

The Glance

NVHC's Quarterly Magazine
March-May 2021



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Sam Blum, Rabbi Holzman, Cantor Caro, and Rabbi Wainer (in costume as a unicorn and monkeys, respectively) leading our Purim Parking Lot Party, February 25, 2021.

Joe Miller, Executive Director

Friends,

In August 2020, David Markovich surprised us by announcing his plans to leave NVHC for another congregation in Northern Virginia. As is often the case, when one door closes, another opens. We did not have to look far for an individual perfectly suited to fill this position. For nearly a year, Joe Miller had already been serving NVHC and working closely with clergy, staff, and lay leaders as our Development Manager. Even more serendipitously, before joining us at NVHC, Joe had served as Executive Director of a large Reform congregation in Arizona for over ten years. *B'shert!* With a smile, Joe immediately stepped in to serve as our Interim Executive Director. He also expressed his interest in being considered for this position for the longer term.



The Board of Trustees established a task force to determine if Joe was the right choice for our Executive Director. They reviewed his experience and qualifications, and reached out to a wide array of congregants and staff at NVHC, and also to people who worked with him at his previous congregation. They reported receiving “overwhelmingly positive feedback” from all. Ultimately, they “enthusiastically” recommended offering him the position of Executive Director.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the task force, who approached this effort with great care and invested many hours. Many thanks to Task Force Chair Fay Gubin, and members Bob Fenster, Don Hirsch, Hana Newcomb, and Ellen Rugel.

NVHC is fortunate to have had Joe in the wings, and we already appreciate now having him on center stage as our Executive Director. If you would like to contact Joe, you can reach him at Joe@NVHCreston.org.

Warmly,
Risa May
President



Joe joined NVHC in September of 2019 as our Development Manager, working primarily on the Nitzavim Capital Campaign. In August of 2020, he took on the position of Executive Director.

Joe was born and raised in Wisconsin, spent 10 years in New York City, and then did a long and hot stint in sunny Arizona. In New York, he worked for the American Red Cross, and then at Columbia University’s Graduate School of Business, first as the Business Manager in the Development Office, and then as Director of the Office of Student Activities. In Arizona, Joe served for 10+ years as the Executive Director of Temple Chai, a 700-family Reform synagogue, which is the largest temple in Arizona. He holds a bachelor’s degree in English from the University of Wisconsin.

Joe and his wife, Martha, who is an attorney, have two teenage children, and are loving their new home in tree-filled Reston.



To Life

Rabbi Michael G. Holzman

One of the great questions of Passover is: what reasons justified God's rescue of the Jewish people? Why did God act? One famous midrash claims that the redemption came because the Israelites stuck to their cultural roots—they gave Jewish names, wore Jewish clothes, ate Jewish foods, and created Jewish families.

This seems odd, given that it omits any mention of serving God or following the details of Jewish prayers. These are all human behaviors that have almost nothing to do with God. The midrash teaches that redemption comes through our cultural habits more than through any divine intervention. When we stick to who we are, we find liberation from bondage.

After a year of pandemic lock-downs, work and school closures, and endless screen time, we need this message more than ever. We will find redemption when we stick to who we are, when we remember our deepest values, our core beliefs. Those things endure beneath the surface of our daily lives, grounding us whether life is in-person, online or hybrid. It doesn't matter - identity is stronger than all of that.

We, NVHC, are a community dedicated to exploring a three thousand-year-old tradition, and then applying that wisdom to the challenges, opportunities, crises and experiences of our daily lives. We believe in rigorous intellectual debate, a good laugh, voices in song, and delicious challah. We pride ourselves on being a part of the Reston experiment, the innovative

vibe of NoVA, the most tightly integrated interfaith community in the world, and the greatness of the American project. We find ourselves on the cutting edge of Jewish history, soaking up the creativity of the Jewish people, in the land of Israel and all over the world. We are part of some pretty big things.

And yes, we are tired of this pandemic.

That is why this edition of the Glance is dedicated to renewal. Just as Pesach is our holiday of springtime and freedom, we set our minds and our families to the work of rebirth. **We reconnect to our Jewishness and our Judaism and we seek the values that define the most important parts of who we are. We reach out to friends and fellow congregants, reignite our *chavurah*, or join a team at the synagogue, because these kinds of connections are the way we discover wisdom and strengthen those values in our lives. We then live them and teach them to the children of our community, and the grandchildren flung far across the world, knowing that at some point we are all ancestors in a great chain stretching back to Abraham and Sarah. And then we listen to those children, because the lessons they teach will become the future of our people. This is the stuff that endures, all the rest is commentary.**

While we may dread another year of Zoom seders, we ask you to challenge yourself to reconnect anew, to remember that being Jewish does not go away, to look for ways to answer the question, "Why is this year different from all other years?" so that we take wisdom for our future from this time. This challenge will shape the identity of the young people who lived through it, and if we want them to understand this pandemic in context, we need a strong Judaism to

explain it—not the science or the statistics, but rather the social, emotional, and theological importance of this time.

I write this only a couple days after receiving my first shot of the vaccine. (Hopefully by the time you receive this, a huge part of our community will have received at least one shot. For those who haven't, hang tight, it's coming soon.) I will always remember the wave of emotion that welled up in me at seeing all those people dedicated to life, to applying the amazing tools of science to the work of rescuing others. I will treasure the sound of dozens of humans all together in one room, making human sounds, laughing the way humans do. Tears fell from my eyes beneath my mask as the nurse - her name was Honora - honored me with the injection. Yes, this is all medicine and science, Thank God, but it is also something higher than that. This entire period is something higher than the virus; it is part of the human story, the project of finishing creation, repairing our wrongs, bringing justice to the world. That is who we are, a people dedicated, just like the people at that vaccination center, to life.

