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Annual Report

Dear Friends,

When we sit down to write the Annual Report, prior opening letters often serve as a guide. Afterall, weeks, months, and often years can meld together in such a way that no one time period is unique or distinguishable. That cannot be said for the past 12 months. The year included tragedy and hardship that we hope to never experience again. However, our most recent trip around the sun also included immeasurable amounts of kindness, dedication, and community. The quality and quantity of which is impossible to measure.

In a financial context, an annual report or investment offering may warn that "past performance is not indicative of future results." That is simply not the case regarding NSCI. We are taught to respect the past, our elders and traditions. We draw upon our individual and collective histories as a guide to overcome challenges, embrace opportunity and thereby, create new traditions for future generations.

We have built a foundation that allows NSCI to be here every moment of every day to be prepared to act and react for our fellow congregant and our community at any time. We strive to continue to serve as a center of spiritual and intellectual nourishment, a provider of care and support, a source for the restoration and repair of the world, no matter what challenges we face.

As you will see at the rear of this Bulletin/ Annual Report combination, NSCI remains strong—both financially and communally—demonstrating once again that the only way for us to move forward is together.

Affr D. At Wend Lefter

Jeff Echt President

Wendi Geffen Senior Rabbi

Todd Braman Executive Director

Treasurer's Report

BY MICHAEL D. WEXLER, **NSCI TREASURER**

THE STRENGTH of our congregation and our financial health is in our Jewish values supporting our community, the character of our congregants and our skilled and dedicated clergy and staff. That strength has been ever present since the beginning of our *Imagine* the Possible campaign—culminating in the last few weeks with mission accomplished. And, coincidentally, the completion of a successful financial review by our outside accounting firm reporting sound financial handling and a balanced budget this past fiscal year (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022).

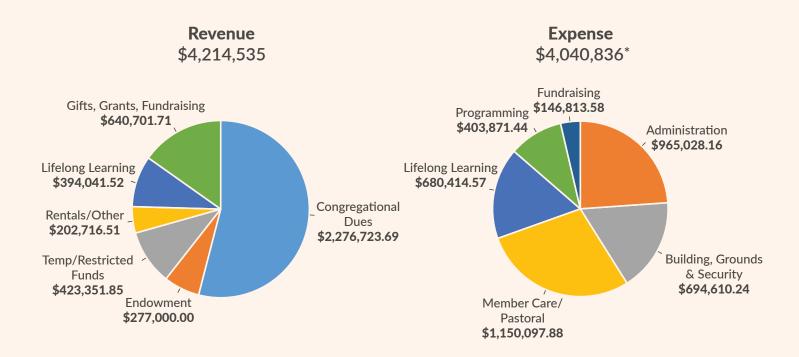
Importantly, as a result of our fiscal practices and the ITP Campaign, we can report that your Temple is debt free with a healthy Building Reserve and an Endowment that provides critical annual operating support.

While the successful completion of the Imagine the Possible campaign is thrilling, our work continues annually to support our budget through dues, our Annual Appeal, b'nai mitzvah fees, rental of space, contributions to a multitude of funds, and school tuition. Our clergy and staff support our congregation through careful planning and reasonable spending but rely on all of us for our generosity, participation, and prompt payment of dues. Your direct support

via dues, the Annual Appeal and other funds, is the primary driver of our budget and the delivery of all that we do. And while we meticulously manage our budget and scrutinize expenses, there is no substitute for your timely participation.

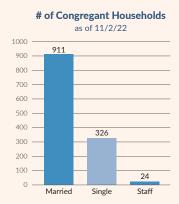
We continue to deliver our Temple experience in new and innovative ways. While this sometimes incurs additional expenses, we have also experienced growth in both our membership and our religious school, which helps bolster our operating revenue.

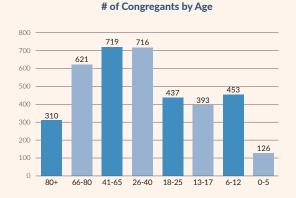
We are fiscally sound and excited for our future as we embark on bringing all of the Imagine the Possible projects to fruition. Thank you!

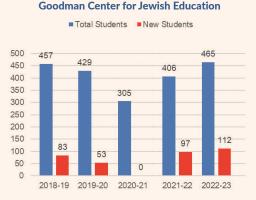


*An additional \$173,699 was spent on the purchase of equipment (fixed assets).

Number of Member Units Today: 1,261 Member Units Five Years Ago: 1,150







Building and Grounds Projects 2021–22

WE RECOGNIZE that our building and grounds require ongoing investment to maintain and modernize. We recently completed the following infrastructure repairs and upgrades. These were made possible by a variety of funding sources, including the Building Fund Assessments, Imagine the Possible campaign, and other contributions.

- Roof Repair/Recoat Repaired, power washed, and recoated existing 15,000 sq. ft foam roof on the Large Sanctuary. Extended the existing warranty for an additional 10 years.
- Large Sanctuary Façade Cleaning Power washed north and south walls of the sanctuary of accumulated biological buildup.
- Parking Lot Crack Seal/Recoat/Striping Sealed 3,500 sq. ft of asphalt cracking. Recoated 167,000 sq. ft of asphalt surfaces including driveways, and parking areas. Striped parking lots and driveways.
- Security Film Installed security film on windows in Arcade entryways.
- Tree Pruning Created "windows" to the lake by removing underbrush, dead limbs, and invasive plants along the East Ravine.



