

NORTH SHORE
CONGREGATION
ISRAEL

The Bulletin

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Again, For The First Time

BY RABBI WENDI GEFFEN page 3

"Let's commit together to ensure that we do not waste the opportunity that comes with, what we pray, will be a once in a lifetime gift."

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Mimi Horowitz
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Again, For The First Time

BY RABBI WENDI GEFFEN



IN EARLY 2021, futurist and innovation professor Robert Wolcott wrote an intriguing *Forbes Magazine*

article entitled “The Great Unwinding.” Inviting consideration of our response to the pandemic’s end, Wolcott posited: “Few notice that in 2021, we’ll experience the *last first re-opening* after a pandemic of our lifetimes. Sure, we might suffer future contagions, but this year’s will be the only *first* reopening we will endure... Like tight-coiled springs, our reopening lives will unleash colossal potential energy.”

Over the last few months, I have felt that energy building. Perhaps you have as well. With the news of more widespread vaccination rates, much of “normal life” that seemed so far away in 2020 now seems not only possible, but moreover, even likely. But this begs a few key questions: how and where will we channel that “colossal potential energy?” Will we strive as hard as we can to return back to everything that was “before?” Or might we seek to create something better?

Consider this powerful story from the Talmud, written as testimony from the ancient rabbis’ own experiences of a great unwinding, as it were, after the destruction of the Temple. That event represented both the greatest single destruction in all of Jewish history, but at the very same time it served as the catalyst for the paradigm transformation of Jewish living into the system that has governed all of Jewish life for the past 2000 years. In the story, Rabban Gamliel describes standing on the deck of a ship and seeing a nearby ship crash and break apart, casting overboard the one and only Rabbi Akiva.

But when Gamliel disembarks at the port, he is shocked to see Rabbi Akiva, who sits down next to him and begins a typical rabbinic conversation of how to live Jewishly. Rabban Gamliel asks Akiva how he possibly could have survived after being thrown into the watery deep? To which Rabbi Akiva replies: “I held on to a plank from the boat, and I bent my head toward each and every wave that came toward me until I reached the shore.” (Yevamot 121a)

It’s a metaphor of course. Rabbi Akiva’s boat represents the Temple, the world of “before,” now destroyed—thus the shipwreck. The waves in the water—the new currents of life, the forces at play in the world. It’s interesting to see that in order to survive, Rabbi Akiva doesn’t swim back to the shipwreck and hold on for dear life until someone comes to rescue him. Instead, he survives by holding on to just a piece from it, just enough of “what was” to keep him afloat. Note, too, that Akiva doesn’t fight against the waves in the water, but instead bows his head towards them. It is the currents of those very waves that bring him on his plank, to shore. Combining the retention of just a part of the past, applied to the current of the new day, enables Akiva not only to survive, but also to continue to fulfill his mission.

Akiva’s choices can offer us a profound framework for determining what our commitments and approaches should be once we are able to step onto the shores of the post-COVID world, and like Akiva, we can begin to make those decisions now, while still floating amidst the sea. Consider four key questions:

1. What ship will we leave behind?
2. What plank will we hold on to?
3. What waves will we bend into for the sake of reaching the shore?
4. Once safely on shore, what higher or larger purpose will we commit ourselves to serve?

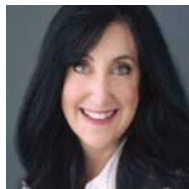
How and where will we channel that “colossal potential energy?” Will we strive as hard as we can to return back to everything that was “before?” Or might we seek to create something better?

In truth, we are all Akiva. We have, so far, survived. As such, each of us has the opportunity to use the gift of living through this time as a catalyst for personal recalibration. The power of default, of what always has been, is incredibly strong, with a gravitational force of its own. If we do not apply a different force, make no mistake, we will simply return to “business as usual.”

- How soon will we forget that the essential workers all around us literally make our survival possible and fall back into the sleepy entitlement that allows us to see them as cogs in a wheel?
- How soon will our amnesia about the blessing of human touch or gathering set in, that we’ll give in to the power of so-called convenience that otherwise governs our lives?
- How soon will we lose sight of the blessing of discernment between what really matters and what does not, giving ourselves over to the habits of consumption and excess that we mistakenly believe will fill us up, but in truth never really satisfy?

Sooner or later, each of us will get the chance to do everything we used to do, again, for the first time. Let’s commit together to ensure that we do not waste the opportunity that comes with, what we pray, will be a once in a lifetime gift. ■

President's Letter



DEAR FRIENDS,

An old joke: Aboard an airplane in a bad storm, the pilot asked the passengers if a priest, minister, or rabbi were among them. "No." The pilot asks, "Is anyone with any religious affiliation on this aircraft?" A synagogue president spoke up. "Please do something," the pilot pleaded. So, the president took up a collection.

We have "weathered a number of storms" and found some brighter horizons. The onset of the pandemic was a test of planning and good faith with so many uncertainties and concerns for the welfare of each of you and our congregation as an institution. I have to say, with no road map, my mind raced—Would our congregants stick with us, would we have the revenue we need to operate, and how could we continue to serve and meet needs regardless of any of those unknowns and how they played out—and without the ability to gather in person, no less? I am inspired and grateful that so many of you rose to the occasion to help others in need, volunteered, attended online, made dues commitments, and donated to the Annual Appeal. NSCI is stronger and poised for the next new era of what the post-pandemic time may bring. And, this is also largely due to the clergy's extraordinary commitment and willingness to invent, serve, and rise above. The same is so for

our other Senior Staff, our administrative team, and board members. It doesn't get better than that. Tough times reveal the true nature of people and organizations.

