



From Our Rabbi....Eric Rosin



Although I can't speak for anyone else's experience, as the challenges presented by the coronavirus continue, I have felt myself journeying through various stages of distress that can be compared to the stages of grief identified by **Dr. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross**. Dr. Kubler-Ross famously taught that after the loss of a loved one, a person in mourning experiences their grief in definable (if not discreet) stages of denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. Knowing these stages may not help us to move through the process any faster, but these labels help to alleviate some of the inherent stress of loss by helping us to identify and understand what we are going through.

The experience of this pandemic has been one of loss and, in far too many cases, very real mourning. And these heartbreaking realities are intensified by an overarching element of ambiguity. How long will these hardships last? How can we decide the best way to mitigate the risks of illness for ourselves and our families? Will life ever return to normal?

While I am open to further developing this list, in my experience, the stages of Covid-19 have been shock and disorientation, fear, sadness, anger, restlessness and accommodation. Similar to the Kubler-Ross stages of grief, these emotional states have been cumulative. None have ever completely dissipated. As time as passed, each additional emotion is simply layered on top of those which preceded it.

Having spent half the year in lock down, officiating at coronavirus related funerals, transforming the synagogue to an on-line and

outdoor presence, and moving from in-person interactions to classes and conversations over the telephone and the computer screen, I thought that I had experienced the full range of how this disease manifested itself. Nevertheless, as the holidays approach and we face the reality that it will be unsafe to gather as we have every year for centuries, I feel the process starting all over again in my sadness that we will not be able to spend the Holy Day season in physical proximity to each other.

Praying together with a community is a multifaceted religious practice. I have come to appreciate that, while everyone may be using the same prayerbook, there as many rationales for communal prayer as there people in any given prayer service: Some pray in public because they are swept away by the power of the words of the liturgy as they are sung and recited in unison. Others may not understand the Hebrew, but they treasure the opportunity to pause and perform ritual which offer opportunities for reflection. Others come for purely social reasons, to spend time in an intimate group of friends where they are known. (There is a passage in the Talmud that teaches that when someone is accustomed to coming to the minyan daily and, for whatever reason, is absent on a particular day, that God seeks the person out and asks after his or her welfare.) And there are countless other mystical, rational, nostalgic and emotional reasons why we are drawn so powerfully to the synagogue, especially on the High Holy Days.

Whatever the reason, praying with a minyan, either on weekdays or on Shabbat or

during a Holy Day is a central element of our religious tradition and this year we will be unable to do so. Along with the rest of our congregation, I am experiencing each stage of the experience of this strange Covid reality as I process what it means.

I am shocked and disoriented as I realize that this powerful day on the calendar which I have always taken for granted will look so different this year. I'm afraid that I as a rabbi and we as a community will fail in the important work of this season. I am saddened that I won't have that feeling of a yearly reunion as the community gathers after spending the summer apart and I won't have the opportunity to catch up with people I haven't seen for months and see how much children have grown since our last meeting in the Spring. I am angry that we are in this situation. I am restless as my attention jumps from one crisis to the next. And finally, I strive for the accommodations that will enable us to salvage this turbulent time and to extract meaning from the myriad of challenges that we face.

While we don't ever leave any of these stages behind, as a community we are firmly anchored in the enterprise of formulating the accommodations that we will need to normalize these extraordinary times. We're wearing masks. We're changing our social habits, and we're designing our prayer services so they can be enjoyed online and out of doors.

As we acknowledge this unique, painful year. We will refrain from the acts that we

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Notes from the Hazzan

By Hazzan Sheldon Levin

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Advertising in this Bulletin does NOT constitute certification of kashrut.

BULLETIN DEADLINES

November — September 20
 December — October 20

Submit your articles and graphics for publication to Rita Devlin via e-mail at office@neveshalom.net



Please remember Neve Shalom with a gift in your will, trust, retirement account or life insurance policy.

IN MEMORIAM



Esther Heller,
 our member

Barry Mendelson,
 Our member,
 husband of Linda Mendelson
 and father of Rachel Berard

Saul Kaplan,
 Father of Cheryl Israel

Difficult Times

These past months have been trying for many of us. Coping with the issues of distancing and staying healthy are frightening. Being separated from friends and family is not easy. Nita and I, for example, had planned to spend time in June visiting family in Austin, TX and attending the brit milah of our first grandson. We are thrilled to have participated by Zoom but still miss the chance to hold the new baby and hug our family members.

These pale in comparison with families who have had to watch loved ones pass away and could not be with them in the hospital. I have officiated at numerous funerals limited to a few family members and then shiva held only online or not at all. These are difficult experiences for all of us.

I am writing this in mid-July as we watch coronavirus numbers spike in many states. Our prayers go out to anyone who is ill and to the families who have lost loved ones. In mid-summer the country is struggling with the challenge of how best to resolve conflicting concerns. Should schools re-open, at what capacity and would this pose additional risks for teachers, custodians, and family members of the children who might catch and spread the virus. If schools are not opened how can parents continue to home-school and do their full-time other jobs as well? If we open too quickly, do not social distance, do not follow mask and hand washing guidelines do we put everyone at risk for another wave of overrun hospitals, more people suffering from effects of the disease and ultimately more possible deaths?

