

NORTH SHORE  
CONGREGATION  
ISRAEL

# The Bulletin

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## The Paradigm Has Shifted: Innovating Jewish Schooling at the Goodman Center for Jewish Education

BY LISA ERLICH & DR. ROBERTA GOODMAN page 3

"We have a reputation for creating relevant, meaningful,  
joyful, and personalized learning experiences for each child.  
This year, we achieved our highest enrollment  
rate in nearly ten years!"



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# The Paradigm Has Shifted: Innovating Jewish Schooling at the Goodman Center for Jewish Education

BY LISA ERLICH &  
DR. ROBERTA GOODMAN

**A RECENT STUDY** found that nationally, the average enrollment rates in congregational schools is down by 40%. However, at the Goodman Center for Jewish Education, we're seeing the opposite trend. With a reputation for creating a relevant, meaningful, joyful and personalized learning experience for each child, we welcomed more than **50 new families** and **120 new students** this year—476 students in all—our highest enrollment rate in nearly 10 years.

## Why are we in this position today?

We believe that we have shifted the paradigm to sustain a culture of innovation in many significant ways. By listening to our parents and students we have leveraged them, and our lay leaders, as partners in setting a new, more progressive course for the direction of the school and its programs.

Many of our parents have gotten into the driver's seat to plan and implement incredible Jewish family experiences like our annual Challah Bake or Mitzvah Fair. Behind the scenes, we have actively participated in growing JUF Education Department efforts, including extensive grant applications and additional planning.

## Creating a Culture of Innovation

Nearly 12 years ago, Camp@NSCI—our nationally renowned program for 3rd and 4th graders—was launched to introduce a hands-on experiential approach to learning. Since then, we have made significant strides to uphold and evolve this approach.

**100% of Machoniks, 88% of parents, and 76% of 5th/6th graders feel there is a teacher or staff member who cares about them or their child.**



And it's working. As reflected in our most recent parent survey, 75% of respondents said that they would recommend the school to a friend or colleague.

More recently, on a tour of our program, a Kindergarten/1st grade parent commented, "The curriculum is a mile wide and an inch deep." This single comment put into motion a change process that led to the creation of our "Dig Deeper" curriculum including units such as: Exploring the Torah, Connecting with God and spreading kindness, Celebrating Shabbat, and so much more.

As we continue to move forward, we keep in mind the challenges facing our school and our larger community. These include:

- **Busy family schedules and diverse family needs:** We have made a commitment to focus on constantly improving and adapting to the changes that occur outside of the

## Sunday Morning School Action:

- K-2nd graders running, jumping, spinning to commands all in Hebrew
- 3rd and 4th graders filming movie scripts they wrote, dressed up in costumes and using props
- 5th and 6th graders participating in "Shark Tank," pitching well-researched Israeli innovations to better people's lives, to a parent/grandparent panel
- Some of our 80 Machoniks (7th-12th grade) tutoring students and helping with classroom projects

*Continued on page 4*



5th and 6th graders selling baked goods at the Spring Mitzvah Fair



Students preparing for their "Shark Tank" presentations

### Continued from page 3

NSCI walls. That means offering experiences like online mid-week Hebrew classes and collaborating with the Youth and Family Community Committee (YFCC) and staff members.

- **Teacher shortages:** In an effort to hire and retain teachers with the Jewish/ Hebrew and educational knowledge needed, we invest in our teachers by providing financial resources and time to augment their professional learning and skills. In some cases, we go beyond the "routine" training by providing coaching, courses, "intern-like" experiences, and support to turn individuals into the capable teachers needed for our classrooms.
- **Integrating new families:** Over the past two years we have welcomed **120 new families** and **220 new students** to the Goodman Center for Jewish Education. How do we help these families feel known in our school, engaged in all we are doing, and share their voices to help guide our future? How do we help them on their Jewish journey?

We aim to tackle these challenges by expanding beyond our walls with our volunteers—parents, lay leaders, grandparents and all NSCI congregants. While the school is at the core of our offering, through adult learning experiences (Coffee with the Clergy), family experiences (Challah Bake), Shabbat (Shabbat Family Experiences), and tikkun olam (Mitzvah Fair), we are propelling adults and children

forward in finding their own unique Jewish connection and education; our volunteers lead the way.

### The CORE and MORE

What we know is that the more families participate the more our parents find meaningful opportunities for themselves and the *stronger* and *richer* our students' experiences will be as they grow.

Through our collaboration with the Youth and Family Community Committee and its staff, we are approaching the school experience more holistically to reach children ages 0–22, before and after their formal *core* education here in the Goodman Center for Jewish Education.

As we look forward to the coming school year, we're excited to engage parents at the grade level, helping them get to know one another better through grade-parent representatives and expanding our Coffee with Clergy events by grade.

### The Crown of Our Good Name

Our rabbis teach us that the "crown of a good name excels above all" (Pirkei Avot 4:17). The Goodman Center for Jewish Education has a "good name"—we are one of the crowns of NSCI, of Jewish congregational schooling locally, and nationally. You should be proud! We are grateful for the support of the entire congregation in being able to educate and impact the lives of so many!

