

NORTH SHORE  
CONGREGATION  
ISRAEL

# The Bulletin

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## Writing Our Synagogue's Newest Torah

BY RABBI WENDI GEFFEN page 3

Did you know that the final mitzvah of the 613 is that each of us  
is commanded to write a Torah scroll for ourselves?



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*Women of NSCI Co-President*

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# Writing Our Synagogue's Newest Torah

BY RABBI WENDI GEFFEN



## **"ALL THAT MATTERS**

is that I read from the actual Torah!" Without fail, this was the declaration of every student during

the Covid lockdown whose b'nei mitzvah services were relegated to taking place in their own homes with everyone else on Zoom. Without fail, each of them could accept the many significant losses that came with the experience, including the loss of their parties; what they would not accept was a photograph or printed copy of the Torah text. Their singular demand was to be able to read from the real scroll!

And when we, the clergy, would deliver the scroll to each home the day before the service, we would watch family members receive the scroll into their arms as if we were handing them the most precious of souls, carefully carrying it into their homes, to place the scroll ever so gently into whichever space they had designated as the Torah's in their home during its visit; the Torah became a cherished family member. Afterward, the students, along with the rest of their families, would inevitably share how special it was to be entrusted with the Torah's care, and how sacred the experience of being so close to the Torah had been for them all.

As a rabbi, I am privileged to witness the profound experience of people coming close to the Torah regularly. From large communal experiences of awe when our community witnesses the entire Torah unscrolled on Simchat Torah to the intimate, sacred encounters of a grown adult being called up to the Torah for an aliyah for the first time and weeping, the experience of holy awe

combined with profound and personal connection is moving and precious.

One of the main reasons for this, I think, is that somehow, each of us recognizes that the Torah is not just an ancient relic of history, but rather, it is the living thread connecting the entirety of the Jewish people and those who love them through space and time. And every time any of us come close to it, we claim our space not just as the Torah's recipients, but also as its transmitters to those who will come after us. In this sense, each of us keeps the Torah relevant and alive.

This is not just a figurative idea. Did you know that the final mitzvah of the 613 is that each of us is commanded to write a Torah scroll for ourselves?<sup>1</sup> In fact, Maimonides teaches that even if a person's ancestors left behind a Torah scroll, it is still incumbent upon each person in every generation to write one themselves. Why? Because a person who writes the scroll by hand is considered to be like someone who received it on Mount Sinai—the writing of it essentially seals the profoundly personal connection, literally and figuratively putting ourselves into the Torah's ever-revealing narrative. Of course, on a practical level, not everyone has the skill, or the time, to write an entire scroll. As such, tradition permitted for the selecting of a surrogate scribe to help.

As you likely know, NSCI is blessed to have many Torah scrolls from which we read on a regular basis. One of our scrolls is so well-read that it is beyond the point of repair; we are therefore in need of a new Torah scroll. As such, on April 14th, NSCI will begin writing our newest Torah—the first Torah of our

**Did you know that the final mitzvah of the 613 is that each of us is commanded to write a Torah scroll for ourselves?**

synagogue's second century of existence and thriving! During the 18-month project, everyone in our congregation will have the opportunity to meet *soferet* (scribe) Linda Coppleson, to participate in a number of exciting learning opportunities, and to fulfill the mitzvah of writing a Torah!

This once-in-a-generation opportunity will undoubtedly prove profoundly meaningful for everyone who chooses to participate. Through the actual writing, each of us will be able to get as close as possible to Torah, literally bringing the scroll to life. By helping to write a letter of Torah, we will bring ourselves to the Torah and in doing so, bring the Torah to the next generation and even the next century of our congregation. *L'dor vador*, we can't wait to write the future of our families, the synagogue, and the Jewish people together! ■

1. See Mishneh Torah, Laws of Tefillin, Mezuzah and the Torah Scroll, 7:1.

**Join us Sunday April 14th  
at 10:00 am as we launch  
*Letter by Letter: The NSCI  
Torah Project!***



# Introducing NSCI's New Torah Soferet

BY MIA DRELICH, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR AT NSCI



## OVER THE COURSE

of the next year, you will have the opportunity to meet and create alongside Linda Coppleson,

the incredibly talented *soferet* who will be writing North Shore Congregation Israel's new Torah scroll. A *sofer* or *soferet* is a Jewish scribe who writes *sifrei kodseh* (holy scrolls) amongst other important Jewish documents. What sets a *sofer* or *soferet* apart from an artist who merely works with calligraphy is their special training and knowledge of *halachah*, Jewish law.

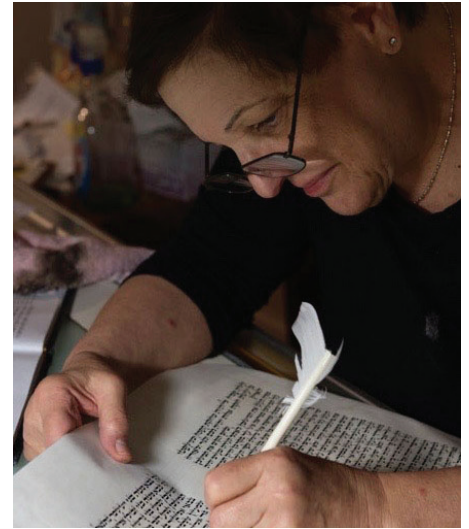
Linda grew up in Newark, New Jersey, and became a bat mitzvah when this was still uncommon for young women. With her more liberal upbringing in shul, it didn't dawn on her until college that women were not traditionally allowed to take part in writing holy texts. Linda's artistic prowess was initially musically driven, but a fascination with calligraphy, along with her Near Eastern and Judaic studies background from Brandeis University, led her toward *sofrut*, the practice of calligraphy specifically for Jewish religious texts. In a piece published by *USCJ Journeys* (2020) Linda mentions that "she was drawn to the perspective of the scribe's role in preserving and transmitting the ancient texts of the Jewish people." This is what led her to pursue writing *ketubot* for her family and friends while she taught a variety of subjects at Solomon Schechter Day School. A *ketubah* is a traditional Jewish marriage contract signed by two witnesses and presented to a couple during their wedding ceremony. Linda continued to strengthen her calligraphy skills creating beautiful *ketubot* for marrying couples.

As Linda's maneuvering of a quill and ink advanced, she looked toward becoming a scribe, something that could only be learned by studying one on one with a trained *sofer* or *soferet*. In an interview with

*New Jersey Jewish News* (2008) Linda says, "You don't go to school and get a degree. It's a process. At some point you come to the realization that you are a *soferet*. You have a sense that you are qualified and the confidence that you can do a good job." Even with this confidence in her abilities, acquiring materials to practice as a scribe would pose a challenge for Linda and other female scribal students. Traditionally only Jewish men could be scribes, and it was only in 2007 that women began to become full scribes; Jen Taylor Friedman is the first recorded *soferet* to complete the writing of a Torah scroll. According to a peer of Linda's, Rabbi Linda Motzkin of Temple Sinai in Saratoga Springs, New York, purchasing kosher parchment and ink required deceiving the merchant so they would not perceive the women to be the ones using the supplies (Tenorio, 2017). Their other option would be to have a man purchase the supplies on their behalf.

Today, female scribes are becoming much more widely accepted, with the exception of some Jewish circles. In fact, the first Torah project that Linda worked on was the Women's Torah Project, which, over the course of eight years, came to be the first known Torah ever created by a team of women. From there, Linda went on to write her first solo Torah for Congregation Beth Elohim in Brooklyn, New York, followed by many others.