My primary goal from the beginning of my term was to further our strategic directions and especially improve our financial position. The dedication and hard work of so many and the incredible generosity of our early donors to *Imagine the Possible: The Campaign for our Centennial* has completed our first campaign milestone: NSCI is currently free of debt and has a substantial building reserve to proactively maintain our iconic, stunning building. I look forward to finishing our campaign and achieving our remaining goals. This will occur in the context of a new strategic vision for NSCI that includes re-imagining how we engage—youth, families, and adults of all ages; and an innovative model for affiliation and revenue.

Pausing the *Imagine the Possible* campaign for a year, gave us the opportunity to reconsider and take in some new emerging trends. How can we bring security to its highest level and still create an engagement space for daily, casual gathering? Is there a more efficient, sustainable way to get there? Can we do that without changing the footprint of our building? In place of expanding the long arcade, we will renovate and repurpose Frank Memorial Hall as a flexible space—a lobby for welcoming and a place to socialize.

When needed, this social hall will still function as an expansion to the Large Sanctuary. As originally planned, we will renovate and expand the office suite and create a secured main entrance portal. Our donors are supportive and enthusiastic about this shift as well. Our fundraising goals remain the same and include repairing and refreshing Rebecca K. Crown Social Hall and growing the NSCI endowment. We are bringing the campaign to you, the entire congregation, for your participation to make all that is imagined, possible.

As my term as president concludes, I am reflecting on the pleasure and privilege of leading our Board of Trustees and being involved in the business of the synagogue. I really enjoy the multi-faceted work and striving to improve and be ahead of the curve—never a dull moment. That has been the signature of NSCI for 100 years. I am delighted to be passing the baton to Jeff Echt who I know will boldly lead NSCI. I look forward to participating—perhaps in new ways and enjoying our community and all that it has to offer.

With Gratitude,

Marilyn Perlman
president@nsci.org

Mission Moment

Reflections on the Seasons of the Pandemic

BY IRENE ROSENFELD

NSCI HAS BEEN an integral part of our lives for over 20 years, so when we began quarantining and our temple activities came to a halt, we really felt the disruption in our spiritual and social lives!

In the beginning, it was fun to tune into Friday night streamed services

(occasionally on a time shift). We loved watching the many families who led Zoom Havdalah each week and it became one of our first pandemic rituals. In fact it was a special treat (albeit a bit nerve-racking), to play the piano accompaniment for my daughter Allison, when she and her family were the leaders. Our first Zoom Passover was a



Irene with Allison, Adam and Zachary Schanfield (daughter, son-in-law and grandson)

bit of an adventure, and I remember with great confidence promising one another that we would be together again “next year in Jerusalem.” How wrong we were!

I didn’t fully realize how much we missed our NSCI family until we attended our first parking lot Shabbat. I was almost brought to tears when we were handed our mini challah through the car window by so many familiar but masked faces.

Fast forward to the High Holy Days, when I confess it felt decadent (but very comfortable) to attend services in casual clothes, while sitting in our family room. The parking lot Shofar sounding, which could be heard throughout the community, truly brought home the meaning of that ancient call to worship.

Although we were not happy to experience our second year of “Seder by Zoom,” we enjoyed participating in some

of the preparatory events. I picked up some new ideas, like passing the afikomen from one Zoom window to another, reflecting on the “New 4 Questions” and thinking about the “Dayenu” moments of the past year. These have led to some fascinating conversations with Jewish and non-Jewish friends alike.

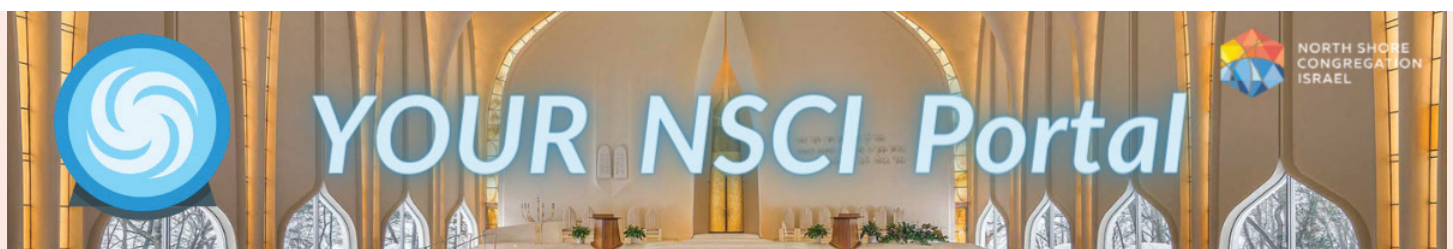
The congregational Seder was wonderful, and not only provided a helpful structure for our family, but also taught us some new things, like the fact that broccoli can serve as the karpas. (I always thought eating parsley was part of experiencing the misery of our ancestors!)

We have enjoyed new events like “Clergy in Conversation” and Cantor Goldstein’s healing service. We have been so grateful for, and inspired by, the creativity and ingenuity of our clergy throughout this pandemic.

NSCI’s ongoing outreach has enabled us to stay connected, keep our perspective and, indeed, thrive during these most challenging times.

