

BRUCE ELDER. RABBI

ROBERT J. MARX. RABBI EMERITUS

D'varim

How Prunes Saved the Jews of Shushan

Did you see the opinion piece in the *New York Times* a few weeks ago that wondered if the United States was becoming a Banana Republic? You know, a place where a few, uber rich people strip the country of its resources while driving most of the population into poverty, paying them little to do their dirty work for them? Liberals have been freaking out about it! Well, that's nothing compared to what happened in Persia millennia ago, under the cranky leadership of Ahasuerus and his henchman, Haman. It became the world's first and only **Prune Republic**.

Here's how it went down:

Ahasuerus was swept into power on a wave of populism unseen in the Levant. People adored the old man – the way he told it like it was, the way he said whatever popped into his head, and the way he made no sense whatsoever but paid people to pretend that he did. Ahasuerus' meteoric rise was a surprise to everyone, including Ahasuerus himself. And when he took the reigns of power in Shushan, he did what any oafish caricature would do: He threw a party for the ages!

Ahasuerus hired the only person he knew who could pull off such a bash, a man whom he trusted like none other – his personal chef, Haman. With skill and cunning, Haman prepared a feast to remember. People ate it up – both the meal and the man - and they insisted that Haman become the Chief Chef of Shushan, the one who would cook for them always. Haman obliged, and his food became a smashing hit among just about everyone ... except the Jews. The Jews wouldn't touch the *goyishe nosh*, thank you very much. They were content with their own, bland, tasteless fare. This made Haman furious. He vowed revenge.

The King, now firmly in power, should have loved his new-found fame and the adulation that came with it. He wasn't happy at all, though. He never was, in fact, because he always had a stomachache. For as long as he could remember, he had pains in his mid-section. It wasn't an ulcer, to be sure; it was worse: Chronic constipation. The King was stopped up like nobody's business. He had been for years. It made him irritable, cantankerous, and an insufferable grouch. Vashti, his beloved wife, left him over it. He was miserable, and not even the acquisition of the beautiful, young, "regular" Esther as a bride made much of a difference.

"Regular" I say, because most of Persia was slowly stopping up as bad as the King. At some point, as people were eating and eating Haman's food, they began to feel full, which is not so surprising given the amount they were consuming. This wasn't a normal full, though. Their stomachs began to feel uncomfortable, then to hurt badly; really badly, like they had never hurt before. Persians throughout the kingdom became bloated, their pants grew tight, and they could get no relief, none at all, if you catch my drift. Constipation was hitting everyone ... except Esther and her people, the Jews.

The Jews weren't eating Haman's food, remember? And, they had a superfood of their own, a staple, that kept them healthy. I know what you are thinking: Chicken Soup. That is so Ashkenazi of you! No, the Jews of Persia were plum merchants. Dried plums, actually. They loved prunes. If you've ever been to a Hakafa Shabbat in the Home, you've had the Chicken Marbella. You know exactly what I mean. For the Jews of Persia, a prune a day kept the digestive tract in play.

Haman was embarrassed. He had to save face. His food was destroying the empire. He had to think quick. He went to the King and declared, "There's a certain people who are clogging the pipes of Persia, who are making you and your kingdom suffer. Let me rid you of them, and the sewers of Shushan will flow freely once again!" The king was delighted at the prospect of relief and readily agreed. Haman chose a date to rid Persia of his nemesis, the Jews.

Mordecai, the leader of the Jews, got wind of Haman's plan. He went to Esther and implored her to intervene on her people's behalf. On the date the Jews were to be destroyed, she threw a party for the King. He couldn't eat a thing, his stomach hurting as it was. She enticed him to nibble on a tasty treat that Mordecai had prepared – a triangular pastry with a touch of prune jelly in the middle. He took a taste, then another, then another, until he eventually consumed the entire pastry. Within minutes, he felt a rumbling he hadn't felt in years, and he rushed from Esther's quarters to take care of an urgent 'business' matter. The relief was almost immediate.

The King began to feel like his old self again, a person he had almost completely forgotten. He realized what Haman's cooking had been doing to him for so long and what Haman had done to the entire kingdom. He banished Haman from Persia on the day Haman was planning to destroy the Jews. He elevated Mordecai to Chief Chef of Shushan. The day became a holiday for Jews the world over, the day Prunes Undertook Relieving Intestinal Malignancy: **PURIM** for short. The hamantaschen was born, and the rest is history.

So, if you want good leadership, don't keep appointing cranky, old, cantankerous, constipated old men to positions of power. If you must, however, remember the power of Purim. And, if all else fails: BE HAPPY, IT'S ADAR!

-Rabbi Bruce Elder



Celebrate Purim with Hakafa this year at our annual

MEGILLA READING

Monday, March 9, 2020 - 6:30 p.m.

Winnetka Community House

(620 Lincoln Avenue, Winnetka)

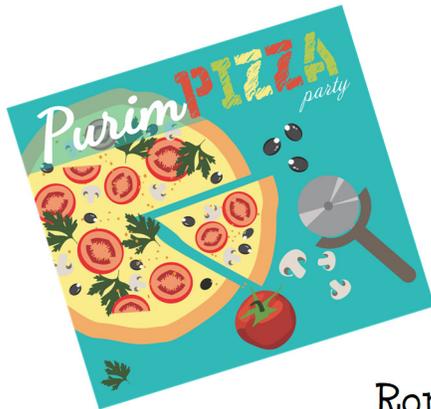


Join us for a fun-filled evening
as we read from the Megilla!
(Scroll of Esther or Megillat Esther in Hebrew)



We've heard it from the Grammys, through the grapevine, leaving on a jet plane, in a yellow submarine, amidst the sounds of silence, wishing upon a star, with all our heart and soul, under a disco ball, on the television, through the painful 80's, with Glee, on Broadway, and more.

This year? Only a "Rich Man" will know....