Interestingly, Linda is left-handed and has dealt with her fair share of difficulties as a result in her practice of *sofrut*. You may think that the direction in which we read Hebrew, from right to left, would make it easier for a left-handed *soferet* to write, but, as Linda mentions in an interview with the *Jewish Exponent* (2019), most instructions for *sofrim* are written for right-handed individuals. Additionally, some traditional Jewish texts are interpreted to mean that lefties are disqualified from writing a Torah scroll. Linda has shared, though, that the verse in which lefties are barred from such work has been reinterpreted to mean that scribes must not write sacred texts with their non-dominant hand. Despite some challenges, Linda has found ways to make pursuing the



practice of *sofrut* easier for her left-handedness, such as utilizing a feather from the left wing of a turkey as her quill!

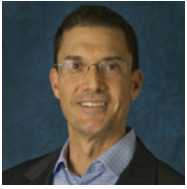
In the summer of 2023, Linda had a rare and meaningful opportunity. Her grandson became a bar mitzvah and read from a Torah that Linda scribed herself. We look forward to getting to know Linda Coppleson better when she comes to NSCI to launch the writing of our new sefer Torah. There will be many ways for you to touch, connect, experience, and learn as we embark on this exciting new venture. Don't forget to save the date for our inaugural event on April 14th, where we will launch this once-in-a-generation project. We can't wait to participate as a community in this sacred process. ■

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# The World's Longest-running Book Club

BY JEFF ECHT, PRESIDENT



**TRADITION**, prayer, nostalgia, pride, and the importance of community contribute to the durability of NSCI. I imagine

that other congregations benefit from the same. There is another undeniable foundation of NSCI and other congregations that continues to support us all—the Torah.

Each Shabbat (and often other times during the week) Jews, from around the world, gather to read, listen, and learn from our most sacred document. This tradition has continued for thousands of years and will for thousands more. How has the Torah endured for so long? That answer may be different for each of us. I can summarize my attraction to Torah study, as an adult, in two words: approachable and relevant.

The approachability of Torah study is a function of the talent, wisdom, and creative and open-minded approach of our clergy. They make it easy to listen, learn, and interact in a safe and non-judgmental space. Contemporary relevance reflects the miracle that is the Torah. Lessons of morality, family, respect, empathy, and so many others are as impactful today as when the Torah was written.

But I wasn't always such a dedicated student of Torah. Imagine if you had stopped studying math, science, or literature at an age when many of us no longer attended religious school (ages 13–18). If you were like me, you may not have appreciated the importance of basic science, math, or the craft of the Brontë sisters in high school. Similarly, I could not relate to the lessons of the Torah as a teenager. For some reason, stories of sibling rivalries, parental favorites, war, famine, and dramatic

escapes from tyrants were not engaging as an adolescent. Today, these same themes grab our attention on Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Hulu. And yes, they hold our attention on Saturday morning as well. Not only is the plot interesting, as adults we can better appreciate the messages that are expressed and implied throughout the Torah. These stories, themes, and lessons that have endured for centuries await you at "The World's Longest-running Book Club," every Saturday morning at NSCI and at synagogues around the world.

In case you have not heard, we are creating a new Torah! Join the entire NSCI family as we embark on a project that will be approachable to all, eternally relevant, and resonate for generations. ■

## Board of Trustees: Open Call for Nominations

One of the ways we encourage our congregants to be stakeholders at NSCI is the gratification of volunteering and joining leadership. The nominating process for our 2024–25 Board of Trustees is underway. Jamie Greenebaum is pleased to be chairing this year's Nominating Committee. The NSCI Board is a dynamic group of dedicated congregants who serve the highest aims of our congregation with a diverse range of talents, skills, ages, and interests.

*Please visit [www.nsci.org/form/BOTApp2024](http://www.nsci.org/form/BOTApp2024) to nominate yourself or others by 5:00 pm on Sunday, March 10th, and find information about serving on the Board of Trustees. Nominees will be interviewed by members of the Nominating Committee. Should you have any questions or wish to speak about a nomination, please contact Jamie Greenebaum, Nominating Committee Chair, at [www.nsci.org/form/BOTNomChairJamie](http://www.nsci.org/form/BOTNomChairJamie).*

## NSCI Then and Now: Confirmation Photos



NSCI's very first confirmation class, pictured to the left, took place in 1933. Since then, we have seen hundreds upon hundreds of students confirmed, and in doing so, reaffirm their commitment to Judaism in connection with Shavuot, a celebration of the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai.

*If you, a family member, or a friend were an NSCI confirmation student, you can now look through all the pictures of past confirmation classes on our website by visiting [nsci.org/pcc](http://nsci.org/pcc). Additionally, you can view all past presidents of NSCI by viewing to the Leadership page on our website.*

# In Memoriam: Rabbi Herbert Bronstein

(1930–2023)



Rabbi Herbert Bronstein (z”l) served our congregation as Senior Rabbi for a quarter century, 1972–1997, and was our Senior Scholar in his retirement, 1997–2023. He brought to our NSCI community a deep respect for NSCI’s history and a readiness for innovation. Rabbi Bronstein’s respect for tradition has been evident in our NSCI liturgy and holiday celebrations, and his creative efforts manifest in the existence of our Perlman Sanctuary, our KARAV youth retreat, in the haggadah he authored, *A Passover Haggadah* (CCAR Press, 1978), and so much more. His legacy lives on in our congregation, the wider Jewish community, and the Reform Movement. *Zichrono livrachah*—may his memory be a blessing.

**“I HAD THE PRIVILEGE** of serving as President of North Shore Congregation Israel from 2009 to 2012. Although I previously knew Rabbi Bronstein, I really got to know him a bit better during that time. He was always warm, gracious, and supportive to me in my role—and could not have been lovelier. My own father, who is on the cusp of turning 100 next month, frequently participated in classes that the rabbi taught and has told me how much he learned from those experiences. I was always inspired by him and I feel honored to have known him.” —*Judy Wexler*

**“IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DESCRIBE** the incredible impact Rabbi Bronstein has had upon me. So much of what I value, how I try to live, what I know and enjoy and believe can be attributed to him. Both directly, through his words, teachings, behaviors, and passion, as well as indirectly, through the programs he established and the leaders he inspired and brought to NSCI. He shaped my life profoundly. His brilliance and scholarship and teaching. His ability to help people experience and sense the sacred and holy. His dedication to tradition that he so deftly entwined with creativity, poetry, and music to produce unparalleled moving worship experiences. His ability to motivate large groups yet also support and lift up individuals. ... I felt closest to the sacred, the other, the holy, and to what really matters when I was with him. As he inspired me then, he will always inspire me. What a magnificent life!” —*Lee Freedman*

**“I HAD THE HONOR** of serving as president with Rabbi Bronstein during the last two years of his tenure as Senior Rabbi. He was just wonderful to work with. We never had a moment of tension. It was such a privilege to have worked with him in so many different ways. His memory will truly be a blessing for us.” —*David Grossberg*

**“RABBI BRONSTEIN WAS THE DEAREST MAN.** I loved him; he was such a fine person. He devoted his life to the temple. He was a real human being. I remember when we all went to Israel together and had the time of our lives. In the last six months of his life, we paid tribute to him at a dinner with congregants who had been members of NSCI for 50 years or more. I was the first president of the temple, and he used to say to me, ‘Heavy is the head that wears the crown’—he was always joking, he was an incredible person. I miss him, but I know he’s happy where he is.” —*Judy Geleerd Kitzes*

**“I WORKED IN THE NSCI SYNAGOGUE OFFICE** from 2009–2019. I’m from Cincinnati, where my father, Lowell McCoy, taught homiletics at HUC beginning in 1949–1950. Herbert Bronstein was one of my father’s early students. Once I began work at NSCI and made the connection, both my father and Rabbi Bronstein spoke fondly of each other. Imagine my surprise when my daughter, a freshman at Lake Forest College told me, ‘Mom, I have this elderly professor named Rabbi Bronstein.’ I was tickled to let her know the connection between Herb and her grandfather. It was always a joy to speak with Rabbi Bronstein. He always asked about my daughter, Melissa. It was a pleasure to know him.” —*Lisa McCoy Goosmann*