But nowhere was the skill of our clergy more evident than when, just last week, my husband Richard suffered the loss of a cherished family member. Rabbi Geffen was incredible, as she deftly and remotely led Richard and the other mourners who were located from Chicago to Florida to Israel, through each step of the process. From planning to funeral to burial, all on Zoom, she provided logistical advice, wisdom and enormous comfort, all with remarkable intimacy.

We are optimistic about the future, and can’t wait to be back together again soon with our NSCI family. Ken Y’hi Ratzon—may it be God’s will. ■



Introducing the NSCI Congregant Directory!

WE UNDERSTAND that part of the reason you’re in our synagogue community is so you can get to know one another and develop relationships. That’s why we’re excited to introduce our new **NSCI Congregant Directory!**

This is a safe, password-protected, congregant-only directory to help create those connections.

Through this system, you’ll be able to opt in with the contact information of your choosing and view other congregants’ info as well, so anytime you want to send a card, go for a walk, or grab a cup of coffee with a fellow congregant, you can quickly and easily look them up in your NSCI Directory. It’s just another congregant perk!

It’s really important that you respond so we know you’re interested. Join hundreds of your fellow congregants who have already added said “count me in.” Only those who opt in will be listed

in our directory. Please visit nsci.org/form/congregant-directory-opt-in.html to fill out a simple form to share what information you’d like included in the directory.

If you have any questions, please email lizm@nsci.org or call the office during office hours (Mon.–Thurs. 9–5; Fri. 9–4) at 847-835-0724.

To access the Directory, you must be logged into your NSCI account.

Did you know you have the ability to manage your whole NSCI membership profile from your device? Logging in enables you to:

- Register for events quickly (your information will automatically be entered)
- Update your contact information, birthdays, family information, and more
- Manage your subscriptions
- Manage Yahrzeit information

- View school enrollment
- Make donations and/or pay bills quickly and easily
- Register/pay at any time, not just during office hours
- Option to log in with Google (after connecting your Google account in 2 clicks)
- And view the congregant directory (and manage your family’s entry)

Visit nsci.org/howtologintonsci for resources (including a video tutorial) on how to log on to your NSCI account using your preferred device.

You can also opt into the directory yourself by logging into your account. Just go to our homepage nsci.org and click the Login button in the upper right corner (if you’ve forgotten your info, and you can click the Forgot Password button to have a reset link emailed to you). ■

Mazel Tov!

WELCOME!



Maya Ruth LG Abrams

BORN ON JANUARY 7, 2021

Child of Gabi & Josh Abrams
Grandchild of Wendy & Steve Abrams and
Marenete Lopes
Great grandchild of Joan Chukerman,
Sharon & Bob Abrams, Jeanette de
Magalhaes Gomes



Brody Meyer Wolfe

BORN ON MARCH 6, 2021

Child of Brittany & Drew Wolfe
Sibling of Asher Wolfe
Grandchild of Carol & Abbott Wolfe and
Hope & Jory Gruenberg
Great Grandchild of Arlene Wolfe and
Noreen & Howard Feffer



Gia Dylan Marcus

BORN ON MARCH 30, 2021

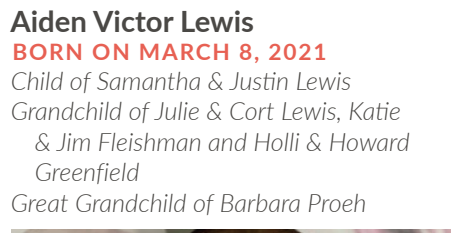
Child of Casey & Morgan Marcus
Grandchild of Jacqueline Brasnick Marcus &
Harvey Marcus



Mason Bennett Patzik

BORN FEBRUARY 23, 2021

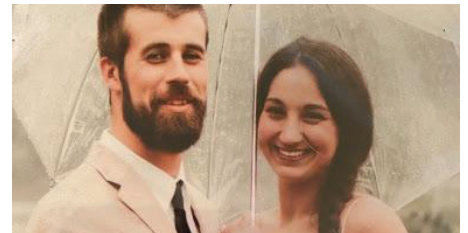
Child of Emily & Benji Patzik
Sibling of Stella Patzik
Grandchild of Josi & Rick Rein



Aiden Victor Lewis

BORN ON MARCH 8, 2021

Child of Samantha & Justin Lewis
Grandchild of Julie & Cort Lewis, Katie
& Jim Fleishman and Holli & Howard
Greenfield
Great Grandchild of Barbara Proeh



Laura Klein & Alex Slinker

MARRIED ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2020



Joseph William Moss

BORN ON FEBRUARY 24, 2021

Child of Michelle & Brian Moss
Sibling of Alana Beverly
Grandchild of Jill & Robert Moss and
Donna & Don Catanese
Great Grandchild of June Moss



Lilou Ruth Shersher

BORN ON MARCH 10, 2021

Child of Jenna & David Shersher
Sibling of Noa
Grandchild of Andy & Eddie Benn and Anna
& Igor Shersher



Olivia Wax & David Lewin

MARRIED ON MAY 1, 2021

Joseph William Moss

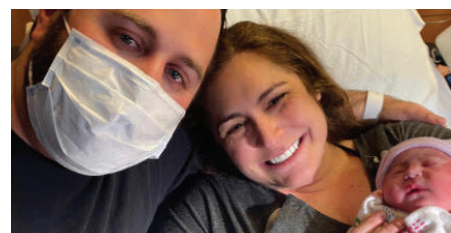
BORN ON FEBRUARY 24, 2021

Child of Michelle & Brian Moss
Sibling of Alana Beverly
Grandchild of Jill & Robert Moss and
Donna & Don Catanese
Great Grandchild of June Moss

