thread of this work is thinking about how we can extend and bring greater value to this network, how can we continue to connect our founding members who are now aging and remain connected to the synagogue. Knowing that both wisdom and challenge come with aging, we began to consider how to creatively sustain an aging population within our community. On August 21st, together with our Pastoral Care Advisory Team and our Executive Director David Markovich, I convened a town hall-style gathering of about 40 NVHC members – those in this demographic and those who might be supporting someone who is in this demographic. We had a wonderful listening session, learning about members' concerns, hopes, and dreams - from worries about being alone to who to call when you can't figure out some technology problem, from seminars to help navigate issues of aging to networking with other members for evenings of fun. Our goal is that our Jewish community can be a part of helping our members age well and age in place, wherever they are living. We are entering the next phase of writing up what we have heard and creating proposal ideas of what could be possible.

I was listening to a podcast recently where my friend and colleague Rabbi Laura Geller was interviewed about a new book she co-authored, called "Getting Good At Getting Older." This topic is something for every one of us to think about, every day, for we are all in the process of aging. I pray that we will all grow old in our time and I look forward to making NVHC a continued and deepened source of both spiritual and practical strength and support for our people.

If you are interested in our initiatives or getting involved in helping us grow our NVHC Cares network, please be in touch with me or with Laurie Levine (nvhccares@nvhcreston.org), our wonderful chair and captain of the NVHC Cares network.

More Than Religious School

Rabbi Jessica Wainer

A few weeks ago, I was talking with one of our *b'nai mitzvah* students before Shabbat services. I asked the student my usual set of questions: "How are you feeling?" "Are you nervous?" "Are you excited?" In response this student answered, "I wish that my party wasn't happening. I wish that I could stay and have services all day. And I'm especially excited to give my speech tomorrow!" For Jewish professionals, words like these are music to our ears. They tell us that we are connecting with students, that students take their Judaism seriously, and that they feel a sense of community at NVHC. Words like these also tell us that throughout the *b'nai mitzvah* journey, students connect to what we are teaching them about Torah and about their Judaism. Through words like these, we also recognize that students connect in different ways to their Judaism, and through different aspects of their Judaism. It is for this reason that we take a multi-faceted approach to Jewish education and identity development for our students who are just beginning their Jewish journeys, those who are nearing *b'nai mitzvah*, and those who are post-*b'nai mitzvah*.

On Sunday mornings, our 3rd-6th grade students engage in a variety of activities, each geared towards helping them to build relationships among their peers and to further strengthen their connection to the Jewish community. These activities allow them to solidify the relationships that they have with the students in their grade and to begin building relationships with students in the grades above and below them. We do this by providing a looped Judaics program, where students are learning side-by-side with students in their grades as well as students a year older or younger than them. We also do this by taking students out of the classroom and providing them opportunities to engage in purely social activities within the framework of Kehillat Limmud. This

includes activities like scavenger hunts, Jew-party, and marshmallow tower building competitions. On other weeks, our students participate in social justice projects that give back to our local Northern Virginia community – making goodnight bags for children at the Embry Rucker Shelter, writing Get Out The Vote postcards, making fleece blankets for children at INOVA Fairfax Hospital, writing letters to their school board members, and more. All of these programs are meant to highlight for our students the different ways in which they can connect to their Jewish community.



Photos by Dan Noble



We know that the importance of Jewish community is communicated through experience, in addition to the content that they are learning. We also know that it is just as important for young Jews to explore their Judaism at home as well as at NVHC. This year, we are offering a set of conversations on Sunday mornings called "Living Our Jewish Values" that addresses how to do Judaism in the home. In these monthly conversations with one of our clergy, we explore the same Jewish values and lessons that our students are learning about in their classes. These values are specifically geared towards helping students to have a Jewish context in which to

develop grit and resilience. Join us on December 8 for our next conversation to talk about how these values can be put into practice within your home.

The aforementioned *b'nai mitzvah* student affirmed the work that we are doing to help our students build their own personal relationship to Judaism and the feeling of connectivity among their peers and their community. It is my hope that each of our students, throughout their Jewish journey, will find a way to connect and continue to remain connected to their Judaism – as they begin their journey, as they approach *b'nai mitzvah*, and as they continue on afterwards.



Beautiful *Mitzvot* Cantor Susan Caro

What are beautiful *Mitzvot*? Think about the *kiddush* cups, *mezuzot*, *tallitot*, candle sticks, *chanukiyot* (the Chanukah candelabra), *seder* plates, eternal lights, *challah* covers, and so many other Jewish ritual objects that you may have encountered in your life. Each one is a little different, reflecting an artistry from the simplest to the most ornate – a plethora of materials, shapes, colors, and textures. That stems from an ancient Jewish principle called *Hiddur Mitzvah* – weaving beauty into doing a *mitzvah*.

