TABLE OF CONTENTS

From the President .................................. 3
From Rabbi Irwin ................................. 5
Spiritual Life ...................................... 7
Membership Report .............................. 9
Welcome New Members ...................... 10
Beit Midrash Lifelong Adult Learning ...... 11
Nitzanim: Experiential Family Education ... 14
Celebrations Program ......................... 16
Tzedek – Social Justice ......................... 17
Building Report ................................. 18
Financial Report ................................. 19
Ner Shalom Cemetery ......................... 20
In Memoriam ................................. 21
Get Involved .................................. 22
Staff and Board ................................. 23

Report Edited by Rabbi Irwin Keller
May 22, 2022
It has been a long road to this moment at Ner Shalom. Last year we were feeling pretty perky as we rolled out one Zoom offering after another, from Reb Irwin’s ordination to multiple services and classes. Our membership grew and we even managed to raise money during the pandemic.

This year, speaking for myself but perhaps for others as well, I’m weary of Zoom. I’m tired of COVID and the way it surges and retreats, offering up yet another variant against which our vaccines may or may not be helpful. The world of public health has become so intertwined with the world of politics that a clear path forward through the pandemic may be forever obscured. And don’t get me started on climate change.

And yet.

We’re starting to meet in person again. It’s been wonderful to hear the fabulous music of Reb Irwin and the Good Shabbos Band live instead of through my computer’s tinny speakers.

Thanks to the upgrades undertaken by our new renters, Mixed Greens Preschool, we now have a beautiful outdoor space, dubbed “The Courtyard,” in an area which used to be a neglected parking lot. We’ve had numerous gatherings there, including our Nitzanim Program, our Celebrations Program, and our recent “Meet, Greet and Grow!” – our first- ever event designed to attract new members. Everyone enjoyed the food, wine, and delicious challah. In the dappled sunshine, people schmoozed and traded stories about growing up Jewish or not and considered whether Ner Shalom might be the place to plant their roots. (Spoiler alert – the answer is yes!)

We’ve gone through a lot this year. The loss of Vicki Allen’s husband Robert, and that of Ner Shalom member Alan Hahn, hit many of us very hard. And we’re worried about some of our key leaders who are dealing with significant health challenges. And we continue to be concerned with all our community members facing challenges.
And yet.

We’re still here! We’re creating beautiful services and deep and powerful classes. We’re having a dance party on July 10th, for Pete’s sake! (The event is called L’Chaim – watch your eblasts!) The Women’s Retreat has been reconfigured as a day-long offering on August 27th. And our old friends, the Kinsey Sicks, are coming back to (dis-)grace our stage in December.

We’re still dreaming and creating and holding each other close as we transition out of the pandemic era into – we don’t know what yet.

What we do know for sure is that our community is strong and growing. That our volunteer corps adds folks every week. That we’re blessed with our Rabbi and our Administrator. That our Board and committees are strong and active and engaged with every facet of the Ner Shalom experience.

It continues to be an honor to serve as your president. We’ve gone through a lot this year. But we’re healthy as an organization and as a community. And that’s saying a lot after 2+ years of pandemic living. What makes us strong, and has always made us strong, is you, our beloved members.

L’chaim!

Amy Gray
President
Ner Shalom continues to amaze me.

Just when other communities would’ve thrown in the towel, here we are getting stronger and busier, engaging our resilience every week. We have learned how to raise the spirit not only in person, but on Zoom and – more and more – both at the same time. With the support of our musicians and our tech teams, we are together in physical community when that feels comfortable, and at other times we just open our laptops and let Shabbat pour into our homes.

We have supported each other this year. We have sung and celebrated. We have lost and mourned. We have studied and learned. We have taught our young people and made them excited about what Judaism has to offer.

This has been my first full year as an ordained rabbi. I confess I went through a little bit of energetic drop after my ordination – I had lost the momentum of being in school and the regular companionship of my fellow students. I have since learned that this is a common experience for new rabbis, although no one warns you about it in advance.