Elle Fanny Cooper

BORN ON FEBRUARY 26, 2021

Child of Amy & Benjamin Cooper
Sibling of Mae Rose Cooper
Grandchild of Cindy & Joel Cooper and
Susan & Fred Rabinowitz
Great grandchild of Marcia Cooper



Hailey Evelyn Helfand

BORN ON MARCH 23, 2021

Child of Laura & Noah Helfand
Grandchild of Alison & Joe Yastrow,
Adrienne Sohn Helfand and Anna & Joel
Helfand

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



Maya Fern
MAY 1



Ari Rosen
MAY 8



Andrew Schneiderman
MAY 8



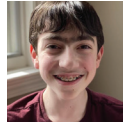
Alexa Rabin
MAY 13



Lindsey Drake
MAY 15



Adam Kahn
MAY 15



Eli Levin
MAY 15

Nora Gladstone
MAY 22



Asher Blitz
JUNE 3

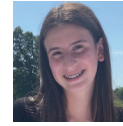


Madeline Kashy
JUNE 5

Riley Meyerowitz
JUNE 5



Bella Brecker
JUNE 12



Sophie Romick
JUNE 12



Rachel Bass
JUNE 17



Henry Scher
JUNE 19



Sam Tolpin
JUNE 19



Ari Rubenstein
JUNE 21



Lyla Brookstein
JUNE 26

We Remember

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS ITS HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF:

Jeanne Chemers

Cherished kin of Richard Illgen

Mona A. Coleman

*Mother of Wendy (Jim Terman) Coleman
Grandmother of Ada and Neeve*

Darrell W. Farley

*Husband of Martha Herzog
Father of Georgia Eve Herzog Farley*

Frank W. Fitch, M.D., Ph.D.

*Father of Peggy (Jonathan) Rubenstein
Grandfather of Emily (Eric) Dropkin,
Daniel (Emily Rus) Rubenstein,
and Benjamin Rubenstein*

Nora Goldner

*Grandmother of Rachel (Mark) Stein
Great Grandmother of Adam and Jordan*

Sheryl Harris

*Mother of Stacy (Brian) Rothman
Grandmother of Brett, Natalie, and Eliza*

Barbara Herst

*Mother of John (Carisa Marie) Strauss and
Patricia (David) Strauss Casden
Stepmother of Bruce (Jodi) Herst, Jan Cowan
Phillipsborn, and Judy (Marty) Cooper*

*Grandmother of three granddaughters and
nine step-grandchildren
Great grandmother to six step-great
grandchildren*

Janet Hyman

*Sister-in-law of Burton (Renee) Field
Aunt of Jim (Shari) Field
Great Aunt of Rebecca, Stephanie,
and Sydney*

Harriet Isaacson

*Mother of Sam (Nancy) Isaacson
Grandmother of Amy Beth*

Jean Letavay

*Mother of Margie (Dennis) Goldman
Grandmother of Lindsay and Alex*

Myrna Lovi

*Aunt of Tracy Hartlieb and
Jackie (Bruce) Sundheim
Great Aunt of Rebecca Hartlieb and
Leah Sundheim*

Helene B. Rowe

*Mother of Nick Rowe (Beth Jastromb)
Grandmother of Corey and Lucy*

Bill Schwartz

*Father of Julie (Jeff) Heller
Grandfather of Zoe and Chase*

Merle Wasserman

*Mother of Neal (Debbie) Wasserman
Grandmother of Refael and Shaina*

Edward S. Weil Jr.

*Father of Ed (Karen) Weil
Grandfather of Charlie and Rachel*

Alec Zachary Wise

*Son of Lyn & Robert Wise
Brother of Jake and Jeremy
Nephew of Amy & Richard Wise*

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 847.255.3520.

North Shore Congregation Israel invites you to our

Annual Meeting

FRIDAY, JUNE 11

5:15 PM ANNUAL MEETING

Please join us as we vote in the 2021–2022 Officers & Trustees

6:15 PM KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE

We will install our new board and bless them as they take on a new year of service

NSCI's Kehilah Award will be presented to
Andy Absler, Lois Davis, Michele Gorski, Gary Noskin, M.D., Jennifer Quinn

To join the meeting, visit nsci.org/streaming

NSCI Board of Trustees 2021–2022 Nominating Slate

OFFICERS

Jeffrey Echt*+
President (2021–2024)
Susan Longo+
Vice President (2021–2023)
Alan Rottman
Vice President (2020–2022)

Onnie Scheyer
Vice President (2020–2022)
Dean Weinberg
Vice President (2020–2023)
Jim Woldenberg+
Vice President (2021–2023)

Taryn Kessel*
Vice President YFCC (2021–2023)
Michael Wexler*
Treasurer (2021–2023)
Pamela Faulkner
Secretary (2020–2022)

TRUSTEES

Robert Dillon** (2021–2023)
Larry Gerber* (2021–2023)
Jamie Greenebaum* (2021–2023)
Mark Gutman* (2021–2023)
Marissa Hopkins** (2021–2023)
Bob Levy* (2021–2023)

Anne Macknin (2020–2022)
Lynne Madorsky* (2021–2023)
David Novick*+ (2021–2023)
Carole Parker* (2021–2023)
Marilyn Perlman+ (2021–2023)
Neil Rigler (2020–2022)

Jillian Segel** (2021–2023)
Micah Singerman (2020–2022)
Rachel Stein (2020–2022)
April Victor (2020–2022)
Ann Weisberg (2020–2022)
Charles Winternitz* (2021–2023)

* nominated for re-election ** new to the Board of Trustees + new position

EX-OFFICIO

Dave Cohen, *Brotherhood Co-President*

Mimi Horowitz, *Women of NSCI Co-President*

LEGAL COUNSEL

Jed Mandel

OUR THANKS TO MEMBERS WHO ARE DEPARTING THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AS OF JUNE 2021

Karen Dillon

Frances Morof

Carol Wolfe

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2020–2021

Micah Singerman, *Chair*
David Cohen

April Victor
Pamela Faulkner
Neil Rigler

Steven Insoft
Jim Silver
Jamie Strait Muller

Lisa Erlich
Justin Wellen

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.

