



Bruce Elder, Rabbi

Robert J. Marx z"l, Founding Rabbi

D'varim

A.I.

No, ChatGPT didn't write this.

I have been wondering why we are so worried about the newest iteration of artificial intelligence. Can it be any worse than the artificial intelligence that has been driving public policy up until now?

Artificial intelligence is on full display when a federal judge in Texas with no medical training determines he knows more about reproductive medicine than the FDA. It is on full display when elections are deemed rigged, despite overwhelming proof otherwise, solely because one's preferred candidate lost. Artificial intelligence was employed to convince the American populace that the road to eradicating Islamic terrorism was through Iraq, the ramifications from which the world is still suffering today. And we see it in full force, on almost a daily basis, as claims about Jewish international banking power circulate social media circles that are less and less on the fringe. Is it really any worse knowing that a computer will soon be able to make stuff up better and faster than we have been able to do so ourselves?

We humans are a strange species. It seems as though the better we get at finding ways to make life better for ourselves we are, at the same time, finding ways to make it worse. And for some reason, we refuse to listen when we are told truths that we don't want to hear. Take artificial sweeteners for example: Sweet and Low kept its robust market share even after studies revealed a link to a greater susceptibility to cancer with its overuse. Football teams replaced bad artificial turf with even worse artificial turf when they found that artificial turf was detrimental to athletes' bodies and health. Synthetic opioids are decimating the lives of millions of Americans who can't overcome the disease of their addiction to it. And artificial meat? Don't get me started.

I am not a naturalist, by any means. I like a good Cherry Coke Zero every so often; more often than I like to admit, if truth be told. I use plastics and other products deemed bad for my body and the environment. And I have been all too willing to believe something that someone else made up if it fits the narrative I seek to espouse. In doing so, I prove my own point. I am more driven by what feels good and right than what actually might be good and right for me and others. In other words, I am human.

Judaism has tried to navigate artificiality for ages. Successive rabbinic authorities have determined that we can eat artificial products that taste like pork and shellfish as long as they don't look like the actual food. Artificial insemination has been a widely accepted method of reproduction in Jewish circles for some time. And we Jews had our own form of A.I. long ago. The Maharal, Rabbi Judah Loew, is credited with creating a being out of mud that would be able to safeguard his beloved Jewish community of Prague in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Known as the Golem, this creature succeeded in protecting our people until it had to be dismantled before turning on them as well.

And that has been the concern about A.I. all along – that people won't work to control it until it is too late, until it takes over our lives and destroys us: Not unlike the plastics and chemicals that are eating away at our planet and our bodies, even as we continue to enjoy them; not unlike the drugs that make us feel better, even as they are killing us; not unlike the rubbish spewed by antisemites who demean us, even as their troubles are the result of anything but us; and not unlike the willingness of those in power to abuse that power to make decisions they "know" are right, even as the truth screams otherwise and millions have to die for it.

ChatGPT didn't write this, but it is only a matter of time before it does. What will be its final conclusion? What will be ours?

We have the capacity to save our species.

Will we?

-Rabbi Bruce Elder

## Prayer and Celebration



### Friday Evening Services

Zoom Meeting ID: 292 137 266

*All are invited to join us for our weekly Friday Evening Kabbalat Shabbat Service. Unless noted below, all services take place in Room 101 at the Winnetka Community House (620 Lincoln Avenue, Winnetka) AND via Zoom (Meeting ID: 292 137 266).*

May 5                      Shabbat Emor  
7:30 p.m.              Torah Portion: Leviticus 21:1-24:23  
                              Haftarah: Ezekiel 44:15-31  
                              *Service in-person and via Zoom*

May 12                    Shabbat B'har / B'chukotai  
7:30 p.m.              Torah Portion: Leviticus 25:1-27:34  
                              Haftarah: Jeremiah 16:19-17:14  
                              *Service in-person and via Zoom*  
                              *Service Leader and Musical Guest: Tory May*

May 19                    Shabbat B'midbar  
7:00 p.m.              Torah Portion: Numbers 1:1- 4:20  
                              Haftarah: Hosea 2:1-22  
                              ***Shabbat Service with Emanuel Congregation***  
                              ***Note Location at Curt's Café in Evanston***  
                              ***Note Early Start Time***  
                              *In-person and via Zoom*

May 26                    Shabbat Naso  
7:30 p.m.              Torah Portion: Numbers 4:21-5:31  
                              Haftarah: Judges 13:2-12  
                              ***Shabbat Service and Confirmation Ceremony***  
                              *In person and via Zoom*

### Shabbat Morning Minyan

Zoom Meeting ID: 847 8216 0504

Please join us on **Saturdays, May 6 and 20 at 9:00 a.m. OUTDOORS at the home of Barbara and Allen Anderson** (849 Oak Drive, Glencoe) for this hour-long service and study. The service will also be accessible **via Zoom** for those who are not able to participate in-person. Our Shabbat Morning Minyan is a wonderful opportunity to enhance your celebration of Shabbat. People of all ages are encouraged and welcome to attend.