**“I MET RABBI BRONSTEIN** while I was a student at Lake Forest College in the late 1990s. I had taken a Religion class that he had taught – and I was so profoundly affected by the class and our discussions during his office hours that I continued to study with him both at school and later independently, one-on-one, in conjunction with other classes I took at NSCI. My studies with him changed me so much that not a week has gone by in my life that I have not thought of him. He was a scholar, a deeply caring person, and a true tzadik. The world has lost a treasure.” —*Antonio Musillami*



# Mazel Tov!

## WELCOME!



**Dakota S. Bagan**

**BORN MARCH 26, 2023**

Child of Marcy & Scott Bagan  
Grandchild of Phylis & Ken Bagan,  
Heidi & Jeff Budaj, and Jeff Fischgrund  
Great grandchild of Helene Fischgund  
and Patricia & Jack Balser



**Ari David Glazer**

**BORN DECEMBER 9, 2023**

Child of Jenny & Jeff Glazer  
Sibling of Harry & Evan Glazer  
Grandchild of Susan & Scott Glazer  
and Bonnie & David Garfield

**Robert Joseph Lieber**

**BORN JANUARY 4, 2024**

Child of Jessie & Jimmy Lieber  
Sibling of Charlie Lieber  
Grandchild of Lynne & Michael Lieber  
and Carol Faus



**Camden Bo Harris**

**BORN JANUARY 24, 2024**

Child of Taylor & Jacob Harris  
Sibling of Sage Harris  
Grandchild of Barbara Bruno and  
Marsha & David Wiggins



**Liam Nathan Levine**

**BORN DECEMBER 16, 2023**

Child of Rachel Weitzman Levine & Max  
Levine  
Grandchild of Patty & Jay Weitzman  
and Lisa & Andy Levine  
Great grandchild of Paul & Leigh Hofman  
and Steve & Sue Weitzman



**Rafael (Rafa) Bennett Brattin**

**BORN JANUARY 2, 2024**

Child of Ari & Jim Brattin  
Grandchild of Dana & Lee Gordon  
and Kathy & Bruce Brattin  
Great grandchild of Barbara Goldsmith  
and Lynn & Abe Goldsmith



**Maya Chana Tross**

**BORN FEBRUARY 7, 2024**

Child of Chloe & Adam Tross  
Sibling of Ezra Tross  
Grandchild of Beth & Nathan Tross  
and Ester & Andrew Goodman  
Great grandchild of Shirley Tross  
and Jeanne Levitt

## WEDDINGS



**Miriam Cohen & Michael Liberman**  
**DECEMBER 17, 2023**



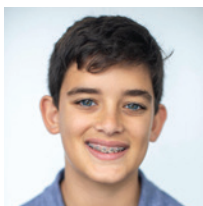
**Mitch Hirsch & Marianne Rosen**  
**DECEMBER 9, 2023**



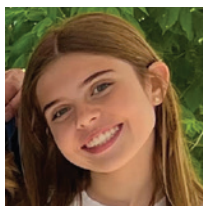
**Justin Kleifield & Ari Richman**  
**DECEMBER 16, 2023**

*Continued on page 8*

## B'NEI MITZVAH



**Elliot Ornstein**  
**MARCH 2, 2024**  
Child of Marisa &  
Noah Ornstein



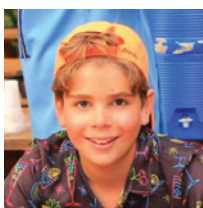
**Mila Stevens**  
**MARCH 9, 2024**  
Child of Arin & Ryan Stevens



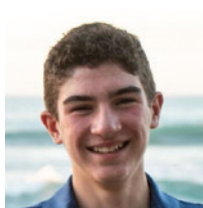
**Alexa Delrahim**  
**APRIL 7, 2024**  
Child of Lindsey Delrahim &  
Michael Delrahim



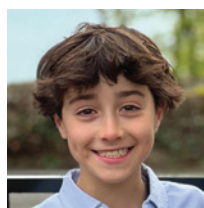
**Hudson Drescher**  
**APRIL 13, 2024**  
Child of Jessica Drescher &  
Jake Drescher



**Max Silverstein**  
**MARCH 2, 2024**  
Child of Amy Silverstein &  
Brian Silverstein



**Jack Lester**  
**MARCH 16, 2024**  
Child of Laura & Michael Lester



**Zachary Delrahim**  
**APRIL 7, 2024**  
Child of Lindsey Delrahim &  
Michael Delrahim



**Harper Starr**  
**APRIL 20, 2024**  
Child of Ryan Starr

## A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW NSCI CONGREGANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

(From September 27th, 2023 to January 24th, 2024)

**Carol & Max Haid**  
**Teri Heyden**

**Lana & Al Levit**  
**Amy Lieberstein**

**Perry Mimms & Dan Durkin**  
**Gilat & Mitchel Zamost**

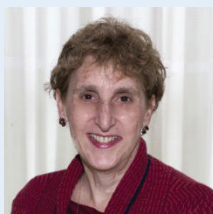
## STAFF DEVELOPMENTS



**Welcome Abe Oweina!**  
NSCI's New Maintenance Assistant

### CELEBRATE DR. ROBERTA GOODMAN!

**SUNDAY, APRIL 7**  
4:00-6:00 PM, DOUBLETREE HOTEL, SKOKIE



Join the Board of Jewish Education (BJE) as they honor Dr. Roberta Goodman with the prestigious L'dor V'dor award at the 2024 "Be Bold ... Be Bright Annual Celebration."

Light meal will be provided. Tickets are \$180 each or \$90 for current Jewish educators. If you would like to recognize Roberta, a tribute book opportunity is available at <https://bje-chicago.square.site> (go to BJE Annual Celebration,

then click on Program/Tribute Book Order form). For more information, please contact Leslye Whittman, Event Manager, at 773.502.5640.

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



# We Remember

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

### **Barry Berish**

Husband of Mollybelle Berish  
Father of Brad (Audrey), Brian (Leslie),  
Blake, and Brett (Alana)  
Grandfather of Brandon, Brooks, Madison,  
Bria, Lauren, Beauregard, Lexington,  
Balthazar, Kensington, and Brinxston

### **Edward "Ed" Berman**

Husband of Penny Berman  
Father of Joel Berman, Lynne Levernier,  
Jonna (David) Keefe, and Kelly Davis  
(Paul) Seeman  
Grandfather of Camie, Jacob, Sam,  
Shannon, Rachel, Abby, Sadie, and Judd

### **Marvin Bilfeld**

Father of Stacy (Mike) Kirchheimer  
Grandfather of Harrison, Hanna, and Hope

### **Rabbi Herbert Bronstein**

NSCI's Senior Rabbi, 1972–1997,  
NSCI's Senior Scholar, 1997–2023  
Husband of Tamar Bronstein, z"l  
Father of Rabbi Daniel Mosheh  
(Sari Fensterheim) Bronstein,  
Rabbi Deborah Ruth Bronstein,  
and Miriam Bronstein  
Grandfather of Lev Kling-Bronstein  
and Samuel Fensterheim-Bronstein

### **Lewis F. Coplan**

Father of Rich (Karen) Coplan  
Grandfather of Zachary and Spencer  
Coplan

### **Shirley Epstein**

Mother of Bennett (Meridith Clement)  
Epstein and Marcia (Tom) Fraerman  
Grandmother of Andrew (Juliya Talmacheva)  
Fraerman, Amanda Fraerman, Jenn (Scott)  
Hoffman, and Abigail (Brian) Runo  
Great Grandmother of Reyne, Gabriel,  
Chloe, and Catherine

### **Helene Block Fields**

Mother of David (Ellen) Block  
Grandmother of Aaron, Joshua, Benji,  
and Emily

### **Susanne Kraus Glink**

Mother of Ilyce Glink (Sam) Tamkin  
Grandmother of Alex and Michael Tamkin

### **Andrea Gold**

Mother of Carin (Evan) Sussholz,  
Brad (Mira) Gold, and Jeff (Michaela) Gold  
Grandmother Of Brandon, Ava, Zion,  
and Ari