Please reach out to us when you are ready to find your own engagement opportunities as a parent or grandparent, or to enroll your child in the GCJE. ■

\* "A Census of Jewish Supplementary Schools in North America 2019–2020," Jewish Education Project, April 2023.

### Here's what parents had to say about our school's greatest strengths:

"Sense of community ... genuine love for the families and children."

"Flexible options to fit an individual child/family's needs."

"Meeting the kids where they are—a no pressure feeling."

"Having children excited and wanting to come each week ... some kids dread Sunday school but not at NSCI. My kids look forward to going every week!"

"My children love their teachers and Machoniks! They want to be Machoniks one day and that makes us so happy. It's a wonderful program and full of role models."



Machoniks helping the 3rd and 4th graders with their Torah creation



# NSCI's Religious School: A Source of Pride

BY JEFF ECHT, PRESIDENT



## WHILE METHODS

and schedules may have changed since I studied my bar mitzvah Torah portion in 1979, the goals

of Jewish education have remained relatively constant: to introduce children to notions of Jewish life and teach them Judaic values. A curriculum that includes an understanding of holiday observances, Israel education, Torah studies, life-cycle events, Jewish customs and traditions as well as prayer may serve as a catalyst for future learning and as a foundation to practice Judaism as a young adult and beyond.

NSCI's Goodman Center for Jewish Education has enjoyed many successes. Enrollment this past school year continued to increase, and headcount now exceeds pre-Covid levels. In addition, I believe there is one achievement in particular that we should all be very proud of: our incredible Machoniks program. Machoniks are high schoolers who assist in teaching and programming throughout the Goodman Center for Jewish Education. The program has been around for years and is consistently very popular. This past year, over 80 teenagers comprised the Machoniks, making the program NSCI's *single most successful teen program*. I assert that the sheer number of teenagers in the program is a testament

to the formulation and execution of a thoughtful, effective, and impactful strategy by NSCI's staff, teachers, administration, and Youth and Family Community Committee.

Further proof of the Goodman Center's success is the exciting news that they recently received a **\$14,000 grant from the JUF Education Department** that will support afternoon enrichment programs, professional development, and their Onward Hebrew program. Kol hakavod!

The entire congregation should be proud of these accomplishments and of NSCI's continued investment in religious education. ■

## A Big Temple with a Heimish Heart

### *Support our Annual Appeal*

BY ONNIE SCHEYER

**THIS IS AN EXCITING MOMENT** at NSCI. Our community is growing with new members, religious school students, adult b'nei mitzvah, and program attendees. This is a large and diverse community representing a wide spectrum of life experiences and demographics—and economic need. At NSCI, we are a caring community that looks out for each other. We live our values and welcome all who want to belong here. **During our Annual Appeal, we need your financial contributions so we can continue to support all our congregants.**

We're proud of our growth, but it's each individual congregant and family that makes NSCI who we are. Howard and Janice Parker joined NSCI in December 2022 after a five-month search for a congregation when they relocated to the North Shore from Long Island. Howard and Janice felt welcomed from the very first communications with staff, who responded to their request to visit quickly and with personal attention. The moment they walked into the building for Kabbalat Shabbat services they

were greeted warmly by both staff and ushers, and immediately were brought to meet the clergy. As a past president of a congregation, Howard emphasized how impactful these initial encounters were in choosing NSCI.

"Out of all the temples we visited, NSCI had the most smiles and the most Shabbat Shaloms. It looks like a big, imposing temple on the outside, but feels small and heimish on the inside. Judaism teaches us how to treat the stranger. NSCI doesn't just talk the talk, they walk the walk. We walked in as strangers, but we did not walk out as strangers. We were ready to join NSCI after that first visit."

This anecdote attests to our vitality and strength. We're more than a beautiful building; we're a community. We go beyond being warm and welcoming to really see and know our members. As we continue to grow, **your support of our Annual Appeal will help us continue to offer the unparalleled pastoral, social, educational, and spiritual services that make NSCI such a special community.** During this Annual Appeal, please give as generously as you are able so we can go from strength to strength. ■



**"NSCI had the most smiles and the most Shabbat Shaloms. We walked in as strangers, but we did not walk out as strangers. We were ready to join NSCI after that first visit."**

—HOWARD & JANICE PARKER

# Mazel Tov!

## WELCOME!



**Noa Quinn Hill &  
Meyer Nathaniel Hill**  
**BORN APRIL 17, 2023**

Children of Shanna & Andrew Hill  
Siblings of Sander Hill  
Grandchildren of Karen & Herb Hill and Roberta & Jeffrey Kwall



**Lane Everett Adler**  
**BORN APRIL 18, 2023**

Child of Jenna & Reed Adler  
Grandchild of Marcie & Mark Weinstein and Melissa & Doug Adler  
Great-grandchild of Barbara & Marshall Goldsen, Sue Weinstein, & Corrine Adler



