

The Glance

NVHC's Quarterly Magazine



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SPECIAL HIGH HOLY DAYS EDITION 5781

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High Holy Day Information Center

Welcome to NVHC's High Holy Days 5781.

We invite you on a journey into this season, and it is a full season, one that lasts from Tisha B'Av, around when you will receive this edition of the Glance, until Simchat Torah on October 9th.

Through this two and a half months, we intend to inspire, challenge, comfort, elevate, support, and invite you to grow as individuals and families who belong to a community and people. We will provide tools and experiences to help each of us discover more about our selves and our souls, about our place in the world, and about our obligations to family, friends, community, and country.

For those who yearn to be in the sanctuary, surrounded by hundreds of familiar faces, elevated by the majestic sounds of choir and Cantor leading us in prayer, we must grieve together for this loss. We are a people who know how to say, "Next Year in our Sanctuary!" and mean it.

And from grief we turn to growth, from loss to discovery.

We begin with Tisha B'Av (the 9th of the month of Av), a day that observes the destruction of both Temples in Jerusalem (the first in 586 BCE and the second in 70 CE) and many other days of calamity in Jewish tradition. Our calendar gives us 7 weeks, and 7 *Haftarot* (readings from the books of the prophets), with milestones along the way (the preparation month of Elul, the service of Selichot), to help us grow from destruction toward the creativity of the New Year. This year NVHC will offer an array of resources for you to grow during this time, to prepare the self and the home, for a different kind of High Holy Days this year.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur will be online this year, each with its own flavor, and each with new ways to rejoice and return. We will have our enormous gatherings, but they will be by Zoom, and we will have chances for smaller group interactions, for the spiritual and the intellectual, for the artistic and the social. Yes, we have scheduled time to schmooze in a digital lobby, just like you might have done at the building in the hallway outside the bathrooms or on the patio outside. We will have some offerings in person, but not perhaps what you expected, and not where you expected them. And by the end of the Days of Awe, we will be ready to begin our year refreshed and renewed by the wisdom of our tradition and the spiritual intention of this community.

Then, in October, we will turn to Sukkot and Simchat Torah, two holidays that simply do not get enough play in American Jewish life. But THIS IS THE YEAR, if you have never celebrated Sukkot before, to celebrate Sukkot, because this is the home holiday *par excellence*. We are literally supposed to build a house. Again, look inside this issue of the Glance, and find out how you can celebrate in new ways.

Lastly, we want to urge everyone to **BEGIN THE SEASON NOW!!!!** Do not wait until the day before Rosh Hashanah to remember that these holy days are approaching. We cannot put on a familiar suit or dress, go searching for our Security Passes, and show up at NVHC at the familiar time to save a seat and encounter a familiar service. This year, we will be asking for your partnership, because with the limitations of physical distance, we can only do this together.

L'shana Tova. May this year be a new and sweet one indeed!

Creation

Rabbi Michael G. Holzman

When I was in High School, I had a unique internship doing organ transplant research with the University of Miami Medical School. The research had the potential to save human lives by pioneering techniques like the partial liver transplant, but it required that we do surgery on dogs, so I learned how to be a surgeon's assistant. Most of what I did was highly rudimentary, but my supervisor demanded that I watch carefully each time he needed to end the surgery and close the patient. One week, as he began that last stage of the procedure, his beeper rang (yes, this was a long time ago), and he asked the veterinarian in the room to go in his lab coat and look at the screen of the device. When he heard the message, which turned out to be an emergency, he turned to me, handed me a surgical instrument and sutures and said, "you finish up" and then walked out. I looked up at the vet and said, "Do you want to scrub in?" and he shook his head and said something I'll never forget, "Now the job is on you."

That is the reality of this moment in world and Jewish history. The job is on you. All of you.

The High Holy Days are the pinnacle from which we gaze at the upcoming year, marked by majesty, awe and the call of tradition. The ritual has always taught us that we are written into the Book of Life as individuals, each responsible for the work of spiritual growth, and the ritual has long depended upon the familiar mega-gatherings in the sanctuary. We have a needle suspended on a dial between community and individual, and for the most of us that needle leans heavily toward dependence upon the group. Yes, we do the work, but we also rely upon that big crowd in that big room.

This year, the needle has moved, and it leans in the opposite direction. Yes, the group will be together, yes we can depend upon leaders and community to guide us through these days, but now the collective depends upon each individual to do more for the group. (To use a familiar coronavirus example, like mask-wearing, we do it not because it is good for ourselves, but because when everyone does it we are all protected.)

Rosh Hashanah celebrates the creation of the world, the shofar calls us to the work of bringing God's morality, ethics, community, tradition, ritual, and obligation into existence. This year we have learned time and time again, every act is an act of creation. All of the old habits of life have been swept away, and each day, each week since March, we have had to relearn how to do the most basic things: structuring our time, accomplishing the necessary tasks of work and home, relating to family and friends, and finding meaning when so many expectations have been shoved aside. Every act is an act of Creation, and Rosh Hashanah is our day to honor that responsibility.