And, for those who are interested,
join us at 5:45 p.m. for

PRE-MEGILLA

PIZZA & POP

RSVP for pizza by March 8 to
Rona (admin@hakafa.org or 847-242-0687)

Stay after the reading and dare to be judged by Haman & Esther as you sing your favorite karaoke tunes. **Who will become this year's Shushan Idol?**

There will be **HAMENTASHEN** for everyone to nosh
and free prizes for anyone wearing a costume!





Please join us for



Congregation Hakafa's Second-Night Passover Seder

Thursday, April 9, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
Winnetka Community House

* Please bring your own copy of A Passover Haggadah (published by the Central Conference of American Rabbis).

* Please also bring a **Kosher-for-Passover** item for the dessert buffet
and a **Kosher-for-Passover** bottle of wine to share.

Contact Amy Acri (jacri3@comcast.net or 847-875-4976) with questions.



PLEASE RETURN THIS RSVP WITH PAYMENT BY MARCH 26 TO:
Congregation Hakafa, P.O. Box 409, Glencoe, IL 60022

____ # of Adults and Children 12 & over @ \$44.00 = \$ _____

____ # of Children 11 & under @ \$22.00 = \$ _____

Total enclosed (please make checks payable to "Congregation Hakafa") = \$ _____



NAME _____

E-MAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

I/We will help with: ___ advance preparations ___ set-up ___ clean-up

Please list the names of all guests (and ages of children): _____

Please seat me/us with _____

(All attempts will be made to honor seating requests received by March 26.)

Prayer and Celebration

Friday Night Services



The congregation is cordially invited to attend services at the Winnetka Community House (unless noted) on the following evenings:

- March 6** **Shabbat Zachor – Parashat T'tzaveh**
7:30 p.m. Torah Portion: Exodus 27:20:30-10
Haftarah: Ezekiel 43:10-27
- March 13** **Shabbat in the Home: No Shabbat Service**
Shabbat Parah – Parashat Ki Tisa
Torah Portion: Exodus 30:11-34:35
Haftarah: I Kings 18:1-39
- March 20** **Parashat Vayak'heil – P'kudei**
7:30 p.m. Torah Portion: Exodus 35:1:40:38
Haftarah: Ezekiel 36:22-36
- March 27** **Parshat Vayikra**
7:30 p.m. Torah Portion: Leviticus 1:1-5:26
Haftarah: Esther 7:1-10 or I Samuel 15:2-34

Shabbat in the Home

Make March 13 a special Shabbat for your Hakafa community, your family, and you! Every congregation member has been invited to dine and share the evening at another member's home. **If you have not received an invitation, please contact Debbie Fogel** (curlyfogel@yahoo.com or 312-576-6775). We hope you will join us as we sing Shabbat songs, light Shabbat candles, share a delicious meal, enjoy interesting conversation, meet new friends, and reconnect with old ones. Be sure to R.S.V.P. to the invitation. Help make Hakafa the encirclement that it is! **Please note: There will be no Shabbat service at the Winnetka Community House on March 13.**

Tot Shabbat for Young Children & Grandchildren

Our Tot Shabbat in January was a lot of fun! Families with children and/or grandchildren ages five and younger (including parents, siblings, and/or extended family) are invited to join us to sing, dance, hear a story, and pray at Tot Shabbat! Our next gathering will be on **Saturday, March 14 at 10:30 a.m.** at the **North Shore United Methodist Church** (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe). Our fun, 30-minute service will be followed by a short Kiddush. Feel free to bring friends!

Shabbat Morning Minyan

Please join us at **8:30 a.m.** on **Saturday, March 14** at the **home of Barbara and Allen Anderson** (849 Oak Drive, Glencoe) for our March Shabbat morning *minyan*. This hour-long service and study is a wonderful opportunity to enhance your celebration of Shabbat. People of all ages are encouraged and welcome to join us.

Oneg Hosts Needed

We are looking for hosts for Friday evening onegs for the upcoming year. Hosting a Friday evening oneg is a wonderful way to help support Hakafa and is also a nice way to celebrate a bar/bat mitzvah, birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion with the congregation. Many people honor the memory of a loved one on his/her yahrzeit by hosting an oneg.

If you would like to host an oneg, please sign up at this link (<http://tinyurl.com/oneg-hosting>) or contact one of our Volunteer Oneg Coordinators via email at **oneg@hakafa.org**. You can also contact them by phone: **Suzanne/Rick Shore** (847-722-6797) or **Ilene Holt-Turner** (847-409-6022).

Calling all Torah Readers and Chanters

Hakafa is inviting members to chant or read Torah at select Erev Shabbat services. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact **Brian Browdy** (847-942-7318 or brian.browdy@gmail.com).

Share Your Holidays

If you would like to host a fellow congregant for a holiday meal, or if you need or want a place to go for the holidays, please contact **Sylvia Dresser** (847-945-6095).

Live Streaming of Worship Services

If you are unable to make it to our worship services, but would like to participate from your home, you can watch a livestream of them. **We are now streaming our services through Facebook Live on the Hakafa Facebook Page.** Go to **www.hakafa.org** and click on the "listen now" icon on the home page for instructions. OR - You can go directly to Hakafa's Facebook Page: **<https://www.facebook.com/CongregationHakafa?fref=ts>**. *If this link does not work, you can always go to Facebook and search for "Congregation Hakafa."* Once you are on Hakafa's Facebook Page, scroll through the news feed until you come to the service for which you are looking. If you would like to receive notifications whenever Hakafa is "live" on Facebook, click on the icon near the top of the Hakafa Facebook Page, then click on "Following," and then set your notifications.



Passover Care Packages for College Students

Send a care package to your undergrad at Passover this year! Members of the Hakafa community will prepare and mail boxes (which will include items like matzah, candy, snacks, etc.). This reminds our college undergrads that they are an important part of our Hakafa family and that we are thinking of them. Families can include a note to their undergrad as well... just clip it to the order form with **\$35.00**. A letter from Rabbi Elder will be included with the Passover items.