### **Felice Gordon**

Mother of Lee (Dana) Gordon  
Grandmother of Alex (Lasette) Gordon,  
Ari (Jim) Brattin, and David Gordon

### **Dr. Gilbert Hefter**

Significant Other of Lorelei Rosenthal

### **Seth A. Knobel**

Brother of Jeremy (Alyssa) Knobel  
Uncle of Heather and Stephen Knobel

### **U.S. Senator Herb Kohl**

Brother of Dolores Kohl Kaplan  
Uncle of Stephen (Mark Tilton) Kohl

### **Walter Pancoe**

Husband of Elizabeth "Beth" Pancoe  
Father of Patti Pancoe, Peggy Pancoe  
(Steve Unger) Rosoff, and Polly Pancoe  
Kortlander  
Grandfather of Rebecca Rosoff and  
Pamela (Aaron) Krol  
Great Grandfather of Oliver and Owen Krol  
Stepfather of Allen (Kadi Lewis Hodges)  
Frazelle  
Step Grandfather of Phoebe and Isabel

### **Karalyn Peters**

Niece of Margot & Mark Peters

### **Lynne Rice**

Mother of Aaron (Dana) Rice and Marisa  
(Adam) Chez  
Grandmother of Jacob and Ava Rice,  
and Francesca and Marshall Chez

### **Fred Rothschild**

Father of David (Merle Branner) Rothschild

### **Barbara Sandek**

Grandmother of Rabbi Jacob (Rabbi Lily  
Goldstein) Leizman

### **Iliana Schoen**

Sister-in-law of Mari Hirsh

### **Janet Claire Boshes Stern**

Mother of Julia (Michael Myers) Stern,  
Richard (Grace Morsberger) Stern,  
and Patricia Stern (the late James, z"l)  
Smallacombe  
Grandmother of Emma Stern, Nicholas  
Myers, Jake Stern, and Anna Smallacombe

### **Monica Toppel**

Mother of Lauren (Neil) Rosenbaum  
Grandmother of Brecken and Tatum

### **Leonard Worssek**

Father of Richard (Lisa), Julie (Jeff Olian),  
Nancy, and John (Bruce Clark)  
Grandfather of Lauren (Paul Varnado)  
Worssek, Jared (Ashley) Olian, Jamie (Jay  
Goldstein) Worssek, Mallory Olian (Pete)  
DePrekel, Michael (Jeremy Silverberg)  
Worssek, and Noa Rosenberg  
Great Grandfather of eight



## Discounted Burial Plots for NSCI Congregants

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](http://www.nsci.org/support) for a full list of resources available to you.

## HANDS OF CHESED, NSCI'S CARING COMMUNITY



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

*"I was surprised and delighted to find that someone had delivered a lovely bouquet of roses and a box of truffles ... 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!"*

## HEALING SERVICES WITH CANTOR GOLDSTEIN ON FACEBOOK

**WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 13, 27, AND APRIL 17  
8:00 PM ON FACEBOOK**



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 THE FAMILY ROOM**

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

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

## ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

**WEDNESDAYS  
6:00-7:00 PM IN THE FAMILY ROOM**

**For information, 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 contact Mia Drelich by visiting [nsci.org/form/CMD](http://nsci.org/form/CMD) 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 by visiting [nsci.org/form/CSD](http://nsci.org/form/CSD).**



Purim is for everyone—not just kids! Experience the joy of the holiday with fun events at NSCI and activities you can do on your own time. Beginning March 13th, enjoy a week's worth of activities leading up to Purim, which begins the evening of Saturday, March 23rd and ends at sundown on Sunday, March 24th.

Did we mention a raffle prize?



### ENTER OUR RAFFLE

Visit [nsci.org/mp2024](https://nsci.org/mp2024) to learn more about all our Purim happenings and enter our raffle to win an ice cream outing with a clergy member of your choice! Now that's a sweet deal!

### PURIM COOKIE DECORATING

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13**  
6:00–8:30 PM AT NSCI

A WNSCI Program

We had so much fun decorating cookies for Chanukah that we've asked Jamie Hadden of One Happy Cookie Bakeshop to walk us through decorating cookies with a Purim theme! The cost is \$40 and will include a light supper and all of the supplies to create four beautifully designed cookies.

Visit [nsci.org/event/PurimCD](https://nsci.org/event/PurimCD) to register.

### QUEEN VASHTI'S TIYUL: STORYBOOK WALK

**MARCH 15-22**  
AT NSCI



Walk through the pages of the book *Queen Vashti's Comfy Pants* and enjoy this humorous feminist spin on the Purim story where Vashti stands up for herself and shows the value of her own worth.

### PURIM CARNIVAL

**SUNDAY, MARCH 17**  
10:05–11:00 AM IN FRANK HALL

Parents and grandparents are welcome to accompany their preschool, Kindergarten, and first-grade student(s). Celebrate Purim at NSCI and make your graggers roar! Join us for singing, a Purim play, a costume parade, and enjoy Purim games.

*If you do not have a child enrolled in religious school at the GCJE, please visit [nsci.org/event/PC24](https://nsci.org/event/PC24) to register.*

### PURIM FAMILY EXPERIENCE

**SUNDAY, MARCH 17**  
11:00 AM–12:15 PM AT NSCI

Parents and grandparents with children preschool age 3 through fourth grade. Play Purim bingo and make hamantaschen! Children must be accompanied by an adult. Light snack will be served.

Visit [nsci.org/event/PFC24](https://nsci.org/event/PFC24) to register.

### PURIM KINDNESS & CREATIVITY: MISHLOACH MANOT WORKSHOP

**SUNDAY, MARCH 17**  
10:00 AM–12:00 PM AT NSCI

On Purim we have a tradition of bringing *mishloach manot*, gifts of sweets, to friends, family, and members of our community. Please join us to make exquisite Purim cards with Cori Levinson and delicious hamantaschen with Pam Faulkner. We will then package our creations, and members of our Hands of Chesed team will deliver the *mishloach manot* packages to members of our community. This workshop is for adults.

Visit [nsci.org/event/Mishmanot2024](https://nsci.org/event/Mishmanot2024) to register. If you have questions, please contact Rabbi Greene by visiting [nsci.org/form/ERLG](https://nsci.org/form/ERLG).

### THEMES OF JOY, RESILIENCE, AND GIVING IN THE BOOK OF ESTHER

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20**  
12:00–1:00 PM VIA ZOOM

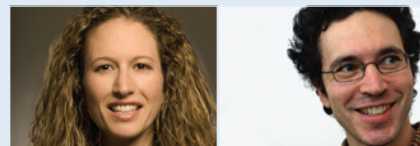
Led by Rabbi Jacob Leizman

Ever wonder what Purim is all about beyond the carnival? Prepare for Purim by learning the Book of Esther! We will trace the themes of joy, resilience, and giving from the Book of Esther to the holiday of Purim. No background knowledge necessary.

Visit [nsci.org/event/ThemesofPurim](https://nsci.org/event/ThemesofPurim) to register.

### PURIM COMEDY CABARET

**FRIDAY, MARCH 22**  
FOLLOWING KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES, REBECCA K. CROWN SOCIAL HALL



Join us for a fabulous cabaret-style evening for Shabbat and Purim, with dinner and live entertainment. Actor-comedians Jessica Rogers and Matthew Pollack of Second City will wow us with their shtick, and congregants will be welcome to sign up to showcase their comedic, musical, or storytelling talents. Cantor Goldstein will also share a short, comedic chanting of the megillah. You won't want to miss it!

