



# Reclaiming True Redemption

by Rabbi Benjamin Barnett

n 1877 the period in the U.S. known as Reconstruction was ended. The era that followed, in which white supremacists violently stripped away rights and power which Black people in the South had achieved, became known as Redemption. It's a chilling name, a sickening distortion of a sacred term. In Jewish tradition we celebrate Redemption, of course. Redemption from slavery is at the core of our birth as a people. Ge'ulah, redemption, in forms great and small, is something we acknowledge daily in our liturgy. Ultimately, we aspire toward Redemption for all peoples from enslavement and oppression of any kind. It represents the fulfillment of a vision in which our lives and the world are aligned with the way things should be. It is a heartbreaking and enraging truth about our nation that a period of reactionary white

supremacist violence is remembered by many as "redemption."

I revisited this history recently in returning to the podcast Scene on Radio, which has so thoroughly expand-

ed my understanding of our society and my place in it. The fourth season, "The Land that Never has been yet," is an indepth examination of democracy, or the lack thereof, in the U.S. It illustrates how limitations on democracy have been intentional from the beginning, enabling freedom for certain people while restricting it for others. Each time groups of people who were not intended to possess full rights of citizenship manage to attain some degree of it, most prominently but by no means exclusively African-Americans, they have been met with violent tactics aimed at denying or limiting those rights. Last century, of course, this reaction followed the victories of the

Black civil rights movement. And so the period we currently inhabit, which has been going on since then, is known as the "Second Redemption." "Like the first redemption," says John Biewan of Scene on Radio, "hostility to multiracial democracy is at the heart of it."

Following the January 6 attack on the Capitol, it has become only clearer that this is what we are up against: a fight against multi-racial democracy. I'm writing this in mid-January, so I do not know what else we will have faced by the time you read this, but I do know that this resistance to multi-racial democracy is not going away. And that it will continue to be fed by lies and deception. So we must clearly identify the truth and boldly amplify it in every way we can.

Torah is clear: there are false gods, and there are false

prophets. So there should be no surprise that there is also false redemption. Let us never let that turn us away from fighting for the true Redemption, and not be shy about declar-

not be shy about declaring that our version is the true one. Don't get me wrong: There are many nuances to positions, and morally upstanding people can and should disagree about them. But in this case, one version of Redemption says that each person should have full access to rights that facilitate lives of safety, freedom, and dignity. The other claims that some people are supreme over others. That is nothing but a cruel distortion of the holiness and mutual

So let us remain dedicated to what we know to be true. And may the One we call the Redeemer of Israel strengthen us as we work toward genuine Redemption for all.

concern which that word is meant to bear.

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that a period of reactionary white supremacist violence is

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**Hours of Operation** 

Monday – Thursday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm Friday

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

The office will be closed until further notice. You can still reach staff during these hours.

March Hakol Submission Deadline

February 15

To find this form, go to havurahshalom.org/submit and click on the corresponding link.

Weekly Email Deadline

Every Tuesday at noon

To find this form, go to havurahshalom.org/submit and click on the corresponding link.

### **Havurah Staff**

Benjamin Barnett, Rabbi – benjamin@havurahshalom.org

Adela Basayne, Program Director – adela@havurahshalom.org

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

Carrie Kirschner, Assistant Coordinator of Education – ace@havurahshalom.org

Brad Pector, Communications & Membership Coordinator – brad@havurahshalom.org

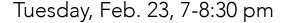
Rachel Pollak, Office & Facilities Manager - rachel@havurahshalom.org

Leah Shoshanah, Music Coordinator – leah@havurahshalom.org

Hakol is Havurah Shalom's monthly newsletter that is edited and designed by the Communications & Membership Coordinator. If you have any questions or comments please email him at brad@havurahshalom.org.

