



February 2023  
Vol. 45, Issue 4

# Hakol • הקול

## *The Craft of Teshuvah*

By Rabbi Benjamin Barnett

When you feel hurt by a friend, or they feel hurt by you, how do you rebuild trust? When I witness someone say something offensive, how might I respond? And when we recognize that an institution we're a part of has caused harm, what are ways to meaningfully and effectively take accountability, make amends, and commit to change?

In her brilliant new book, *On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World*, Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg delves into these kinds of questions. Reading it, and following Rabbi Ruttenberg's work on this topic over the past couple years, has helped me turn toward such questions with greater precision and clarity. Even though Jewish teachings on Teshuvah—repentance, repair, literally “return”—are not new to me, the depth with which she explores them, and the real-life applications through which she fleshes them out, have pushed me to examine them in new ways. As you hopefully know, Teshuvah is our theme for the year. In that spirit, I invite you to join me in exploring these teachings and their applications in an adult series beginning in early March, in which we'll do a close reading of Rabbi Ruttenberg's book. Here is a [link to learn more or RSVP](#).

On Yom Kippur I shared the rabbinic teaching that Teshuvah existed before the creation of the world. Obviously, the rabbis did not mean this as a scientific claim. They meant



The Middle School class at Havurah High made a three-course Tu B'Shvat meal under the guidance of teacher Talia Stein on Feb. 1. Students pictured here eagerly wait for their food to cook.

it to say that Teshuvah is woven into the fabric of who we are. For one, we are not designed to be flawless, and secondly, we are born with the capacity to enact repair when we need to.

There is no shame in this, in fact the opposite. While most of us spend great amounts of energy avoiding Teshuvah, it is actually a way of living that can continually bring us closer to who we are and help us access our fullest potential.

The practice of acknowledging harm and repairing it however we can is part and parcel of what it means to be human and to live in community.

The word “practice” is essential. For Maimonides, the prominent medieval rabbi whose systematic approach to Teshuvah forms the Jew-

ish basis of Rabbi Ruttenberg's writing, there are specific steps that are to be taken when we cause harm. While our class discussion will not assume that his system is infallible, and certainly not perfect for every context, what I do find enormously helpful in Maimonides' work is the mere presence of intentional steps. Just like any craft, Teshuvah does not come easily, and is not simply a matter of intuition.

This class will be an opportunity to examine these steps, and together reflect on how best to apply and adapt them. Most centrally, my hope for this class is that we explore putting these teachings into practice, in each of our own lives and more broadly in our community and society. I look forward to deepening this exploration together.

**Havurah Shalom:** Our mission is to provide a vibrant, diverse, participatory Jewish community steeped in spirituality, learning, and acts of social responsibility. As we enact our mission, we are guided by [these values](#).

### Havurah Shalom Staff

**Benjamin Barnett, Rabbi**  
benjamin@havurahshalom.org

**Adela Basayne, Program Director**  
adela@havurahshalom.org

**Deborah Eisenbach-Budner, Education Director**  
deborah@havurahshalom.org

**Carrie Kirschner, Youth Education & B'nei Mitzvah Program Coordinator**  
carrie@havurahshalom.org

**Rachel Pollak, Office & Facilities Manager**  
rachel@havurahshalom.org

**We're Hiring a Participation & Publications Coordinator**  
Salary range \$40,000-45,000

We are looking for someone to facilitate membership and participation, as well as to create, edit, and manage internal and external communications & databases. Find the [full job description here](#). To apply, please send resume and cover letter to Adela Basayne.

# Hakol • הקול

The Voice of Havurah Shalom  
Portland's Jewish Reconstructionist Community

825 NW 18th Ave.  
Portland, OR 97209-2333  
503.248.4662  
havurahshalom.org

**Hakol Contribution Deadline**  
Feb. 17

**Havurah Website Calendar**

**Weekly Email Contribution Deadline**  
Tuesdays by Noon

**Misheberach List Form**

### Tributes

#### Adult Education Fund

Sacha Reich and Aaron Pearlman, in honor of Sarah Shine for her dedicated contributions to the Adult B'nei Mitzvah process, joyfully training adult students to lein Torah, From her adoring Goldens.

Keren and Craig McCord, in honor of Susan Ungar. Mazel tov on your Bat Mitzvah! Lot of Love, The Golden Girls.

#### Educator's Discretionary Fund

Dale Oller, in memory of Shirley Oller Jaffe.

#### Tikkun Olam Fund

Sheryl Horwitz and Larry Knudsen, in memory of my father, Irving Horwitz.

#### Havurah Endowment Fund

Mimi Epstein, in memory of Harry Monoker.

#### Rabbi Discretionary Fund

Marjorie Gans Walters and Philip Lewis Walters, in memory of my mother, Elinore Shirley Golden Gans.