In Exodus 15:2, we read, “This is my God and I will hold God with glory.” The Midrash and the Talmud interpret this as adding an aesthetic dimension to our *mitzvot*, bringing beauty to ritual objects to deepen the meaning for ourselves as we use them. As our *B’nai Mitzvah* students are encountering many of these ritual objects up close, perhaps for the first time, we wanted to give them a creative experience as part of Torah Corps (NVHC's programmatic path for *B’nai Mitzvah* preparation) to develop a more personal connection with Jewish ritual objects and their significance. Each student comes to Torah as a chanter and an interpreter for the first time; therefore, we decided to enable each student to design and decorate a *yad*. The Hebrew word means hand; in this case, it is referring to the special pointer that we use to help us keep track as we read from the Torah scroll without actually touching the scroll.

Providing each student with a simple wooden *yad*, we gave them colorful beads, wire, and permanent markers, and let them have at it! The creative juices flowed - differently for each student - and the varied handiwork is really stunning!

I am keeping them in trust and re-presenting each student with their *yad* just before they become *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah*, so that they can have their *yad* and use it the first time they chant from the Torah....and hopefully many more times in the future!

I'm Proud of NVHC David Markovich

When Rabbi Holzman first described the NVHC community to me, he used the words “intelligent,” “genuine,” and “unpretentious.” When I get phone calls and visits from prospective members, they often ask me to describe the temple. I’ve managed to formulate my description into something like this: No, we’re not always extravagant or fancy – in fact, our building is a far cry from the marble floors Great Synagogue of Rome, which I recently visited. Our

people, on the other hand, will give any institution a run for its money. NVHC is special because we have a community of kind, righteous, and caring people – and don't worry, we're working on those marble floors! (I'm just kidding about that last part.)

Cantor Caro leads a *Mussar* class weekly at NVHC, a branch of study “focused on the practice of refining one's character to become a better person and closer to God.” (per My Jewish Learning). It is ingrained in us, as a Jewish community, to constantly strive to be *better*. As a staff, we work to make our synagogue more welcoming, supporting, and safe. Sometimes, not all of that work is visible externally. I'll give an example:

During Yom Kippur, there was a member of our community that felt lightheaded from fasting. This was noticed almost immediately by Anibal, our building supervisor, and our security guard, Kevin, who took action to make sure this person received the attention she needed.

This didn't surprise me, of course. I've seen the attention to detail develop over time, and it hasn't happened as a result of rigorous discipline. It's happened because we have a community that is worth investing in, and we have a staff that is fully “bought in.” I couldn't be more proud of that.

We've developed a mentality of leaving no stone unturned. We handle the issues that need to be addressed, and always within our means. And we're not afraid to get “down and dirty” to do it. People will often ask me what my favorite part of this job is, and I would say that by far it's the dialogue I have with our congregants every day. But some of my favorite moments also come from running to The Home Depot to fix a doorknob – it's the little things, sometimes, that create a feeling of ownership.

You're probably now thinking, “What in the world is David doing fixing doorknobs!?” Let me explain. It's these Home Depot runs that have helped me create chemistry within our team. When Anibal and I make

these trips, we're *constantly* in brainstorming mode. We're rattling off ideas about what needs to be done next and what we can improve. It never stops, and the best part is, we both love the process. I'm proud of that.



There are still things that we are working on refining, like our membership model. We want to make sure that we are stressing the voluntary nature of giving to NVHC. Sending you a statement implies that money is “owed.” This is what we call a transactional approach to membership. In reality, every time you make a contribution to NVHC, you are making a philanthropic gift. That's why on the first statement of the year, I noted that “what you see on the next page is not truly a statement.”

It is important to understand that membership contributions are relative. A “small” contribution may be just as meaningful to someone as a “large” contribution. We rely on those who have greater financial capacity to help sustain us, but we would never discourage new members from joining based on their ability to give. And while we never have discouraged new members from joining, we must now frame our membership model in a way that is more welcoming.

A few months ago, I had a conversation with someone who wanted to purchase High Holy

Day passes. He mentioned that he had been coming to NVHC for the High Holy Days over the last number of years. I asked him why he hadn't considered joining NVHC. He said that he couldn't contribute the dollar amount that we wanted. I told him that we would be happy to accept an amount that felt meaningful to him. He replied with an elated "Really?" He was thrilled to join the congregation, and his contribution to the temple, like yours, has allowed us to continue to expand and grow.