Living More In Tune

Cantor Susan Caro

As you are reading this, it will have been just a year since we closed the doors of our building and turned to opening our hearts to one another and to ourselves, on a journey through the wilderness. Much like our Israelite ancestors, we have had to draw upon our faith, upon intangible connections with one another, and upon resources we might not have even known existed before this past year. And just like it was for our ancestors, it has been a journey fraught with both sadness and blessing, anxiety and hope. The Promised Land toward which the ancient Israelites headed was a geographical location with bounty and with boundaries. Right now, many of us might feel more in the dark about the nature of our

destination and when we might get there – wherever or whenever 'there' is.

This inner dissonance makes me feel like an instrument that is out of tune. I grasp at beautiful notes and blended harmonies that bring me contentment and ease. I want to live more in tune; I am trying endlessly to do so. I got a little help a few weeks ago, on a evening with our teens in Tamid. Before we split up into our electives, our Youth Engagement Coordinator, Sam Blum, gave a beautiful *D'var Torah* about asking for and giving advice. He wrapped up his remarks by asking our teens to share with each other some wisdom and advice for getting through the pandemic. I found myself listening with tears of pride and admiration and pulled out a pen and paper to capture some of their insights; they were so wise. Here are some of the things they shared:

- Do something that isn't an 'online' activity; get really good at it.
- Talk to someone about your anxieties; don't keep it all bottled up.
- Start your day every day with a phone call with a friend.
- Read – A LOT!
- Start a non-profit effort to bring help in some way to our community.
- Do your homework with a friend on FaceTime – so you are kind of in each other's company, to feel more alive.
- Don't overwork yourself. You don't have to be productive every moment.
- Remember to go outside!

Right away, our teens recognized the sources of strength for most people – being in relationship with one another, speaking our own truths, allowing ourselves to be awed by the beauty and power in nature, and actively improving our own corner of the world. These are the ways to retune ourselves. Think about one way you have made peace with this past year; a time you trusted yourself and your strengths; raise up a dream you have; notice how holding an

experience of gratitude for some blessing in your life can bring the sound of your soul into sweet harmony. These are ways to find inspiration and sustenance, at least to bring ourselves a moment of respite. And then another. And then another.

Spring is coming again. The blossoms, the warmer breezes, the uplifting scents inspire in me a sense of renewal, of possibility – and yes, of seeing more people easily outside (at safe distances and masked, but without shivering!) And yet, we can't, we shouldn't rely solely on external circumstances to shed light on a path of hope and survival. For me, the cycle of our seasons is a reminder that spring will follow winter; that renewal is not a returning to what was, but building anew from **what is right now**. Soon, we will retell our Pesach story; its telling is our blueprint for remembering that we are **always** on some part of our journey, and knowing that in our travels and travails, we will find strength from within and from each other to continue to face all that is ahead.

Online Learning Success

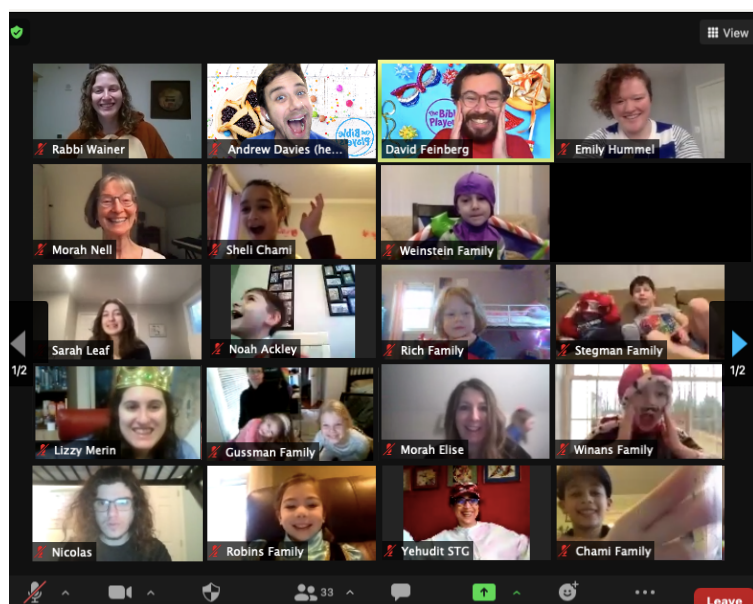
Rabbi Jessica Wainer

When I asked our faculty to take a leap of faith with me last March and switch to online learning, I could only dream of just how wildly innovative our faculty could, and would, be. Sunday mornings have become the highlight of my online week! I love seeing our youngest learners singing and dancing with Morah Nell, even when we can't hear everyone singing together. Our 3rd-7th grade students excitedly join every Sunday morning to participate in fun social games like scavenger hunts and dance parties, only to then go and learn their Judaics by creating videos, games, and participating in science experiments and arts & crafts projects. Our Hebrew teachers continue to be innovative with how they help students learn Hebrew in big and small groups, all through a screen.

And our teens continue to amaze us every Tuesday as they choose to get online after a long day at school so that they can be with their peers at NVHC.

I am so proud of all of our teachers, and madrichim, who are putting in countless hours to come up with new and creative ways to continue to engage our students on a weekly basis. Every week, I learn something new from one of our teachers – a new method for engagement, a new platform to try out online, or a new resource to share with our community. As we think towards the future of youth education at NVHC, I am proud of where we have come in the last year, and excited to see where Kehillat Limmud and Tamid will head in the future. With all the creativity and experimentation that our teachers have taken on over this last year, we are set up for success as we continue to create engaging experiences for our learners of all ages.