Sustaining Our Sacred Community

With one voice, we continue to ensure that NSCI will thrive, now and into the future.

Through the inspired financial support of our congregants and friends, NSCI has been able to provide the connection, support, and comfort needed in times of tremendous joy and deepest sadness.

Indeed, this year, your generosity and graciousness has proven yet again that "together" is the only way we stay strong as a community.

With Gratitude,

Onnie Scheyer

Vice President, Development

Imagine the Possible Campaign: Goal Met and Exceeded!

Because of you, what we originally only imagined will now be actualized! Not only are we standing on firm financial footing with no debt, a substantial Building Reserve, and an increased Endowment, but come Fall of 2023 we will walk into our building knowing we have at once created a more secure space, and at the very same time, more opportunity to come together communally with modern, flexible spaces that meet the needs of today and tomorrow.

We are deeply appreciative of the following donors to the Imagine the Possible Campaign (as of December 14).

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If you were among our contributors and your name is not listed here, or you would prefer to be listed differently, please email rutho@nsci.org with the correction or update. All names will be included on a permanent donor recognition piece.

Annual Appeal & General Fund Donors

Our deepest thanks to the following who made an investment in our community by contributing to the 2021–22 Annual Appeal and/or the NSCI General Fund. In addition to supporting our operations, your gifts helped ensure all who wished to participate at NSCI could do so, regardless of their financial circumstances. We are also grateful to those who've already contributed to this year's 2022–23 Annual Appeal or General Fund (listed next year).

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Thank you for helping the Goodman Center for Jewish Education retain its prominence as a learning program on the cutting edge in the Reform movement. Your kindness and ongoing support are appreciated. Student enrollment is at its highest level in years, and your contribution enables students from diverse economic circumstances and learning styles to receive a quality Jewish education.

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Update on Clergy Search at NSCI

BY JEFF ECHT. NSCI PRESIDENT



I AM PLEASED to announce that we are interviewing for a fourth clergy person. I have appointed a search committee to

work with Rabbi Wendi Geffen to find the very best person for this important moment in our congregation. The

committee, co-chaired by Rachel Stein and Jody Weinberg, represents the diversity of our congregation.

We are casting a broad net with the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Hebrew Union College. We are invested in exploring all of the options in order to find the right rabbi to complete our clergy team and best meet our congregational needs and vision. We hope to announce our

selection by the Spring.

As a reminder, Rabbi Daniels will continue at NSCI through the end of June 2023. Until that time, he will remain active and committed to our congregation, in the same warm, kind, and gifted fashion we have always experienced. We will have an opportunity to honor and celebrate Rabbi Daniels in the late Spring.

Safety and Security at NSCI

NORTH SHORE CONGREGATION

ISRAEL takes the safety and security of everyone who comes on to its property very seriously. Congregants are assessed a Safety and Security fee to ensure that NSCI has the highest level of protection at critical times throughout the year. We are proud to have assembled a team of highly trained, active-duty or retired police personnel as our security team. You see them during religious school, at worship services, and many programs throughout the year. Families having lifecycle events are charged a separate fee so that their family members and guests

receive the same level of protection while they are at NSCI. Our security team members are NSCI employees and have a personal and professional commitment to our community. Many have been with NSCI for over 10 years and know our members very well. This is a strategic advantage as they "have eyes on" the many people who come in and out of our building at any given time. Our security team, in cooperation with our partners at Glencoe Public Safety, provide the ongoing protection that our congregants expect.

MEET OUR SECURITY TEAM:



Ala



Bruce





Dan





Mazel Tov!

WELCOME!



Emme Faye Mehlman BORN JULY 30, 2022 Child of Lauren Cooper & David Mehlman Sibling of Sadie Cooper Grandchild of Cindy & Joel Cooper and Barbara & Mark Mehlman Great-grandchild of Marcia Cooper



Noa Paige Tolan BORN NOVEMBER 7, 2022 Child of Lori & Josh Tolan Sibling of Aidan Tolan Grandchild of Bonnie & Richard Tolan and Holly & Harold Great-grandchild of Arlene Harris

Logan James Linton BORN NOVEMBER 23, 2022 Child of Sophie & Trevor Linton Sibling of Amaya Grandchild of Pam & Larry Faulkner and Sheryl & Bob Linton Great-granchild of Valerie Whiteside.

We would love to share your good news! Is there a new baby or wedding in your family? Please email Susan Ellenby, susane@ nsci.org so that we can share your simchas/ celebration in an issue of The Bulletin.