Our latest membership count is 471, the highest it's been since 2017. I'm proud that we've been able to increase our membership by having these kinds of conversations.

We'd also like to combine all of our different annual giving categories into one amount. This means that rather than receiving an itemized statement that contains *Fair Share Dues, Building Fund, Capital Repair and Replacement Reserve, Security Fee, HaYesod, or Community Sponsorship...*

(Hold on just one moment, I need to take a breath...)

...you are only asked to submit one amount as your annual giving pledge to NVHC over the course of the year. That doesn't mean that we are doing away with our Capital Repair and Replacement Reserve, for example, which helps us make critical repairs around the building. Rather, we've decided to make that fund allocation after-the-fact in an effort to simplify our annual giving process. We expect to implement this change in July of 2020.

I think there is a unique dynamic currently happening at NVHC. We have a mix of the right people and ideas to solidify our future as one of the most vibrant Jewish institutions in the area. It's easy to walk into an institution that maintains the status quo, but where's the fun in that? There's a reason that the word "*Mussar*" appears in the Tanakh 51 times. The joy, meaning, and connection lies in the journey.

I'm proud of where we are in that journey.

Fantasy Football and New Beginnings

Sam Blum

Oftentimes when I sit at my desk my eyes will wander to the large, colorful, carefully filled out fantasy football draft board that takes up a large amount of real estate on my office wall. I do this not to bask in the glory of my accomplishments (my team is a pedestrian 3-4 as of this writing) nor to think over my strategy (I have little to no strategy, as you probably gathered from my aforementioned "accomplishments"). No, I look at this brightly colored, sticker-adorned poster to remind myself of my first few days on the job, just a few short months ago.

In an ideal world, perhaps I would have gotten my feet wet a bit before embarking on this draft. However, sometimes there are things in the calendar we can't work around, and the NFL schedule dictated that our draft would have to take place very early in the school year. That's how I found myself in the multipurpose room on the afternoon of September 1st - before Kehillat Limmud had started, before Tamid had started, before any other NVHC event that required my presence. I had only a single cheat sheet to make up for my lack of football knowledge and a few bags of snacks. (I *agonized* over the snacks. I knew teens would never forgive an advisor who provided lackluster snacks.)

The event was a blast, even if I knew barely anything about football and even less about the teens I was drafting with. In fact, it was fun precisely *because* I had the chance to learn on the fly, to ask questions about who I should take next, and to figure out who was genuinely trying to give me good advice and who was gently steering me away from the player they had set their eyes on. I came away from the draft full of excitement about working further with these teens, full of ideas about what we could do over the course of the year, and full of gummi bears.

It was a great day. But the best thing about that day is that it was just a beginning, in more ways than

one. The football season has chugged along and I've slowly learned more about how to manage my roster and project future performance. I am of course still learning, as my losing record would suggest, and I'm still asking the teens for advice before making big decisions. But each week I am excited to set my lineup and do it all over again.



In the same vein, the school year has brought with it a heaping share of events and responsibilities - teaching seventh grade, planning Tamid, going to Cox Farms and TopGolf and Chicago. Some of it deals with areas of my expertise; a lot of it requires trying something new. It is, quite frankly, a ton of fun - and our programming is certainly more successful than my fantasy team. However, none of this would be possible without the buy-in I get from the kids who participate, whether they're contributing to discussions in Tamid, facilitating the learning of younger students as *madrichim*, or planning future events as members of the NoVTY board. They are the best motivation that this work provides.

The fantasy football season will end in December, but the taunts and bragging rights will extend far beyond then. So too will the opportunities for young people here at NVHC: *Havdalah* & Trivia Night! 7th & 8th grade trip to Philadelphia! Shul-in! L'taken lobbying trip! All of this, plus more events, plus the continuation of Kehilat Limmud and Tamid - there is going to be a ton of fun going on as we look forward to 2020. It is a little daunting to look ahead to all of this, but it is also supremely exciting.

This is what I think about when I look at the draft board on my office wall. I think about bagfuls of snacks and an inbox full of RSVPs. I think about the

time I was worth -300 points in a NFTY-MAR scavenger hunt and about the time we made impromptu *Havdalah* in the lobby of our Chicago hotel. I think about all the fun I've had so far and all I'm still looking to accomplish. I think about all the things the kids here have taught me and the things that I'm still hoping to teach them. And yeah, I think that I can probably pencil in Matt Ryan for two or three touchdowns next week.