As I begin to think about my transition out of NVHC, I am confident that our school is in good hands. Our teachers, madrichim, and students are primed to continue innovating and leading the way for youth engagement and education in Northern Virginia. We may not yet know exactly what the future of Jewish education will look like, but we can be assured that our community will have a hand in crafting it.



Counting

Sam Blum

One. Maybe that's the number to start with. 1. One year of living with Covid-19, of exploring a world so different from the world we were used to, of encountering losses both large and small. It's an experience that we all hope will be one-in-a-million, one-of-a-kind. It's hard to wrap your brain around. One year of a global pandemic.

We Jews are creatures of words, but numbers also play an important role in our history and culture. We have Bellow and Kafka, but we have Einstein, too! And sure we're the people of the Book, but hey, we wouldn't be that without the Book of Numbers... And of course, on top of all that, we have our calendar. The Counting of the Omer. The eight days of Hanukkah, to celebrate the one day's worth of oil. The 25 hours between the start and end of Shabbat.

I think all of us have been calendar-watching in a new way this year. At the beginning, we counted as two-week lockdowns became four-week lockdowns became six-week lockdowns and so on. Then, as we got a little deeper into this new reality, time seemed to warp - becoming faster and also slower and above all, more confusing. Birthdays and anniversaries went by without many of the things we'd typically do to make them special. The weeks and months began to run together. We had to make a real effort to plant our flag in the shifting sands and say, "This is Shabbat! We are making it special," or "We've made it to the High Holy Days and we are going to take the spiritual effort to make this a holy time." Sometimes we succeeded, sometimes we failed. And we kept counting the days.

There's a real darkness to the counting that we have to acknowledge too, a lot of math that we wish we didn't have to do. Infection rates. Waits for test results. Unemployment figures. Death counts. We waited and prayed that we wouldn't be counted among their number, and we hoped against hope that our friends and family would be safe and healthy. And we kept counting the days.

Any celebration of what we've accomplished is in the shadow of the losses we've faced - individually, as a community, as a planet. But in the moments we are feeling up to it, I think we have to try to celebrate what we've been through and what we've accomplished in this time. There's what we've done on a personal level: maybe you did 25 1000-piece puzzles, or walked a cumulative 500 miles. I know that on my end, I once hit a 73-day streak in solving the Times crossword, and I've watched 275 movies since quarantine started.

More important though is the stuff that we've accomplished together. Maybe it's 45 Shabbat dinners, or seven extended family Zoom calls, or some other number of something that really stood out in this challenging time. We at NVHC are taking count of all of you, carefully curating our attendance data and email open rates, and trying to reach as many of you as we can.

There are so many numbers I could highlight here, but one that really stands out to me is, fittingly, 18 - *chai*, "life." Next week as I write this will be our 18th Kehillat Limmud on Zoom. With only one week of turnaround, and thanks to the incredible work of Rabbi Wainer, Emily Hummel, and literally hundreds more of NVHC leaders, parents, and kids, we were able to bring our Sunday mornings to new life online and keep them going strong for almost a whole year.

We're now beginning to enter an era where we get to do some more hopeful, positive counting, even as the questions remain urgent: What percent of my community is vaccinated, and how many days until I can get mine? How many days until my favorite restaurant/theater/gym opens up, and what's their capacity? How many days, weeks, months will we have to count until we are back to normal?

The tough questions aren't going away, even if they are changing, but I'm confident that we will find answers together. And as we continue to count the days, hopefully we can look back at this year with some modicum of relief and satisfaction. We can count up the things that we're proud of, and be proud of how we've counted on one another.

A Commitment to Engagement

Meryl Paskow

As NVHC's new Vice President of Engagement, I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself and share with you why I feel so passionately about engagement. Because I am so engaged at NVHC, people often assume that I am an extrovert. They are surprised to learn that not only am I extremely introverted, but that I also struggle with social anxiety. You may be wondering, why would someone so introverted, with social anxiety no less, want to be the VP of Engagement?

It is, in fact, *because* of these things that I am so invested in this role. As someone who knows how terrible it can feel to sit in my car in the NVHC parking lot and have to psych myself up to go inside - not knowing if there will be someone else there that I know, or who I will sit with or talk to - I also know how good it feels when I do walk through the doors and someone is there to welcome me and tell me how glad they are that I am there.

I have been an NVHC member for 13 years, but it is really over the past three or four years that I have experienced what it means to be truly engaged with and more deeply connected to the NVHC community. What I have learned is that, at least for me, experiencing meaningful engagement at NVHC has meant having to think of myself as less of a consumer and more of a partner in creating the experience that I want. I could say that it is entirely up to NVHC to create an experience for me and serve it on a silver platter. But even if it was feasible for NVHC to completely personalize everything they do around my wants and needs (spoiler: it's not), if I cannot work up the courage to get out of my car and walk through the door, I cannot access any of it.

Perhaps it is not anxiety or fear that prevents most people from engaging at a more meaningful level. For some folks maybe it's grappling with an already crowded schedule. Maybe for others it means

needing to work through a past disappointment and be willing to try again. Whether it's battling inner demons, carving out time to read NVHC emails or attend programs, coming to a place of forgiveness and letting go, or any other number of reasons that keep people from imagining what is possible — for me, the effort involved to get there has paid me back in triplicate.

The spiritual support, opportunities for personal growth, and relationships that have enriched my life have always been there on the other side of the door. But I had to meet NVHC halfway by being brave and coming inside.