**Cost: \$25 for dinner and show.**  
Visit [nsci.org/event/PCab24](https://nsci.org/event/PCab24) to register.



# Passover Programs



Passover begins the evening of April 22nd with the first seder and ends at sundown on April 30th.

Passover is a wonderful time to welcome guests into our homes, especially for those who do not have a place to go for the holiday. If you have an extra seat at your seder table, please contact Sue Ellenby, [susane@nsci.org](mailto:susane@nsci.org), so we can help connect you with someone who is looking for a seder to attend.

At NSCI we will celebrate Passover with the Passover Morning Experience and study on Tuesday, April 23rd, at 9:30 am, and a Yizkor or memorial ritual on April 29th at 9:30 am.

*The administrative office will close at 1:00 pm before the first seder on April 22nd and will remain closed until 9:00 am on April 25th. Additionally, the administration office will be closed on April 29th to allow staff to observe the final day of Passover.*

## "IN EVERY GENERATION": THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SEDER AND US

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3**  
**12:00 PM, VIA ZOOM**

Led by Rabbi Dalia Marx



Learn with Israeli rabbi and scholar Dalia Marx in an exploration of lesser known Passover texts that will give

us new insight into Passover.

Visit [nsci.org/event/IEG24](https://nsci.org/event/IEG24) to register.

Rabbi Dalia Marx is the author of the newly released *From Time to Time: Journeys in the Jewish Calendar* and is the lead editor of the Israeli Reform siddur, *Tfillat HaAdam* (2020). A tenth-generation Jerusalemite, she is the Aaron D. Panken Professor of Liturgy and Midrash at HUC-JIR's Taube Family Campus in Jerusalem. She is active in promoting liberal Judaism in Israel.

## YOU CAN LEAD AN INTERACTIVE SEDER!

**MONDAY, APRIL 8**  
**12:00 PM, VIA ZOOM**

Led by Rabbi Lisa Greene

Do your family Passover traditions need some new energy? Do you have young children at a once adult-only seder? Are your seder guests members of different faith traditions? Rabbi Greene will guide you through ideas for seder preparation and leading to engage everyone with fun and meaning.

Visit [nsci.org/event/HLIS24](https://nsci.org/event/HLIS24) to register.

## SONGS OF OUR SEDER

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17**  
**6:00-7:30 PM AT NSCI**

A WNSCI Program

Led by Cantor Susie Lewis Friedman



We will sing familiar seder songs and enjoy hearing the variants of those songs from other Jewish traditions.

We encourage you to bring a guest! Light refreshments will be served. In the feast of Passover, we are reminded that we must open our homes to strangers and feed the hungry. Please bring food donations for Moraine Township Food Pantry. Items needed: cereals, canned tuna and chicken, jam and preserves, pasta sauce, condiments (mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard, etc.), crackers, granola bars, pancake mix, brown and white rice, instant coffee, tea and hot chocolate.

Visit [nsci.org/event/SOOS](https://nsci.org/event/SOOS) to register.

## BEFORE THE MATZAH LET'S EAT PASTA: A PRE- PASSOVER COMMUNITY SHABBAT DINNER

**FRIDAY, APRIL 19**  
**FOLLOWING SERVICES**

Get your favorite leavened carbohydrates in with your NSCI family before the Festival of Unleavened Bread.

Visit [nsci.org/event/BMEP24](https://nsci.org/event/BMEP24) to register.

## PASSOVER MORNING EXPERIENCE

**TUESDAY, APRIL 23**  
**9:30-10:30 AM, PERLMAN  
SANCTUARY**

This approximately one-hour, in-person only experience, includes the traditional Torah reading for the first day of Passover as well as an interactive text study led by Rabbi Geffen.

## YIZKOR: RITUAL OF MEMORY

**MONDAY, APRIL 29**  
**9:30 AM**

Rabbi Greene will lead a reflective ritual of remembrance concluding with the Mourner's Kaddish.



# Youth & Family Community

## Important Goodman Center for Jewish Education Religious School Dates

**FRIDAY, MARCH 1**

5:30–7:30 pm

K + 1st grade Shabbat Experience

**SUNDAY, MARCH 3**

11:00–12:00 pm

6th Grade Yad Workshop

**SUNDAY, MARCH 17\***

9:00–11:00 am

Purim Celebration during School

11:00 am–12:15 pm

Purim Family Experience

1:30–4:30 pm

7th Grade Field Trip to the Holocaust Museum

**SUNDAY, MARCH 24–**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 31**

No Religious School – Spring Break

**SUNDAY, APRIL 14**

During School Hours

Consecration and Celebration

**TUESDAY, APRIL 23 AND**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24**

No Religious School – Passover Break

*\*If you are a GCJE family, check the weekly eblasts for more Purim information.*

## Early Childhood



NSCI Tots started off the new year with an awesome Shabbat pop-up series! We sang and danced with Rabbis Greene and Leizman, crafted our little hearts away with fun art projects, and laughed and played. We only wish that it could be a Tot Shabbat every day!

*We are always looking to grow our reach and welcome grandparents, aunts and uncles, parents, and other caregivers to all of our programming. If you know families with young children have them follow our instagram @nscitots, invite them to our events, or email sarah@nsci.org.*

## Teens

### CONVERSATIONS OF OUR WORLD: NOSH & DISCUSSION

**MONDAY, MARCH 18**

6:15–8:00 PM

**SUNDAY, APRIL 7**

11:00 AM–12:15 PM

Join clergy, Youth Engagement Coordinator Ben Reingold, and teens at NSCI for enriching discussion, socializing, and a meal. Our conversation will focus on Purim in March and Passover in April.

*Email BenR@nsci.org for more information.*

### KARAV TEEN RETREAT

**SUNDAY, MARCH 3**

11:00 AM–1:00 PM

**SUNDAY, APRIL 14**

TIME TBD

Want to get more involved in Teens @ NSCI? Looking for an opportunity to put your creativity and planning skills to use? Please join us for our first planning party for the Karav Teen Retreat, an immersive social and Jewish experience that will take place at NSCI in May.

*Email BenR@nsci.org for more information.*

## Music



### NEFESH MOUNTAIN BAND BROUGHT DOWN THE HOUSE!

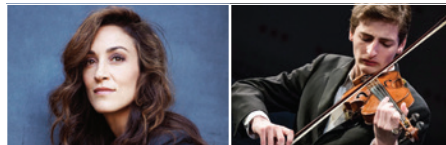
On January 26th, Nefesh Mountain Band joined our community for prayer, dinner, and a special concert. Members of WNSCI participated during their annual women's retreat (and joined the band on stage for a special encore). Close to 300 people attended this lively evening of Jewish bluegrass, dancing along to the inspiring music.

### POST KABBALAT SHABBAT CONCERT

Featuring Marta Aznavoorian and Joshua Brown

**FRIDAY, MARCH 15**

8:00 PM, PERLMAN SANCTUARY



Pianist Marta Aznavoorian, a multi-Grammy nominated artist and world-renowned orchestral soloist, and 2023 Global Music Education League Competition Gold Medal winner and violinist Joshua Brown, will perform a string collaboration following Kabbalat Shabbat services. This free concert is generously sponsored by Jim Stone, Madeleine and Harvey Plonsker, and Bobby Takiff.

*Visit [www.bit.ly/PKS31524](http://www.bit.ly/PKS31524) to RSVP.*

### FREEDOM, REDEMPTION, AND PRAISE: SONGS OF INTERFAITH EXPRESSIONS

Featuring Kol Zimrah Jewish Community Singers

**SUNDAY, APRIL 14**

4:00 PM, PERLMAN SANCTUARY



This concert will feature Ben Steinberg's "Crown of Torah" in recognition of *Letter by Letter: The NSCI Torah Project*. Sponsored by the Elaine N. Sherman Fine Arts Fund.