Please fill out this form and **return it no later than March 20** to Karen Berman (1231 Forest Avenue, Wilmette, IL 60091). If you have any questions, please contact Karen (847-251-1339 or k.lieberman@sbcglobal.net).

*** Please Note: These boxes are for undergrad college students only.**

**Please send this slip and \$35 (made out to "Congregation Hakafa") by 3/20/20 to:
Karen Berman, 1231 Forest Avenue, Wilmette, IL 60091.**

From _____ Phone _____

Undergrad Student's Name: _____

Undergrad Student's Address: _____

_____ Enclosed is \$35.00 to cover the cost of each package, including shipping.

*Please make checks payable to "Congregation Hakafa."

_____ I have enclosed a note for my student.

Member News

Save the Date! It's Hakafa's "Double Chai" Birthday

As Hakafa turns 36, we'll celebrate with a special dinner, Shabbat service, oneg, and Israeli dancing. Please come! Our students will lead the service, and we'll hear "fun facts" from Hakafa's past.

Friday, April 24, 2020 at the Winnetka Community House
6:00 p.m. Dinner – 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service – Oneg and Dancing to follow

We will need volunteers to help with the dinner setup and cleanup, and everyone is invited to bring a dessert for the oneg. If you can help in any of these ways, please add your name to the signup genius that will be coming soon (Please look for a notice about that in our Wednesday email announcements.). Or, you can contact **Allyson Haut** (aehaut@earthlink.net or 847-341-2941) or **Sara Kurensky** (kurloon@sbcglobal.net or 847-867-1483) to volunteer as well. **To share any points of Hakafa history** that you think everyone should know, please contact **Nancy Goodman** (president@hakafa.org or 847-564-3273).

Next Keshet Event at Curt's Café - March 11

Join us for light desserts, coffee/tea, and some great conversation at Keshet's next monthly gathering at **Curt's Cafe in Highland Park** (1766 Second Street) on **Wednesday, March 11** from **7:00-8:30 p.m.** Contact **Rabbi Elder** (rabbi@hakafa.org or 847-266-8854) with questions and/or to R.S.V.P.

Many Hakafa members have been living their congregation experience through their children. As their children move away, they are beginning to ask how to engage in our community for themselves. To that end, we have recently kicked off Keshet (Hebrew for "Connection"), an initiative to allow members in this demography to get to know one another, share ideas, and create new and deep relationships. Though geared toward new, recent, or soon-to-be empty nesters and their age group, all Hakafa members are invited to participate.

Upcoming Kadima* Events

March 1 - Kadima Spring Potluck

Please join us for our mid-year potluck! Come to the **home of Henry and Ellen Criz** (545 Green Bay Road, Highland Park) at **4:30 p.m.** on **Sunday, March 1**. We'll have the ever-popular "Ask the Rabbi" with our own Rabbi Bruce Elder. This year, we'd like you to send in questions in advance, so we can be really efficient at getting the many great answers we want! We'll provide main courses, and we need volunteers for simple appetizers, salads and side dishes, desserts, and drinks.

Please let us know if you can come and what you wish to bring so we can prepare the right amount of seating and main dishes. **To R.S.V.P. please contact Betsy Hersher** (hersherb@hersher.com or 847-945-5974) or **Sharon Gutan** (Gutan627@comcast.net or 847-256-0638).

March 8 – Kadima Volunteers at A Just Harvest

Kadima will be volunteering at A Just Harvest on Sunday afternoon/evening, **March 8**. **If you can help out, please contact Betsy Hersher** (hersherb@hersher.com or 847-945-5974) to volunteer.

**Kadima ("forward" in Hebrew) is a Hakafa initiative formed in the fall of 2013. Primarily made up of "forward" thinking, dynamic, seniors, it is really open to all interested congregants.*

Chesed

Chesed is our attempt to reach out to one another. If you know of anyone in our congregation who is in crisis who could benefit from support, such as a visit, delivery and/or preparation of meals, or a ride to a health care appointment, please contact **Ana Bensinger** (anabensinger@att.net or 847-926-3223) or **Anita Goldberg** (anitagoldberg@gmail.com or 847-432-8973). You can also contact either of them if you would like to volunteer.

Memoir Writing Class with Members from Hakafa and North Shore Congregation Israel (NSCI)

Join Carole Mark Gingiss in writing the stories of your life. If you don't write your stories, they will be lost to future generations. Write two pages or less at home and read your memoir aloud in class to only positive comments. Privacy is paramount in this class. We will begin on **Monday, April 13** for **12 weeks** from **9:30-11:00 a.m.** in the **Family Room at NSCI** (1185 Sheridan Road, Glecoe). Then, we will take a week off, and the class rolls over for another 12 weeks and goes on all year with a week off in between. Registration is required at NSCI. Contact **Stacey Shrago** (staceys@nsci.org). Be sure to indicate you are a Hakafa member.

Member News (continued)

Accessibility at Hakafa

If you become aware of any accessibility issues within the congregation, we hope you will share them with us by speaking confidentially with one of our Chesed Committee Chairs: **Ana Bensinger** (anabensinger@att.net or 847-926-3223) or **Anita Goldberg** (anitagoldberg@gmail.com or 847-432-8973).

Hakafa Location Accessibility Guide

The information provided below is designed to give general information about accessibility at the locations where we hold services, classes, programs, and events. For specific questions, please contact our office (admin@hakafa.org or 847-242-0687) or the actual location.

Large print prayer books are available at Shabbat services.