At Neve Shalom, our Health Task Force takes our safety, both individually and communally very seriously. Yet, they are also aware that people want to pray together, to form a minyan, to hear each other sing tunes and chant Torah. We have been having a few outdoor live services, although the weather forecasts have forced some of those to be cancelled or postponed. We have been streaming morning minyans, shiva services, every Friday evening and during the summer added Shabbat mornings. Without a minyan there are prayers we could not say; chanting some of the service has been better than none at all.

We are hoping to expand outdoor attendance and eventually, with the health advisers' guidance, bring limited numbers of

people inside in socially distanced seating assignments with masks and other precautions. However, if that is not possible, the Rabbi and I will stream shortened services without a "congregation" in the room on the holy days, and people will be encouraged to watch from your homes. There is also a discussion about the possibility of holding an in-person service which will not be broadcast online and will include more liturgy than the streamed service.

I served on a United Synagogue Committee making recommendations for this year for Family and Children's services. I kept reminding the committee that we need to prepare



multiple options. Some parts of the country may be able to bring people together in September and others will not. Some congregations stream services on Shabbat and holidays and others do not. We presented a webinar in late June with many ideas for youth leaders, children's service leaders, educators, rabbis and cantors to use. I highly recommend materials available from PJ Library to families with children from birth up to middle School. We can share ideas how families can do their own "Rosh Hashanah Seder" (similar to Pesach but designed for the foods and themes of Rosh Hashanah) at home. I have links to booklets, online PDFs and leaders guides if anyone wishes. Neve Shalom also hopes to offer an outdoor Tashlich service for everyone (following health guidelines) on the Sunday afternoon of Rosh Hashanah with a short service of songs, prayers and hearing the Shofar in person.

We are planning for many possibilities and will do our best to keep you informed as decisions are finalized. [By the time you read this, hopefully you will know which options we will be following.] We pray for a safe and healthy year. We look forward to times when we can join together again, hug one another and joyfully sing our praises to God without worrying about infections and disease.

Shana tova, may you be inscribed in the book of life.



From the Synagogue President

By Andrea L. Colby

Building a New Synagogue

Dear Friends,

This has been a tumultuous year: who would have predicted during last year’s High Holy Days that we would be spending a significant amount of our time in our homes seeking refuge from a microscopic scourge? Who would have thought that we would be facing civil unrest and severe economic tribulations in addition to everything else brought about by the Coronavirus pandemic crisis? The past few months have been incredibly challenging to all of us, not the least to our clergy and synagogue leadership.

In essence, we are building a new synagogue: a synagogue without walls that incorporates simultaneously our physical presence at 250 Grove Avenue and spreads its shelter to those who are in their homes as well. This is not an easy task. We are navigating in uncharted waters and we are bound at times to hit turbulence.

We have been working hard to carry on the “regular” the work of the synagogue that we would have had to address without the Coronavirus pandemic: managing our budget, providing programming, engaging in discussions with Temple Emanu-El, holiday and Shabbat observance and everything else that we always have done.

Our challenge since March has been to accomplish all this while being required to shut down our facility and shift substantially all of our services and activities to virtual platforms. We have tried our best to reach out to as many of our community members as possible to check on them and see if they need anything. We have learned how to use the Zoom and other virtual platforms to keep in touch and convey information. We appreciate deeply our many volunteers help with all of these efforts.

Our next challenge has been to find a way to being to meet in-person as safely as possible as restrictions have begun to be lifted. We have had many devoted volunteers help us accomplish this with their medical expertise, their willingness to construct our parking-lot “sanctuary”, their technological savvy and their contributions in so many other ways. And we’ve had to do all of this while staying cognizant that many of community members do not feel comfortable or cannot, due to health considerations, attend live, in-person services or events.

Have we made mistakes? Of course. Is everyone happy? Of course not. Are we doing our best and trying our hardest to course-correct as needed? Absolutely!

We are all frustrated, angry and sad that we cannot return to pre-pandemic normality and daven with each other in person, share Kiddush luncheons, celebrate simchas, get together for the High Holy Days and other holidays and be with everyone as we always have. We have missed our Adult Education Scholar-in-Residence weekends and classes, our Honoree luncheon, our Susy Schwartz concert. Our children have missed the ability to play and learn together in our schools. We have missed many, many opportunities to make new memories with our Neve friends and family.

This is our reality, however, and our best path through it is face into it together. Our community now has a unique opportunity: to utilize this time to reflect, to find what’s really important to each of us and to our community and to reach out to and support each other in kindness and love to create a new kind of synagogue family. **Rabbi Rosin** and I and the entire synagogue leadership invite you to work

with us build this new, more deliberate and more responsive Neve Shalom, keeping what we love and building what we need. Our challenge will be to recognize those moments when we feel angry and frustrated and sad, and to use these powerful moments to discern, “*What can we do as individuals and as a community to make things better and help create a place—physical and virtual—in which we all feel comfortable and happy?*” And then, together, we can direct our creativity and energy towards helping the shul grow into the community we need to meet the needs of this complicated moment.

We must recall our vision of Neve Shalom as a Jewish community in all senses of that word. It takes all of us to fulfill that vision.

At this time of self-reflection and growth before Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, let us all continue to build a new synagogue that shelters our whole community in a habitation of peace, health, sweetness and love. Shana tova u’metukah!