For those who haven't yet met him: Sam Blum is our new Youth Engagement Coordinator. Hailing from South Salem, NY, Sam has been involved in Jewish education at local synagogues from his *Bar Mitzvah* onwards and has spent 11 summers at URJ Camp Harlam. He is a graduate of Wesleyan University, where he studied English, Film, and Jewish & Israel Studies.

Feeding the Hungry

Bess Eisenstadt

Feeding the hungry is one of the activities that NVHC Change (NVHC's Social Action Committee) supports. During the winter months, Cornerstones operates a hypothermia shelter in the North County Human Resources building, providing a hot meal and a warm place to sleep for single homeless people who would otherwise have no place to go to escape the cold. NVHC is among the organizations that help sustain the shelter's operations.

Between December and March, volunteers prepare, deliver, and serve six meals for the approximately 25 people who spend the night at the hypothermia shelter. Each meal includes a hot entrée, drinks, salad, and dessert. NVHC members sign up to contribute ingredients for the meal, help with the food preparation, or serve the meal. Donations to the *Tikkun Olam* fund cover any purchases needed to supplement congregants' contributions.

The people we serve at the hypothermia shelter rely on our contributions. Last year, one woman asked for seconds somewhat apologetically, saying that she was still hungry because dinner at the shelter was her only meal of the day.



NVHC Change also supports Cornerstones' Financial Literacy class. Offered monthly for people who have just moved from homelessness to a home, the class provides instruction in basics such as budgeting, credit card use, and debt management to help ensure that the participants have the skills needed to manage their finances responsibly and remain in their homes. NVHC provides two meals a year for this program, again relying on volunteers to contribute ingredients and help with cooking.

Finally, NVHC Change prepares and serves two meals a year for Cornerstones' Embury Rucker Shelter. This shelter serves families and accommodates about 100 people at a time. For these meals, your *Tikkun Olam* donations cover the costs of most of the food, and volunteers do the shopping, cooking, and serving. Teens can help their parents with the cooking, but are not allowed to serve at the shelter.

If you would like to volunteer for any of these efforts, please contact Ellen Ranard at SocialAction@nvhcreston.org or email Bess Eisenstadt at bess.eisenstadt@gmail.com to have your name added to the list of NVHC members who support the hypothermia and financial literacy class meals.

Thank You Amidst the Fall Leaves

Nina Falci

"Thanks for the yummy mac and cheese."

"The trail mix was fun to eat."

"I loved the peanut butter crackers."

"The chocolate milk was delicious."

"I ate the popcorn while watching a movie on TV. I pretended I was in a movie theater."

"Thanks so much for donating, packing and delivering food for our students."

If we could talk to them, we might hear these thank yous from students and staff at Forest Edge and Clearview Elementary Schools. Each month, NVHC congregants of all ages donate, pack, and deliver over 200 gallon-sized bags full of nutritious food for eligible children at each of these schools.

In this season of counting our blessings and giving thanks to family and friends, Alison Behar and Nicole Saffell Holzman thank you for your continued generosity and support of this program. The next few weekend food packing events are scheduled for December 8 and January 12 from 12:00-1:00 pm at NVHC. Please join us by participating in any way you can. If you have questions about the program, please contact Alison at ForestEdgeBackpackProgram@nvhcreston.org.

Remember, even though you can't hear the thank yous from our Reston and Herndon school friends, they are as plentiful as the fall leaves on the ground.

The Best Parts of Life

Fay Gubin

It has been said that travel is the best education. I recently traveled to visit my oldest daughter Jennifer and her family in the remote and beautiful islands of Vanuatu in the South Pacific. While there, I had the opportunity to visit many magnificent sights and witness how people can act kindly towards each other and find happiness even without many of the material things that we value and take for granted.

Vanuatu is like the Caribbean; lush and green with tropical rain forests and sparkling clear waters. But it's a poor country – appropriate for Jennifer's professional life working for an NGO focused on international public health. Her work takes her to the most remote and underdeveloped communities that face extreme poverty, malnutrition, and lack of access to education.

The juxtaposition of poverty and paradise I saw while visiting there was undeniable. Vanuatu made me feel so sad and so happy at the same time.

Vanuatu is rich in sea life and widely recognized as one of the premier scuba diving destinations which I experienced first-hand. I delighted in blue lagoons with crystal clear aqua-colored waters, cascading waterfalls, and beautiful natural landscapes. Pristine Havannah Harbour and Turtle Bay are home to endangered turtles and amazing snorkeling.