**Ezra Gabriel Clamage**  
**BORN JUNE 6, 2023**

Child of Marly & Chad Clamage  
Sibling of Ella Clamage  
Grandchild of Charlene & Bob Schuman and Cindy & Brett Clamage  
Great grandchild of Mae Schmidt

## B'NEI MITZVAH



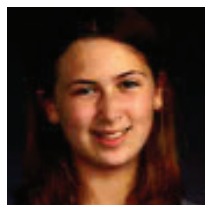
**Ella Ben-Yoseph**  
**AUGUST 12, 2023**

Child of Roni & Roey Ben-Yoseph



**Rachel Ben-Yoseph**  
**AUGUST 12, 2023**

Child of Roni & Roey Ben-Yoseph



**Eliza Bergman**  
**AUGUST 19, 2023**

Child of Jen & Matt Bergman



**Reagan Schechter**  
**AUGUST 26, 2023**

Child of Brittany & Bradley Schechter



**Reed Warner**  
**AUGUST 26, 2023**

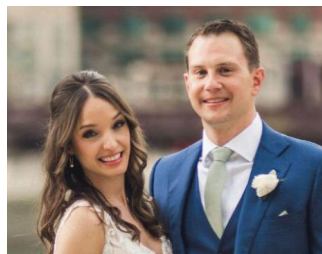
Child of Mara Foster & Jeremy Warner



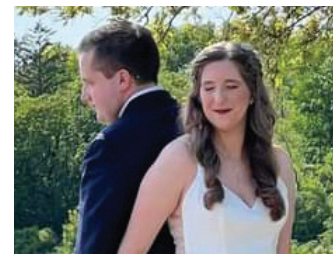
## ANNUAL MEETING AWARD HONOREES

Following the Annual Meeting on June 2nd, 2023, at Kabbalat Shabbat services, we blessed our new Board as they began their new year of service. The recipients of the Ilene H. Herst Youth Leadership Award and June Bild Pinsof Memorial Music Scholarship were announced, and this year's Fiedler Fellows were recognized. NSCI's Kehilah Award was presented to the 2022-2023 Volunteers of the Year, Karen Kohn, Cecile Levy, and Nancy Mantynband.

## WEDDINGS



**Francine Lichten &  
Michael Kowalczyk**  
**APRIL 15, 2023**



**Ashley Levin &  
Brandon Dierker**  
**MAY 20, 2023**

**Hilary Bonn &  
Matt Silverman**  
**MAY 20, 2023**

## WELCOMING NEW CONGREGANTS

**Ariel and George Kondiles**  
**Matthew Sloan**

## WELCOMING RABBI JACOB LEIZMAN



Rabbi Jacob Leizman officially joined the NSCI clergy team on July 1st. We are beyond excited to welcome him into our community and to get to know our newest NSCI family member.

# Special Events

## NSCI SUMMER SOFTBALL AND PICNIC GATHERING

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 13**

**10:30 AM – 1:00 PM AT SUNSET WOODS PARK, 1801 SUNSET RD., HIGHLAND PARK**

Join us for a picnic, lawn games, and a friendly softball match. All congregants are welcomed! You must be 13+ to play softball. Picnic will take place after the game has concluded. The event is BYOP (Bring Your Own Picnic), but we will provide a drink and a treat for all!

**RSVP at [www.bit.ly/SummerPicnic23](http://www.bit.ly/SummerPicnic23).**

## ICE CREAM TRUCK ONEG

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 18**

**AFTER SHABBAT SERVICES**

Join us after Kabbalat Shabbat Services for a sweet treat!

## PRIDE SHABBAT WITH GUEST SPEAKER RABBI DANIEL BOGARD

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 25**

**6:15 PM AT NSCI**



Join us for our annual Pride Shabbat service, featuring guest speaker Rabbi Daniel Bogard. Rabbi Bogard will share his family's story of

raising a trans child while serving as a congregational rabbi. He will discuss his efforts to protect his child and others threatened by recent governmental attempts to limit the freedom of trans people as well as what parents need to know about their rights. Rabbi Bogard will also share wisdom from thousands of years of Jewish texts that affirm that as long as there have been Jews, there have been trans Jews. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate and learn about the diversity of gender expression in our Jewish community.

# Elul & High Holy Days

## SOULFUL ELUL OFFERINGS

Watch later in the summer for our communication on Elul, the reflective month preceding High Holy Days. Elul begins mid-August and concludes the day before Rosh Hashanah. To prepare our hearts, minds, and souls for the new year, we will have rich opportunities to explore, learn, and grow.

## SAVE THE DATE: THE MOTH, NSCI-STYLE FOR SELICHOT

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9**

**8:00 PM ON THE LILLIAN AND LARRY GOODMAN TERRACE**

For Selichot, our reflective ritual before Rosh Hashanah, we will hear personal stories from members of our congregation that will move us powerfully. You won't want to miss this!

## HIGH HOLY DAYS

Rosh Hashanah begins at sunset on Friday, September 15th and ends at sunset on Sunday, September 17th.

Yom Kippur begins at sunset on Sunday, September 24th, and ends at sunset on Monday, September 25th.