### Condolences

**Stanley Kirschner**, father-in-law to Carrie Kirschner and grandfather to Elena and Charlie, died Dec. 30.

**Donna Pearlman**, sister of Janice Kettler, sister-in-law of Mark, aunt of Adam and Brian, died Jan. 3.

**Sara Zaidman**, mother of Enie Vaisburd, mother-in-law of Cam Williams, and grandmother of Daniel and Jonathan Williams, died Jan. 22.

**Carol Hightower**, beloved aunt of Carrie Kirschner and great-aunt of Elena and Charlie Kirschner, died Jan. 30.

### B'nei Mitzvah

Havurah will call to the Torah the following B'nei Mitzvah:

Feb. 4

**Adult B'nei Mitzvah Cohort**

Please join us in celebration and welcome them to our community.

## ***HIAS Kabbalat Shabbat Feb. 4 to Celebrate Refugees & Immigrants***

**7:30 pm, Friday, Feb. 3 — at  
Havurah Shalom and in Zoom  
Room Aleph**

### ***Sanctuary Committee***

We will celebrate our fourth Refugee and Immigrant Shabbat on Friday, February 3 at 7:30 p.m. Rabbi Benjamin will lead the service for Be-Shallah - the flight from Egypt, the parting of the Red Sea, and Michamochah, the Song of the Sea. As in Exodus, refugees and immigrants today face challenges and times for celebration. Margie Rosenthal will lead a special music program.

Zakrullah Darmani will speak about his family's story of leaving Afghanistan and settling in Portland. The Afghan Family Support Group has been helping Zakrullah, Horia, and baby Zoya Darmani since May 2022. Havurah has been helping Guatemalan asylum seekers and Ukrainian refugees as well.

We are partnering with HIAS, originally the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. HIAS founded as an organization to help Jewish refugees, is now an organization helping refugees because we are Jewish. We will hear other teachings and stories about our community's engagement with refugees and immigrants in Portland.

## ***Focus Areas Continue to Guide***

**By Susan Rosenthal, Keil Moses, Jennifer Bruml, Bob Brown**

The Racial Justice Committee has two main areas of focus:

- Educating ourselves and the community by organizing events and learning opportunities
- Making connections to work in partnership with BIPOC-led organizations.

In the learning opportunities area, we have organized book groups and reparations classes and hosted a movie night and other community events such as the MLK Day of Learning. We have lots of great plans for the next year! Stay tuned....

Identifying and connecting with a local BIPOC-led organization has taken somewhat longer. As a committee, we first developed a document to guide us: [Intentions for](#)

### ***Racial Justice Committee***

[Partnerships](#). Next, we set up a sub-committee to evaluate a number of organizations based on the criteria we established in our Intention Document.

The organizations we are exploring were suggested by RJC members. We will reach out to those two to four organizations that seem to offer the best opportunities as we continue to learn more.

We are also seeking input from our Havurah community. Please let us know if you have a direct connection and are working actively with a local BIPOC-led organization that you think might be an organization for us to explore. We would love to hear from you. Contacts: Jennifer Bruml, Susan Rosenthal, or Bob Brown.

### **Reconstructing Judaism Draft Resolution on Reparations**

***The January issue included a bad link for the draft resolution. A corrected link is included below.***

In 2020, the Reconstructing Judaism Tikkun Olam Commission decided on its mandate: to focus on the single issue of racial justice. The Commission formed the Resolution and Policy and Movement Trip working groups. This working group decided that they would create a movement-wide Reparations Resolution. A draft Reparations Resolution was developed over the next two years. The draft was reviewed extensively by the Commission and review comments were solicited from various sources including the RJ Board of Governors. The working group was diligent and thoughtful in addressing comments and suggestions. In July 2022, the draft resolution was sent to all RJ congregations for approval. The draft resolution was approved by the congregations. The draft now goes to the RJ Board of Governors for their approval. [You can view the draft resolution here.](#)



## TIKKUN OLAM

# *Solving Problems with Partnerships, Creativity*

By Marcia Sutttenberg

Since our building has been open again for activities there have been various concerns raised about the houseless folks who come to our courtyard to charge their phones and have a place to sit and rest away from the streets.

While the majority of these folks are appreciative and respectful, there have also been some problems—garbage and inappropriate behavior—especially at night. Sometimes pitching tents.

Havurah appointed a courtyard task force to grapple with finding a balance between wanting to show kindness to people who are having a very tough time, and ensuring our grounds were still safe and sanitary and welcoming to our congregants. While this discussion continues, we are pleased to report progress is occurring. We have a contract with a great nonprofit, Trash for Peace who now will come in regularly to clean up our grounds and ask folks to leave when we have activities going on. We are posting attractive signs which also clearly list rules for being in the courtyard (no drugs, weapons, camping, etc.).

Staff has been really helpful in developing a great model of respectful but firm communication. And we



---

### **Poverty and Homelessness Committee**

---

are leaning towards installing a gate that would be locked at night.

It is a complicated and tragic reality of urban life.

The Poverty and Homelessness committee is planning some community gatherings for any interested congregants to join in a dialogue to learn more, ask questions, and express feelings. Our goal is for all of

us to feel safe and comfortable in our building and grounds.