There are colorful outdoor markets where local residents display their wares on bright and lively fabrics - fresh fruits and vegetables, fish, woven baskets, and handmade crafts. It's a place to purchase exotic produce and ornamental flowers, like the Bird of Paradise flowers, from local villages and to socialize with each other.

The beauty and the wonder of this nation include the active volcano, Mt. Yasur, on the island of Tanna. The ash plain to the west of the volcano

reminded me of a desert, only it was covered in a fine gray grit instead of brown sand. We rode a pickup truck up to the crater through the jungle and walked the rest of the way to the crater's edge. The ground trembled and huge plumes of ash and molten rocks shot up in front of us with a roar. I was awestruck at the sheer violence of the eruptions, the smell of sulfur, and the sounds and sight of the red and white hot magma as it exploded up from the bottom of the crater only yards away from us.

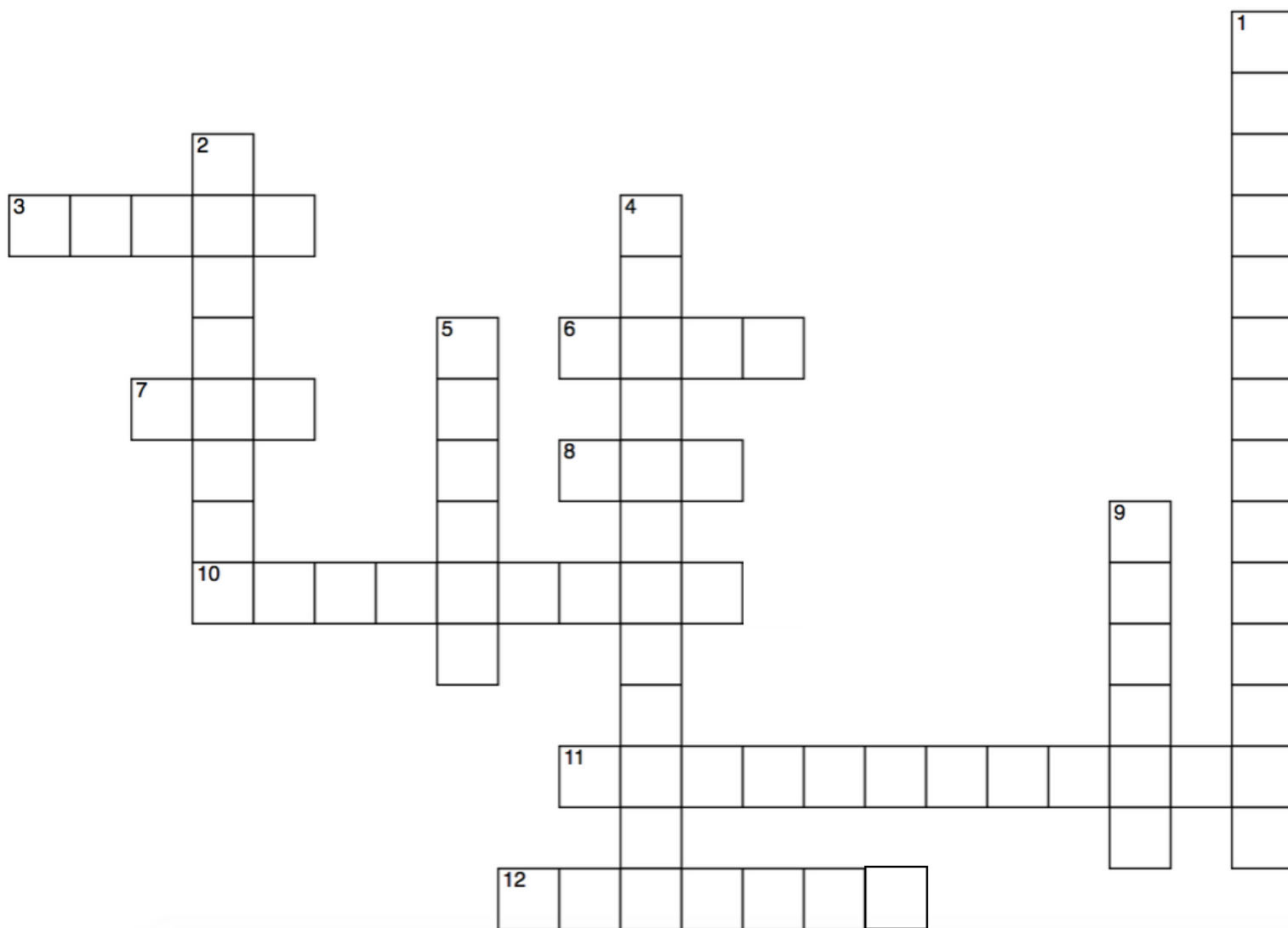
In contrast, I saw how the poor residents of the island live – in huts with dirt floors, walls of palm or bamboo leaves with rusted metal corrugated roofs, and cement outhouses. Most houses had no glass in the windows and many had outdoor kitchens with hot rocks for cooking on the dirt floor. Discarded tires and wood piles littered the area, perhaps to be repurposed at a later date. There were barefoot children in muddied clothing, laundry being hand washed in buckets, roads of packed dirt with hard-to-avoid potholes. It was normal to see free-roaming pigs, roosters, skinny dogs, and chickens in the street.