*PLEASE NOTE: If the weather is bad, we will meet indoors at the North Shore United Methodist Church (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe).*

### Confirmation Ceremony at Shabbat Service on May 26

The entire congregation is cordially invited to the Confirmation of our 12th grade students at our Shabbat Service on **Friday, May 26 at 7:30 p.m.** in-person at the **Winnetka Community House** (620 Lincoln Avenue, Winnetka) and via Zoom. We congratulate our Confirmation Class of 5783 and their families:

**Ryan Bendoff**  
**Charlie Goldberg**  
**Courtney Solomon**

*PLEASE NOTE: This service will take place in-person and via Zoom even though it is the last Friday of the month.*

### Joint Shabbat Service with Emanuel Congregation

Please join us on **Friday, May 19 at 7:00 p.m.** (NOTE EARLY TIME) and members of Emanuel Congregation either **in-person or via Zoom** for a special joint Friday Evening Kabbalat Shabbat Service at **Curt's Cafe in Evanston** (2922 Central Street, Evanston). We hope you will be there!

### Hosts Needed for Friday Night Onegs

Hosting a Friday evening Oneg is a wonderful way to honor the memory of a loved one on his/her yahrzeit or to celebrate a b'nai mitzvah, birthday, anniversary, or another special occasion with the congregation. **Volunteers are needed!** Go to the following link for the instructions needed to host: **[www.tinyurl.com/HakafaOnegInstructions](http://www.tinyurl.com/HakafaOnegInstructions)**

To volunteer to host, sign up online at this link (**<http://tinyurl.com/oneg-hosting>**) or by contacting **Gayle Inbinder** (oneg@hakafa.org or 847-951-0380) and **Jill Mihailovic-Sternberg** (oneg@hakafa.org or 773-710-4436).

You can also contact Gayle and Jill for more information.

## Prayer and Celebration (continued)

### Lag BaOmer Bonfire and Kumzits

On **Monday evening, May 8, beginning at 6:00 p.m.**, we will gather at **Crow Island Woods Park** (1140 Willow Road, Winnetka) for Hakafa's annual Lag BaOmer bonfire and Kumzits\*! **You bring dinner and any musical instruments you'd like, we'll provide the sh'mores!**

*We are commanded by the Torah to count forty-nine days starting from the second day of Passover. On the fiftieth day, we celebrate the festival of Shavuot, commemorating the giving of the Torah. This 50-day period is called "Counting the Omer." The Omer was a barley offering brought to the Temple on the day we start counting, the second day of Passover. "Lag BaOmer" is the thirty-third day of counting the Omer. The word "Lag" means 33 because it is comprised of the letters "lamud" and "gimmel," corresponding to the numerical values of "30" and "3." In the time of Rabbi Akiva, who witnessed the destruction of the Second Temple and who was the greatest Torah Sage of his generation, 24,000 of his disciples died in an epidemic during the counting of the Omer. Since the epidemic was suspended on the 33rd day, Lag BaOmer has become a joyous day of celebration, complete with bonfires – especially in Israel.*

Location and Parking: Crow Island Woods Park lies directly west of Crow Island School on Willow Road in Winnetka. Parking is available in the center of the park via a gravel road off Willow Road. A picnic shelter with restrooms and stone fire pit is located just south of the parking area.

*\*Kumzits is a compound-word in Hebrew derived from the Yiddish words קומ (come) and זיצ (sit). The word is used to describe an evening gathering where we come together and sing.*

### Shavuot Celebration Events

The holiday of Shavuot (pronounced shah-voo-OAT) occurs on the sixth day of the Hebrew month of Sivan (beginning at sundown on Thursday, May 25 this year). It is the second of three pilgrimage festivals (Passover and Sukkot are the other two) and is a day on which yizkor is observed. Shavuot commemorates the day God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. It also has an agricultural reference, marking a stage in the harvest. One of the customs of Shavuot is to hold a tikkun, or Torah-based learning session, mostly late into the night.