HEALING SERVICE WITH CANTOR GOLDSTEIN

**WEDNESDAYS, MAY 19, JUNE 16, 30
8:00 PM ON FACEBOOK**

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.

Sign up at nsci.org/virtual.

THE STATE OF HATE: A CONVERSATION BETWEEN RABBI RYAN DANIELS AND DAVID GOLDENBERG, REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF ADL MIDWEST

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 19
7:30 PM ON ZOOM**

Since 1979, ADL's Center on Extremism has tracked incidents of antisemitic harassment, vandalism and assault in the US and has published its findings in an annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents. Join us on Zoom for a presentation of the recently released Audit 2020 followed by Q&A.

Sign up at nsci.org/form/state-of-hate.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Are you in need of emergency financial support due to the COVID-19 pandemic? Generous contributions from our congregants and JUF have made it possible for NSCI to provide one-time, confidential micro-grants to congregants who find themselves in need of emergency funds for housing issues, medical support, and food. In addition, we can help congregants find longer-term support for ongoing, systemic challenges.

To apply for a confidential grant, please fill out the form at www.nsci.org/support and one of our clergy or executive director will get back to you as soon as possible.

NAVIGATING THE VACCINE?

NSCI is a Lake County Community Health Ambassador. Looking for basic information on vaccine registration portals? Check out our website for up-to-date information in your area.

Please visit nsci.org/covid19.

HANDS OF CHESD



Chesed is Hebrew for kindness. Hands of Chesed is a group of NSCI volunteers who want to help you during a difficult time. If you're dealing with illness, divorce, mourning or other challenges, let us drop off dinner and the warmth of our NSCI community, contactless!

If we can help you, or if you want to join our team to spread kindness, please tell Rabbi Greene, rabbigreene@nsci.org. Hands of Chesed is led by Leslie Rosen & Amy Kaufman.

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.

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.

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 Meetings
- Al-Anon Electronic Meetings
- Alateen Chat Meetings
- Families Anonymous Virtual 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.

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 COVID-19

Parents as Partners

BY DR. ROBERTA GOODMAN

THIS YEAR we focused on the home school connection as being on Zoom provided us with an opportunity to literally create Jewish educational experiences in people's homes. We strengthened the parent school partnership in many ways. We are grateful for the commitment of all our parents and the leadership roles so many parents took this year in the Goodman Center for Jewish Education. Here are some of the things that happened.

Our Zoom every week class sessions with a home connection

Some of these Zoom class sessions involved students searching for objects in their homes, finding favorite items in a particular color in Hebrew, sharing family photos, and doing art, science, and cooking projects with materials we provided in supply bags. Our parents had a glimpse into our curriculum, seeing our teachers in action, and witnessing the rapport building among their children, *machoniks*, and teachers in ways that deepened their understanding of what we do.

2nd Grade Tu B'Shevat Seder with grandparents from across the country

For the first time, our 2nd graders were able to share the Tu B'Shevat seder, a longstanding event in the Goodman Center for Jewish Education targeted at bringing grandparents and our students together to explore Jewish life. In the past, only grandparents who lived in the area and who were not "snow birding" for the winter, could join us. This year, the celebration of the new year of the trees occurred with grandparents and family members from across the country. After the program, the faculty involved—Perri Courtheoux, Neil Rigler, Sammie Karson, and Dr. Robert Goodman—all agreed, every year we will do this program online!



Family Experiences planned and implemented by Parents

The Goodman Center Family Engagement group led by Jason Kunreuther and Andrea Kroll planned and implemented four experiences online. For PJs and Pancakes with a Purpose, families each had a tzedakah organization to focus on in decorating their pancake. They were having fun while learning too.

Our challah bake was so successful with 50 families signed up to participate, we formed a "Jewish Cooking Advisory Committee" of Amanda Weil, Marisa Chez, and Rachel Garber to work with Dr. Goodman to plan more holiday related cooking experiences. For Chanukah we made sufganiyot (Sephardic tradition of jelly doughnuts), over winter break we did some Shabbat cooking making kugel and matzah balls from scratch. Purim it was hamantaschen

from scratch. Passover the cooking introduced a Sephardic charoset with exotic ingredients like figs, dates, Turkish apricots as well as traditional charoset plus matzah toffee—always a sweet favorite. Parents led these family engagement opportunities in Zoom rooms of 4–10 families.

We are fortunate so many parents stepped into leadership roles and others supported Jewish learning in their homes in fun and engaging ways.