But the people who live in the villages we visited were incredibly friendly and welcoming. They seemed very happy despite their living conditions. The children were cheerfully playing outside in the dirt with tin cans and ragged soccer balls. Women were laughing and playing cards next to open cooking fires.

Perhaps the most educational part of my trip was the reminder that the best parts of life are enjoying the beauty of the world we live in, how we live our lives, and how we treat each other.

B'Shalom,
Fay Gubin
NVHC Sisterhood President

A New Season for NVHC



Across

3. NVHC security guard
6. Number of Levinas' Talmudic Readings
7. ____ (bitter) Cheshvan (Hebrew), or NVHC's NFTY region
8. Torah pointer (Hebrew)
10. Chanukah story tribe
11. Blessing said only on the first night of Chanukah (Hebrew)
12. "Helper" candle (Hebrew)

Down

1. NVHC religious school (2 words, Hebrew)
2. "Standing together" (Hebrew), the name of our capital campaign
4. Spring youth trip destination
5. NVHC building superintendent
9. Jewish character trait work (Hebrew)

We give a warm welcome to new members:

Tony Asefi, Elizabeth Halper-Asefi, and
children Zachy and Ziggy
Duane and Stacy Berlin
Jillian Berliner and daughter Abbey
Gerald Boxer
Albert and Wendy Carton-Sirota
Richard and Lynne Chernin
Howard and Erica Cohen
Esther Friedman
Michael and Cheryl Gedzelman
Seth Goldberger, Tracy Rohrbough, and
children Madeline and Sawyer
Lawrence Goldstein and Karen Schneider
Jonathan and Rachel Grunspan, and
daughters Pearl and Leila
Aaron and Cristina Gussman, and
daughters Elena, Vivian, and Lydia
John and Taryn Hermansen, and sons
Maxwell, Theodore, and Bennett
Jose and Olga Hernandez, and children
Oliver, Gabriela, and Daniela Hernandez
Yehuda and Angie Haziza, and daughter
Eliana
Matthew and Rachel Hubbard, and children
Eva, Chase, and Stella Hubbard
Andrew and Andrea Jordan, and son James
Mike and Tanya Langlois
Aaron Lebovitz and Melinda Curley, and
children Adam and Diane
Larry Liebert
David and Tiziana Marchante, and
daughters Sarah and Yaelle

Russell and Sharon Mayer, and sons William
and Benjamin
David and Veronica Miller
Adam and Jennifer Nadel, and daughters
Rose and Harper
Jacqui Olkin and Jeff Ward, and son Rowan
David and Avril Rodney
Ted and Anne Rosenblum
Jay Silverberg
Jesse Woodstock and Shoshanna Epstein,
and son Asher



Mazel Tov to ...

... our students who have become *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah* since the last edition of the Glance!

Adam Zaretsky
Harrison Greene
Aaron Weiss
Zachary Topsher
Tessa Topscher
Molly Schoenfeld
Darah Berg
Rebecca Berg
Isabel Tchiprout
Jack Schmelzer
Max Renzi
Matthew Savory

... Rick and Barbara Schatz, on the birth of
their granddaughter Rebecca Jean Schatz
to Aaron and Meredith Schatz on July 24,
2019

Tzedakah

Thank you to all of our generous contributors!