- **A Just Harvest** (www.ajustharvest.org): Accessible building with street parking.
- **Anderson Household** (caabaa@sbcglobal.net): Ranch house with no steps. Two cats present.
- **Criz Household** (hecriz@sbcglobal.net): 1 step onto a large porch and 1 step into an accessible ranch house.
- **Curt's Café Highland Park** (www.curtscafe.org): Accessible building.
- **Davis Household** (ablakleydavis@gmail.com): Ranch House with no steps. Dogs and cats present.
- **Goldberg Household** (goldbergfamily@msn.com): Four steps into house (with a railing), and two dogs.
- **North Shore United Methodist Church** (www.nsumcglencoe.org): No steps into the building; two-step stairway inside building (ramp available); elevator available (with help for the door) to second floor.
- **Office of Sam Goldman** (segoldman@me.com): Accessible building.
- **Office of Brad Reiff** (breiff@compasslexecon.com): 13th floor of accessible building.
- **Robertson Household** (mrobertson595@gmail.com): No steps into the house.
- **Takiff Center** (www.glencoeoparkdistrict.com/Facilities/Takiff-Center): Accessible building; programs that take place on the second floor accessible by elevator – a short walk on the second level to classrooms.
- **Winnetka Community House** (www.winnetkacomunityhouse.org): Ramp into building.

Mazal Tov to:

Leanne Star on the birth of her grandchild, Lucille ("Lucy") Feigon Conti, to Maia & Mike Conti

If you are having a simcha – a birth, wedding, or the like – please let us know (admin@hakafa.org) so that we can share your joy with our congregational community.

Condolences to:

Amy Acri and family on the loss of her mother, Jacquie Brave

Janet and Nick Garcia and family on the loss of Nick's sister, Elena Garcia and Janet's father, Herbert Shaffer.

Brian Roche and family on the loss of his father, Pierre "Dwyer" Roche

Mazal Tov on Becoming a Bat Mitzvah:

March 14 – Naomi Criz

Please Help Us in Welcoming our New Member:

Penny Fields

Hakafa Annual Canoe Trip: July 30 – August 2

This year we will return to the Pine River Paddle Sports Center (PRPSC) in Wellston, MI where we will establish a base camp. PRPSC is privately owned and extremely well maintained. We have reserved a wooded site that has potable water. A short walk from our campsite are bathrooms equipped with sinks, flush toilets and hot showers. At our planning meeting(s) we will divvy out meals responsibility. Children are welcome, but they must be strong swimmers. Based on prior trip expenses, the cost per person for the campsite, canoes, and gratuities will be \$160. So we can pay our deposit to PRPSC, please send a check for \$100 per person made out to John Wolfson by **April 4th: John Wolfson**, 3232 Maple Leaf Drive, Glenview, IL 60026. Your final payment of \$60 per person is due **June 1st**. We will schedule a planning meeting in early June. Contact **John Wolfson** (847-344-9323 or johnwolfson1952@gmail.com) with questions.

Note from the Director of Education

Last month, our 3rd-5th graders went to the Kindness Connection as part of their *G'milut Chasadim* (Acts of Loving Kindness) curriculum. Our students were able to choose projects that they donated to veterans, foster children, senior citizens, animal shelters, and all kids in need. It was a wonderful field trip, and everyone enjoyed making the projects. The Kindness Connection is located in Northbrook Court and is open to anyone - families and individuals can just walk in and choose a project they would like to make to donate.

It is hard to believe, but we only have 3 months left of our school year! This month is a short one but super busy! We will be celebrating Purim! On Sunday, March 8 we will be having an All-School Purim Fun Day! Please also join us on Monday, March 9 for our congregation Purim celebration!

Please be aware of the calendar this month: We do have Hebrew school on March 3, 17, and 31 and Religious School on March 1, 8, and 15. We do not have Hebrew School on March 10 because of the Purim Holiday. We will also have our Spring Break beginning on Sunday, March 22 through Sunday, March 29.

I also wanted to make you aware that our staff will be participating in a LGBTQ Equality in Jewish Life training on Sunday morning March 1. The training will be conducted by the Keshet organization. We are very proud to participate in such a training to further our education about these issues and how it influences teaching in our classrooms!

Have a wonderful month and a *Chag Purim Sameach!*

L'shalom,
Bibi

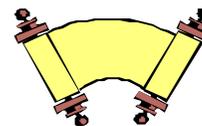


It's Time for Purim!

Come celebrate Purim with us!

**Sunday, March 8 – Religious School
Purim Fun Day**

**Monday, March 9 – Congregational Purim
Celebration** (see enclosed
flyer for details)



Final B'nai Mitzvah Workshop

The final workshop in Rabbi Elder's "Walk through the Shabbat Service" b'nai mitzvah service prep series will be held on **Sunday, March 8** at the **Takiff Center** (999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe). **Families with both morning and evening services will meet at 12:15 PM.** At that time, Rabbi Elder will break down the concluding part of the service, explaining themes and language. Also, there will be the opportunity to discuss music options for your service. If you have any questions, please contact Rabbi Elder.

Spring Break Calendar

Please note these important
Spring Break dates:



- Last Day of Religious School: March 15
- Last Day of Hebrew School: March 17
- Hebrew School Resumes: March 31
- Religious School Resumes: April 5

Adult Education

Film Group

Please join us when the film group screens *The Last Laugh* on **Saturday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m.** at our offices at the North Shore United Methodist Church (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe). *The Last Laugh* dares to ask: "Is it okay to joke about the Holocaust?" This funny and thought-provoking documentary by Ferne Pearlstein offers fresh insights into the Holocaust and into the role humor plays in our lives, especially in dark times. Mel Brooks, Carl Reiner, Sarah Silverberg, Gilbert Gottfried, Etgar Keret, as well as survivors of the Shoah, all contribute. The film supplements the many interviews with archival footage of Brooks's "Hitler on Ice" from *History of the World Part I* and Jerry Lewis's never-released misfire, *The Day the Clown Cried*. We are thrilled to have Rabbi Elder present the movie and lead our discussion.