And in those slightly low moments, this community carried me through. The kindness I experienced, the unwavering support and encouragement. And, of course, there were all the fun things to do. Creating ritual, working with our Kavanah Committee on the spiritual life of the synagogue, working with the High Holy Day Committee to create something of beauty for us all to experience together as we moved into the year 5782, making Divine music with the Good Shabbos Band and our rotating band of singers, teaching things I love to teach.
An unexpected joy for me this year was stepping in to teach Hebrew School. I’ve taught Hebrew at many points in my life, but this was the first time I was anyone’s first teacher, explaining Hebrew consonants and vowels, and that reading right to left is not reading “backward.” Getting to spend time every week with the youngest members of our community and watching their skills and curiosity grow has been a highlight of my year.

Another exciting moment was attending Reconstructioning Judaism’s national convention in Washington, DC, alongside President Amy Gray and Ner Shalomers Susan Levine and Shari Brenner. It was a remarkable opportunity to see who our sister congregations are, and to show them a bit of who we are. I know that all four of us who attended in person were very proud.

And, ironically, this is also a shmitah year – the biblical “sabbatical year.” It is a time of letting go and slowing down. Slowing down is not easy for me, as many of you have observed, but I’ve enjoyed the chance to simply spend a quiet hour on the phone or on Zoom with many of you, getting to know you better, and hearing what’s stirring for you in your life. If you’d like to have a little time together, please reach out to me by email: rebirwinkeller@gmail.com. I look forward to being in touch.

I continue to be thrilled and nervous and delighted and deeply fulfilled being on this journey with you. Thank you for doing what you do and being who you are.

Bivrachah – with many blessings,

Rabbi (Reb) Irwin
This has been a year in which our Ner Shalom community, despite the limitations of this time, continued to generate a robust and creative spiritual life for all of us to share in. Since the beginning of June 2021, we have held 52 Shabbat evening services. At Ner Shalom, every service is different, each with its own theme – drawn from Torah, from the calendar, from the times – and with different liturgical and musical choices to carry us on the journey.

Most services were led by Reb Irwin, with the musical support of Suzanne Shanbaum on guitar and Sheridan Gold on flutes and handpans, with the periodic support of singers Sharon Ziff, Abby Bogomolny, Leah Bowden, Amy Gray, Jill Rose, and Karen Frindell Teuscher. Musically we tried to lean into the work of contemporary composers, including our good friends at Nava Tehila in Jerusalem; stateside friends Cantor Jessi Roemer and Rabbi Shir Yaakov Feit; chants by Rabbi Shefa Gold, offered by Chantleader Atzilah Solo; and original compositions by our own Lorenzo Valensi and Reb Irwin. We frequently had the joy of hearing on Zoom music from GZ3 – the Goslow Zwicker Trio – even though they’ve been living in Salt Lake City now for over a year.

Reb Irwin also continues to enrich our experience by inviting in Jewish melodies and texts that come from non-Ashkenazi sources. Reb Irwin envisions our community as a place where we can feel a shared competency and pride in the traditions of Jewish communities worldwide. So, keep your ears open for more Sefardi and Mizraḥi melodies, texts, and chanting traditions in the coming year!

Shabbat services were also offered by other members of our increasingly skilled spiritual leadership team: Rinat Abastado, Shoshana Fershtman, Cyndi Norwitz, Shari Brenner, Sheridan Gold, Gesher Calmenson, Abby Bogomolny, and Kohenet Ruach D’vorah Grenn. A particularly poignant Disability Awareness Shabbat was curated and led by Cyndi Norwitz, Diana Neshamah Faraone, and Maayan Simon.

Our High Holy Days this year welcomed in the Shmitah – the “sabbatical year” – in which we let our fields go fallow and release the investments that have taken hold of us.

The brilliant High Holy Day spiritual leadership team that crafted this powerful shmitah experience included Shoshana Fershtman, Rinat Abastado, Leah Bowden, Stephanie Brown, Sally Churgel, Amy Gray, Basha Hirschfeld, Barbara Lesch
McCaffry, Sheridan Gold, Reb Judith Goleman, and Gesher Calmenson, under the leadership of Reb Irwin.

The High Holy Days were especially compelling because of our high production values. Under the leadership of Suzanne Shanbaum, we were able to professionalize how we broadcast sound and images into Zoom. Our on-site team of David Schneider on cameras, Doron Hovav live-editing video, and Roey Abastado mixing sound, made for a much more powerful experience for our Zoom community. The Zoom element was further enhanced by the work of our team of online Shamashimot – Shari Brenner, Rinat Abastado, Ari Hilton, Leah Bowden, Ellyn Lazar, and Barbara Lesch McCaffry, under the skillful leadership of Cyndi Norwitz.