For those of you who already feel engaged and connected at NVHC and want to help other people deepen their own connections, the Engagement Committee could really use your help. For those of you who are channeling 'When Harry Met Sally' and having an "I'll have what she's having" moment, I would love the opportunity to help you imagine what is possible for you. Either way, I hope you will reach out. I can be reached at:
VPEngagement@nvhcrestons.org.



Support the Fourth Annual Tikkun Olam Campaign

At Purim, the NVHC Social Action Committee (SAC) kicked off our fourth annual Tikkun Olam Campaign to support the work that NVHC does in the community in the name of repairing the world. The SAC does not receive any funds from NVHC to support our Tikkun Olam activities. We need your help to again meet our goal of \$36,000.

We thank our generous donors over the past three years, and this year **Ed and Sandee Byrne have offered to match donations from first-time donors or donors who didn't give last year to the campaign, to a maximum of \$3,000.**

Read what our members say about the work they do for our community with funds from the Tikkun Olam Campaign, and donate today to help make a difference. We also welcome your participation in our committee meetings and volunteer efforts.

*When we joined NVHC, our gateway to the congregation was through the SAC. Our 12-year stint preparing and serving dinners at the Hypothermia prevention shelter certainly provided the portal to meet other like-minded members of NVHC. We met at our home to prepare dinners; relationships and friendships evolved. Even though we have passed the torch to Bess & Eric, the friends remain. Social action is close to our hearts not only because of the friends we made, but also because of the values our community embraces. The SAC's idea of replacing the many, many "asks" that were spread out over the year with a once a year "ask," the Tikkun Olam Campaign, was one of the best ideas that the SAC came up with! Thank you, SAC, for the opportunity to serve and for the lasting friendships. - **Ed & Sandee Byrne***



*Sorting and organizing donations for Cornerstones had a much bigger impact on our family than we expected. My daughter and I were overwhelmed by the outpouring of generosity and care that NVHC members took in selecting items to donate. It led my daughter to continue the campaign on her own as part of her Bat Mitzvah project and to her plans to work more closely with Cornerstones as Covid dangers recede. - **Emily Booth-Dornfeld and Maya Booth***

*The interfaith relationships we have built through our membership in VOICE have served NVHC well in multiple ways. First, we have greater ability through combining forces to move the needle on issues that are important to our congregation. Second, we have seen inspiring, powerful programming come out of these relationships, such as our Juneteenth Tikkun and the interfaith service following the recent attack on the Capitol. We are safer, stronger, and able to be better stewards of the community due to our participation in VOICE and the interfaith partnerships that participation has fostered. - **Meryl Paskow***

What I love about Cornerstones is that it is a multi-faceted organization providing vital social services right here where I live. As a Board member and volunteer, I have seen firsthand how Cornerstones helps people in my neighborhood with affordable housing options, child care, job counseling and training, as well as emergency housing and food supplies. With the COVID pandemic, Cornerstones has stepped up to administer CARES Act rent relief funds and is running one of Fairfax County's Quarantine, Protection, Isolation/Decompression (QPID) emergency housing units in Herndon. I am proud of NVHC's support for Cornerstones, which includes providing meals for the hypothermia and Embry Rucker Shelters, volunteer hours, food donations, gift cards, and other financial support. - **Andy Lacher**

It never occurred to me how fulfilling it would be to give back to my community. An area so big and beautiful with tall buildings and large homes, Reston discreetly hides its homeless population. I started helping the community with NVHC in late 2017, when I was becoming Bar Mitzvah. For three years, it has been a pleasure helping Cornerstones through NVHC. My family and I started out by baking cookies, and have made over 300 cookies over the past three years for the homeless shelter. NVHC hasn't only allowed us to bake cookies; we have also been able to make chili, participate in "Fill the Bus," and deliver food during Thanksgiving. We have also helped Cornerstones by handing out food to cars during the COVID-19 pandemic. While it is heartbreaking to watch so many ask for food, and see the endless numbers of cars snaking through a parking lot, it is fulfilling work and there is nothing better than to see someone less fortunate thank you with a smile. - **Brandon Winans**



Sometimes, giving money and volunteering time isn't enough to address ongoing suffering in our community. For me, VOICE provides a source of targeted power to enact legislation and policies that relieve systemic inequalities like unchecked evictions, the cash bail system, and unrepresentative religious calendars. As a broad, nonpartisan, multi-faith organization, VOICE has proven its effectiveness over many years. It gives me pragmatic advocacy skills and real hope for progress in our world. - **Deb Smith-Cohen**

I joined the Social Action Committee last year and it has been a perfect fit for me. The "action" part is what I enjoy most - especially during the pandemic. Whether it's making food for the shelter, stuffing envelopes, or collecting groceries for families, it is a great way to stay focused on things that make someone else's life a bit better. - **Kris Rose**

Our family has never been very active in a synagogue before but when COVID hit, we wanted to find ways to give back and help those in most need. We found great opportunities through NVHC to provide food and basic needs. My husband and kids cook food for the NVHC-organized Hypothermia dinners at Embry Rucker, and my oldest son and I helped organize and sort food for NVHC's High Holiday food drive. Even our oldest son, who had just become Bar Mitzvah, says it has been "a cool experience," and we are happy to be able to do a small part amid this very difficult time to provide tangible assistance to our local community. - **Rachel Ingber and Michael, Elijah, Max, and Tali Schwartz**

Donate [online](https://nvhc.shulcloud.com/payment.php) (<https://nvhc.shulcloud.com/payment.php>) or mail your check to NVHC. Questions?
Contact social.action@nvhcreston.org

The Bonds of Sisterhood

Fay Gubin

NVHC Sisterhood Co-President

If you were to look up the meaning of Sisterhood in the dictionary, you'd find it defined as: "the relationship between sisters; an association, society or community of women linked by a common interest, religion, or trade". Sisterhood is also the solidarity of women based on experiences and concerns.