Neve Shalom would like to thank the following people for chanting Torah during the month of July. T=Teen, JR=Junior N=New Reader

Torah	Haftarah
Eric Goldman1	Rosalie Green
Bruce Greenberg1	Michele Rosenfield
Miriam Kafker1	Barbara Spack
Michele Rosenfield2	Larry Wineberg
Daniel Rushefsky.....1	
Adam Schlitt.....1	
Steve Schneider1	
Stacey Sern1	
Barbara Spack1	
Alan Stern1	



The Ad Journal Committee would like to thank **Madeline Tolins-Schlitt** for her help in creating the cover for the 2020 Honoree Journal.

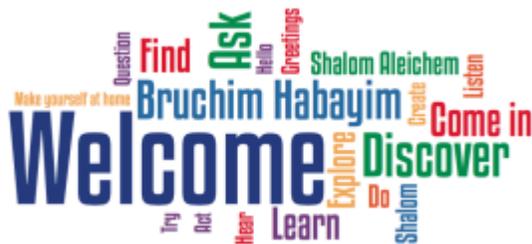
Thank you!

Madeline’s name was mistakenly left off the list of those acknowledged for their work for this year’s journal. We are grateful for her creative participation and apologize for the omission.



Religious School News

By Miriam Dobin, Religious School Director



Bruchim ha'ba im/Welcome! We hope you have had a relaxing summer and a chance to de-stress and regain some routine and normalcy back into your lives.

We will be starting our school year on September 6 via Zoom. Our morim and morot/male & female teachers, and I have been attending workshops and learning additional mechanics of working with Zoom technology. It is truly a wonderful tool to have during this most unusual time as it keeps the students, teachers and families visually, auditorily, and educationally connected.

Mazel tov! We have a new addition to our Religious School. A Pre-K class has joined us. Now we have a complete school from grades Pre-K through Hebrew High. We are excited to welcome our youngest friends.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish the families and congregants of Neve Shalom a shana tova — a happy and healthy New Year and a year of mazel, shalom, and bracha/luck, peace, and blessing for all of the Jewish people and Israel.

On Saturday, September 12 at 8:00 pm,
Rabbi Eric Rosin and Hazzan Sheldon Levin will present the Selichot service virtually on Zoom and YouTube live.

Please check with the Neve Shalom office, 732-548-2238, ext. 12, for links and passwords. This short, moving service includes prayers to help prepare us for the coming holy days. We hope you can join us for this beautiful and meaningful prayer experience online.

Following the official service, the Rabbi and Cantor will share music videos of amazing performances of some highlights of High Holiday repertoire. The Rabbi will explain the texts and historic background and the Hazzan will share some fascinating and spectacular performances which were recorded prior to the current quarantining time. Choirs, soloists and instrumentalists are performing live together.

One, especially fascinating performance matches the music of **Leonard Cohen's** "Who by Fire" with a choir singing a traditional "B'rosh Hashanah Yikateivu". There is also a recent uplifting setting by **Noah Aronson** of "Hayom T'amtzenu" which we have sung at Neve Shalom. The beautiful "Avinu Malkenu" by **Max Helfman** will be sung by **Barbra Streisand** and a choir.



Men's Club Minute

By Lawrence Dombrow, Men's Club President

On behalf of the Neve Shalom Men's Club, I wish the entire Neve Shalom community good health and shana tova as we begin the year 5781. For all of us 5780, (or 2020 on the secular calendar), was a difficult year. And as I write this there is still so much uncertainty over the current pandemic. Neither the Men's Club, nor the synagogue as a whole, know what this year will be like in terms of programming. There are traditional Men's Club events, such as Steak and Spirits in the Sukkah, Pasta Night, and others that we may not be able to host this year, or at least not host in the usual way. We hope to resume our Torah on Tap series on September 14, but it is unknown if we will be able to do so, and under what parameters. Nonetheless, I am confident that we will try our best to be creative and to continue to make connections with each other. Know that we are here for you.

A popular liturgical theme is Judaism is that even when God is angry with the Jewish people and things look grim, there will be better times in the future. Most mornings we read Tachanun, and one of the psalms contained in Tachanun is Psalm 6, which begins with the psalmist expressing his despair and how anguished his sole is. He spends his nights in

tears of grief. But the psalm ends with the assurance that God has heeded the prayer and will make all enemies withdraw. I imagine that many of us feel distraught during these times, and positive thinking does not come easy. I concede that often the pessimist in me seems to be winning. But together, we can, and will, get through this.

I look forward to an exciting year for the Men's Club. As I indicated at the beginning, we do not know exactly what this year will bring, so please keep an eye out for communications. We do invite everyone to assist with setting up for the High Holidays on September 18 at 8:00 am. Please join us (virtually or in-person once we start having in-person meetings) at our regular monthly meetings, which are usually the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm. Please contact me if you have any thoughts about what the Men's Club can do to assist the community.

Again, shana tova to the entire community.



Neve Shalom continues to support the efforts of Jewish Family Service of Middlesex County to help the needy by collecting food for the Kosher Food Pantry. Food donations may be left at the synagogue in the closet near the stairs next to the stage. USY will be collecting a different item each month to be donated. Please watch Neve Now! for more information. Thank you for supporting these efforts!



“Senior” Moments in Poland and Israel

By Adam Gross

For my senior year of high school, I visited Poland and Israel with the Golda Och Academy Neshama Program. While in Israel, I hiked up Masada on the snake trail, met with students my age at a sister school in Israel and did community service... to name just a few things. I would encourage everyone to visit Israel at some point in their lives. The sheer breadth of activities and the diversity of the people living there are unparalleled, especially for being a land roughly the same size as New Jersey.