Community-Wide Tikkun L'eil Shavuot: Join Hakafa and a host of other Chicagoland synagogues at the annual Community-Wide Tikkun L'eil Shavuot on **Thursday, May 25 at Am Shalom** (840 Vernon Avenue, Glencoe): **Voices from Jerusalem: MiTziyon Teitzei Torah**. For this year's spiritual and musical journey, we welcome the **Jerusalem-based Nigunim Ensemble featuring Cantor-Rabbi Shani Ben Or and Boaz Dorot...**and local cantors and musicians

The evening will begin at **7:00 p.m.** with the Opening Performance followed by a Dessert Reception at 8:15 p.m., and Shavuot Study Sessions with local clergy beginning at 8:45 p.m.

**Registration is required. To register go to this link: [www.amshalom.com/event/leil-shavuot-2023](http://www.amshalom.com/event/leil-shavuot-2023)**

Participating Congregations: Am Shalom, Am Yisrael, B'nai Jehoshua Beth Elohim, Congregation Hakafa, Congregation Sukkat Shalom, Har Shalom, Makom Solel Lakeside, North Shore Congregation Israel, Temple Beth-El - Northbrook, Temple Beth Israel, and Temple Jeremiah

Early Morning Tikkun and Sunrise Minyan: Our Shavuot celebration continues **early on Friday morning, May 26**. We are told to study the entire night of Shavuot until sunrise. So, we will gather at **3:30 a.m.** at the **North Shore United Methodist Church** (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe) for an hour-long study session. We will then walk to **Glencoe Beach** (160 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe) for a sunrise minyan. Minyan will begin at **4:50 a.m.**

Yizkor Service – Shavuot (Zoom Meeting ID: 852 3252 0986): Jewish tradition tells us that four times during the year, in addition to the anniversary of the death of a loved one, we are to recall the memories of those who have died. These four times, known as yizkor (remembrance), coincide with major holidays on the Jewish calendar. Shavuot is a day on which yizkor is recited. Please join us for Yizkor on **Friday, May 26 at 10:00 a.m.** either **in-person at the North Shore United Methodist Church** (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe) or **via Zoom**.

THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023

COMMUNITY-WIDE TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT

# מציון תצא תורה

Voices from Jerusalem

*mitziyon teitzei torah*

## PROGRAM at AM SHALOM

**7:00pm Opening Session** featuring the **Nigunim Ensemble**

with **Cantor-Rabbi Shani Ben Or** and **Boaz Dorot**

*...and local cantors and musicians*

**8:15pm Dessert Reception**

**8:45pm Shavuot Study Sessions** with local clergy

## PARTICIPATING CONGREGATIONS

Am Shalom

Am Yisrael

B'nai Jehoshua Beth Elohim

Congregation Hakafa

Congregation Sukkat Shalom

Har Shalom

Makom Solel Lakeside

North Shore Congregation Israel

Temple Beth El

Temple Beth Israel

Temple Jeremiah

REGISTRATION REQUIRED via  
[amshalom.com/event/leil-shavuot-2023](https://amshalom.com/event/leil-shavuot-2023)



**Am Shalom**

840 Vernon Avenue

Glencoe, IL 60022

847-835-4800



## Member News

### Congregation Annual Meeting

Zoom Meeting ID: 850 3496 3619

Please join Hakafa for our Annual Congregational Meeting **In-Person in Community Room 1 at the Takiff Center** (999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe) **and via Zoom on Sunday, May 21 at 10:15 a.m.** Matters to be voted on include the following:

- The Congregation's budget for 2023/24
- The following slate of officers for 2023/24 (The Nominating Committee has re-slotted this year's officers for reelection.):
  - President: Barbara Miller
  - Vice-President: Janet Lubetkin
  - Operations Treasurer: Mike McCullough
  - Dues Treasurer: Joli Fridman
  - Secretary: Allison Blakley

Please contact our President, **Barbara Miller** (president@hakafa.org), with any questions.

### Condolences to:

The family of Joel Corn

Andrew Delman and family on the loss of his mother, Sylvia Delman

Sarah Glazier, Alice Herz, and family on the loss of their aunt, Anne Millman

Liz Goldman and family on the loss of her father, Bernard Samuels

Leslie Jaffe, Emma Davis, and family on the loss of their son/brother, Adam Davis

Betsy Kessler and family on the loss of her brother, Abram (Abe) Katz.