Being part of a sisterhood can take many forms. Perhaps you have sisters, or you were a Girl Scout, or in a sorority in college. Most likely, you bonded with other women if you became a mother, or, I hope, as a member of a Sisterhood at a synagogue.

I learned about what it meant to be a member of a sisterhood as a young girl. I was the second oldest in a family of four girls (plus three boys). As sisters, we formed a strong bond of shared experiences growing up together. We depended on each other and sometimes covered for one another. But you don't need to be related by blood to be part of a sisterhood.

I was very active in Girl Scouts – first as a Brownie at age 7, then all the way up to a Senior Girl Scout in high school and finally as a summer camp counselor. At every level I bonded with my Scout sisters while learning new skills, working on projects that made a difference in our community, exploring the outdoors and nature at camp, and taking leadership roles. I learned the significance of teamwork which nurtured a feeling of kinship and closeness. Those ties, those shared experiences, stay with one forever.

Why is the idea of women's sisterhood important? I know men form bonds too – but women's bonds are different. While our role in society has changed dramatically in recent times, we have the history of thousands of years of limitations placed on us. Constraints on how, where, and with whom we lived,

loved, and worked. That common experience of straining against limitations drew women together, much as any disadvantaged group turns inward for comfort and support. And then there is the bond that, for many, comes from women's role in reproduction. The Sisterhood of Mothers. Women share our stories of pregnancies, giving birth, and talk to each other about our children in ways no man, however enlightened and sympathetic, can relate to as we do.

We are all part of some sort of sisterhood because of the camaraderie, friendship, respect, empathy, and mutual support we feel as women. We rejoice in each other's joys and accomplishments. We hold each other up when we are down, we lend each other a shoulder to cry on, and offer sympathy when needed.

Surely, these are all reasons why I have been a member of NVHC Sisterhood for 41 years (I joined as a baby). We are sisters, mothers, aunts, and grandmothers. We come from all walks of life and diverse backgrounds. We have a bond with one another. We are committed to one another. I rely on my Sisterhood friends. Their opinions and advice matter. They inspire me.

During the pandemic, we've stayed in touch through emails, texts, Zoom meetings, and programs. While many of our programs and activities have unfortunately been curtailed this past year, we have offered Zoom cooking classes, book discussions, and speakers on interesting topics. Our Zoom programs are well attended, regularly getting 30-50 women in attendance, depending on the program. NVHC Sisterhood continues to do good work for the community, and we recently put our Judaica Boutique and Gift Shop online, so that the closed building won't deny NVHC members the Jewish necessities that enhance our holidays and celebrations.

We offer you a figurative embrace, and after this pandemic passes, a literal one. Join us and become one of our sisters.

Yours in Sisterhood,
Fay Gubin

Vignettes

We reached out to you, our community, and asked you to share short stories - vignettes - about what you've accomplished since the beginning of the pandemic. Below are all the vignettes we received; thank you to everyone who contributed! Whether you learned a new skill, changed careers, or just got out of bed every morning, we hope these stories give you hope and inspire you. You can also find them on our website at: www.nvhcreston.org/vignettes.

In January, a friend of my daughter's who had seen some of my artwork asked if I would do a portrait of her recently deceased dog. I did, and then she commissioned me to do one of her daughter's dog. Then two of her friends wanted portraits of their dogs. Then my granddaughter in Boston posted one of the portraits on a local website, and two more commissions materialized. So I have been busy with a new specialty. Here is a sample of my work.

Carol Berman



The last year has been epic for our family. In March, my middle brother got married in Tasmania, and it was an amazing gathering of my paternal family, which allowed me to spend time with cousins I haven't seen in years. We made it home on one of the last flights. Eric had significant surgery on his foot to allow him to get back to his ultra-running passion pain free. We packed up our home of 10 years in Centreville to move to Reston. We are unpacked and settled. Moving and surgery recovery were made much easier by both of us being home all day, and remote meetings with agents, brokers, banks, and design centers meant no schlepping! And everyone staying safe at home meant that we didn't have to decline invites as we spent every weekend packing instead of having FOMO ("fear of missing out").

Lisa Folb

I retired on April 1, 2020, and now own my time. I'm teaching myself banjo.

Before the pandemic, my daughters and their husbands got me the game 'Zelda'. Since then, I've learned how to kill monsters, solve scary puzzles, and find treasure. I'm also mad that the Zelda clothing fairy took almost all my money ("rupees").

I'm learning how to be a better house husband. I want to learn Yiddish.

I miss being with my NVHC friends.

Frank Newman

Rather than succumbing to the callousness and intolerance that we have witnessed over the past year, I have seen my daughters bloom into caring and responsible adults. I have also observed the resiliency of parents and students who have miraculously adapted to the complexities of virtual learning. I am so proud of my family and our Jewish community!

Rob Gutcho



Steffanie with her book in front of a painting of everyone's characters that her son commissioned as a Chanukah gift.

I wrote a book! On April 18, 2020, my Wyoming son and his family - Mark, Rachel, Avi (14), and Zachary (9) - began a weekly Zoom meeting to play Dungeons and Dragons - a role-playing game using a twenty-sided die among a total of seven multi-faceted dice that determine outcomes. We each became a character of our own design (I am a stout Hobbit/Rogue named Jillian Hilltopple with a criminal background and silver streaks in my otherwise brown hair). Mark is the Dungeon Master, Rachel is a Human Paladin (Jalana Truthspeaker), Avi is a Dwarf/Monk (Gardain Ironfist), and Zachary is a Gnome/Druid (Zook B'Garnak).