Interested in being involved in planning some of these activities? Please contact Dr. Roberta Goodman, robertag@nsci.org. It's a great way to get to know other parents who are part of our school community. ■

Adult Learning & Programs

Celebrate with our Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class

**EREV SHAVUOT,
SUNDAY, MAY 16**

6:15 PM VIA STREAMSPOT

Ann DuBois, Lindsay Emalfarb, Stephanie Glazer Ettelson, Julie Gordon, Jodi Kahn, Alison Pearson, Deborah Shapiro, and Tom Victor. They will be called to the Torah and lead us in worship.

If you wish to honor our Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class students with tzedakah, you can make a contribution to the synagogue by visiting nsci.org/give.

STUDY THE TALMUD WITH RABBI GEFFEN

**MONDAYS, MAY 3–JUNE 28
(NO CLASS MAY 17, 31, JUNE 14)
1:00–2:00 PM ON ZOOM**

Join Rabbi Geffen as we continue the study of the Tractate Brachot, the section of the Talmud responsible for establishing what, when, how, and why Jews pray the way we do.

Sign up at nsci.org/virtual.

BEGIN YOUR DAY A CENTERED WAY: MEDITATION UNDER THE SKY

**FRIDAYS, MAY 14, 28, JUNE 11
9:00 AM IN PERSON**

Whether you are new to meditation or have a regular practice, join Rabbi Wendi Geffen on NSCI's back lawn overlooking the lake for one, two, or all three of these meditation sessions. Bring your own mat or chair. Generous physical distancing will be enforced. Masks must be worn entering and exiting the session.

Registration is required at nsci.org/virtual. Space is limited. (Program will be moved indoors if raining.)

SENIOR CONNECTIONS

Let's connect for lively conversation, camaraderie and entertainment. We open the Zoom room 10 minutes early to give everyone a chance to say hello.

Contact Susan Ellenby at susane@nsci.org with any questions.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 19
1:00 PM ON ZOOM**

Sam Alex presents: The Grand Ole Opry-Country Western Music Past & Present

Sign up at bit.ly/scmay2021.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16
1:00 PM ON ZOOM**

Susan Benjamin presents: Eddie Cantor: Oh Oh What a Guy—The Man You Never Knew

Sign up at bit.ly/scjune2021.

JEWS IN SPACE

**SUNDAYS, MAY 23, JUNE 6
11:00 AM ON ZOOM**

Join Rabbi Daniels for a 2-part exploration of Jews in Space, beginning with a town hall conversation on May 16 with NSCI's own Alana Lidawer, Engineering Camera Payload Uplink Lead in NASA's ongoing Perseverance Mars rover mission, and then an interactive "Jews in Space" presentation on May 23 by Roger Weiss, who as Technical Integration Lead with contractor Barrios Technology, has proudly supported the International Space Station Program at NASA/Johnson Space Center in Houston, TX, since 2000.

Sign up at nsci.org/virtual.

Music

JEWISH JAMMERS

**MONDAYS, MAY 10, JUNE 7, 21
7:00–8:30 PM IN PERSON AT NSCI***

Gather together with Cantor Goldstein for an in-person, socially-distanced jam session at NSCI! Bring your guitar, bass, harmonica, or other instrument and a piece of music to play with the group (we'll provide the drums).

Masks must be worn at all times while inside the synagogue. This program is open to congregants and is only for musicians; there will be no audience. Please email Sarah at sarahd@nsci.org to register.

**As conditions allow; This program may be cancelled at any time.*

HOLY CHANTERS

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 12
6:00–7:00 PM**

Learn to chant Torah & Haftarah with Cantor Goldstein. Gain a practical knowledge of cantillation that will allow you to successfully chant. We will focus on Torah and Haftarah (time permitting). In order to keep your skills current you will become a part of a group that will offer your chanting of Torah for our Shabbat morning community.

Please note this program is virtual. Sign up at nsci.org/virtual.

BLACK OAK ENSEMBLE IN CONCERT

**SATURDAY, JUNE 26
4:00 PM**

Save the date for this wonderful opportunity to gather in person to listen to and be moved by the beautiful music of the Black Oak Ensemble. Sponsored by Jim Stone and Madeleine & Harvey Plonsker.

Details about registration to follow in June.

Tikkun Olam

FOOD COLLECTION FOR THE ARK



MAY 2021

Help stock The ARK's food pantry by donating kosher, non-perishable food. Most needed items right now are oatmeal, peanut butter, jelly, canned beans, and toilet paper.

Bring donations to NSCI's Administrative office outer lobby during regular business hours (Mon. – Thurs., 9am–5pm and Fri., 9am–4pm). Call ahead to let us know you're coming: 847-835-0724.

TOILETRIES COLLECTION FOR THE NIGHT MINISTRY



JUNE 2021

We're collecting unused travel & full-size toiletries—soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste/brush, mouthwash, feminine hygiene—to donate to The Night Ministry, a Chicago-based organization that works to provide housing, healthcare, and human connection to people who are struggling with poverty or homelessness.

Bring donations to NSCI's Administrative office outer lobby during regular business hours (Mon. – Thurs., 9am–5pm and Fri., 9am–4pm). Call ahead to let us know you're coming: 847-835-0724.

FAMILY PROMISE AT NSCI



JUNE 6–20

We are so grateful for the opportunity again this year to partner with Family Promise Chicago North Shore from June 6–20 to help feed and care for families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless get back on their feet and provide a stable lifestyle for their children.

Learn how you and your family can help at nsci.org/familypromise.