# **Book Group: Online Discussion**

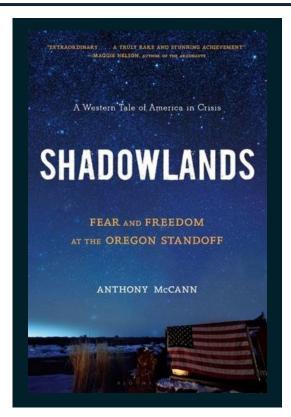
Shadowlands by Anthony McCann



n 2016, a group of armed, divinely inspired right-wing protestors led by Ammon Bundy occupied the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in the high desert of eastern Oregon. Encamped in the shadowlands of the republic, insisting that the Federal government had no right to own public land, the occupiers were seen by a divided country as either dangerous extremists dressed up as cowboys, or as heroes insisting on restoring the rule of the Constitution. From the Occupation's beginnings, to the trials of the occupiers in federal court in downtown Portland and their tumultuous aftermaths, Shadowlands is the resonant, multifaceted story of one of the most dramatic flashpoints in the year that gave us Donald Trump.

Sharing the expansive stage with the occupiers are a host of others-Native American tribal leaders, public-lands ranchers, militia members, environmentalists, federal defense attorneys, and Black Lives Matter activists-each contending in their different ways with the meaning of the American promise of Liberty. Gathering into its vortex the realities of social media technology, history, religion, race, and the environment-this piercing work by Anthony McCann offers us a combination of beautiful writing and high-stakes analysis of our current cultural and political moment. Shadowlands is a clarifying, exhilarating story of a nation facing an uncertain future and a murky past in a time of great collective reckoning.

Discussion led by Marjorie Walters.



Steering

# **Post-Pandemic Visions**

# by Havurah President Miriam Reshotko

### Dear Hevre,

On March 13th when I was told to leave work immediately and that we'd be working from home until further notice, I figured it would be a couple of weeks. Working from home cozy at first; it was a novelty, kind of like a few snow days. After a week, I was exhausted, and my back was killing me. I missed my ergonomic desk setup, I missed seeing my coworkers in person, I missed having some "alone time" even if it was just during my commute or sitting in my cubicle. How long was this going to last?

For Havurah, there was an even more difficult transition. While Havurah already had Zoom rooms (thank goodness) for the occasional on-line meeting, they were certainly not a mainstay of our activities. Holding services and celebrations over Zoom seemed ...well, incongruous. The whole POINT of a Bet Knesset (literally a "house of meeting") is to gather, in person; to hear each other's voices, to greet, make eye contact, and hug. Whether for a service, a class, or a committee meeting, we all are nourished by the energy we collectively bring when we are together. There is simply no substitute for making music together, hearing our voices intertwining.

And yet...we persevered! We learned how to hold efficient meetings over Zoom (even using Chat for side talk!). We quickly learned how to celebrate B'nei Mitzvah, daven, study, and comfort our mourners in a virtual environment. What's more, we have found that participation at many activities increased on Zoom. Our congregational meeting last June was the best attended EVER. We can now include family members who live across the country or across the ocean.

We can now leave work one minute and be at a meeting or class a few minutes later. No driving, no parking, no traffic.

So what happens when the threat of COVID-19 is no longer so dire? Does everything go back to how it was before March 2020? I got a holiday letter from a friend stating that their hope for 2021 is that Zoom would be the sound their car makes as they drive away on vacation, and Hybrid would describe their car's engine. But do we want to completely dispose of Zoom? Perhaps Hybrid would be a reasonable goal, allowing our events to continue to be inclusive to everyone in our community, including those who may be ill, or out of town, or who lack transportation or childcare.

Havurah will be considering hybrid models as we envision our post-pandemic future. Design and implementation will require discussion, creativity and (likely) some new equipment. We will lean heavily on our IT committee for their guidance on this issue, but we want to hear from the larger community, too. This topic will be covered in the Long-Range Planning survey and we also invite you to reach co-Presidents to Miriam Reshotko (miriam@havurahshalom.org) Ben Walters (ben@havurahshalom.org). Please share your thoughts, ideas, and post-pandemic visions with us so that we can continue to serve everyone's needs and keep our community as vibrant and inclusive as ever.







