



# Hakol • הקול

The Voice of Havurah Shalom  
Portland's Jewish Reconstructionist Community

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### From the Education Director

## Sexism, Power, Leadership—Good News, Bad News and Old News

Deborah Eisenbach-Budner

The bad news is that sexism, and the widespread mistreatment of women as objects of male sexuality/drive for power, is alive and well. (Yes, this is not news to many of us.) The good news is that people are paying more attention to this violation of basic human rights. More and more women are courageously taking personal and professional risks to speak out. More public attention is being directed toward these stories by more media than in the past. The fact that some outlets are keeping a running list of accused prominent and powerful men speaks volumes.

Of course, all of this is old news. Jewish texts have always grappled with questions such as: When is the instinct for power productive and when is it destructive? Who seeks power? What is the relationship between sexual behavior and the instinct for power?

And as moderns we must add:

Continued on Page 4

### From the Rabbi

## “Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity”

Rabbi Benjamin Barnett

“The hour calls for high moral grandeur and spiritual audacity.” These words were written by Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel in a telegram addressed to President Kennedy on June 16, 1963. Rabbi Heschel, in that moment, was championing the Civil Rights Movement. His demand, however, in regard to racism as well as to so much else, rings as true today as ever.

I look to Rabbi Heschel quite often these days. And during this time of year his memory is often invoked, as we mark his *yahrzeit* this month (this year on January 4-5). In addition, as Jews we often honor him alongside Martin Luther King, Jr. in January, recounting Rabbi Heschel’s friendship and collaboration with Dr. King. That iconic photograph of Heschel and King walking arm in arm with other leaders in Selma challenges me to consider what *this* hour asks of us. And indeed, I sense in response: “moral grandeur and spiritual audacity.”

I urge us to take to heart the full spectrum of this phrase. For many of us, the call for audacity feels more straightforward and vital right now. We know that this moment demands boldness — protesting injustice, challenging the status quo. Yet let us not ignore grandeur. Specifically, moral grandeur. We must not only demand justice, but do so in a way that adds beauty and magnificence to the world. As a Jewish community and a community of faith in general, I believe this means that we are called upon to strive relentlessly toward an impeccable ethical standard. This is no small feat in a world in which moral depravity takes ever stronger hold amidst people in power and within much of our public discourse. But through the ways in which we treat one another and every one of our fellow beings, we can add richness to the fabric of society. In my mind, this involves working to avoid disparagement. It is difficult to resist forces that pull us toward cynicism, mockery, and nastiness. But resist we must. It is not enough to be

Continued on Page 5

## Connecting beads while connecting lives

### Tikkun Olam Adelante and Bienestar women bead necklaces together

The Tikkun Olam Adelante committee is continuing to grow its connections with Bienestar's immigrant community at the Ortiz Center. What has grown from a bud of an idea to help Latinas navigate systems and immerse themselves in Portland culture has broadened into a variety of programs: shared adventures making art, a new after-school tutoring program for elementary school children starting in January, adult ELL classes and a once-a-week English language conversation time for those wanting to practice speaking.

The highlight of this month was a jewelry-making event. Under jewelry-maker Fran Berg's guidance and the engagement of the TOA committee, about 30 women beaded necklaces with us. On the face of it, the project involved connecting beads on a string, but at its core, it was an opportunity for a much deeper connection. Each of us from Havurah found our own way of making that happen, whether it was to sit at a table and bead alongside the participants, help with the final process of attaching necklace clasps, or take photos of so many of the women who wanted portraits of themselves wearing their necklaces. Many of the participants were not English speakers so those of us who were Spanish speakers interpreted instructions and, generally, chatted with them about design and color ideas.