*Visit [www.bit.ly/KZ0424](http://www.bit.ly/KZ0424) to RSVP.*



# Adult Learning & Programs

## THE JOSEPH CARDINAL BERNARDIN JERUSALEM LECTURE

**MONDAY, MARCH 4**  
7:00–9:00 PM, PERLMAN SANCTUARY



This lecture is part of a longstanding series that maintains the dialogue between Jews and Catholics on issues affecting their

relationship. The keynote speaker will be Prof. Mary C. Boys, SNJM, with opening remarks by Cardinal Blase Cupich, and an introduction by Rabbi Geffen. The lecture topic is described below.

### Recovering a Jewish Jesus: An Imperative for the Church

This lecture will explore how and why early followers of Jesus lost sight of his Jewish identity and analyze the historical consequences of this loss for both Christians and Jews. In continuity with Cardinal Bernardin's 1995 Jerusalem Lecture on antisemitism, it will then examine the necessity *in our time* of recovering a Jewish Jesus, including the obligation of Christians to learn anew about Judaism from Jews.

Visit [nsci.org/event/BLS0324](https://nsci.org/event/BLS0324) to register.

Mary C. Boys is the Skinner and McAlpin Professor of Practical Theology at Union Theological Seminary, New York City. She is the current chair of the Committee on Ethics, Religion and the Holocaust at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC.

Sponsored by: The Archdiocese of Chicago, AJC-Chicago, Anti-Defamation League, Catholic Theological Union, Chicago Board of Rabbis, DePaul University, JUF/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, and the Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership.

## SENIOR CONNECTIONS

### Brian Rose Presents: The Films of Alfred Hitchcock

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6**  
1:00–2:30 PM VIA ZOOM

Examine the extraordinary creativity of one of the twentieth century's greatest filmmakers.

Visit [nsci.org/event/SCMarch2024](https://nsci.org/event/SCMarch2024) to register.

### Rabbi Jacob Leizman Presents: Songs of the Torah

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3**  
1:00–2:30 PM AT NSCI

Join Rabbi Jacob Leizman to sing and study the many songs that are present throughout the Torah.

Visit [nsci.org/event/SCApril2024](https://nsci.org/event/SCApril2024) to register.

## JEWISH HISTORY AND JEWISH MEMORY IN CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

**TUESDAYS, APRIL 2, 9, AND 16**  
7:00 PM

Led by Professor Claire Sufrin



Reflecting on the theme of remembrance in the Torah, on Passover, and in Jewish history, Dr. Sufrin will

present on recent novels that explore the relationship between the tragedies and triumphs of Jewish history and what it means to be a Jew today, including *Eternal Life* (Dara Horn), *Great House* (Nicole Krauss), *The Ruined House* (Ruby Namdar), and *The Memory Monster* (Yishai Sarid). Participants are invited to read the novels if they would like but it is not required.

Visit [nsci.org/event/Sufrin2024](https://nsci.org/event/Sufrin2024) to register.

## ART EXHIBIT: BRUSHES WITH CANCER

**APRIL 15–23**  
FRANK MEMORIAL HALL

This exhibition will feature 30 unique works of art created by artists who have been matched with individuals touched by cancer to create a work of art reflective of their journey with cancer.

Founded by Jenna Benn Shersher, a gray zone lymphoma survivor and a long-time member of NSCI, Twist Out Cancer utilizes the creative arts as a mechanism for healing. Visit [www.twistoutcancer.org](https://www.twistoutcancer.org).

## TWISTSHOP ART HEALING WORKSHOP

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17**  
10:00–11:30 AM



"Twistshops" are professionally led workshops that promote healing, relaxation, and emotional recovery through art therapy-based directives, themes,

and materials. This group will focus on utilizing the arts as a mechanism for connection and healing. No prior art-making skills required, and any level of participation is welcome. All materials will be included! This group is led by art therapist and licensed clinical professional counselor Jacqueline Carmody.

*There is no cost for NSCI members. Space is limited, and advance registration is required at [nsci.org/event/TwistshopWorkshop](https://nsci.org/event/TwistshopWorkshop).*

## SHABBAT GUEST SPEAKER/TEACHER: TALMUD INFLUENCER MIRIAM ANZOVIN

**FRIDAY, APRIL 26**  
AT KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 27**  
AT MORNING MINYAN



Miriam Anzovin is a writer, visual artist, and creator of the viral "Daf Reactions" Talmud and Jewish text series on social media. She

will offer the sermon during Friday night Shabbat services titled "Jewish Texts as Jewish Identity," and Saturday morning, she will teach in the minyan on "How to Encounter Jewish Texts Using the Miriam Anzovin Method."

## SAVE THE DATE: ADULT B'NEI MITZVAH

**TUESDAY, JUNE 11**  
5:00 PM

Want to be inspired? Save the date for a very special ceremony: 17 adults of our NSCI community will be called to the Torah on Erev Shavuot, as adult b'nei mitzvah after 18 months of study. You don't want to miss this!



# Tikkun Olam

## FEED THE HOMELESS

### Sunday Meal Preparation

**SUNDAYS, MARCH 10 AND  
APRIL 14**

**11:30 AM – 2:30 PM**

Volunteer on one Sunday a month for hot food prep and brown bag lunches and/or make sandwiches one Wednesday a month (25 or more) at your home for delivery to the Night Ministry. For those interested in a larger mitzvah project, perhaps as part of a b'nei mitzvah celebration or other family simcha, you may sign up to make as many as the full 125! Families are welcome.

*To volunteer, visit  
[nsci.org/form/FTH031024](https://nsci.org/form/FTH031024).*

### Sandwich Making at Home for the Night Ministry

**WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 13 AND  
APRIL 10**

**DELIVERED TO NSCI BY 10:00 AM**

Sign up to purchase ingredients and make sandwiches for the Night Ministry, a non-profit organization that provides essential services to Chicago's food-insecure and transient population. We make 125 sandwiches on each date listed. Sign up to make a minimum of 25 sandwiches. For a larger mitzvah project, such as a b'nei mitzvah celebration or other simcha, you may sign up to make as many as the full 125! Please deliver your sandwiches to NSCI on the above dates by 10:00 am.

*To volunteer, visit  
[nsci.org/form/sandwich-3/13/24](https://nsci.org/form/sandwich-3/13/24).*

## 17: NSCI'S REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROJECT

Join us in supporting refugees arriving in Chicago and helping them become self-reliant. The name "17" reminds us that 17 years is the average time a refugee spends in a camp, in limbo, around the world. As Jews, we have a special obligation to participate in this important mitzvah of welcoming the stranger. We are hoping to welcome another refugee family to the Chicago area this spring. In order to do that, we need volunteers to mentor and/or tutor the members of that family periodically over their first six months here as they adjust to life in Chicago and collect household items to outfit their apartment.

*To learn more about the history of 17, check out [nsci.org/17](https://nsci.org/17), and if you're interested in being a mentor for the refugee family, or are looking for more information about getting involved, visit [nsci.org/form/17Interest](https://nsci.org/form/17Interest).*

## MISHLOACH MANOT PACKING FOR THE ARK

**THURSDAY, MARCH 21**

**10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, CUBEWORK,  
7080 N. MCCORMICK,  
LINCOLNWOOD**

Join the Adult Mitzvah Corps to create mishloach manot, traditional Purim baskets that you give to friends, family, and those in need. The Ark's mission is to create a safety net for Chicagoland Jews in need by providing vital human services within a framework of Jewish values and laws.

*To volunteer, contact Tracey Meyers by visiting [nsci.org/form/VAMC](https://nsci.org/form/VAMC).*

## SAVE THE DATE: OPERATION BACKPACK DROP-OFF EVENT

**SUNDAY, MAY 5**

**8:30 AM – 12:30 PM**

*More registration information is coming soon. For more information regarding Operation Backpack's history, visit [nsci.org/operation-backpack.html](https://nsci.org/operation-backpack.html).*



## ADULT MITZVAH CORPS

On January 11th, the Adult Mitzvah Corp volunteered at Bernie's Book Bank and filled 400 bags of books (8 books each) to go to 400 students in need! What an amazing opportunity to help those in need.