Come for dinner at 6:00 p.m.! We'll be ordering pizza from Little Red Hen, so please R.S.V.P. to **Carol McCardell** (847-727-0029) or at mcsolomon@comcast.net for dinner (\$5 per person). Or, simply come for the movie at 7:00. Feel free to bring friends, family, beverages, salad (**especially** welcome), or a nosh, but please no popcorn.

Midrash Class

Join us on **Tuesday mornings from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.** at the **North Shore United Methodist Church** (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe) to study *midrash*. Midrash is the creative, interpretative process of the rabbis over generations. Through midrash, we see how the rabbis saw the text of the Bible - its lessons, its messages, its practical applications, and its relevance to them throughout time. Through the study of midrash, we will see how much of our understanding of the biblical text has been influenced by theirs. **PLEASE NOTE: Class will not meet on Tuesdays March 10 and 24.**

The Siddur: It's Meaning and Theology

How many of us know what our Hebrew prayers actually say? How many of us know what they mean? Join us at **10:15 a.m. on Tuesdays, March 3 and 31** at the **North Shore United Methodist Church** (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe) as we explore the Jewish prayer book. During each session we will look at prayers in Hebrew, translate them together, discuss their theology, and parse what they might mean for us today.

Lunch and Learn in the Loop

"Lunch & Learn in the Loop" will take place at **noon on Thursday, March 5** at the **office of Sam Goldman** (333 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 602, Chicago). Bring your own lunch and prepare to participate in a lively discussion with Rabbi Elder! New participants are always welcome.

Hebrew Circle

If you are a Hebrew speaker (beginners welcome!) looking to practice your Hebrew with other Hebrew speaking Hakafa members, please join us on **Thursday, March 5 at 10:30 a.m.** at the **office of Brad Reiff** (332 S. Michigan Avenue, 13th floor, Chicago) for an hour of Hebrew conversation with Rabbi Elder! New participants are welcome.

Nosh & Know on the North Shore

"Nosh & Know on the North Shore" will take place on **Thursday, March 19 at 9:00 a.m.** at the **home of Cookie and Ned Robertson** (211 Dennis Lane, Glencoe). Join us for a lively conversation with Rabbi Elder! New participants are always welcome.

Mishneh Torah

Our March session of Mishneh Torah (Jewish law) class will be held on **Tuesday, March 17 at 10:30 a.m.** at the home of **Allison Blaklev Davis & Kenneth Davis** (2940 Moon Hill Drive, Northbrook). Come join us and Rabbi Elder to learn more about what *Halacha* has to say on almost every aspect of life.

Two Weekly Opportunities for Torah Study

Tuesday Evening Torah Class:

7:30 to 8:45 p.m.
North Shore United Methodist Church
 (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe)

Please Note: Class will not meet on March 10 and 24.

Wednesday Afternoon Torah Class:

1:00 to 2:30 p.m.
North Shore United Methodist Church
 (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe)

Please Note: Class will not meet on March 25.

Please contact Rabbi Elder (847-266-8854 or rabi@hakafa.org) with questions.

Adult Education (continued)

Sunday Morning Adult Education: March Schedule
10:35 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Takiff Center (999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe)

March 1:

Option 1: Join us in **Community Room 1** for the second presentation of our **Hakafa Profession Series** when Hakafa member **Mike Kreloff**, will discuss: *A Personal and Constitutional History of Voting Rights and Ballot Access Reform in Illinois*. The discussion will also cover Democratic Party Convention Rules and the upcoming 2020 Democratic National Convention as well as exciting factoids about: ballot chad and dimples; misnumbered nominating petition pages; the downside of Early Voting; the Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail; roundtabled petition signatures; Vote-By-Mail, The Battle of Motor Voter; The Dreaded Decennial Remap; and much much more!

Mike Kreloff has focused his nearly 50 year legal career on election law and voting rights. Beginning as vote fraud prosecutor for Cook County, Mike later shifted to serve as election policy lobbyist for long-time Cook County Clerk David Orr. Mike played major roles in expanding and reforming voting and registration opportunities for Illinois voters, both in Springfield and in the courtroom. He represented/advised many dozens of political candidates, including Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, and others. Mike currently represents Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics. He was lead strategist/quarterback for the successful effort to repeal the Illinois Death Penalty, taught state and local government, appellate advocacy, and lobbying law in area law schools, and in 2008, 2012, and 2016, was appointed to serve on the Democratic National Convention Rules Committee.

Option 2: Join us in **Community Room 2** when **Jane Shapiro** from **Orot: Center for New Jewish Learning** will present a program on **"Building our Storehouses: Noticing Places of Scarcity and Abundance."** This will be the third of a four-part series entitled "Dipping into the Well: Jewish Spiritual Wisdom for Our Daily Lives" that will introduce the unique Orot approach to Jewish learning and living. Each session integrates Jewish texts and other sources of wisdom with study and discussion, reflective exercises, and personal contemplative practices to extend the learning into life and work.

Founded in 2014, Orot was started by a group of passionate Jewish educators committed to redesigning the paradigm of Jewish learning and opening up the well of Jewish wisdom to all.

March 8:

Option 1: Join us in **Community Room 1** when we will once again be joined by Hakafa member, **David Rieser**, for Part 1 of a two-part discussion on **"Moses Mendelson and the Jewish Enlightenment."** Moses Mendelssohn was the Jackie Robinson of late 18th century European intelligentsia. A formidable scholar, he became a recognized master of philosophy and welcomed into the highest circles of society despite remaining an observant Jew. At the same time he faced withering criticism both from gentiles who asked why someone with his vast knowledge of non-Jewish topics didn't just convert and Jews who similarly questioned how he could spend his life in non-Jewish pursuits and still stay Jewish.