My journey began in Poland, however, and I saw many of the death camps used by the Nazis in World War II. This poem describes how I felt walking through Treblinka.

Hollow

Sorrow sticks to the back of my throat,
My mouth tastes like a miasma of grief.
The somber air casts the entire area in dread.
Thousands upon thousands of graves jut out from the earth
Crooked and crumbling
Tortured and tearing apart at the seams.
My every footstep crackles as my boots scrape against the ground,
The earth itself howling in pain as I tread this haunted soil.
Walking around Treblinka feels like a nightmare.
The air around me is cold, slicing through me like Death's scythe as his pale
horse's hoof beats drown out the sound of silence.
But my gripes are irrelevant.
Mere trifles compared to the literal hell they went through.
For once in my life,
My feelings cannot be properly expressed upon this page,
Nor can words cannot do any justice to portray that field of monuments,
Standing in defiance

The Poland/Israel trip was designed to create the feeling of entering the darkness before being able to enjoy the light. After the bleak atmosphere of the death camps, the warm weather, shining sun, and smiling faces in Israel were a welcome relief. The arid, picturesque Judean desert provided me with the inspiration for this poem.

Sands

The landscape stands before me, rugged and resolute
Small bushes and rocks dot the sands,
Like beige and green bursts of color in the arid sands.
Silhouettes dance across the horizon,
Hazy mirages that bend in the harsh heat.
This land has existed since the beginning of time,
And will be there at the end.
Nothing can displace it. Nothing can destroy it.
It is as rigid as the creatures that make their home within it.
Canyons and valleys slice into the mountains as if hewn by the blade of God
himself.
Each one a feast for the eyes, a banquet for the soul.
The desert is full of beauty and strength, and Israel's is no exception.
It mirrors the state of the inhabitants, I think.
Constantly facing adversity, tough conditions, all within a hostile climate.
Prospering and succeeding in spite of it all.

I'm grateful to my family and to the Susy Schwartz Memorial Fund's "Passport to Israel" for making this experience possible for me.

From Our Rabbi....Eric Rosin (continued from page 1)

know pose threats. All of our High Holy Day services will be streamed. Certain rituals, like tashlich and the shofar service will be offered to the entire community socially distanced and outside. Individuals and families who have formed "pods" of different family units with whom they safely gather are encouraged to participate in our services by coming together safely and sharing screens in their yards, or perhaps having their own services all together.

This is a complicated and difficult year. In addition to all of the challenges and obstacles that it has engendered, it has stripped us of the ability to support each other in many of the ways that have always been our greatest strengths. Let us pledge to use all of the intellectual, psychological, emotional, spiritual and technological tools at our disposal to help each other and to cultivate our community.

May the year to come bring us through all of the stages of this experience, enable us to emerge deepened by the lessons of our losses and to arrive at a place and time when we will be able to once again celebrate safely together.



In our next issue, we will be hearing from the families of teens who became b'nei mitzvah in virtual ceremonies!

HIGH HOLIDAYS 2020/5781



Holiday	Service	Date	Time
Selichot	Selichot service Selichot Program	Saturday September 12, 2020	8:00 pm (Streamed) 8:45 pm (Streamed)
RH Day One	Erev Rosh Hashanah Day One Home Seder Service	Friday, September 18, 2020	(At Convenience of Each Family) 6:00 pm (Streamed)
	Rosh Hashanah Morning Day One Main Service Tot Service Junior Congregation	Saturday, September 19, 2020	9:30 am to 12:00 (Streamed) 9:30 am (Streamed) 10:00 am (Streamed)
RH Day Two	Ma'ariv Rosh Hashanah Day Two	Saturday, September 19, 2020	6:00 pm (Streamed)
	Rosh Hashanah Morning Day Two Main Service Junior Congregation	Sunday, September 20, 2020	9:30 am to 12:00 (Streamed) 10:00 am
	Tashlich (and Shofar Service)	Sunday, September 20, 2020	4:00 pm (Tommy's Pond, 150 Lake, Metuchen)
Tzom Gedalyah	All day	Monday, September 21, 2020	8:00 am
Erev Shabbat Shuvah	Ma'ariv Service	Friday, September 25, 2020	6:00 pm (Streamed)
Shabbat Shuvah	Shacharit Service	Saturday, September 26, 2020	9:00 am – 11:00 am (if still outside)
Yom Kippur	Kol Nidre Kol Nidre and Ma'ariv Yom Kippur Main Service Tot Service Junior Congregation Sermon in Sanctuary Break Martyrology/Yizkor Mincha Neilah Ma'ariv Shofar	Sunday, September 27, 2020 Monday, September 28, 2020	6:15 pm (Streamed) 9:30 am (Streamed) 9:30 am (Streamed) 10:00 am (Streamed) 12:00 pm (approx.) 12:30 to 4:30 pm 4:30 pm (Streamed) 5:00 pm (Streamed) 6:15 pm (Streamed) 7:15 pm (Streamed) 7:35 pm
Sukkot Day One	Ma'ariv	October 2, 2020 Friday	6:00 pm (Streamed)
	Shacharit	October 3, 2020 Saturday	9:30 am (Streamed)
Sukkot Day Two	Ma'ariv	October 3, 2020 Saturday	6:00 pm (Streamed)
	Shacharit	October 4, 2020 Sunday	9:30 am (Streamed)
Hoshannah Rabbah	Shacharit	October 9, 2020 Friday	7:00 am (Steamed)
Erev Shemini Atzeret	Ma'ariv	October 9 2020 Friday	6:00 pm (Streamed)
Shemini Atzeret	Shacharit (with Yizkor)	October 10, 2020 Saturday	9:30 am (Streamed)
Erev Simchat Torah	Ma'ariv Family Program Ma'ariv	October 10, 2020 Saturday	6:00 pm (Streamed) 7:30 pm (Streamed)
Simchat Torah	Shacharit	October 11, 2020 Sunday	9:30 am (Steamed)