Thursday, Feb. 25, 6:30-8:30 pm

More information in Hineinu soon!

# The Power of the People

by Elianne Lieberman

CAT is excited about its partnership with the Jewish Earth Alliance (JEA), a grassroots network of communities working together to enable Jews to engage in the policy process at the Federal level as citizens. They mobilize Jews to stand up and raise a loud, collective voice for policies that reflect Jewish values. Through informative one-hour webinars on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, support for the monthly letter writing campaign, and opportunities for their volunteers to present trainings to us, they have made being a citizen advocate easy and fun.

One of my most powerful experiences has been connecting, on an ongoing basis, with my elected representatives. Whether on a local, state or national level, it always feels good to let my representatives know my opinion and how I want them to represent me. It feels even better when they respond to me or when I have the opportunity to meet with them for a second or third time; they recognize me and give me a warm welcome.

One thorny issue JEA had helped with is how to counter the influence of paid lobbyist. Grassroots activism is the answer! Representative Mike Levine, a Jewish member of the House of Representatives from California, said "Grassroots activism is the most politically impactful thing. It makes all the difference in the world." Advocacy comes in the form of letter writing,

emails, phone calls, and in person meetings. In COVID times these meetings are on zoom. His thoughts are echoed in Citizen-Centric Advocacy: The Untapped Power of Constituent Engagement by the Congressional Management Foundation. This report gives a great deal of insight into effective advocacy techniques. One of its conclusions is that Congress places a high value on groups and citizens who have built relationships with their legislators and staff.

Regardless of the subject, being an effective advocate relies on the following principles: being respectful, telling your story about why the issue is important to you, and being clear to the official the actions you would like them to take.

HCAT is excited to present these three opportunities for members of all ages to be advocates in community with each other. Look in upcoming Hineinu emails for more details and zoom room locations:

### **Monthly Letter Writing Party**

Feb. 7, 11 am

It's time for 100% Zero-Emission Vehicle. We provide you with the Jewish connection to this topic, background information and sample letters, along with good company. See what it's about here.

## **HCAT**

### Forests are Life – From Ecstasy to Anger to Healing: Oregon Forests, Climate Change and Community Advocacy

Feb. 28, 4-6 pm

Our forests are crucial ecosystems that sustain many plants and animals, provide us with beauty and respite, and help keep climate change in check. But human activities and climate change itself are threatening our forests. A panel of local experts will provide an inspiring overview of what is happening and what we can do to help.

### We Voted, Now What? How to Help Our Elected Officials Enact Bold, Visionary Policy

March 7, 4-6pm

An engaging and interactive presentation by JEA. Come away feeling empowered.

# Want to see more of what Havurah has to offer later this year?

Check out our <u>2020-2021 Community Brochure</u> and our <u>Havurah calendar</u>.

# Want to see our previous Hakols or weekly emails?

Check out our news page on the website at havurahshalom.org/news

# Do you know how to navigate the Havurah website?

If you've ever been confused, or even if you're curious to learn more, take a look at our new Havurah Website Guide and you should be able to find the most essential things you'll need!

# **Helping Our Unhoused Neighbors**

### by Jenn Louis

It is almost 8 weeks that I have been serving our unhoused neighbors, with so much support from you. Thank you. I have built good relationships, made sure that individuals have basic needs met and have learned much more than I knew about experiences of living outside:

- Did you know that many people living outside have trouble getting inside living situations accommodated after serving time in jail? No matter the crime, many people find themselves unable to meet qualifications to satisfy landlords.
- Did you know that many people living outside live part-time indoors when they have a friend who will

allow them to stay for a few days? These are the fortunate ones.

 Did you know that unhoused individuals need lots of clothing? When their clothes become wet, they are no longer usable. Since washers and dryers are not readily available, wet clothes can cause hypothermia if not changed out when wet. And, due to infrequent washing of clothes, mildew on wet clothes can render them unusable.

Thank you for supporting the efforts I have been facilitating. Please see Hineinu for more information on getting involved.