The committee is continually exploring ways to bridge the gap between the two cultures and build trust, with the ultimate goal of helping to make their transition to the Portland area as



stress-free and successful as possible. We are in agreement that this type of activity is one way of accomplishing that goal. Differences melt away when creating something with your hands. We are going to sponsor more art projects in the future; however, the next project, set for March or April, will be one that they will lead us in. We know that many of these women have ongoing creative endeavors and we are excited to see what they come up with.

We have a continued need to bring more Spanish-speaking Havurah volunteers to the Ortiz Center. Working with their accommodating and thoughtful staff as well as the appreciative people who avail themselves of what we have to share is a most rewarding way to be of service in the Portland community. If you are interested, email Gloria Halper ([losninos6@gmail.com](mailto:losninos6@gmail.com)).

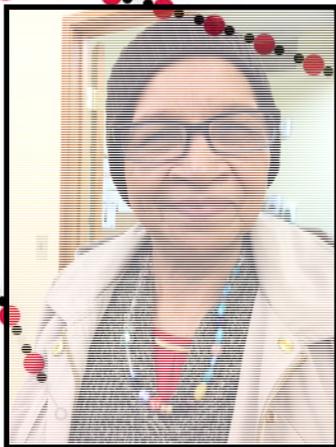
—Deb Kallen



Top: Marjorie Walters and Robbin Isaacson DeWeese bead necklaces with Bienestar clients. Above: Coffee, snacks, friends and jewelry-making bring us all together at the Ortiz Center.



A beader from the Ortiz Center models her wearable art after December's jewelry-making event. (Story Page 2.)



## Plan to attend Climate Action Team meeting

The Climate Action Team invites you to our January planning meeting on Thursday, January 11, 7-8:30 pm at Havurah. We will be discussing ideas for making Havurah events more sustainable, planning outreach, and deciding on events for the coming year.

We would love to hear your thoughts and input. If you

would like to participate, but can't make it, we have the ability to do teleconferencing that evening, or you can share your ideas via phone or email. Please RSVP to Elianne Lieberman (elianne97202@yahoo.com).



## Steering Committee Votes to Endorse Ballot Measure 101

Healthcare is a right, not a privilege for select people. This right is guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights signed by the United States in 1948. **On January 23**, Oregon voters will decide whether to ensure that the state's most vulnerable citizens will continue to have access to healthcare. Voting **YES** on Measure 101 will enable Oregon to continue insuring low-income Oregonians and all children. Havurah has joined over 100 groups in endorsing Measure 101. Your help is needed to make sure it passes.

### A Little Background

As a result of the Affordable Care Act, Oregon expanded Medicaid coverage to thousands of Oregonians. From 2014 to 2016 the federal government paid 100% of the cost of Medicaid expansion. However, in 2017 the federal contribution dropped to 95%. States are required to pay the balance in order to be eligible to continue receiving Medicaid expansion funds. In 2017 the Oregon State Legislature voted to fund the state's portion of Medicaid expansion through a small assessment on insurance companies and hospitals (HB 2391)—an assessment that the insurance companies and hospitals support because it ensures fed-



### Yes on Measure 101

eral matching funds will be available. This will stabilize healthcare markets. Ballot Measure 101 asks voters to approve this assessment.

### What Happens if Measure 101 Passes?

One quarter of Oregonians count on Medicaid. A YES vote on Measure 101 guarantees that our friends and neighbors who rely on Medicaid/Oregon Health Plan (OHP) won't lose their coverage. 400,000 Oregon children rely on OHP to grow up healthy. With Measure 101, families don't have to worry that their children could lose their coverage.

### What Happens if Measure 101 Does Not Pass?

A "no" vote slashes funding for the Oregon Health Plan, jeopardizing ac-

cess to healthcare for one out of every four Oregonians, including low-income children, adults, seniors, and people with disabilities, leaving them without other viable coverage options. If Measure 101 fails, and the Oregon Legislature is unable to find another way to pay for the state's Medicaid portion, Oregon would lose \$5 billion in Federal Medicaid funds—and an estimated 350,000 Oregonians would lose their health care insurance. We cannot allow this to happen.