***Please look for your High Holy Day Guide in the mail in early August as well as passes in early September.***



# We Remember

## THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS ITS HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF:

### **Dr. Ralph L. Barnett**

Husband of Dolores Barnett  
Father of Joel (Nancy) Barnett & Paula  
(Gary Ruben) Barnett  
Grandfather of Adam (Dana) Ruben, Sam  
(Ali) Barnett, Ellery Ruben, & Lindsay  
Barnett  
Great Grandfather of Jack

### **Tamara David**

Mother of Ygal (Carmit) Ozechov  
Grandmother of Michael & Michelle

### **Richard Eisenberg**

Father of Stacey (Charles) Lucterhand  
Grandfather of Mia, Drew and Jake

### **Karen Fine**

Mother of David, Jordan, & Leah Fine  
Daughter of Judy (Lloyd, z"l) Falk  
Sister of Julie (Tom) Raske and Nicole (Jim)  
Woldenberg  
Aunt of Max, Zak, & Daniel Raske and  
Carly, Allison, & Nathan

### **Lawrence Kahn**

Husband of Bette Kahn  
Father of Susan (Dan Kirschner) Kahn &  
David (Jodi) Kahn  
Grandfather of Sam & Hannah

### **Richard "Rick" Kruger**

Father of Erica Kruger (Scott) Near and  
Daniel (Brooke) Kruger  
Grandfather of Lital Meira Near, Ayelet  
Miriam Near and Amalia Yael Near

### **Michael Muller**

Husband of Trudy, z"l  
Father of Mark (Lori) Muller, Scott Muller,  
z"l & Glenn Muller, z"l  
Grandfather of Priscilla, Madison, Jared,  
Mackenzie, & Aleksandra

### **Gail Rosen**

Mother of Stu (Leslie) Rosen  
Grandmother of Dayla, Madison, Amalia,  
& Lucas

### **Natalie Rubin**

Mother of Mara (Richard) Bernstein  
Grandmother of Lev, Lily, & Eli

### **Mitchell Saranow**

Husband of Linda Saranow  
Father of Jennifer (David) Schultz, Julie  
(Matt) Epley, William "Sonny" (Frankie), &  
David (Abbey)  
Grandfather of Hannah, Delia, Robbie, Sam,  
Shaya, & Ezra

### **Michael Stronberg**

Father of Aaron (Jamie) Stronberg  
Grandfather of Mason, Cameron, & Sidney



## 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.

## A Service of Healing and Comfort in Remembrance of the Highland Park Shooting

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 5**

**7:00 PM AT NORTH SHORE CONGREGATION ISRAEL**



Join us for a service of healing in remembrance of the Highland Park shooting. Led by our NSCI clergy, together we will create a time and space for prayer, comfort, and memory amidst the loving presence of community. Your friends and family are welcome too.

This service will also be livestreamed [www.bit.ly/ServiceofHealing](http://www.bit.ly/ServiceofHealing).



# Support

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

## HANDS OF CHESSED, NSCI'S CARING COMMUNITY



"I was surprised and delighted to find that someone had opened my door and put a lovely bouquet of roses

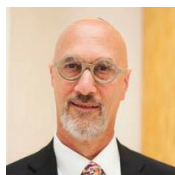
and a box of truffles on my kitchen island...the note wished me sunshine and flowers from your group at the Temple. This was such a lovely gesture, and it is always wonderful to know you're thought of somewhere else beyond your four walls. Thank you. I (we) feel very blessed!"

Chesed is Hebrew for kindness. Hands of Chessed is a group of NSCI volunteers who spread kindness. We want to help you during a difficult time. If you're dealing with illness, divorce, mourning or other challenges, let us drop off dinner or groceries and the warmth of our NSCI community! If we can help you, or if you want to join our team to spread kindness, please tell our volunteers so they can reach out.

*Hands of Chessed is led by Leslie Rosen. For more information or to contact Leslie, visit [nsci.org/support](http://nsci.org/support).*

## HEALING SERVICES WITH CANTOR GOLDSTEIN ON FACEBOOK

**WEDNESDAYS, JULY 19,  
AUGUST 16 & 30  
8:00 PM**



Join Cantor Goldstein for a quiet and contemplative Healing Service. Together we can create a gentle time for prayer, meditation, and song that focuses on healing and wholeness. Watch on Facebook (no account necessary): [facebook.com/NSCIGlencoe](https://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 to [nsci.org/form/healing-service-submissions](http://nsci.org/form/healing-service-submissions)*

## NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO?

Elizabeth Ury, LNHA, and JCFS Chicago Director of Jewish Community Engagement is available to talk with you and help 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](mailto:ElizabethUry@JCFS.org). There is no cost for NSCI members.

*Call 855-ASK-JCFS (855-275-5237) or email "[ask@jcfs.org](mailto:ask@jcfs.org)" to access their available resources, their online grief support groups, counseling, and 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](http://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, offering space for all Jews in addiction recovery.

