

HAKAFA WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEK OF JANUARY 10, 2018

Wednesday Afternoon Torah Study

Wednesday, January 10, 1:00-2:30 PM

North Shore United Methodist Church (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe)

Join us for weekly Torah Study! Each Wednesday afternoon we proceed through the Bible, verse by verse, discussing its content and various interpretations with Rabbi Elder.

Shabbat Service

Friday, January 12, 7:30 PM

Winnetka Community House (620 Lincoln Avenue, Winnetka)

Please join us for our weekly Shabbat service and oneg.

Volunteers Needed to Bring Sunday Morning Coffee/Snacks

We are looking for volunteers to bring coffee and breakfast snacks for the adults **on many of the Sundays through the end of the school year**. If you can help out, please sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/coffee-on-sunday> or contact Julie Tag (julie@julietaghomes.com or 773-350-3780). Thank you!

Religious School Resumes

Sunday, January 14, 9:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Takiff Center (999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe)

Please come to our next Congregation Meeting – THIS SUNDAY

Sunday, January 14, 10:35 AM

Takiff Center (999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe)

Our next congregation meeting will be held THIS Sunday. Please attend, add your voice, and share your ideas. An agenda for this meeting and minutes from the November 17 meeting can be obtained by contacting Rona (admin@hakafa.org). At this meeting, we'll follow up on the social action "listening campaign" that was discussed in November, tzedakah distribution options, a report on the URJ biennial, a new social media campaign, the possibility of the congregation writing our own High Holiday prayer book, and more. If you have any questions, please contact our President, Nancy Goodman (president@hakafa.org or 847-564-3273).

Midrash Class

Tuesday, January 16, 9:00-10:00 AM

North Shore United Methodist Church (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe)

Join us to study *midrash* with Rabbi Elder. Midrash is the creative, interpretative process of the rabbis over generations.

NEW Class Begins This Tuesday – The Siddur: Its Meaning and Theology

Tuesday, January 16, 10:15 AM

North Shore United Methodist Church (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe)

How many of us know what our Hebrew prayers actually say? How many of us know what they mean? Join us as we explore the Jewish prayer book. We will look at prayers in Hebrew, translate them together, discuss their theology, and parse what they might mean for us today. We will meet with Rabbi Elder for this class twice a month, on average, on Tuesday mornings. We hope you will join us!

Hebrew School

Tuesday, January 16, 4:15-6:00 PM

Takiff Center (999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe)

Tuesday Evening Torah Study

Tuesday, January 16, 7:30-8:45 PM

North Shore United Methodist Church (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe)

Join us for weekly Torah Study! Each Tuesday evening we proceed through the Bible, verse by verse, discussing its content and various interpretations with Rabbi Elder. *We will start at Deuteronomy 16:18 this week.*

Refugee Sponsorship Update

Ambrose and Emma are refugees from Uganda. They are in the U.S. on their own and had been sharing a studio apartment with a third refugee, Jonathan, who is also on his own. Jonathan works nights at Reynolds Aluminum, and Emma works days at Evanston Hospital; Ambrose, who has a college degree from Uganda, is still looking for a job. When the landlord found out that there were three men in a studio, they insisted that the three men move to a one-bedroom apartment. They are happy for a little more space, but now need some furniture for their larger apartment. **Please contact Allison Stein at ajzstein@gmail.com or Bob Turner at turner.r@comcast.net if you can donate: a lamp, love seat/chairs, television, blankets or gift cards to buy these items.** Ambrose and Emma, who speak fluent English, have been fortunate to have a wonderful mentor from Hakafa, but would benefit from additional help. **If you are able to volunteer, please contact Allison or Bob.** We appreciate all the generosity Hakafa has shown our refugees.