"Now the job is on you," means that for these Holy Days to succeed we all have new roles. The power of the moment cannot be achieved by clergy upon an elevated *bimah* clad in regal white robes because we will not be on that bimah in those robes. Instead, one of the simplest jobs that are "on you" is that we ask every member of NVHC show up for the Holy Days wearing white at home. Our Zoom screens should be filled with white, like the white Torah covers, the white Table Cover and the white that Isaiah speaks of when he says, "Though your transgressions are like scarlet, they will become white as snow" (1:18). We will create the symbolism together. And this is one of the easiest and simplest steps we must take to make the days effective.

This edition of the Glance is filled with a schedule that begins 7 weeks prior to Rosh Hashanah, because the act of Creation takes intention and deliberation. In the Torah, when God brings everything into existence, every day ends with a judgement, “and it was good.” Creation is not casual in our tradition. We put our minds and souls to the task, planning, preparing, envisioning, anticipating a day that will be “good” or maybe, like the 6th day of Creation, the day when Humanity arrives, it will be “very good” (Genesis 1:31).

When God Creates in Genesis, the world is “unformed and void,” a rough translation of the words *tohu vavohu*, an cryptic phrase that describes a chaotic mess. For 4 months, Covid-19 has been that mess. We mourn the dead, and we pray for healing for those still struggling, and for families who live in fear and anxiety. We also grieve for lost moments and expectations. We fret for the economy and jobs and the security of those around us. We grope in the darkness of an information environment that bombards us with conflict, drama, and manipulation to find the light of truth. We are fatigued, and now we have a chance to transform our reality.

The job is on you. The Holy Days are our instrument. We have the knowledge of years of practice. We have a supportive community around us (back in that operating room, that vet stood very close watching my every move to make sure I got it right). And we have the wisdom of our tradition and Torah. In this season of Creation, when the shofar calls to us, join us to say, “Let there be light.”

***Teshuvah* - Taking the First Step**

Cantor Susan Caro

There is a tale told of two people who lost their way wandering through a forest (a good metaphor perhaps for how many of us might feel right now!). The path they were following got washed out, their phones were dead, their maps were soggy and unreadable. They tried various routes, hoping to find their way back to the road, to resume their planned journey. Instead, they found themselves further confused and disoriented. Finally, they came upon a signpost, which had been knocked over and was lying in the mud. You know those old signposts, with the names and arrows pointing the ways to various destinations. Seeing this, the first person groaned and sighed, “Now we will never find our way out of here.” But the second person smiled, picked up the sign and stood it upright, the pole pushed into the ground. “What are you doing?” the first person asked with great surprise. “Well, we know where we have been, where we have come from. By orienting that part of the sign toward our origin, we can rely on that to point the way forward to our destination.”

In our lives, where we have been orients us in how we move forward on our journey. That is true in both for our external actions as well as our inner, spiritual landscape. Each year as we approach our High Holy Days, there is much conversation, attention and programming that is directed toward inner reflection and ‘doing *t’shuvah*’. How do we do *t’shuvah*? Are we talking about internal shifts in perspective? Or a series of very concrete steps? And how attainable is it? What exactly is *teshuvah*?

Some describe *t’shuvah* as the process of repenting and being reconciled with God and with

other people. Repentance, by its very nature, implies the repair of something broken within ourselves or in our relationships. The repair process is no doubt circuitous; we encounter obstacles, stumbling blocks and spiritual disillusionments. We might run into brick walls as we fumble our way out of despair, worry, or malaise.

Psychotherapist and author Estelle Frankel describes *t'shuvah* in the following way: "The pathway home to our true nature is called *t'shuvah*. Though typically translated as repentance, *t'shuvah* actually comes from the Hebrew root *shav*, to return. The implication is that we all have within us a reference point for wholeness to which we can return – a spiritual essence encoded within our souls that enables us to remember who we really are. *T'shuvah* is not something one does once and for all; rather, it is a lifelong journey, a journey of spiritual homecoming."^[1]

T'shuvah – a spiritual turning and returning to God and to our truest selves. Part of our High Holy Day prayers include a verse from the Book of Lamentations about this spiritual turning and returning: "Return us, O God, to You and we shall return; renew our days as before." The process of return to God is a mutual one. We cannot do it alone, but God cannot do it for us. We have to be open to the possibility of God, of divine meaning, purpose and holiness in our lives before we actually can return to God. Then our turning is a return to a wholeness, an integrity of heart and mind that once was experienced in the past – a memory of potential that we can recall and into which we can breathe life.

The Talmud goes even further based on a similar verse from Hosea about the power of returning: "*T'shuvah* is great, for it reaches to the Throne of Glory, as it says, 'Return Israel to Adonai your God'" (Hosea 14:2)^[2]. That is, *T'shuvah* is so powerful

not just because of the possibility of our own inner growth, but because of the extent of its reach; our turning affects God directly.