We hope to show a film made by young people from the Outside the Frame Project shortly after Passover. Nili Yosha, founder of Outside the Frame, previously taught Havurah High. [More about her can be read here.](#) Watch for more information in Hineinu and/or Hakol about our Poverty and Homelessness Committee's work and upcoming discussions. Also available: Gloria Halper, Steve Rudman or Marcia Sutttenberg from the Poverty and Homelessness Committee.

---

## **Tu B'shvat Tryon Creek Family Hike and Seder**

*1-3 pm, Sunday Feb. 5 — Tryon Creek Nature Center, 11321 SW Terwilliger Blvd.*

Join us for a joyful, family-friendly hike from Tryon Creek Nature Center through trails to the Tryon Farm, about 20 minutes. A short Tu B'shvat seder (under cover of a large yurt if rainy or too cold), followed by return hike back to the nature center. The hike will be led by forest activist Brenna Bell. Seder will be led by Harriet Cooke and Karen Ballard. [RSVP](#)

## Tu B'shvat: A Climate Activist's Holiday

By Harriet Cooke

February, we roll into the month of Shevat, whose full moon is celebrated by Tu B'shvat, the New Year of the Trees. Tu B'shvat is our mid-winter festival where we see and feel the energy of the trees begin to rise again. From the cold, dark, rainy dormancy of winter, Life is waking up.

If there is one Jewish festival that climate activists could choose for our inspiration, Tu B'shvat might be it. Forests are the lungs of our planet, particularly old growth forests that draw down carbon not only into towering trees, but also into the rich living networks beneath the forest floor.

Our climate crisis developed through the twin errors of cutting down the vast majority of our planet's old growth forests, 96% in the US and 80% worldwide, coupled with the burning of fossil fuels. HCAT works on solutions to both these issues, stopping the burning of fossil fuels, and protecting our remaining old growth forests, allowing more to regrow through healthy forest management.

While waiting for Tu B'shvat, in mid-January HCAT worked on fossil fuel issues by hosting the fourth community forum on Zenith Energy and the fuel tank hub in NW Portland, not far from our synagogue. This hub of over 500 tanks provides 90% of liquid fuel to all Oregon. Most of the tanks were built before there were earthquake codes. All the tanks are built on the banks of the Willamette River in a liquefaction zone—land that is unstable and will amplify the power of the earth-



The fourth community forum on Zenith Energy, hosted at Havurah Shalom by HCAT, brought over 100 people to our packed house and about 50 more on Zoom to learn about making our area safer from the hazards of the NW fuel tank hub.

---

### Havurah Climate Action Team

---

quakes that are part of our geology's past and future.

It was an honor to host the forum and help promote the wisdom of the speakers. They need our help to keep calling our city and county commissioners to act on this potentially devastating situation and begin transitioning to safer storage, while we switch to renewable energy and fuels. The forum was recorded.

Afterwards, one of the panelists, Bob Sallinger of the Audubon Society, reminded me how important our voices are. Just forty people writing three to four sentences to our commissioners makes a HUGE difference. Join the HCAT email list and receive timely notices of who needs

to be written to and what they need to hear. We are all needed in this work!

Now, rolling into Shevat, with the lengthening days, many of us recharge our energy with the delight of being outside and walking through our remaining forests. This year, for Tu B'shvat, HCAT has teamed up with Havurah's Kehillah group to invite you on a **family friendly hike through Tryon Creek State Park on Feb. 5 at 1 pm.**

We'll meet at the Tryon Creek Nature Center, then take a guided walk with forest activist and attorney Brenna Bell. She'll lead us to Tryon farm, located on the edge of the park, where we'll have our Tu B'shvat seder before returning to the Nature Center.

Please [RSVP here](#) so we know how many to expect for the seder! For questions, contact Harriet Cooke or Karen Ballard.



# LIMUD Hebrew Corner

By Racheli Ross  
and Jana Hopfinger

## Artists of the Month

Adi Nes | Fatma Shahan Dery

**Think about the importance of  
an עץ etz (tree) in Judaism.**



**Why** might we compare the Torah to the Tree of Life ([Etz Chayim He](#)—it is the Tree of Life to those who hold fast to it [Proverbs 3:17-18]) as we finish the Torah service?

**How** is a person like the [tree of the field](#) (Deuteronomy 20:19)?

And finally, **what** might it mean that we (two Hebrew geeks) are unable to find any other widely known Hebrew words that come from the “root” of the word etz—ayin, tzadee, yud/heh —ע.צ.י aside from etz (tree or wood) and etzim (trees)?

The “Etz Chaim” (Tree of Life) which stood in the Garden of Eden, next to the “Etz Hadaat” (Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil), is the tree that promises eternal chaim (life). As we look at the two wooden dowels (called Atzei Chayim—the Trees of Life) which literally support the words of the Torah, we can perhaps realize “eternal life” by understanding the immense value that comes from wrestling/loving/teaching our traditions.