## FAMILIES ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

**TUESDAYS**

**7:00-8:30 PM IN ROOM 203 IN THE GOODMAN CENTER FOR JEWISH EDUCATION**

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

*For information on FA meetings, contact Margot at 847.738.0306 or [mkpeters81@aol.com](mailto:mkpeters81@aol.com).*

## ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

**WEDNESDAYS**

**7:00-8:00 PM IN ROOM 203 IN THE GOODMAN CENTER FOR JEWISH EDUCATION**

*For information on AA meetings, contact Mark at 847.738.1919 or [mopeters21@gmail.com](mailto:mopeters21@gmail.com).*

## NSCI CONGREGANT DIRECTORY

**"Loving thy neighbor begins with knowing thy neighbor"**

A large aspect of belonging to a congregation, for many of our members, is the ability to connect with like-minded individuals and develop meaningful lasting relationships. This is where your personal NSCI Congregant Directory comes into play. This is a safe, password-protected, congregant-only directory. You can manage your own member profile and view other congregants' info. This may come in handy if you want to send a thank you or condolences card, grab a cup of coffee with a fellow congregant, or find a buddy to conquer your New Year's resolutions with. You can quickly and easily find someone and a way to contact them through your NSCI Directory. It's just another congregant perk!

*If you have any questions, please email [miad@nsci.org](mailto:miad@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.*

## CLERGY REPRESENTATION AT LIFECYCLE EVENTS: BEFORE YOU BOOK A DATE

We would like to remind congregants that the only way to ensure one of our clergy can officiate an important event in your life is to reach out to us before booking a specific date and time for your event. We do our best to accommodate all requests, but there are many times when we cannot change our schedules and may, unfortunately, be unable to accommodate an officiation request.

*To inquire about the availability of our clergy, please reach out to Sarah Duffin at 847.835.0724 x 643.*

## Honoring Our Teens

We are thrilled to have so many teens to recognize at NSCI this year! Their dedication and energy have helped to make NSCI the warm and vibrant community it is.

### THE JUNE BILD PINSOFF MEMORIAL MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

**Hannah Dalinka and Alexie Zejer**

The June Bild Pinsoff Memorial Music Scholarship reflects a core value of the NSCI community—that music is essential to the full expression of Jewish living. Each year a graduating high school senior who has consistently given their musical talents to this community is selected by the cantor to receive this scholarship, funded by a grant from the June B. Pinsoff Fund, directed by Madeleine Plonsker.



### THE ILENE H. HERST YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS

**Alexis Tack and Julia Fleischer**

The Ilene H. Herst Youth Leadership Award is presented in recognition of exemplary leadership and great love for the NSCI community. Ilene Herst, long-time beloved Executive Director at NSCI, was recognized by her colleagues around the country as a consummate professional and caring Jewish leader. We offer this award annually in her name to a current high school junior who demonstrates strong leadership skills.



### IMPORTANT GOODMAN CENTER FOR JEWISH EDUCATION RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DATES

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10:  
OPENING DAY**

Enrollment is now open for the 2023–2024 school year!

*If you have any logistical questions about enrollment, please contact Pamela Connell at [www.bit.ly/EmailPamela](http://www.bit.ly/EmailPamela). For questions about classes and educational choices, contact Dr. Roberta Goodman at [www.bit.ly/EmailDRG](http://www.bit.ly/EmailDRG). Do you have friends interested in enrolling? Let us know!*

### Early Childhood

#### TOT PLAYGROUND SHABBAT



There were smiling faces all around as we gathered for a playground Shabbat service with singing and dancing on June 16th. We finished our service with popsicles on the lawn and had a blast.

#### BEES IN THE PARK

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 26  
10:00–11:30 AM AT SUNSET WOODS PARK, HIGHLAND PARK**

Learn about bees and Rosh Hashanah! Enjoy bee presentations from the Heller Nature staff and a viewable hive from 10–11, activities running till 11:30 am, with a Rosh Hashanah music session after! This event is open to the community.

To RSVP, visit [www.bit.ly/BeesTots2023](http://www.bit.ly/BeesTots2023).

### Teens

#### KARAV 2023



Our teens had an amazing time at Karav 2023, our annual teen retreat. They tie-dyed and took part in a beautiful Havdalah service, in addition to successfully evacuating from an escape room and having an overnighter at NSCI. They shared in laughs, music, and A LOT of food. We're already excited for next year's Karav!

#### SAVE THE DATE: ROSH HASHANAH TEEN PROGRAM

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16  
NSCI TROSS FAMILY EDUCATION CENTER**

Tashlich at the beach, New Year's resolutions, apples, honey, and pie! All 8th–12th graders are invited to join us for this special teen program.

Email [benr@nsci.org](mailto:benr@nsci.org) to RSVP.

## Adult Learning & Programs

### SENIOR CONNECTIONS

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 12**

1:00–2:30 PM

**Neil Samor — Remembering Old Chicago Neighborhoods**

The author of *The Old Chicago Neighborhood: Remembering Life in the 1940's* will be using his interviews with over 125 current and former Chicagoland residents, along with a number of remarkably nostalgic images, depicting the "Windy City's" transformation over time, to take audience members on a fascinating historical journey.

