

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 Briah Cahana

Whith December and the winter rains upon us, many naturally feel the pull to retreat indoors and hibernate. But our tradition invites a different response: as the days grow darker, especially with the arrival of Hanukkah, we are called to gather together and bring more light into the world.

A midrash about Adam beautifully captures this invitation. Created in the month of Tishrei, Adam watched the days grow shorter over three months and feared the world was darkening because of his own failings. He fasted and prayed for eight days. At the winter solstice, he saw the days beginning to lengthen again. Realizing this was simply the world's natural rhythm, he then rejoiced for eight days.

This story offers many deep lessons. When the world feels dim, our inner world narrows, and we may imagine that the darkness is permanent or somehow our fault. This can lead to intense self-blame and catastrophic thinking. But often, when we tumble down that rabbit hole, we are missing a larger truth: something greater is at work and a miracle is quietly taking shape. Like Adam, we can turn despair into reflection and prayer. And sometimes the miracle simply is that when we sit through the dark with open eyes and open heart, we eventually see the light returning or, even more powerful, we change, and we see things in a different light.

This year we will already be celebrating Hanukkah and kindling the lights before the winter solstice, when the days begin to brighten again. This is because the light of Hanukkah is different from the light of the celestial spheres. Hanukkah's light is a spiritual light, understood on a Jewish mystical level as the primordial light of creation that emerged on the first day of Creation.

The *chanukiya* is placed at our windows for this reason: the spiritual light we kindle is meant both to illuminate our inner world and to shine outward. Hanukkah calls us not only to nurture our internal light of hope and resilience, but also to bring that light into the places in our community where it is most needed. In doing so, we become partners in revealing miracles for ourselves and others.

May we bring more light into our homes, our hearts, and our world. And may this season's darkness become an invitation to notice the miracles that are all around us and waiting to be revealed.

Hanukkah Sameach!

na -Rabbi Briah Cahana

Unveiling for Cantor Bradlee Kurland, z"l

Sunday, December 21 at 1:00 PM • Herzl Memorial Park

The Samuel/Kurland family invites the community to join them in honoring the memory of Cantor Brad Kurland, beloved husband, father, and Chazan.







Hanukkah at HNT





Hanukkah at HNT

Sunday, December 14 • 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Join your HNT community for a joyful first-night Hanukkah celebration filled with music, food, and plenty of festive fun! Children can enjoy **creative art projects**, and our FRS students will perform **Hanukkah songs**. There will even be a **magician** to add some extra sparkle to the evening! Adults and kids alike will have the chance to help "light the night," and we will have a **latke bar** and **sufganiyot** to enjoy. Don't forget to **bring your own hanukkiyah** to join in the community-wide candlelighting!

Please register here: https://h-nt.shulcloud.com/event/hanukkah-event.html

Zoom Hanukkah Candle Lighting for FRS Families

Tuesday, December 16 • 5:45 PM

Join the clergy and FRS on Zoom on Tuesday, December 16 for the 3rd night of Hanukkah. Log in at 5:45 PM, and we'll light candles together at 6:00 PM.

Zoom link: Join us → Password: tefillah





Zoom Communal Hanukkah Candle Lighting

Thursday, December 18 • 6:30 PM

Join the clergy on Zoom on Thursday, December 18 for the 5th night of Hanukkah. Log in at 6:30 PM, and we'll light candles together at 6:45 PM.

Zoom link: Join us → Password: tefillah

JFS Winter Warmth Drive

As candles warm our homes this season of giving, let's help support the JFS Winter Warmth Drive. At the Hanukkah event—and during other collection opportunities at HNT—we will be gathering items for the JFS Winter Warmth Drive. **Please bring NEW coats**, **gloves**, **socks**, **beanies**, **and blankets**.







Join us February 8 at 10:00 AM to Discuss A Trumpet in the Wadi by Sami Michael

This isn't your typical book club! Dikla Kafka will be leading us in discussion on the importance and impact of three key Israeli novels. With the entire discussion in English, this program will be accessible to all, and a chance to dig into Israeli culture and the beauty of Hebrew language novels. Plus, a full breakfast will be provided!

Learn more and register: https://mailchi.mp/6caf6269f8f8/rq59ion58h



Wine Education and Tasting

Saturday, January 17, 2026 • 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Please join us for a fun and tasty wine education and tasting event. You will gain an understanding of tasting – what do you look for? Sight, nose and palate, varietal characteristics, and so much more! Learn easy wine tasting terms so you can show off your tannins with the best of them. You'll learn about the 6 wine regions of Israel and we've selected kosher wines to reflect their typicity. All of the wines are approachable and could be your next selection for holidays, family get together or savoring for yourself.

Small nibbles (cheese, crackers and fruit) will be provided. Space is limited - only 20 spots available! Ticket price: \$25 per person.

Please register here: https://h-nt.shulcloud.com/event/wine-tasting.html











Spice Night

Saturday, January 24, 2026 • 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Join us for a magical evening! We'll start with Havdalah and Jewish music, led by Cantor Batchelor and Harris Schwartzreich! Then, the Up, Up, and Away show from the Mad Science program (see below for more information), followed by Jewish and Science themed art projects and snacks! Note that dinner will not be served at this event, so please plan to eat before attending. There is no cost to attend.

Up, Up & Away Progam!

Mad Science elevates the principles of air pressure and flight to a whole new level with our "Up, Up & Away!" show. Student volunteers help us demonstrate the power of low pressure with our Magdeburg sphere and Bernoulli's Principle by blowing up an 8-foot-long bag. Add flying toilet paper, a levitating beach ball and giant smoke rings from our Mad Science Vortex Generator and you have a science show that is sure to blow students away.

Thank you to the Jewish Day School of Greater Seattle, PJ Library, and the Jewish Federation for co-sponsoring this event.

For more information, please contact Irit Eliav Levin, Director of Education, at Irit@h-nt.org.