Torah reminds us that *t'shuvah* begins with shift inside of us, a turning toward openness. On Yom Kippur, we re-read part of chapter 30 of the Book of Deuteronomy, in which the word *t'shuvah* is repeated seven times in various forms – imploring us to turn ourselves, to turn hearts – in order to return to and reclaim the wholeness of ourselves. These words call to us that all possibility is in our grasp, if we would just turn toward it. *T'shuvah* is about returning to God and self; the internal work involves breaking from seemingly intractable behaviors and making true choices as opposed to rote choices. The Torah goes on to say that this work resides within us— "in our mouths and in our hearts", inspiring us to act with the hope that change is ever within our grasp.

Rabbi Alan Lew (z'l) writes about *t'shuvah*, this turning and re/turning and re-aligning ourselves in the right direction as an endless process. "Transformation does not have a beginning, a middle, or an end. We never reach the end of *T'shuvah*. It is always going on. We are awake for a moment, and then we are asleep again. *T'shuvah* seems to proceed in a circular motion. Every step away is also a step toward home."^[3]

We humans are fallible; when we stray from the path – and we will – when we make mistakes or get ourselves into trouble, our very predicament can become our teacher, the 'agent of our turning'. It is because we are imperfect that we are able to strive toward becoming better. It is because we are imperfect that we are able to imagine transformation and to pursue it. Even when we feel that our missteps might be pulling us further away from our best self, the home for which we yearn, those missteps can also become the seeds of our return.

So where can we begin? I have two thoughts for us. First, I share a physical practice, which comes from two of my teachers Rachel Cowan (z'l) and Linda Thal. It is designed to help us connect mind and spirit in what it means to actually turn and return. This only needs to take 5-10 minutes. It may be out of your comfort zone, but taking that step may open up for you clarity and insight of which you were previously unaware.

Find yourself a space, inside or outside, and slowly walk fifteen to twenty feet in one direction, turn, and then walk in the opposite direction. Each time you turn, you can say to yourself “*hashiveni v’ashuvah*” – “return me and I will return”. Or some other focusing phrase that you might prefer. Take note of what that feels like in your body and what thoughts arise in in your mind as you physically turn, as you anticipate turning, or as you complete a turn. Listen to yourself, to your heart – you might note times when you feel called to alter this pattern slightly. Are you inclined to pause before or during a turn? What resistances arise? You can write down afterward what thoughts and feelings came up, or you can just sit with that experience. [4]

The second piece I share with you to be on this journey of *t’shuvah* is to clear out issues and matters we may be holding that get in the way of our own inner work. We can begin our own ‘returning’ by granting others all that we wish for them to grant us in this process.

Ribbono shel olam (Master of the Universe),
I now forgive anyone who has provoked my anger
or annoyance,
anyone who has done wrong to me,
whether against my body or my spirit,
or to my honor, or to anything that may belong to
me,
whether willingly, or inadvertently, or by design,
whether by speech or deed,
I hereby forgive everyone.
May no one suffer punishment on my account.[5]

As we accompany one another on the journey of these Holy Days, I pray that our eyes are blessed to see clearly, that our hands are open wide in welcome, that our hearts can embrace one another, and that our mouths speak words of justice and love

[1] Estelle Frankel, *Sacred Therapy: Jewish Spiritual Teachings on Emotional Healing and Inner Wholeness*, p. 139

[2] Talmud Bavli Yoma 86a

[3] Alan Lew, *This Is Real And You Are Completely Unprepared: The Days of Awe As A Journey of Transformation*.

[4] *Vetaher Libeynu*: The Institute for Jewish Spirituality Curriculum for Nurturing Adult Spiritual Growth, 2005, Session 11: *Teshuva*, p. 219

[5] Traditional Jewish nightly prayers.

Mah Nishtanah

Rabbi Jessica Wainer

Way back in April, which seems like centuries ago, I had the privilege of listening to our 4th grade students learn how to chant the Four Questions – *mah nishtanah ha'laila hazeh...?* Why is this night different from all other nights. Now, months later, we find ourselves asking ourselves a similar question – *mah nishtanah ha'zman vha'onah vha'shanah hazeh...?* Why is this time and season and year different from all other times?

In other times, we have not had to ask this question. Our summer lives were much more predictable. For those with children or grandchildren, it meant summer break, camps and the excitement of beginning a new school year. For many, it means taking a much-deserved vacation, spending a weekend at the beach, or enjoying the outdoor offerings of Northern Virginia. Now we ask this out of curiosity. Having lived

through the last four months, how do we embrace this time, and find the silver linings in these moments?

Mah nishtanah – Why is this time different from all other times? In many other years, we have known what to expect out of our High Holy Day experience – from Elul and Selichot to Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot & Simchat Torah. This year, we know that our High Holy Day experience will look, and feel, very different from all other years. Do not use this as an excuse to take this High Holy Day season off. Rather, let us use this time to explore different facets of the holidays. This year we are highlighting the High Holy Days and all that they have to offer – from the 7 Week leading up to Rosh Hashanah, through the end of Sukkot and our celebration of Simchat Torah. This now gives us almost three full months to explore the holidays through different perspectives. There will be opportunities to engage in conversation, learn with clergy and lay leaders, create together, meet new people and build a strengthened sense of community.