Amy Klein-Alter and family on the loss of her father, Richard Klein

Carolyn Slone and family on the loss of her mother, Vera Jane Hickey

### Thank You to::

Amy Acri and Judy Rose-Epstein for coordinating our beautiful in-person congregational Passover Seder

Amy and Jim Acri for providing the beautiful flower centerpieces for the Seder

Karen Berman for organizing, shopping for, packing, and mailing Passover Care Packages to our Hakafa undergrads

### Hakafa Visit to Glencoe Historical Society Museum's New Exhibit

Please join us on **Wednesday, May 24 at 11:00 a.m.** at the **Glencoe Historical Society Museum** (375 Park Avenue, Glencoe) to see the new exhibition on **Glencoe's Black Heritage**. Hakafa member, **Barbara Olinger**, instrumental in putting the installation together, will be our docent for the tour.

Glencoe has been home to a dedicated Black community since the mid-1880s. This exhibit examines how these residents lived, worked, and worshipped and how their experiences changed over the years. Galleries introduce visitors to Glencoe's earliest Black residents, exploring why they came, and describing the town they encountered when they arrived. They also look candidly at more difficult times and discuss the impact of racism and discrimination following World War I. Featured are stories of the Black residents who helped shape the Village, the City of Chicago, the nation, and the world.

### Mazal Tov to:

Amy and Jim Acri on their birth of their grandchild, Chance, to Carolyn and Jon

Carol and Stephen Cann on the birth of their grandchild, Luke Edward, to David and Christine

Anna Calamaro and family on her rabbinic ordination

Hope and Jeff Sheffield on the birth of their grandchild, Isaac, to Eliza and Anthony.

Alison, David, and Lilah Shore on the birth of their daughter/sister, Murphy Lee. Mazal Tov, as well, to grandparents, Suzanne and Rick Shore

### Kesher Game Night is Back

Do you play Scrabble? Settlers of Catan? Euchre? Join us on **Wednesday, May 17 at 7:00 p.m.** at **Curt's Café in Highland Park** (1766 Second Street) for an evening of games, nosh, and relaxing conversation. Bring your own board game, or play one of the many games we will have there. And once again, whoever beats Rabbi Elder at Scrabble gets a donation to the organization of their choice. See you there!

*\*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. Kesher (Hebrew for "Connection") allows 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, all Hakafa members are invited to join us.*

## Member News (continued)

### Shabbat in the Home: Hosts Needed for June 16

In place of Shabbat services one Friday evening per year, Hakafa celebrates Shabbat dinner together at various members' homes. On Shabbat-in-the-Home, every congregation member is invited to dine and share the evening at another member's home. Together we light Shabbat candles, share a delicious meal, enjoy interesting conversation, meet new friends, and reconnect with old ones. It has always been a special evening that is all about making Hakafa the encirclement that it is. This year, Shabbat-in-the-Home will take place on **Friday, June 16**. We hope to again offer outdoor options for those who prefer! But, we can only do it if we get enough volunteer hosts - - 15+ host families are needed.

**If you are willing to open up your home/patio/deck to other Hakafa members for a potluck Shabbat dinner on Friday, June 16, please sign-up at this link (<https://tinyurl.com/SITH23>) or contact Mimi Dray ([mimidray425@gmail.com](mailto:mimidray425@gmail.com)). We hope to get enough volunteers (with indoor and outdoor spaces) to make this happen, and we also hope you will join us as we celebrate Shabbat.**

### Hakafa Turns 40!

Please save the weekend of **April 12-14, 2024**, for festivities, and contact **Marietta Hesdorffer** ([hesdor@aol.com](mailto:hesdor@aol.com)) or **Barbara Miller** ([president@hakafa.org](mailto:president@hakafa.org)) if you want to help!

### Relief from Financial Stress

If you are suffering from economic hardship and could use a little help, please reach out to Rabbi Elder ([rabbi@hakafa.org](mailto:rabbi@hakafa.org), 847-266-8854). We have funds available to assist you.

### Hakafa Movie Group

Let's get Hakafa's Movie Group going again! If you would like to help with organizing scheduling, finding movies, food, or leading a discussion contact **Barbara Miller** ([president@hakafa.org](mailto:president@hakafa.org)).

### Willow Lawn Cemetery Plots

Information regarding Hakafa's green cemetery section at Willow Lawn is available on our website ([www.hakafa.org/worship-ritual/life-cycle-events/death/endlife-resources/cemetery-options](http://www.hakafa.org/worship-ritual/life-cycle-events/death/endlife-resources/cemetery-options)). Green burial is more environmentally friendly than standard burial.

**We have very few available full plots within our section, plus several plots for the burial of cremains.** Please contact **Deborah Brown** ([dmb9476@gmail.com](mailto:dmb9476@gmail.com)) with questions.

