February 2025 Sh'vat 5785



HaKol

HAKOL IS THE NEWSLETTER OF HERZL-NER TAMID CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATION



FOR AN INTERACTIVE, PRINTABLE CALENDAR OF ALL HNT EVENTS HAPPENING THIS MONTH, VISIT H-NT.ORG/CALENDAR







A Message from Rabbi Jacob Herber

With sunlight surpassing darkness and as the chilly days of winter begin to wane, we find ourselves preparing to celebrate Tu B'Shevat, the "New Year of the Trees." This special day, which falls on the 15th of the Hebrew month of Shevat (February 13th), reminds us of our deep connection to the natural world and the importance of nurturing growth in all forms — physical, spiritual, and communal.

Traditionally, Tu B'Shevat marks the beginning of the agricultural cycle in the Land of Israel, when the first almond blossoms begin to bloom. Over time, this day has become a celebration of environmental awareness, the bounty of the earth, and our responsibility as stewards of God's creation.

In the past, Jewish mystics were the only ones to hold a Tu B'Shevat Seder. Today its become more commonplace to have a meal where we enjoy the fruits of Israel, including figs, dates, pomegranates, olives, and grapes. These symbolic food items remind us of the beauty and abundance of nature, as well as our gratitude for its gifts.

The Seder also incorporates the four seasons through cups of wine or juice, shifting from white to red as a reflection of the changing year.

Tu B'Shevat also calls us to action. Planting trees, supporting reforestation efforts, and making environmentally conscious choices are ways we can honor this day. As the Torah commands, "When you enter the land, plant trees" (Leviticus 19:23), emphasizing the mitzvah of caring for the earth.

In this spirit, let's take this opportunity to reflect on the seeds we plant in our own lives —seeds of kindness, learning, and connection. Just as a tree grows strong and tall when nurtured, so too our community can flourish when we work together to make a positive impact.

Wishing you a joyful and meaningful Tu B'Shevat,

JE HE

-Rabbi Jacob Herber

Tu B'Shevat Strolling Seder

Sunday, February 9 • 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

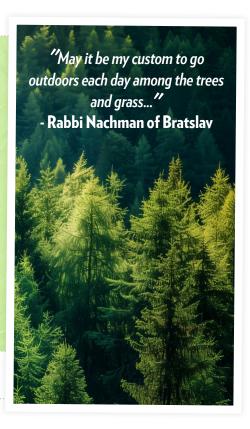
Co-hosted by the Stroum Jewish Community Center

Come appreciate the beauty of the Pacific Northwest. Please join Cantor Batchelor, Park Ranger Debra Mailman, and FRS on a stroll from HNT to the Kesher Garden at the SJCC. We will be making stops to learn about the trees and nature around us, and have dried fruit to make a bracha over. Learn about Tu B'Shevat (New Year for the Trees) through the greenery you see every time you step onto HNT and SJCC's campuses. This **kid-friendly program is open to all** and we encourage everyone to get to know our small slice of the world a little better!

For those not a part of FRS, please register here: h-nt.org/strolling-seder











Message From the President

Reviving Our Youth Group: Supporting Teens in Our Synagogue and Beyond

Dear Congregants,

I am asking for your help today to take part in an exciting opportunity for our future. Herzl-Ner Tamid once had a thriving youth group program, and we MUST bring it back. The importance of providing our youth with a sense of community, purpose, and spiritual guidance cannot be overlooked as extraneous or optional. At HNT we recognize the value in nurturing and empowering our next generation with the tools they need to thrive—both in their Jewish identity and personal lives. I have heard from many of you during our clergy searches that we must prioritize our youth because they are our future. I wholeheartedly agree!

Why a Youth Group?

A strong youth group provides our teens with a unique opportunity to engage in fun and meaningful activities and adventures, develop lasting friendships, and explore their Jewish identity in a supportive environment. At this pivotal stage in their lives, we can offer teens a space where they feel connected, seen, and valued—both as individuals and as members of our synagogue family.

Benefits for Teens

- 1. Community and Belonging: As teens navigate the pressures of school, friendships, and family life, the opportunity to belong to a supportive peer group can make a difference in their lives. As our youth face antisemitism on their school campuses and via social media in a post-October 7th world, a youth group can provide a positive outlet and coping skills.
- 2. Leadership Development: Youth group members develop essential leadership skills that will serve them well in their personal and professional futures. A youth group experience can also be added to their college resumes.
- **3. Strengthen Jewish Identity:** In today's fast-paced world, it's easy for our teens to feel disconnected from their Judaism. A Jewish youth group offers the perfect platform for teens to deepen their understanding of Jewish traditions, values, and teachings in a way that resonates with their lives.

When teens have positive experiences in their synagogue, they're more likely to maintain a connection to their faith community as they grow older. A youth group provides a bridge between childhood and adulthood, helping to ensure that our teens continue to view the synagogue as a place of spiritual and communal support.

4. Skill-Building and Personal Growth: Youth groups offer opportunities for personal development beyond the classroom. Whether it's participating in

volunteer projects or engaging in spiritual discussions, teens gain valuable life skills that help them become thoughtful, compassionate, and responsible adults.

5. A Positive Impact on Their Futures: By investing in a robust youth group program, we're both supporting our teens during their high school years and helping them build a strong foundation for future success. The friendships and skills they gain through a youth group have a lasting impact, empowering them to face the challenges of adulthood with confidence, resilience, and a strong moral compass.

Historically, HNT has housed United Synagogue Youth (USY). When I was in high school, USY enriched the fabric of my life; it was where I belonged. My first trip to Israel was through USY Pilgrimage. It was a life- changing experience and solidified my Zionist beliefs. I'm happy to say that many of my friends in Group 5 USY Pilgrimage and other groups are now leaders in the northwest Jewish and secular communities, some even in our HNT leadership today.

Let's Come Together

It would be wonderful to eventually have social group events for our elementary and middle school age students, and we can work towards that qoal. Today, I would like to focus on our teens and build from there.

I need a few motivated HNT members to take the leadership, with my support, and create a vibrant youth group at HNT. Parents of teens are especially needed to share what your teens are interested in and what they need.