Mah nishtanah – Why is this season different from all other seasons? In all other seasons, we have generally contained our curiosity about the High Holy Days, and Judaism, to the holiday experiences themselves. This season, we can embrace our curiosity during a longer length of time, thus allowing us to delve deeper, and ask harder and more complex questions. We will be exposed to different facets of Judaism and have opportunities to challenge ourselves to think creatively about what the High Holy Days will look like for each of us, as we mark them at home and online with our family, friends and NVHC community.

Mah nishtanah – How will you experience the High Holy Days this year? In what ways will you ask new questions, or bring yourself to explore a program you not have thought to in the past? How will you engage with the High Holy Days 5781?



**Do you have your copies of
Mishkan Hanefesh to use at home?**

Mishkan Hanefesh is our *machzor* (prayer book) for the High Holy Days. These books come as a set, one for Rosh Hashanah and one for Yom Kippur.

**[Click here](#) to order them through
NVHC by August 28!**

Thank You for Your Support to Help Those in Need

The Social Action Committee

Thank you to our wonderful and generous NVHC community!

- This spring we raised over \$33,000 in our third annual Tikkun Olam Campaign. Thank you to the 90 households who contributed to the campaign - many of them more than once. We accept donations all year long, using your funds to support the community in the name of NVHC.
- Thank you to the 25 volunteers who cooked and baked to provide three meals to Cornerstones' Embry Rucker Shelter in April, May and June. Thank you also to Bess Eisenstadt and Brigitte Wazana for helping to organize and shop for food for the meals. The next dinner is scheduled for Sunday, November 1. Let us know if you would like to help cook or bake.
- Thanks to the NVHC community, we donated an estimated \$3000 worth of non-perishable food items and \$2300 in grocery gift cards (for produce) to Cornerstones. These items were brought to Cornerstones' Cedar Ridge Community Center for distribution to families in need in the Forest Edge community.
 - Thank you to Kathy Laskey for coordinating this project with Cornerstones.
 - Thank you to Brigitte Wazana for keeping us and the groceries organized and for arranging with #RestonStrong for the use of a free pod. Thank you to Units Storage Company for donating the use of the pod.
 - Thank you to NVHC's staff - David Markovich, Joe Miller and Anibal Blanco - for their logistical support. We couldn't have done it without their help.



The pod will be back in the parking lot in September for the annual High Holiday Day food drive for Cornerstones. We will provide details closer to the date.

NVHC is again supporting the Cornerstones Back to School Backpack program on behalf of NVHC by ordering a few backpacks directly from Amazon and having them shipped to Cornerstones. See this [link](#) for more information or to participate on your own.

If you have questions or are interested in getting involved and volunteering with us, please contact Ellen Ranard, Social Action Committee Chair.



Civic Engagement

The Social Action Committee

Absentee Voting. Sign up now to get your absentee ballot for the fall election. Under the new Virginia “no excuse law” you do not need a reason to vote absentee. On this Virginia government site, you can check your registration status and apply to vote by mail. Here are important dates for voter registration and applications for ballots:

- **September 18:** First absentee ballot mailout
- **September 18:** Early voting/absentee in-person voting begins at the Office of Elections, 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Fairfax, VA
- **October 13:** Voter Registration Deadline (In Person/By Mail) 5:00p.m.; online: 11:59 p.m.
- **October 23:** Deadline to apply to receive an Absentee Ballot by mail, fax and online: 5:00 p.m.
- **October 31:** Final day to vote absentee early/in-person, 5:00 pm
- **November 6:** Deadline to return your absentee ballot to the Office of Elections: 12:00 noon. Ballot must be postmarked by November 3

More information [here](#).

Non-Partisan Get Out the Vote: The Social Action Committee is planning a few projects to help get out the vote and combat voter suppression. If you are interested in helping us in this important work, please let us know. Right now, we could use your help in writing postcards to combat voter suppression and get out the vote across the United States. NVHC has signed up with the Religious Action Center (URJ) to participate in their post card campaign. We are sending post cards to people in states where they may have been deregistered and asking them to check their voter registration status. You need to sign up individually to order your postcards here but please indicate that you are with NVHC (let us know too). The RAC will send you a kit with 30 postcards, a script, and addresses (no charge). You simply write the postcards and supply the 30 postcard stamps. We will also be mobilizing our voters at NVHC and hope for 100% voter participation this fall. All work that we do is non-partisan.

If you have questions or are interested in getting involved and volunteering with us, please contact Ellen Ranard, Social Action Committee Chair.