As we near Tu B’Shtat, the New Year of the Trees, we think about how humans are like the “tree of the field.” In the Torah, this comparison was given as part of the laws about how to preserve fruit-bearing trees in times of warfare. Take a moment to think about how you are similar to a tree—putting down roots, bearing fruit, providing shelter and sustenance to many and weathering storms. As you look at these provocative works by two Israeli artists, the first a gay Sephardic man (Adi Nes) and the other a Druze woman (Fatma Shanan Dery), you might think about belonging, identity, interconnectedness of humans and nature, or even the “forbidden fruit” of the grapefruit in Adi Nes’ photograph. Take a look at the links above.

Finally, in answer to our last question, could it be that this short, two-letter Hebrew word “etz” is so rich with meaning that we need no other words to grow from its roots? We hope that our “Pinat Ivrit” has provided some figurative p’ree (fruit) for you to eat and we invite you to share your ideas and comments with us.

**Shalom,  
Racheli and Jana**

## LIMUD

# Find Your Way with Book Group

Twelve-year old Sheldon Horowitz is still recovering from the tragic loss of his mother only a year ago when a suspicious traffic accident steals the life of his father near their home in rural Massachusetts.

It is 1938, and Sheldon, who was in the truck, emerges from the crash an orphan hell-bent on revenge. He takes that fire with him to Hartford, where he embarks on a new life under the roof of his buttoned-up Uncle Nate.

Sheldon, his teenage cousins Abe and Mirabelle, and his best friend, Lenny, will contend with tradition and orthodoxy, appeasement and patriotism, mafia hitmen and angry accordion players, all while World War II takes center stage alongside a hurricane in New England and co-

**February Book**  
**Led by Beth Kaye**

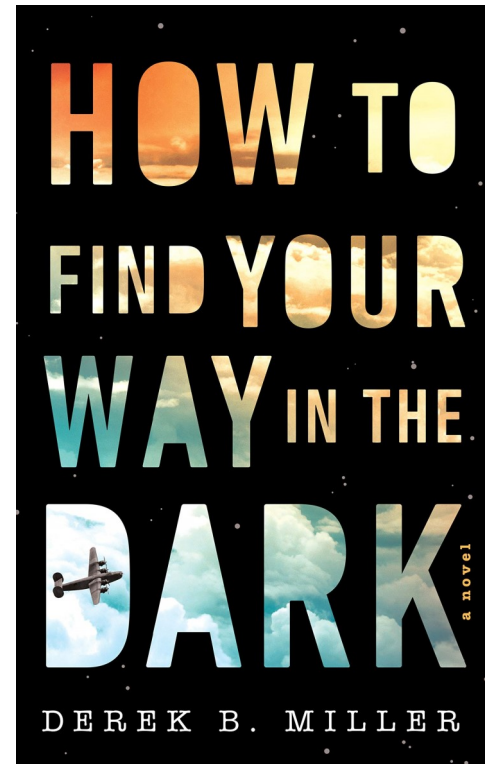
### How to Find Your Way in the Dark

by Derek B. Miller  
Fiction, 368 pages

**Tuesday, Feb. 28**  
**Zoom Room Bet**

medians in the Catskills.

With his eye always on vengeance for his father's murder, Sheldon stakes out his place in a world he now understands is comprised largely of crimes: right and wrong, big and small.



## Learn Trope

*7 pm, Thursdays, starting Feb. 16 — Havurah Shalom*

Trope is a beautiful, ancient system of reading Torah. It is a treat to learn and inspiring to sing. A five-session class led by Ken Lerner will teach you everything you need to connect with this heritage and become a proud leyner (Torah chanter). Ken has been a patient teacher of beginning Torah readers for over 30 years at Havurah and would be happy for you too to feel the satisfaction of gaining this skill. [RSVP](#)



## TIKKUN OLAM

### Taking Action Lunch Bunch

*12 pm, Monday, Feb. 13 — Havurah Shalom and Zoom Room Bet*

Do you get emails asking you to contact your elected official, but don't find the few minutes it takes to call or email them? Looking to connect with other Havurahniks? We have the solution.

Together, by Zoom or at Havurah, we'll eat lunch, chat, and spend a few minutes taking our political action. From climate change to social justice, we'll have info on who to call or write. Bring your suggestions too. [RSVP](#)

# 'The Attack' will conclude I/P Film Series

7 pm, Sunday, Feb. 26 — Zoom  
Room Bet — [RSVP](#)

The Havurah Israel/Palestine Committee will be leading a discussion on the final film in our current series: The Attack.

As with previous discussions, please watch the film in advance. The Attack can be seen on Kanopy, the free streaming channel available through the Multnomah County Library—and most other public libraries in the US—and on Amazon Prime.

[Here is a link to the trailer.](#)

In The Attack, an assimilated Arab surgeon seems to have it all, with a promising career with honors among the Israelis in Tel Aviv. After a devastating terrorist suicide bombing, his beloved wife is found among the dead. Complex and painful questions about his wife arise. Lives are changed.