Rebuilding our youth group is an investment in our children, the future of our synagogue and Jewish community as a whole. But your support is vital. I invite you to share your ideas, volunteer your time, and help HNT be a more vibrant space for our teens to connect, learn, and thrive. Please email me at president@h-nt.org to share your ideas and support.

Thank you for your continued involvement as we work to build a warm and supportive environment for our teens and the entire synagogue community.

Warm regards,

- Donna Peha,

Donna Pelia

PRESIDENT, HNT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

February Rabbi Search Update

The HNT Rabbi Search Committee has been very busy. Here is what has been going on behind the scenes:

We are now receiving applications from rabbinical candidates. Our evaluation process includes the following steps: (1) resume review, (2) screening video call, (3) committee interview, (4) detailed independent research on the candidate, (5) an in-person interview over a weekend in Seattle, and finally, (6) a board of directors review.

While we accept applications from RA applicants, as of February 1, we can now begin to actively recruit and advertise our open position outside the RA process. If you are aware of rabbinical candidates—no matter how early they are in their careers—please reach out to Robbie or Bonnie at RabbiSearch@h-nt.org to discuss how we can include them in our process.

At this time we do not yet have a candidate to invite back to meet with the broader community. As soon as we do, we will be thrilled to share that news with everyone.

We are dedicating the time and energy to select a rabbi who we are all excited to welcome, and who can be an integral part of both the HNT and Seattle community for many years to come. With that said, please know that the committee recognizes we may not find the right match in this first search cycle.

We appreciate the opportunity to serve our community with this work and thank you for placing your trust in the committee.

-Robbie & Bonnie Cape, Rabbinic Search Chairs

FRS families had a lovely time at our first **Parents Night Out** event! We began the evening with Havdalah, led by Cantor Batchelor. Kids participated in games and activities by Camp Solomon Schechter staff and parents had a chance to enjoy wine and appetizers together. Thank you to Tamar Heyman and Kathy and Rachel Packer for their help in setting up the event! And thanks to everyone who joined us for a lovely evening!



Purim Events



Mishloach Manot

Celebrate Purim by sending traditional Mishloach Manot (Purim Gifts) to family and friends while supporting HNT! This year recipients will receive hand-made hamantashen and Seattle Chocolates truffles.

Registration opens February 3 here: h-nt.org/MM25

Hamantashen Baking

Volunteer to bake hamantashen for our Mishloach Manot this year! We are bringing back Eileen Mintz's z"l traditional recipe for everyone to enjoy. **Baking dates coming soon** - check the eKol for more info.



Herzl-Ner Tamid Presents - A Purim Shpiel The Return of the Wicked Witch of West Mercer Way

Thursday, March 13 6:00 PM Family Dinner 6:45 PM Costume Parade in Main Sanctuary 7:00 PM Megillah Reading and Purim Shpiel





Join us to celebrate a Wicked-themed Purim! We'll have an open bar, costume party, live band and Megillah reading! Click below to register for Purim Dinner (everything else is free to attend and no registration is required). https://h-nt.shulcloud.com/event/purim-dinner.html



THE 2025

GADOL GALA — SPIRIT OF RENEWAL —

SUNDAY, MARCH 23 AT 5:00 PM MEYDENBAUER CENTER, 4TH FLOOR, 11100 NE 6TH ST., BELLEVUE

Join us for a special evening of philanthropy and community at our annual fundraiser, where we will proudly honor this year's Bob Zimmerman z"l Community Leadership Award recipients. The event will feature a cocktail reception with a raffle followed by dinner, an inspiring program, live auction, and the chance to raise your paddle to support Herzl-Ner Tamid.

TICKETS

EARLY BIRD \$180 (through February 28th)
REGULAR \$216

Visit <u>h-nt.org/GG25</u> to purchase your tickets and/or make a donation in lieu of attendance.

2025 BOB ZIMMERMAN Z"L COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

At this year's Gala, we will honor Kennis Koldewyn, Joel Konikow, Amy Wasser, Craig Weinstein, and Alan Wilensky with the 2025 Bob Zimmerman z"I Community Leadership Award. These exceptional lay service leaders stepped up in remarkable ways following Cantor Kurland's z"I passing, ensuring our ritual offerings remained accessible to all. We are deeply grateful for their dedication and for the contributions of all our volunteer lay leaders who support HNT.



Koneh Lecha Chaver: Find a Friendly Companion



יַבר, וּקְנָה לְדָּ חָבֵר, וֶהֶנִי דָן אֶת כָּל הָאָדָם לְכַף זְכוּת:

"...appoint for yourself a teacher, acquire for yourself a companion and judge all people with the scale weighted in their favor".

Pirkei Avot 1:6

Ifeel lucky that since arriving in Seattle I have been so warmly welcomed by the HNT community. So many of you have gone out of your way to ease my transition and support my role as your new cantor. But I want to take a moment now to single out one person in particular: Cantor David Serkin-Poole.

As you may know, Cantor Serkin-Poole came out of retirement to serve as HNT's Interim Cantor and help support our b'nai mitzvah students after the passing of his dear colleague Cantor Kurland z"l. That alone was a great help to me as incoming cantor, as it reduced the stress on our families and allowed for a more smooth and orderly transition.

But more than that, Cantor Serkin-Poole has been supportive of me personally and professionally from the very first days of my arrival. He has lent me his ear and his insight. He has acted as a mentor as I learn the culture of this community and as a friend as I settle into my new life. He has helped me bring out the best in myself so that I can turn that towards our community in its time of need.

In Pirkei Avot 1:6, we are instructed "...appoint for yourself a teacher, acquire for yourself a companion and judge all people with the scale weighted in their favor". When HNT appointed Cantor Serkin-Poole as Interim Cantor, they were looking for a teacher who could help temporarily fill the void left in Cantor Kurland's passing. But he has given us more, because he models Pirkei Avot's injunction to view others positively and judge them "with the scales weighted in their favor". This quality makes him not only a wonderful teacher but a cherished companion to so many of us.

As Cantor Serkin-Poole wraps up his tenure, I want thank him for all that he has done for HNT and express my hope that he will remain an active member of our community and an invaluable companion as we move forward.