Register for this free event: https://h-nt.shulcloud.com/event/spice-night4.html





Washingtonians for a Brighter Future

Sunday, December 7 • 3:00 PM • Co-Sponsored by HNT

Washington State Democrats and Republicans were among 250 state legislators from all 50 states who traveled to Israel in September. Rabbi Brett Weisman (Temple De Hirsch Sinai) will moderate a town hall conversation with members of the delegation. Come hear them reflect on their experience and what they learned on the trip.

Learn more and register: https://wa4future.org/2025-12-07/



Cantor's Playlist - December A Soulful Hanukkah

Across the globe and throughout history, the diaspora Jews have integrated the musical influences around them, while adding their own spice and flare. The American Jewish community is no different. Our community has created new music for tefillot (prayers) and Jewish holidays that reflect the rock, jazz, blues and pop music of the broader American society. Here are a couple of examples especially for Hanukkah that I hope you will enjoy!



Brooklyn-based Jewish singer/song-writer **Michelle Citrin** offers a cute and jazzy take on Hanukkah with "Hanukkah Lovin"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sytfxl0ArsQ



Soul legend, **Sharon Jones** honored her Jewish musical collaborators when she recorded her album *It's a Holiday Soul Party* with her band the Dap Kings. Here's "8 Days (of Hanukkah)"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VT2_7aq3ytE



When Barnes & Noble commissioned **Julie Silver** to record a Hanukkah album, she balked at having to include the traditional dreidel song and wrote her own R&B interpretation instead. Here's Julie Silver's "The Dreidel Song"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SqLEIShoE4I

- Cantor Heather Batchelor

Graffer Bodielor

Job Openings at HNT

Within our synagogue's walls, moments of connection, learning, and joy bloom like light through stained glass. If your gifts are ready for a place where they can grow and make a difference, discover the opportunities waiting here at Herzl-Ner Tamid.

View our open positions here: https://h-nt.org/job-openings/



A Message from Director of Education Irit Eliav Levin



In the Talmud (Kiddushin 29a), we receive a list of obligations that parents have for their children. Parents must provide a bris for a son, and today many parents also choose to have a Simchat Bat for a daughter. Parents must teach their children Torah, guide them to reaching the chuppah, and teach them a trade. And then, a seemingly random additional line: parents are also obligated to teach their children to swim. Why swimming? Because it emphasizes that we must teach our children to survive independently, to be safe when danger might present itself. Most of all, it is a way to prepare our children for whatever the future might have in store, giving them the tools to stay afloat when life presents challenges.

So, having taken this lesson to heart, I've been diligently taking my kids to weekly swim lessons for the last couple of years. While my eldest son picked things up quickly and is now a proficient swimmer, my younger two kids have taken a little longer. For a long time, it felt like we were making little progress. Though they diligently kicked, floated, and tried out different swimming strokes, they weren't feeling confident enough to swim independently. I started to wonder if all the time and money we were putting into lessons was worth it! Then, all of a sudden, in the last few weeks, they started swimming! They are moving around, floating independently, and the inhibitions they once had about being in the water are gone. And it has given them more confidence in other areas of their life as well. The lessons are working!

The situation can feel the same when teaching children anything. As always, the FRS staff has been working tirelessly to teach our students how to read and write Hebrew, how to follow along in the siddur, and how to

sing the different tunes and melodies of our services. As they initially stumble through, it can feel like progress is slow. One step at a time. Then, all of a sudden, you can see everything come together! And it is magical!

That is exactly what happened last month at our first TGIS (Thank God It's Shabbat) service of the year, which was also part of our fabulous Artists in Residence Weekend. For months, we've been working with our Kitah Bet - Hey students on learning the prayers so that they could be on the bimah. They've spent hours sounding out the Hebrew, practicing the prayers, and singing the melodies. Though we believed in them, we knew they were a little nervous. And then, they were AMAZING! They were poised, confident, and singing proudly. They knew the words, they knew the tunes, they knew how to lead. All of their hard work had paid off!

All of the time, money, and energy that parents invest in their children's Jewish education can feel like the swim lessons. Especially in the beginning, it can be hard to see the progress they are making. But when everything clicks and you can see all of their hard work paying off, it is extraordinary. In addition to Hebrew and prayers, we are teaching them about Jewish history, about Israel, Jewish music, and so much more. We are helping to shape their Jewish identities and teaching them the importance of being part of a Jewish community. We are shaping the next generation of Jewish leaders. And I can't wait to see the exceptional people they become!

- Irit Eliav Levin, Director of Education





Tot Shabbat at SJCC

Fridays • 9:45 AM - 10:30 AM • In Person at SJCC
Next Enhanced Holiday Programming • Friday, Dec. 12 & Dec. 19

HNT is proud to be a co-sponsor (along with the SJCC and PJ Library) of Tot Shabbat programs on Friday mornings at the SJCC. This year, we are adding some **enhanced holiday programming**, with new art projects and activities. The next ones will be happening on December 12th and 19th. Stop by at 9:45 for Tot Shabbat and stay at 10:30 for the Hanukkah themed art projects and activities! For more information, please contact Irit Eliav Levin, Director of Education, at Irit@h-nt.org.



Shabbat K'tan

Saturday, December 6 • 11:00 AM • Recurring Monthly, Oct.-May Location: FRS Classroom #3

Geared for Kids 5 and Under With Their Adults

Come for a warm Shabbat morning mini-service for littles, led by parent volunteers, and stay for Kiddush. We will have a joy-filled Saturday morning with singing, stories, and games. Afterwards, parents are invited to stay and join the congregation for Kiddush lunch. For more information, please contact Irit Eliav Levin, Director of Education, at Irit@h-nt.org. If you plan on attending, please register below.

https://h-nt.shulcloud.com/event/shabbat-k39tan6.html

JEWISH DAY SCHOOLS

More important than ever. More affordable than you think.