Other Ner Shalomers participated in High Holy Days by writing poetry, writing music, chanting Torah, and offering readings. Truly it took a village for us to enter 5782 so beautifully!

The year was filled with beautiful ritual observances and events. We held an in-person Chanukah event. Leah Bowden and Stephanie Brown and their troupe of thespians wowed us with a hilarious Purim spiel. We held not just one but two community seders for Passover, one in person and one on Zoom.

We also celebrated two B.Mitzvahs, that of Issa Block Kwong and that of Tabitha Monterrey Seitchik.

Over the year the pandemic eased enough for us to be able to hold some of our services in the building, in person. It has been a joy to share physical space with those who feel comfortable being there. And it has created a new level of technical complexity to enable us to play to Zoom and play to the room simultaneously. Gratitude to Suzanne Shanbaum for doing the technical design and intense problem-solving that has made it not only possible, but now simply matter-of-course, at Ner Shalom.

Reb Irwin, with the support of the Kavanah Committee, has continued to lead and hold us in the making of communal ritual. He has led B’nai Mitzvah, funerals, shivah minyanim, and healing circles. He continues to offer his signature brand of drashot, or sermons, helping us locate the holy in the everyday and feel the wonder (and humor) of the world we live in. If you missed one of his drashot or want to review ones you’ve heard before, they are all collected on his blog. Go to irwinkeller.com and click on “Itzik’s Well.”
MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Stephanie Brown

Membership, the lifeblood of any synagogue, is flowing at Ner Shalom! Since our Annual Report last June, 5 new member families have joined or rejoined. There was also some attrition from the large wave of folks who joined in the early months of the pandemic. Our current membership totals a healthy 133 member families.

At our 2022 Board retreat, membership was among the top three concerns identified by Board members. Our discussion centered around not only encouraging new membership but fostering deeper involvement among existing members. In response to these needs, a Membership Committee was formed this winter to address those concerns. Facilitating and deepening engagement within the community of new and existing Ner Shalom members has been our primary topic of conversation.

Attracting new members has been an additional focus. Our committee envisioned and produced a successful “Meet, Greet and Grow!” event, held on May 13, featuring a warm and engaging Shabbat potluck dinner in our courtyard, followed by a lovely musical Kabbalat Shabbat service. The event was extremely popular, with over 60 people in attendance (we had to cut off registration due to our self-imposed COVID limits), comprising half members and half “Ner Shalom-curious” guests. As of this writing, in less than a week since the event, we
already have one new member as a result, plus additional families expressing active interest in exploring further. The Membership Committee will be continuing our discussions on what we can do to help our members feel more involved in, committed to, and embraced by our synagogue community.

Welcome New Members!

Since last year’s Annual Report, we welcome (or rewelcome) these Ner Shalom members:

- Zelda Bettman
- Stacey Diamond
- Jenny Holland and Adam Brown, Amelia, Addison, and Noah
- Joan Mackenzie
- Matile Rothschild

We are grateful for and enriched by the love, skills, and joy you bring!
A Year of Successes

It was another active and exhilarating year for Beit Midrash Jewish Lifelong Learning with 39 sessions of 13 distinct classes and more still in the wings! A total of 235 individuals made over 800 appearances in Beit Midrash classes. They came from Alaska to Florida and almost everywhere in between, as well as Canada and Germany.

This richness of programming was coordinated by our Dean, Barbara Lesch McCaffry, with support from our inspiring Steering Committee: Shari Brenner, Shoshana Fershtman, Gesher Calmenson, Basha Hirschfeld, and Linda Pantoskey.

We are also grateful to Ellyn Lazar, Cyndi Norwitz, and Shari Brenner for their tech support as shamashimot for the classes.

And special thanks to our inspiring teachers:

- Stephen Bittner
- Gesher Calmenson
- Sally Churgel
- Sheridan Gold
- Shoshana Fershtman
- Reb Judith Goleman
- Kohenet Ruach D’vorah Grenn
- Sheridan Gold
- Rabbi Maurice Harris
- Ari Hilton
- Adrienne Momi
- Ed Marks
- Eve Sicular
- Rabbi Micah Weiss
- Sharon Ziff

If we were to name an “Educator of the Year” it would be the humble Reb Irwin Keller who taught more than 25 of those classes and always left us wanting to learn more! Our deepest appreciation for your encouragement and unwavering support for Beit Midrash.