Summer Ends, Hunger Does Not

Nina Falci

As summer comes to an end, our thoughts naturally turn to fall. Normally, I would have themed this article on the excitement of back to school activities and the kick off of the NVHC Weekend Food Packing Initiative. However, as we are all too aware, this fall will be anything but normal. The NVHC Weekend Food Packing Initiative in a wait and see mode; it all depends upon what FCPS and LCPS decide to do regarding on-site school learning vs. distance learning. As a result, I decided the most impactful information I could provide is an update of the food access locations throughout Fairfax and Loudoun Counties. If you, a friend, neighbor or colleague is in need food assistance, below are a few of the many programs in the area. Some are restricted to students; some are for the community at large.

[Cornerstones Food Access Community Map](#)

This is a map of locations where people can obtain food. Eligibility criteria vary per program. In addition, the Assistance Services and Pantry Program, operated at 11484 Washington Plaza West, Suite 120 Reston, is open Monday-Thursday 8:30 am-4:30 pm, Friday 8:30 am-1:30 pm, and the first Saturday of each month 9:00 am- 1:00 pm.

[Fairfax County Public Schools Food Program/Food for Neighbors](#)

"FCPS provides grab and go meals at several schools and community centers, pop-up locations, and along several bus routes throughout the county. The FCPS sites, locations, bus routes, and curbside service are available Monday-Friday only. Both breakfast and lunch are available for pick up between 10:00 am - 1:00 pm. All FCPS students (regardless of age) are eligible for free grab and go

breakfast and lunch, as well as other county children, under the age of 18. Adults picking up meals for children should let staff know how many children's meals they need. Adults may pay \$2 for the meals as well." (FCPS Website)

[Loudoun County Public Schools Food Program/Food for Neighbors](#)

LCPS program meals are available at certain schools and bus stops throughout the county Monday-Friday between 10:00 am-1:00 pm. Click the link above for the list of schools where meals will be available and the list of bus stops that will be served.

[Women Giving Back](#)

Anyone can pick up free food each Saturday 9:00 am-11:00 am at the WGB "store" at 20 Export Drive, Sterling 20164 off of Sterling Blvd near Rt. 28. It can a bit tricky to find; it does not face the street, but faces a parking lot on the side of an industrial complex.

Thank you so much for your continued support to feed hungry students and families throughout Fairfax and Loudoun Counties. We will get through this challenging time by working together. Please be well and stay safe.

PLAYBILL

Sisterhood Relights the Lights of Broadway

Monday, September 14th, 7:15 pm

Relight the lights of Broadway right here in Northern Virginia. There will be no congested highways, train stations or airports to navigate. All you have to do is get comfortable and Zoom into the Sisterhood virtual kick-off event on September 14th at 7:15 p.m. Your favorite foods and beverages are allowed at this venue, your home.

How is Sisterhood going to accomplish this extraordinary feat? Mr. Steve Friedman, the principal of Steve's Broadway Tours and Lectures, will be our featured guest that evening. Steve has spent much of his adult life regaling audiences aboard cruise ships and at local synagogues as he explores the Broadway musicals of the last ninety years, taking apart favorites and flops alike in numerous creative ways. He does this by sharing selected video clips as well as lots of well researched history. Steve, a performer himself, often adds personal insights and experiences to the presentation. Do we have your attention yet?

Steve's program for Sisterhood's Night on Broadway will focus on the outstanding musicals of Leonard Bernstein. We'll be treated to musical excerpts and back stories from *On the Town*, *Candide*, and *West Side Story*. And, speaking of *On the Town* and *West Side Story*, who doesn't marvel at the incredible choreography of Jerome Robbins - the music and dance are simply made for each other! How did this wonderful partnership get started? Learn that and more when you join us on **Monday, September 14th at 7:15 pm as Sisterhood Relights the Lights of Broadway.**

RSVP no later than September 9th to sisterhoodmembership@nvhcreston.org.

NVHC COVID-19 Task Force Underway

Jay Silverberg

A Task Force has begun working with clergy, staff, and the Board of Trustees to help guide the policies and procedures that will be required for life cycle and High Holiday events currently being planned, as well as the process to be followed for access to the NVHC facility in the future.

The volunteer Task Force has been drawn from various areas of expertise among congregation members. Currently on the Task Force are co-chairs Dr. Alan Dappen and Jay Silverberg, Fay Gubin, Judith Naiman, Marcy Opstal, Stu Dornfeld, Ellen Ranard, and Susan Trivers.

Anyone with an interest in becoming a part of the Task Force, or with questions about the process, should contact Jay Silverberg at COVID19TaskForce@nvhcreston.org.

We give a warm welcome to new members:

Brigitte Wazana
Joel Farhi & Amanda Bird
Joshua Josephson & Rachel Rosenthal
Connie Nystrom
Katherine Posner
Susie Rosenthal

Mazel Tov to ...

To Michael and Rachel Blumberg, brothers Ezra and Isaac, grandmother Sandra Blumberg, on the birth of their daughter, Ava Rose Blumberg, born May 2, 2020.

To Ken and Fay Gubin, on the birth of granddaughter Claire Hanscom, born to parents Karen & Jeff Hanscom on March 5, 2020, and for the birth of granddaughter Leila Halter, born to parents Jenn Weiss and Loren Halter, born April 10, 2020

Tzedakah

Thank you to our generous contributors for your support of our community!