FRS classes are each having an after-school playdate! This is an important way for the kids to bond and make new friends! Here are some photos of our Pre-Gan – Kitah Alef and Kitah Bet-Gimmel playdates!





Carry the Spirit of Giving Tuesday Through December

"This is what everyone who is entered in the records shall pay; a half-shekel by the sanctuary weight...a half-shekel as an offering to the Lord." Parsha Ki Tissa (Exodus 30:13).

From Torah times until today, Jewish communities have survived and thrived because each of us have done our part to keep our synagogues, schools, community centers, and more afloat. It is an exciting time at Herzl-Ner Tamid! We have a fabulous new Rabbi and Cantor, a thriving Frankel Religious School, and are launching an exciting new building with the Barnabie Point Project. Our building is regularly filled with people praying together, learning together, celebrating holidays together, and building relationships together. But we need your support to keep all of these things happening and to continue to grow!

As you consider your end of year giving plans, we hope you will keep HNT in mind. Every shekel helps us in fulfilling our sacred mission and plan for the future of our extraordinary congregation! Thank you in advance for your support!

Please donate here: **HNT Donations**



Learning CPR

Imagine being in a situation where every second counts-at a family gathering, synagogue function, or sporting event. Would you know how to respond if someone suddenly collapsed?

Learning Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) gives you the power to improve a person's chance of survival. You become the critical link until professional help arrives. It is also one of the most important concepts in Judaism. Pikuach nefesh dictates that the preservation of life takes precedence over nearly all other mitzvot.

We're looking to get our next cohort together. If you are interested, please contact Gail at gailawiener@gmail.com.



Women's League Torah Fund Tea Party

Sunday, December 7 • 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM • RSVP by Wednesday, December 3

Join H-NT Women's League for a cozy Torah Fund Tea Party at the home of Susan Glick (address provided upon RSVP). Enjoy a potluck spread, a variety of teas, and a special presentation by **Rabbi Briah Cahana** as we celebrate this year's Torah Fund theme, Oseh Shalom – Maker of Peace. Your contribution supports scholarships for future rabbis, cantors, educators, and leaders at Conservative/ Masorti institutions around the world. RSVP to <u>wl-tf@h-nt.org</u> and bring a dairy or pareve treat to share.

Women's League Membership Dues & Torah Fund Donations are separate and require separate payments.

Checks payable to Women's League of HNT.

Send to Aileen Okrent at 10524 NE 136th Place, Kirkland, WA 98034 or bring to the Women's League Tea Party.

Dues: \$36, or multiples of \$18.



Within the Shul Family

We Celebrate:

The marriage of Joe Peha & Erica Gordy on Nov. 16, 2025. Joe is the son of Robert and Donna Peha, grandson of Lucy, z"I and Alex Sytman and Millie, z"I and Lee, z"I Peha.

We Offer Condolences for:

The family of Jerry Mesher z"l.

He was the father of Cheryl Mesher (Chris Booher) and Kevin Mesher, grandfather of Lane and Selma, and brother of Ferne Ross.

The family of Shirley Frankel z"l.

She was the mother of Jeff Frankel (Sophie), Rosalie Frankel (Fred Mednick), Susan Frankel (Moshe Maler) and Craig Frankel (Brigitte). Shirley has 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

The family of Flora Smithline z"I. She was the mother of Leslie Kinder (Eric), Shep Smithline (Annette), Howard Smithline (Ellen), Fredrica Reiter (Rob), and grandmother of 12 grandchildren.

The family of Harriett Rosenblatt z"l.

She was the mother to Risa Fein (David Baumgart), sister to Jackie Rosenblatt (Gary Johnson), beloved grandmother to Sheil Fein, beloved aunt to Josh Johnson and Joseph Johnson

Refuah Shelemah to Congregants:

Baila bat Gavriel v'Chaiya Maram Toba bat Baruch Shmuel ben Y'rachmiel v'Hannah Shifon ben Aharon v'Rina Daniel ben Y'rachmiel v'Hannah Mordechai ben Rachamim Shayna Chaiya bat Enya

Shervl Lane Tzvi Hirsch Aaron ben Shmeil Sara bat Avner v'Shoshana Minna bat Raizel

Kathy Goff Favgel Devorah bat Shulamit

Michael Ben Sarah Rochel Shulamit bat Rivka Shimon ben Shia v'Chanah Ruth Beder

Krendel bat Miriam Leah Bat Chaim Ha Cohaine v Chana

Sara Rachel bat Yaakov Kopel v'Shifra Sima Bat Rachel v Reuven Gill ben Bashah Yaakov Chaim Ben Avram

Levi Yitzchack ben Shifra Jack Goodstein Mackenzie Goldman

Rachel bat Zelda Chana Surah Daniel ben Chava

Moshe ben Shimon u'Milchah

Efraim ben Sara Fagel

Paul Schreiber



December T'filot

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.

> Friday, December 5 Shabbat Services 6:00 PM

Saturday, December 6 Shabbat Services 10:00 AM

Friday, December 12 Shabbat Services 6:00 PM

Saturday, December 13 Shabbat Services 10:00 AM Mincha Havdallah Bat Mitzvah for Evelyn Rosen - 4:00 PM

> Friday, December 19 Shabbat Services 6:00 PM

Saturday, December 20 Shabbat Services 10:00 AM

Friday, December 26 Shabbat Services 6:00 PM

Saturday, December 27 Shabbat Services 10:00 AM

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

^{*} 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.

Bat Mitzvah

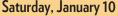


Evelyn Sophia Rosen · December 13



Evelyn Sophia Rosen daughter of Lisa and David Rosen and sister of Dahlia Rosen. She is the granddaughter of Nedra and Mitch Schwamberg and Leslie and Alan Rosen. Evelyn is in the 8th grade at the French American school of Puget Sound. She plays volleyball with her school team, a wonderful baker and a love for learning new languages. Her favorite past times are hanging out with friends and family and going on new adventures. Evelyn's mitzvah project has been donating her baked goods to raise money for cancer research and having bake sales for the Seattle Children's Hospital.







