

Enrolled
Senate Concurrent Resolution 32

Sponsored by Senator STEINER HAYWARD, Representative GOMBERG; Senator WAGNER

Whereas Congregation Neveh Shalom has served Portland, Oregon, as an anchoring religious, social and educational institution for 150 years; and

Whereas Congregation Neveh Shalom houses the largest Jewish library in the Pacific Northwest, with more than 10,000 volumes available on loan to the community; and

Whereas Congregation Neveh Shalom possesses the world's largest set of the Ten Commandments on its exterior, which airline pilots have been known to use as a navigation tool; and

Whereas Congregation Neveh Shalom maintains two sacred cemeteries where the Jewish rites of mourning can be faithfully observed, providing solace to families during vulnerable moments of loss; and

Whereas Congregation Neveh Shalom has supported Neighborhood House for a generation; and

Whereas Congregation Neveh Shalom feeds several thousand members of the houseless community every year, including through its Soup to the Streets program, which delivers food directly to people living in tents and sleeping bags; and

Whereas Congregation Neveh Shalom is working to address the housing crisis by partnering with Habitat for Humanity and by building a tiny home for the houseless community as a collective thank you for being blessed with a home of its own for 150 years; and

Whereas Congregation Neveh Shalom has maintained religious education schools for generations, educating 400 students a year; and

Whereas for more than 60 years, Congregation Neveh Shalom's Foundation School has embraced the youngest learners and provided them with the building blocks to become able citizens and creative, confident problem solvers; and

Whereas Congregation Neveh Shalom educates Christian students from middle school through college who wish to learn about Judaism and to experience a traditional Jewish prayer service; and

Whereas Congregation Neveh Shalom has been a leader in the field of interfaith work, partnering with Christians, Muslims and persons and institutions of many other faiths to build bridges of tolerance and mutual understanding; and

Whereas Congregation Neveh Shalom, spearheaded by Cantor Linda Shivers, was one of the six founding houses of worship for the Community of Welcoming Congregations, which now represents dozens of congregations that welcome and support GLBTQ+ individuals, their families and allies; and

Whereas Congregation Neveh Shalom was one of the earliest Conservative Jewish congregations to extend bat mitzvah, the Jewish coming of age rite of passage, to girls; and

Whereas Congregation Neveh Shalom congregants serve the larger community as doctors, lawyers, judges, teachers and elected officials and through countless other forms of commitment; and

Whereas Congregation Neveh Shalom provides a safe and supportive space to various groups in recovery so that they may work to better their own lives and improve their role as citizens; and

Whereas Congregation Neveh Shalom is blessed to have two remarkable rabbis emeritus, Rabbi Joshua Stampfer and Rabbi Daniel Isaak, who have served the congregation for more than 100 collective years; and

Whereas Congregation Neveh Shalom, with the help of Rabbis Stampfer and Isaak, launched Camp Solomon Schechter, a summer camp to promote and disseminate the values and ethics of Judaism; and

Whereas Congregation Neveh Shalom housed a small Orthodox day school until it grew sufficiently to acquire its own location, further demonstrating the congregation's support of a pluralistic vision of society; and

Whereas Congregation Neveh Shalom supports groups that engage in environmental advocacy, work to end genocide, support people in times of need and other activities that serve the Jewish precept of "tikkun olam," serving as God's partners in perfecting the world; and

Whereas Congregation Neveh Shalom has won numerous awards for its outstanding programming and is recognized throughout the country for its many contributions; and

Whereas Congregation Neveh Shalom is the largest Conservative Jewish congregation west of Minneapolis and north of Los Angeles; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

That we, the members of the Eightieth Legislative Assembly, congratulate Congregation Neveh Shalom on its 150th anniversary, and we express our gratitude to the congregation and its clergy, staff and members for their ongoing service to the State of Oregon.

Adopted by Senate May 21, 2019

Lori L. Brocker, Secretary of Senate

Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Adopted by House June 10, 2019

Tina Kotek, Speaker of House