### What You Can Do as a Havurah Member?

Every vote counts. A Havurah committee is forming to help educate members of our congregation about this critical ballot measure. On January 7, there will be a telethon at Havurah during which every Havurah member of voting age will be called and asked to support the measure. You will also be asked to call five non-Havurah friends and ask them to also vote for the measure. Please volunteer an hour or two of your time on the 7th to help make the calls. Please contact David Newman (davnew2@earthlink.net or 503-804-5701) if you are willing to help.

—David Newman,  
Bob Brown, Chris Coughlin

## Literary Update

### Next up for Book Discussion Group: *The Mathematician's Shiva*

Please join us at 7:00 pm at Havurah on Tuesday, January 23, for discussion of *The Mathematician's Shiva* by Stuart Rojstaczer. A prominent mathematician dies. The mathematician is a Russian woman, who (factiously) is one of the most eminent brilliant mathematicians ever in history, and one of the only women. The story is written from the point of view of her son, and we get to meet her ex-husband, his father, her brother, her nephew, and an adopted daughter. There is an unexpected surprise or two.

The 400 eminent mathematicians who have shown up to honor her also want to see if she left clues to a brilliant math enigma that they are sure she has solved. They mourn and they try to "complete" her work, by solving a difficult postulate.



Her son tries to understand both his brilliant mother, and the impact of her loss on all those left behind. The book includes pieces written by the mother herself as well as interactions among the family and the mathematicians.

The discussion will be led by Carolina Martinez, who says this about the book: "It was actually a beautiful read about what we leave behind, and about how we move forward when someone, brilliant or not, leaves a hole, a puzzle, and a mystery in their midst."

—Marjorie Walters

## From the Education Director, cont'd

Continued from Page 1 What is the relationship between the drive for power and sexism? Are sexual harassment and assault a by-product of a drive for power or are they actually the means toward power for some?

At the core of Judaism is an understanding that people possess a strong instinct for power, the *yetzer*. *Yetzer* comes from the Hebrew root (Y-TZ-R) "to form or shape." *Yetzer* is pure and can be channeled either toward the good—*yetzer hatov*—or the bad—*yetzer harah*.

Torah begins with narratives about the initial divine act of creating the world and then the initial human act of seeking the power of knowledge of good and evil. One classic commentary states that Elohim declared the day on which humans were created to be "very good"—not just "good" like the previous five days—because it was on this day that the *yetzer harah* came into being. Kohelet Rabbah 3:15 tells us: "And it was *very good* refers to the instinct-for-bad. But is the *yetzer harah* very good? In fact, this teaches

you that without the instinct-for-bad, a man would not build a house, nor marry a woman, nor father children."

The Babylonian Talmud (Sukkah 52a), tells us the story of Abaye, who heard a man saying to a woman, "Let's get up early and travel together." Abaye said to himself, "I will separate them from (sexual) sin." He followed them through the fields for 3 miles. When they were separating, he heard them say, "It was a long trip, but the company was pleasant." Abaye said to himself, "If it had been [myself – in that man's place], I could not have restrained myself." Going back, Abaye leaned against a doorframe and looked very upset (at his recognition of his own instinct). An old man came by and taught him, "Everyone who is greater than his fellow, has a greater instinct (*yetzer*) than he does."

Thus, Jewish tradition posits that the greater the *yetzer*, the greater the potential for personal power or agency. This can result in a drive to make change, create a future for oneself, work for the common good, fight in-

justice, and perhaps leave something behind when one dies. Or, on the flip side, greater *yetzer* may result in greater sin, which is tantamount to using one's power and agency only in the service of oneself, resulting in the destruction of others. Or both.

Many of the social and political systems that we are part of demand great *yetzer*. Those with more *yetzer* come to yield more power. When we value that kind of system, when we give those individuals our attention, money, and political agency, we are going to get many a person whose *yetzer harah* conquers their *yetzer hatov* too much of the time.