B'NEI MITZVAH



Jax Breslow **JANUARY 14**



Maxwell Margolin **JANUARY 28**



Talia Margolin **JANUARY 28**



Hal Steinberg FEBRUARY 4

NEWLYWEDS



Shannon LeMajeur & Jordan Miller **OCTOBER 1, 2022**

Meggy McConkey & **Seth Yarkony OCTOBER 1. 2022**



Shelby Lewin & **Garrett Altman OCTOBER 15, 2022**



Abby Festenstein & Jamie Moore **OCTOBER 22, 2022**



Colette Adatto & Allan Safdie **OCTOBER 28, 2022**



Annie Mantynband & Luke McGuire **OCTOBER 29, 2022**



Jordan Brown & **Keith Schuman** OCTOBER 29, 2022



Ilana Lerman & **Justin Gutman NOVEMBER 6, 2022**

We Remember

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS ITS HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF:

Daniel Bauman

Father of Deborah (Neal) Wasserman and Jeffrey (Michele) Bauman Grandfather of Refael, Shaina, William, Benjamin, and Madeline Long-time partner of Sheryl Diller

Gary Blachman

Brother of Susan (Mark) Isaacson Uncle of Isabel and Aiden

Burton Chudacoff

Brother-in-law of Gary (Joyce) Stetson Uncle of Tracy Stetson and Joni (Alan) Meverowitz

Great Uncle of Alexie, Alyssa, Ainslie and Riley

Faith Finkle

Mother of Scott (Davida) Finkle. Sharon (Barry) Gurvitz, and Lisa Gutman Grandma of Joshua (Lonnie) Finkle, Jamie (Alison) Spinello, Abby Finkle, Sara (Richard) Brener, Jason Gurvitz, Alec Gutman, and Lucas Gutman Great-grandmother of Maya, Zoey, and

Fred Goldman

Reuben

Brother of Bruce (Janice) Goldman Uncle of Marissa Holtzleiter, Breanne Goldman and Kara Goldman (Hartley Nisenbaum)

Francis Gorski

Father of Bill (Michele) Gorski Grandfather of Rose and Drew

Joan Gudelsky

Aunt of Cantor David (Lauri) Goldstein Great-aunt of Rachel (Joe) and Max

Jean Isador

Mother of Lynn (Chuck) Friend and Donna (Tim) Mole

Grandmother of Eileen, Levi, David, Marc,

Great-grandmother of Zipporah, Rafi, and

Jav Levitt

Brother of Beth (Nate) Tross Uncle of Adam (Chloe) and Brian

James A. "Jim" Levy

Husband of Diane Levy Father of Mark (Lindsay), Tom (Jeannie), and Scott (Jody) Levy Grandfather of Rebecca, Emily, Joey, Morgan, Tori, Evans, Eliza, and Sam Great-grandfather of Miley

Joan Levy

Mother of Richard (Susan) Levy Grandmother of Andrew (Alison) and Diana

Jeanette Meyers

Mother of Steven (Tracey) Meyers Grandmother of Jeremy. Andrew and the late Matthew, z"l

Nina Persits

Grandmother of Lina (Mikhail) Ostrov Great-grandmother of Daniela and Ariela

Wayne Provus

Father of Jon (Abby) Provus Grandfather of Miles and Asher

Arthur Salk

Father of Bruce (Barbara) Salk Grandfather of Rachel (David), Allison and Natalie

Thelma Rochman

Grandmother of Brittany (Brad) Schecter

Chantha Kheam Thach

Sister of Hav Stone

Dr. Steven F. Yellen

Brother of Karen (Robert) Dillon Uncle of Molly Dillon and Joshua (Effie Seiberg) Dillon

WITH GRATITUDE

Noa, David, Talia and I are ever grateful for the myriad expressions of condolence as we mourned our mother/grandmother, Betty Greene. Your gracious acts, compassionate words and supportive presence have touched us more than you realize.

Thank you.

-Rabbi Lisa Greene, Noa, David & Talia Polish



ARE YOU PREPARED? Pre-arranging burial is part of sensible estate planning. As an NSCI congregant, you are entitled to purchase from a selection of burial spaces at Shalom Memorial Park at a substantial discount. If you are interested in planning ahead or learning more about the congregational plots, please contact Micah Singerman at Shalom Memorial Park at 847.255.3520. Be sure to mention that you are a congregant of NSCI.

Support

As a caring community, we strive to meet the growing needs of our NSCI family. Visit www.nsci.org/support for a full list of resources available to you.

HANDS OF CHESED, **NSCI'S CARING** COMMUNITY



Hands of Chesed is a team of NSCI congregant volunteers who bring kindness in the form of flowers, sweets,

groceries, dinner, smiles, written notes and warmth to fellow NSCI congregants who are amidst a tough time—such as illness, divorce, mourning or other challenges.

In the past year and a half, more than 250 acts of kindness have been performed by an incredible team in our NSCI community, Hands of Chesed.

Please join our team. You can bring kindness to others, making new and strengthening existing connections among members of NSCI and bridging the generations. You can also receive kindness. If we can help you with an act of kindness, please tell us that, too. We'd love to bring the warmth of our NSCI community to you.

If we can help you, or if you want to join our team to spread kindness, please tell us. And if you have questions, ask us! Hands of Chesed is led by Rosen-to contact Leslie: leslie.n.rosen@gmail.com or visit nsci.org/support

HEALING SERVICES WITH CANTOR GOLDSTEIN ON FACEBOOK

WEDNESDAYS, JANUARY 11 & 25 8:00 PM



Join Cantor Goldstein for a quiet and contemplative Healing Service. Whether seeking support in navigating the

circumstances in which we or our loved ones find themselves, together we can create a quiet, gentle time for prayer, meditation, and song that focuses on healing and wholeness.