Women's March Chicago - March to the Polls

Saturday, January 20, 2018

A year ago, Chicago women and their allies marched 250,000 strong, ushering in a year of resistance against those who would destroy the principles, freedoms, and ideals on which our country was founded. The work is far from done, and it is time to march again - this time with insistence that we need to do better and persist as we focus on the 2018 elections. **If you would like to join a group from Hakafa for the march, please contact Hakafa member, Donna Fishman (donnafishman16@gmail.com).** Music and videos begin at 9:00 AM as people gather, speakers/rally at 11:00 AM, and the march will step off around 12:30 PM. Further information can be found on the website <http://womens121marchonchicago.org/>. **Please direct any general questions regarding the march to Hakafa member, Sara Kurensky (kurloon@sbcglobal.net).** Please march! As we know, every vote, every person, every footstep counts.

Hakafa Film Night Moved to January 27 – PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN DATE

Saturday, **January 27**, 7:00 PM

North Shore United Methodist Church (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe)

Join us when we screen “**The Wedding Plan.**” In this film, Michal is an Ultra-Orthodox Israeli woman, 32 and unmarried. When her fiancée dumps her, Michal decides she will keep the wedding date and find a groom within the next 30 days. This is Israeli director Rama Burshstein’s second feature film, after *Fill the Void*. Delivered with a light, comedic touch, it is a poignant, sensitive, and beautiful shot meditation on the nature of love, religious faith, and what it means to be a partner in a marital relationship. New movie group member, Stan Selinger, will present. Come for dinner at 6:00 p.m. We will be ordering pizza from Little Red Hen, so please contact Carol (847-727-0029 or mcsolomon@comcast.net) by noon on the 27th to R.S.V.P. for dinner (\$5 per person). Or, simply come for the movie at 7:00. Feel free to bring friends, family, and a nosh (**no popcorn** please)!

Nominating Committee Meeting

Sunday, January 21, 7:00 PM

North Shore United Methodist Church (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe)

The Nominating Committee will be meeting to select the slate of officers to recommend to the Congregation for Hakafa's next fiscal year, beginning June 1. This meeting is open to all members. If interested in attending the Nominating Committee meeting, you must notify Jeff Rosenberg in writing/email (irosenberg@rsplitter.com) prior to January 21st.

Movie Screening and Panel Discussion: *I am Jane Doe*

Sunday, January 21, 2:00-5:00 PM

Northbrook Public Library (1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook)

JCAST leaders are excited to kick off 2018 with a movie screening and panel discussion including Yvonne Ambrose, mother of a Chicago teen murdered by her purchaser after he bought her on Backpage.com. The movie, *I am Jane Doe*, is an eye-opening documentary about sex trafficking in our community and how it is hurting our young women. Viewers are introduced to teenagers who were recruited by pimps who knew exactly how to prey on vulnerable, self-loathing girls who've run away or simply felt alone and alienated. The girls enduring this appalling abuse are frequently featured in explicit online ads on the website Backpage.com. The discussion following the movie will also include Yvonne's attorney, Gina Arquilla Deboni; Marian Hatcher, Cook County Sheriff's Office; and Professor Carina H. Santa Maria, MSW, LCSW of Dominican University. JCAST Chicago co-sponsors are the Northbrook Public Library and National Council of Jewish Women Chicago NorthShore. [Advanced reservations](#) are not required but are appreciated. To reserve your spot, follow this link: <http://www.icastchicago.org/programs/>.

New Class Beginning in February:

Judaism and the Origins of Christianity in the 1st Century

Please join us for an 8-week course on ***Judaism and the Origins of Christianity in the 1st Century*** taught by Hakafa member, Audrey Gordon, and her colleague, Mary Ann Spina, retired Pastoral Associate at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Deerfield.

We are co-sponsoring this course with the **North Shore United Methodist Church (213 Hazel Avenue, Glencoe)**, and classes will be held there on **Thursdays from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM on February 22, March 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5, 12, 19.**

Audrey Gordon, PhD., was associate professor at the School of Public Health at the University of Illinois at Chicago for 30 years and taught and conducted research in aging, end-of-life care and hospice. Previously, she was on the faculty at Northwestern University in the Department of History and Literatures of Religions (1966-74) and taught classes and did research in the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, early Judaism and Christianity, and the religions of the Ancient Near East.