Join us on Shabbat morning, January 10, as we continue our TorahCorps program series. This Torah reading initiative encourages our teens to become active Torah readers, who will be mentored by HNT torah readers. On January 10, we'll get to see their hard work in action as they help to read Torah in the sanctuary!



If you are or know a teen who might be interested in reading Torah and/or helping to lead services for this exciting new program please fill out this survey: https://h-nt.shulcloud.com/form/tiorah-corps-survey. Upcoming Torah Corps dates: January 10, March 14, and May 9. For more information, please contact Irit Eliav Levin, Director of Education, at Irit@h-nt.org.

Israel Palestine Conversation at West of Lenin Theater

Dec. 4-6 at 7:30 PM • Matinee Performance Dec. 7 at 4:00 PM

Part immersive theatre and part civic forum, with audiences placed at the center of a live, high-stakes conversation, *The Israeli Palestinian Conversation* had its sold-out world premiere last May in Boulder, Colorado. Everyone involved was struck by the play's unique ability to model and inspire urgent, informative, authentic, respectful, and constructive dialogue about the conflict. Committed to continuing this work and bringing these critically needed conversations to as many communities as possible, the team remounted the production in Denver in July and again in September. An Off-Broadway production is now beginning to take shape, and the play will make a special West Coast preview in Seattle—December 4th–7th. **Rabbi Rosenbaum** will be on the panel duscussion on December 4.

Here is the link for tickets to the upcoming performances, December 4 - 7, of The Israel Palestinian Conversation: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-israeli-palestinian-conversation-tickets-1970039001686

For more information please visit www.TheConversation.World.







Introduction to Judaism Taught by Rabbi Cahana & Rabbi Rosenbaum

Classes meet Sundays, Dec 7, and 14 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (January-June dates TBD).

Join Rabbis Cahana and Rosenbaum for Introduction to Judaism, an engaging course for interfaith couples, those raising Jewish children, spiritual seekers, individuals considering conversion, and Jews looking to reconnect with their faith as adults. Conversion students must also complete one year of Beginning Hebrew with Janine Rosenbaum—unless waived by Rabbi Cahana.

Register here: https://h-nt.shulcloud.com/form/introduction-to-judaism-2025.html



2025-2026 Hebrew Classes Taught by Janine Rosenbaum

Explore Hebrew at every level with our engaging virtual classes. Beginners can start with Beginning Hebrew, while those ready to go further can join Modern Hebrew 1, 2, or 3 to steadily deepen their knowledge of the language. For those seeking to connect more meaningfully with services, Prayerbook Hebrew builds synagogue skills and confidence in following along. And if you're interested in the roots of the tradition, Biblical Hebrew offers a clear path into understanding Torah in the original text. All classes are taught in a warm, supportive environment.

Fee: \$300 per semester; \$600 per year (30 classes)

To sign up and for more details:

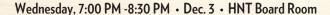
https://h-nt.shulcloud.com/form/ae-hebrew-classes---2025-2026.html





Introduction to Mussar

This Class Will Be Given by Mussar Accredited Teacher Hilary Abramowitz



This six session Mussar course focuses on the practical aspects of the practice of Mussar and how we manifest "Mussar Moments" in our daily lives. We will explore how we want to live and how we choose to live, while incorporating these principles and practices. The process consists of a journey into the awakening and deepening of our spiritual lives—how we live in relation to ourselves, others and the world. It includes personal exploration and the examine of our inner worlds with increasing insight. In a large part the process is also an aspect of Tikun Olam. Healing the world through the ongoing healing of ourselves.

Learn more and sign up: https://h-nt.shulcloud.com/event/introduction-to-mussar1.html



Daytimers Lunch & Film Series

Wednesday, December 17: An Article of Hope 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 with a special Zoom Q&A with the director!

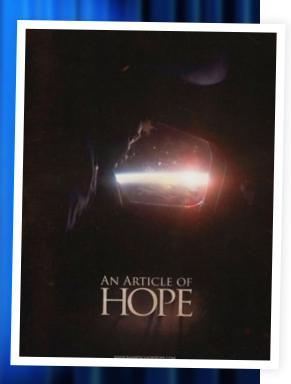
An inspiring documentary film that details the life mission of Col. Ilan Ramon, the first and only Astronaut from Israel, who blasted off on the Shuttle Columbia. He carries with him a cherished artifact, a miniature Torah scroll, that had survived the Holocaust. From the "Depths of hell to the heights of space," his simple gesture would serve to honor the hope of a nation and to fulfill a promise made to generations past and future.

Pricing: \$10/per person early bird (register by December 10) 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, December 12.

Register at https://h-nt.shulcloud.com/event/daytimers-dec-2025.html





MITZVAH CORPS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The word mitzvah literally means commandment. These commandments are traditionally understood to come from God and are intended for the Jewish people to observe.

Accordingly, the HNT Mitzvah Corps is committed to providing mitzvot to our fellow congregants in ways that demonstrate our caring and compassion. Whether offering a Shiva or Shabbat meal, making an in-person visit to someone who would welcome a friendly face, or providing a ride to an appointment or Shabbat services, we are, in our own way, following God's commandments to do good.

A favorite annual project is our High Holiday Goody Bag outreach, in which congregants who have recently gone through difficult times receive a festive bag containing challah, apples, and honey, along with wishes for a sweet year. This is our way of reaching out and providing a bit of TLC—and who doesn't need that at times?

Mitzvah Corps is not a regular committee as the word committee might suggest. We don't have meetings that require attendance. Instead, we have a database of volunteers to whom I reach out when help is needed. Members can choose to participate in whatever works best for them—whether cooking a meal, offering a ride, or assisting a fellow congregant in other ways. There is no obligation to respond to every request.