RSVP at [www.bit.ly/SCJuly23](http://www.bit.ly/SCJuly23)

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2**

1:00–2:30 PM IN PERLMAN SANCTUARY

**Jim Kendros Presents:  
What was Mozart Thinking?**

Join us for a fascinating glimpse into Mozart's creative process through an exciting analytical lens and a mystical music presentation led by Jim Kendros, known to audiences as "The North Shore's Favorite Music Historian."

RSVP at [www.bit.ly/SCAugust23](http://www.bit.ly/SCAugust23)

### GREATEST HITS OF THE TALMUD—SUMMER SESSION

**MONDAYS, JULY 24–AUGUST 21**

1:00–2:00 PM

Join Rabbi Geffen in studying a selection 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 at [www.bit.ly/GHSum23](http://www.bit.ly/GHSum23)

### SPIRITUALITY WALK IN THE CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23**

9:00–10:30 AM



Join Rabbi Nina J. Mizrahi for guided, contemplative garden walks that sync spiritually with the Jewish calendar. Rabbi

Mizrahi, D.H.L., is an "awe-walker." Her garden walks lead participants on journeys that forge connections between the natural world and our souls, awakening us to what is essential in our lives and at the core of our being.

RSVP at [www.bit.ly/spiritualitywalk0823](http://www.bit.ly/spiritualitywalk0823)

## Music

### RAVINIA STEANS MUSIC INSTITUTE

These concerts will have a standing oneg, featuring an assortment of passed hors d'oeuvres, for those attending the service beforehand.

#### Piano and Strings Fellows

**FRIDAY, JULY 7**

8:00–9:00 PM

This is the second of three concerts featuring Ravinia Steans Music Institute Fellows.

RSMI's Program for Piano & Strings concentrates on interpretation and small-group collaboration through the practice and performance of classical sonata and chamber repertoire.

[www.bit.ly/SteansJuly](http://www.bit.ly/SteansJuly)

#### Vocal Fellows

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 11**

8:00–9:00 PM

This is the third concert in our Ravinia Steans Music Institute Fellow series.

RSMI's Program for Singers offers a unique setting for 15 classical singers to delve deeply into the vast repertoire of art song for three weeks.

[www.bit.ly/SteansVocals](http://www.bit.ly/SteansVocals)

### SAVE THE DATE: POST KABBALAT SHABBAT CONCERT INTRODUCING NSCI'S NEW RESIDENT ORGANIST, CHRISTOPHER POWELL

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**

8:00–9:00 PM IN THE PERLMAN SANCTUARY

Presenting... Theme & Variation:  
The Anatomy of Atonement

To RSVP, please visit  
[www.bit.ly/PKSOrgan23](http://www.bit.ly/PKSOrgan23)

*These free concerts are generously sponsored by Jim Stone, Madeleine & Harvey Plonsker, and Bobby Takiff.*



# Tikkun Olam

## THANK YOU RABBI RYAN DANIELS

Rabbi Ryan Daniels' final Kabbalat Shabbat service at NSCI took place on June 16th. The evening was a lovely reminder of all that Rabbi Daniels has done for our community and for many others beyond our walls. He has put heart, wisdom, and kindness into all he's done at NSCI and he will be dearly missed. We wish Rabbi Daniels and his family all the best on their journey!



"Rabbi Daniels has been a supporter of the Adult Mitzvah Corps ever since he started here. He has always made sure we are a part of his Cradles to Crayons temple-wide collection of children's items and the High Holiday food collection for The Ark. It has been so wonderful to see him grow as a rabbi and watch his family grow as well! We all know he will be great in his new congregation and will only blossom further from there. So bittersweet to see him go!" —Tracey Meyers

"Ryan Daniels rocks. He's a pleasure to work with for FTH and other mitzvah related projects. He's a good listener. He's kind and caring. He's willing to adapt to make things work. I'm going to miss him." —Dave Rothschild

## ADULT MITZVAH CORPS

Join our Adult Mitzvah Corps, where we have fun volunteering once a month during the week.

*You are welcome to volunteer with us every month or once in a while. We have volunteered with The ARK, JCFS, CJE and other organizations. For more information, email us at [nscimitzvahcorps@gmail.com](mailto:nscimitzvahcorps@gmail.com)*

## FEED THE HOMELESS: SANDWICH MAKING AT HOME FOR THE NIGHT MINISTRY

**WEDNESDAYS, JULY 12 & AUGUST 9**  
**11:30 AM – 2:30 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.nsci.org/fth](http://www.nsci.org/fth)

# Women of NSCI

For more information or to register for an event, please go to [nsci.org/wnscli](http://nsci.org/wnscli).

## WNSCI BOOK CLUB AT NSCI

Join WNSCI to engage in lively conversation surrounding their next two featured books.



**TUESDAY, JULY 11**

**1:00 – 3:00 PM**

*Next Year in Havana*, by Chanel Cleeton

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 8**

**1:00 – 3:00 PM**

*Maybe You Should Talk to Someone: A Therapist, Her Therapist, and Our Lives Revealed*, by Lori Gottlieb

## WNSCI MAHJONG GAMES

**THURSDAYS**

**1:00 – 3:00 PM AT NSCI**

Join us for fun and friendly games of Mah Jongg. Beginners and the "just curious" are welcome. There's no betting allowed, just a voluntary contribution to our Tzedakah Box!