Women of NSCI



WOMEN OF NSCI'S Judaica Gift Shop

**MEZUZOT • TALITOT •
CANDLESTICKS & KIDDUSH CUPS •
HAVDALAH SETS • TZEDAKAH
BOXES • SEDER PLATES •
HANNUKIOT • AND MORE!**

We have an exciting collection of Judaica, Jewelry, and Gift Ideas. In addition, we carry the full line of Michael Aram Judaica, and are able to special order ANYTHING from his extensive collection. We are available to assist you via remote shopping or by appointment (as current restrictions permit). Please note, we are accepting cash or checks only until the building and shop fully reopen. As committed volunteers, we are proud that all profits support the important work of WNSCI and NSCI.

Contact us at 847-835-4009 or giftshopnsci@gmail.com.

Please register for each at [NSCI.org/wnsi](https://nsci.org/wnsi).

BOOK GROUP

**TUESDAY MAY 11
1:00–3:00 PM VIA ZOOM**

House of Gold by Natasha Solomons.
An epic saga of a wealthy Jewish family at the outbreak of WWI.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 8
1:00–3:00 PM VIA ZOOM**

Have You Seen Luis Velez? by Catharine Ryan Hyde. Two strangers find kindness is a powerful antidote to fear.

GENERAL MEETING

**SUNDAY, MAY 16
9:00–10:00 AM VIA ZOOM**

WNSCI INSTALLATION

**TUESDAY, MAY 18
7:00–8:00 PM**

We hope you will join us as we install the new WNSCI executive committee and board members—virtually! If you have your favorite alcoholic or non-alcoholic drink with you, we can toast the new officers.

WNSCI PRESENTS: WRJ YES FUND EVENT: PORTER VS SONDHEIM

**THURSDAY, MAY 20
7:00 PM**

Join WNSCI virtually for a fascinating look at two of America's most brilliant composers/lyricists of the 20th century.

BROTHERHOOD SYNAGOGUE SOFTBALL LEAGUE

**SUNDAYS BEGINNING MAY 2
MORNINGS AT TECHNY FIELDS
IN NORTHBROOK**

NSCI's Brotherhood is a participant in the Synagogue Softball League. Games are played on Sunday mornings. New players are welcome.

Please contact Brotherhood@nsci.org for further information including safety protocols.

The Ruthie & Bill Katz Archives

Rabbi Edgar E. Siskin

BY ELLEN (KATZ) BLOCK

This article briefly summarizes Rabbi Siskin's background and sets his 25 years as our rabbi within the framework of developments in society and at NSCI. He was an extremely intelligent, scholarly, and complex man and served our congregation during a time of great change in the U.S., our local community, and the congregation itself.

FOLLOWING the termination of Rabbi Charles Shulman in 1947 over the "hot" issue of the time—Zionism—the NSCI Pulpit Committee embarked on a lengthy and thorough search for a new permanent rabbi. Having investigated and interviewed some 40 candidates, on November 28, 1947, the committee unanimously recommended to the Board of Trustees that Rabbi Edgar Elias Siskin be hired for our congregation. They described him as "41 years of age, a graduate of Hebrew Union College (class of 1929) with a PhD from Yale where he is an Associate Professor of Anthropology, 3 years military service as a Chaplain in the Marine Corps and Rabbi for the past 17 years of the venerable Reform Congregation (Mishkan Israel) in New Haven."

Indeed, Edgar Siskin's background was accurately expressed by the committee, but encompassed so much more. Born in Edinburgh, Scotland, on September 14, 1907, young Edgar attended school and spent his childhood in Portsmouth, England, prior to moving with his family to the United States in 1921. A beautiful profile of Rabbi Siskin, well worth reading, entitled "The Road to Glencoe," written in 1958 by NSCI congregant and professional author, Harry Bernard, in celebration of the tenth year of Rabbi Siskin's service at North Shore Congregation Israel, details important influences in young Edgar's life. First and foremost, was Edgar's strong positive relationship with his father, Hyman, who was

primarily a cantor but also an orthodox rabbi. Hyman's passion for music—both liturgical and secular—was transmitted to his son who later not only used his musical knowledge as a cantor while serving as chaplain in the Marine Corps but also became a "cognoscenti" as Bernard puts it, of jazz, at one time even serving on the Board of Directors of the Newport Jazz Festival. Hyman moved first to what is now Latvia, then to Scotland, and, a year after Edgar's birth, to England where he served the prestigious orthodox Portsmouth Synagogue, founded in 1747. Edgar "grew up" in this synagogue, witnessing the "whole range of religious ceremonies, observances and customs as practiced by Jewry all the year round." In addition to music, Hyman also gave his young son daily lessons in Hebrew. At first, Edgar attended public school, but he was then enrolled at The Portsmouth Grammar School, one of the finest schools in the south of England. Edgar's prodigious intelligence and his knowledge of Latin, French, chemistry, math, history, classics, and rhetoric were such that when he arrived in the U.S. with his family, he was able to skip several grades.

Having been told that there was demand for English clerics in America, Hyman, with his wife, Dora, Edgar, and Edgar's two younger sisters, arrived in the U.S. in January 1921. Opportunities did not immediately present themselves, so the family settled on Chicago's South Side. An opening was finally available at the Hebrew Protective Association in Joliet.