Adam Levine Camp Scholarship Fund

Alan Dappen and Sara Scherr... in memory of Jacob Pyles
Marvin and Karen Singer... in memory of Jacob Pyles

Ark Fund

Ted Smith... in memory of Betty Kaufman, Sara R. Smith, A. Zelleman Smith, Myer Kaufman

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Judy Naiman... in honor of Jackson and Noah Seedorf
Marvin and Karen Singer... in appreciation of Cantor Caro for inspiring Mussar & Mindfulness classes
Marcy Goldberg Turk... in memory of Richard Goldberg

Capital Campaign

Ken and Rachel Coelho

Choir & Music Fund

Andy and Susan Cohen... in memory of David I. Levine
Roy and Jean Horowitz... in memory of Ellen Gintz
Sheldon and Lauri Schwartz... in honor of Cantor Caro for providing masks to congregation members

Clergy Discretionary Funds for COVID-19 Families in Need

Rinna Cortes... in honor of Arnold Small
David and Carla Heymsfeld
Don and Nell Hirsch... in memory of Edith Furman
Steven and Romy Nathan
Lori Saltzman... in memory of Norma Saltzman
Sam and Lisa Schwall
Helen Smith
Larry and Deede Snowwhite... in memory of William Snowwhite
Ken Weisman
Howard and Carolyn Wesoky... in memory of Edith Schwartz
Scheibel, Stephen E. Unger, Morris Wesoky

College Outreach Fund

David Markovich... in honor of the birth of Noah Ryder Seedorf

Ellen Reich Early Childhood Teacher Education Fund

Stephen and Janet Braverman... in memory of Gert Ratner Finger
Matthew and Judy Gluckson... in memory of Gertrude Ratner Finger
Ron & Sandy Kanfer... in memory of Richard Hobbs

Inclusion Fund

Alan Dappen and Sara Scherr... in memory of Merle S. Scherr
Jon and Ellice Kark... in honor of the Laskey Family

Library Fund

Marjina Kaplan... in memory of John F. Matejczyk, John Hanley
Leslie and Marcia Platt... in memory of Ethel Berman

Louis Gold Children's Music Fund

Jason and Vera Feig... in memory of Irelynn Mae Ellers
Rosalind Gold... in memory of Benjamin Romm
Renee Kaminitz... in memory of Gertrude Finger

Memorial Plaque

Stu Dornfeld and Emily Booth Dornfeld... in memory of Sylvia Berman
Jon and Nicki Halterman-Mitchell, Sandy Mitchell... in memory of Charles S. Mitchell, Brenda Neuss
Michael Horwatt... in memory of Saul Horwatt

NVHC Cares

Robert and Gail Dezube... in memory of Miriam Dezube
Norman Reich... in honor of the birth of twin grandsons
Marvin and Karen Singer... in memory of Ronald Braff, and in gratitude to the NVHC Cares Committee

NVHC Fund

Harvey and Janice Berger... in memory of Gertrude Finger
John and Lisa Bull... to cover costs due to lost revenue from pandemic
Michael and Carol Flicker... in memory of Bob Stein
Eric and Karen Forman... in memory of Bob Stein, Gertrude Finger
Ron and Judy Goldrich... in memory of Gertrude Ratner Finger
Fay Weiss Gubin
Alan and Shawn Hausman... in memory of Gertrude Ratner Finger
Barbara Heffernan... in memory of Gertrude Ratner Finger
Ron and Sandy Kanfer... in memory of Beverly Hobbs, Gertrude Finger
Marjina Kaplan... in memory of George Kaplan, Stephen Spencer, Gloria Weiss
Phyllis Krochmal... in memory of Bob Stein
Steve and Ruth Lipson... in memory of Rita Lipson
Mark and Karen McSteen... in memory of Lee Calem
Heidi and Howard Mitnick... in memory of Minna Schweid
Mark and Judi Ornoff... in memory of Bob Stein, Gertrude Finger
Norman Reich... in memory of Gertrude Finger
Jay and Melody Ritt... in memory of Gertrude Finger
Robert and Ellen Rugel... in memory of Robert Stein, Albert Lasher, Gertrude Finger

Sy and Roberta Sherman... in memory of Bob Stein
Marvin and Karen Singer... in memory of Bob Stein and Albert Mand, Gertrude Finger, and in appreciation of NVHC Clergy and Staff
Sam and Evelyn Wilson... in memory of Bob Stein