Next Hakafa One Congregation, One Book Announced

Hakafa's book group will meet on **Sunday, April 29 at 10:35 AM** at the **Takiff Center** (999 Green Bay Road) to discuss ***The Secret Book of Kings* by Yochi Brandes**. This novel takes textual sources about the experiences of David and Solomon and spins a story about the foundation of the Kingdom of Israel. Ms. Brandes, one of Israel's best-selling authors, combined her skills as a novelist with her training in academic Jewish scholarship to create a novel that raises the question of what untold stories there may be when the available historical sources were written by the victors. Get your copy of the book now so that you can join the discussion on April 29th!

Donations and Mentors Needed to Support Refugee Families

We are looking for a few new mentors in 2018 for the refugees from Africa. If you can help, please contact Bob Turner (turner.r@comcast.net) or Allison Stein (ajzstein@gmail.com).

In December, another family - the Mokes – arrived in America from the Congo: a dad, Babekalo, his wife, Mawazo, 25, and their son, Medard, who turned 3 years old the day they landed in the US. Mawazo is pregnant with their second child, due in April. The Mokes came with 3 suitcases of belongings. They speak only Swahili and French, no English. They have been in a refugee camp for most of their lives. Together, Hakafa and RefugeeOne met the family at O'Hare. They were very grateful to be surrounded and welcomed by our volunteers.

In order to pay RefugeeOne for our required contribution to co-sponsor this family, we again need to ask for donations. Also, we hope to be able to purchase necessary clothes, food, and supplies as well as baby items in the spring. Over the past 2 years, Hakafa has helped 12 refugee families - 36 individuals in all. All of these families have at least one member working, going to training or attending Truman College. We would like to continue Hakafa's support of the refugees in crisis. Without so many of us supporting these people, many if not most of these refugees would be alone in the US, and could have fallen through the cracks in our society. Please send your donations to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, and be sure to include a note that the donation is to go toward the refugees. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Turner (turner.r@comcast.net) or Allison Stein (ajzstein@gmail.com).

Do You Have an Old Cell Phone?

Our refugee families usually are provided with some kind of cell phone when they arrive here, but they are not always reliable or long lasting. We are looking for used, unlocked, GSM capable cell phones. Unlocked means the phone does not have to be used on a specific carrier and/or is off contract. The phones also need to be GSM, which means it is usable on the global network with a SIM card that can be replenished.

The phones which most often are GSM capable and can be unlocked are from AT&T, T-Mobil, Trac-phones and others. Verizon phones do not work on GSM. Early model iPhones, such 5S or later, or another model smart phone, are best.

If you have any questions or if you have a phone to donate, please contact David Joel (davidjoelphoto@gmail.com).

Stock the Shelves for Refugees

Stock the Shelves is a North Shore grassroots organization that was organized earlier this year to provide refugee families in Rogers Park with essential daily items not covered by food stamps (i.e. diapers, laundry soap, feminine products, cleaning products, deodorant, and toilet paper). It is led by First Presbyterian Church Wilmette (FPCW) and partners with Congregation Sukkat Shalom, First Congregational Church of Wilmette, and most recently with Congregation Hakafa. *Stock the Shelves* solicits donations from schools and individuals that are distributed the fourth Wednesday of each month at Warren Park in Chicago. Hakafa member, **Judy Bramson**, is looking for volunteers who would like to help create opportunities for donations and distribute the items at Warren Park. This would be a wonderful bar or bat mitzvah project for a family looking for a way to support those in need. Please contact Judy (847-204-9770 or jdbramson@gmail.com) for more information.

Composting Drop-Off at the Takiff Center

You can **drop off** your **fruit and veggie scraps** on **Sunday mornings at the Takiff Center** (999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe) from **9:30-11:30 AM**. Dump your scraps into the containers that are inside the labeled bin that is located at the Takiff Center Main Entrance Parking Lot (near the dumpsters). If you have any questions, or for further information, please contact Barbara Miller (barbarasmiller01@yahoo.com or 847-835-8000).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are needed this year to host **Friday Evening Onegs**, to host a **Shabbat-in-the-Home** potluck dinner, to volunteer at **A Just Harvest**, to help with **Sunday Morning Bagels**, and to provide **Coffee/Snacks for the Adults** on Sunday mornings. It's easy to sign up to help out for any of these volunteer opportunities!