# What Happened to The Wapato Jail Building?

by Gloria Halper

"Trauma-Informed, Data-Driven Homeless Reentry" program is what happened! Renamed Bybee Lakes Hope Center with a pandemic ribbon cutting ceremony taking place several weeks ago. A man who was formerly homeless for many years described at this ceremony why he thought it took him so many years to break out of his homeless state of living. As I listened, it made such good sense. Treat

each person as an individual who has arrived at this point in the life in their own unique way, with needs that may not necessarily be another homeless person's needs. Why have everyone go through the same programs then? As a former teacher of special education, the term IEP =Individual Education Plan (which I heard that day in regards to a population distinct from my special ed. children) was exactly what this gentleman was talking about. An individual plan for each person who will enter this newly remodeled, re-envisioned Bybee Lakes Hope Center.



Bybee Lakes Hope Center

Here is the essence of a Bybee Lakes Hope Center "IEP" clients will receive:

- A thorough intake process that evaluates the obstacles a person faces to reenter society
- Individual reentry plans to remove barriers and identify solutions
- One-on-one case management services
- Support to access necessary resources like mental health and addiction services, food stamps, health insur-

ance, housing assistance, employment services, and more

- Love, respect, and a safe place to heal

At the September Interfaith Alliance on Poverty's (IAP) monthly meeting we were told that the Transition to Stability Action Team had met with Bybee Lakes and agreed to supply sack lunches daily from October-December as the center got up and running. As all but two of the faith-based congregations of IAP attend their faith services on Sundays, I chose it for Havurah, as the lunches need to be delivered before noon. Teams from our Portland Homeless Family Solutions volunteers (a growing group currently representing over 90 Havurah families) have put together whatever number of lunches have been needed and driven them out to Bybee Lakes (look it up - far out in North Portland - remember the building was constructed to hold those incarcerated). If you are interested in being a part of this lunch brigade for BLHC, please contact Gloria Halper. I am honored and proud to co-chair our Tikkun Olam Poverty and Homelessness Committee.

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

### March 20

Sanna Berkson-Klaus Child of Lorissa & Mark

### **April 10**

Simon Yohalem-Ilsley
Child of Beth & Justin

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

I would like to thank the kind member who donated in my name. This was quite unexpected but very much appreciated. I also would like to thank all members who have supplied us with meals these past months as I have undergone numerous surgeries on my leg. I feel quite blessed to be a part of such a giving community and hope that someday in the future when I regain my mobility that I can start contributing to families in need.

- Golda Dwass

### **Tributes**

### **General Contributions**

Kathy and Lou Jaffe, in memory of Mary Graham.

Stephen Katz, in honor of the folks that make Wednesday Minyan work.

Miriam Reshotko and Lee Gordon, in honor of Havurah Shalom Staff and Steering Committee, who have done an outstanding job and have supported me, each other, and our community through a very difficult year. Kol Hakavod and Toda Rabah!

Leatrice Kaplan, in loving memory of my husband, Bernard M. Kaplan.

Dianne Stone, in honor of Lenny Garfinkel.

### **High Holidays Contributions**

Jennifer and Aaron Bernstein, in appreciation of the wonderful High Holidays and Shabbat services in 2020.

Holly Shev and Mark Lenetsky, in memory of Ben and Shirley Lenetsky.

### **Cemetery Fund**

Suzanne Pickgrobe, in memory of Allen and Mildred Pick.

### Music Fund

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

### **Sanctuary Fund**

Julia Lager-Mesulam, in memory of my father, Robert Lager.

### Youth Education Fund

Gloria Halper and Jay Moskovitz,in honor of Rachel Oh.

### **Havurah Endowment Fund**

Arleen Slive and Dick Mastbrook, in honor of Karen Westerman.

### Rabbi Discretionary Fund

Miriam and Joel Beinin, in honor of our granddaughter Isadora Beinin's 10th birthday.