This is the third of three film discussions organized by the I/P Committee this winter. The first, The

## Israel/Palestine Committee

Other Son, resulted in a terrific conversation—mostly centered on identity: Does it come from upbringing or genetics? The same has been true for earlier film discussions—interesting and respectful. The second, Out in the Dark, deals with an improbable gay love affair between a Palestinian living in the West Bank and an Jewish Israeli living in Tel Aviv.

Why was it improbable and what, if anything, did we learn about how LGBTQ people are regarded in Israeli and Palestinian society, and about the potential role of the Israeli secret police in capitalizing on these beliefs?

These discussions, and the ones conducted in the last year, have brought out many aspects of the complexities of the situation in Is-



rael/Palestine. The discussion of The Attack promises to be excellent as well.

These discussions are open to all Havurah members—regardless of your involvement with, or interest in, the troubling circumstances in Israel/Palestine.

## New Class: Dismantling Racism From the Inside Out

6 pm, Monday, Feb 27; March 13, 20; Apr. 3, 17; May 1, 22; June 5, 19 — In Person at Havurah Shalom

A course for transforming our antiracism efforts through Jewish spiritual practice. Facilitated by Rabbi Benjamin and Maria Lisa Johnson.

Learn concrete Jewish spiritual tools alongside other Havurah members to confront, subvert, and heal implicit and internalized racism within ourselves and others. This course explores the inner work necessary to change our habits of mind, body, and spirit to dismantle racism, in support of whatever organizing, advocacy, and service-work we're each engaged in.

Our core spiritual practice will be Mussar, the Jewish

spiritual discipline designed to integrate what the head understands with what the heart feels through daily practice.

*Participants will be expected to attend every session (as much as possible) and commit to consistent practice in between sessions, including meeting with a learning partner once every other week. This is not an antiracism 101 course, but rather is intended to build on an existing antiracism foundation, so participants need to have an understanding of systemic racism in the United States.*

Please contact Rabbi Benjamin if you are interested in participating.



## LIMUD

# Art, Journaling, Text Study: Mussar Study Basics

### Mussar Study Basics for Self Improvement And Creating Artistic Mussar Tools

2 pm, Sundays, Feb. 19; March 5,  
19 — Zoom Room Heh — [RSVP](#)

Carolina Martinez is offering a three-session Mussar sampler class to engage in introspection about self, relationships, and Hashem. We will blend Jewish learning through text study, combined with journaling, and create artistically decorated Mussar trait focus cards and a journal for study. "Mussar has helped me personally to maintain more tranquility under pressure and more control over what I say and do," she explains.

Mussar study is a Jewish virtues approach to Jewish ethics and character development, where participants set intentions for the week or month with the idea of balancing out



their internal thoughts and outward communication and action. This allows participants to examine the character traits that can be problematic, and self-reflect to reach more equilibrium between positive and negative inclinations.

The Mussar tradition dates back to the 10th century Rabbi Saadiah Gaon, who wrote The Book of Beliefs and Opinions.

His ideas spread from Spain across European Jewish communities and to Israel. In 19th century Lithuania, Mussar literature transformed from being an individual method of study to a communal practice and movement of Jewish enlightenment.

Bring one package of blank 3x5 notecards, a composition or spiral notebook, pen, and colored pencil and fine-line black sharpie.

### Discussion Group: Reading Ruttenberg's 'Repentance and Repair'

#### Exploring Teshuvah in our Lives and the World: Reading Danya Ruttenberg's On Repentance and Repair

7 pm, Wednesdays, March 8, 15, 22; April 12, 19  
— Havurah Shalom and Zoom Room Dalet — [RSVP](#)

Facilitated by Rabbi Benjamin. In this series we'll read through Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg's On Repentance and Repair, an in-depth exploration of Teshuvah, Havurah's theme for this year. Beginning with an overview of the concept, Rabbi Ruttenberg then examines it through various lenses, from the interpersonal to the national.

Chapters will be read on our own between sessions, and we'll explore them together each class.

**Please RSVP by February 22.**

## AVODAH

### The Journey to Die for: The Dying Process

7 pm, Thursday, Feb. 16 — Zoom Room Bet

The fourth installment of the educational series: The Journey to Die for: Improving the Quality of Your Life hosted by the Ma'avar Committee. In this session, we will ponder the questions we all face in the last phase of life.

Chaplain Candi Wuhrman and Dale Oller, MD will present on the dying process and facilitate a discussion on what happens to us spiritually and emotionally during dying, death, mourning, and grief processes.

# Havurah Teen Night

## WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

- ✓ Hosted at Havurah
- ✓ Hanging with friends
- ✓ Ice Cream Sundaes
- ✓ Fun activities
- ✓ Live music with DJ Saul

**Saturday, February 4th**

**7:00-9:00**

# HAVURAH TEENS EDITION

Information for Teens 7th-12th and their families

## Teen Engagement Committee

The committee's purpose is to support and encourage Havurah youth in 7th-12th grade to plan, develop and implement activities for teens by teens

***We are looking for teen organizers*** and parent participants. Meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month in Zoom Room Hey.