If you would like to become part of Mitzvah Corps, contact **Judy Ziedman**, HNT Mitzvah Corps Chair, at <u>jraez@comcast.net</u> or 425-883-6482 (home). New members are always welcome and encouraged to join us, bringing new ideas for mitzvah projects.





Outcomes from the World Zionist Congress 2025

After a long two weeks of intensive political work at and following the Zionist Congress, a final agreement has been signed that will divide up positions and responsibilities as well as anchor funding and policy commitments from the national institutions over the next five years: WZO, KKL/JNF, the Jewish Agency, and Keren HaYesod. MERCAZ's representatives and their teams played not just a leading role, but perhaps the central role in securing a broad agreement that unifies the Jewish people and enables these institutions to advance their important work at this pivotal moment for Israel and the Jewish people.

In the framework of this agreement, we have delivered on our core promises to you - MERCAZ supporters around the world - which we laid out during our election campaigns in over a dozen countries worldwide.

- A 50% increase in funding allocation to streams including Conservative and Reform institutions and their programs that will benefit our communities. Both in Israel and worldwide.
- Increased funding for MERCAZ's Zionist and Israel education programming.
- Expanded Conservative/Masorti representation on various boards and decision-making bodies that will make funding allocation and policy decisions over the next five years – a result of our 15% increase in representation in the Congress.
- Relative to the previous term, MERCAZ and our pluralistic and liberal partners now hold more of the seniormost positions at the national institutions. In the last term, both top positions (KKL Chair and WZO Chair) were held by the right-wing/ultra-Orthodox bloc. In this term, the pluralistic/liberal bloc will hold half. Yair Netanyahu will NOT hold any position that requires political approval of any kind at the national institutions.

- Extremist allies of Itamar Ben Gvir are not included in the agreement and have been marginalized at the national institutions.
- Expanded authority for the WZO Vice Chair (MERCAZ's senior position in the institutions) and his office, enabling our team to further advance our work and values in the institutions.
- Passed resolutions by wide margins putting the Jewish people on record in favor of an equal draft law in Israel, the formation of an apolitical and impartial State Commission of Inquiry into October 7th, and equal treatment and infrastructure at the Egalitarian Kotel.

The very first thing we must say after listing these significant accomplishments is this: Thank you. These achievements simply would not have been possible without your hard work and support for MERCAZ during the recent election campaign. But what we've gotten done over this past month is just the beginning. We look forward to continuing our work over the coming five-year term, and together, continuing to deliver for Masorti/Conservative values and interests.

Best,

Rabbi Debra Newman Kamin, President of MERCAZ Olami Rabbi Mauricio Balter, Executive Director of MERCAZ Olami and Masorti Olami

Dr. Yizhar Hess, Vice Chairman of the WZO and senior representative of MERCAZ at the National Institutions

To get involved in the 2030 campaign, please contact **Ilyse Wagner**.









HNT, Where Everybody Knows Your Name

We are excited to introduce a new initiative designed to bring us closer together and strengthen the warm and welcoming community, and ensure fewer of those 'I know their face, but their name?' moments. **Beginning January 1**, we are encouraging everyone to wear a magnetic name tag, provided by us, when attending services and events.

Let's be honest, we have ALL had that moment where we spot someone across the room and think, 'Oh no, what IS their name again?' Or we want to introduce ourselves to a new guest but can't quite bridge the awkwardness. Good news: magnetic name tags to the rescue!

This simple step will make a significant difference:

Building Connections: Knowing each other's names helps transform "hello, friend" into "hello, [Name]," making our interactions more personal and meaningful.

Welcoming Guests: Name tags help visitors and new members easily identify long-standing members and staff, making them feel more at ease and connected from the moment they walk in the door.

Fostering an Inclusive Culture: When everyone wears a name tag, it symbolizes that we are all part of the same community. No hierarchy, no strangers, just us!

How It Works:

Pick Up Your Tag: Reusable, pre-printed magnetic name tags will be available for the initial launch of this project in alphabetical order (by last name) in alphabetized cases, on both sides at the back of the sanctuary. **In addition, those** with pacemakers or medical devices will receive a lanyard. Let us know.

For Guests: Visitors will have access to guest lanyards that say 'GUEST' to use during their visit.

Please Return: At the end of your visit, please return your name tag to the holders in the back of the sanctuary, under the letter where they belong.

We encourage everyone to wear their name tag while inside the building property, it's a small gesture that makes a big difference! If you are attending services on consecutive days, feel free to keep it with you. Deposit it to the nametag holders the following day.

We hope you will join us in embracing this initiative. Together, we can ensure that our synagogue remains a place where everyone is not just a face in the crowd, but a valued member known by name.

L'chaim - To life, to community and to remembering names with confidence!

With warmth and anticipation,

Gail Wiener

Membership Vice President





AFFINITY GROUPS









Travel Affinity Group

First Meeting: Sunday, January 11 • 11:00 AM • Youth Lounge

Anyone interested in traveling—domestically, internationally, or both—is invited to join us for an interest meeting. Whether you're an experienced traveler or just beginning your adventures, travel offers a wonderful way for affinity group members to bond over shared interests and create lasting memories through experiences like exploring new cities, enjoying cooking classes, or participating in volunteer projects. We're excited to launch a new affinity group, For the Love of Travel!, to help strengthen our shul community by connecting like-minded individuals who want to share experiences and explore the world together. We hope to see you there! For questions, please contact Pam Lloyd at lloydnorth@comcast.net.



Mah Jongg Affinity Group

Thursdays, December 4, 11, 18 • 1:00 PM • 3:00 PM • Upper Foyer

Please join us for Mah Jongg Affinity Group on Thursdays at HNT! Judy will be teaching two-handed Mah Jongg to anyone who wants to learn. Bring your sets and 2025 cards if you have them. Please contact Judy Weiser at weiserfam@comcast.net for more details.



Needlecraft Affinity Group

Thursdays, December 4, 11, 18 • 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.



Shabbat Dinner Group - Join us Friday, December 26!