Dream Weavers in the Neve Shalom Loom Room

Family Ties



*“Working on the loom is a treat!
I had no prior knowledge of weaving,
but the Loom Room volunteer had me working the
loom in minutes.
It was fun and satisfying working on a soon-to-be
challah cover. Best of all, I was able to share the joy
of this work with my youngest child, Ari, who helped
me for a while on the loom.”*

David Dreyfus wove a challah cover and involved his 3 ½-year-old son in the project. **Ari** attended Neve Shalom Nursery School and came into the Loom Room to help his dad weave. It was a memorable and joyful experience for both of them!



Become a Dream Weaver

Have your own “priceless” experience by weaving a tallit, tallit gadol, tallit bag, challah cover, matzoh cover, afikomen bag or even a chuppah! It is a fascinating, meaningful and rewarding experience – plus it’s easy! Let us help you design and weave a Judaic heirloom.

Make an heirloom for yourself, with, or for, someone special. Give it a try!! You can do it!!

For more information and to schedule your time on the loom, contact: **Cory Schneider** at 717-574-1807 or corstan65@gmail.com or **Jennifer Bullock** at 732-906-8565 or rnjbullock@aol.com.

To see more of what has been created in the Loom Room: Go to www.dropbox.com. Sign in using the email: NeveLoomRoom@gmail.com and password: 250grove.

D'var Torah

By Lincoln Richman

I would like to thank Rabbi Rosin for asking me to share a D'var Torah with you. This is parashat Pinhas from the fourth book of the Torah – B'Midbar. B'Midbar means "In the Wilderness."

If this summer were a normal summer, I would actually be in the wilderness right now, but a different type of wilderness – a much more friendly wilderness – than the ancient Israelites experienced. Normally, I would be at Camp Nah-Jee-Wah – one of the NJY Camps in Milford, Pennsylvania. This summer would have been my twelfth consecutive year working as the Song Leader and Judaic Specialist in Jewish summer camps. I worked for four years at Camp Yachad in Scotch Plains and seven summers at Nah-Jee-Wah. Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus, my camp, like many others, has been cancelled for the summer of 2020 – what would have been Nah-Jee-Wah's 100th summer of camping since being founded in 1920.

So now I find myself proverbially "in the wilderness" not being in the actual wilderness.

Let me tell you about working at a Jewish camp as an adult. As senior staff, I have my own cabin that faces a beautiful lake. I have my own bathroom. I have my own air conditioner. I can go canoeing whenever the lake is open. I can go on the zipline. I can take a ride on the jet-skis. I can go to the infirmary -- for free -- for basic healthcare needs. And I have a dining hall that supplies all-you-can-eat kosher meals three times a day.

And what do I need to do in exchange for living in this paradise three months a year? I teach Jewish music to Jewish kids. I rock the dining hall with crazy post-lunch song-sessions, play guitar for campfire sing-alongs, and lead Shabbat services on Friday nights and Saturday mornings. "From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs," as an old Jewish guy once said. Camp is as close to a utopia as America can offer.

However, there is a funny thing about utopias.... They are not real. The outside world always has a way of crashing in.

2020 has been an interesting year. In addition to the normal maladies like murder-hornets, a Saharan dust-storm, and bizarre weather patterns like snow in May, we got a global pandemic, a toilet paper shortage, mass unemployment, and civil unrest. I thought I might be able to escape to camp to avoid all of this, but alas, it was not meant to be.

So, like you, I, too, am at home. And like many of you, my employment situation is tenuous. As a kid, I remember hearing my grandparents go on and on about the "Great Depression" and I would often wonder if my generation would ever experience such a calamity. Sad to say, it has finally arrived. So many livelihoods destroyed, so many businesses folding or on the brink of folding, so many educational institutions having their resources slashed to the bone. Heck, even the liberal Jewish movements are pooling resources and publicly hinting at the talk of mergers with one another to survive. "Dogs and cats living together! Mass hysteria!" as that great sage Billy Murray once said.

So is the coronavirus an economic extinction event along the lines of God flooding the earth? Or is it just a temporary (yet vicious) setback along the lines of the Great Depression?

If those are the two choices, I am hoping for the temporary setback.

Extinction events are not fun – especially for those who become extinct.

The good thing about temporary setbacks is that they often

provide an opportunity to make improvements to flawed systems. Stress exposes stress-cracks – and under the current pressures, we are seeing far too many of America's stress-cracks.

But here is the beautiful thing As flawed as our system may be, that flawed system is designed to improve society...and itself. With enough collective will and enough noise, our system of laws can be amended and updated. Bad laws can change. Bad customs can change. Bad representatives can change.

America is no utopia. That is for sure. It is broken. That, too, is for sure. But what is also true is that America is not irreparable. All it takes to start is for people to speak up.

In this week's parashah of Pinhas, we are introduced to the five daughters of a man named Zelophehad. The daughters were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. Five daughters and no sons. Picture Tevye from "Fiddler on the Roof" if you need a visual.