Watch on Facebook (no account necessary): facebook.com/NSCIGlencoe

You can now submit a name to be included in the upcoming service. Submissions will be used as long as they have been received by 11:59 p.m. on the Tuesday (day) before the service. Submit: nsci.org/ form/healing-servicesubmissions

FREE COUNSELING SERVICES FOR NSCI **CONGREGANTS**

NSCI is partnering with Jewish Child and Family Services in the coming year. Elizabeth Ury, LNHA and JCFS Chicago Director of Jewish Community Engagement will be available to work with individuals who are looking for resources to help with life events such as divorce, aging issues, mental health and parenting.

Please email ElizabethUry@JCFS.org. This service is free to NSCI members Additionally, you can call 855-ASK-JCFS (855-275-5237) or email ask@jcfs.org to access their other available resources including online grief support groups, counseling, Response Center programs.

ADDICTION AND RECOVERY **SUPPORT GROUPS**

As a caring community, we strive to meet the growing needs of our NSCI Family.

Please visit our website for information on how to access the following support groups www.nsci.org/support.

- Alcoholics Anonymous Virtual and In-Person Meetings
- Al-Anon Electronic Meetings
- Alateen Chat Meetings
- Families Anonymous Virtual and In-Person Meetings
- JACS (Jewish Alcoholics, Chemically dependent, and Significant others) a peer-led support group for Jews in addiction recovery, offering space for all Jews in addiction recovery.

IF YOU'RE IN NEED OF SUPPORT. EMOTIONAL **OR TANGIBLE**

Please visit our website www.nsci.org/ support to learn about the various ways that we can assist you or your family and to request support. Your confidential information will go to the NSCI Clergy and we will follow up when appropriate.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS **MEETINGS**

WEDNESDAYS

6:00-7:00 PM AT NSCI

For information on Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meetings, contact Mark at 847.738.1919 or email mopeters21@gmail.com.

FAMILIES ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

TUESDAYS

7:00-8:30 PM AT NSCI

For family members impacted by a loved one's addiction.

For information on Families Anonymous (FA) meetings, contact Margot at 847.738.0306 or email mkpeters81@aol.com.

Did you know we have an archive of conversations on our Hub of Support page on our website?

Visit nsci.org/support to find conversations about:

- Balancing caring for elder family and self care
- Parenting during a pandemic
- Healthcare professionals on the frontlines
- NSCI/JUF communal resources for support to our congregants during the pandemic

Youth & Family Community

Goodman Center for Jewish Education is Booming!



THE POSITIVE ENERGY at the Goodman Center for Jewish Education on a Sunday morning would make anyone smile! We have students literally everywhere and lots of them. This year, so far, we have welcomed 112 new students from nearly 50 new NSCI families—for a total of 463 students. We are not just back to the year before COVID in terms of enrollment, we are back to more than five years ago!

While we are proud of these growing numbers, we work hard at personalizing the experience each student has at the

Goodman Center for Jewish Education. Thankfully, we have talented, creative. and personable teachers who work as a team along with our 80+ machoniks (teacher aides) and other staff members to motivate and engage our students in exploring Jewish life. We try our hardest to live up to our middle name: "flexible."

We are grateful to all NSCI families who share their enthusiasm for our program with their friends; it's why we are booming!

IMPORTANT GOODMAN CENTER FOR JEWISH EDUCATION RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DATES

SUNDAY, DEC. 25-JAN, 8:

No School

MONDAY, JAN. 16:

3rd-6th grade MLK Event

SUNDAY, JAN. 29:

Family Challah Bake

SUNDAY, FEB. 5:

2nd grade Tu B'Shevat Family Seder (online)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10:

3rd-4th grade Family Shabbat Experience

> SUNDAY, FEB. 19-TUESDAY, FEB. 21:

> > No School

SUNDAY, FEB. 26:

Purim Family Experience

FAMILY SHABBAT EXPERIENCE



FRIDAY, JANUARY 20 6:00-7:30 PM

All families with children in grades K-5 are invited to celebrate the end of the week with us—come as you are! 6:00 pm: Shabbat blessings. Begin all together with Shabbat candles and blessings over challah and juice. 6:15 pm: Separate activities for kids and adults. Kids enjoy pizza and fun activities with Andrea Dalinka. Adults join for drinks, apps and learning with Rabbi Daniels.

7:00 pm: Family Shabbat service. Return together for a brief musical Shabbat experience with Rabbi Daniels, Rabbi Geffen, and Alan Goodis.

Cost: \$36 per family includes dinner. Register: nsci.org/event/family-shabbatjanuary-2023.html

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS: ENDING THE SILENCE FOR 8TH-12TH GRADERS

MONDAY, JANUARY 23 6:00-7:30 PM

NAMI Ending the Silence teaches teens about the warning signs of mental health conditions and what steps to take if they or a loved one show symptoms of a mental health condition. This session is part of NSCI's monthly 'Dinner and Discussion' teen class with Rabbis Daniels and Greene and Ben Reingold.