# Brotherhood



## BROTHERHOOD BOWLING NIGHT

**SUNDAY, APRIL 7**

**4:00 – 6:00 PM AT BOWLERO IN BUFFALO GROVE**

Join the Brotherhood at NSCI for a striking evening of bowling and friendly competition. Cost: \$20. Pizza and soft drinks will be provided for all players and shoes are included in the cost of attendance.

*Visit [www.nsci.org/event/BBN24](https://www.nsci.org/event/BBN24) to register.*

# Women of NSCI

Look to our Purim and Passover pages for more events from the Women of NSCI.

## WOMEN OF NSCI ARE LEADERS IN THE REFORM MOVEMENT



Pictured left: Michelle Scheinkopf  
Right: Judy Wexler

The Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) has been an essential organization supporting the growth of the Reform movement for over 100 years—and the Women of NSCI (WNSCI) are well represented in their ranks! NSCI is proud to have not just one, but two incredible women join the WRJ board. **Judy Wexler** has been slated to be the First Vice President of WRJ, and **Michelle Scheinkopf** has been slated to be a Vice President of WRJ—both for the 2024 to 2027 term. They will be installed in early June at WRJ's Fried Women's Conference in New Orleans.

The WRJ Heartland District Board includes **Karen Yellen Dillon** (Co-VP Marketing and Communications), **Blythe Trilling** (Assistant Treasurer), and **Debra Cohen** (Database/Directory Coordinator).

What *nachas*!

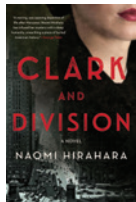
## A JOYOUS WOMEN'S RETREAT



The Women of NSCI had a meaningful and lively weekend at their annual women's retreat! The weekend started with a special dinner prior to attending the Nefesh Mountain Band concert and jamming along. Over the weekend, we made necklaces and filled and decorated celebration bags for The Ark. Everyone felt the joy of connection after praying, studying, dancing together, and sharing our life journeys.

## BOOK GROUP

**TUESDAY, MARCH 12**  
1:00–3:00 PM, AT NSCI



We will be reading and discussing *Clark and Division*, by Naomi Hirahara. This harrowing tale follows a woman's search for answers regarding the death of her sister set against the backdrop of the WWII internment of Japanese-Americans.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 9**  
1:00–3:00 PM, AT NSCI



Join us in our discussion of *The Latecomer*, by Jean Hanff Korelitz. Dive into a rich drama that explores one Jewish family's experience, beginning in the 1970s, of trying to build their family via in-vitro treatments and the outcomes of their efforts.

## SHABBAT MORNING MINYAN + BRUNCH: GUEST SPEAKER RABBI LIZ P. G. HIRSCH

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13**  
9:30 AM



We are excited to welcome Rabbi Liz P. G. Hirsch, Women of Reform Judaism Executive Director, as our guest speaker.

Rabbi Hirsch will lead the week's Torah study and will be with us for the morning service and for a brunch hosted by WNSCI following the service.

**Please join us. All are welcome! Visit [nsci.org/event/SMMHB](https://nsci.org/event/SMMHB) to RSVP.**

Rabbi Liz P. G. Hirsch (she/her) is the Executive Director of Women of Reform Judaism, a role she has held since July 2023. She serves on the National Council of Jewish Women's Rabbis for Repro Rabbinic Advisory Council. She was a key faith leader in the 2020 campaign to pass the ROE Act, safeguarding reproductive rights and abortion access in Massachusetts. Hirsch writes frequently on social justice, spiritual practice, and trends in Jewish life. Her writing can be found at [lizpghirsch.com](https://lizpghirsch.com). Rabbi Hirsch lives in Western Massachusetts with her husband, Rabbi Neil P. G. Hirsch, and their two children.

# The Ruthie & Bill Katz Archives

## What Do You Know About Our Torahs?

BY ELLEN KATZ BLOCK

*This article was written with NSCI archival material and informative conversations and email with NSCI archivist, Merle Branner, Rabbi Lisa Greene, Rabbi Steven Mason, Cantor Richard Cohn, Executive Director Todd Braman, and congregant Richie Sherman.*

**Have you ever thought about our Torah scrolls?** Who inscribed them? How did we acquire them? Who keeps them up to date? The answer is “probably not,” but, of course, our sacred scrolls are well worth learning about.

**How many Torahs does NSCI have?** NSCI has 12 Torahs. Four, including our Shoah Torah, are in the Large Sanctuary, two are in the Perlman Sanctuary, two are in the mobile ark, two are in the Tross Family Education Center, and one is in the Elaine Kersten Sanctuary ark in the religious school. Our newest and perhaps most unusual Torah is a gift from the Knobel family. Our archival records do not contain much information about our Torah scrolls, though our archivist, Merle Branner, continues to dig through old NSCI bulletins and Board of Trustee minutes. Our Torahs were all registered in 1991 with the Universal Torah Registry in New York. We have an additional scroll in the Large Sanctuary ark called a *Navi* scroll, which contains the *haftarot*, the prophetic readings assigned to each week’s Torah portion.

**Do we know the history of any of our Torahs?**

**The Sherman Torah:** We know that the Sherman Torah, located in our main sanctuary, was donated to NSCI by Dr. Bennett (Buddy) and Dolores (Dee) Sherman. Buddy’s grandfather was from Pinsk, Russia, a shtetl town now part of southern Belarus. When many residents fled the town to avoid the pogroms, Buddy’s grandfather, Louis Sherman, took charge of the Torah which had been in their community shul.

Louis, his wife Anna, and their son David, then in fourth grade, eventually made their way to America by boat in the late 1800s or early 1900s, and brought the Torah with them. The family settled in the Austin neighborhood of Chicago and, with other Russian Jews in the community, founded the Pinsker Shul, for which the Sherman family Torah was the main scroll.

Buddy and Dee moved to Glencoe with their three children, Linda (z”l), Gail, and Richie, and joined a Highland Park synagogue, North Suburban Beth El, where their children were raised. When David passed away in 1970, the Torah was given to Buddy by the Pinsker Shul. He, in turn, loaned it to Beth El.

Linda, Gail (and Ralph) Robbins, and Richie (and Cheryl) Sherman joined NSCI where they raised their families and celebrated all their simchas. After several years, Buddy and Dee joined NSCI to be with their children and grandchildren. On this move, they brought the family Torah with them.

**The Shoah Torah:** The Shoah Torah, or Holocaust Torah, as it is called, is on permanent loan to us from the Memorial Scrolls Trust in London. This designated MST (Memorial Scrolls Trust) #229 Torah, written circa 1850,<sup>1</sup> is from Pardubice, Bohemia, now part of the Czech Republic. In 1942, the Jews of Pardubice were all sent to Theresienstadt,<sup>1</sup> but, with great foresight during WWII, Jewish communities collected their Torahs and sent them, along with books and other artifacts, to the Jewish Museum in Prague. Our Torah was one of 18 sent for safekeeping. In 1948, however, there was a Communist coup which took over the Jewish Museum in Prague. More than 1,500 Torah scrolls were then moved from the museum to the basement of a warehouse that had once been the sixteenth-century Michle Synagogue.