After each week's adventure, I wrote up the narrative version of what happened into a chapter. In this book, our adventures center around the small mountain hamlet of Frosthaven, its inhabitants, and its nearby caves. Eventually we worked our way to the climactic battle at Battle Axe

Mountain. Along the way, we vanquished mind-controlled bats, goblins, lemures, wyverns, stirges, the Evil Construct, and a legion of vampires. Of course we could not do this alone. We were befriended by Drykryl, a Dwarven leader from the Iron Hills; Ironwing, a gargoyle; Ksniss, a kobold; Lorde Peters; and five mysterious members of The Kin.

Twenty-eight chapters later, I published the book via Shutterfly. And we are now seven chapters into our next campaign that takes place in the city of Goldenhall. Oh, and I have hired an amazing editor (at \$.50 a page) who greatly assists in the story telling write-up: Zachary Bergman.

Steffanie Bergman

What have I accomplished over the past year?

I think my greatest accomplishment over the past year has been realizing that I do not have to accomplish; that crossing things off my endless "to do" list does not have to be my measure of success or happiness. Cantor Caro's weekly Mindfulness sessions have helped me look, feel, and just be in the moment... with curiosity and not judgment. I have walked greater distances than ever before with a heightened awareness of my surroundings during this pandemic year. I have witnessed the beauty of every season with new appreciation. I have taken more breaths to let myself experience the range of emotions -the connections that have brought joy, the longing to see family & friends in person, the highs, the lows, and all the ambiguity in between.

Karen Singer

This has certainly been an eventful year for my husband, Boris, and me: in August, we sold our house in Northern Virginia and moved to Arizona! We are now living in Tucson, Arizona, and thankfully for technology, we have maintained our connection to NVHC... I have continued to study Hebrew, I have participated in other classes, and listened to speakers. I have watched or more actively participated in services. What a blessing to have that connection during this time of transition! At the present time, I am starting to participate with a congregation here, but I will always remember and value my relationships with the readers of The Glance.

Betty Donskoy

I learned how lucky I am to have friends nearby so I did not feel completely isolated. I missed seeing people at exercise classes, but some are now given online. I missed seeing my family, but we probably communicate more via text and phone and Zoom. Instead of planning vacations for my clients, I was in a state of perpetually canceling and rebooking vacations, trying to get refunds, and reassuring people that it would soon be safe to travel again. I made Apple Fritters for Chanukah and hamantashen for Purim.

I felt a real sense of pride knowing the postcards I sent to the voters of Georgia helped bring about a victory for the two new senators from Georgia and the Democratic party.

And I learned to ZOOM! I now Zoom with my family, my chavurah, my book club, my neighborhood discussion group, and especially with NVHC.

Francine Beifeld

When the pandemic forced us all to “freeze” where we were, we got a reprieve on our rapidly emptying nest. Our oldest, a college junior, was home for spring break, and stayed for the next 5 months. Our high school senior did not disappear into the powerful vortex of social gatherings of teenagers that feel very ready to leave their families, but already dread leaving their friends. And our youngest, a sophomore, did not start every day bickering with her sister about what time to leave for school. No one was going anywhere. It was great!



We rediscovered the joy of board games and puzzles. We ate dinner together every night. We went for walks. We discussed current events.

It was not perfect. We argued. Somebody gave herself a buzz cut (it wasn't me). And it seemed as if 154 pairs of shoes were scattered over the entire house.

But those months were a gift, a treasure I hold in my heart even now.

Risa May

We give a warm welcome to new members:

David Stein & Denise Michel, and son Jacob
Joseph Scholnick and Anna Harkins

Mazel Tov to ...

Helen Kruger, on the birth of her grandson, Caleb Joseph Strickland, born December 12 to proud parents, Nora and Joe Strickland.

Carolyn and Yaniv Ziv, on the birth of their daughter, Eliana Marie Ziv, on January 2, 2021.

Michael and Betty Brody, on the birth of their granddaughter, Talia Gray Brody, born February 2, 2021 to proud parents, Kayla and Zeke Brody.

To Craig and Nina Falci, on the birth of their grandson, Jackson Micah Loeshelle, born on Feb 23, to proud parents Ellen and Joel Loeshelle

To Alan Dappen and Sara Scherr, on the birth of their identical twin granddaughters, Daisy Shira Dappen and Luna Vera Dappen, born February 25, to proud parents Nathan and Amanda Dappen



Tzedakah

Thank you for supporting our community!

Adam Levine Camp Scholarship Fund

Robert Berry...in memory of Sam Levine
Esther Binshtok...in memory of Sam Levine
DiPaolo Family...in memory of Sam Levine
Enrico and Rose DiPaolo...in memory of Samuel Levine
Dlott Family...in memory of Sam Levine
Isabel Einzig...in memory of Robert E. Einzig
Marcia Heffron...in memory of Sam Levine
Bonnie Hoffman...in memory of Sam Levine and Adam Levine
Elaine Hoffman and Howard Herman...in memory of Sam Levine

Jill Swerdloff Klein...in memory of Samuel Levine, Adam Levine
Hedy Lapkin...in memory of Sam Levine
Bruce and Laurie Levine...in memory of Adam Levine
Sam and Sheila Levine...in loving memory of Adam Levine
Bonnie Millender...in memory of Adam Levine, Sam Levine