To register, please email Jennifer McKeag at jenniferm@nsci.org.

KARAV 2023



Attention all NSCI teens! Karav is an annual, teen-planned, teen-run retreat for 8th-12th graders. Karav is a wonderful opportunity to relax, make new friends, and explore Judaism together. Karav 2023 will take place in May, but planning parties will begin in February.

Please contact Ben Reingold at benr@nsci.org if you'd like to be involved in Karav 2023.

Adult Learning & Programs

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

WEDNESDAYS, JANUARY 11-MAY 31 7:00 PM

Join Rabbi Daniels and clergy members from four nearby Reformed synagogues for this introduction to Jewish life; intended for anyone seeking a deeper understanding of Jewish history, prayers, holidays, as well as individuals and couples interested in exploring Jewish life and conversion.

RSVP to: bit.ly/3AlmspH

SENIOR CONNECTIONS

WEDNESDAYS, JANUARY 11 & **FEBRUARY 1**

1:00 PM ON ZOOM

Let's connect for lively conversation. camaraderie, and conversation.

Leah Polin presents... Great Jewish Families Who Built America. Since Jews historically have been prohibited from owning property, the opportunity to invest in real estate in the New World was a great achievement. We will look at a minyan of families responsible for the development of 10 major cities through the building of malls and megastructures.

There is no cost to attend this program but please register for the Zoom link at: nsci.org/form/nsci-senior-connectionsregistration-january-2023

GREATEST HITS OF THE TALMUD

WINTER SESSION: MONDAYS, JANUARY 23-MARCH 20 (NO CLASS FEBRUARY 20) SPRING SESSION: MONDAYS, APRIL 10-MAY 22

1:00-2:00 PM IN REBECCA K. **CROWN HALL**

Join Rabbi Geffen as we continue to explore some of the most well-known or important sugiyot (Talmudic discussions) scattered throughout a variety of Talmudic tractates. No experience necessary. Texts will be provided.

RSVP to: nsci.org/form/reatesthits ofthetalmudwintersession2023

CONTEMPORARY AND CLASSIC JEWISH STORIES WITH NEIL RIGLER

MONDAY NIGHTS: JANUARY 23, 30, FEBRUARY 6, 13, 27, & MARCH 6 7:00-8:30 PM ON ZOOM



We will read and discuss contemporary Jewish short stories for the first two sessions and then continue with a novel for the

following weeks. We'll choose the novel together during the second week from a series of options Neil will provide. Copies of the stories will be emailed before each session and read aloud that night. Please register to receive the Zoom link and class materials.

Register: nsci.org/form/contemporaryand-classic-jewish-stories

HOT TOPICS: WHAT DOES JUDAISM HAVE TO SAY ABOUT...

SUNDAYS, FEBRUARY 12, MARCH 19, **APRIL 16, & MAY 7**

9:00-10:30AM IN THE FAMILY ROOM

Join Rabbi Geffen to learn what Jewish wisdom has to say about the "hot topics" of our time. *These classes focus on the given week's hot topic through the lens of traditional Jewish texts (Torah, Talmud, Post-Halachic Literature and Commentaries.) The classes do not reflect any particular political point of view, nor is their intention to implicitly or explicitly endorse any particular political party or candidate in any way. As such, you may encounter viewpoints from Jewish tradition of which you were previously unaware and/or about which you may find personally challenging.

February 12—Reproductive Rights From a Jewish context, we will explore questions such as: When does life begin? Does a fetus have a status in Jewish law and thought? Should government have jurisdiction over bodily autonomy?

March 19—The Right to Bear Arms **April 16**—Freedom of Speech May 7—Gender Identity

Register: nsci.org/event/hot-topics-whatdoes-judaism-have-to-say-about-withrabbi-geffen.html

THE MINDFUL OR MINDLESS LIFE WITH RABBI GEFFEN

WEDNESDAYS, FEBRUARY 15, 22, & MARCH 1

7:00-8:00 PM ON ZOOM

Join Rabbi Geffen via Zoom in exploration of ancient Jewish spiritual teachings that can strengthen our capacity to live with awareness, generosity, and compassion even amidst the most uncertain of times.

RSVP to: nsci.org/form/the-mindful-ormindless-life-januaryfebruary-2023.html

CHURCHILL AND THE JEWS A Talk by Lee Pollack, Director of the International Churchill Society

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24 12:00-1:15 PM ON ZOOM



Winston Churchill is an icon of the 20th century. From his first election to Parliament in 1900 to his retirement as Prime

Minister in 1955, he towered over the world stage, influencing almost every significant issue of his time.

The arc of Churchill's career intersects with the most significant events in the history of the Jewish people: Zionism and the Balfour Declaration, the rise of Hitler and the catastrophe of the Holocaust, the creation of the State of Israel, and the lasting divisions that affect the Middle East today.

Join acclaimed historian and public speaker Lee Pollock as he explores how Churchill's relationship with the Jewish people helped to define his remarkable life and career, and how his decisions impacted their fate. NSCI congregant Michael Grant will help facilitate the conversation.