### Chesed

The Hebrew word for loving kindness is chesed. The Chesed Committee at Hakafa works to respond to a wide range of situations and events that occur in the lives of our members. It is our attempt to reach out to one another. If you or anyone you know of in our congregation is in crisis from an illness, death in the family, or personal stress, and could benefit from support, such as a visit, delivery / preparation of meals, or a ride to a health care appointment, please contact **Camille DeFrank** (847-997-8085 /[camilledefrank@gmail.com](mailto:camilledefrank@gmail.com)) or **Beth McCullough** (847-722-5430/[mikeandbeth\\_60089@yahoo.com](mailto:mikeandbeth_60089@yahoo.com)).

### Join Hakafa In Morocco October 25 – November 4, 2023

Get ready for a meaningful Jewish journey through Morocco! We will be immersed in Jewish culture both past and present. We will learn about Morocco's rich Jewish heritage while exploring the four imperial cities of Morocco and we will enjoy Shabbat services with local families at synagogues in both Marrakech and Casablanca. We will also experience the essence of Morocco's local cuisine, get lost in the exotic souks (markets) and have time to enjoy excursions to the picturesque Atlas Mountains and the famous blue city of Chefchaouen.

**Go to this link for the complete itinerary, tour details (including hotels), rates, and to register for the trip. (<https://secure.ayelet.com/HakafaMorocco2023.aspx>)**

## Member News (continued)

### Making Contributions to Hakafa

Throughout the year, people ask how they can make a contribution to Hakafa. We have three funds that accept donations, and we always value your support:

- Our **General Fund** supports the day-to-day operations of the synagogue. Please make your check payable to "Congregation Hakafa."
- **Rabbi Elder's Discretionary Fund** directly supports those in need in and around our community. Rabbi Elder directs the usage of these funds. Please make your check payable to "Congregation Hakafa" and write "Rabbi Elder's Discretionary Fund" on the memo line.
- Our **Endowment Fund** supports special programming not covered by the budget. Endowment Trustees direct the usage of these funds. Please make your check payable to "Congregation Hakafa" and write "Endowment Fund" on the memo line.
- **The Rabbi Robert J. Marx Social Justice Fund** supports new justice initiatives proposed by congregants that reflect the values and life of our founding rabbi. Please make your check payable to "Congregation Hakafa" and write "RJM Fund" on the memo line.

If you would like to make your donation in honor or in memory of someone, please be sure to include a note in your envelope with the appropriate information so that a card can be sent to the honoree to let that person know about your donation.

**All donations can be mailed to: Congregation Hakafa, P.O. Box 409, Glencoe, IL 60022.** It is also possible to make donations with a credit card. Please contact Rona Elder (admin@hakafa.org) for assistance with that. If you are interested in a legacy giving plan, please let us know and arrangements can be made. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Rona.

### Hakafa on Social Media

Over the past few weeks, you may or may not have noticed a new, more active social media presence of Hakafa on your social platforms! This is part of Hakafa's new social media initiative to grow our presence in the greater Jewish community, but more importantly to keep our community up-to-date and active in all we do.

**Hakafa needs YOUR help in growing our social network!** Many of you are already interacting very positively with our posts, stories, and reels; however, we wanted to provide a few helpful tips to our community that can help you stay involved online.

- **Instagram:** Instagram is a photo and video sharing app owned by Facebook. If you are signed up for Facebook, you can sign up for Instagram through your Facebook account. Follow **@congregation.hakafa**, along with any of your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers (anyone you want to have in your network).
  - It helps Hakafa tremendously if you like our posts, and even leave a comment if you feel so inclined. Sharing one of our posts or reels to your story is also much appreciated, as then it reaches your network.
  - **Parents with teenage/adult children:** Share @congregation.hakafa with your children. They likely already use Instagram and are more active with this app. We would love to get our younger members involved!
- **Points on the Circle:** Our podcast, Points on the Circle, returns to YouTube in April with all new episodes! Have an interesting story? Would you like to schmooze with Rabbi Elder? Contact him (rabbi@hakafa.org) about appearing on a future episode! All new/past episodes are available here: <https://youtube.com/@pointsonthecirclepodcast5061>

**If you are hesitant to add another form of social media, no worries!** We post everything that is on Instagram to Facebook and can keep you involved through there! **Be sure to "Like" Congregation Hakafa on Facebook so that you see our posts.** Then, liking, commenting, and sharing our posts are just as valuable on Facebook. Share our content with your children, and even your grandchildren, if you have them!

This is all an effort to keep our community as connected as possible, while growing and progressing with the times of the world. We appreciate any and all interactions with our social media! Any questions regarding Hakafa's social media, feel free to email [potchakafa@gmail.com](mailto:potchakafa@gmail.com).