Frances Payne Adler, in honor of Havurah Staff
— all of you who worked so hard and so
creatively to sustain us and Havurah itself
through this pandemic challenge. Thank you!

Fran Weick and Richard Lishner, in memory of Robert Weick and Beverly Weick.



### **Baby Born!**

Aaron and Jacoba Gundle are the proud parents of a baby girl: Cora Jean was born at 1am on December 27, weighing 6 lbs 7 oz. Baby Cora is doing great; parents are exhausted but ecstatic.

# Adult Education at Havurah

The Lifelong Learning Committee (LLC) oversees our educational programs for adults. It is our goal to offer classes that fit into one of three categories: historical/cultural, hands-on/expressive, or spiritual/religious. We make sure that each season of classes includes a blend of offerings from each of these categories. We are extremely grateful to all the members who have stepped up to offer their knowledge and skills to keep Havurahniks engaged in meaningful Jewish learning experiences. Do you have an idea for a class you would be interested in teaching? Please email Eve Berry or Joel Beinin.

# February 2021

4:00pm Forests are Life	10:00am B'nei Mitzvah: Beginning the Journey/Date Selection 4:00pm Discussion on Homelessness 5:00pm Song Share with the Havurah Music Maker's Collective 7:00pm Second Meeting of the Israel/Palestine Committee 7:00pm Spiritual Writing Group	Grade 3 Transition Projects 11:00am Mountains of Evidence?	7 Shevat 25 11:00am Letter Writing Party	11:00am Havurah Leadership Retreat	31 <u>Shevat 18</u>	Sun
7:00pm Jews of the Middle East and North Africa 7:00pm Spiritual Writing Group	7:00pm Jews of the Middle East and North Africa	Admin:Presidents' Day  Admin:Presidents' Day  Hakol Deadline 7:00pm Jews of the Middle East and North  Africa	8 Shevat 26 7:00pm Jews of the Middle East and North Africa	7:00pm Jews of the Middle East and North Africa 7:00pm Spiritual Writing Group	1 Shevat 19	Mon
2 12:00pm Jewish Mindfulness & Meditation 7:00pm Grappling with White Nationalism and White Supremacy as Jews 7:00pm BIPOC Community Meet-Up	12:00pm Jewish Mindfulness & Meditation 6:30pm Uncovering the Hidden History of Discrimination in Oregon 7:00pm Book Group: Shadowlands by Anthony McCann	16 Adar 4 12:00pm Jewish Mindfulness & Meditation 7:00pm Grappling with White Nationalism and White Supremacy as Jews	Shevat 27 12:00pm Jewish Mindfulness & Meditation 6:30pm Steering Meeting	12:00pm Jewish Mindfulness &. Meditation 5:15pm HCAT Meeting 7:00pm Grappling with White Nationalism and White Supremacy as Jews 7:00pm BIPOC Community Meet-Up	2 Shevat 20	Tues
8:30am Morning Minyan 6:30pm Middle School 6:30pm High School 7:00pm Preparing for Passover	24 Adar 12 8:30am Morning Minyan 6:30pm High School 7:00pm Preparing for Passover	8:30am Morning Minyan 6:30pm Middle School 6:30pm High School 6:30pm High School 7:00pm Lev Tahor Chanting Circle	8:30am Morning Minyan 6:30pm Middle School 6:30pm High School 6:30pm High School 7:00pm The Prophets	8:30am Morning Minyan 6:30pm Middle School 6:30pm High School 7:00pm The Prophets	3 Shevat 21	Wed
7:00pm Beginning Conversational Hebrew 7:00pm Writer's Workshop	Taanit Esther Erev Purim 4:30pm Alte Rockers Happy Hour 6:30pm Purim Celebration 7:00pm Writer's Workshop	7:00pm Beginning Conversational Hebrew 7:00pm Writer's Workshop	7:00pm Beginning Conversational Hebrew 7:00pm Writer's Workshop	7:00pm Beginning Conversational Hebrew 7:00pm Writer's Workshop	4 Shevat 22	Ŧ
5:45pm Candle Lighting 7:00pm HIAS Refugee Shabbat	Purim 5:35pm Candle Lighting 7:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Adar 7 5:26pm Candle Lighting 7:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	12  Rosh Chodesh Adar 5:15pm Candle Lighting 7:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	5:05pm Candle Lighting 7:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat	5 Shevat 23	3.
Parshat Parah Ki Tisa 10:00am Community Minyan 3:00pm Shabbat School 5:30pm Grade 5 Kehillah Night 8:50pm Havdalah 8:30pm Watch Party for "A Kaddish for Bernie Madoff	Shushan Purim Ettaveh 10:00am Community Minyan 6:45pm Havdalah	Parshat Zachor Parshat Zachor Ferumah 10:00am Community Minyan 3:00pm Shabbat School 6:35pm Havdalah	Adar 1  Rosh Chodesh Adar  Parshat Shekalim  Mishpatim 10:00am Text & Torah 5:00pm Refs'einu: A  Healing Circle 6:25pm Havdalah	Shabbat Mevarchim Vitro 10:00am Community Minyan 3:00pm Shabbat School 5:30pm Grade 4 Kehillah Night 6:15pm Havdalah	6 Shevat 24	Sat