Please join us for our next meeting on Tuesday, February 7 from 7-8pm.

## PARTY NIGHT!

**Who:** All Havurah Teens- 7th-12th grade

**When:** Saturday, February 4th, 7pm-9pm

**Where:** Havurah Shalom

**What:** Gather with other teens for Gaga, music w/ DJ Saul, games, Ice Cream Sundaes and more!

Link for the RSVP is on the Havurah Calendar.

Please join other parents and guardians in the Pardes classroom during the event to talk to members of the Teen Engagement Committee about future events for the teens and ways to involve them in planning and running their own events.

## RECONSTRUCTIONIST TEEN WEEKEND

**Friday, March 17th- Sunday March 19th - hosted by Tivnu**

Havurah teens Grades 8-12 are invited to join thirty peers from two Reconstructionist congregations in NY/NJ who are coming to Portland for a social justice weekend run by local non-profit Tivnu: Building Justice <https://tivnu.org/>.

Come learn about the weekend, which will include hands-on volunteer work, spirited discussions about the roots and solutions of houselessness and other injustices, and some time to relax and have fun together (Shabbat services, games, hike in the Gorge, Roller Skating).

**Registration deadline is February 8th.**

For more information, please email Leanna - [leanna@tivnu.org](mailto:leanna@tivnu.org).

Scholarships will be available for students.



# HADRACHA

## Save the Date! Havurah 101

Are you interested in understanding Havurah's history and values and how our participatory culture has informed our governance structure? Do you have questions about how our committees work, the Havurah budget, or how you might get more involved?

Mark your calendar for one of these dates:

- 7 pm, Monday, March 13, in person at Havurah [RSVP](#)
- 7 pm, Tuesday, March 21, in Zoom Room Bet [RSVP](#)

### Leadership Development Committee

Members of the Havurah Leadership Development Committee will help you understand our unique community and the many roles members and staff take to support each other. All members welcome to join us!

## Annual Leadership Retreat

10:30 am, Sunday, Feb. 12 — In Person at Havurah Shalom

Havurah's Annual Leadership Retreat is a chance for all committee co-chairs, staff and Steering to come together to look at the big picture of what is happening in Havurah. It is also a place for connections to happen across areas of interest with the hope of having a more diverse group of participants from the congregation at all events and activities.

Attendance at the retreat is not restricted to co-chairs. If you have any interest in participating, please contact Shelley Sobel or Debby Nadell to receive an invitation.

## Sabbatical Approaching for Education Director

By David Kertzner  
Havurah Vice President

Our beloved Education Director, Deborah Eisenbach-Budner, will be taking the first part of a Sabbatical starting on Feb. 10. Deborah will return on March 25. The second part will take place over Winter/Spring 2023/24.

During Deborah's time away, the wide-ranging demands of her position will be picked up by everyone, from our great staff to lay leaders, Shabbat School Co-Chairs and other congregants. If you have questions or anything you want to share with Deborah, please reach out before 'the last minute' as she will be quite busy tying up her work up before Feb. 10.

The word sabbatical traces back to the Hebrew word shabbat, of course – a day of rest. As we all know from being around our amazing staff, working for Havurah Shalom requires intensive performance, especially during peak periods such



Education Director Deborah Eisenbach-Budner will be on sabbatical Feb. 10 to March 25.

as the lead-up to High Holidays and the beginning and end of the school year. Some staff are also 'on call' for building and community needs, or pastoral emergencies. Paid holidays, vacations and sabbaticals are different forms of rest that compensate staff for their investment, helping them recharge. We all benefit from that!

Happily, and with a well of gratitude, we wish Deborah much-needed time away from our loving community to refresh, recharge and do whatever she needs and wants to do. We will be here and going strong when she returns, thanks in no small part to all she has given us.

Olam Chesed Yibaneh.

## Havurah Shalom: A Work in Progress

### Long Range Plan will help us prepare for next generation of Havurahniks

By Bob Liebman

It's time for celebration: Havurah's Long Range Plan is done! The product of months of work by virtually everyone in our congregation, the LRP is a commentary on the living Jewish community we are building at Havurah. Like the Tanakh, it has a census, plans for future space, thoughts on leadership and suggestions for sustainability. Now it is time to read the plan to see how it can guide us.

At the heart of the LRP is the core question of Havurah's 40+ year journey: Can Havurah grow in size and still honor the values of inclusion, participation, and active Jewish engagement that are our birthright? As a welcoming community, Havurah is enriched by its growing diversity of age and life-stage, race and ethnicity, gender and sexualities. As a participatory community, Havurah is energized because members take active roles as learners and leyners, teachers and challah-bakers.

As we grow, we need to know more of who our members are and how they connect with Havurah. The LRP gives a wide-angle view of our

### Long Range Plan Committee

changing numbers, demographics, beliefs, and activities of members. Since 2020, more than 100 member units joined Havurah, boosting our size above 500. The LRP calls on us to find better ways of connecting new members with Havurah and with each other so they can become lifelong participants not occasional onlookers.