- CANTOR HEATHER BATCHELOR

Cantor's Clips

I've been swapping musical recommendations with a number of you and want to take this opportunity to share more of my favorite Jewish artists and genres.



Given the weather forecast, I thought it would be timely to share the attached snow-centric video by my Montreal friends, filmmaker Ezra Soiferman and hip-hop musician Josh Dolgin. You are sure to hear more from me about Josh and his alter-ego, DJ Socalled, at a later date: https://youtu.be/vbgAyOGafKQ?feature=shared

Service and Kiddush To Honor Cantor Serkin-Poole

Saturday, February 8

Please join us for Shabbat services and Kiddush lunch in appreciation and honor of Cantor Serkin-Poole for his ability to step in when needed most and for his caring, compassionate teaching and joyful leading. After some special honors during services, please join us for a special Kiddush luncheon (with a dessert bar!) to show our appreciation.

Please register here: h-nt.org/CSP



Are You Prepared To Save a Life?

"Whoever saves one life saves the world entire" ... if you are one of the many scholars here at HNT, you recognize the expression from the Talmud (Sanhedrin 37a) or if you're like most of us, you remember it from the end of Schindler's List.

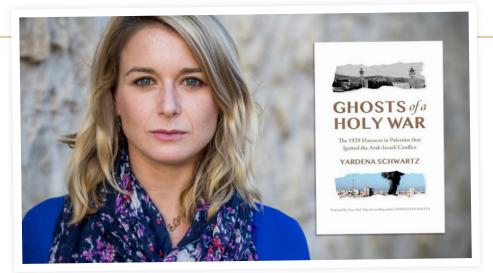
HNT sponsored two CPR classes in December and January for Board members, Shabbat greeters, and minyan goers for just that rare occurrence. In just two hours, attendees walked away with the skills and confidence to act in an emergency situation.

These classes were so popular that many more congregants have expressed interest in participating in future classes, so, we want to put on more CPR classes and open it up to the entire congregation.

Think about how good you will feel if you are able to save a life. Isn't it worth two hours of your time to be prepared? We are trying to determine the number of classes necessary. If interested, please email Cora at cora@h-nt.org.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the CPR Training Classes in December and January!









Speaking Event - Author Yardena Schwartz

Tuesday, February 25 • 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM • Sanctuary

Join HNT and StandWithUs for an evening with author Yardena Schwartz to discuss her recently released book, "Ghosts of a Holy War: The 1929 Massacre in Palestine that ignited the Arab Israeli Conflict."

Yardena Schwartz is an award-winning freelance journalist and Emmy-nominated producer. Born and raised in New Jersey, Yardena lived in Israel from 2013 to 2023 reporting for various publications, including the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, TIME, The Economist, Foreign Policy and National Geographic. She previously worked at NBC news.

Through the never-before told story of a young American who moved to what was Palestine in 1928, Yardena weaves 100 years of history in the holy land to demonstrate how the issues cannot be fully understood without the context of Ground Zero of this century-old war.

Please register here: h-nt.org/AYS



Judaica Shop Open Hours

First Sunday of Each Month
February 2, March 2 • 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

We have everything you need, including tallitot, kippot, and kid-sized shofarot.









B'nai Mitzvah

Aubrey Segal • February 15



Aubrey Segal is the daughter of Adina and Todd Segal and sister to Kayla and Ashton. She is the granddaughter of Shirley and Robin Brown and Shelley and Ron Segal. Aubrey is a seventh grader at Kirkland Middle School in Kirkland. Aubrey loves to spend her time with family and friends as well as making art and crafting, reading, playing card and board games, and playing soccer year round. Her favorite place to be is at sleep-away camp at Camp Solomon Schechter during summer vacation. Aubrey loves animals and for her mitzvah project has decided to make and donate cat blankets to MEOW Cat Rescue in Kirkland. Every cat that comes to the shelter gets their own blanket that goes with them to their new forever homes when they are adopted.

Ari Josiah Stoffer · March 1



Ari Josiah Stoffer, son of Jason & Amanda Stoffer, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on March 1, 2025. He is the grandson of Joel & Diane z"I Druckman and Ronald & Barbara Stoffer, and middle brother to Eli and Toby. Ari is currently a seventh grader at Islander Middle School, where his favorite subjects are science and Spanish. When not at school, Ari enjoys participating in and watching sports, especially soccer, in which he plays center back for Eastside FC. His other hobbies include photography, video games, and spending time with friends and family.

For his Mitzvah Project, Ari is supporting Charity Ball, a global soccer nonprofit that hand-delivers new soccer balls and provides clean drinking water to kids in disadvantaged situations around the world.



MITZVAH CORPS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The mission of HNT's Mitzvah Corps is to provide a caring and compassionate resource to our fellow congregants while giving generously of ourselves. The Corps is always looking for new volunteers.

Please reach out to Judy Ziedman at jraez@comcast.net or 425-883-6482 to ask questions or to join the group.



AFFINITY GROUPS











Needlecraft Affinity Group

Thursdays, February 6, 13, 20, 27 • 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Knit, crochet and more with the HNT Needlecraft Affinity Group! This is a wonderful opportunity to socialize with fellow crafters. Bring your projects, learn a new craft or get better at what you know.



Mah Jongg Affinity Group

Thursdays, February 6, 13, 20, 27 • 12:30 PM · 2:30 PM

Dragons, Flowers, and Cardinal Directions, oh my! Please join us for Mah Jongg Affinity Group on Thursdays at HNT! The second Thursday of each month we will welcome new learners. Please contact Judy Weiser at weiserfam@comcast.net for more details.



Shabbat Dinner Group

Friday, February 28 • 7:30 PM • Address given upon registration

Participation in this group is limited to HNT members only. Immediate family or a companion is welcome. Dinners will be held monthly on every fourth Friday (except haggim) at 7:30 PM (or 4:30 PM for younger families). Hosts provide challah, wine, beverages and Shabbat candles. **Hosts may limit the number of seats they can accommodate.** Guests will need to coordinate with the host to bring vegetarian/dairy or parve dishes to share. Register below to participate.

https://h-nt.shulcloud.com/event/shabbat-dinner-group.html

The Skolnick Board Room Has Re-Opened

We are thrilled that our restoration project is complete. We hope you enjoy the new Skolnick Board Room.