# Gratitude

by the Steering Committee

ven in the chaos, we have so much to be grateful for in our community. We are engaging in activities that inspire, support each other and the community around us.

To our B'nei Mitzvah Committee, Rabbi Benjamin, and Deborah for supporting our B'nei Mitzvah families especially during this time of COVID when families had to reimagine their simcha.

To our Spiritual Life Committee for continuing to think about meaningful ways for us to be together in pray even virtually.

To Bikkur Holim for the creative and meaningful ways you are supporting members by making phone calls, sending condolence cards, and offering grief support groups.

Thanks to everyone working on bringing even more music into Havurah with the Havurah Shalom Music Makers Collective. We are so grateful for more and more music!

Much gratitude to Loree Devery and Tanja Lux for joining the Finance Committee.

Thank you to all the Hanukkah hosts, performers, and those who attended Hanukkah events!! You all brought so much light into our world!

Thank you to Susan Lazareck for heading up Lotsa Helping Hands for the past several years! You are a great support to our community.

Thank you to Stacy Hankin for taking on the leadership of Lotsa Helping Hands and Linda Appel for continuing to lead.

To our Space Jam Committee for exploring our space needs and helping us plan.

To our IT committee who keeps us up to date with our computer needs so staff can do their work remotely and with the software they need.

Gratitude goes to all the people that are exploring meaningful ways to approach internally and externally focused antiracism work at Havurah: Michael Anderson-Nathe, Adela Basayne, Rabbi Benjamin, Chris Coughlin, Sue Danielson, and Karen St. Clair. This work requires trust, research, willingness to learn, acceptance, real listening, and attention to language.

To our Sanctuary Committee for the work you do at the Ortiz center with food distribution and tutoring.

To the Poverty and Homelessness Committee for the providing food to Portland Homeless Family Solutions and your new project Feeding the Homeless. To all those who donate to this work of gathering food, tents, sleeping bags, clothes, and other essential items. A special thanks to Jenn Louis who cooks her amazing food and deliveries meals to 7 camps where houseless individuals live.

Also, thank you to Jenn Louis, Fran Berg and Ruth Feldman for their work on the Community Gift Market which included gathering donations of face masks, toiletries, socks, scarves (some were hand knitted by Havurahniks) and created 500-600 bags to those who needed these items.

To those involved in the Interfaith Alliance on Poverty and brining lunch to the Bybee Lakes Hope Center.

Thank you to our MACG Core Team for training new MACG leaders!

To all who continue to support Maria and Carlos and who organized the event on December 7th to meet with Maria.

And to all those many, many tasks that were not mentioned, thank you! We are a community because of each of you and your participation however, that may look. If there is something you would like to have mentioned please connect with Julia Lager-Mesulam via the Havurah Member Directory to be included next month.



# 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