"No thoughtful man can doubt the fact that they (Jewish people) are, beyond all question, the most formidable and the most remarkable race which has ever appeared in the world." —Winston Churchill

Registration required: nsci.org/event/ churchill-and-the-jews-with-rabbi-geffenvia-zoom.html

Music

VIOLINS OF HOPE OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION, EXHIBIT, AND CONCERT

In partnership with JCC Chicago

THURSDAY. APRIL 20

RECEPTION BEGINS AT 5:45 PM AND CONCERT DOORS OPEN AT 6:50 PM

Join us for a special opening night performance featuring a private collection of Holocaust era instruments that have been lovingly restored and have been traveling the world. Through hands-on experiences of performance, learning about their unique stories, and thinking into the future with the powerful knowledge of the ability of the human spirit to overcome hate and evil, we aspire to make a difference for all who experience this amazing project.

For more information about the exhibition, concert, and to register for the evenings events please go to: iccvoh.eventive.org/ schedule/631906c0cd78020062 e179a9

NOV. 4 POST KABBALAT SHABBAT CONCERT



Marta Aznavoorian on piano and Alexander Hersch on cello. The November 4 concert. was a wonderful night of music and applause. We look forward to inviting these talented musicians back to perform in the new year. Marta Aznavoorian and Alexander Hersch are the featured performers from this post Kabbalat Shabbat concert.

HOLY CHANTERS

TUESDAYS, JANUARY 3, 17, & 31 12:00-1:00 PM ON ZOOM

Learn to chant with Cantor Goldstein on your lunch break! This session of Holy Chanters will focus on the cantillation of the sacred texts for the three festivals: Ecclesiastes (Sukkot), Song of Songs (Passover), and Ruth (Shavuot).

Register: nsci.org/form/holy-chanters

POST KABBALAT SHABBAT CONCERT FEATURING DUO MANTAR



FRIDAY, JANUARY 27 8:00 PM IN PERLMAN SANCTUARY

Join us for a musical evening featuring Duo Mantar, composed of two virtuosos—American classical guitarist, Adam Levin, and Israeli Mandolinist, Jacob Reuven. A light supper will be provided to those who attend the Kabbalat Shabbat service which begins at 6:15 pm. This free concert is generously sponsored by Jim Stone, Madeleine & Harvey Plonsker, and Bobby Takiff.

Register: nsci.org/form/post-kabbalatshabbat-concert-Jan2023

Tikkun Olam



THANK YOU. THANKSGIVING BASKETS **VOLUNTEERS!**

Thank you for participating in this year's Family to Family Thanksgiving Mitzvah Project, providing nearly 200 Thanksgiving meals to the families of Whittier Elementary School and helping to nurture NSCI's long standing relationship with our neighbors in Waukegan.

FEED THE HOMELESS

SUNDAYS, JANUARY 29 & FEBRUARY 12

11:30 AM-2:00 PM

For nearly three decades NSCI's Feed the Homeless program has helped to feed thousands of people around Chicago. Join us one Sunday a month to prepare 750 hot and brown-bag meals for food programs in Lake and Cook Counties.

RSVP to: www.signupgenius.com/ go/70a0448aaa928a02-feed1

BETH EMET SOUP KITCHEN WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Volunteer to provide meals to foodinsecure individuals at the Beth Emet Soup Kitchen in Evanston. You have the option to serve and

package meals onsite, or make and pack lunches or dessert at home and deliver them to the soup kitchen.

To sign up or ask questions go to nsci.org/ form/email-brooke-hazan.html to contact Brooke Hazan, our NSCI Beth Emet Soup Kitchen Liaison, or Rabbi Greene. Advance signup is necessary.

COLLECTING FOR THOSE IN NEED

While we host special in-kind collections during specific months throughout the year, we are always collecting toiletries for The Night Ministry, kosher non-perishable food for The Ark, and children's books, toys, and clothing for Cradles to Crayons.

Questions? Email Rabbi Daniels at rabbidaniels@nsci.org.

Women of NSCI

For more information or to register for an event, please go to www.nsci.org/wnsci. To contact us about any event information and/or registration, please email us at wnsci@nsci.org.



WOMEN'S RETREAT: A SPIRITUAL SHABBAT **GATHERING OF WOMEN**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24-**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

Our annual women's 'get-away' gathering is spiritual, reflective, and great fun! We create community in our 25-hour Shabbat gathering held at a local hotel. Watch for more information on our website and in the weekly email.

BOOK GROUP

TUESDAYS. JANUARY 10 & FEBRUARY 14

1:00-3:00 PM VIA ZOOM

January's book: The Choice: A Novel of Love, Faith and the Talmud by Maggie Anton.

February's book: Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens.

Join us as Judy Falk leads us in a discussion. Signed copy of the book available in the Gift Shop.

Contact us at wnsci@nsci.org to be added to the book club email contact list.

SHABBAT SCHMOOZE

FRIDAYS, JANUARY 20 & **FEBRUARY 17**

5:00-5:30 PM VIA ZOOM

Join us for a brief virtual get together prior to Shabbat services.