Within the Shul Family

We Offer Condolences for:

- Faith Melman z"l beloved mother of Denise Klaff, grandmother of Jeff Klaff & Lindy Ecker, great-grandmother to Ezra, Oren and Zakary Klaff & Ariella and Aly Ecker
- Hugh Gladner z"I beloved brother of Bruce Gladner and brotherin-law of Peggy Gladner, uncle to Natanya and Daniel Gladner.
- Mark Brashem z"I beloved brother of Marvin Brashem and brother-in law of Lisa Brashem and uncle of Mara and Sari Brashem.
- Michael Ruby z"l beloved cousin to the Maslan family.

Refuah Shelemah to:

- Baila bat Gavriel v'Chaiya
- Lori Kaufman
- Shmuel ben Y'rachmiel v'Hannah
- Daniel ben Y'rachmiel v'Hannah
- · Shayna Chaiya bat Enya
- · Tzvi Hirsch
- Tom Livingston
- Sara bat Avner v'Shoshana
- Kathy Goff
- Michael Ben Sarah Rochel
- Shimon ben Shia v'Chanah
- Krendel bat Miriam
- · Sara Rachel bat Yaakov Kopel v'Shifra
- · Gill ben Bashah
- Rahel Rivka bat Gittel
- · Levi Yitzchack ben Shifra
- Mackenzie Goldman
- Yoela bat Doba
- Pinchas ben Miriam
- Marie Field

^{*} If you or someone you know is on the Refuah Shelemah list and no longer needs healing prayers, please contact the office to request that a name be removed.







February T'filot

See this month's B'nai Mitzvah on Page 10

HNT offers both in-person Shabbat services in our Sanctuary, and a virtual option available to view at h-nt.org/youtube

Pre-negs: Fridays at 5:30 PM
Kiddush lunch: Saturdays following services
Sponsorship opportunities are available, please contact Melanie at
Melaniem@h-nt.org for more information.

Saturday, February 1
10:00 AM Shabbat Service
4:30 PM Mincha Bat Mitzvah of Evi Abramson

Friday, February 7

6:00 PM Birthday Shabbat Service, TGIS (see page 17)

Saturday, February 8
10:00 AM Shabbat Service

Friday, February 14 6:00 PM Shabbat Service

Saturday, February 15 9:30 AM Shabbat Service & Bat Mitzvah of Aubrey Segal

Friday, February 21
6:00 PM Shabbat Service

Saturday, February 22
10:00 AM Shabbat Service

Friday, February 28 6:00 PM Shabbat Service

Morning Minyan:

Weekdays: 7:30 AM, Sundays & Secular Holidays: 9:00 AM

Morning Minyan is also offered both in-person and virtually at

h-nt.org/services

^{*} To add a name to the list email Aviva@h-nt.org

Daytimers Lunch & Film Series

Wednesday, February 19: *To Dust* 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM • HNT Feinberg Social Hall

Free during the day? Join us for good conversation, tasty lunch, and a Jewish-themed film!

To Dust: Shmuel, a Hasidic cantor in upstate New York, distraught by the untimely death of his wife, struggles to find religious solace, while secretly obsessing over how her body will decay.

Pricing: \$10/per person early bird (register by February 12) or \$12/per person for lunch, served 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM, followed by the film.

Film only: free admission, but your registration is still appreciated. Because we pre-order food, refunds cannot be issued after Friday, February 14.

Register at h-nt.org/Daytimers-Feb



February Anniversaries

Feb. 3	Ron & Vanessa Brazg	40 years	Feb. 20	Harris & Jean Klein	42 years
Feb. 6	Marc & Judy Sidell	31 years	Feb. 20	Jessica & Barak Schriger	9 years
Feb. 7	David & Tuyen Rosenberg	21 years	Feb. 23	Joel & Hoda Mezistrano	22 years
Feb. 8	Dennis Goldstein & Robin Rogel-Goldstein	44 years	Feb. 25	llene & Garrett Sloan	19 years
Feb. 12	Mike & Elaine Weinstein	58 years	Feb. 26	Tom & Stacey Brody	48 years
Feb. 14	Jerry & Joyce Mesher	60 years	Feb. 27	Barry & Lisa Deutsch	16 years
Feb. 15	Martin & Marla Goldberg	27 years	Feb. 27	Brad & Susan Lehrer	33 years
Feb. 18	Ben & Brooke Pariser	18 years	Feb. 28	Steven & Carol Paige	43 years
Feb. 20	Carl Bloom & Diane Zipperman	43 years	•		



Todah Rabbah to...

- Sue Amira Weinstein for utilizing her sewing expertise on an HNT bintel.
- Linda Reibman for knitting large amounts of baby hats for HNT's new additions.

If we missed someone's name, please reach out to <u>Cora@h-nt.org</u> so we can properly thank everyone.





Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Spice Night event on Saturday, January 25th!



Thank you to all the FRS Staff, Teachers, and Madrichim who made the night run so smoothly.

Thank you to **PJ Library** and **JDS** for their partnership. Thank you **Angela Rootshtain** for spending three hours helping to get the art projects together. Thank you to the following volunteers who helped that evening: **EJ Slayter**, **Angela Rootshtain**, **Nettie Diament**, **Miri Cypers**, **David Rosenbaum**, **Shannon Marder**, **Jeff Droker**, and **Tamar Heyman**.

Adult Education





Adult Ed Classes Taught by Rabbi Herber

Introduction To Judaism

While registration is no longer available for this course, please reach out to Rabbi Herber if you are interested in the content of this course.

Together & Apart: The Future of Jewish Peoplehood - Thursdays, March 20, 27 • 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

In the aftermath of October 7th and Israel's military response to free its hostages and defeat Hamas, we have been attacked, besieged, and isolated at home. Join us for this compelling, text-based Shalom Hartman Institute video series which will explore and consider how to understand what it means to be a member of the Jewish people, the core values that animate Jewish peoplehood, and the contemporary challenges to Jewish unity in the face of unprecedented antisemitic and anti-Israel activism and hate.