## WOMEN OF NSCI'S JUDAICA GIFT SHOP

**We've Gone on Hiatus!** Once construction is completed, WNSCI will have a sparkling new Gift Shop. Meanwhile, we are available by appointment for tallitot, mezuzot and scrolls, wedding items, candles, Rosh Hashanah items, and all Michael Aram merchandise. We can also place special orders and will make every effort to fulfill your Judaica needs.

**Contact the shop at 847.835.4009 or [giftshopnsci@gmail.com](mailto:giftshopnsci@gmail.com).**

# The Ruthie & Bill Katz Archives

## Rabbi Lisa S. Greene

BY ELLEN KATZ BLOCK

**IF YOU READ** Rabbi Greene's article, "A Tap on the Shoulder," in the NSCI May/June monthly bulletin, you already know that *connection* and *community* are the watchwords of her rabbinate. The world has changed, she says, but how we connect through Judaism and to one another is still vitally at the core of who we are and what we do. We challenge ourselves to make individualized, meaningful choices and to engage with our community, which is, after all, the essence of Reform Judaism.

Lisa and her sister Jackie were raised in a loving home. Her father, Rabbi Barry H. Greene, was the rabbi of Congregation B'nai Jeshurun in Short Hills, New Jersey. He had an active Jewish life growing up at Central Synagogue in Manhattan where he was a youth leader, and subsequently, an early officer of NFTY (the Reform movement's National Federation of Temple Youth) and was mentored by Rabbi Jonah B. Wise (son of Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, the founder of American Reform Judaism). Her mother, Betty (Greenstein) Greene, was, as her daughters describe her, a kindergarten teacher by profession and in life. Betty's active Jewish involvement came about in college through her involvement at UCLA Hillel and the Brandeis Bardin Institute.

Friday nights in the Greene household were sacred. Shabbat dinner at 5:30 pm before the family headed to synagogue. The phone was off the hook, the girls got along, and there were no interruptions. The Greene household was a private space of a close family, and it was also the site of synagogue doings that Lisa remembers fondly—wedding couples and conversion students coming to meet with their father, Shabbat dinners with guest scholars, and their parents' beautiful dinner parties for which the girls served, learning from their parents the "right" ways to entertain.

Lisa and Jackie grew up at B'nai Jeshurun formally through preschool,

religious school, and their Temple Youth Group (TYG), and informally by playing hide and seek at the temple and sneaking Oneg Shabbat cookies from the kitchen. Lisa was their youth group's songleader and co-led the TYG choir that sang at Shabbat services. At her temple high school graduation service she spoke about being a rabbi's kid, making it clear that she was not simply Rabbi Greene's daughter, as she was so often introduced; she had her own identity.

After studying finance at the University of Pennsylvania, and gathering work experience in investment banking, in 1990 Lisa made her way to rabbinical school at the Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion. Ordained in 1995, Rabbi Greene moved to Chicago. For four years she served Temple Jeremiah in Northfield where she created a youth program, an annual Mitzvah Day, a women's seder, and an adult b'nei mitzvah program. As Jeremiah's then senior rabbi, Robert Schreiberman, prepared to retire, she reached out to our senior rabbi, Steven Mason, to talk. The timing was fortuitous as a rabbinic position was just opening up at NSCI. The rest, as they say, is history—great history in fact! In July 1999, Rabbi Greene arrived at NSCI, thrilled to be joining the clergy team.

If you think, however, that the universe was finished giving us unforeseen connections among people in our NSCI leadership (see the articles on Rabbi Steve Mason, Cantor David Goldstein, and Rabbi Ryan Daniels), you would be wrong. On a trip home to New Jersey before she began at NSCI, Rabbi Greene sat down with her old camp trunk at the urging of her mother. Rabbi Greene found a trove of letters from her camper days at URJ Camp Harlam, including one of her father's typed letters asking, among other things, who her camp education counselor was. Could you have guessed that person was Patty Mason (Rabbi Mason's wife), then a graduate student in Jewish education at the Hebrew Union College?



Lisa and Patty had a good laugh—in fact, many—as they partnered on innovative family education programs here for 15 years, Patty as our Family Educator, leading an incredible array of informal creative family programming. This informal learning is one of Rabbi Greene's great points of pride during her 24-year tenure at NSCI. Additionally, Rabbi Greene created and teaches our Adult B'nei Mitzvah program which she established in 2000; she guides and creates engaging women's programming—our Women's Seder and the Women's Retreat. Her love of creating new rituals is evidenced in the Alternative Yizkor service she has led for festivals, and through divorce rituals which she leads, writes, and speaks on.

As with our other clergy, Rabbi Greene treasures professional relationships and friendships with NSCI's rabbis and cantor, alongside the warmth, strength, and partnership with so many in our congregation who want to learn and create, rolling up their sleeves to bring ideas to fruition.