Preschool Fund

Andy and Susan Cohen... in memory of Albert Lasher

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund – Rabbi Holzman

Alan Dappen and Sara Scherr... in memory of Lois B. Scherr
Tom and Cindi Drake... in memory of Claire Posner
Harry Feldman and Paula Rubinoff... in honor of his memorable Purim performance
Mark and Alyse Goldman... in memory of Robert Goldman
Morton and Deborah Goldstrom... in memory of Morton Goldstrom, Sr., and Grace Goldstrom
John and Audra Hoebler... in honor of Lucy's *Bat Mitzvah*, Emma's Confirmation
Ron and Sandy Kanfer... in memory of Richard Hobbs
Judy Naiman... in honor of Jackson and Noah Seedorf
Paul Pribish and Fredda Weinberg Pribish... in memory of Steven Weinberg
Robert Reznikoff... in memory of Anita Reznikoff
Ann and Alan Richer... in memory of Gertrude Ratner Finger
Don and Alison Rosen... in memory of Bernard Rosen
Ruth Ruttenberg... in memory of Bessie Spitz
Jeremy Sachs... in gratitude for Pesach seder
Kathleen Shapiro...in memory of Mark Edward Shapiro, and in gratitude to Rabbi Holzman for his assistance to our family in our time of loss
Starkman Families... in memory of Gertrude Ratner Finger
George Viener

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund – Rabbi Wainer

Harry Feldman and Paula Rubinoff... in honor of her Women's Voices class
Judy Naiman...in honor of Jackson and Noah Seedorf

Religious School Fund

Andy and Elizabeth Lacher... in honor of Confirmation Class 2020

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

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

Seldon and Ruth Kruger Fund for Adult Learning

Jason and Vera Feig... in memory of Frances Shuster
Roy and Jean Horowitz... in memory of Daniel Horowitz
Janice Nagell... in memory of Doris Newman

Seymour and Linda Samuels... in memory of Anne B. Berg, Seymour Samuels, Jr.

Tikkun Olam (Social Action)

David and Ellen Brewer... in memory of Jerome Cohen, Vicki Kalfus
Harry Feldman and Paula Rubinoff
Rosalind Gold... in honor of the birth of Claire Hanscom and Leila Halter
Michael and Carol Flicker
Robert and Shirley Finkelstein... in memory of Rebecca Silbovitz, David Finkelstein, Deborah Finkelstein, Samuel Silbovitz
Roy and Jean Horowitz... in memory of Beverly Newman
Andy and Elizabeth Lacher... in honor of David Markovich
Mariette Newcomb... in memory of Hana Hiu
Leslie and Marcia Platt
Michele Probst
Allan and Barbara Ratner... in honor of Cantor Caro, for officiating at the shiva service for Gertrude Finger
Marc Rosenberg and Ruth Imershein
Ruth Ruttenberg... in memory of Alan P. Spitz
Marsha Sheinman... in memory of Sondra Brown-Blake, Jerry Pollock, Herbert Sheinman, Ruth Sheinman, Joseph Sheinman
Ted Smith and Rosalind Gold... in memory of Bob Stein and Ronald Braff
Howard and Carolyn Wesoky

Speaker Series

Sally Singer Brodsky... in memory of Monroe Singer
Carol Isaacs... in memory of Barnett Wiesel, Cecil Wiesel, Bob Stein, Benno Issacs, Geri Ratner
Steve and Ruth Lipson... in memory of Rita Lipson
Mark and Judi Ornoff... in memory of Albert Mand
Ruth Ruttenberg... in memory of Alice Nerenstone
Marvin and Karen Singer... in memory of Sidney Blumenberg
Andrew and Ellice Stern... in memory of Anita Rosenberg
Suzi Stone... in memory of Edward Doehrman and in honor of Deede Snowwhite's Birthday

Torah Fund

Henry and Merrell Renaud... in memory of Theodore Gerstein Green
Eleonora Tarasova... in memory of Gregory Furman

WELCOME TO YOUR



5781 / 2020

High Holy Day Information Center

The following pages contain a summary of our plans and programming for Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and the holidays surrounding them.

**For more detailed information, please visit
<https://www.nvhcreston.org/high-holy-days/>.**

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The 7 Weeks

Re-conceptualizing the High Holy Days

Join the NVHC clergy on a journey through the 7 weeks leading up to the High Holy Days. We will explore and prepare for the holidays through the lenses of big Jewish ideas such as space, time, and people.

7 Weeks and 7 Middot Weekly Discussion

What do the 7 *middot* - qualities we share with God - mean to modern Reform Jews? We'll discuss this question and others, such as how we develop ourselves in these areas, on 4 Sunday evenings throughout August.

7 Weeks Middot Journal

The 7 Weeks are a period of time when we reflect and look inwards in preparation for the High Holy Days. This year, we're structuring our preparation during the 7 Weeks and Elul around the qualities that we and God share, called *middot*. Each week we'll provide an explanation of the week's *middah*, and offer some questions or suggestions about how to understand and reflect on it. The journal is yours for writing or reflecting.

Shabbat Sustenance: 7 Haftarat

This whole section of time that we are marking center around 7 Haftarat, one for each Shabbat leading up to Rosh Hashanah. These 7 Haftarat, in various capacities, will be studied during Shabbat Sustenance in these 7 weeks.