Learn more and register:

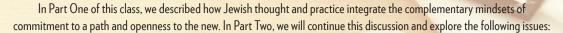
https://h-nt.shulcloud.com/event/adult-education-with-rabbi-herber.html

How to Change Your Mind Without Losing Your Soul: Part Two



With Rabbi Jay Rosenbaum

In Person: Sunday, February 2 • 10:15 AM - 11:45 AM • Room: Youth Lounge On Zoom: Tuesday, February 4 • 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM



Session One: The Meaning of 'Meaning' • Session Two: Feelings--Friend or Foe? • Session Three: Making 'Matter' Matter

You do not have to have taken Part One to enroll in Part Two. All are welcome! Cost: \$45 for the series.

Learn more and register:

https://h-nt.shulcloud.com/event/how-to-change-your-mind-part2

Year Round Hebrew Classes Taught By Janine Rosenbaum

Classes Available Now

Please reach out to Janine at janinerosenbaum@comcast.net to inquire about this years options.



A Message from Director of Education Irit Eliav Levin





February 2025



ברוך אַתָּה יָהֹוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֵלֶךְ הַעוֹלָם, מַתִּיר אַסוּרִים.

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech HaOlam, Matir Asurim.

Praised are You Adonai our God, who rules the universe, releasing the bound.

Every Sunday, FRS students begin their learning with our all-school Morning Assembly. Parents, students, and staff gather together in the sanctuary to pray, sing, and learn about *T'filot*, holidays, and more. We end every single assembly with Oseh Shalom, a prayer for peace, and HaTikvah, as a reminder that Israel is constantly on our minds and in our hearts.

Leading morning assembly is a part of my role that I take extremely seriously. For many of our families, being at HNT on both Shabbat and Sunday morning is challenging, due to busy schedules. So, this mini-service that we do each Sunday is often their touchpoint to our community. The material I am teaching needs to be fun and interesting for our students, but also educational and meaningful for their parents and even grandparents who are with them.

Since October 7th, this balance has been hardest on days when I know parents need a place to process emotions over whatever recent development has occurred in this challenging reality we are now facing. As much as I just want to speak with them directly, I am very aware that little ears are listening - many of whom have little to no idea about the events of October 7th and its aftermath. And while we've created lots of opportunities for parents to process, sometimes there is a recent development that just needs to be acknowledged in the moment.

I found myself facing this challenge on the morning of January 19th, 2025. For all of the adults, our minds were filled with the earliest footage of Emily Damari, Romi Gonen, and Doron Steinbrecher (the three young Israeli women who had been held hostage by Hamas), finally, finally returning home. Staff and parents had been texting me all morning saying that they were running late, that they couldn't pull themselves away from the news. But I couldn't openly talk about it in front of the kids.

So when we reached the end of assembly, I asked everyone to rise, as I always do for HaTikvah. I asked everyone to keep Emily, Romi, and Doron in their prayers as we gratefully welcomed them home. But my voice broke as I said their names and I needed a moment to compose myself. As we joined together in HaTikvah, I looked around the room, and there were tears in the eyes of nearly every adult I could see.

One Kindergartener noticed and asked his mom, "Why is Morah Irit sad?" His mother replied, "Oh no, honey, she's happy, very happy." May we continue to have opportunities to shed tears of joy, rejoicing as our people continue to come home. And may we continue to work and pray for every last hostage to be freed.

- IRIT ELIAV LEVIN, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Lit Elin Sevin

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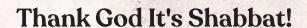




Tot Shabbat at SJCC

Fridays • 9:45 AM - 10:30 AM In Person at SJCC

Grab your 'bim' and your 'bam,' along with your kiddos or grandbabies, and join us for Tot Shabbat at the J! Everyone is welcome. Thank you to the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, PJ Library, and SJCC for co-sponsoring this program with HNT.



Friday, February 7 • 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Please join the FRS community for a pre-neg, Shabbat services, and Shabbat dinner! We are excited that Camp Solomon Schechter will be joining us for TGIS and leading us in some games and Schechter Ruach!

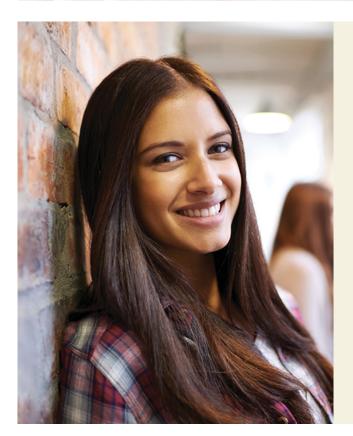
Registration for the dinner can be found here:

h-nt.org/TGIS

If you have any questions, please contact

Irit Eliav Levin, Director of Education at Irit@h-nt.org.









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Towards a More Nuanced Approach to Social Justice

Rabbi Jay Rosenbaum



Case History: Solitary Confinement

A professor of mine in graduate school once said that teachers often make the same classic mistake. They think that if they just get rid of the three worst troublemakers in class, their classroom will be a paradise. What they find is that three more take their place.

This principle is at work throughout the Torah's understanding of justice. The most dramatic example is what happens in the aftermath of the Noah story. God initially decides to combat evil by destroying all the evil people in the world, except for the one righteous person, Noah, and his family. But this approach didn't work! When Noah exits the ark, God declares that God will never again destroy humanity in this way because evil is not something that can be located in specific people. Like good, it's potential in every person.

Later in the Torah, Moses responds to violence against an innocent Jew by killing the Egyptian taskmaster. But, the next day, Moses tries to intervene when a fellow Jew is beating another Jew. The aggressor challenges Moses: "Are you going to kill me like you killed the Egyptian?" Moses understands that getting rid of the Egyptian 'bad guys' may rescue the Jewish people from slavery. But it will not eliminate violence, because Jews are capable of violence, just as Egyptians are.

The remainder of the Torah presents a blueprint for human transformation as an alternative approach for combatting human cruelty. This approach does not eliminate the need for punishment. Nor does it assume that every human being is redeemable. Sometimes a person has committed a crime so horrific that removing them from society permanently is the only just solution.