While Rabbi Greene feels blessed to be a part of NSCI, we, of course, are honored to have her as a wise and experienced member of our clergy team and to embrace the way she models active participation in connection and community. ■

**For the full article, visit [nsci.org/archives](http://nsci.org/archives).**

# July 2023 ■ Tammuz/Av 5783

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						<b>1</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Interactive Torah Study <b>10:15 am</b> Saturday morning Minyan Service
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Independence Day</b> <b>Building Closed</b>	<b>5</b> <b>6:00 pm</b> AA Meeting <b>7:00 pm</b> Kol Zimrah Rehearsal <b>7:00 pm</b> Community Service for Healing and Comfort	<b>6</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> WNSCI Mah Jongg	<b>7</b> <b>6:15 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat Service <b>8:00 pm</b> Post Kabbalat Shabbat Concert — RSMI Piano and Strings Fellows	<b>8</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Interactive Torah Study <b>10:15 am</b> Saturday morning Minyan Service
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> Adult B'nei Mitzvah	<b>11</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> WNSCI Book Club <b>5:30 pm</b> Women's Israel Trip Informational Meeting with Rabbi Greene <b>7:00 pm</b> FA Meeting	<b>12</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> Senior Connections <b>6:00 pm</b> AA Meeting <b>7:00 pm</b> Kol Zimrah Rehearsal	<b>13</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> WNSCI Mah Jongg	<b>14</b> <b>6:15 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat Service	<b>15</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Interactive Torah Study <b>10:15 am</b> Saturday morning Minyan Service
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> FA Meeting	<b>19</b> <b>6:00 pm</b> AA Meeting <b>7:00 pm</b> Kol Zimrah Rehearsal <b>8:00 pm</b> Healing Service on Facebook	<b>20</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> WNSCI Mah Jongg	<b>21</b> <b>6:15 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat Service	<b>22</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Interactive Torah Study <b>10:15 am</b> Saturday morning Minyan Service
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> Greatest Hits of the Talmud with Rabbi Geffen <b>7:00 pm</b> Adult B'nei Mitzvah	<b>25</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> FA Meeting	<b>26</b> <b>6:00 pm</b> AA Meeting	<b>27</b> <b>Tisha B'Av</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> WNSCI Mah Jongg	<b>28</b> <b>6:15 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat Service	<b>29</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Interactive Torah Study <b>10:15 am</b> Saturday morning Minyan Service
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> Greatest Hits of the Talmud with Rabbi Geffen					



# August 2023 ■ Av/Elul 5783

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 7:00 pm FA Meeting	2 Tu B'Av 1:00 pm Senior Connections 6:00 pm AA Meeting	3 1:00 pm WNSCI Mah Jongg	4 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	5 9:30 am Interactive Torah Study 10:15 am Saturday morning Minyan Service
6	7 1:00 pm Greatest Hits of the Talmud with Rabbi Geffen 7:00 pm Adult B'nei Mitzvah	8 1:00 pm WNSCI Book Club 7:00 pm FA Meeting	9 6:00 pm AA Meeting	10 1:00 pm WNSCI Mah Jongg	11 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service 8:00 pm Post Kabbalat Shabbat Concert — RSMI Vocal Fellows	12 9:30 am Interactive Torah Study 10:15 am Saturday morning Minyan Service
13 10:30 am NSCI Summer Softball and Picnic Gathering	14	15 7:00 pm FA Meeting	16 Rosh Chodesh/ 1st of Elul 1:00 pm Senior Connections 6:00 pm AA Meeting 8:00 pm Healing Service on Facebook	17 1:00 pm WNSCI Mah Jongg	18 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:15 pm Ice Cream Truck Oneg	19 9:30 am Interactive Torah Study 10:15 am Saturday morning Minyan Service
20 10:30 am RAIN DATE — NSCI Summer Softball and Picnic Gathering	21 1:00 pm Greatest Hits of the Talmud with Rabbi Geffen 7:00 pm Adult B'nei Mitzvah	22 7:00 pm FA Meeting	23 9:00 am Spirituality Walk with Rabbi Nina Mizrahi 6:00 pm AA Meeting	24 1:00 pm WNSCI Mah Jongg	25 6:15 pm Pride Shabbat Service	26 9:30 am Interactive Torah Study 10:00 am Bees in the Park 10:15 am Saturday morning Minyan Service
27	28	29 7:00 pm FA Meeting	30 6:00 pm AA Meeting 8:00 pm Healing Service on Facebook	31 1:00 pm WNSCI Mah Jongg		



**NORTH SHORE  
CONGREGATION  
ISRAEL**

1185 SHERIDAN ROAD  
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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

**MAY THROUGH OCTOBER,  
WHEN LIGHT AND WEATHER PERMIT**

**6:15 PM ON THE LILLIAN AND LARRY GOODMAN TERRACE**

*Watch your email and visit [nscli.org/shabbat](http://nscli.org/shabbat) for more information.*

*Services will be moved to the Perlman Sanctuary in case of inclement weather.  
Kabbalat Shabbat Services will continue to be streamed on our website and Facebook.*