Zelophehad dies and leaves no sons as heirs. At the time, women could not own property or receive inheritances. This was an unjust system, but no one said anything about it. It was the way it was.... Until Zelophehad's daughters spoke up.

The five daughters approached Moses and said, "Let not our father's name be lost to his clan just because he had no son! Give us a holding among our kinsmen!"

Moses brought their case to God. And God said to Moses, "The plea of Zelophehad's daughters is just: you should give them a hereditary holding among their father's kinsmen; transfer their father's share to them. Further, speak to the Israelite people as follows: 'If a man dies without leaving a son, you shall transfer his property to his daughter.'"

And thus, what seemed obvious once it was spoken had not been so obvious until it was spoken.

- *Should women be allowed to inherit property?* It took Zelophehad's daughters to speak up.
- *Should women be allowed to vote?* It took Susan B. Anthony and others to speak up.
- *Should the Jewish people have a homeland of our own?* It took Theodore Herzl and others to speak up.
- *Should African-Americans enjoy the same civil rights as other Americans?* It took Martin Luther King and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel and others to speak up.
- *Should LGBTQ people enjoy the same benefits of marriage laws that other Americans enjoy?* It took Harvey Milk and others to speak up.
- *Should Jewish women have the right to wear a tallit and tefillin and pray at the Western Wall?* It took Anat Hoffman and others to speak up.

Some of those people never lived to see their dreams come true. Some of those dreams are still a work in progress.

"Lo alecha hamlachah ligmor, v'lo atah ben chorin li-hibatel mi-menah." It is not your duty to complete the work, neither are you free to desist from it.

Ask yourself: What injustice or injustices seem painfully obvious to you, but no one else seems to notice?

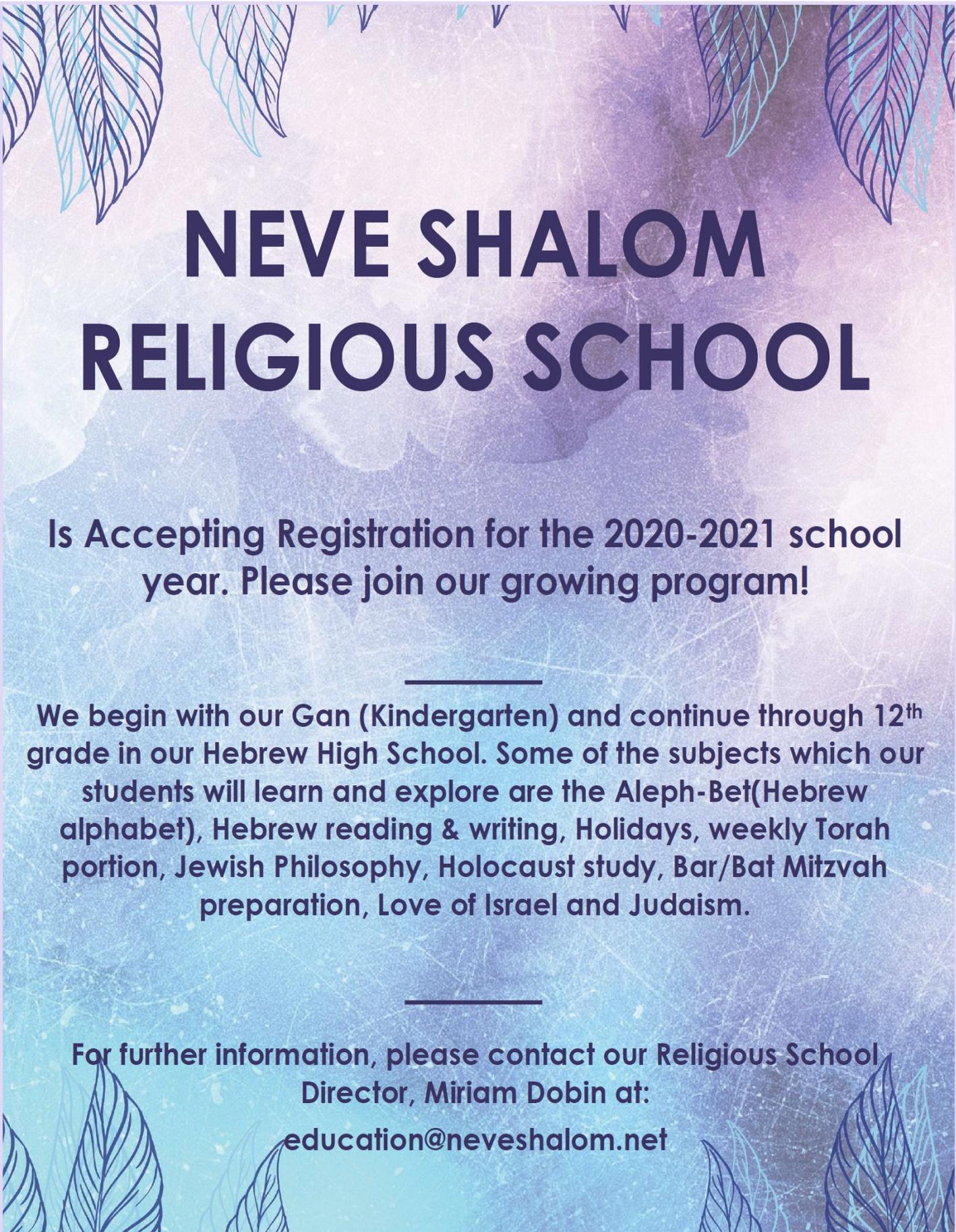
And then ask yourself: Have I called out those injustices out loud?