NVHC's Holiday Cookbook

Can you imagine celebrating a Jewish holiday without remembering your favorite foods that made that holiday so special? This year we are calling all cooks and non-cooks alike to submit your favorite family recipes, holiday memories, food illustrations, and/or photos to share for a digital NVHC cookbook!

The 7 Weeks

Movie Club: Angels in America

This two-part series will discuss "Angels in America," a miniseries based on the Pulitzer-prize winning play of the same name by Tony Kushner. Set in 1985, the series revolves around six New Yorkers whose lives intersect; at its core, it is the fantastical story of Prior Walter, a gay man living with AIDS who is visited by an angel. The series explores a wide variety of themes, including Reagan era politics, the spreading AIDS epidemic, and a rapidly changing social and political climate.

Jewish Comfort Food - High Holy Day Version

Planning some comfort foods to eat on Rosh Hashanah or break fast on Yom Kippur? We will have two sessions to share creative ideas, recipes, or stories, and plan for a yummy holiday season.

Sacred Spaces Art Project

Interested in Jewish Comfort Food planning for the upcoming holidays? Two Zoom calls are being scheduled to cover just that. Share creative ideas, recipes or stories and plan for a yummy holiday season.

Learn How to Make a Round Challah

Learn how to bake challah! In this two-part session, we'll prepare the dough, then after letting it rise, come together to shape it into a round loaf for Rosh Hashanah!

Speaker on Jewish Perseverance

More information will be available on this speaker closer to the time.

Discover Your Family History

In this two part series, participants will get to the root of how to research their family tree. Resources will be explored, stories told, and mysteries uncovered. Whether you are new to Genealogy or you have already uncovered some family history of your own, there is something for everyone in these two programs. Dates TBA.

Rosh Hashanah

In the afternoon, multiple sites for in-person outdoor drive-in shofar service, followed by instructions for *tashlich*.

Gather as a whole community at 7:00pm on Erev Rosh Hashanah to announce the New Year with a single shofar blast by Zoom, followed by a festive service.

Teen and college student gatherings

Torah reading by Torah Cam which allows everyone to see the text as it is read.

Family cooking class to prepare Rosh Hashanah foods during the afternoon.

Symbolize the white robes, table cover and Torah covers that elevate the High Holy Days by having every member of NVHC wear white at home.

Family, Tot and Community services at various times on Rosh Hashanah morning, each followed by options for study, socializing, meditation and learning.

The 10 Intermediary Days

Conversations about the Jewish wisdom of how to criticize, apologize and forgive.

Mad-libs for each person or family to express the meaning of the Holy Days

Congregational opt-in phone chain to share Holy Day greetings and mad-lib results

Opportunities for private family prayer before the Ark in the sanctuary, by appointment.

Invitation to help Get Out the Vote for the upcoming elections

Opportunity to write your own letters of apology and prayers for forgiveness to be dropped in a communal prayer box outside NVHC and then buried after Yom Kippur.

Drop off opportunities for food for Cornerstones food drive (did you know that our High Holy Drive fills the Cornerstones food pantry for 2 months at a time before Thanksgiving when the pantry would otherwise be bare?)

Daily email with options for reflection and learning

Yom Kippur

Ne'ilah – from *Sh'ma* to Shofar,
hearing the last blast of the day
safely together in the temple
parking lot.

Various learning
sessions related to
holiday prayers, music
and sermons.

Tot experience
&
Family experience

Unique Online worship
experiences.

An all-day digital 'lobby',
to engage with other
members, with times for
reflection and shared
experience.

Musical playlists,
presentations, and guided
meditations to fill out your day.

An expanded digital Yizkor
book of remembrance, to
include photos and brief
written remembrances of our
loved ones.

Torah reading on Torah cam
for the entire community to
experience and see together.

Sukkot

What better year than this year to add a room to your house? A little getaway space right there in your yard? Build a sukkah this year!

In Leviticus 23:42-43 we are taught, "You shall live in booths seven days in order that future generations may know that I made the Israelite people live in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt." The sukkah symbolizes the booths or tents in which the Jewish people lived during their forty years of wandering.

Sukkot is also a return to nature, a harvest festival, and a time for welcoming guests. While the Israelites didn't have Zoom, we do! So we will find ways during this holiday to come together with joy.

Build a *sukkah* at your home. It's fun! We will show you how.

Small group gatherings and wine tastings.

Table-top *sukkah* building for all ages. Let's create a photo gallery of mini NVHC *sukkot*. We will show you how.

Community Zoom gatherings in the sukkah, just like we did at Passover.

Simchat Torah

Community Zoom gatherings in the sukkah, just like we did at Passover.

Celebrate the receiving of the Torah in a special and joyous expanded Friday night service on October 9th.

Simchat Torah is a time of "rejoicing with the Torah." We mark the end of the annual cycle of Torah reading, and joyously launch a new year.

While we will be physically distant this year, please join our Friday night service on October 9th for a fun and joyful celebration of the Torah.

Shanah Tovah!

May you and your loved ones be
inscribed in the Book of Life for a
sweet and blessed New Year.