WNSCI GENERAL BOARD MEETING

SUNDAYS, JANUARY 8 & FEBRUARY 12

9:00-10:00 AM VIA ZOOM DURING WINTER MONTHS

If you would like to attend, please RSVP to wnsci@nsci.org to receive the Zoom link.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

WEDNESDAYS, JANUARY 11 & **FEBRUARY 8**

7:30-8:30 PM VIA ZOOM

January: Health in the New Year, Join us for a conversation on positivity and motivation with author, Leslie Levine

February: Baking with Bernice, Join us as Bernice Porrazzo teaches us to make Double Chocolate Decadence Biscotti

To RSVP please email wnsci@nsci.org.

NIGHT OUT

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26 6:00 PM AT A LOCAL RESTAURANT

Join us for good food and great connections.

Brotherhood





This past month the Brotherhood at NSCI hosted an amazing American bourbon whiskey tasting on December 1. Rabbi Drew Kaplan, a noted authority on the subject, gave a wonderful presentation on Jews in the Liquor Industry in America. Thank you to the fifty plus members that attended the event. There will be more Brotherhood events to come, so stay tuned!

The Ruthie & Bill Katz Archives

A Look at Rabbi Wendi Geffen's Journey

BY ELLEN (KATZ) BLOCK

AT THE ANNUAL "Ask the Clergy" session during Friday night services on December 31, Rabbi Wendi Geffen and Cantor David Goldstein, who were officiating, were asked: "At what age did you decide to become a rabbi/cantor? What were the influences that led you to your decision?" Rabbi Geffen answered first, and it is her response, to be followed in subsequent articles by that of our other clergy, that we present here.

Rabbi Geffen grew up as an only child in Dallas in what she describes as a "more traditional" Jewish home. Her father's family was Orthodox and her mother's family was classical Reform. The synagogue in which she spent her childhood was Jewishly observant but egalitarian so that all males and females had the same opportunities. Jeffrey Zeffren was Rabbi Geffen's Bat Mitzvah tutor and had a major influence on her early training. She led her entire Bat Mitzvah service and discovered a joy for leading others. After her Bat Mitzvah, her parents agreed to join the still-renowned Temple Emanu-El, the first Reform synagogue in North Texas, and the largest synagogue in the South/Southwest.

"I decide to be a rabbi every morning." This is an important concept and speaks of being a rabbi as an active, ongoing, revelatory process in which she stays engaged.

It was at Temple Emanu-El that a teenage Geffen met Rabbi David Stern. the Assistant Rabbi (now Senior Rabbi) who, at that time, worked with the temple's youth. She describes him as her most important mentor because he was able to model the kind of rabbi she yearned to be. He was accessible, knowledgeable, moral, compassionate, and a real down-to-earth human being. During this time, Hebrew Union College sponsored conferences—retreats of a sort—to which each synagogue could send potential Jewish leaders who they thought might be interested in becoming rabbis. Participants attended classes, met with rabbinical students, and gained a sense of what a rabbinical career would be like. Wendi and another young woman were chosen to go from Temple Emanu-El. Subsequently, both became rabbis.

Geffen majored in both political science and Judaic studies at Emory University. She was equally interested in pursuing both career paths and applied to both law school and rabbinical school. When it came down to deciding, she literally flipped a coin. Heads, rabbinical school, landed face up, a boon for all of us at NSCI. Her family supported her decision, as they always have.

Rabbi Geffen says, "I decide to be a rabbi every morning." This is a most important concept and speaks of being a rabbi as an active, ongoing, revelatory process in which she stays engaged. She is exceedingly pleased to have had her career in one synagogue which has allowed her to grow and be truly an integral part of a community, and she is "ever grateful" that NSCI has a nearly complete absence of the internal conflicts which often beset so many other synagogues. She is extremely appreciative of her fellow clergy and staff



team who not only respect and support one another professionally, but are also there to center one another and provide genuine friendships.

When asked what is hardest for her in being a rabbi, Rabbi Geffen responded that staying rooted during tough times is very difficult. On the other side of that dichotomy, however, are the joyous moments where she might be naming the baby of a couple whom she married, maybe even having known at least one of them from their childhood and B'nei Mitzvah.

We are grateful for Rabbi Geffen's intellectual curiosity and quest for further learning. We greatly appreciate her understanding not only of Jewish text but also her talent for relating those texts to daily life. She says she learned how to be a good teacher from her mother, also a teacher, and who, like the strong mothers of so many of us, continues to be an immense influence in her life.