Those of us who can look inside and know that we are not using our power in any sexually exploitative ways still need to ask how we might be unwittingly complicit. How might we be part of systems that enable those with too much *yetzer harah* to centralize their power to such a degree? How do we benefit from the systems or organizational structures that are built around this model of power?

# Upcoming Events

## Rabbi Installation Ceremony will mark transition and growth at Havurah Saturday, Jan 20, 5:15 pm

Havurah will officially welcome Rabbi Benjamin and his family in an Installation Ceremony, and we want you to join in! The celebration will begin around 5:15 pm with pizza and veggies. Centered on the Havdalah ritual, it will include music (of course!), a passing of the Torah through generations to Benjamin, and more. EVERYONE is encouraged to attend this important moment in Havurah's past, present and future. More details will follow in the Havurah weekly emails. RSVP on the website.

—The Rabbi Transition Team

## From the Rabbi, cont'd: “Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity”

Continued from Page 1 audacious. We must also, through our words and actions, exercise moral grandeur.

As we pass, this month, the one-year point under our current administration, we must not ease up on audacity. Now more than ever, we must raise our voices and even, for those who feel able, put ourselves on the line in opposition to injustice. Yet I also encourage us to reflect upon the status of our moral grandeur. On the evening of January 21, several faith leaders will be convening a vigil downtown in this spirit. All who would like to join are invited to help us direct prayers and elevate the prophetic vision we share for our country and our world. Details will follow through Havurah's community email.

To practice moral grandeur alongside spiritual audacity is a tall order. But it is one for which we are ready and able. And it is one which Havurah Shalom is meant to enable and support. May we strengthen each other in our boldness, and lift each other up through the beauty of righteous action.

—Rabbi Benjamin

## Begin with Aleph: Learn to Read Hebrew Wednesdays, Jan 3-Feb 7, 7-8:30 pm

This course is for beginners, even those who have “begun” before. Focusing on basic reading competency, we will uncover bits of Judaism that are only accessible through its original language. Our text has online home practice. Taught by Deborah Eisenbach-Budner. Cost: Free for Havurah members, \$30 for nonmembers.

## Getting Down to Tachlis (The Nitty Gritty: Logistics & Event Planning)

Saturday, Feb 3, 3:15-4:15

The logistics of B'nai Mitzvah planning and set up at Havurah are the focus of this workshop. Parents will learn about reserving and using Havurah's spaces and the items in them (like tables, plates, etc) from Havurah's Office & Facilities Manager, Rachel Pollak. A new addition to this workshop is a deeper dive into event planning, led by Havurah member Chari Smith.

## Beginning the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Journey

Sunday, Feb 4, 10:00-12:15

This workshop was formerly known as Date Selection Meeting, and it is specifically for families in the 2019-2020 cohort and families who do not yet have a date. This workshop intends to launch families on the B'nai Mitzvah journey. Rabbi Benjamin will begin with a focus on the rite of passage itself, and then families will learn about the date selection process. Rabbi Benjamin, David Newman and Michael Evans will lead this workshop.

## Tributes

### General Contributions

Cass and Bob Freedland, in memory of Dorothy Danziger.

"Marty and Corinne Balaban (Parents of Cass) always spoke so fondly of Dorothy. Our sincerest condolences to your family."

Karen Labinger, in memory of Dorothy Danziger. Lenny, I am so very sorry for your loss of your beautiful Dorothy.

Karen Labinger, in memory of Norman David Malbin. Wendy, you have my sincere condolences.

### High Holidays Contributions

Bruce Blank, in honor of the marriage of Jessica Blank and David Mendonsa.

Joel and Laine Barbanell Schipper, in memory of our parents, all of blessed memory.

Carol Stampfer, in honor of Joey Wolf, wishing him a swift recovery.