In addition, the LRP shows that participation is not equally available to all because members face life-squeezes linked to work, childcare, eldercare, wealth, and health. It considers ways that Havurah can adjust to diverse life-stages and differing time demands, suggesting that we should add staff who can support but not supplant our leaders, teachers, and other volunteers. Finally, with growth, we need to assess whether our space will continue to be adequate for our activities and, if not, whether we can mobilize the funds, energies, and leadership needed to scale up.

These points make clear that all of us should read, reflect, and reckon with the LRP. It puts the question of what Havurah will become for the next generation, much as building the tabernacle was the formative moment for making the Jewish nation. Rabbi Jonathan Sacks z'l re-

### Long Range Plan

**Note:** The Long Range Plan information is available [on our website](#). Steering Committee members will vote at their February meeting to accept the Long Range Plan, followed later this spring by Steering's discussion about prioritizing the recommendations for focus in the next few years. We will share further information as the work with Steering progresses.

marked that in Torah the description of Creation is brief, while the description of the tabernacle goes on at length. Why? He wrote that it was effortless for Hashem to create a home for creation, but for humans the key challenge was to work together "[T]o turn a group of individuals, or diverse tribes, into a nation, they must build something together. It was built out of difference, each [made] a distinctive contribution. Some brought [metals], others jewels, others their skills and time.... How do you turn a group of people into a nation? God's answer was dazzling in its simplicity. You get them voluntarily to create something together. A nation is built by building.... The tabernacle represents integration without assimilation. Because we are not the same, we each have something unique to contribute, something only we can give."

When you read the LRP, think of how we can share the ongoing work of building Havurah.



## AVODAH

# Adult B'nei Mitzvah students take the dip

Members of the 5783 Adult B'nei Mitzvah group gather just after immersing in the Mikveh to mark this life-cycle passage. The group of 19 Havurahniks will read from the Torah during services on Feb. 4. Everyone is invited to join in their simcha in person or in Zoom Room Aleph.



## Kabbalat Shabbat Celebration

Second Fridays of the month, through May

We're gathering in person to welcome Shabbat. All are welcome! These monthly celebrations will be held on the second Friday, from October through June. A light, pre-service oneg will be followed by a spirited, all-ages service led by Rabbi Benjamin and Havurah musicians, with dinner afterward for those who wish to stay.

- 6 pm Light Snack
- 6:30 Service (Join us remotely in Zoom Room Aleph)
- 7:30 Dinner

RSVP for dinner. Please consider a suggested donation of \$15 for the meal, in recognition that the actual cost for food and preparation is \$30. Thank you. *RSVPs are not needed for the service or snack!*

Volunteers for set-up and clean-up are needed! [Sign up to volunteer here.](#) Contact Marni Glick or Sally Hersh for more information.