Sometimes just pointing out the injustice out loud is enough to get the ball rolling in the right direction.

And so.... 2020.... Now is the summer of our discontent.

But in 2021, I hope to go back to my utopian paradise at Camp Nah-Jee-Wah. Even if it is only for three months. Even if it is not real.





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Is Accepting Registration for the 2020-2021 school year. Please join our growing program!

We begin with our Gan (Kindergarten) and continue through 12th grade in our Hebrew High School. Some of the subjects which our students will learn and explore are the Aleph-Bet(Hebrew alphabet), Hebrew reading & writing, Holidays, weekly Torah portion, Jewish Philosophy, Holocaust study, Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation, Love of Israel and Judaism.

**For further information, please contact our Religious School Director, Miriam Dobin at:
education@neveshalom.net**

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and thank the following generous contributors to our funds:

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Sharing a Simcha is what builds our community. Support the weekly Kiddush and let everyone know about the good things in your life.

Please contact Rita in the office at (732) 548-2238 or
Email at office@neveshalom.net

Visit www.NeveShalom.net • Click on **Community Kiddush Fund**

Prayers for

HEALING

If you would like to include the name of someone who is ill (including yourself) to be recited for a Mi Sheberach (prayer for healing) when the Torah is read, please e-mail the Hebrew (preferred) or English name of that individual to **Steve Gross** at stephang@optonline.net.

You may also contact the synagogue office by phone with this information.

Neve Shalom encourages those observing the Yahrzeit of a loved one to attend our daily minyan on the day associated with the Hebrew date of death, as listed below, so that you may recite the Mourner's Kaddish to honor them along with our Jewish community. To confirm the time of our daily morning minyan services, go to www.neveshalom.net/calendar or contact the synagogue office.

ENGLISH DATE	HEBREW DATE	DECEASED'S NAME	MOURNER
9/1/20	12 Elul	Saul Horwitz	Father of Alan and David Horwitz
		Dora Schneider	Grandmother of Nancy Kaswin
		Jack Lindauer	Father of Alma Rubin
		Leo Ader	Father of Steven Ader
9/2/20	13 Elul	Sylvia Samuelson Goldstein	Mother of Herbert Samuelson
9/3/20	14 Elul	Tara Freihon	Daughter of Arthur and Eileen Freihon
		Joseph Franzone	Father of Cindy Ull
9/4/20	15 Elul	Maxine Weinstein	Wife of Edward Weinstein
		Alex Feinberg	Father of Shirley Storfer
9/5/20	16 Elul	Robert Snaider	Husband of Eleanor Snaider
		Sidney Goldberg	Father of Laurence Goldberg
		Dennis Rubin	Father of Jacqueline Alter
9/6/20	17 Elul	Sidney Colby	Father of Michael Colby
		Mary Smith	Mother of Leonard Smith
		Annette Kramer	Mother of Elliot Kramer
		Samuel Spiegel	Father-in-Law of Judith Spiegel
9/7/20	18 Elul	Jack Miller	Grandfather of Joseph Novello
		Morris Boxer	Grandfather of Keith Boxer
		Jessie Glazer	Mother of Linda Mendelson
		Joseph Chalfin	Father of Robert Chalfin
9/9/20	20 Elul	Arlene Levitt	Wife of Herbert Levitt
		Ida Levine	Mother-in-Law of Florence Levine
		Libby Gold	Mother of Sondra Markman
		Sarah Rosenfeld	Grandmother of Susan Levinson
		Anna Sladowsky	Mother of Beatrice Grossman
9/10/20	21 Elul	Clara Schwartz Rubin	Grandmother of Lenore Boyarin
		Barnett Denenberg	Father of Judith Slutzky
		Elaine Cohen	Mother of Susan Goldman and Barbara Cohen
9/11/20	22 Elul	Shumuel Czarlonska	Grandfather of Harold Geller
9/12/20	23 Elul	Esther Schapiro Czarlonska	Grandmother of Harold Geller
9/13/20	24 Elul	Sarah Roditti	Great-Aunt of Deborah Janet Schildkraut and Lynn Sessler
		Moe Roth	Father of Sandra Fields
9/14/20	25 Elul	Morris Markowitz	Father of Iris Berman
		Ted Grossman	Brother of Gerald Grossman
		Pearl Schuman	Mother of Linda Erdreich
		Leibl Berenfeld	Father of Asaf Berenfeld
9/16/20	27 Elul	Isidore Nagelberg	Grandfather of Steven Nagel
		Harry Baras	Father of Renee Bromberg
9/17/20	28 Elul	Hershel Tabak	Brother of Seymour Tabak
		Esther Roth	Mother of Sandra Fields
		Morris Westerman	Grandfather of Lisa Spiegel
		Robert Janoer	Brother of Beatrice Robin
		Nettie Feinberg	Mother of Shirley Storfer
		Harriet Stern	Mother of Alan Stern
		Sheldon Greene	Father of Fran Reisfeld
Howard Kaufman	Husband of Marian Kaufman		
9/18/20	29 Elul	Mark Sheratsky	Son of Charlotte Sheratsky, Cousin of Susan Wernik-Gross, Brother of Ellen Schimmel, Nephew of Joyce Wernik
		Edwin Slurzberg	Father of Irwin Slurzberg
		Madeleine Margolis	Mother of Jacqueline Margoli Tilbor
9/20/20	2 Tishrei	Rose M. Robinson	Mother-in-Law of Fredda Robinson
		Isadore Rothman	Father of Arlene Smith
		Shirley Langer	Mother of Barbara Osofsky
		Edna Einbond	Mother of Jeffrey Einbond
		Helen Storfer	Mother of Stanley Storfer