2021-2022 Offerings

Our regular educational offerings from June 1, 2021 to May 15, 2022 included:

- Elul – Opening to the Beloved on the Journey of Transformation led by Shoshana Fershtman
- Jewish Spiritual Concepts as a Basis for Emotional Healing led by Reb Judith Goleman
- The Letters of Creation, the last of 22 sessions led by Gesher Calmenson
- Letting Go: Conversations on Shmitah, 2 sessions led by Reb Irwin Keller
• **Sacred Feminine Series**, 4 sessions led by Ruach D’vorah Grenn (*Ancient Roots*), Shoshana Fershtman (*Hebrew Goddesses*), Adrienne Momi (*The Shekhinah*) and Ruach D’vorah Grenn & Shoshana Fershtman (*The Sacred Feminine in Our Lives*).

• **Soul Collage Workshop**, facilitated by Sally Churgel and Sheridan Gold

• **Speaking About Death (Compassionate Caregiving)**, 2 sessions led by Sally Churgel, Ari Hilton, and Sharon Ziff.

• **Studying the Basics** (which was renamed **Through a Reconstructionist Lens**), 10 sessions this year led by Reb Irwin Keller discussing videos prepared by Reconstructing Judaism

• **The 4 Ts: Text, T’filah, Time & Tongue**, 4 sessions led by Reb Irwin Keller

• **Ukraine Series**, 2 sessions: **Ukrainian National Identity in the Shadow of Nazism and Stalinism** led by SSU History Professor Stephen Bittner and **Jews, Ukraine, and Putin's Rockets** led by Ed Marks

• **Yiddish Tish**, 9 sessions led by Reb Irwin Keller and a guest lecture by Eve Sicular on the *Yinglish Mikado*

---

**Reconstructing Judaism Offerings**

This last year we were fortunate to be able to host two guest scholars from Reconstructing Judaism with major events designed for an audience that extends beyond our Ner Shalom members and friends. This year’s collaborations included our sister Reconstructionist congregation, Or Zarua Havurah of the East Bay. Many thanks to **Susan Levine** who serves on the national Board of Reconstructing Judaism and continues to support our collaborations.

• **How Did We Get Here and Where Could We Go from Here? Israel and Palestine Today**, led by guest scholar, Rabbi Maurice Harris of Reconstructing Judaism.

• **You Shall Not Go Empty: Wrestling With Reparations from a Reconstructionist Lens** led by guest scholar, Rabbi Micah Weiss of Reconstructing Judaism. Co-sponsored by Or Zarua Havurah.

---

**Cross-Listings**

We also made available to Ner Shalomers two series led by our teachers:

• **The Honest Ruth**, taught by Reb Irwin Keller; a 4-week series presented by Congregation Or Shalom of Vancouver; and

• **The Mystical Exodus in Jungian Perspective: Transforming Trauma and the Wellsprings of Renewal**, taught by Shoshana Fershtman; a 4-part series offered by the ALEPH Alliance for Jewish Renewal’s Virtual Programs.
Tikkun Leyl Shavuot

This year’s Tikkun Leyl Shavuot, held on Zoom on Saturday night June 4th, is being offered in coordination with Congregation Shomrei Torah and our sister Reconstructionist congregation, Keddem Community of Palo Alto. Our theme is “Learning from the Edge” and will include a teaching by Rabbi Diane Elliot on Netzah Unbound: Secrets of Resilience, and a report from the frontlines from our dear friend Yael Raff Peskin who is volunteering with World Central Kitchen supporting Ukrainian refugees in Prezemysl, Poland. Other teachers are Rabbi George Gittleman, Alissa Hirschfeld, and Reb Irwin, with ritual contributions from Sheridan Gold and Leah Bowden. Watch for the full schedule, to be released this week! As an additional Shavuot offering, Reb Irwin will offer an in-person Rebbe’s Tish on Sunday June 5th at 4 pm, in the Ner Shalom Courtyard, with song and study, accompanied by cheesecake and bourekas.