## Adult Education

### Sunday Morning Adult Education

Zoom Meeting ID: Meeting ID: 871 3067 5137

All Hakafa adults are invited to join us for our last Sunday Morning Adult Education class of the year on **Sunday morning, May 7** from **10:15-11:45 a.m.** either **in-person at the Takiff Center** (999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe) or **via Zoom**. Come early for a cup of coffee and to schmooze before we discuss how **Foster Care is a Social Justice issue**. We will learn more about the overlap of various social identities such as race, gender, sexuality, socioeconomic status, and class in our Foster Care System in the U.S. and look at how homelessness, unemployment, mental health, and crime are interrelated. Hear from people with firsthand knowledge about being a foster care parent and those working within the system to help children here in Illinois. We hope you will join us!

### Yiddish Class

Zoom Meeting ID: 863 6421 5324

Our Yiddish Class continues to meet at **7:00 p.m. on Monday evenings**, and it's not too late to join! This month, classes will meet **in-person** at the **home of Ellen and Henry Criz** (545 Green Bay Road, Highland Park) on **May 1, 15, and 22**. Classes are also held **via Zoom** each week. Contact **Sharon Gutan** (gutan627@comcast.net) or **Betsy Hersher** (betsyhersher@gmail.com) with questions.

### Nosh and Know

Zoom Meeting ID: 863 2720 5788

Please join us either in-person at the **North Shore United Methodist Church** (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe) or **via Zoom** on **Thursday, May 4** at **9:00 a.m.** for a lively conversation with Rabbi Elder! New participants are always welcome.

### Wednesday Afternoon Tanach Study

Zoom Meeting ID: 813 358 443

All are invited to join Rabbi Elder either **in-person at the North Shore United Methodist Church (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe)** OR **via Zoom** for weekly Tanach study on **Wednesday afternoons** from **1:00 to 2:30 p.m.** Each week, we proceed through the Bible, verse by verse, discussing its content and various interpretations. New participants are always welcome. **Please Note: Class will NOT meet on May 31.**

### Tuesday Evening Tanach Study

Zoom Meeting ID: 662 730 822

All are invited to join Rabbi Elder for weekly Tanach study on **Tuesday evenings** from **7:30 to 8:45 p.m.** Each week, we proceed through the Bible, verse by verse, discussing its content and various interpretations

Class on **May 2** will meet **in person** (North Shore United Methodist Church (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe) and via Zoom. All other weeks will be **via Zoom only**. **Class will NOT meet on May 30.**

### Midrash Class

Zoom Meeting ID: 696 226 468

Join us either **in-person at the North Shore United Methodist Church** (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe) OR **via Zoom** on **Tuesday mornings** at **10:00 a.m.** 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 and how much of our understanding of the biblical text has been influenced by theirs. **Please Note: Class will NOT meet on May 30.**

### Hakafa Book Club:

Meeting In-Person and via Zoom!

All are welcome to join our informal book group dedicated to reading Jewish and Jew-adjacent works of fiction and nonfiction. We will meet on **Sunday, May 21** at **4:15 p.m. in-person** at the **North Shore United Methodist Church** (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe) and **via Zoom**. (Meeting ID: 519 307 8653 / Passcode: 964323).

**May's read is *The Chosen* by Chaim Potok.** Hakafa member and librarian, **David Levinson**, will facilitate the discussion. Contact **David** (levinson@lakeforest.edu) to be added to the group's email list for updates.

### Musar Class

Zoom Meeting ID: 242 631 590

Musar is a long-standing tradition of exploring Jewish ethics with a focus on character formation. Join Rabbi Elder via **Zoom** on **Wednesday mornings** from **10:00 to 11:00 a.m.** to delve into selections from the Musar tradition. The goal is to not only take an academic approach to Jewish ethics and ethical literature, but also to use some of the techniques of the Musar Movement to deepen our own understanding of ourselves and push to live up to the best that is within each one of us. **Please Note: Class will NOT meet on May 31.**



## Note from the Director of Education

On behalf of the Religious School, I want to thank all of the students that participated in our April Shabbat service. Everyone read so well, and a good time was had by all!

This year has flown by! It is hard to believe that it is time, again, to say *l'hitraot* for the summer! Before we do that, we still have a full month of learning planned!

We begin this month on May 2 with Hebrew School and on May 7 with Religious School. In order for families to be together on Mother's Day, we will not have Religious School on May 14. Happy Mother's Day! Our last day of Religious School will be on May 21. We will have the opportunity to honor our teachers and culminate our school year with our favorite tradition of having *glida* (ice cream)! We hope families will join us on the last day - schedule to follow.