What distinguishes the Torah's approach is the rejection of the binary view that the world can be divided into good people and evil people. The Torah takes a more nuanced view of human behavior. It assumes that each of us can potentially behave kindly or cruelly. While it's true that each of us bears

responsibility for our own actions, when we create the ideal moral environment, we maximize the chances that people will do the right thing. It is our job to create that environment. We can create that environment in society, just as we can create it in a classroom and in our own homes.

I am part of a grass roots group called the Multifaith Coalition for Restorative Justice. Like the Torah, Restorative Justice posits that while it is certainly necessary to remove dangerous people from society, just getting rid of the 'bad guys' is not as effective as changing the perpetrator so that he/she is no longer a threat to society. Since 85% of the inmates in Washington State prisons will eventually be released, it is in our best interest to make sure that their prison experience prepares them to re-enter society as contributing members.

One of the practices that works against that is solitary confinement. There are certainly cases where a prisoner must be isolated from others to protect the guards, other prisoners, and sometimes themselves. But all too often, solitary is dispensed arbitrarily as a punishment for non-violent offenses and as a tool for control by officers who lack the training or skill to use more nuanced methods. The result is too many prisoners permanently traumatized by months or even years of social isolation. When these prisoners are released, they will find it very hard to function normally in society.

The Multifaith Coalition is very fortunate to have a very positive relationship with the Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC). The DOC has sent their staff to Norway eleven times to learn a more sophisticated and humane way to manage the 'classroom' we call a prison. In Norway, they train the guards to be as much social worker as sherrif and to see the incarcerated as human beings in trouble, human beings who have the potential to do better. These guards are given higher salaries, their prestige is enhanced, and their own trauma in a very challenging

job is taken seriously. The result is that **these guards can often de-escalate a situation that in the hands of a less experienced officer would result in violence and solitary confinement.**

Our DOC wants to move in this direction and has actually proposed a comprehensive \$200 million plan which would revamp the facilities, hire more guards and train them differently. But, in the real world, there is no way they will receive that kind of allocation even from a sympathetic legislature. **Rep. Strom Peterson** has proposed something more modest and practical while we are building towards the most ideal solution. **His new bill would narrow the range of offenses which result in solitary confinement to those which would truly put people in danger.** And it would require more proof of a serious infraction from the prison staff to reduce the arbitrariness of punishment.

We do not live in a perfect world. The Torah's approach

to justice often considers what is possible as much as what is ideal. In general, I believe our own Jewish community has lost sight of the level of nuance in Judaism's approach to justice. The phrase 'tikkun olam' sounds lovely enough, but it does not do justice to the complexity of most moral issues we face.

The binary approach to justice has polarized our country and much of the world. It is time we took advantage of the wisdom of our own Jewish tradition and returned to a more nuanced view of justice. **Supporting Rep.**Peterson's bill on solitary confinement, HB 1137, would be an important step in that direction.

Jay Rosenbaum



- RABBI JAY ROSENBAUM, RABBI EMERITUS

Women's League Torah Fund Tea Party

Sunday, March 2 (RSVP by February 24) • 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM • Susan Glick's Home (Mercer Island)

Come celebrate Torah Fund & HNT Women's League while you enjoy a delicious potluck and a wide variety of teas and a presentation by our special guest, **Cantor Heather Batchelor**. Bring a dairy or pareve dessert or snack to share.

The 5783 (2024-2025) Torah Fund General Campaign theme is Am Yisrael Chai - All the people of Israel live. Am Yisrael Chai is an expression of Jewish solidarity for the Jewish nation and the continuity of the Jewish people. We help ensure the future of worldwide Jewish communities through our support of the five Conservative/Masorti institutions of higher education.

RSVP by Monday, February 24 to: wl-tf@h-nt.org

Learn more and contribute: https://h-nt.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Torah-Fund-Tea-Invitation-March-2025.pdf





Social Action Opportunities

The committee will be meeting in early February to discuss upcoming projects and how we can better the everyday lives of others in our community. All are welcome to attend and hear about what we are planning; new ideas are always appreciated. Our ongoing projects include Porchlight shelter meals and the monthly Teen Feed. We recently made a donation to the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles to help with the impact of the devastating fires. Contact Judy Ziedman, SAC Chair, at irraez@comcast.net.

PORCHLIGHT

Porchlight

Sunday, February 9 (Super Bowl Sunday) • 5:15 PM - 6:15 PM

"Porchlight" is Bellevue's new well-equipped shelter at Eastgate that can house 100 unhoused men each night. HNT will be providing a dinner meal for 100 residents on Sunday, February 9th, and we need your help! Please take a look at the menu we will be providing and sign up below. With your support we can provide a beautiful meal to those who need it most. Please lend a hand and sign up today!

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0549A8A62AA0F94-54576289-porchlight#/



Teen Feed

Sunday, February 23 • 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Each month a dedicated crew of HNT volunteers prepares and serves meals to homeless youth in the University District. Email our Teen Feed leaders at TeenFeed@h-nt.org to help this month, for questions, or to be added to the Teen Feed volunteer list.



Social Action Shout Outs



Thank you to everyone who donated to the Hillel UW supply drive and a special thank you to **Mindy Landsman** for organizing!

Anonymous (Scrabble), Norene & Rich Arnold, Susan Bardsley, Anna & Joe Brown, Susan & Lonnie Edelheit, Sarah & Eric Hasson, Mindy & Dave Landsman, Nancy and Wayne Morse, Janet Neumann & Ricardo Wenger, Stephanie & David Shujman, Dafna & Michael Tarlowe, Ilyse & Greg Wagner, Judy Ziedman

A note from Judy:

An enthusiastic shoutout to **Mindy Landsman** for spearheading our most recent project, the collection of relaxation activities for Jewish students at Hillel UW. Mindy not only organized the project but also collected and distributed all of the items that were requested by Hillel, such as board games, snacks, art supplies and music equipment. And another shoutout to **Cora Miller**, our Director of Community Engagement, for all of her help in coordinating the Amazon Wishlist site and the writeups and publicity sent out to the congregation. And lastly, one more shoutout to everyone who donated and made this project happen, giving the kids a bit of comfort while they are dealing with the aggressive antisemitism on campus. You are all rock stars!! -Judy Ziedman