Steering Committee Update

In the coming year, we will aim to offer 35-45 sessions and will continue to have a January brainstorming session to plan the year’s curriculum. If you would like to join the brainstorming group or have ideas for a class you would like to see or offer, email Barbara Lesch McCaffry at learning@nershalom.org.

We are so grateful for the insights provided by our Steering Committee, named above. We continue to rely on them to guide our decisions as the year progresses.

We anticipate that most of our classes will continue to be on Zoom as our participants now live across the country and abroad. We will reserve on-site learning for content that requires physical proximity.

What’s Ahead

On May 23rd, Gesher Calmenson will conclude his two-part series on The Four Worlds as Process. Within the next month or so (date TBA) Reb Irwin will conclude his 3-part series, Letting Go: Conversations on Shmitah, with guest Cassandra Ferrera.

In June, in addition to Yiddish Tish on June 1st and our Shavuot learning on the evening of June 4th and June 5th, Reb Judith Goleman will offer a class on The Seven Heavens: Removing Veils Between Us and God on June 27th.

In August, we launch a four-part series to transition out of this Shmitah year. Elul: Planting New Seeds includes sessions taught by Gesher Calmenson, Shoshana Fershtman, Basha Hirschfeld, and Reb Judith Goleman.

Also save the date for a scholar-in-residence weekend with Reb Irwin’s teacher Rabbi Dr. Leila Gal Berner on December 2nd and 3rd leaning into the history of the Jews of Spain.

Come Learn with Us!
Growing and Evolving

Nitzanim was designed three years ago as a place for children and their families to sing, move, and learn together in a relaxed atmosphere. This year, under the leadership of Program Director Shai Schnall, we went back outdoors at last, holding monthly programs for parents and kids, featuring Jewish learning and activity in outside environments.

We held a Rosh Hashanah gathering in the apple orchard belonging to Suzanne Shanbaum and Jane Lawhon. On Yom Kippur we gathered in Ner Shalom’s new courtyard. On Chanukah we lit candles in the dark and wrestled with what values we would fight for. On Tu Bishvat we gathered at Landpath’s Grove of Old Trees and learned Jewish tree-lore. On Purim we dressed up and acted out the story of Esther. On Pesach we reenacted elements of the Exodus story and began counting the Omer on the beach at Pinnacle Gulch. And we concluded the year with Omer counting, archery, and a Lag B’Omer bonfire at Open Sky Retreat Center.

Each of these gatherings offered teaching of Jewish values and practices, along with fun activities to illustrate them. The young people were delighted and so were their grownups.
This year we also relaunched a Hebrew School component of the Nitzanim Program. Weekly Hebrew learning, taught by Reb Irwin, began with just 4 students in the fall and rapidly grew to 13 students. Our young people learned to decode Hebrew, as well as how to count in Hebrew and use other simple vocabulary.

In the coming year the program will expand dramatically as we launch a regional 2-year B’nai Mitzvah program, guiding students through this rite of passage with a focus on Hebrew text, environmental awareness, and social justice. Midweek Hebrew will continue, as will our monthly outdoor gatherings for families of children of all ages.

Nitzanim 2021-2022 was partly funded by a generous grant from the Jewish Community Federation of the San Francisco Bay Area. This Community Impact Strategic Grant supports efforts to connect families and children during COVID times and is funded as part of the Federation’s Family Engagement Initiative. We are grateful for the Federation’s support! This funding stream will not be available in the coming year, so Nitzanim will be doing some fundraising of its own. We look forward to the support of Ner Shalomers of all ages in nurturing the Jewish life of our youngest.
CELEBRATIONS

For Young People with Disabilities and their Families

Now completing its 14th year, Ner Shalom is proud to offer the Celebrations Program, serving the needs of young people with disabilities and their families. Celebrations continues to be a pioneering program. Sessions focus on Jewish holidays and involve music, art, food, storytelling, games, and teachings about the holiday.

During the 2021-2022 year, we were able to return to in-person gatherings at Ner Shalom, in the new east courtyard. Participants came from as far away as the East Bay and the Peninsula. We also held a number of Zoom programs which enabled families from as far as Vancouver, BC to attend.