Adam Levine Camp Scholarship Fund

Isabel Einzig...in memory of Nathaniel DeGutz

James and Michelle Kranzberg...in memory of Jackie Lugo

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Al and Lynne Groff...in honor of Zach and Lucas' *aufruf*

Amy Scheinberg Jones...in honor of Ellen Ranard

Maury and Judy Kitces...in memory of Susan Kitces

Steve and Ruth Lipson...in memory of Av Yarmar

Howard and Heidi Mitnick...in memory of Irving Herbst

Steve and Romy Nathan...in memory of Carmen Nathan

Norman Reich...in memory of Henry Lehman

Nathan Rosen...in memory of Julius Hodes

Nina Zaretsky and Patrick Kelley...in honor of Adam's *Bar Mitzvah*

Choir & Music Fund

Anonymous...in memory of David Fram

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Francine Beifeld...in memory of Betty Ann Rubin

Harvey and Janice Berger...in memory of David Fram and

Tamara Selden

Dennis and Sara Branscome...in memory of David Fram

David and Ellen Brewer...in memory of David Fram

David Brill and Ally Tick Brill...in memory of David Fram

Henry Chadwick...in memory of David Fram

Don Copley...in memory of David Fram

Alan Dappen and Sara Scherr...in memory of George Kaplan and David Fram

Robert and Ellen Davis...in memory of David Fram

Jeff and Tracy Dlott...in memory of David Fram

Eric and Bess Eisenstadt...in memory of Betty Ann Rubin and David Fram

Tordis Fahringer...in memory of David Fram

Craig and Nina Falci...in memory of David Fram

Daniel and Kathleen Fehringer...in memory of David Fram

Bob Fenster and Alison Behar...in memory of David Fram

Robert and Shirley Finkelstein...in memory of David Fram

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Ken Kaplan and Jean Gold...in memory of David Fram

Marjina Kaplan...in memory of Eleanor Kaplan and Marjina Matejczyk

Warren and Evelyn Katz...in memory of David Fram

Leona Kerns...in memory of David Fram

Maury and Judy Kitces...in memory of David Fram

Tracy Knowles...in memory of David Fram

Helen and Nancy Kruger...in memory of David Fram

Andrew and Elizabeth Lacher...in memory of David Fram

Eva Leavitt...in memory of David Fram

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Men's Club of Congregation Emanu-El...in memory of David Fram

James McConnell...in memory of David Fram

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Sy and Roberta Sherman...in memory of David Fram

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Larry and Deede Snowwhite...in memory of David Fram

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Don and Chris Sylvester...in memory of David Fram
Ron Wallos and JoAnne Schamest...in memory of David Fram
Bob Wein...in memory of David Fram and George Kaplan
Ken and Fay Weiss...in memory of David Fram
Sam and Evelyn Wilson...in memory of David Fram
Ralph and Miriam Wolman...in memory of David Fram

College Outreach Fund

Dornfeld Family...in memory of Myron Joseph "Mike" Cohen
Steve and Linda Gordon...in memory of Sylvia Lieberman
Dave McCue and Lori Lefcourt...in memory of Elaine Lefcourt

Finally Friday Program

Ben Galison and Sabrina Hollander

High Holy Day Appeal Contributions

Allan and Esther Berg...in honor of our children and grandchildren
Harvey and Janice Berger...in honor of all volunteers at NVHC
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Adele Denny...in memory of Adam Schwartz, Helen Schwartz
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Sam and Evelyn Wilson...in memory of Franz and Milly Boehm
Nina Zaretsky...in memory of Eddie Zaretsky and Gerie Zaretsky

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Marvin and Karen Singer...in memory of Myron Cohen

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Rosalind Gold...in memory of Bea Gold, Lou Gold, Jennie Frankel, and Benjamin Romm
Ken Kaplan and Jean Gold...in memory of Melvin Robbins
Helen and Nancy Kruger...in memory of Melvin Bertram Robbins
Barry Pilson...in memory of Melvin Bertram Robbins
David and Harriet Pinansky...in memory of Melvin Bertram Robbins
Rick and Barbara Schatz...in memory of Melvin Bertram Robbins
Marvin and Karen Singer...in memory of Melvin Bertram Robbins
Ted Smith and Rosalind Gold...in honor of Les & Marcia Platt's 50th wedding anniversary and Les' special birthday
Bob Wein...in memory of Melvin Bertram Robbins
Ken and Fay Weiss...in memory of Melvin Bertram Robbins
Sharon Weiss...in memory of Melvin Bertram Robbins
Ralph and Miriam Wolman...in memory of Melvin Bertram Robbins

Memorial Plaque

Henry and Cindy Brownstein...in memory of Maury Brownstein, Rosalind Brownstein, Herbert Sayare, and Shirley Sayare
Harry Feldman and Paula Rubinoff...in memory of Max Feldman, Regina Feldman, Charles Jack Rubinoff, and Rebecca Rubinoff
Nancy and Helen Kruger...in memory of Ruth Silvera Kruger and Lillian Silvera Solondz

NVHC Cares

Emily Boutilier and Ken Kaplan...in memory of Jean Gold
Eric and Bess Eisenstadt
Jason and Vera Feig...in memory of May Feig
Eric and Karen Forman...in memory of Anne Blume
Ron Wallos and Joanne Schamest...in memory of Hugo Schamest