David Rieser is a lawyer by profession, and while he was always a history buff, his Bar Mitzvah at Hakafa twelve years ago sparked an apparently insatiable interest in Jewish history. He made the mistake of telling Rabbi Elder about some of his reading, so this is now his eleventh adult education discussion.

Option 2: Join us in **Community Room 2** when **Jane Shapiro** from **Orot: Center for New Jewish Learning** will present a program on **"Choosing our Garments: Finding What We Need."** This will be the last session of a four-part series entitled "Dipping into the Well: Jewish Spiritual Wisdom for Our Daily Lives."

March 15:

Option 1: Join us in **Community Room 1** when we will once again be joined by Hakafa member, **David Rieser**, for Part 2 of his discussion on **"Moses Mendelson and the Jewish Enlightenment."**

Option 2: Join us in **Community Room 2** when **Jean Rock** from **JCFS (Jewish Child & Family Services)** will present a program on **"Stress, Depression, Suicide Risk and Intervention."** In this clinician-guided workshop, we will tackle some the worries that concern many parents. Life can be a true challenge for our youth today, more so than just 5 years ago. We will learn about: how stress manifests in kids, what is developmentally appropriate (teen angst), signs and symptoms of suicidal thinking, and how to respond if you suspect or know that your child is thinking about suicide.

Jean Rock is a psychodynamic therapist who works with children, adolescents and adults struggling with a range of issues. Her empathic approach helps people understand their current functioning and gain insights, with the goal of providing a corrective emotional experience. Jean's clinical interests are depression, anxiety, addiction and gender identity.

Social Action

Robineau Seder: Volunteers Needed

Hakafa will again lead a Passover Seder for the residents of Robineau, a CJE SeniorLife Residence at 7550 N. Kostner Avenue in Skokie.

The Robineau Seder will begin promptly at **3:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 9**, and volunteers are needed to help lead it with other Hakafa members. We will end in time for anyone who wants to attend the Hakafa seder.

If you would like to participate and/or if you have any questions, contact Hakafa members, **Don Pollak** (donpollak@me.com/847-922-9348) or **Lynn Sanders** (LSanders0608@gmail.com/847-630-1174).

The seniors really appreciate our friendship.

Maot Citim: Pack/Deliver Passover Food for Those in Need

Hakafa's volunteer participation in the mitzvah of Maot Chitim (providing meals to Jewish families in need) in preparation for Passover is scheduled for **Sunday, March 22 from 11:45 AM to 12:45 PM** at a **warehouse (exact location TBA)**.

Join Hakafa members and others in the Chicago Jewish Community in **packing boxes** of food and other holiday necessities. Volunteers must be 12 or older and wear close-toed shoes. In addition, volunteers are also invited to **deliver packed boxes** to area Jewish homes on **Sunday morning, March 29**. Box pick-up at the warehouse will be between **9:15 and 10:45 AM**. Come with your car (especially large cars and vans) and families – and make sure to empty out your trunk!

To sign up to pack with Hakafa on 3/22 and/or deliver on 3/29, please contact Rona (admin@hakafa.org or 847-242-0687).

Hakafa Serves Breakfast at the Crib (The Night Ministry)

This year, Hakafa will once again be serving breakfast at **The Crib** - The Night Ministry's LGBTQ shelter in Uptown on the following **Sunday mornings: March 22, April 5, May 3, May 24, June 7 and July 5**. **We are looking for three to four volunteers**, age 25 and older, to assist in bringing and serving breakfast from **7:00 to 9:00 a.m.** in **Uptown** on these Sundays. Please contact Barb Scott at: (bams457@gmail.com or 847-707- 5795) to sign up to help.

The Night Ministry is a Chicago-based organization that works to provide housing, health care and human connection to members of the Chicago community struggling with poverty or homelessness. Here is the link to the Night Ministry's website: <https://www.thenightministry.org/>

Cradles to Crayons Winter Coat Drive

Hakafa is currently collecting **children's: coats, hats, boots, and mittens for Cradles to Crayons**. Much of the clothing goes to CPS students in Kindergarten-6th grade. The collection box is in the lobby of the **Takiff Center** (999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe) **now through March 31**. For more information please visit www.cradlestocrayons.org or contact **Barb Scott** (bams457@gmail.com).

Volunteers Needed to Help at A Just Harvest

Good news! We have a **NEW** fried chicken provider for our monthly meal at A Just Harvest Community Kitchen. The Jewel/Osco in Gateway Plaza, 1763 Howard St., is a reliable, more affordable source and is getting rave reviews from A Just Harvest guests. **Volunteers are needed on all dates for the upcoming year**. **NO FINANCIAL OBLIGATION** necessary! Hakafa is reimbursing full cost of the chicken, and servers are always needed. Contact **Monique Parsons** (monique.parsons@gmail.com) or **Debbie Charen** (debbie.charen@gmail.com) with questions. Use this link to sign up: <http://tinyurl.com/a-just-harvest>

The Bail Project

Please join us at the **home of Nancy and Bill Goldberg** on **Sunday, March 8 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.** to learn more about the issue of bail reform and explore Hakafa's potential involvement in the issue.

Robin Steinberg, the founder of The Bail Project, will be speaking with us to help us learn about the injustice and trauma of pre-trial incarceration for those who cannot afford bail, and highlight the actions of The Bail Project to address this issue in Chicago and 18 other cities nationwide.

Robin's TED Talk can be seen at: <https://tinyurl.com/BailProject>

Social Action (continued)

Hakafa Welcomes Asylum Seekers

For the last four years, Hakafa has helped approximately 20 refugee families adjust to life in the United States. Last month, we broadened our work to assist two men, Selvin and his son Selvin Junior, who were seeking asylum in the United States. The men traveled from Guatemala three years ago and were turned away at the border without receiving a "Credible Threat" hearing. They were then separated at the border. Eighteen year old Selvin Junior has spent the last few years on his own in the United States. The ACLU and Al Otro Lado (a non-profit) sued the federal government so that Selvin Senior could return and receive a "Credible Threat" hearing. Last month, Selvin Senior returned and was reunited with his son. Hakafa has rented and furnished an apartment for them on the Northside of Chicago. We also provide food, companionship, and some necessary funding. They are appreciative for our assistance.