Mitch and Abbe Pascal...in memory of Bruce Schwartz, Max Stearman, Martin Schwartz, Erica Schwartz
Chuck and "Sam" Perschetz...in memory of Adam Levine, Samuel Levine
Marco Sainati and Ronni Levine...in memory of Samuel Levine, Adam Levine
Flo Weinberg...in memory of Sam Levine

Ark Fund

Don Copley...in memory of Michael Rubin

Building Fund

Howard and Linda Perlstein...in appreciation of Anibal Blanco

Art Fund

Isabel Einzig...in memory of Frieda Einzig

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Anonymous
Paul Hess and Geraldine Hess...in honor of Noah's Bar Mitzvah
Jon and Ellice Kark...in memory of Shirley Ann Seiden
Mimi Kramer-Roberts...in appreciation of Cantor Caro
Gail Shapkin...in memory of Geri Zeller, Irene Gertner
Larry Snowwhite...in memory of William Snowwhite
Bob Wein...in memory of David Fram

Choir & Music Fund

Don Copley... in memory of Marion Copley
Howard and Linda Perlstein...in appreciation of Michael Langlois and Mozelle Stanton
Rick and Barbara Schatz...in honor of Hana Newcomb

Clergy Discretionary Funds for COVID-19 Families in Need

Bruce Friedman and Michaela Madsen
Marjina Kaplan...in memory of Frances Ensign, Gladys Ruth Dappen
David McCue and Lori Lefcourt...in memory of Laurence Lefcourt
Lori Saltzman...in memory of Alan Saltzman
Bob Wein...in memory of George I. Wein

Library Fund

Tim and Kate Popov...in memory of Rivoltina Popova
Seymour Samuels...in honor of the people at NVHC who have enriched my life this year
Bluma Vishnevsky...in memory of Rivoltina Popova

Louis Gold Children's Music Fund

Rabbi Rosalind Gold...in memory of Rose Romm, Jennie Frankel, Gladys Ruth Dappen, Steve Wein, Yehuda Cheres
Bruce, Mary and Kate York...in memory of Maggie York

Memorial Plaque

Ellen Goldman and Mitchell Robinson...in memory of Morris Goldman, Sylvia Goldman, Betty Robinson, Preston Robinson
Paula Rubino...in memory of Harry D. Feldman
Bruce, Mary and Kate York...in memory of Maggie York

NVHC Cares

Steffanie Bergman and Ron Goodes...in thanks for the healing prayers for Mitch Paioff and David Bergman
David and Ellen Brewer...in memory of Raye Cohen
Adele Denny...in memory of Adam Schwartz
Vivian Kramish...in memory of Minnie Bravman Raker
Steve and Ruth Lipson...Louis Rzepka, Frieda Rzepka, George Coleman
David McCue and Lori Lefcourt...in memory of Laurence Lefcourt
Norman Reich...in memory of Ellen Reich, Nathan Reich
John Roberts and Mimi Kramer-Roberts...in memory of Sylvia Kramer, Riva Kramer

Bob Wein...in memory of Ruth Irene Wein

NVHC General Fund

Marc and Desrene Freeman, Lynne Freeman, Sharon Howard...in memory of Steve Wein
Jon and Nikki Halterman-Mitchell...in thanks for the Chanukah parking lot service
Susan Jarolem...in memory of Evelyn Miller
Zohair Kahn
Daniel and Marcy Opstal...in memory of Selma Goldstone
Seymour Samuels...for outdoor AV equipment
Gregg and Anna Schoenfeld...in memory of Stanley Schoenfeld
Sam and Bonnie Shor...in memory of Matthew Brian Shor

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund – Rabbi Gold

Emily Boutilier...in gratitude, from the family of Ken Kaplan and Jean Gold

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund – Rabbi Holzman

Emily Boutilier...in gratitude, from the family of Ken Kaplan and Jean Gold
Henry and Cindy Brownstein...in memory of Rosalind Brownstein
Jill and Wayne Canastra...in memory of Estelle Roth
Alan Dappen and Sara Scherr...in memory of Steve Wein
Jason and Vera Feig...in memory of Stanley Feig
Ellen Goldman and Mitchell Robinson...in honor of Rabbi Holzman
Susan and Alan Hammer...in memory of Estelle Roth
Paul Hess and Geraldine Hess...in honor of Noah's Bar Mitzvah
Sharon Wein Howard and family...in memory of Steve Wein
Marjina Kaplan...in memory of Steve Wein
Ed and Michelle Kogan...in memory of Michael Kogan
Nancy and Helen Kruger...in memory of Gladys Ruth Dappen, Steve Wein
Andy and Elizabeth Lacher...in memory of Gladys Ruth Dappen, Steve Wein
Charles and Barbara Leven...in memory of Ida L. Leven, Alice B. Lembersky