Our last day of Hebrew School will be on Tuesday, May 23. We will be having a small gathering for our Hebrew School graduates. *Mazal Tov* to Ruby Abrams-Prass, Ellie Glick, Mason Hartstein, and Ellie Hersher-Dale!

And finally, on Friday night, May 26 we will be having a special Shabbat Service honoring our Confirmants: Ryan Bendoff, Charlie Goldberg, and Courtney Solomon. *Mazal Tov*!

This year has been all about returning back to normal! We gathered together with families in the morning and came back for bagels at the end of school. Adult Ed came back to being in person. We even purchased a Keurig for our coffees on Sunday morning! I know this seems so simple, but I have learned that we cannot take anything for granted - even the simple things that mean so much to us! We are so happy we were able to provide our students and families with amazing Jewish educational experiences and, of course, spend time together with our beautiful Hakafa community.

Wishing all of you a safe and wonderful summer! Please look for our registration materials in July for next school year. We also ask for you to continue to "like" and "share" any Hakafa postings on Instagram and Facebook!

L'hitraot - and see you all in the fall!

L'shalom, Bibi



## Religious Education Committee Meeting!

All parents are invited to join us on **Thursday, May 4** at **7:30 pm** at the **North Shore United Methodist Church** (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe) for a Religious Education Committee meeting. **We will be meeting to talk about our Religious School and also brainstorm ideas for an early summer event for current and potential new families.** Please contact our Education Committee Chair, **Daphna Neirick** (dneirick@gmail.com or 847-224-6325) with any questions. We hope you'll be there!

## Hebrew School Graduation



Our Seventh Grade Hebrew School students will graduate on **Tuesday, May 23** at **4:50 pm** at the **Takiff Center**. They will lead the Hebrew School Tuesday afternoon service that will include their graduation. We congratulate our Hebrew School Graduates and their families: **Ruby Abrams-Prass, Ellie Glick, Mason Hartstein, and Ellie Hersher-Dale.**



## Sunday Bagels Thank-You

**Todah Rabah** (thank you very much) to **Vicky and Adam Hartstein** for so seamlessly coordinating the weekly bagels for our Religious School students and adults this year. This generous offer of time means so much to us all!

## SAVE THE DATE: May 21 Last Day of Religious School

As the 2022-23 school year comes to a close, Religious School families are invited to **join us on the last day of Religious School (May 21)** for our annual **Last Day Celebration** that will include a chance to **appreciate our teachers** and the opportunity to **say l'hitraot** for the summer. Of course, the **ice cream truck** will be there, too!

Stay tuned for  
more details!



## Social Action

### Volunteers Needed to Help Make Sack Dinners for the Night Ministry

Hakafa will be donating **150 sack dinners** to The Night Ministry to distribute to people experiencing homelessness. We need volunteers **to prepare 10 to 20 meals** for pickup on **May 7**. We also need volunteers to **collect them locally and drop them off at the home of Barb Scott** (306 Washington Avenue, Highwood) **on May 7**. Then, on **May 8 we need two volunteers to help deliver the meals** to the Night Ministry. **Contact Barb Scott** (bams457@gmail.com) for details.

*The Night Ministry (www.thenightministry.org) is a Chicago-based organization whose mission is to provide human connection, housing support, and health care to members of our community who are unhoused or experiencing poverty.*

### Tutoring for Citizenship Exam

Zoom Meeting ID: 838 4918 4108

There will be another follow up Zoom meeting on **Wednesday, May 3 at 7:00 p.m.** for people interested in volunteer tutoring for the citizenship exam. It's a chance to make a difference in people's lives and can be done virtually. It's not too late to get involved, so if you're interested please contact **Barbara Anderson** (caabaa16@gmail.com).

### A Just Harvest

Continuing our commitment for more than 20 years, on the 2nd Sunday of every month, Hakafa members bring and serve lunch to more than 150 people at A Just Harvest's Community Kitchen (7649 N. Paulina St, Chicago).

**Volunteers are needed to sign up to help! You can sign up to provide food, help serve (ages 12 and older), or both!** Plan to arrive to help/deliver food at **11:00 a.m.** Lunch will be served from 12:00-2:00 p.m. *Hakafa's tzedakah fund can reimburse you for expenses, if needed.* **Use this link for more details and to sign up to volunteer:** <http://tinyurl.com/a-just-harvest>. Contact Hakafa member, **Monique Parsons** (monique.parsons@gmail.com), with questions.