Go to this link, scroll through the different options, and click on the links to sign up: <https://hakafa.org/community/volunteer-opportunities>

If you would like to go directly to a specific volunteer opportunity, follow these links:

Friday Evening Onegs: <http://tinyurl.com/oneg-hosting>

A Just Harvest: <http://tinyurl.com/a-just-harvest>

Sunday Morning Bagels: <http://tinyurl.com/bagels-on-sunday>

Sunday Coffee/Snacks for Adults: <http://tinyurl.com/coffee-on-sunday>

Shabbat-in-the-Home 4/20/18: <http://tinyurl.com/shabbat-in-the-home>

Condolences to...

...Marc Jacobs and family on the loss of his mother, Jeanne Jacobs.

...Don Pollak and family on the loss of his father, William Pollak.

REAL ISRAEL

When you hear the word 'Israel,' what is the first image that pops into your head? Are you picturing something related to Israel today, perhaps High-tech-Israel, or Conflict-Israel, or maybe Religious-Israel? Or are you seeing something from a time further back, possibly imagining the Israelites living in the valley below the First and Second Temples.

Today, in a story we're going to call "Funny you don't look Jewish" we're going to go even further back in time, to a period when the people living on the land used elaborately worked stone tools – including flint hand-axes. We're going back to the culture that existed in the Lower Paleolithic era from about 1.5 million to 200,000 years ago.

Think of the prehistoric timeline illustration – the one that shows the stages of human evolution, beginning with the ape on the left. The species we're talking about is the one that walked upright and carried a stick, Homo-erectus. It would be another three hundred thousand years before Neanderthal man would arrive on the scene.

Our story today comes from the Guardian. Recently, in a joint dig conducted by the Israel Antiquities Authority and the archaeological department in Tel Aviv University, archeologists have uncovered an

extraordinarily well preserved prehistoric “paradise” used by stone age hunter-gatherers over half a million years ago. The find suggests that an extinct species of early human - homo erectus – may have returned to the site repeatedly, perhaps attracted by a water source, abundant game, and the presence of good quality stone such as jasper and flint.

Of course, this being pre-Israel, paleo high-tech was an integral part of their culture. The most striking find was evidence of a well-developed lithic industry – referring to elaborately worked stone tools – including hundreds of flint hand-axes. Scientists believe they were used for a variety of purposes from butchering to digging. The axes have been used to trace the early human migration out of Africa into Asia and Europe.

Researchers believe that the fact that the site appears to have been occupied repeatedly, indicates that prehistoric humans possessed a geographic memory of the place and could have returned there as part of a seasonal cycle. “The findings are amazing, both in their preservation state and in their implications about our understanding of this ancient material culture.”

-Bob Rifkin

Check out how far the human species has evolved
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RS1frnxorXk>

Contact Information for Hakafa:

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 409, Glencoe, IL 60022

Phone: 847-242-0687

Website: www.hakafa.org

Congregation Email: conghakafa@hakafa.org

Rabbi Elder: 847-266-8854 or rabbi@hakafa.org

Bibi Patt, Director of Education: 847-955-9980 or education@hakafa.org

Sara Goodman, Music Director: 847-274-7166 or music@hakafa.org

Rona Elder, Administrator: 847-242-0687 or admin@hakafa.org

Nancy Goodman, Congregation President: 847-564-3273 or president@hakafa.org

Lori Wilansky, Newsletter Editor: 847-444-1488 or wilanskyl@comcast.net

- If you would like an announcement included in this weekly update, please email your announcement to Rona Elder (admin@hakafa.org) by Tuesday afternoon.
- If you would like an article included in the monthly newsletter, please contact Lori Wilansky, our volunteer newsletter editor at wilanskyl@comcast.net. Articles must be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to the newsletter’s publication.