IN SUPPORT OF ONE ANOTHER

These generous tributes were made from December 21 through January 20, 2025

AMY MACKOFF CAMPERSHIP FUND

For the Yahrzeit of

Ruth Peizer from Alan & Elaine Peizer Leslie Mackoff from Robert & Polly Amkraut

In Memory of

Sylvia Siegel from Alan & Elaine Peizer Abraham Emmerman from Alan & Elaine Peizer Dennis Fague from Robert Speigel & Mary Anne Balch Speigel

BARNABIE POINT PROJECT DONATIONS

In Honor of

Audrey Covner & Dianne Dougherty from Mindy & David Landsman

BUILDING FUND

For the Yahrzeit of Marvin N. Coe from Gregory Coe

CANTOR BATCHELOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of

Cantor Batchelor from Mindy & David Landsman

In Memory of

Sema Angel from Nancy Highiet Morse & Wayne Morse George Wolcott from Efrem & Linda Krisher

EILEEN MINTZ'S KITCHEN FUND

For the Yahrzeit of Eileen Mintz from Dan & Elaine Mintz

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Memory of

Myron Bovarnick from Neil Taxy

FLOWERS FUND

For the Yahrzeit of Ruth Becker from David Becker

FRANKEL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

For the Yahrzeit of

Walter Rosenstock from Alan & Elaine Peizer

In Memory of

Faith Melman from Arny & Anita Reich
Faith Melman from Audrey Covner & Dianne Dougherty
Sema Angel from Ilyse & Greq Wagner

FRANKEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Honor of

Sue and Phil Miller from Lee Miller

GENERAL FUND

For the Yahrzeit of

Louis Fish from David & Susan Fish

In Memory of

Faith Melman from Chuck & Marilyn Caplan Sema Angel from Jack Cordova Sema Angel from Faye Plum & Art Rider Ethel Granat from Faye Plum & Art Rider Faith Melman from Cheryl Cohen Mike Bovarnick from Ellen Hendin Mike Bovarnick from Elinor Goldberg

MEMORIAL FUND

For the Yahrzeit of

Moe Schwartz from Jeff & Mimi Rubenstein Richard Willner from Stuart Willner Siegbert Wehl from Hans Wehl Jennie Stern from Susan Lurie Hall Deborah Guttman from Alex Sytman Fannie Feinberg from Mike & Elaine Weinstein

Marilyn Boden from Allan Boden William Cordova from Marty & Sharon Lott Aleksandr Dernis from Ella Dernis Ben Gula from Helene Rubens John Cohn from Elaine Cohn Richard Willner from Patty Willner & Neil Martin Philip Lemchen from Sonny Putter & Rochelle Roseman Jane Silberstein from Linda & Dick Jacobs Beatrice Fishman from Ilyse & Greg Wagner Nellie Blum from Paul Burstein & Florence Katz Burstein Sam Katz from Paul Burstein & Florence Katz Burstein Sylvia Glazer from Bob & Janet Lackman Esther Mutchler from Mara Sobel & Gerald Bennett Emil Sternberg from Craiq & Sheila Sternberg Dorothye Sternberg from Craiq & Sheila Sternberg William Reich from Arny & Anita Reich Frances Loschbin from Tony & Lynn Wartnik Annette Vinnick from Tony & Lynn Wartnik Fred Katz from Paul Burstein & Florence Katz Burstein Joyce Peha Kligerman from Doug & Marcia Wiviott Frank Parker from Sandra Goodglick John MacCormac from Robert MacCormac Robert Perl from Clive & Lynne Brazq Dick Angel from Charles & Louise Angel Kiss Myrna Kaufman Bearse from Aurora Bearse & Ian Crosby Lenora Peha LaMarche from Carolyn Kessler Alexander Kessler from Carolyn Kessler Anne Kessler from Carolyn Kessler Frank Kiviat from Mark & Nancy Kiviat Sam Bernstein from Barry & Judy Schwarz

In Honor of

Lena Feinberg from David & Lynne Feinberg

MITZVAH CORPS FUND

For the Yahrzeit of

Lenore Gitelson from Gary & Sharon Constantine Eric Gitelson from Gary & Sharon Constantine

In Honor of

Debbie and Ed Margolis from Sharon Mossman

In Memory of

Sema Angel from Barry & Judy Schwarz Faith Melman from Ilyse & Greg Wagner Dennis Faque from Barry & Judy Schwarz

^{*} A physical card will be mailed to the designated recipient for all donations of \$18 or more.



IN SUPPORT OF ONE ANOTHER

These generous tributes were made from December 21 through January 20, 2025

MORNING MINYAN FUND

For the Yahrzeit of

Hanna Shulman from Rita Katz Beverly Lemchen from Larry Lemchen Philip Lemchen from Larry Lemchen

In Appreciation of

Sheila and Craig Sternberg from Chuck & Marilyn Caplan

In Honor of

Barbara & Lester Cohen from Nolan & Pat Newman

In Memory of

Faith Mehlman from Nolan & Pat Newman Al Spokoiny from Ellen Rosenstein Brin

PAY IT FORWARD FUND

For the Yahrzeit of

Carol Maslan from Rabbi Bob Maslan, Melissa, Michelle, Lirit & Families

RABBI HERBER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Appreciation of Rabbi Herber from Sharon Kiss

RABBI ROSENBAUM'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of

Debbie & Ed Margolis from Carl & Leanne Berkenwald

In Memory of

Dennis Fague from Don Shifrin

SECURITY DONATION

For the Yahrzeit of

Fannie Cohen from Carolyn & Eldon Wexler

* A physical card will be mailed to the designated recipient for all donations of \$18 or more.



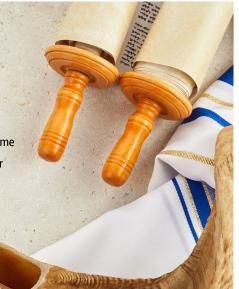


Join Our Greeter Team: Be the Warm Welcome at Shabbat Services!