Friday, December 26

The Shabbat Dinner Group meets the fourth Friday of each month at member homes, unless it is a chag or conflicts with HNT events, and as long as a host family has volunteered. We hope you can join us on Friday, December 26!

If you would like to be part of this affinity group, just email Faye Plum at <u>fayegplum@gmail.com</u>, and she will add you to the email list.

Register here: https://h-nt.shulcloud.com/form/friday-night-shabbat-dinners



PORCHLIGHT

Porchlight

Thursday, December 25 • 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

"Porchlight," is Bellevue's new well-equipped shelter at Eastgate that can house 100 unhoused men each night. Herzl-Ner Tamid will be providing a dinner meal for approximately 115 men on Christmas, December 25th, 2025, 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! Thanks for supporting this meaningful Tikkun Olam project!

We want to do a very festive dinner for Christmas, as this is an especially difficult time for those who are homeless and don't have family to be with. Donations can be made to cover the cost of this special dinner. A great mitzvah opportunity!

Learn more and sign up: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0549A8A62AA0F94-60777551-porchlight#/



Teen Feed

Fourth Sunday of Every Month

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 <u>TeenFeed@h-nt.org</u> to help this month, for questions, or to be added to the Teen Feed volunteer list.

Honoring Veterans

In remembrance of Veterans Day, flags were placed at the graves of service members buried at Herzl Memorial Park in Shoreline. The flag team included Marilyn Corets, Adam Mihlstin, Nissim Neuman, Joan Perry and Dafna Tarlowe.

To volunteer, add a veteran or confirm that a veteran is on the list for flag placement next Memorial Day, contact Marilyn at mcorets@outlook.com.



Todah Rabbah to...

Thank you to **Harriett Litt**, **Judy Heber** and **Adam Droker** for helping in the office.

Thank you to **Jaime Slutzky** for assisting with ritual administrative coverage in the short term.

To the **Heyman family** for hosting the Pre-Gan, Gan, and Kitah Alef playdate at their house!

To Miri Cypers for coordinating the Kitah Bet and Gimmel playdate!

To our Artists-in-Residence weekend co-sponsors:

Susan & Lonnie Edelheit

Mindy & David Landsman

Faye Plum

Daniel Becker and Will Becker Quantz

The contributors to the Cantor's Discretionary Fund

To our Artist-in-Residence concert volunteers:

Gail Wiener "volunteer-in-chief"

Adam Droker

Alan Fingeroot

Amy Hartman

Donna Peha

Ed & Debbie Margolis

Elana Hornstein

Helene Rubens

Leanne Berkenwald

Lynne Howell

Salvador Orozco Villalever

Tamar Heyman

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Holiday Shuk a success again this year:

Linda and Efrem Krisher

Susan, Alan and Tori Weinstein

Leanne Berkenwald

Rivka, Oren and Zak Klaff

Thank you to the **Membership Committee** for putting on an informative and fun New Member Brunch.

Thank you to **Elana Hornstein** and **Adam Szpiro** for organizing and inspiring great conversation at our Beit Cafe book club.



Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Artists in Residence concert on Saturday, November 22!



December Anniversaries

Dec. 1	Suzanne & Ronald Gould	57 years	Dec. 22	Phil & Susan Miller	51 years
Dec. 11	Susie & Arthur Goldman	37 years	Dec. 22	Paul Burstein & Florence Katz Burstein	49 years
Dec. 14	Clive & Lynne Brazg	48 years	Dec. 23	Craig & Sheila Sternberg	58 years
Dec. 15	Peter & Carol Michel	41 years	Dec. 23	Efrem & Linda Krisher	52 years
Dec. 15	Robert & Donna Peha	40 years	Dec. 23	Michael & Wendy Spektor	46 years
Dec. 15	Bob & Cindy Abramowitz	29 years	Dec. 23	Amy Wasser & Marvin Stern	7 years
Dec. 16	Mike & Tracy Fishman	35 years	Dec. 24	Steffie & Glenn Lash	56 years
Dec. 17	Michael & Susan Becker	42 years	Dec. 26	Jack & Sara Goodstein	49 years
Dec. 17	Denise Latarowski & Sergio Wolman	14 years	Dec. 27	Ron & Linda Krivosha	55 years
Dec. 18	Michele & Andrew Appelbaum	34 years	Dec. 27	Perry & Sandy Bloch	44 years
Dec. 19	Nolan & Pat Newman	43 years	Dec. 27	Lewis Malakoff & Michelle Feder	28 years
Dec. 19	Alan & Elaine Peizer	43 years	Dec. 28	Doug & Deborah Rosen	50 years
Dec. 19	Carl & Sheri Kittay	32 years	Dec. 29	Alan & Andrea Lubner	40 years
Dec. 21	Stan & Michele Rosen	50 years	Dec. 29	David & Stephanie Shujman	12 years
Dec. 22	Mike & Cheri Levy	52 years	Dec. 31	Jordan & Andrea Lott	20 years



Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Holiday Shuk event on Sunday, November 9!