January 2023 • Tevet/Sh'vat 5783

S	М	т	W	т	F	S
1 Happy New Year	2 Building Closed	3 12 pm Holy Chanters via Zoom 7 pm FA meeting	4 6 pm AA meeting 7 pm Kol Zimrah Rehearsal	5 1 pm WNSCI Mahjong Game	6 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	9:30 am Interactive Torah Study 10:15 am Saturday morning Minyan Service
8 No School - Winter Break 9 am WNSCI General Board Meeting	9 6:30 pm Adult B'nei Mitzvah 7 pm Shir Chadash Rehearsal	10 1 pm WNSCI Book Group 7 pm FA Meeting	11 1 pm Senior Connections 6 pm AA Meeting 7 pm Kol Zimrah Rehearsal 7:30 pm WNSCI Coffee & Conversation 8 pm Healing Service via Facebook	12 1 pm WNSCI Mahjong Game	13 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	9:30 am Interactive Torah Study 10:15 am Saturday morning Minyan Service
15	16 9 am MLK Youth Group Program	17 12 pm Holy Chanters via Zoom 7 pm FA Meeting	18 6 pm AA Meeting 7 pm Kol Zimrah Rehearsal	19 1 pm WNSCI Mahjong Game	20 5 pm Selah Rehearsal 5 pm Shir Chadash Rehearsal 5 pm WNSCI Shabbat Shmooze 6 pm Family Shabbat Experience 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	9:30 am Interactive Torah Study 10:15 am Saturday morning Minyan Service
22	23 1 pm Greatest Hits of the Talmud with Rabbi Geffen 6:30 pm Adult B'nei Mitzvah 7 pm Contemporary and Classic Jewish Stories with Neil Rigler	24 12 pm Churchill and the Jews via Zoom with Rabbi Geffen 7 pm FA Meeting	25 6 pm AA Meeting 7 pm Kol Zimrah Rehearsal 8 pm Healing service on Facebook	26 1 pm WNSCI Mahjong Game 6 pm WNSCI Night Out	27 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service 8 pm Post Kabbalat Shabbat Concert	28 9:30 am Interactive Torah Study 10:15 am Saturday morning Minyan Service
29 11:30 am Feed the Homeless	30 1 pm Greatest Hits of the Talmud with Rabbi Geffen 6:30 pm Adult B'nei Mitzvah 7 pm Contemporary and Classic Jewish Stories with Neil Rigler	31 12 pm Holy Chanters via Zoom 7 pm FA Meeting				

February 2023 • Sh'vat/Adar 5783

S	М	т	W	т	F	S
			1 1 pm Senior Connections 6 pm AA Meeting 7 pm Kol Zimrah Rehearsal	2 1 pm WNSCI Mahjong Game	3 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	9:30 am Interactive Torah Study 10:15 am Saturday morning Minyan Service
5	6 Tu Bishvat 1 pm Greatest Hits of the Talmud with Rabbi Geffen 6:30 pm Adult B'nei Mitzvah 7 pm Contemporary and Classic Jewish Stories with Neil Rigler	7 pm FA Meeting	8 6 pm AA Meeting 7 pm Kol Zimrah Rehearsal 7:30 pm WNSCI Baking with Bernice	9 1 pm WNSCI Mahjong Game	10 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	9:30 am Interactive Torah Study 10:15 am Saturday morning Minyan Service 11 am TOT Shabbat
12 9 am WNSCI General Board Meeting 9 am Hot Topics: What Does Judaism Have to Say About with Rabbi Geffen 11:30 am Feed the Homeless	13 1 pm Greatest Hits of the Talmud with Rabbi Geffen 6:30 pm Adult B'nei Mitzvah 7 pm Contemporary and Classic Jewish Stories with Neil Rigler	14 1 pm WNSCI Book Group 7 pm FA Meeting	15 6 pm AA Meeting 7 pm Kol Zimrah Rehearsal 7 pm The Mindful or Mindless Life with Rabbi Geffen via Zoom	16 1 pm WNSCI Mahjong Game	17 5 pm WNSCI Shabbat Shmooze 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	18 9:30 am Interactive Torah Study 10:15 am Saturday morning Minyan Service
19	20	21 7 pm FA Meeting	22 4 pm Beth Emet Soup Kitchen Volunteering 6 pm AA Meeting 7 pm Kol Zimrah Rehearsal 7 pm The Mindful or Mindless Life with Rabbi Geffen via Zoom	23 1 pm WNSCI Mahjong Game	24 5 pm WNSCI Retreat Dinner and Program 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	25 WNSCI Retreat 9:30 am Interactive Torah Study 10:15 am Saturday morning Minyan Service
26 11 am The Purim Family Experience	27 1 pm Greatest Hits of the Talmud with Rabbi Geffen 6:30 pm Adult B'nei Mitzvah 7 pm Contemporary and Classic Jewish Stories with Neil Rigler	28 7 pm FA Meeting				



1185 SHERIDAN ROAD GLENCOE, ILLINOIS 60022

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IN CASE OF AN AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCY—

death of a loved one, unexpected hospitalization or accident—please call the synagogue office at 847.835.0724 and follow the prompts for an emergency. One of our staff will call you back as soon as possible.

BIKUR CHOLIM (VISITING THE SICK)

In an effort to fulfill the mitzvah, Bikur Cholim (visiting the sick), our rabbis and cantor visit members who are hospitalized in the metropolitan area. This has become increasingly difficult, as hospitals cannot contact synagogues or churches when members are hospitalized.

Please feel free to call the synagogue office at 847.835.0724 to advise the rabbis and cantor when you, a relative or a friend is hospitalized in any hospital in the metropolitan area. In doing so, you will become a partner in the mitzvah of Bikur Cholim.

Spring Mitzvah Fair

In honor of Rabbi Ryan Daniels' service to North Shore Congregation Israel

SAVE THE DATE SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

ACT JUSTLY. LOVE MERCY. WALK HUMBLY.

MICAH 6:8

An all-ages event featuring hands-on activities, guest speakers, and opportunities to make a real difference in our community.