ENGLISH DATE	HEBREW DATE	DECEASED'S NAME	MOURNER
9/22/20	4 Tishrei	George Markman Irving Goldstein Jack Stern Michael Freiberg	Father of Edward Markman Father of Fredda Robinson Father of Alan Stern Brother of Marian Kaufman
9/23/20	5 Tishrei	George Stein	Father of Leonard Stein
9/24/20	6 Tishrei	Barry Miller Barbara Green Rose Glinn Selma Boyarin Pickoff	Husband of Marilyn Miller, Father of Lauren Rabinowitz and Gail Schuetz Sister of Gloria Engel Grandmother of Adam Glinn Mother of Lenore Boyarin
9/25/20	7 Tishrei	Louis Berlin	Father of William Berlin
9/26/20	8 Tishrei	Margaret Loewy	Daughter of Oscar Loewy
9/27/20	9 Tishrei	David Lehrhaupt Susan Holland	Grandfather of Judith Spiegel and Sandra Fields Aunt of Lauren Cohen
9/28/20	10 Tishrei	Benjamin Cream Helen Greenhouse William Bassoff Jon Potashnick	Father of Davene Iris Dultz Aunt of Beverly Perry Father of Joel Bassoff Father of Steven Potashnick
9/29/20	11 Tishrei	Rose Rosenfield Gordon Berkow Rebecca Westerman Helen Schulman Shirley Brazer	Grandmother of Mark Rosenfield Brother of Irene Hutt Grandmother of Lisa Spiegel Grandmother of Jeffrey Schulman Mother of Bruce Brazer
9/30/20	12 Tishrei	Jeanne Duke May Fleischer	Mother of Seymour Tabak Great-Aunt of Adam Glinn



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Saturday, Sept. 12 8:00pm
 Zoom or YouTube see passwords in Neve

High Holy Day MUSIC
 at Neve Shalom



Hosted by Rabbi Rosin and Hazzan Levin

Since this year we will miss much of our congregational singing and many choral selections, we will share some classic and some new High Holiday musical videos by Leonard Cohen, Noah Aronson, Max Helfman and others. There may be a guest appearance by Barbra Streisand singing *Avimi Malkem*. We will discuss the importance and meaning of these texts and watch some beautiful videos.

Saturday, Sept. 12 8:45pm
 Zoom or YouTube see passwords in Neve Now

Presented by Neve Shalom Adult Ed.
 For information contact Hazzan Levin
 Hazzan@NeveShalom.net

Neve Shalom
 250 Grove Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840



Neve Shalom TASHLICH Service

Neve Shalom

Sunday, Sept. 20 4:00 pm



A short service including "throwing our mistakes away," readings, songs and hearing shofar calls.

In person or [ZOOM](#) or YouTube (Neve Shalom.net) [LINK](#)

Tommy's Pond 150 Lake Avenue, Metuchen, NJ *weather permitting*

Social Distancing and Health Guidelines will be followed. Masks Required.



Pre-registration required for attendance in person.

Links and passwords can be found on Neve Now sent Thursdays by Constant Contact.

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September 2020 — Elul/Tishrei 5780/81

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
All services and meetings are virtual unless otherwise stated לְשָׁנָה טוֹבָה!		1 Ritual Comm 7:30 pm	2	3 Men's Club 7:30 pm	4 Candles 7:05 pm	5 Ki Tavo Havdalah on Zoom 8:20 pm
6	7	8	9	10 House Comm 7:30 pm	11 4:30 pm: Singing with Hazzan Candles 6:54 pm	12 Nitzavim/Vayeilech Havdalah, Selichot Service & Program 8:00 pm
13 Youth groups 12:05 pm	14 Youth groups, Torah on Tap & Finance Comm all at 7:30 pm	15 Education Comm 7:30 pm	16	17 Youth Comm 7:30 pm	18 Erev Rosh Hashana 4:30 pm: Singing with Hazzan Candles 6:42 pm	19 Rosh Hashanah Main and Tot Services 9:30 am Jr. Congregation 10 am Maariv 6 pm
20 Rosh Hashana Service 9:30 am Jr. Congregation 10 am Tashlich at Tommy's Pond 4 pm	21 Fast of Gedaliah Youth groups 7:30 pm Torah on Tap 7:30 pm	22	23	24	25 Tot Shabbat with Rabbi and Hazzan 5:00 pm Candles 6:30 pm	26 Ha'Azinu Shabbat Shuva Havdalah 7:40 pm
27 Erev Yom Kippur Sukkah setup 8 am Kol Nidrei/ Maariv 6:15 pm	28 Yom Kippur Main and Tot Services 9:30 am Jr. Congregation 10 am Sermon 12 pm Yizkor 4:30 pm Neilah 6:15 pm Shofar 7:35 pm	29	30	Service Times on Zoom Friday evening 6:00 pm Shabbat morning: 9:00 am Morning Minyan on Zoom: Sundays and Labor Day: 9:00 am Weekdays: 8:00 am		