When Edgar began attending high school, first in Chicago, and then Joliet, the schools did not know in what grade to place him as he was so ahead of his fellow students despite his young age. He had been a good cricket player in England which he now converted to a love of baseball, learning all the baseball statistics of every player in the major leagues. Fellow students described



him as a good athlete, a person with a sense of humor; he was well liked and graduated in June 1922, as the youngest student, age 14, ever to have graduated from Joliet Township High School. In England, Edgar had been considering a career in medicine but a chance meeting and, ultimately, a friendship between Hyman and Rabbi Samuel S. Cohon, the noted Reform Rabbi at Temple Mizpah on the North Side of Chicago, resulted in Edgar's studying with Rabbi Cohon for a year while also attending classes at Crane Junior College. The following year, Edgar entered an Advanced Class at Hebrew Union College while simultaneously continuing his studies at the University of Cincinnati. Descriptions of Edgar at this time were "great baseball player," "expert at ping-pong," "quick to laugh," part of a (semi-rebellious) and jaunty group. He was an excellent student, known for his ability to elucidate complex theological issues and the person to whom fellow students turned to for counsel and advice.

Although he was ordained at the age of 21, Edgar's path was not clear even to himself and there were ambivalences underlying the way forward. ■

For the full article go to [NSCI.org/archives](https://nsci.org/archives).

May 2021 ■ Iyar/Sivan 5781

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
9	10 9:30 am Memoir Writing Class with Carole Mark Gingiss ♦ 1:00 pm Study the Talmud with Rabbi Wendi Geffen ♦ 7:00 pm Jewish Jammers with Cantor David Goldstein - In Person!	11 1:00 pm WNSCI Book Group ♦ 7:00 pm FA Meeting ♦	12 6:00 pm AA Meeting ♦ 6:00 pm Holy Chanters with Cantor David Goldstein ♦	13	14 9:00 am Begin Your Day a Centered Way: Meditation Under the Sky with Rabbi Wendi Geffen 10:00 am Sing Song Shabbat for Tots 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service ♦■	15 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Experience ♦
16 6:15 pm Erev Shavuot and Adult B'nei Mitzvah Service ■	17 Office Closed – Shavuot 9:30 am Shavuot Morning Yizkor service ♦ 7:00 pm Shir Chadash with Cantor David Goldstein ♦	18 7:00 pm FA Meeting ♦	19 1:00 pm Senior Connections ♦ 6:00 pm AA Meeting ♦ 7:30 pm The State of Hate: A Conversation between Rabbi Ryan Daniels and David Goldenberg, Regional Director of ADL Midwest 8:00 pm Healing Service with Cantor David Goldstein ■	20	21 10:00 am Sing Song Shabbat for Tots 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service ♦■	22 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Experience ♦
23 11:00 am Jews in Space with Rabbi Ryan Daniels ♦	24 9:30 am Memoir Writing Class with Carole Mark Gingiss ♦ 1:00 pm Study the Talmud with Rabbi Wendi Geffen ♦	25 7:00 pm FA Meeting ♦	26 6:00 pm AA Meeting ♦	27	28 9:00 am Begin Your Day a Centered Way: Meditation Under the Sky with Rabbi Wendi Geffen 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service ♦■	29 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Experience ♦
30	31 Memorial Day – Building Closed					

June 2021 ■ Sivan/Tammuz 5781

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 7:00 pm FA Meeting ♦	2 6:00 pm AA Meeting ♦ 8:00 pm Healing Service with Cantor David Goldstein •	3	4 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service •■	5 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Experience ♦
6 11:00 am Jews in Space with Rabbi Ryan Daniels ♦	7 9:30 am Memoir Writing Class with Carole Mark Gingiss ♦ 1:00 pm Study the Talmud with Rabbi Wendi Geffen ♦	8 1:00 pm WNSCI Book Group ♦ 7:00 pm FA Meeting ♦	9 6:00 pm AA Meeting ♦	10	11 9:00 am Begin Your Day a Centered Way: Meditation Under the Sky with Rabbi Wendi Geffen 5:15 pm NSCI Annual Meeting ■ 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service •■	12 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Experience ♦
13	14	15 7:00 pm FA Meeting ♦	16 1:00 pm Senior Connections ♦ 6:00 pm AA Meeting ♦ 8:00 pm Healing Service with Cantor David Goldstein •	17	18 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service •■	19 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Experience ♦
20	21 1:00 pm Study the Talmud with Rabbi Wendi Geffen ♦ 7:00 pm Jewish Jammers with Cantor David Goldstein - In Person!	22 7:00 pm FA Meeting ♦	23 6:00 pm AA Meeting ♦	24	25 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service •■	26 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Experience ♦ 4:00 pm Black Oak Ensemble
27	28 1:00 pm Study the Talmud with Rabbi Wendi Geffen ♦	29 7:00 pm FA Meeting ♦	30 6:00 pm AA Meeting ♦ 8:00 pm Healing Service with Cantor David Goldstein •			

♦ on Zoom • on Facebook ■ on Streamspot



**NORTH SHORE
CONGREGATION
ISRAEL**

1185 SHERIDAN ROAD
GLENCOE, ILLINOIS 60022

Admin. Office: 847.835.0724
School Office: 847.835.7258

NSCI.org

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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.



Join us for NSCI's beautiful and
inspirational outdoor Friday evening

Kabbalat Shabbat Services

BEGINNING MAY 14 THROUGH LABOR DAY
6:15–7:15 PM ON THE LILLIAN AND LARRY GOODMAN TERRACE

Space is limited, advance registration is required.

Watch your email and visit nsci.org/shabbat for more information.

Services will be moved to the Large Sanctuary in case of inclement weather.

Kabbalat Shabbat Services will continue to be streamed on our website and Facebook.

For the most up-to-date information, nsci.org/kabbalatshabbat2021.