IN SUPPORT OF ONE ANOTHER

These generous tributes were made from October 16 through November 15, 2025

AMY MACKOFF CAMPERSHIP FUND

For the Yahrzeit of

Natalie Fingeroot from Alan R Fingeroot Helen Chaiken Blum from Vivian & David Blum

In Appreciation of

Toby Diament from Marilyn Corets & Adam Mihlstin In Memory of Raquel Shapiro from Jeff & Judy Ziedman

BUILDING FUND

In Memory of

Edward Fisher from Louie Sanft Norman Walker from Sonny Putter & Rochelle Roseman Norm Walker from Louie Sanft

DANNY LEWIS FUND/DANNY'S DEN

For the Yahrzeit of

Peter Tarsh from Jan Lewis

In Memory of

Jerry Mesher from Millard & Wendy Lesch Steve Lewis from Bob & Cindy Abramowitz Jim Keller from Bob & Cindy Abramowitz

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Appreciation of

Irit Eliav Levin from Shraga Eliav

In Honor of

Hilary Abromowitz from Michael Adler & Michelle Goldberg

EILEEN MINTZ KITCHEN FUND

In Memory of

Norman Walker from Diana and Steve Altchech

ENDOWMENT FUND DONATIONS

In Memory of Jerry Mesher from Carol Barer

FRANKEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Memory of

Shirley Frankel from Nancy Highiet Morse & Wayne Morse Jerry Mesher from Harriet Litt

GENERAL FUND

For the Yahrzeit of Judith Schartenberg Goodman from Paul Burstein &

Florence Katz Burstein
Rebecca Burstein from Paul Burstein & Florence Katz
Burstein
Hymen Burstein from Paul Burstein & Florence Katz
Burstein
My mother Faith Melman from Les & Denise Klaff
Norman & Shirley Rosenzweig from David & Karen
Rosenzweig

In Memory of

Jerry Mesher from Gerry & Sandra Ostroff

MASLAN MEMORIAL FUND

In Appreciation of

Rabbi Maslan's Cemetary Pilgrimage from Larry Lemchen



MEMORIAL FUND

For the Yahrzeit of

Dick Angel from Bob & Sue Solomon Sema Angel from Bob & Sue Solomon Rose & Jane Silberstein from Linda & Dick Jacobs Coreen de Jong from Andrew & Janine Jacobs Shirley Rosenblum from David & Sharron Hartman Jerry Rosenblum from David & Sharron Hartman Morton Kuznetz from Loretta Kuznetz Nathan Kuznetz from Loretta Kuznetz Louis Ostroff from Gerry & Sandra Ostroff Leon Brody from Tom & Stacey Brody Morris Willner from Stuart Willner Gary Shapiro from Mike & Cheri Levy Ellis Corets from Marilyn Corets & Adam Mihlstin Frank Winston from David & Gillian Witus George Siegel from Larry Lemchen David Sidell from Craig & Sheila Sternberg Anita Tobias from Robbie Caggiano Harold Siegel, Barney Siegel & Jacob Siegel from Carolyn & Eldon Wexler Beatrice Brenner from Stephanie Speigel Morris Willner from Patty Willner & Neil Martin Jacob Siegel from Annette Siegel Mike Boyarnick from Ruth Boyarnick Tillie Berch from Marcy Berch Martin Katz from Paul Burstein & Florence Katz Burstein Joe Rogel from Dennis Goldstein & Robin Rogel-Goldstein Harry Brody from Tom & Stacey Brody

In Honor of

Annette Axelrad Cohen from Tony & Lynn Wartnik

Gertrude Pintus & Ernest R. Stiefel from Doris Stiefel Elsie Rosenstein from Ellen Rosenstein Brin

Children and Grandchildren from Beck, Michael & Marissa

In Memory of

Raquel Shapiro from Lee Keller
Stella Fein from Albert Fein
Muriel Epstein from Don Lebowitz & Claudia Wagner
Morris Director from David & Elizabeth Director
Jerry Mesher from Sally Narodick
Eddie Fisher from Steve & Kathy Berman
Norman Walker from Jeff & Andrea Cordova
Norman Walker from Elaine Cohn

^{*} 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 October 16 through November 15, 2025

MITZVAH CORPS FUND

For the Yahrzeit of

Samuel Kotkins from David & Karen Rosenzweig Nellie Kotkins from David & Karen Rosenzweig

In Memory of

Norman Walker from David & Karen Rosenzweig

MORNING MINYAN FUND

For the Yahrzeit of

Cherne (Jane) Traub from Nolan & Pat Newman Arthur Getz from Nolan & Pat Newman

In Honor of

Vivian Blum's Birthday from Carolyn & Eldon Wexler Dr. Alan Wilensky leading Sukot services from Larry Lemchen

In Memory of

Jerry Mesher from Craig & Sheila Sternberg Norman Walker from Larry Lemchen

PAY IT FORWARD FUND

In Honor of

Rabbi Bob Maslan leading funeral services for Norman Walker from Larry Lemchen

In Memory of

Flora Smithline from The Wagner Family from Ilyse & Greg Wagner

Jerry Mesher from Ilyse & Greg Wagner from Ilyse & Greg Wagner

Norman Walker from Ilyse & Greg Wagner from Ilyse & Greg Wagner

George & Sylvia Siegel from Carolyn & Eldon Wexler

PRAYERBOOK FUND

For the Yahrzeit of

Jacob Siegel from Larry Lemchen

RABBI ROSENBAUM DISCRETIONARY FUND

For the Yahrzeit of

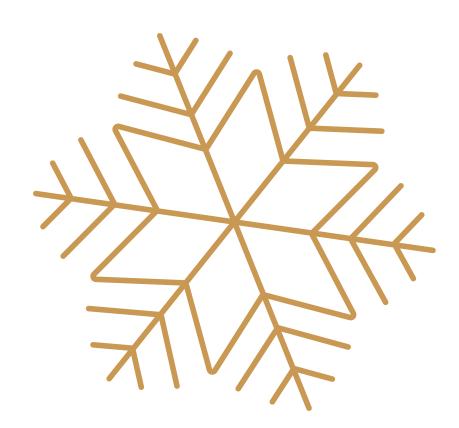
Tsilya Ploshchanskaya from Vladislav Verlinsky