### Havurah Endowment Fund

Janice & Mark Kettler, in honor of Rabbi Joey Wolf's everlasting inspiration and dedication to Havurah Shalom. To Health and Peace in the coming year.

Alison Asarnow and Benjamin Foote, in honor of Herman

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# Steering Report

## Honoring all members of our community

On Human Rights Shabbat last month, Rabbi Benjamin shared some texts articulating Jewish values to help us think about how to “bring holiness to the front lines.” K’vod Ha-Bri’ot calls on us to honor all beings and safeguard their dignity and well-being. I urge you to consider two important ways we can live that value and help members of our community.

I am proud to be able to write that the Havurah Shalom Steering Committee has joined over 100 groups in endorsing Measure 101. This coalition includes nurses, doctors, healthcare advocates, hospitals and local businesses, consumer advocates like AARP, members of the faith community, and many individual Oregonians.

We have the opportunity to vote YES on Measure 101 this January. Here are three things you need to know today about Measure 101 on your January Special Election ballot:

- 1 in 4 Oregonians count on Medicaid. Measure 101 guarantees

that our friends and neighbors who rely on Medicaid/Oregon Health Plan (OHP) won’t lose their coverage.

- 400,000 Oregon children rely on OHP to grow up healthy. With Measure 101, families don’t have to worry that their children could lose their coverage.
- Measure 101 stabilizes insurance marketplaces and premiums. It will save middle-class families that buy their own insurance an average of \$300 a year in insurance premiums!

Please see information on Page 3 about our plans to make calls on January 7 to remind people to vote. We need volunteers! Please join us to help! Contact David Newman or Chris Coughlin for more information about volunteering.

You and I both know how much healthcare matters. If you agree that

every Oregonian deserves healthcare, no matter who they are or where they work, please **Vote YES on Measure 101 for healthcare by January 23rd, 2018.**

We also know that too many families in our community are facing homelessness. Congregation Beth Israel has donated space to serve as a shelter for homeless families from now through April. Portland Homeless Family Solutions (“PHFS”) will run the shelter. This shelter is being opened because there is now a waiting list for families experiencing homelessness in our community. **Let’s find ways to support PHFS and Congregation Beth Israel to operate an emergency winter shelter.** Take a look at the article in Hakol about ways to get involved, either through donations or volunteering.

Thank you for all you do for our communities to bring the value of K’vod Ha-Bri’ot to reality.

—Chris Coughlin  
Tikkun Olam Lead

## Tributes

Continued from Page 5 Asarnow and Susan Baillet. To my parents in honor of Chanukah!

Karen Labinger, in memory of Ed Cogan. Nathan, Barbara, Harper, Cecily: May your father and grandfather be at rest. My sincere sympathy.

Karen Labinger, in memory of Sylvia Siegel. To Gretta and Leo, my deepest sympathy. It’s not easy when we say goodbye to a parent.

Karen Labinger, in honor of Rabbi Joey: You have too much to do. Get well very soon.

**Rabbi Discretionary Fund**  
Bryan Schaffer, in memory of Barbara Schaffer.

Nancy and Dennis Siegman, in memory of our parents, David and Millie Berlin, and Eddie and Pauline Siegman.

Nancy and Dennis Siegman, in honor of our grandchildren, Josh Welter, Aaron Welter, and Elana Welter.

Barbara and John Neidig, in memory of Edward and Annette Cogan, from the Neidig Family and the Akmon Family.

Roberta Sue Schmalz, in memory of Hilda Siegel.

Roberta Sue Schmalz, in loving memory of Gussie Siegel, a wonderful Aunt.

### Cemetery Fund

Dave and Joan Weil, in memory of Annette and Edward Cogan

### Building Fund

Yvonne and Ed Brandt, in loving memory of Dorothy Danziger.