As we continue to build a welcoming and vibrant community at HNT, we're seeking friendly faces to greet members and guests at our various services. Being a greeter is a simple yet impactful way to help everyone feel at home and part of our family. Whether it's your first time or you've been with us for years, your warm welcome can create a meaningful experience for all who walk through our doors.

Help us foster connection and joy by signing up to be a greeter today! Simply follow the link below to get involved. We look forward to seeing you there!

Learn more: h-nt.org/Greeter







BELOVED DEPARTED

Memorialized with Yahrzeit Plaques at HNT

Shabbat of Jan 31 / Feb 1

Feb. 1	Hilda Faye Aronson Asia
Feb. 1	Harry Deitch
Feb. 1	Wolf Dolgoff
Feb. 1	Fannie Feinberg
Feb. 1	Jennie Liff
Feb. 1	Rachel Metzker
Feb. 2	Morris Liff
Feb. 2	Carol Maslan
Feb. 2	Jack Schacher
Feb. 3	Norman Bockow
Feb. 3	Paul Cohen
Feb. 3	Avrom Meltzer
Feb. 3	Fannie Mondschein
Feb. 3	Alex Sender
Feb. 3	Elias Solomon
Feb. 4	Lucie Goldman
Feb. 4	Fred Fritz Kahn
Feb. 5	Marvin N. Coe
Feb. 5	Elizabeth Cohn
Feb. 5	Josephine Kahn
Feb. 5	Eileen Mintz
Feb. 6	Eva Deutsch
Feb. 6	Retha Evelyn Lewis
Feb. 6	Rose Rickles
Feb. 7	Regina Hamburger

SHABBAT OF February 7/8

Feb. 8	Deborah Guttman
Feb. 8	Joseph Losk
Feb. 8	Carolyn (Carrie) Rosenfeld
Feb. 9	lda Jaffe
Feb. 9	Lorraine Lebow
Feb. 9	Maier Moscovici
Feb. 9	Ruth Warshal
Feb. 10	Rebecca Coyne
Feb. 10	Anne Kollin
Feb. 10	Samuel Mendelsohn
Feb. 10	Harriett Minkove
Feb. 10	Esther Mutchler
Feb. 11	Zisah Goldstein
Feb. 11	Fannie Samuelson
Feb. 12	Jacob "Jack" Alterman
Feb. 12	David Bass
Feb. 12	William Frankfurt
Feb. 12	Pauline Levy
Feb. 12	Heinz Schwartz
Feb. 12	Guta Esther Sentner
Feb. 12	Oscar Weinberger
Feb. 12	Lawrence Werboff
Feb. 12	Sophia Werboff
Feb. 13	Leah Steinbock Epstein
Feb. 13	Beatrice Fishman
Feb. 13	Victor Guttman
Feb. 13	Doris Lederman
Feb. 13	Arnold Lewinski

Feb. 13

Feb. 14 *Ada Ash*Feb. 14 *Bessie Thomas*

Ruth Robinson

SHABBAT OF February 14/15

Feb. 15	Ruth Falkenstein Becker
Feb. 15	Joe Cohn
Feb. 15	Sadie Droker
Feb. 15	Johanna Frada
Feb. 15	Louis Ginsberg
Feb. 15	Daisy Israel
Feb. 15	Revella Lederman
Feb. 17	Morris Allper
Feb. 17	Sharon Poznansky Ben-Ri
Feb. 17	Elizabeth Walkow
Feb. 18	Chaim Gorbulove
Feb. 18	Bertha Gordon
Feb. 18	Larry M. Kaner
Feb. 18	Jennie Stern
Feb. 19	Ya'acov Yosef Bahat
Feb. 19	Helene Betty Weiser
Feb. 19	Marty Wener
Feb. 20	Charlie Brenner
Feb. 20	Norma de Mers
Feb. 20	Esther Chiprut Kahn
Feb. 20	Earl Lazarus
Feb. 21	Rebecca Kay
Feb. 21	Merry Klass
Feb. 21	Esther Rabinovich
Feb. 21	Moses Schain
Feb. 21	Herman Spiegelman

SHABBAT OF February 21/22

	Feb. 22	Jake Abrams
	Feb. 22	Aaron Maslan
	Feb. 22	Dora Rossman
	Feb. 22	Aaron Schuster
	Feb. 22	Hanna Shulman
	Feb. 22	Rebecca Stalin
	Feb. 23	Rabbi Jacob Bernstein
	Feb. 23	Julia Dwoskin
Rubin	Feb. 23	Jacob Miller
	Feb. 23	Siegbert Wehl
	Feb. 24	Maurice Blond
	Feb. 24	Ben Delson
	Feb. 24	Vera Kiewe
	Feb. 24	William Topp
	Feb. 25	Jack Bryan Conway
	Feb. 25	Edith Hirsch
	Feb. 25	Babette Schiller
	Feb. 25	Peter Thomas
	Feb. 26	Herbert Droker
	Feb. 26	Lea Kaganowicz
	Feb. 26	Meir Kaganowicz
	Feb. 26	Sara Kaganowicz
	Feb. 26	Harry Kraft
	Feb. 27	Sarah Arron
	Feb. 27	Julius Cohn
	Feb. 27	Bertha Glazer
	Feb. 28	Mack Lederman



Feb. 21 Richard Willner

Herzl-Ner Tamid Conservative Congregation

Affiliated with The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

3700 East Mercer Way Mercer Island, WA 98040 Phone: 206-232-8555 info@h-nt.org • h-nt.org

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David Serkin-Poole, Interim Cantor / CantorSP@h-nt.org
Jay Rosenbaum, Rabbi Emeritus / RabbiRosenbaum@h-nt.org

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HERZL MEMORIAL PARK

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If there is a death in the family, contact the Seattle Jewish Chapel at 206-725-3067.

For more information about the Herzl Memorial Park, contact Elaine Weinstein at 425-455-4703.

In times of loss, or in need of pastoral care, HNT members should call the HNT office at 206-232-8555.



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Jennifer Malakoff, Vice President

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Harris Klein

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Marv Brashem

To always have a well-maintained cemetery, please consider remembering Herzl Memorial Park in your Will, or by contributing to the cemetery's Endowment Care.