This work is the natural outgrowth of the mentoring we have been doing with the resettling of refugees. We help them learn and practice English, show them around the area, and provide other means of care and support. This is somewhat different than our previous work. Refugees go through a lengthy approval process before being admitted into this country, and some have waited as long as seventeen years. However, once they arrive, they are able to work almost immediately. Selvin and his son are just starting the lengthy legal process which will determine whether they can stay in the country, and therefore do not have approval to work. Hakafa will be supporting them financially for the next several months. It has been an honor to help reunite the family, and we look forward to assisting them in the coming months. If you have questions about our refugee/asylum seeker work, please contact **Allison Stein** (ajzstein@gmail.com).

Jewish Community Resources

The greater Chicago area Jewish community has many organizations to which you can turn should you need support. Here are a few of them:

CJE SeniorLife (www.cje.net, 773-508-1000) – Since 1972, *CJE SeniorLife* has enhanced the lives of older adults and their families through a comprehensive network that includes housing, health care, community services, health and wellness education, life enrichment programs and applied research.

JCFS Chicago (www.jcfs.org, 855-275-5237) – *JCFS Chicago* provides caring and healing services to children, teens, adults, older adults and families for help with autism, support with advanced illness, special education, individual and family counseling, and more.

JCFS Chicago Addiction Services (www.jcfs.org/our-services/jewish-community-programs/addiction-services, 847-745-5422) – *JCFS Chicago Addiction Services* was created to build a caring community that is aware of and responsive to the problem of addiction and to support individuals and families who struggle with addiction.

JCFS Chicago Illness, Loss and Spiritual Support Services (www.jcfs.org/our-services/jewish-community-programs/illness-loss-grief, 847-745-5404) – The staff at *JCFS Chicago Illness, Loss and Spiritual Support Services* provides information about social services, medical resources, and spiritual resources for people who are ill, grieving, or serving as caregivers to help in their difficult times.

SHALVA (www.shalvaonline.org, 773-583-4673) - *SHALVA* offers free, confidential, domestic abuse counseling services to the Chicago Jewish Community.

Israel

World Zionist Congress Elections - Vote Now through March 11

Wouldn't it be great if you could vote in an Israeli election, and that based on the results of that election, key Israeli leaders who share your values could be appointed to head national policy-making institutions and exert influence on public matters such as combatting racism, liberalizing conversion, opening rules on marriage and divorce, religious pluralism, gender rights, equality, economic justice, a two-state solution, and peace?

The 2020 World Zionist Congress elections are here, and your vote is critical. To vote, go to: <https://zionistelection.org/election/2a3b7a80-ba00-42ec-957e-c0375167a065>

Muslim Community Center, Winnetka Congregational Church and Congregation Hakafa

Bearing Witness from the Border



**Muslim Education Center Social Hall
8601 Menard Ave Morton Grove, Illinois**



**Wednesday, April 1, 2020
7:00pm-9:00pm**

Come listen to the testimonies of the volunteers who went and how their faith motivated them to volunteer to help and bear witness to what is happening on the border to our fellow human beings.



Questions? Email interfaith@mccchicago.org



Congregation Hakafa Calendar

March 2020 – Adar / Nisan 5780

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 am-12:30 pm 11 th Grade Visit to Sikh Temple 9:45 am-12:00 pm Religious School (TC) 10:35 am-12:00 pm Sunday Morning Adult Ed (TC) • <i>Hakafa Professions Series – Mike Kreloff</i> • <i>Orot - Dipping into the Well: Jewish Spiritual Wisdom for Our Daily Lives - Building our Storehouses: Noticing Places of Scarcity and Abundance</i> 4:30 pm Kadima Spring Potluck (Criz Household)	2	3 9:00 am Midrash Class (NSUMC) 10:15 am Siddur Class (NSUMC) 4:15-6:00 pm Hebrew School (TC) 7:30 pm Torah Study (NSUMC)	4 1:00 pm Torah Study (NSUMC)	5 10:30 am Hebrew Circle (Office of Brad Reiff) 12:00 pm Lunch & Learn in the Loop (Office of Sam Goldman)	6 7:30 pm Shabbat Service (WCH)	7
8 9:45 am-12:00 pm Religious School (TC) 10:35 am-12:00 pm Sunday Morning Adult Ed (TC) • <i>David Rieser</i> • <i>Orot - Dipping into the Well: Jewish Spiritual Wisdom for Our Daily Lives - Choosing our Garments: Finding What We Need</i> 12:15 pm - Final B'nai Mitzvah Workshop (TC)	9 Erev Purim 5:45 pm Pre-Megilla Pizza & Pop (WCH) 6:30 pm Purim Megilla Reading (WCH)	10 Purim	11 1:00 pm Torah Study (NSUMC) 7:00 pm Keshet Evening at Curt's Café Highland Park	12	13 Shabbat in the Home	14 8:30 am Shabbat Morning Minyan (Home of Barbara & Allen Anderson) 10:30 am Tot Shabbat (NSUMC) Bat Mitzvah Service of Naomi Criz
15 Newsletter Articles Due 9:00 am-3:45 pm Confirmation Class Visit with Rabbi Marx 9:45 am-12:00 pm Religious School (TC) 10:35 am-12:00 pm Sunday Morning Adult Ed (TC) • <i>David Rieser</i> • <i>JCFS – Stress, Depression, Suicide Risk and Intervention</i>	16	17 9:00 am Midrash Class (NSUMC) 10:30 am Mishneh Torah Class (Home of Allison & Ken Davis) 4:15-6:00 pm Hebrew School (TC) 7:30 pm Torah Study (NSUMC)	18 1:00 pm Torah Study (NSUMC)	19 9:00 am Nosh & Know on the North Shore (Home of Cookie Robertson)	20 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Passover Packages for College Students Order Deadline </div> 7:30 pm Shabbat Service (WCH)	21 7:00 pm Film Group (NSUMC)
22 7:00-9:00 am Hakafa volunteers serve breakfast at <i>The Crib</i> 11:45 am–12:45 pm Maot Chitim Packing Day	23	24	25	26 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Congregational Seder RSVP Deadline </div>	27 7:30 pm Shabbat Service (WCH)	28
29 9:15–10:45 am Maot Chitim Delivery Day	30 7:00-8:15 pm High School Europe Trip Meeting (TC)	31 9:00 am Midrash Class (NSUMC) 10:15 am Siddur Class (NSUMC) 4:15-6:00 pm Hebrew School (TC) 7:30 pm Torah Study (NSUMC)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> TC = Glencoe Park District Takiff Center (999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe) WCH = Winnetka Community House (620 Lincoln Avenue, Winnetka) NSUMC = North Shore United Methodist Church (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe) </div>			