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# Bulletin Board

## The Havurah Office Will Be Closed

January 1 and 15

*In the coming months  
Havurah Shalom will call to the  
Torah the following B'nai Mitzvah:*

**Saturday, January 13**

**Alex Joffe**

**Son of Liz Joffe and Nora Beck**

*Please join us in celebration and  
welcome them to our community.  
MAZEL TOV!*

## February Hakol

The deadline for submission of  
articles, pics, tributes,  
announcements, etc. is

**Tuesday, January 16**

Email submissions to  
Info@havurahshalom.org

## Condolences



**Dorothy Danziger**, wife of Leonard Danziger, sister of Howard Tag, mother of Brian and Keith, and grandmother of Natalie, Jonah and Aaron, passed away November 21.

**Glen Shipley**, father of Curtis Shipley, father-in-law of Rachel Shipley, passed away on November 25.

**Stanley Kertzner**, husband of Doris Kertzner, father of Havurah member David Kertzner, and grandfather of Eliana and Rachel, passed away December 9.

**Barbara Hein**, mother of Alanna Hein, mother-in-law of Evan King, and grandmother of Maya, passed away December 18.

**HaMakon Y'nachem....  
May we all be comforted.**

## Tributes

Continued from Page 6

### Tikkun Olam Fund

Bill Kwitman and Monica Moriarty, in memory of Lois Michael.  
Jackie Lerner, in memory of Vemi Cogan.

### Youth Activities Fund

Karen St. Clair & Richard Goldenberg, in honor of Emily Simon, for her continual inspiration and, in particular, for enriching the Aufruf of Noah Goldenberg and Alyssa Larsen.

### Kabbalat Shabbat Fund

Joan & Dave Weil, in memory of Barbara Hein.  
Joan & Dave Weil, in memory of Dorothy Danziger.

### Youth Education Fund

Jay Margulies and Abigail Webb, in memory of Pamela Webb.

This month's calendar has been omitted for space considerations. It will be back in February! Please find a printable January calendar at <https://tinyurl.com/Hakol0118>

*The Institute for Judaic Studies Presents*

## Weekend in Quest

**March 2-3-4 2018**

An Exhilarating Study Weekend in Astoria,  
on the Beautiful Oregon Coast  
by the Mighty Columbia River

**Jewish Masculinity and Femininity  
in the Premodern World**

Professor Rena Lauer  
and Professor Yiftakh (Kevin) Osterloh  
Oregon State University



**Location:** Holiday Inn Express, Astoria, OR  
**Shabbat Services:**  
Rabbi Joshua Rose of  
Congregation Shaarie Torah

**[www.weekendinquest.org](http://www.weekendinquest.org)**

Read all about it in *Oregon Jewish Life*: [tinyurl.com/ycx3posb](http://tinyurl.com/ycx3posb)

**Questions:** Contact Mimi Epstein ([mimiepstein42@comcast.net](mailto:mimiepstein42@comcast.net))

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**RSVP for KABBALAT SHABBAT DINNER**

*Friday, January 12, 2017*

**Dinner at 6:30 pm  
Services at 7:45 pm**

Cost adjustments for the dinner are available.  
Contact the Havurah office for information at (503) 248-4662.

Dinner will include dairy-free, gluten-free,  
& nut-free choices.  
You are invited to bring wine/juice to celebrate.

Dinner reservations are required by January 8  
Please mail the completed form (right) with payment  
to the Havurah office or visit  
[www.havurahshalom.org/KabbalatShabbat](http://www.havurahshalom.org/KabbalatShabbat)

**Kabbalat Shabbat Registration Form**

First and Last Name(s) for name tag(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults (Ages 13+) \_\_\_\_\_

\$15.00 Each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children ages 4 to 12 \_\_\_\_\_

\$5.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children ages 3 & under \_\_\_\_\_

No Charge

Consider an extra donation to  
help others attend \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Childcare is available for ages 2-8, from 6:30 pm until the  
end of the service.

Name(s)/age(s) of child(ren): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_