NVHC Fund

Craig and Nina Falci
David Markovich...in memory of Myron Joseph "Mike" Cohen
Sara Moore...in memory of Myron Joseph Cohen, Tamara Klein
Selden, and Ruth Kruger
Judy Naiman...in memory of Myron "Mike" Cohen
Larry and Lisa Schwartz...in honor of Ken Gubin's birthday and in
memory of Myron Cohen

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Bar Mitzvah
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Robert and Gail Dezube...in honor of Nicole and Rabbi Holzman
for their gracious hosting in their *sukkah*
Tom and Cindi Drake...in memory of Alan Posner
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Bernal
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Robert Reznikoff...in memory of Pauline Reznikoff
Jim and Barbara Tombros...in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of
Steffanie Bergman and Ron Goodes' grandson, Avi, in memory
of Leona Lehmann
Nina Zaretsky and Patrick Kelley...in honor of Adam's Bar
Mitzvah

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund – Rabbi Wainer

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Bernal
Howard and Heidi Mitnick...in memory of Irving Herbst

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Paul and Geraldine Hess
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Friedman
Al and Lynne Groff...in memory of Myron "Mike" Cohen
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Ken and Fay Weiss...in memory of Al Nagell
Sam and Evelyn Wilson...in memory of Franz Boehm
Ralph and Miriam Wolman...in memory of Myron "Mike" Cohen

Tikkun Olam (Social Action)

Francine Beifeld...in memory of Alice Nerenstone
Emily Boutilier and Ken Kaplan...in memory of Jean Gold
Henry and Cindy Brownstein...in memory of Maury Brownstein
and Herbert Sayare
Sandee Byrne...in memory of Sam Chernow
Don Copley...in memory of E. Copley
Eric and Karen Forman
Rosalind Gold and Ted Smith...in honor of Hana Newcomb's
special birthday

Amy Scheinberg Jones...in honor of Ellen Ranard
Dave McCue and Lori Lefcourt...in memory of Elaine Lefcourt
Howard and Heidi Mitnick...in memory of Julius Horowitz
Richard and Ellen Ranard...in memory of Mike Cohen
Ruth Ruttenberg...in memory of Clara Ruttenberg, Ken
Ruttenberg, Jeffrey Smith, and Jack Spitz

Forest Edge Backpack Program (Social Action)

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Larry and Deede Snowwhite...in memory of Elaine Zeitz

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David and Ellen Brewer...in memory of Ella Caplan Brewer
Sally Singer Brodsky...in memory of Mabel Singer Friedman
Ed and Sandee Byrne...in memory of Myron Joseph Cohen
Eric and Karen Forman...in memory of Mildred Forman
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Bernal
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George Viener...in memory of Sue Viener

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Bernal

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Justin and Andrea Hayes...in memory of Blanch Sachs
Eric and Rebecca Trager...in memory of Elinor Spieler

**Thank you to everyone
who submitted an
article or photo for this
issue of the Glance!**

The NVHC Editorial Team is

Emily Hummel
Communications Coordinator

David Markovich
Executive Director

Sam Blum
Bess Eisenstadt
Ruth Lipson

JOIN US FOR

A Fireside Chat

A View from the Pulpit: Initiating the Important Discussion About How #MeToo Affects Women in the Jewish Community



Sponsored by Sisterhood for its Members
and the Women of NVHC

Thursday,
March 26, 2020

7:00 p.m.

NVHC Sanctuary



with



Rabbi Emerita
Rosalind A. Gold



Cantor
Susan Caro



Rabbi
Jessica Wainer

Moderated by NVHC Member
Meryl Paskow

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IT!

Upcoming Events

November

29 - Finally Friday Blue Jean Shabbat, 6:00 pm

December

5 - Congregational Celebration and Campaign Showcase, 6:30 pm

8 - Congregational Celebration and Campaign Showcase, 9:30 am

10 - We Were Strangers in the Land of Egypt, 7:15 pm

13 - *Erev* Shabbat Service: The Pulpit and the Pew, 7:00 pm

20 - *Erev* Shabbat Service: Sermon in Song Kol Shirah Winter

Concert, 7:00 pm

21 - Shabbat Sustenance Great Texts of America, 9:00 am

January

11 - Shabbat Sustenance Great Texts of America, 9:00 am

14 - We Were Strangers in the Land of Egypt, 7:15 pm

28 - NVHC Distinguished Speaker Series: Amir Tibon, 8:00 pm