RSVP for  
Feb. 10 Dinner





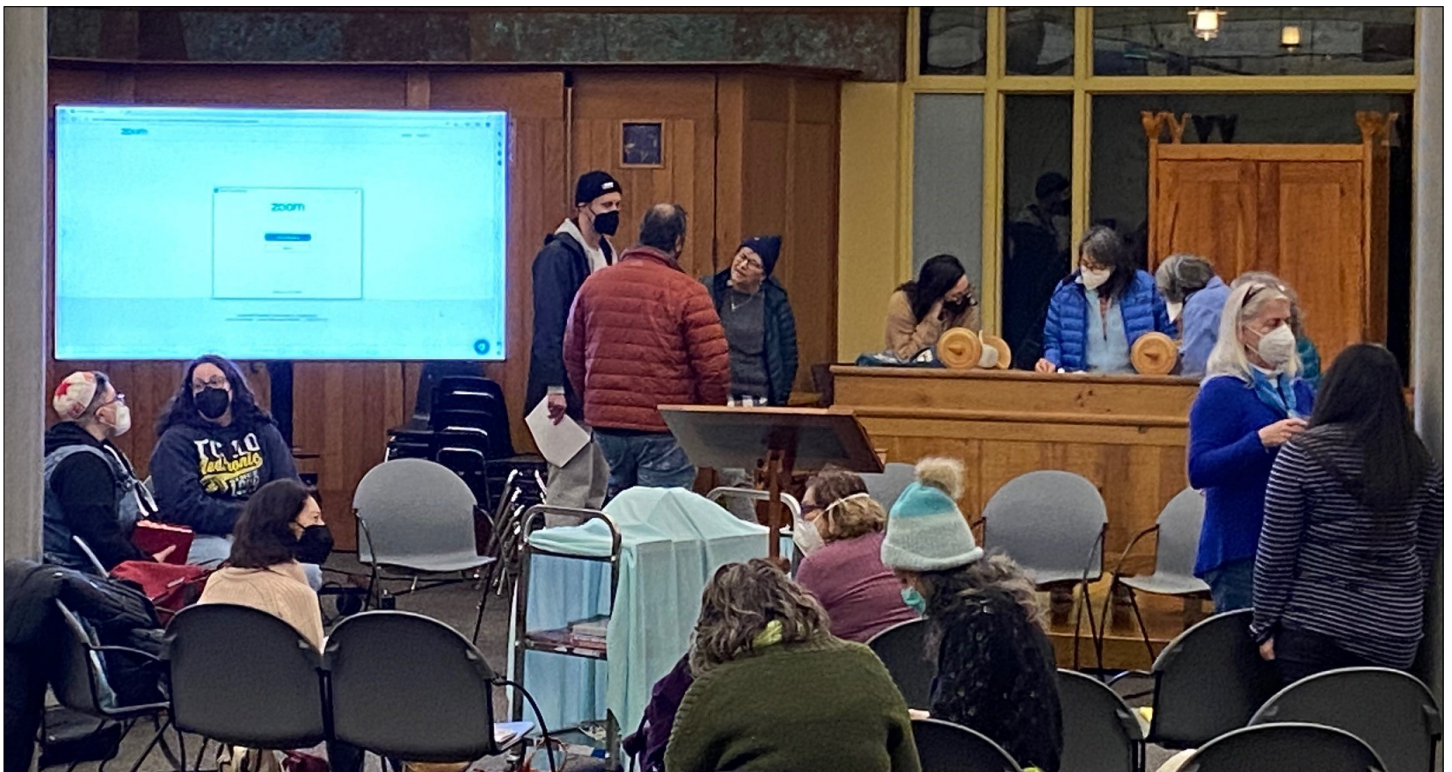
# LIMUD

## MAZEL TOV!

The following learners will become b'nei mitzvah at the Torah service on Feb. 4, 2023/5783

**Karen Polinsky  
Mara Zusman  
Fran Berg  
Sharon Stern  
Ellen Regal  
Megan Koler  
Amanda Elliston  
Michelle Lamanet  
Liza Springgate  
Ericka Kimball  
Rachel Shimshak  
Alexis Baghdadi  
Justin Strom  
Matthew Nelkin  
Susan Ungar  
Lesley Isenstein  
Brady Snyder  
Beth Segal  
Jennifer Kolman**

Below, members of the Adult B'nei Mitzvah cohort meet a final time on Feb. 1 to study and prepare for their service.



# Gratitude to Havurahniks

**By Ben Walters**  
**Steering Past-President**

2022 closed with a blast of bitter arctic cold that blew in through the Columbia Gorge. I am thankful that the high winds, snow, and ice were of a short duration. When we lost power at our home, it was only for a few hours, a mere inconvenience rather than a life-threatening event. It gave our family cause to be thankful for having dry, warm shelter, flashlights for the dark, and resources to provide ourselves with warm food.

Let's acknowledge the blessings we have, including the generosity of Havurah members in terms of volunteering time and energy. They are more numerous than may be thanked individually. Here are just some examples of the contributions from Havurah members for which we are grateful:

Thank you to Teri Ruch for her work on the Havurah website, especially in assisting the Long Range Planning Committee on preparing written materials for posting.

Thank you to Rachel Pollak, Debbie Rabidue, and Karen Westerman for meeting with the Staffing Task Force and sharing their wisdom. Yasher Koach!

Many, many thanks to Tivona Reith, Joel Schipper, Susan Brenner, Elianne Lieberman, Rachel Pollak, and Adela Basayne for their roles in planning and coordinating the well-attended Havurah Chanukah community celebration (about 120 attended, including over 25 volunteers). Also a big shout out to the organizers and the participants in the 2nd Annual Chanukah Swap activity!

Thank you to the Israel-Palestine Committee for its efforts in continuing the film discussion series,

which started again in December.

Thank you to the volunteers who helped to organize the Havurah Welcome Get-Together for new members, newish members and those interested in learning more about Havurah. Thanks also to those who made themselves available to provide information at the Get-Together, who helped set up for the event and for those who helped clean up afterward.

Thank you to Racheli Ross for providing a Hebrew Corner in Hakol.

Appreciation for those who participated in organizing the partnership effort with Trash for Peace to help with cleaning up the courtyard and Havurah's general exterior, as well as serving as a resource in engaging with Havurah's houseless neighbors.

Thank you to Steve Birkel and Joel Bettridge and others for leading the effort to evaluate and identify an insurance program for Havurah for cyber-security.

Thank you to the members who contributed bookcases, chairs, desks, miscellaneous furniture, and other items for the new classrooms and office space at Havurah's Annex space at the Lutheran Church at 18th and Irving, and to the volunteers who picked up those items and delivered them to the Annex location.

To those not specifically mentioned for their contributions of time and energy to Havurah –Thank You! We acknowledge and value all your contributions and participation. Havurah exists as a community because of contributions from many individuals, in whatever form these are given.

If there are any appreciations you think should be mentioned in the future, please contact Ben Walters (email listed in the member directory – please put "Gratitude" in the subject line.).