Congregation Hakafa Calendar

April 2020 – Nisan / Iyar 5780

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1:00 pm Torah Study (NSUMC)	2 10:30 am Hebrew Circle (Office of Brad Reiff) 12:00 pm Lunch & Learn in the Loop	3 7:30 pm Shabbat Service (WCH)	4 Shabbat HaGadol 8:30 am Shabbat Morning Minyan (Home of Leanne Star) 7:00 pm Film Group (NSUMC)
5 High School Service Project III 7:00-9:00 am Hakafa volunteers serve breakfast at <i>The Crib</i> 9:45 am-12:00 pm Religious School (TC) 10:35 am-12:00 pm Sunday Morning Adult Ed (TC) <i>Sandy Goldberg: Philosophy of Language</i>	6 6:00-8:00 pm Congregational Biyur Chametz	7 9:00 am Midrash Class (NSUMC) 10:30 am Mishneh Torah Class (Home of Allison & Ken Davis) 4:15-6:00 pm Hebrew School (TC) 7:30 pm Torah Study (NSUMC)	8 Erev Pesach 1st Passover Seder	9 Passover 1 (Hakafa Office Closed) 3:30 pm Robineau Residence Seder 6:00 pm Congregational Second Seder (WCH) 2nd Passover Seder	10 Passover 2 7:30 pm Shabbat Service (WCH)	11 Passover 3 10:30 am Tot Shabbat (NSUMC)
12 Passover 4 9:45 am-12:00 pm Religious School (TC) 10:35 am-12:00 pm Sunday Morning Adult Ed (TC) • <i>Kalman Resnick - Israelis & Palestinians</i> <i>Today: Human Rights Issues</i> • <i>JCFS – Parenting Digital Natives</i> 3:00 pm Confirmation Class Parent/Student Meeting and Service Prep Session I (NSUMC)	13 Passover 5	14 Passover 6 9:00 am Midrash Class (NSUMC) 10:15 am Siddur Class (NSUMC) 4:15-6:00 pm Hebrew School (TC)	15 Passover 7 (Hakafa Office Closed) 10:30 am Yizkor Service (Makom Solel Lakeside)	16 (8th Day of Passover) 9:00 am Nosh & Know on the North Shore (Home of Cookie Robertson)	17 Newsletter Articles Due 7:30 pm Shabbat Service – Scholar-in-Residence: Father John Pawlikowski (Curt's Café, Highland Park)	18 8:30 am Shabbat Morning Minyan (Home of Leanne Star) 10:30 am OR 11:45 am B'nai Mitzvah Workshop Services (NSUMC) Bar Mitzvah Service of Jonathan Hurst 7:00 pm Scholar-in-Residence Program (Home of Harriet & Stan Rosenthal)
19 Family Promise at NSUMC 9:45 am-12:00 pm Religious School (TC) 10:35 am-12:00 pm Sunday Morning Adult Ed (TC) Scholar-in-Residence – Father John Pawlikowski: <i>Caring for Creation—How the Jewish Tradition Can Help Christianity</i> 4:00-6:15 pm 9 th -11 th Grade Class Session IV (Curt's Cafe)	20 Family Promise at NSUMC	21 Family Promise at NSUMC Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) 9:00 am Midrash Class (NSUMC) 10:30 am Mishneh Torah Class (Home of Allison & Ken Davis) 4:15-6:00 pm Hebrew School (TC) 7:30 pm Torah Study (NSUMC)	22 Family Promise at NSUMC 1:00 pm Torah Study (NSUMC)	23 Family Promise at NSUMC	24 Family Promise at NSUMC Hakafa's Double-Chai (36 year) Celebration! (WCH) 6:00 pm Shabbat Dinner 7:30 pm Student-Led Shabbat Service/Oneg	25 Family Promise at NSUMC
26 Family Promise at NSUMC 9:00 am 11 th Grade Visit to Buddhist Temple 5:00 pm High School Senior Workshop II	27	28 Yom HaZikaron (Israel's Memorial Day) 9:00 am - Midrash Class (NSUMC) 10:15 am - Siddur Class (NSUMC) 4:15-6:00 pm - Hebrew School (TC) 7:30 pm - Torah Study (NSUMC)	29 Yom HaAtzmaut (Israel's Independence Day) 1:00 pm Torah Study (NSUMC)	30		



Congregation Hakafa

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The Circle



March 2020

Table of Contents

D'varim.....1
Purim.....Insert
Second Night Seder.....Insert
Prayer and Celebration.....2
Passover Boxes.....Insert
Member News.....3
Chadashot.....Insert
Adult Education.....6
Social Action.....7
Israel.....8
Bearing Witness.....Insert
March Calendar.....Insert
April Calendar.....Insert