*A Just Harvest's (www.ajustharvest.org) mission is to fight poverty and hunger in the Rogers Park and greater Chicago community by providing nutritious meals daily while cultivating community and economic development and organizing across racial, cultural and socioeconomic lines in order to create a more just society.*

### Jewish Community Resources

**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.

# Congregation Hakafa Calendar

May 2023 – Iyar / Sivan 5783

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>  7:00 pm Yiddish Class	<b>2</b> 10:00 am Midrash Class (NSUMC & Zoom)  4:15-5:30 pm Hebrew School (TC) 7:30 pm Tanach Study (NSUMC & Zoom)	<b>3</b> 10:00 am Musal Class (Zoom)  1:00 pm Tanach Study (NSUMC & Zoom)  7:00 pm Meeting about Tutoring for Citizenship Exam (Zoom only)	<b>4</b> 9:00 am Nosh & Know (NSUMC & Zoom)  7:30 pm Education Committee Meeting (NSUMC)	<b>5</b>  7:30 pm Shabbat Service (WCH & Zoom)	<b>6</b> 9:00 am Shabbat Morning Minyan (Home of Barbara & Allen Anderson & Zoom)  11:00 am B'nai Mitzvah Workshop Service for Morning Ceremonies (NSUMC)  12:00 pm B'nai Mitzvah Workshop Service for Afternoon/Evening Ceremonies (NSUMC)
<b>7</b> 10:00-11:45 am Religious School (TC)  10:15 am Adult Education (TC & Zoom) - <i>Foster Care is a Social Justice Issue</i>  1:00 pm High School Senior Workshop (NSUMC)	<b>8</b>  6:00 pm Lag BaOmer Bonfire and Kumzits (Crow Island Woods Park, Winnetka)	<b>9 Lag BaOmer</b> 10:00 am Midrash Class (NSUMC & Zoom)  4:15-5:30 pm Hebrew School (TC) 7:30 pm Tanach Study (Zoom)	<b>10</b> 10:00 am Musal Class (Zoom)  1:00 pm Tanach Study (NSUMC & Zoom)	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  7:30 pm Shabbat Service (WCH & Zoom)	<b>13</b>
<b>14 Mother's Day</b>	<b>15 Newsletter Articles Due</b>  7:00 pm Yiddish Class	<b>16</b> 10:00 am Midrash Class (NSUMC & Zoom)  4:15-5:30 pm Hebrew School (TC) 7:30 pm Tanach Study (Zoom)	<b>17</b> 10:00 am Musal Class (Zoom)  1:00 pm Tanach Study (NSUMC & Zoom)  7:00 pm Keshet Game Night (Curt's Café, Highland Park)	<b>18</b>	<b>19 Yom Yerushalayim</b>  7:00 pm – <b>NOTE EARLY TIME</b> Shabbat Service with members of Emanuel Congregation (Curt's Café in Evanston & Zoom)	<b>20</b> 9:00 am Shabbat Morning Minyan (Home of Barbara & Allen Anderson & Zoom)
<b>21</b> 10:00-11:45 am Last Day of Religious School (TC)  10:15 am Congregation Annual Meeting (TC & Zoom)  4:00 pm Confirmation Class Service Prep Session (NSUMC) & Dinner with Rabbi Elder  4:15 pm Book Club (NSUMC & Zoom)	<b>22</b>  7:00 pm Yiddish Class	<b>23</b> 10:00 am Midrash Class (NSUMC & Zoom)  4:15-5:30 pm Last Day of Hebrew School (TC) 4:50 pm Hebrew School Graduation  7:30 pm Tanach Study (Zoom)	<b>24</b> 10:00 am Musal Class (Zoom)  11:00 am Visit to Glencoe Historical Society Museum  1:00 pm Tanach Study (NSUMC & Zoom)	<b>25</b>  <b>Erev Shavuot</b>  7:00 pm Community-Wide Tikkun L'eil Shavuot (Am Shalom)	<b>26 Shavuot</b> 3:30 am Early-Morning Shavuot Tikkun (NSUMC) & Sunrise Minyan (Glencoe Beach)  10:00 am Yizkor Service (NSUMC & Zoom)  7:30 pm Shabbat Service & Confirmation Ceremony (WCH & Zoom)	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29 Memorial Day</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<div> <b>TC</b> = Glencoe Park District Takiff Center (999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe)  <b>WCH</b> = Winnetka Community House (620 Lincoln Avenue, Winnetka)  <b>NSUMC</b> = North Shore United Methodist Church (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe) </div>		



## Congregation Hakafa

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*The information in this newsletter is provided to Hakafa members for use in connection with Hakafa activities. Use for any other purposes is strictly prohibited.*

## The Circle



May 2023

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