

Modim for Our NVHC Community

For the warmth of each soul belonging here:

With hearts full, *modim anachnu lach* we are thankful.

For meaningful ritual that speaks to each moment of our lives:

With hearts full, *modim anachnu lach* we are thankful.

For all the times when tears of joy and tears of sadness were embraced by another:

With hearts full, *modim anachnu lach* we are thankful.

For those who lead with their souls and those who meet them open and willing:

With hearts full, *modim anachnu lach* we are thankful.

For dedicated souls who never stop building to make this place the best it can be:

With hearts full, *modim anachnu lach* we are thankful.

For living a tradition that matters, never alone, always together:

With hearts full, *modim anachnu lach* we are thankful.

NVHC is where we each belong, find meaning, and live inspired by Jewish tradition:

With hearts full, *modim anachnu lach* we are thankful.

-Rabbi Ashley Barrett



Installation of NVHC Officers and Executive Board

CANTOR CARO:

Pirkei Avot teaches: 'All who labor for the community should labor with them for the sake of Heaven, for then the merit of the community's forebears will sustain them, and their goodness will endure forever. And as for you who labor thus, I regard you as deserving great reward, as though you had accomplished it all.' (*Pirkei Avot*, 2:2) The text then continues, '*Lo alecha ham'lacha ligmor*' – It is not upon you to complete the task, but neither are you free to desist from it. (*Pirkei Avot* 2.21) We express gratitude to all who take on the responsibilities of guiding this community, and we pray that you all continue to grow in leadership.

OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS:

We are grateful for the opportunity to have given our time and energy toward the work of this wonderful community. Our tradition teaches us that every action has importance; our work, our every deed is enveloped in sacred context. As Board members, we have grown closer to Torah, deepened our connections with each other and this community and contributed toward the repair of the world. We will continue that journey as members of this congregation in the years to come.

OUTGOING OFFICERS:

We have been honored by the confidence and trust you placed in us. It has been our privilege to serve each of you, to serve community and the Jewish people through this holy work. Our accomplishments are your accomplishments; with a mixture of humility, relief and gratitude, we pass this mantle of leadership to this next term of leaders chosen by and from among our community.

INCOMING BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS:

God of our Fathers and Mothers, guide us in our work for this community.

Inspire us to provide a vision, to elevate holiness in our work, and to never fail in promoting the values and traditions of Judaism.

Enable our ears to hear the voices with whom we agree and those with whom we disagree.

Open our eyes to see the obvious solutions to problems and the subtle possibilities as yet unconsidered.

Provide us with wisdom to make decisions on behalf of this community, and humility to always remember that we serve everyone.

Keep us from bias, pride, frustration and impatience.

And strengthen our ability to build up this sacred congregation,

 to enrich Judaism in the lives of our members

 to implant curiosity and confidence in our children

 to inspire greater service and commitment to Torah

 and to find ways of bringing holiness and healing to our world.

For all these things, O God, we humbly ask your blessing.

RABBI HOLZMAN:

You are charged to empower and draw forth the talents, insights, wisdom and experiences of our members. Let this community be so strong and positive that its influence, advocacy and sustenance make our tradition live for every Jew who hears our call, magnify our work in the surrounding community and elevate all who are touched by the hands and hearts of our people.

CONGREGATION:

Eternal God, may these new NVHC Board members and officers find strength and courage, determination, patience and joy in their Board service. May they carry with them a sense of perspective and a sense of humor. May they always find the sacred in the work in which they are about to engage, and may You inspire them with Your presence, Your compassion, and Your love.