Funded by the Jewish Federation for many years, Celebrations is now self-funding. We appreciate the support of Ner Shalom members in helping us identify philanthropic sources to keep the Celebrations Program thriving!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Celebrations leadership: Mary Ann Malinak, Leslie Gattmann and Jennifer Lorvick!
Tzedek, the Hebrew word meaning justice, is the Social Justice Action arm of Congregation Ner Shalom. Jewish social justice is a way to respond to the brokenness of our world and to inform that work with Jewish knowledge and insights.

In the year 2021-2022, Tzedek was quite involved in engaging the community in activities and education around various social justice issues.

On May 23, 2021 Rebecca Pierce, noted scholar and educator on Black/Jewish relations, presented in a Zoom event co-sponsored with Workers Circle/Arbeter Ring. Her topic, “Other Together,” was a look at the history of interracial relations and the connections among Blacks and Jews and Black Jews. The audience of 40 people were spellbound by her talk.

On August 22, Tzedek presented a Social Justice Café on the topic of homelessness. With a panel of experts on the topic, 25 people got to hear the policy and personal implications of this grave social problem.

During the fall of 2021 and spring of 2022, Tzedek teamed up with Reclaim Our Vote in a postcard campaign to reach contested states for their primary elections. Congregation Shomrei Torah enthusiastically joined us in promoting this campaign. Over 4500 postcards were sent in a popular effort that involved many from both congregations.

And last month, on April 24, Tzedek, in collaboration with Workers Circle/Arbeter Ring, presented a Zoom café on “Rethinking Justice.” Panelists representing the formerly incarcerated, agencies and artists reached 30 participants who learned about what they can do on decarceration, defunding the police, and legislation on the problem of mass incarceration.

We were also invited as co-sponsors for Rabbi Maurice Harris’s talk on Israel/Palestine on January 30, 2022.

We look forward to your ideas and your participation!

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Leeder, Eszter Freeman, Roberta Teller, Rita Rowan, and Shoshana Fershtman
The biggest change this year with our building is the exciting news that it has become home to a preschool. As of the end of last summer, Mixed Greens Preschool is renting out some of our space – the two back classrooms plus the use of the backyard and side courtyard. The preschool is operating during the week, when our building is very underutilized by the congregation. This brings giggles, energy, joy, and rental income, all very nice to have. We fixed up a few things to get ready for them and they stepped up and made some (fully reversible) changes as well. The biggest change is some built-ins in the classrooms, and the construction of a privacy fence to enclose the east parking area and grounds. This space, now referred to by us as “The Courtyard,” has been the setting for a number of Ner Shalom events as well and has proven a great addition to our space.

Beyond this there has been very little that has changed: a new fence on the west side of the building after a powerful storm knocked the old one down, an upgrade to our fire detection system, additional equipment required as we enhance our online services, and a new storage closet for that equipment.

We have started hosting hybrid services again: we are both in person and streaming on Zoom. It is nice to have folks back in the building after our COVID-required pause. And let me say: Welcome!

We are grateful to all the members of our Building Committee: Lorenzo Valensi, Suzanne Shanbaum, Alan Ziff, Larry Resnick, Vicki Allen, and tyrannical overlord Mark Miller.
As stated in last year’s report we went into this year with an aggressive but balanced budget for 2021-22. That budget proved a tad too aggressive. Due to some unexpected expenses and a slight reduction in income we are estimating to end the year with a shortfall of about $6,500, or 3% of the budget.

**Income:** We had looked forward to returning to in-person fundraising events during this year. However, the COVID situation did not allow it. In addition, our Membership Commitment revenue was slightly down for the year. On the positive: we now have rental income from Mixed Greens Pre-School and we had our best year ever with our Season of Giving campaign. You donated well over $40,000!

**Expenses:** These were higher than budgeted. We had some unexpected expenses to bring our fire detection and alarm system up to code; we had to replace a fence that blew down in the winter storms (west side of the main parking lot); and we invested to upgrade our audio and video streaming capabilities.

Our budgetary shortfall was easily covered with our existing cash reserves. We anticipate returning to a positive budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

A big thank you goes to our finance committee:

- Accounting Guru Art Magnus
- Board President Amy Gray
- Soon-to-be-Treasurer Alison Marks
- Administrator Vicki Allen
- And me, our treasurer.