RACHEL TRAGER MEMORIAL FUND

For the Yahrzeit of

Eugene E Laboff from Perry & Sandy Bloch Sylvia Siegel from Larry Lemchen





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

BELOVED DEPARTED

Memorialized with Yahrzeit Plaques at HNT

SHABBAT (ΟF
December!	5/6

	_	5,0
Dec. 6	5	Fanny Leopold
Dec. 6	5	Rose Mutchler
Dec. 6	5	David Neff
Dec. 6	5	lda Kushner
Dec. 7	7	Sarah Cohen
Dec. 7	7	Eva Getzen
Dec. 8	3	Herman Klatzker
Dec. 8	3	Sofii Moscovici
Dec. 8	3	Louis Ostroff
Dec. 8	3	Rosalind (Roz) Mintz
Dec. 8	3	Joseph Ginsberg
Dec. 8	3	Ben Powazek
Dec. 9)	Lynne Coe
Dec. 9)	Minnie Cohn
Dec. 9)	Isaac Markow
Dec. 9)	Mikel Luster
Dec. 9)	Herman Nossen
Dec. 1	0	Luba Lackman
Dec. 1	0	Shamay Thomas
Dec. 1	0	Bessie White
Dec. 1	0	William Reich
Dec. 1	0	Leonard Howard Tillis
Dec. 1	1	lda Kline
Dec. 1	1	Harry Lerner
Dec. 1	1	Sam Senescu
Dec. 1	1	Virginia Kahn
Dec. 1	1	Olga Schiller
Dec. 1	2	Ellen Friedman
Dec. 1	2	Frieda Kiksmann

Dec. 12 Salo Kiksmann
Dec. 12 Tsirl Rosenberg

Dec. 12 Amy Sidell

SHABBAT OF December 12/13

Dec. 13	lda Liff
Dec. 14	Anna Klatzker
Dec. 14	Nat Rubenstein
Dec. 14	Rae Tover
Dec. 15	Julius Deutsch
Dec. 15	Felix Katschke
Dec. 15	Nathan Kuznetz
Dec. 15	Herbert Stein
Dec. 15	Lucille Wallace Lazarus
Dec. 15	Paula Rose
Dec. 16	Gordon Lamken
Dec. 16	Rahel Marcus
Dec. 16	Philip Tworoger
Dec. 17	Dora Baker
Dec. 17	Tessy Goldberg
Dec. 17	Bessie Neshaver
Dec. 17	Fanny Wienir
Dec. 17	Louis Zeidman
Dec. 18	Rabbi Philip Langh
Dec. 18	Bernard Gladstein
Dec. 18	Gladys Pruchno
Dec. 19	Sarah Paloy
Dec. 19	Irving Ginsberg
Dec. 19	Jack Weiskind

SHABBAT OF December 19/20

Dec. 20	Albert Bienn
Dec. 20	Dora Winikoff
Dec. 20	David Zweig
Dec. 21	William Barrat
Dec. 21	Heather Cohen
Dec. 21	Myer Grashin
Dec. 21	Mike Cohen
Dec. 22	Saul Burston
Dec. 22	Max Lewin
Dec. 22	Mildred Lowy
Dec. 22	Anna Poll
Dec. 22	Morris Ringold
Dec. 23	Gordon Gaponoff
Dec. 23	Louis Lott
Dec. 23	Marcy Backer Schwartz
Dec. 23	Dick Angel
Dec. 24	Leon Feldman
Dec. 24	George Frankel
Dec. 24	Dr. Lawrence M. Halpern
Dec. 25	Ethel Lavine
Dec. 25	Fred Friedlander
Dec. 25	Jeffrey Herrman
Dec. 25	Rose Lurie
Dec. 25	Barbara Ross
Dec. 25	Abraham Emmerman
Dec. 25	Abraham Liff
Dec. 26	Blanche Antler
Dec. 26	Bella Bierman
Dec. 26	Benjamin D. Glazer
Dec. 26	
	Martha Lublin

Dec. 26 *Morris Director*Dec. 26 *Leona Goldberg*

SHABBAT OF December 26/27

Dec. 27	Florence Mezistrano
Dec. 27	Mollie Streitman
Dec. 28	Joyce Lander
Dec. 28	Miriam Kohm
Dec. 28	Eva Losk
Dec. 28	Lina Magdal
Dec. 28	Alice Kiksmann
Dec. 28	Morton Kuznetz
Dec. 29	Chaim Bender
Dec. 29	Esther Stalin
Dec. 29	Marion Ringold
Dec. 30	Alexander Kessler
Dec. 30	Dr. Victor Lamin
Dec. 30	Myrna Kaufman Bearse
Dec. 31	Sara Kreina Brodskaya
Dec. 31	Phinehas Maslan
Dec. 31	Menachem (Mendy) Weinberger
Jan. 1	Jacob Arshon
Jan. 1	Florence Brown
Jan. 1	Myrna Lee Schaevitz
Jan. 2	Anna Goldberg
Jan. 2	Herbert Kahn
Jan. 2	Harold Miller
т о	Lena Rothstein
Jan. 2	Rosa Wise





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

Clergy

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Arianne Slayter, Director of Finance / Arianne@h-nt.org
Catherine Verrenti, Interim Executive Director / Catherine@h-nt.org

Women's League Judaica Shop

The shop is open by appointment - call Kari at 206-219-2224 to schedule your visit. We have everything you need, including tallitot, kippot, and kid sized shofarot.



2025-2026 Executive Committee

President: David Shujman Executive Vice-President: Will Becker Quantz Treasurer/Financial Vice-President: Adam Droker Membership Vice-President: Gail Wiener Secretary: Tamar Heyman Immediate Past President: Donna Peha

2025-2026 Board of Directors

Susan Ben-Rubin Salvador Orozco Villalever
Amy Hartman Sonny Putter
Elana Hornstein Angela Rootshtain
David Isenberg Debbie Seres
Aaron Kiviat Jaime Slutzky
Kennis Koldewyn David Stiefel
Jonathan Langman Elaine Weinstein
Lauren Lessman

HERZL MEMORIAL PARK

16747 Dayton Avenue North, Shoreline, WA 98133

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.



Herzl Memorial Park Cemetery Committee

Elaine Weinstein, President Harris Klein

Jennifer Malakoff, Vice President Michael Weinstein

Peter Michel, Secretary Marv Brashem

Steve Burns, Treasurer

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.