William and Sherry Levitt...in memory of Gladys

Dappen

Michael and Debby Maxwell...in memory of Mauricio

Schpilberg and Susy Schpilberg

Robin Miller...in memory of Dennis Goldstein, Helen

Joffe, Roy I. Joffe

Tim and Kate Popov...in memory of Rivoltina Popova

Fredda and Paul Pribish...in memory of Morris

Sussman, Sally Sussman

Nevin and Louise Reynolds...in memory of Gladys

Ruth Dappen

Scott and Ann Rosenbloom

Mitch Roth...in thanks for the beautiful tribute to my

mother Estelle

Seymour Samuels...in memory of Leon Berg

Oliver and Joyce Schueftan...in memory of Rose

Schueftan

Sam and Lisa Schwall

Larry and Lisa Schwartz...in memory of Gladys

Dappen

David Selden and Julie Wallick...in memory of Steve

Wein

Larry Snowwhite...in memory of Minnie Farber

Andrew and Ellice Stern...in memory of Merwin

Rosenberg

Howard and Carolyn Wesoky...in memory of Deede

Snowwhite, for a speedy recovery of Seymour Samuels

Frank and Samantha Wiegand...in honor of Amy

Josefine Wiegand/Chana Aliza

Bob Wein...in memory of Gladys Ruth Dappen, Neil

Shilling, Gail Shandler,

Larry Gurst, Herman Stein, Teddy Stein

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund – Rabbi Wainer

Jeffrey and Tracy Dlott...in memory of Joseph Spiegel

Paul Hess and Geraldine Hess... in honor of Noah's

Bar Mitzvah

Tom and Sue Salen...in memory of Elaine K. Salen,

and in thanks to Rabbi Wainer for the graveside

service

Religious School Fund

Judy Naiman...in honor of Maya Booth's Bat Mitzvah

David and Caryn Saine...in honor of Eden Whalen's

Bat Mitzvah

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

Jon and Sharon Chiat...in honor of Carly Chiat

Seldon and Ruth Kruger Fund for Adult Learning

Adrian Caprio

Martin Gordon

Seymour Samuels...in memory of Leon Berg, in honor
of the people at NVHC who have enriched my life this
year

Marsha Sheinman...in memory of Jerry Pollock

Bob Wein...in memory of Seldon and Ruth Kruger

Doris Weisman...in memory of Burton Weisman

Tikkun Olam (Social Action)

Anonymous...in honor of Austin Green's Bar Mitzvah

David and Ellen Brewer...for the Hypothermia program

Don Copley...in memory of Leah Rubin

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

Dlott Family...in memory of Elaine Mothner, Robert

Mothner

Mort and Deborah Goldstorm...in memory of Marcella

Kuttin

Jon Groisser and Hana Newcomb...in memory of

Ruth Kruger and Seldon Kruger

Stephen and Louise Hershkowitz

Roy and Jean Horowitz...in memory of Anna Newman

Bob and Nina Kwartin...in memory of Saul Kwartin

Larry Liebert... in memory of Charles Liebert

Steve and Ruth Lipson...in memory of Deede

Snowwhite

Anne Rosenblum...in memory of Rae Krupnik

Oliver and Joyce Schueftan...in memory of William

Gasperow

Marsha Sheinman...in memory of Joseph Sheinman,

Sondra Brown-Blake, Ira Brown

Ted Smith...in memory of Stuart Smith

Laurence and Lauren Udoff

Mark and Nancy Weinstein...in memory of Melvin

Edinberg, Ann Weinstein

Doris Weisman...in memory of Burton Weisman

Speaker Series

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

Robert and Gail Dezube...in memory of Mitchell

Dezube

Michael and Carol Flicker...in honor of the B'not
Mitzvah of Millie and Michaela Rosen
Eric and Karen Forman...in memory of Murray Blume,
Ann Blume, Leon Forman, Ken Blume
Michael and Cheryl Gedzelman...in memory of Bert
Gedzelman, Mal Gedzelman
Martin Gordon
Carol Isaacs
Stephen Leeds
Burgess Levin and Mary Sally
Les and Marcia Platt...in memory of Benjamin
Berman
Norman Reich...in memory of Dorothy Reich
Jeffrey and Mary Ann Ressin
Ruth Ruttenberg...in memory of Beatrice Wechsler
Sy and Roberta Sherman...in honor of the B'not
Mitzvah of Millie and Michael Rosen
Marvin and Karen Singer...in memory of Miriam
Singer
Arnie and Natale Small...in memory of Gertrude
Goldberg, Sydney Small, Deede Snowwhite
Mark and Nancy Weinstein...in memory of Jeffrey
Edinburg
Don and Edna Weitzman
Sam and Evelyn Wilson...in memory of Milly Boehm

Torah Fund

Rabbi Rosalind Gold and Ted Smith...in honor of
Carola Seiz
Ted Smith...in memory of Ladislav Mares
Howard and Linda Perlstein...in appreciation of
Cantor Caro, Rabbi Holzman, Rabbi Wainer

Youth Group Fund

Isabel Einzig...in memory of Vicki DeGutz
Bruce, Mary and Kate York...in memory of Maggie
York

2020 Year End Giving

Anonymous
Robert and Sally Brodsky
Ed and Judy Cincinnati
Neil and Robin Cohen
Stephen and Sharron Cristofar
Scott and Jolie Deutschman

Eric and Bess Eisenstadt
Sue Fajer
David and Ruth Goldberger
Mark and Alyse Goldman
Stephen and Louise Hershkowitz
Jim and Michelle Kranzberg
Marty Lichtenstein
Sam Moyer and Nina Cavazos
Peggy Nelson
Brad Newberg and Lauren Fisher-Newberg
Connie Nystrom...in memory of Darrell G. Johnston
Robert and Meryl Paskow
Barry Pilson
Alan and Barbara Ratner
Tom and Sue Salen
Sam and Lisa Schwall
Marsha Sheinman...in memory of Deede Snowwhite
Phyllis Stein
Ted and Patricia Tinkelman
Nina Zaretsky...in memory of Eddie Zaretsky

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NVHC Sisterhood
Find our shop on the web at

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Upcoming Holidays

Pesach - March 27-April 3

Yom Ha'shoah - April 8

Yom Ha'zikaron - April 14

Yom Ha'atzmaut - April 15

Lag B'omer - April 30

Shavuot - May 17

Tikkun Leil Juneteenth - June 18