Thanks, team!
Ner Shalom continues to develop its dedicated section at Pleasant Hills Cemetery in Sebastopol. This natural-style cemetery is home to foxes, bobcats, gravenstein apples, wild radish, and red sorrel. The Ner Shalom section is open to Ner Shalom members of any faith, as well as non-members who wish to be buried in a progressive Jewish cemetery.

Within the year, our section’s entrance stone will be inscribed in Hebrew and English with the name of our synagogue, and a new scattering garden will be installed.

Please calendar **Sunday, September 18th** at 10am for this year’s congregational cemetery visit. We look forward to visiting together.

For information on pre-purchasing burial or cremation plots, or to find out more about our Scattering Garden, contact Pleasant Hills at (707) 823-5042.
Since our last congregational meeting, Ner Shalom has lost two valued members.

**Alan Hahn** was a joyous soul and former Board member, who served for many years as our High Holy Day *shamash*, dancing barefoot around the room and letting participants know when their turn to step up to the *bimah* was coming.

**Robert Allen** was the husband of our Administrator, Vicki Allen, and the father of Rachel. He could be spotted doing odd jobs and overseeing events at Ner Shalom. He was also a Civil War reenactor and owned a 19th Century cannon.

In addition to them, a number of Ner Shalomers lost close loved ones over the past year:

- Rabbi Arthur Abrams, father of Rachel Abrams and Naomi Abrams-Rittenhouse
- Claire Abrams, mother of Rachel Abrams and Naomi Abrams-Rittenhouse
- Robert Berg, father Rod Berg
- Carmen DeMatteo, son of Jim DeMatteo
- Eric Gattmann, father of Leslie Gattmann
- Hilde Gattmann, mother of Leslie Gattmann
- Roger Glassman, brother of Diana Glassman
- Buddy Schwartz, father of Lisa Stein
- Jerry Sussman, father of David Sussman
- Joanie Zimmerman, partner of Matile Rothschild

*(If we didn’t know about your loss, please let us know.)*
GET INVOLVED!

There are many ways to be involved at Ner Shalom. Here are some of our standing committees and teams that could use your head, heart, and hands:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>Stephanie Brown</td>
<td><a href="mailto:stephanieb1818@gmail.com">stephanieb1818@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greeting</td>
<td>Linda Pantoskey</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lindadiane2@gmail.com">lindadiane2@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising Events</td>
<td>Amy Gray</td>
<td><a href="mailto:amygray98118@yahoo.com">amygray98118@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kavanah/Spiritual Life</td>
<td>Reb Irwin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rebirwinkeller@gmail.com">rebirwinkeller@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band of Angels</td>
<td>Leah Bowden</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lightspeak@gmail.com">lightspeak@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beit Midrash (Lifelong Learning)</td>
<td>Barbara Lesch-McCaffry</td>
<td><a href="mailto:learning@nershalom.org">learning@nershalom.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitzanim</td>
<td>Shai Schnall</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nitzanim@nershalom.org">nitzanim@nershalom.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building</td>
<td>Mark Miller</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mark.ns@threeboysfarm.com">mark.ns@threeboysfarm.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>Mark Miller</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mark.ns@threeboysfarm.com">mark.ns@threeboysfarm.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tzedek - Social Justice</td>
<td>Shoshana Fershtman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:drshoshanaf@gmail.com">drshoshanaf@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cemetery</td>
<td>Gesher Calmenson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gesherc@sonic.net">gesherc@sonic.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office, Marketing &amp; Tech</td>
<td>Vicki Allen</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vicki@nershalom.org">vicki@nershalom.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Join a committee, volunteer at an event, come to every service or only once a year. Sponsor Oneg Shabbat refreshments or a Zoom service in honor of your anniversary or in memory of someone you love. If there’s a way you want to be involved that you haven’t seen yet, suggest it! Whatever your level of participation, we’re glad you’re here!
NER SHALOM STAFF AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2021-2022

Amy Gray, President
Amy Schiff, Vice President
Linda Pantoskey, Secretary
Mark Miller, Treasurer
Tanya Robertson, Personnel Chair
Stephanie Brown
Basha Hirschfeld
Elaine Leeder
Art Magnus
Alison Marks
Linda Schneider

Reb Irwin Keller, Rabbi
Vicki Allen, Administrator
Shai Schnall, Nitzanim Director