The scrolls were rescued by Ralph Yablon, solicitor, philanthropist, and founder of the Westminster Synagogue, Kent House, London, where they



arrived in February 1964 and were subsequently repaired and catalogued.<sup>3</sup> It was decided that the scrolls would be given to other synagogues worldwide on “permanent loan” to “bridge the past and the tragic fate of the original owners and the future—the active life of Jewish congregations throughout the world.”<sup>1</sup> In 1967, under the guidance of Rabbi Edgar Siskin, Senior Rabbi of NSCI, we received MST #229 for our synagogue.<sup>2,3</sup> We rededicated this Torah in April 2022.<sup>1</sup>

**The Sephardic Torah Scroll:** The Sephardic Torah Scroll, a gift from Jeremy and Alyssa Knobel, from the library of Jeremy’s parents, Rabbi Peter and Elaine Knobel (z”l),<sup>4</sup> is scribed in square Sephardic script and is, according to a qualified appraiser, from nineteenth-century Iraq. Most unusual to our eyes is that the Torah is in a curved wooden case, covered with red velvet and decorated with a silver frame and silver plaques with the Ten Commandments in Hebrew. The Torah finials, which have bells, and the yad, are also silver.<sup>5</sup> ■

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

1. Sermon from Rabbi Lisa Greene, April 22, 2022.

2. Quote from NSCI archival information about NSCI’s Shoah Torah MST #229.

3. <https://www.westminstersynagogue.org/mst>.

4. Rabbi Peter Knobel (z”l) was a well known rabbi who served at the Free Synagogue in Evanston, Illinois, for three decades. He was also a distinguished educator and past president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Chicago Board of Rabbis, and the Chicago Association of Reform Rabbis.

5. Certificate of appraisal on the Knobel Torah, assessed by Arthur Feldman, qualified appraiser.



# March 2024 ■ Adar I/Adar II 5784

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					<b>1</b> <b>6:15 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat Service	<b>2</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Interactive Torah Study <b>10:15 am</b> Saturday Morning Minyan Service
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Pulaski Day</b> NSCI Israel Solidarity Mission Departs <b>1:00 pm</b> Greatest Hits of the Talmud <b>6:30 pm</b> Adult B'nei Mitzvah <b>7:00 pm</b> Bernadin Lecture	<b>5</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> FA Meeting <b>7:00 pm</b> Early Judaism and the Roots of Antisemitism	<b>6</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> Senior Connections via Zoom <b>6:00 pm</b> AA Meeting	<b>7</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> Mah Jongg with WNSCI	<b>8</b> <b>6:15 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat Service with Selah	<b>9</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Interactive Torah Study <b>10:15 am</b> Saturday Morning Minyan Service
<b>10</b> NSCI Israel Solidarity Mission Returns <b>11:30 am</b> Feed the Homeless	<b>11</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> Greatest Hits of the Talmud <b>6:30 pm</b> Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class	<b>12</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> Book Group with WNSCI <b>7:00 pm</b> Early Judaism and the Roots of Antisemitism <b>8:00 pm</b> FA Meeting	<b>13</b> <b>Delivery by 10:00 am</b> Sandwich Making for the Night Ministry <b>6:00 pm</b> AA Meeting <b>6:00 pm</b> Purim Cookie Decorating <b>8:00 pm</b> Healing Service with Cantor Goldstein	<b>14</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> WNSCI Mah Jongg	<b>15</b> <b>6:15 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat Service with Shir Chadash <b>8:00 pm</b> Post Kabbalat Shabbat Concert	<b>16</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Interactive Torah Study <b>10:15 am</b> Saturday Morning Minyan Service
<b>17</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Purim Kindness and Creativity: Mishloach Manot Workshop <b>10:05 am</b> Purim Carnival <b>11:00 am</b> Purim Family Experience <b>1:30 pm</b> 7th Grade Field Trip to the Holocaust Museum with Rabbi Greene	<b>18</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> Greatest Hits of the Talmud <b>6:30 pm</b> Adult B'nei Mitzvah	<b>19</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> FA Meeting	<b>20</b> <b>12:00 pm</b> Themes of Joy, Resilience, and Giving in the Book of Esther via Zoom <b>6:00 pm</b> AA Meeting	<b>21</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> WNSCI Mah Jongg	<b>22</b> <b>6:15 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat Service <b>7:30 pm</b> Purim Comedy Cabaret	<b>23</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Interactive Torah Study <b>10:15 am</b> Saturday Morning Minyan Service
<b>24</b> <b>Purim</b> <b>No Religious School - Spring Break</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>No Religious School - Spring Break</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> FA Meeting	<b>27</b> <b>No Religious School - Spring Break</b> <b>6:00 pm</b> AA Meeting <b>8:00 pm</b> Healing Service with Cantor Goldstein	<b>28</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> WNSCI Mah Jongg	<b>29</b> <b>6:15 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat Service	<b>30</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Interactive Torah Study <b>10:15 am</b> Saturday Morning Minyan Service
<b>31</b> <b>No Religious School - Spring Break</b>						

# April 2024 ■ Adar II/Nisan 5784

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	<b>1</b> <b>6:30 pm</b> Adult B'nei Mitzvah	<b>2</b> <b>1:10 pm</b> Adult Mitzvah Corps at Gidwitz Place <b>7:00 pm</b> FA Meeting	<b>3</b> <b>6:00 pm</b> AA Meeting	<b>4</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> WNSCI Mah Jongg	<b>5</b> <b>5:00 pm</b> Adult Engagement Pre-neg <b>6:15 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat Service	<b>6</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Interactive Torah Study <b>10:15 am</b> Saturday Morning Minyan Service
<b>7</b> <b>4:00 pm</b> Brotherhood Bowling Night	<b>8</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> Greatest Hits of the Talmud <b>6:30 pm</b> Adult B'nei Mitzvah	<b>9</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> Book Group with WNSCI <b>7:00 pm</b> WNSCI Passover Seder <b>8:00 pm</b> FA Meeting	<b>10</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Wise Aging 201 <b>1:00 pm</b> Wise Aging 101 <b>6:00 pm</b> AA Meeting	<b>11</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> WNSCI Mah Jongg	<b>12</b> <b>6:15 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat Service with Selah and Shir Chadash	<b>13</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Interactive Torah Study <b>10:15 am</b> Saturday Morning Minyan Service
<b>14</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Consecration, Celebration, and Torah Launch <b>11:30 am</b> Feed the Homeless <b>12:00 pm</b> Torah Launch Event <b>4:00 pm</b> Kol Zimrah Concert	<b>15</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> Greatest Hits of the Talmud <b>6:30 pm</b> Adult B'nei Mitzvah	<b>16</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> FA Meeting	<b>17</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Wise Aging 201 <b>1:00 pm</b> Wise Aging 101 <b>6:00 pm</b> AA Meeting <b>6:00 pm</b> Songs of Our Seder <b>8:00 pm</b> Healing Service with Cantor Goldstein	<b>18</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> WNSCI Mah Jongg	<b>19</b> <b>6:15 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat Service	<b>20</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Interactive Torah Study <b>10:15 am</b> Saturday Morning Minyan Service
<b>21</b> <b>11:15 am</b> B'nei Mitzvah Family Workshop	<b>22</b> <b>Passover 1st Seder</b> <b>Administration Office Closes at 1:00 pm</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Passover 2nd Seder</b> <b>Administration Office Closed</b> <b>No Religious School - Passover Break</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Passover Morning Experience <b>7:00 pm</b> FA Meeting	<b>24</b> <b>Passover</b> <b>Administration Office Closed</b> <b>No Religious School - Passover Break</b> <b>6:00 pm</b> AA Meeting	<b>25</b> <b>Passover</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> WNSCI Mah Jongg	<b>26</b> <b>Passover</b> <b>6:15 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat Service Featuring Guest Speaker Miriam Anzovin	<b>27</b> <b>Passover</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Interactive Torah Study <b>10:15 am</b> Saturday Morning Minyan Service Featuring Guest Speaker Miriam Anzovin
<b>28</b> <b>Passover</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Passover Last Day</b> <b>Administration Office Closed</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Passover Yizkor	<b>30</b> <b>8:00 pm</b> FA Meeting				



**NORTH SHORE  
CONGREGATION  
ISRAEL**

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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.



## *Letter by Letter: The NSCI Torah Project*

**April 14, 2024  
10:00 AM**

## *Launch Event*

Join us as we begin writing  
our new *sefer* Torah!